



Income Tax Time



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Now that we've entered March and we get that day or two when the weather breaks, some of us think of Spring, and others think of Easter season, its religious significance and the Easter Bunny. Some of our neighbors are optimistic, looking forward to the opening day of the baseball season. But some of those we know are apprehensive because of April 15th, Tax Day.

The worry about tax day often builds pressure. Those who are not prepared this year, there are several changes in the IRS code. It would be wise to become aware of and prepare for these changes. There are several booklets available, you can find in the IRS offices, some of our public libraries and some of the offices of our local politicians.

I found a couple of good articles, one is in the February 2026 AMAC

magazine. One is The Great American Comeback by Shane Harris. This article has a useful chart with the title "One Big Beautiful Bill." Key Tax Benefits at a Glance. This can inform you about provisions that are new in the IRS. Many of which are not commonly known. Among these include special benefits for those on Social Security that will probably lower taxes for retired or partially retired citizens. This article has some very good suggestions especially for those preparing for retirement.

The February 2026 Newsmax has an article by Danielle Braff, "Five Easy Ways to Slash Your Taxes". If you have filed the short form, or not filed at all for a number of years, due to the fact that you earned under the minimum salary, you might use some professional help. I cannot use a short article like this to be specific about the names of people to help you. It would be wise to ask your friends and neighbors that you trust if they know of a tax accountant or other qualified person who would be up to date with these provisions. There are also many organizations that help provide this service reasonably priced, some even free. Start this task now. You may find that you have to find some documents that you do not have.

Spring Events At Navy Pier



Photo provided by Navy Pier

Experience the nation's largest free Holi Celebration at Navy Pier on Saturday, March 7th from 12 to 5 p.m. The festival of colors features live music, dance performances, DJs, and powder-throwing experience. Celebrate Shamrocks, live music and lakefront charm during Bar Crawl on Saturday, March 14th from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy drink specials, live music, and entertaining fun. At 10 a.m. celebrate in the Grand Ballroom with the Grand ChiLuck, hosted by House Calls. Dance, sing, and enjoy live performances from Club De Combat, Jayah, Kidoh, Moorhaus, Robbie Doherty, and William Kiss.

Make your arrival part of the celebration and ride the Shoreline Water Taxi free from Michigan ave. to Navy Pier.

Raise a Glass at Toast to the Pier on Thursday, March 26th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with VIN Chicago. Enjoy an evening of wine tastings, light bites, and a raffle while supporting Navy Pier's mission to create welcoming experiences through programs and partnerships.

EXPO CHICAGO returns to Festival Hall, April 9th to 12th bringing galleries from around the world to the lakefront. Explore a lineup of talks, programming, and installations. For ticket information, visit <https://navypier.org>.

New Events At History Museum

The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark st. has scheduled interesting events.

The Guild will present an exclusive program with curator of civic engagement and social justice Elena Gonzales discussing the remarkable women featured in Aquí en Chicago on Tuesday, March 10th from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50.

The Costume Council invites you to an evening celebrating hat designer Kokin on Thursday, March 19th at 6 p.m. Her designs have crowned some of the most iconic moments in *Clueless*, *Pretty Woman*, *Sex and the City*. Tickets are \$125.

Join us for a talk by Chicago-based artist Vida Socic on her work as a

visual artist and educator on Thursday, March 19th at 7 p.m. Her installation "Self-Evident: A Letterpress Exploration of the Declaration of Independence" is now on view at the Museum as part of *US at 250: Civic Action in Chicago*. Admission is free, reservation is required.

Join us as we celebrate women who have used the arts as a way of promoting social change on Saturday, March 28th at 11 a.m. Hands-on activities for youth and families. Included with general admission.

Public hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit chicagohistory.org.

Chicagoland Named #1 U.S. Metro

Chicago has again been named the top U.S. metro for corporate relocation and site selection by Site Selection Magazine, marking a record 13th consecutive year in the No. 1 position. The annual ranking, based on verified corporate facility projects, is regarded as a measure of business expansion and investment activity and competitiveness in attracting capital and jobs. Illinois ranked No. 2 for corporate expansion projects.

World Business Chicago tracks corporate expansions, relocations, and new market entrants across the Chicagoland region through its Pro-Chicagoland Decisions metric. The dataset captures announced office, industrial, headquarters, warehouse, data center, and call center projects that meet defined square footage and employment thresholds.

In 2025, WBC recorded 223 qualifying PCDs, a 40% year-over-year increase. These projects include companies expanding existing local operations, relocating from outside the region, or entering the Chicagoland market for the first time. Based on WBC's methodology, this activity corresponds to an estimated 19,600 new and retained jobs, \$1.7 billion in annual earnings, and more than 26 million square feet of commercial and industrial space. The pace of expansion and market entry outperformed 2024 totals and reflects sustained business confidence in the region's workforce, infrastructure, and market access.

Across 223 total projects, companies invested in areas that combine production scale, innovation capacity, logistics strength, and consumer-driven vibrancy—translating into jobs, capital investment, and long-term competitiveness.

Manufacturing remained the largest sector, accounting for 38% of all projects (86 total) and delivering 2,806 new jobs—reinforcing the region's strength in advanced production and reshoring activity.

Professional, Scientific & Technical Services represented 16% (36 projects) and 632 new jobs, highlighting continued expansion in engineering, technology, and innovation-driven enterprises.

Transportation & Warehousing comprised 13% (29 projects) and 225 new jobs, reflecting demand for Chicagoland's multimodal logistics infrastructure.

Finance & Insurance accounted for 6% (14 projects) and 190 new jobs, with growth across financial services, insurance analytics, and fintech-related operations.

Retail, Arts & Entertainment, and Accommodation & Food Services collectively contributed 2,550 new jobs.

The largest projects counted in the 2025 Site Selection ranking include: Amazon – 1,200 jobs (Will County), Hollywood Casino Joliet – 600 jobs (Will County), NBC Universal Horror Unleashed – 400 jobs (Chicago), Fortune Brands Innovations – 400 jobs (Lake County) and Hexaware Technologies – 250 jobs (Chicago).

Heritage Museum of Asian Art



Photo provided by Heritage Museum of Asian Art

The Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st., (312) 842-8884, info@heritageasianart.org has interesting exhibits.

Stitching Stories on International Women's Day Special on Sunday, March 8th from 2 to 4 p.m. This casual social event invites participants to celebrate identity, memory, and creative expression through clothing and storytelling.

Guests are encouraged to wear traditional attire, however they define "tradition" may mean cultural heritage, family memory, migration stories, personal ritual or subculture.

Artists will share their work and speak about the personal and cultural narratives connected to their garments. An open mic segment will invite attendees to share their own stories about clothing, inheritance, identity, or belonging.

Introduction to Chinese Ceramics on Saturday, March 14th from 2 to 4 p.m. An engaging lecture and hands-on workshop led by artist Xiao Qin. This program explores the history of Chinese ceramics and offers participants a chance to experience the fundamental processes of ceramic-making. The

cost is \$20.

Ikebana Ohara Ryu on March 15th from 2 to 4 p.m. The tour will start at 6 p.m. from the reception desk. The event offers wine and appetizer.

Free Admission Night on March 20th from 5 to 8 p.m. The tour will start at 6 p.m. from the reception desk. The event offers wine and appetizer.

Kimono Insights: History of Production and Fashion, Then and Now on March 31st from 7 to 8 p.m. Celebrate the arrival of spring by learning about the kimono, Japan's traditional garment, with specialist Ayako Yoshimura. Online, pay what you can.

The Commission to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture will conduct a Regional Convening and Listening Session at 333 S. Wabash ave. on Thursday, March 12th from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. To register email commission@nationalapamuseum.org.

For more information and tickets, visit www.heritageasianart.org. (312) 842-8884.

Specialty License Plate



Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced that Illinoisans can now purchase the Chicago Fire specialty license plate. Vehicle owners can order a Fire plate through apps.ilsos.gov/pickaplate. They can be personalized and are available for passenger vehicles, B-trucks (pick-ups, vans and SUVs), motorcycles, and recreational vehicles. Standard registration and specialty plate fees apply.

Training Academy For Police & Fire

The Chicago Police and Firefighter Training Academy invite high school sophomores to attend training twice a week during the school year. The curriculum emphasizes academics, physical fitness, leadership training, career exploration, and the basic knowledge and skills necessary to become a police officer or firefighter/EMT.

Applications are open until May 1st. Students are encouraged to attend an information session in the winter or spring before applying. More information about these sessions will be available at cps.edu/cpfta. CPS, Chicago Fire Department, and Chicago Police Department representatives will be present at the sessions to help answer any questions.

Requirements include: current high school sophomores that are residents of Chicago, grade point average of 2.3 or higher, good attendance (90% and above), two letters of recommendation. Complete an online application and program consent form. Valid school ID, state ID or driver's license. Proof of a current background check.

Cadets are offered additional opportunities in public safety-related fields of study including Public Safety Certifications, Paid Summer Internships and College Credit. Contact (773) 553-2486 or email cpfta@cps.edu.

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Police Beat 912 Plans Meeting

The Chicago Police Department 9th District will conduct a public meeting for Beat 912 at the McKinley Park Field House, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Wednesday, March 11th from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

The semi-monthly meeting provides an opportunity meet beat officers, discuss problems and crime conditions, review crime statistics and learn crime reduction strategies.

For additional information contact the Community Policing office at (312) 747-3501 or email caps.009district@chicagopolice.org.

Forgiveness For Medical Debt

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Governor JB Pritzker announced that alongside national nonprofit partner Undue Medical Debt, more than \$1.5 billion in medical debt has been erased. The County also committed to continuing to sustain this effort beyond the expiration of American Rescue Plan Act funds in 2026.

The program, first launched by President Preckwinkle in 2022, purchases outstanding medical debt for less than a penny on the dollar, eliminating a financial burden for families.

The County program has eliminated over \$820 million by leveraging \$7 million in ARPA funds through the Medical Debt Relief Initiative. Through the statewide Illinois Medical Debt Relief program, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family services has additionally secured more than \$1.1 billion in forgiveness, which includes

\$700 million in Cook County. The combined debts erased across Cook County totals about \$1.5 billion.

Eligible debts are erased automatically without individual action or applications required. Recipients are notified by mail in a branded Undue Medical Debt envelope.

Learn more about Cook County's effort at <https://arpa.cookcounty.il.gov/medical-debt-relief-initiative>. Learn more about the State of Illinois's effort at <https://hfs.illinois.gov/info/medicaldebtrelease.html>.

Free Screening For Cancer

Cook County residents over the age of 40, can schedule a free prostate and breast cancer screening during their birthday month.

Cancer screenings are important because they help find cancer early, before it causes serious problems. When cancer is found early, it is easier to treat.

Call (312) 864-4289 to schedule your appointment.

South Branch PAC Plans Election

The South Branch Park Advisory Council will conduct its next meeting at the Park #571 field house, 2828 S. Eleanor st. on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Election of Board members is scheduled. Candidates and voters must be a PAC member in good standing.

St. Patrick's Parade



Chicago Working Families' Archer Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held Saturday, March 14th at 12 noon from Oak Park to Merrimac. Proceeds will benefit Get Behind the Vest program and the EMWQ Retirees' Widows and Children's Assistance Fund. The Shamrock Pop-Up Vendor Show will be held at the Biz Hub, 6422 W. Archer ave. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more at archerparade@gmail.com.

Training For CERT Volunteers

The Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications is looking for new Chicago CERT volunteers 2026 Spring Community Emergency Response Team free disaster preparedness training begins on April 2nd through May 5th. For classes online contact chicagocitizen@city-of-chicago.org for link.

The program offers residents an opportunity to learn basic hands-on disaster response techniques and life-saving skills to utilize in their own homes and neighborhoods. Volunteers will learn skills training in the following areas: Disaster preparedness, Fire safety & utility controls, Light search and rescue, Team organization, Disaster psychology, Terrorism response, and Disaster medical operations.

The Chicago CERT team is managed by the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications with assistance from the Chicago Fire and Police departments. Upon completion, participants have the option to become Chicago Citizen Corps

CERT volunteer and assist in emergency services in various deployments that includes large scale emergencies, disasters and special events.

Residents are encouraged to download the Chicago OEMC App for safety and preparedness tips, weather information and alerts, or visit Chicago.gov/OEMC.

Observance For Black History

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas conducted a Black History Month celebration at her office, 118 N. Clark st. on Friday, Feb. 27th. The event featured a NYCH Art Gallery display, singing and dancing.

Civic leaders, activists and entrepreneurs were presented certificates of excellence.

Pappas hosts the weekly "Black Houses Matter" radio show on WVON-AM 1690 to inform homeowners about potential refunds for missed exemptions and past property tax overpayments. That's led to reimbursements of more than \$394 million since March of 2020.

Property Tax Bills Are Due April 1st

Cook County Board President, Assessor and Clerk announced that First-Installment 2025 property tax bills have all been mailed by the Treasurer's Office on schedule. They are also available online, and are due April 1st.

The on-time mailing affirms a dependable property tax calendar and provides certainty for homeowners, businesses and local governments.

Cook County's property tax system is among the largest and most complex in the nation. It serves more than 1.8 million properties and requires close coordination among multiple independently elected offices, including the Assessor, Clerk and Treasurer.

First-Installment 2025 collections will be distributed by the Treasurer's Office to more than 2,000 local government agen-

cies within 30 days of receipt.

Maintaining a consistent property tax calendar requires accuracy at every stage of the process, including assessment, certification, calculation of tax rates, billing, collection and distribution, as well as sustained coordination among all participating offices. Cook County property tax offices will continue working together to strengthen coordination, improve integration and ensure the property tax system operates efficiently and reliably for taxpayers.

McGuire Honored

Scarlett McGuire was named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

A member of the Class of 2026, McGuire was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Mei Honored

Jason Mei, Class of 2028, was named to the dean's list at Tufts University of Medford, MA, for the fall 2025 semester. The honor requires a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

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BrightonParkLIFE.com
To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information. Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to brightonparklife@aol.com. Opinions expressed by guest editorials may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

McKinley Library Schedules Programs

The McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. has scheduled interesting and informative programs. Hours are: Monday and Wednesday, 12 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

KIDS & FAMILIES

Little Learners Story Time, ages 0-5, Fridays, March 20th & 27th, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for 30 minutes of songs, movements and stories. Play time follows.

LEGO Club, ages 6-13, Thursday, March 19th, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Complete one of our design challenges or let your imagination run wild. LEGO bricks and materials will be provided.

Family Fun Series, ages 3 to 13, Monday, March 23rd, 2 to 3 p.m. Drop-in activity may include a STEM or craft activity, building materials, games or coloring. Parent or Adult Guardian must be present.

Spring Concert with Song Chen, all ages, on Saturday, March 28th from 2 to 5 p.m. Celebrate the season with an afternoon of music, community, and joy.

Family Nintendo Switch, ages 8+, on Sunday, March 29th, 1 to 3 p.m. Choose from our collection of games, like

Juried Competition At Bridgeport Art

Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. announces a call for artists for the 14th Annual Art Competition that is exhibited in the 4th Floor Gallery.

The event is open to artists 18 years of age and older, who are living or working within 150 miles of Chicago. Work must have been completed within 2023-2026. This juried competition accepts a broad range of art media and styles. Not eligible are functional pottery, jewelry, clothing, accessories, furniture, other functional art, or time-art such as video, sound, or film; or works previously exhibited at the BAC.

The early deadline is March 23rd with a \$35 entry fee.

Awards are Best of Show, \$3,000; 2nd Place, \$1,500; 3rd Place, \$750; 4th Place, \$250; 5th Place, \$150 and People's Choice, \$500.

The opening reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 15th from 7 to 10 p.m.

Visit bridgeportart.com or call (773) 843-9000 for more information and application.

Mario Cart and Minecraft. Parents/caregivers must be present for kids under 11.

Lucky Clover Grab-and-Go Kits, ages 1 to 13, on Saturday, March 14th. Pick-up a crafting kit to celebrate Irish heritage. While supplies last.

Teacher in the Library returns on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

TWEEN/TEEN

Gamers Choice, ages 12-16, Wednesday, March 25th, 3 to 5 p.m. Students can hang out, play games, snack, and use the PCs/laptops and digital equipment.

ADULTS

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman, ages 18+, on Wednesday, March 25th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Connection and Creativity to foster a sense of resilience for young adults on Monday, March 23rd, 5 to 6:15 p.m. Wellness House invites young adults impacted by cancer to join a program focused on psychoeducation for coping and resilience. A concurrent session will be offered for children and teens, who are invited to attend with an adult. Light snacks will be provided.

Craft Club: Felt Bunny Pick on Sunday, March 22nd, 2 to 3 p.m. Join Ms. Shelley in crafting a colorful felt bunny to place in a plant, vase, or pencil cup. Registration is required. Children will not be permitted.

CINEMA

Film Screening of "The Naked Gun" (2025, PG-13) on Tuesday, March 24th, 12 to 1:30 p.m. Only one man has this particular set of skills - to lead a Police Squad and save the world.

Film Screening of "Interstellar" (2014, PG-13) on Thursday, March 26th, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. A team of explorers undertakes the most important mission in human history, traveling beyond whether mankind has a future.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Chapter Meeting For TreeKeepers

The Openlands chapter Bridgeport / McKinley Park / Pilsen TreeKeepers will conduct a meeting at the McKinley Park Fieldhouse, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Thursday, March 5th at 4 p.m.

Tree and Bush Pruning is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th.

For more information, visit openlands.org.

Family Events At Brookfield Zoo

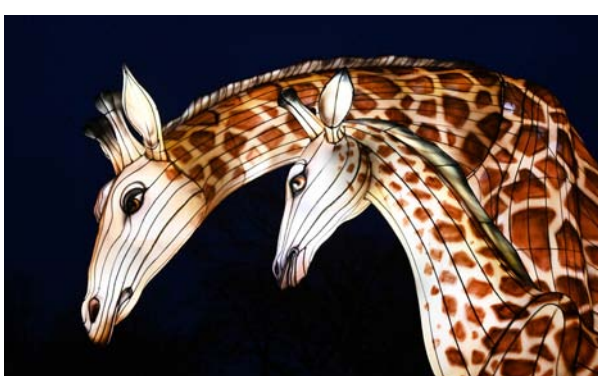


Photo credit © Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Brookfield Zoo Chicago will present "Glow Wild: A Lantern Festival of Hope" a breathtaking journey of light, art, and conservation on Thursdays through Sundays, March 19th to May 10th from 6 to 10 p.m. Wander paths under the moonlight, illuminated by handcrafted lanterns representing wildlife and mythology from around the world. General admission for adult on Thursdays, \$19.95, Fridays \$24.95. General admission for child, Thursdays, \$9.95 and Fridays to Sundays, \$14.95 Tickets at <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/glow-wild>.

Chinatown Library Schedules Programs

The Chinatown Branch Library, 2100 S. Wentworth ave. has scheduled interesting programs.

Family Story Time on Saturdays through March 28th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Support your child's pre-literacy skills through songs, stories and play. For ages 5 and their caregivers.

Multilingual Playgroup on Fridays, March 6th & 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For children who speak Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese. For ages 5 and their caregivers.

Family Game Day on Mondays, March 9th & 23rd from 4 to 5 p.m.

Parachute Play on Fridays, Feb. 27th, March 13th & 27th from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Songs, stories and movement for ages 3 with their caregiver.

Tween Club on Thursdays, March 5th & 19th from 4 to 5 p.m. An after-school session to do homework, participate in a craft, enjoy a snack, or socialize.

Game On: Board Game Play for ages 13 & up on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Arts and Crafts for ages 3 to 13 on Sunday, March 8th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Creative Tech: Screen Printing on Monday, March 23rd from 3 to 4 p.m. Use our Cricut to create stencils and then try out screen printing. For teens in high school.

Golden Karaoke: K-Pop on Friday, March 27th from 3 to 4 p.m. Join us for BTS and Black-Pink, to K-Pop Demon Hunters. Light refreshments will be available.

Creative Tech Screen Printing on Monday, March 23rd from 3 to 4 p.m. Use our Cricut to create stencils and then try out screen printing. For teens in high school.

Golden Karaoke: K-Pop on Friday, March 27th from 3 to 4 p.m. Join us for BTS and Black-Pink, to K-Pop Demon Hunters. Light refreshments will be available.

Utility Discounts Info Session on Monday, March 30th from 6 to 7 p.m. Learn from Legal Action Chicago about Illinois' Low Income Discount Rates programs. Peoples Gas and Comed customers earning up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for up to 83% off of their utility bills. Learn about the programs' benefits, eligibility criteria, and application process.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

Brighton Park Library Schedules Programs

The Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has scheduled engaging programs. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

The Southwest Collective community box is available for patrons to take or leave toiletries and non-perishable food items.

Teen Hideaway on Tuesdays through March 31st and Thursdays through 26th from 5 to 7 p.m. Drop in and explore art media, technology, crafts and games.

Family Story Time on Tuesdays through May 5th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for picture books, stories, songs and a simple craft or play time. For children up to 5 years old.

Baby Lapsit Story

Time and Play on Wednesdays through April 22nd and May 6th & 13th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie for stories, songs and other fun activities as we practice literacy skills and build a love for books. For babies up to 18 months and their families. Siblings are welcome.

Adult Crafting Corner on Sundays, March 8th & 29th from 2 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays, March 18th & April 8th from 4 to 5 p.m.

LEGO Club on Thursdays, March 12th & 26th and April 2nd to May 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for families with children age 6 and up.

Free Homework Help is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Museum Pass For 12th Ward Residents



The 2026 Constituent Education Resource Card, also known as the "Museum Pass," is now available to 12th Ward resident. Residents can request an access letter at 3868 S. Archer ave., (773) 475-6783 or email ward12@cityofchicago.org. Proof of 12th Ward residency and first date of pass usage must be provided.

Passes allow free entry for up to 4 guests to Adler Planetarium, Art Institute of Chicago, Brookfield Zoo Chicago, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago

Children's Museum, Chicago History Museum, DuSable Black History Museum, Field Museum, Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Lincoln Park Zoo, Museum of Contemporary Art, National Museum of Mexican Art, National Museum of Puerto Rican Art & Culture, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and Shedd Aquarium.

Visit museumsinthepark.org/constituentcard for instructions.

Run Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo's annual fundraiser, Run for the Zoo! will be held on Sunday, May 31st. Events include 10K Run, 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Course. The cost is \$24.99+, all ages. Sign up at lpzoo.org.

Back of the Yards Schedules Programs

The Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th st. has scheduled the following events.

ADULTS

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence on Tuesday, March 10th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This workshop is for people with all levels of experience. Presenters from the AI Safety Awareness Project will give a quick overview of the current state of capabilities, with a focus on how much has changed in the last 5 months.

TWEENS & TEENS
Teen Internship Fair on Monday, March 9th from 3 to 5 p.m. Meet representatives from various organizations offering summer internships. Learn how to apply for positions, earn money, and grow your professional skills.

CHILDREN

Science Connections on Wednesdays, March 11th & 25th from 4 to 5 p.m. Join Ms. Corina and Ms. Maria for fun STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math) activities. For ages 6 to 13.

Bilingual Story Time on Saturday, Feb. 28th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We'll share songs, rhymes and books, plus craft activities in English and Spanish. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

CINEMA

Film screening of "Sinners" (2025) on Friday, March 6th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Trying to leave their troubled lives be-

hind, twin brothers return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back. © Warner Bros, 127 minutes, MPA Rating: R. Adults 18 and up.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Court Calendar

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos announced that the 2026 court calendar is available online as a free digital download. Visit cookcountyclerkofcourt.org.

Church Services

ST. BRUNO CHURCH

48th & Harding

ST. RICHARD CHURCH

50th & Kostner

Mass scheduled for Thursday, March 5th, St. Bruno, 8 a.m., Misa Diaria; 3 to 6 p.m. Adoration; 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Classes and "Knowing Your Faith...Better".

Friday, March 6th: St. Richard Church, 8 a.m. Daily Mass; St. Richard Hall, 4 to 7 p.m. Lenten Dinners; St. Richard Church, Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m. Polish, 5 p.m. Spanish, and 6 p.m. English. St. Bruno Church, Stations of the Cross 5 p.m. English, 6 p.m. Spanish, 7 p.m. Polish.

Saturday, March 7th, St. Bruno, 8 a.m. Polish, 4 p.m. confession and 4:30 p.m. English Mass.

Sunday, March 8th, St. Richard Mass: 7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English, 10:30 a.m. Spanish. St. Bruno Mass: 10:30 a.m. Polish, 12:30 p.m. Spanish, and 7 p.m. Spanish.

Fundraiser

The McKinley Dog Park Committee will conduct a fundraiser at Chipotle, 3125 S. Ashland on Saturday, March 7th. 25% of all proceeds will benefit the group. Mention the cause when ordering in person, or if you're ordering pickup, use code 6PZL78M in the Chipotle app or website.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

3532 S. Hoyne (773) 523-7911 bethanychicago.org

Ministering in McKinley Park since 1888

Sunday, 10 a.m., Worship Service, the speaker is Kensen Lam who will continue our series in the Psalms with Psalm 16.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., dinner and Bible study. Discussion will be centered on Sunday's sermon topic: Psalm 16.

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., AWANA kids clubs (3 yrs. - 6th grade) and Youth Group (7th - 12th grades).

HOLY CROSS EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

3116 S. Racine Ave. (773) 523-3838

Ministering in Bridgeport since 1886

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Carlos Ortiz.

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

3658 S. Honore (773) 376-5370

Join us for services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., Bible Study & Sunday School at 11 a.m., Chinese Bible Study every Saturday in the Ministry Center at 7:45 p.m.

Gonzalez Graduates

Madelyn E. Gonzalez received a Bachelor of Business Administration, Economics degree from Wichita State University this fall 2025.

St. Baldrick's FOUNDATION
CONQUER KIDS' CANCER
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009th District Rock the Bald

March 7th, 2026

2:00 PM

McKinley Park American Legion Post 231

1956 W. 35th St, Chicago, IL

stbaldricks.org/events/009thdistrictamericanlegion



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Gym Showcase At West Lawn Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Gym Showcase at West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st. on Wednesday, March 25th from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Participants of all ages and skill sets will demonstrate newly developed talents perfected over a 10-week program.

Liberation Day For Bulgaria

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas celebrated the 148th Bulgarian Liberation Day by recognizing business, civic and education leaders with Certificates of Excellence on March 3rd.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You
Both Churches are Handicapped Accessible

Masses at St. Barbara
Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop
Saturday, 5 PM,
Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM
Bilingual Story Time on Saturday, Feb. 28th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Masses at St. Therese
Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander
Sunday Masses
8AM & 10:30AM in English

Weekday Schedule
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass
March 8, 2026

St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 6, 7 PM @ St. Therese

Indonesian Mass, Sunday, March 8, 11:30 AM @ St. Barbara

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Mexican Museum Offers Programs



Photo provided by The National Museum of Mexican Art

The National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th st. has scheduled a wide range of programs for families that provides opportunity to explore the galleries while learning about Mexican art and culture.

Visit Hoy Cultura en nuestra comunidad: Ray Patlan in Chicago 1968-1975. The exhibition highlights early painting, drawings, photographs, and personal belongings. Rieles y Raices: Traqueros in Chicago and the Midwest in the Chicago Gallery is on exhibit through April 26th.

Join us for the next Late Wednesday on April 1st until 8 p.m. Enjoy the museum after hours with extended access to the galleries.

Under Pressure: Ana Teresa Fernandez, opens in the Rubin & Paula Torres Gallery on Friday, March 20th. Through video, installation, painting, and performance, The harm to our planet caused by human activity is revealed.

The Museum's Education Department offers excellent programs that allow children and adults to learn about Mexican art through engaging activities. Studio Saturday: Bead Art on Saturday, March 21st from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Ages 7 to 12. Storytime on Saturday, March 21st from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Ages 6 and under.

The Annual survey of Museum-Goers is now open to understand how we can make Mexican art and culture more mean-

ingful. Download the Bloomberg Connects app and dive into our digital guide ahead of your visit. The free arts and culture app features visual descriptions, supplemental videos, art highlights from our Permanent Collection.

Gala de Arte will be celebrated on Friday, May 1st, at the Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier.

Visit nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org for more details.

Jazz Links Jam Sessions

The Jazz Links Jam Session creates a live performance opportunity where student musicians can learn and grow. Students ages 9-19 perform with one another and mentors at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth ct. on Wednesday, March 11th from 5 to 7 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Musicians, parents, students, siblings, and friends are all welcome to attend these free events.

Students sign up on-site, using a QR code, listing three to five tunes they can play and improvise on from memory. The jam session host calls up groups of students to perform and improvise together in front of a live audience.

For more information, visit JazzInChicago.org.

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled a wide range of informative programs. Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

ALL AGES

Technology Help is available Drop-in (first come, first served when adult librarian is on duty) or by appointment. Get help with your devices, computer questions, using online library resources (eBooks, databases, job resources).

Messy Art "Papier Mache Masks" on Monday, March 30th from 6 to 7 p.m. We provide all the supplies. For families with children of all ages.

CHILDREN

LEGO Club on Monday, March 23rd from 6 to 7 p.m. We provide supplies. DUPLO bricks are available for younger siblings.

Family Story Time on Thursday, March 26th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Stories, songs and fun for the whole family. For children 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

TWEENS & TEENS

High school students who need help with research for a school assignment can request an appointment with our Teen Librarian to review databases, printed sources and other resources. Call (312) 747-9241 to make an appointment.

Teen Volunteer Hour on Thursdays through March 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 1 volunteer hour while helping at your library. Grades 6-12 only.

Teacher in the Library Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

ADULTS

Craft Lab Grab & Go: Artist Trading Card on Mondays through March 30th, all day. We will be making Artist Trading Cards, miniature works of art that are created to be traded to other artists, not sold. They can be made using any medium and are traditionally traded in sessions or online. Pick-up kit at the Reference Desk, while sup-

plies last. Grab and Go: Spice Club Kits (Za'atar) on Mondays through March 30th. Each kit will include a sample of the spice, as well as recipes and information on its cultural and historical significance.

Craft Lab: Teacup Candle on Saturday, March 21st from 2 to 3:30 p.m. All materials will be provided. Registration is required.

Adult Book Discussion of "Liliana's Invincible Summer" by Cristina Rivera Garza on Wednesday, March 25th from 1 to 2 p.m. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk.

Launch Lab: Vinyl Cutting & Button Making on Wednesday, March 25th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Make your own buttons, stickers, and vinyl designs using our tools and supplies. Materials are included. Ages 16 to 26.

Early Voting through March 16th, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence on Wednesday, April 1st from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Presenters from the AI Safety Awareness Project will explain the current state of AI capabilities.

CINEMA

Film Screening is "Blues Brothers" (1980) on Sunday, March 22nd from 2 to 4 p.m. Two soul-singing brothers are sent on a "mission from God" to raise \$5,000 to save a Chicago orphanage. On their fund-raising tour, they encounter a multitude of mishaps and mayhem. Snacks available while supplies last. © Universal Pictures - 132 Min - R. Adults ages 18 and up.

Film Screening of "Peter Rabbit" (2018) on Sunday, March 29th from 2 to 4 p.m. Snacks available while supplies last. © Columbia Pictures Industries Inc - 100 Min - PG. English subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing will be available.

Programs At Beverly Arts

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled the music of the Fab Four with American English, Beatles tribute band on March 7th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

Join us on April 25th for the 59th Annual Auction: a night of cocktails, music, dancing, savories and sweets, live & silent auctions. Tickets are \$150.

The opening reception for "Cheers to the South Side" will be held on Friday, March 13th from 6 to 8 p.m. A south side Irish Pub Exhibit by Kelly White.

Visit thebeverlyartscenter.com or by calling (773) 445-3838.

Free Town Hall For Business

The Greater Southwest Development Corporation will conduct a free virtual town hall designed for small business owners, entrepreneurs, and community stakeholders on Thursday, March 19th from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

This session will provide practical guidance, reliable information, and supportive resources to help business owners.

Understand rights and responsibilities, prepare for unexpected situations, support employees and customers and connect with resources. Registration is required at greater-southwest.org.

Egg Hunt At West Lawn Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct an Egg Hunt at West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st on Saturday, March 28th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants will enjoy an Egg Hunt with games, prizes and a picture with the Bunny.

Marvel's Spider-Man Exhibition Extended



Photo provided by Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Marvel's Spider-Man: Beyond Amazing — The Exhibition at the Griffith Museum of Science & Industry, 57th & DuSable Lake Shore Drive has been extended through April 26th, giving guests three more months to explore the history and legacy.

Since its opening in May 2025, more than a quarter million guests have visited the exhibit featuring original artwork, rare comic books and behind-the-scenes looks at how the "Spider-Verse" leapt from the page to movies, TV and video games. Visitors can see film props and costumes, explore interactive installations and take photos with life-size statues of Spider-Man, Spider-Gwen, Miles Morales and more.

Artifact highlights include: Amazing Fantasy

#15, the comic book that debuted Spider-Man. Spider-Man suits from 2012's The Amazing Spider-Man (with Andrew Garfield in the starring role) and 2021's Spider-Man: No Way Home (with Tom Holland in the starring role).

The Green Goblin mask from 2002's Spider-Man (with Tobey Maguire in the starring role and Willem Dafoe as The Green Goblin). Rare notes and corrections from Stan Lee who would often discard his drafts.

Concept sketches, ink drawings and illustrations of pages from early Spider-Man comic books featuring iconic moments like the introduction of Mary Jane Watson.

Guests are encouraged to reserve timed tickets in advance at griffinmsi.org/spiderman.

Gage Park Library Schedules Programs

The Gage Park Branch Library, 2807 W. 55th st., has scheduled exciting programs for all ages. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Call (312) 747-0032 or visit www.chipublib.org for more information and to register for the following programs.

CHILDREN

Afterschool Fun on Thursdays through March 19th from 4 to 5 p.m. Listen to music, play board games, do puzzles or enjoy the weekly craft.

Popcorn Reading on Thursdays, March 19th from 5 to 6 p.m. Practice your reading skills at our read aloud group. Snacks are provided. For ages 6 and up.

FAMILIES

Family Game Day on Saturday, March 28th from 12 to 2 p.m. For kids 3 and up and their families.

TEENS

Teen Volunteer Club on Saturday, March 7th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Need service/volunteer hours for school or looking to help out your community? Materials will be provided, but bring your timesheets.

Teen Anime and

Police Beat 912 Plans Meeting

The Chicago Police Department 9th District will conduct a public meeting for Beat 912 at the McKinley Park Field House, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Wednesday, March 11th from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

The semi-monthly meeting provides an opportunity meet beat officers, discuss problems and crime conditions, review crime statistics and learn crime reduction strategies.

For additional information contact the Community Policing office at (312) 747-3501 or email caps.009district@chicago.police.org.

Law at Library Online Series

The Chicago Bar Association, Chicago Public Library, and Evanston Public Library are offering free monthly virtual information series to answer legal questions and provide practical resources and insights into today's legal issues.

The Wednesday, March 18th topic is "Legal and Business Issues for Creatives" from 6 to 7 p.m.

This event takes place on Zoom. Register at least 24 hours in advance at chipublib.org.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer, has scheduled interesting programs.

KIDS

Morning Stories for ages up to 4 are recited on the first Saturdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. Featuring a simple story, new song and familiar nursery rhyme. Playtime follows.

Game Board Time After School IB Community Project for 3rd to 5th Graders on Tuesday, March 10th from 3 to 4 p.m. Join IB students from Kinzie Elementary School to play board games.

It's Baby Time on Mondays, March 9th & 16th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. We read stories, sing songs, and share a little bit about ourselves and children. Toys are available for a short play session. For babies 0 to 15 months with their caregivers.

Stories and Songs, for ages 12 months to 4 years with a caregiver on Wednesdays, March 11th & 18th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children will listen to stories, sing songs and move to music. Play times follows.

Homeschool Family Meet Up on second Friday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. Games and activities will be available for families with kids ages 6 to 13.

LEGO Club: Building Challenges on Saturday, March 14th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ages 5 & up will be given challenges to complete in a certain amount of time: building a tower or bridge or creating a habitat of flying vehicle. Free play follows.

Drop-In Crafts: Easter for ages 3 & up on Saturday, March 21st from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families can decorate a paper Easter egg for our bulletin board. Other crafts and activities will be available.

Bunny Tales for ages 18 months to age 4 with a caregiver on Monday, March 30th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Registration required. Make a bunny craft to take home.

TEENS

Teen Volunteer Hours on Wednesdays, March 11th & 25th from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Make handmade cards, prepare crafts for the library and more. Bring any forms you need signed.

Teen DIY's: Lucky Charm keychains on Friday, March 13th from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. Customize a keychain with beads, charms, and pictures using our mini photo printer.

ADULTS

Games People Play is scheduled for Thursdays through March 12th and Sundays, March 22nd & 29th from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your own games or borrow one of ours - Chess, Scrabble, UNO, Board games, cards, Pinochle, Canasta and more.

The adult book club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. March 12th is "Starter Villain" by John

Scalzi. The April 9th topic is "Poverty by American." "Brain Games": Sticker by Number Puzzle on Saturday, March 28th at 11:30 a.m. Brain games are activities and puzzles designed to help with memory, cognitive function and mental stimulation.

Planner Meet Up on Saturday, March 7th from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring your own journal/planner, stickers, washi tape, gel pens, and anything else to create a one-of-a-kind planner.

Saturday Game Day through May 9th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a game or play one of ours: UNO, Skip-bo, Mexican Train, Scrabble, Outburst, Upwards, Rummy 500, Canasta, Chess, Checkers, Sorry and more. No registration is needed.

New Device Advice on Tuesdays, through April 28th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Library staff will help set up a new device, teach the basics, connect to Wi-Fi, change settings and answer questions.

Spanish Book Club on the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m.

SENIORS

Self-defense class on Thursday, March 19th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Learn about awareness and basic safety techniques. There will also be the opportunity for hands-on work, as you practice basic self-defense moves on Cook County Sheriff officers.

Coffee House on Thursday, April 23rd from 1 to 2 p.m. Guest speaker, Celeste, our travel guru will discuss her trip from England, Wales and Scotland. Refreshments will be provided.

Identity Theft Program on Thursday, April 30th at 12:30 p.m. Learn ways your ID information can be stolen and what you can do to prevent that from happening. Presented by the Cook County's Sheriff Office.

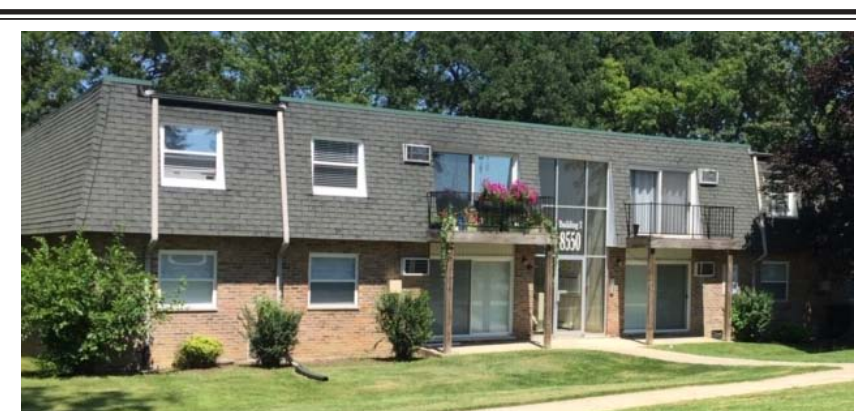
FAMILIES

The Artist's Studio at the Library will present "Quilting 101" for ages 6 & up on Saturday, March 7th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Children and their parents will create a fabric and paper patchwork piece inspired by quilts from the Art Institute of Chicago. Families are welcome to attend multiple sessions and are encouraged to leave their project at the library to be put on display.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

Obituaries

CARLOS M. ALCANTAR who was born on May 21st, 1985, passed away on Feb. 28th at the age of 40. Visitation will be held Friday, March 13th from 3 to 7 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave., Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director.



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