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Exclusive Pension Op-ed from Gov. Quinn

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43rd Ward Holiday Hours and Holiday Recycling and Garbage Pick-up

- 43rd Ward Office Holiday Hours:
- Monday, December 24th - Closed
- Tuesday, December 25th - Closed
- Monday, December 31st - Closed
- Tuesday, January 1st - Closed

Garbage Pick-up:
 Wednesday, December 26
 Wednesday, January 2

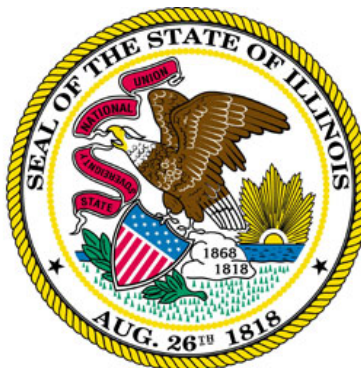
Recycling:
 Monday, December 24
 Wednesday, December 26

1119 Webster Community Meeting

In consultation with Ald. Waguespack's office, we have filed an application to amend the current zoning for 1119

Dear Friends,

Here is a special message from Governor Pat Quinn, telling you what you can do to support pension reform. Please join me in asking our legislature to act.



The Time to Get Involved Is NOW

I would like to thank Ald. Michele Smith and the people of the 43rd Ward for their support as we work to tackle our state's severe fiscal challenges.

When I took the oath of office to serve as governor, Illinois was embroiled in an ethical and fiscal crisis. One governor was going to prison - the other was already in prison. For decades, state government spent more than it could afford. For decades, leaders saddled our state with facilities we couldn't pay for and financial mismanagement that we are paying for today.

The good news is, we have turned a corner and are headed

Webster - Business Planned Development No. 491 to allow a new restaurant use in the space previously occupied by Webster Street Cafe. Please join us to learn more and give your feedback. Click here for a printable flyer.

***Monday, January 7
6:30pm-8:00pm
DePaul Student Center,
2250 N. Sheffield Ave.
Room 325***

2423 N. Clark (Former Reza's) Community Meeting

Please join us a for a community meeting about a proposed zoning change from B1-2 to B3-2 for the property located at 2417-33 N. Clark to allow a new tenant, which includes the owner of Basil Leaf Café on Clark Street, to open a new restaurant concept in the space previously occupied by Reza's Restaurant. The landlord, the tenant, his architect and his zoning attorney will be present to answer any questions you might have and to listen to your feedback. Click here for a printable flyer.

***Wednesday, January 9
6:30pm-8:00pm
Cenacle Retreat and
Conference Center
513 W. Fullerton, 2nd Flr
Conference Room D***

Shared Sidewalks Is Back

The 2013 Shared Sidewalks Program opens to new applicants January 1, 2013. This an extremely popular program in which residents share the cost of

in the right direction. We worked together to restore trust by passing no-nonsense ethics laws. We enacted all sorts of reforms: education reform, worker's compensation reform and unemployment insurance reform. Forward progress has not been without tough decisions: we reduced discretionary spending to below 2008 levels; we paid down \$1.3 billion in bills and we reduced the Medicaid liability by more than \$2 billion.

However, that is not enough to get us back on track. The key to a secure future is an adequately-funded pension system. Today, we have the worst-funded pension system in America, and it threatens the very future of our state and our children.

How did this happen? Previous governors and legislatures from both parties did not make the required payments into the system and played fast-and-loose with pension funds. Lawmakers boosted benefits and health coverage to pensioners without having sufficient revenue to pay for it. Compounding this was the inclusion of non-state employees, such as suburban and downstate teachers and university employees, into the state system, which created a lack of accountability.

We now face a \$96 billion unfunded liability, and it grows by \$17.1 million a day. Our 2013 pension payment - \$5.1 billion - is triple what our pension payments were just five years ago and constitutes a whopping 15 percent of our general revenue fund spending. Illinois is on track to spend more on pensions than education by 2016!

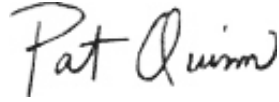
This is unsustainable. If we want to rescue the pension system and make sure employees have access to their benefits, we must enact comprehensive pension reform. We cannot afford delay any longer.

Last April, I proposed a comprehensive plan to fully fund our pension system by 2042 and save taxpayers at least \$65 billion. I appointed a working group to meet with all sides and develop solutions. We have the ingredients on the table to fix the problem and now, we need to work together and take action.

Today, I am asking people across Illinois, in the City of Chicago, and in the 43rd Ward to get involved. If you're a Republican, the best thing you can do is enact pension reform. If you're a Democrat, the best thing you can do is enact pension reform. Contact your legislator and ask them to vote for comprehensive pension reform.

sidewalk repair with the City.

Applications will only be accepted through the City's 311 system (by phone or by clicking here). Participation will proceed on a first-come, first-served basis. The program fills up fast, so you are encouraged to apply early in the year. Please note that if you applied for the program in previous years, you must apply again in 2013. Click here to learn more about Shared Sidewalks Program or contact our office at yourvoice@ward43.org or by phone at 773-348-9500 for more information.



Governor Patrick Quinn
December 17, 2012

9th District State Rep. Art Turner
3849 West Ogden Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
(773) 277- 4700

10th District State Rep. Eddie Winters
2532A W. Warren Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60612
E-mail: staterepeddiewinters@gmail.com

11th District State Rep. Ann Williams
1726 W. Belmont
Chicago, IL 60657
E-mail: ann@repannwilliams.com

12th District State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz
1051 West Belmont
Chicago, IL 60657
Email: sara@staterepsara.com

6th District Senate President John Cullerton
1726 W. Belmont
Chicago, IL 60657
E-mail: cullerton@senatedem.illinois.gov

Condo Refuse Rebate Due Date Fast Approaching

Attention Condo Associations:

Your 2012 Condo Refuse Rebate MUST BE SUBMITTED by January 2, 2013. Only owner-occupied units that have submitted and received one or more rebates between January 1, 2009 and November 9, 2011 are eligible. Rebates must be submitted directly to our office at 2523 N. Halsted or by fax, at 773-348-9594. If you have any questions please call 773-348-9500 or e-mail us at yourvoice@ward43.org.

Happy Holidays from the 43rd Ward!



43rd Ward Office
2523 N. Halsted
www.ward43.org

Office Hours:
Monday
9a.m.-7p.m.

Sincerely,



43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith

Tuesday-Thursday
9a.m.-6p.m.
Friday
9a.m.-12p.m. & 2p.m.-6p.m.

Contact us:
phone
773-348-9500
email
yourvoice@ward43.org

[Forward email](#)



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Michele Smith | 43rd Ward Alderman | 2523 N. Halsted | Chicago | IL | 60614