Won't get fooled again by Jack Frost



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We have reached the last week of April, and I will not make the same mistake as last year and plant my flowers. I remember covering up my petunias with boxes last year because we did have a frost during the last days of April.

My family had the pleasure of picking up garbage at Strohacker Park with 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares' office on April 17. Amongst the volunteers was an organization called Beat the Streets. They showed up with many young individuals to help clean the park and plant an evergreen tree.

This group offers wrestling and enrichment programs giving Chicago youth skills they need for a successful future. The highlight of the morning was getting to meet Ald. Tabares' young son, Michael.

Pets will be on parade starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 8 at Wentworth Park, 56th and Narragansett. The event is sponsored by the Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce. As always, masks must be worn and social distancing will be in place. A pet blessing will kick off the parade. The Chicago Animal Care and Control will be on hand at 10 a.m. providing low-cost chipping, inoculations and licenses. The clinic rules include only Chicago residents age 18 or older with identification and only one person per pet. Local businesses will be showcasing their organizations. To become a sponsor please visit garfieldridgecc.com.

Our Archer Heights Branch Library still has many virtual events for both children and adults. The Virtual Adult Graphic Novel book discussion meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is slated for Monday, May 10, and the novel to be discussed is March by John Lewis. Participants at the June 14 meeting will be discussing *Deadly Class* by Rick Remender and Wes Craig.

The library will feature *Painting Mars* with special guest Michelle Nichols from the Adler Planetarium from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 19 via Zoom. You must register by 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 by visiting chipublib.org.

Nichols will be discussing the surface of Mars including its color, texture and what scientists hope to find on our neighboring planet. The program hosts, Perseverance, will be using watercolors to create landscape paintings and will invite guests to paint along. A do-it-yourself watercolor recipe will be provided, but have materials ready to paint.

Little ones who have begun reading can enjoy being with their Reading Buddies via Zoom from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursdays and from 10 to 11 am. Saturday, May 15 depending on the reading level. Again, registration is required on the Chicago Public Library's website the day before the scheduled program.

Here is something to ponder from Hal Borland: *April is a promise that May is bound to keep.*