



End of WWII and New Monument Honors Vets



By Dr. R. Pletsch

September 2nd, 1945 was an historic moment as WWII officially ended. The Allies with General Douglas MacArthur representing President Truman accepted Japan's surrender aboard the USS Missouri. The ceremony took less than a half hour for a war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. Except for a few isolated areas, the combat ended a couple of weeks earlier.

The Emperor of Japan announced on radio to his people that on August 14, 1945 he had surrendered to the Allies. This was against the wishes of his military. This most destructive war in history had seen an estimated 70 - 85 million deaths. These included military and civilians. But the destruction was so complete that many were not able to formulate official records because many official buildings were destroyed.

Some of the notable number of deaths: The Soviet Union had between 20 and 27 million, Japan lost 2.6 to 3.1 million. The United States had lost 419,000 mostly military. Civilian deaths due to famine, disease, and bombings was considered to be 50% in some countries. Also the Nazi Holocaust killed about 11 million of which 6 million were Jews.

The controversy over the use of the atomic bombs in Japan needs a critical look. The bombing of Hiroshima on August 6th caused the death of 140,000 people. Then on August 9th in Nagasaki, around 80,000, this figure includes people that died weeks and months later due to atomic radiation by the end of 1945.

The US had larger air raids on Japan before the atomic bomb was completed. They bombed 66

cities with incendiary bombs. Three cities were mainly constructed of paper and wood so it was firestorms that killed between 350,000 and 500,000. It showed the Japanese were ready to fight to the end.

During this period, the Allies were assembling in Australia to invade Japan and after the no-surrender policy in places like Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the Pentagon reported losses up to 1 million Americans in that invasion. Many Americans who had orders to go from Germany to Australia had orders changed when on August 15th, Emperor Hirohito overruled his military and ordered surrender.

During the War Crimes trial, military leadership was charged with attacking numerous countries without a declaration of war, large scale massacres, rapes and using about 200,000 Chinese as "comfort women" for the Japanese military. They were also charged with using citizens for experiments with biological and chemical weapons. This included poisoning the water of at least 11 villages as an experiment in Southeast Asia. They are responsible for the purge of ethnic Chinese in Malaya and Singapore along with massacres at Sook Chang and Manjing. The list is too long to continue, but it gives you the idea. Many of the military leaders committed suicide after the war.

Now in honor to all American Veterans, the USAA Insurance Company has built a monument containing all 41 million who have served in the American Armed Forces from the Revolution to the present. It is a digital double-sided display designed to resemble the American flag. The displays are 18 feet tall by 108 feet long. It is located near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The monument is on the internet. Check to see your loved ones. The internet shows if we missed one of your loved ones, There is a method to have the change and added to the monument. This monument started on July 28th and ends on Veterans Day November 12, 2026.

How My Office Handles Billions

By Cook County Treasurer

Two times a year, my office mails nearly 1.8 million property tax bills and collects about \$20 billion. That's not a typo — \$20 billion. As Cook County Treasurer, I oversee the second-largest property tax collection and distribution system in America.

However, I do far more than send out bills. My office is the financial center of Cook County. We collect tax payments and distribute those funds to nearly 2,200 local government agencies — from school districts and libraries to police departments, parks and public health systems. In turn, they put that money to work so it's ultimately returned to you in the form of government services.

These institutions depend on our accuracy and timeliness to keep your neighborhoods safe, your streets lit and your children educated.

Every dollar that comes in must be safeguarded, tracked and reported. That's why I've built an investment policy that prioritizes the safety of your money, and ensures there's always enough cash on hand to meet the County's obligations. Risk is minimized through investment diversification. While investment returns matter, protecting your tax dollars comes first — always.

I'm also responsible for submitting financial reports to the Cook County Board of Commissioners and for managing trust funds and other special accounts.

When taxes go unpaid, I must prepare delinquency lists, notify taxpayers, obtain court orders and conduct the annual tax sale (a legal process to recover unpaid taxes). This system is not designed to punish — it's built to enforce fairness. Everyone must pay his or her fair share.

My office also handles refunds when you overpay. Whether because of a duplicate payment, a reduction in your property's assessed value, or a court-ordered change in tax rates, we ensure that overpayments are returned. My office currently has \$105 million in available refunds from overpayments going back to 2006. We have an additional \$19 million in missed exemption payments going back to 2022. Those years are firm legal deadlines. By law, you can only get back overpayments going back 20 years and exemptions going back four. If you don't apply in time, you could lose the refund that you're owed — which we do not want to happen. That's why we've made it easier to check your property's refund status on our website, cookcountytreasurer.com, for free — no lawyer or middleman required.

Government should not be a mystery. My job is to make sure your money is handled with precision, integrity and absolute transparency. When the tax system works fairly, it builds trust, it strengthens communities. That's the work we do every day — managing billions so that Cook County works.

Brookfield Zoo Schedules Events



Photo credit © Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Wildlife and seasonal traditions come together at Brookfield Zoo Chicago for festive fun this fall and winter, but there's still time to enjoy summer with a new buy-one-get-one-free summer special! From fall festivals and Halloween fun to holiday traditions and opportunities to discover new wildlife, guests can fill the months ahead with experiences for every generation. The lineup now through January includes returning favorites, new celebrations and a day at the Zoo.

Summer hours (9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) continue until Sept. 8th, when they shift to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Hours and information are available at brookfieldzoo.org/visit.

Through Sept. 4th, guests can squeeze in one more wild adventure before summer ends with a buy-one-get-one general admission ticket of equal or lesser value. This summer special is available at the North Gate entrance only.

Don't miss your last chance to see the dinosaurs before they go extinct on Oct. 25th. Guests can dig for fossils, journey through a massive rib-cage tunnel and come face-to-face with life size dinosaurs.

Throughout September, Zoo members receive special offers, giveaways, discounts and more as a thank you for their support. The celebration will conclude with opportunities to meet Animal Ambassadors and with each visit, earning a raffle entry for the chance to win a one-year membership, a Wild Connections experience or free admission for 10 guests.

Sept. 13th: Seventh Annual First Responders Day. Guests are invited to show appreciation for firefighters, police officers, Emergency Medical Services workers and other first responders. It includes a ceremonial parade at 11 a.m., meet and greets with K-9 units, "touch a truck" experiences and the opportunity to interact with representatives from up to 50 agencies and organizations.

NEW! Sept. 13th: Grandparents Day Launches Senior Sundays powered by Uber*

Guests can enjoy a new discount offered on site for buy-one-get-one senior admission on Sundays through Nov. 22nd.

Sept. 19th – 20th: Oktoberfest presented by Leinenkugel. Prost! to family-friendly fun music, games, giveaways and more. This German-style event will feature a seasonal menu with bratwursts, specialty beers, pretzels with cheese and more available for purchase.

Sept. 26th: Hispanic Heritage Fest returns with live music, cuisine, cultural performances, bilingual experiences, Zoo Chats featuring animals native to Latin America and more.

Oct. 3rd – 25th: Boo! at the Zoo. This family-friendly Halloween celebration is packed with thrills, festive decorations, Halloween-themed photo opps, animal enrichment and more fun for all ages. Weekend programming includes Boottastic costume parades, trick-or-treating stations on the East Mall, inflatables, purchasable pumpkin decorating experience and more.

Select Dates Oct. 4th – 31st: Haunted Walking Tours* Recommended for guests ages 13 and older, these 4 p.m. guided tours explore the Zoo's southwest corridor while sharing stories.

Oct. 5th: Conservation Leadership Awards Dinner*. The Board of Trustees and Women's Board invite guests to the Four Seasons Chicago for an evening recognizing individuals and organizations making a lasting difference for wildlife, communities and conservation. Tickets are available now.

Oct. 17th: Cook County Military & Veterans Resource Fair* from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Advance registration and proof of military service are encouraged.

Oct. 24th: Boo! Brunch*. This Halloween celebration features a festive buffet with brunch favorites and a signature witches' brew lemonade. Tickets include Zoo admission, pumpkin decorating, face painting, themed photo opps and more. Advance reservations are required for 10 a.m. or noon seatings. Visit brookfieldzoo.org for more information.

Programs At Beverly Arts Center

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled Burning Red: Tribute to Taylor takes the stage on Saturday, Sept. 12th at 7 pm for a high-energy celebration of the music of Taylor Swift. Tickets are \$35 for non-members.

The Stevie Wonder Experience is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 18th & 19th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for non-members.

Second Hand News, a Fleetwood Mac Tribute will perform an evening of timeless music on Friday, Sept. 25th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for non-members.

Fall School of Fine Arts Classes for artists of all ages begin Sept. 14th. Classes include: the traditional Japanese weaving art of Kinusaga, Tai Chi for seniors, lyrical dance for preteens and teens plus Uniting Voices Chicago.

Upcoming events include Sept. 17th: Old

House Lecture Series. Sept. 26th: Beverly Art Walk. Oct. 9th-Nov. 24th: Chicago Kids Co. Presents The Tortoise and the Hare. Oct. 10th: Petty Kings: A Tribute to Tom Petty. Oct. 17th: Sons of Chicago Tribute. Oct. 24th: Smiley Tillmon Band. Nov. 7th: Chicago Jazz Philharmonic & Orbert Davis.

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

Fitness Training At Ping Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct Fall into Fitness: Circuit Training at Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth on Wednesdays, Sept. 9th to 30th from 6 to 7 p.m.

The total body workout is focused on strength building exercises and cardio movements. Open to all fitness levels.

Premiere For Romantic Comedy

The romantic comedy "Say a Little Prayer", produced by Migrant Filmworks, Inc., which marks the feature film debut of Grammy Award-winning recording artist Luis Fonsi, will premiere on Netflix—beginning Friday, Sept. 3rd, kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month.

The story, follows three best friends who, in their search for true love, recite an ancient prayer to St. Anthony, the patron saint of "all things lost." The ritual sets off a series of unpredictable events that test their bonds of friendship and transform their lives in unexpected ways.

The film stars Luis Fonsi (Despacito) alongside Vanessa Vázquez (Divorce Bait), Jackie Cruz (Orange Is the New Black), and Vivian Lamolli (Queen of Manhattan). Rounding out the ensemble are screen veterans Angélica María (House of Flowers), Tatanka Means (Killers of the Flower Moon, Marshals), and comedian Chris Kattan (Saturday Night Live).

In addition to his on-screen debut, Fonsi contributes musically with the film's original title track, "Prayer in Your Eyes", co-written with Nashville-based, multi-Grammy-winning songwriter Josh Kear.

Set against the vibrant backdrop of San Antonio, Texas, the story centers on Adela (Vázquez), an art gallery owner; Ruby (Cruz), a social media influencer; and Cristina (Lamolli), a devoted teacher. Their journeys of friendship, love, and self-discovery are infused with a joyful Texas spirit.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 16th and lasts 4 weeks, celebrating and commemorating the contributions of Hispanics in the arts, sports, politics, and education.

Produced by Cristina Nava of Migrant Filmworks and written by Nancy De Los Santos, "Say a Little Prayer" also counts Edward James Olmos and Luis Fonsi as Executive Producers. Directed by Patrick Perez Vidauri.

Nancy De Los Santos began her career in Chicago at WTTW as Associate Producer of film critics Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel's film review program Sneak Previews. She was soon promoted to Producer, and when the show moved to commercial television, Nancy followed the duo to WGN TV, with the show then titled At The Movies. Under her tutelage, the show was nominated for two Emmy Awards.

As the Executive Producer for Programming at WLS-TV, she produced a number of entertainment documentaries hosted by Mr. Ebert, including Carnival At Cannes, Riviera Rendezvous, and Ebert's Oscar Deadline. She was also the Executive Producer for a holiday special, "The Day Christmas Disappeared."

Her latest venture is the new movie, Say A Little Prayer, is based on a prayer given to her by her grandmother,



Nancy De Los Santos

Soledad Gallegos Arkie, when she and her family lived in McKinley Park. The romantic comedy tells the story of three best friends who recite a prayer to St. Anthony, the patron saint of lost items, that guarantees they will "find their true love."

The movie will make its Netflix premiere this week and is also available on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Fandango at Home, and others platforms. For more info: SayALittlePrayerTheMovie.org.

Nancy also wrote one of The Disney Channel's highest-rated original films, Gotta Kick It Up! She's written for the acclaimed Showtime series Resurrection Blvd. and for the award-winning PBS series American Family. She's co-writer and co-producer of the Cinemax/HBO feature documentary, The Bronze Screen: One Hundred Years of the Latino Image in Hollywood Cinema, the quintessential film on Latinos in Hollywood film.

She has worked on several features and is the Associate Producer on Selena, and Mi Familia. My Family starring Jennifer Lopez and Edward James Olmos. A graduate of All Saints High School in Bridgeport. She also attended Visitation High School and Jones Commercial High School.

Nancy attended Northeastern Illinois University, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, and received a master's degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Free Programs At Architecture Ctr.

The Chicago Architecture Center, 111 E. Wacker Drive will conduct We Build! through Oct. 4th from 1 to 5 p.m., a hands-on program for 6th-8th grade students who are introduced to architecture and design.

Open House Chicago is a free public festival that offers rare behind-the-scenes access to sites of architectural, historical and cultural significance on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17th & 18th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event also spotlights businesses, organizations and creative leaders contributing to the vitality of Chicago's diverse neighborhoods.

Register at www.architecture.org

Community Learning At Aquinas Literacy

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. will conduct Open Mic & Game Night on Monday, Sept. 14th from 5 to 7 p.m. Share a story, poem, song, or something else at the open mic, or come to listen, play games, meet people, and enjoy the evening. No experience needed.

Growing Together: Gardening for Community and Well-Being is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30th from 1 to 2 p.m. Participants will discover how plants work together through companion planting, pest management, and garden ecosystems. No registration is required.

English Language Studio an ongoing weekly program on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m. A welcoming, interactive space for English learners to practice communication through conversation, games, storytelling, everyday situations and

creative activities. No registration is required.

Conversation Cafe, an ongoing drop-in group on Thursdays 10 to 11 a.m. at Aquinas Literacy Center and Saturdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at McKinley Park Branch Library. Each session features engaging topics and interactive activities designed to strengthen speaking and listening skills. No registration is required.

Special Conversation Cafe at Casa Guanajuato, 3661 S. Archer on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd from 10 to 11 a.m. English learners of all levels are welcome.

Stories That Connect Us. Beginning in October, Aquinas will offer a 6-week video storytelling course focused on creating community.

Participants will learn how to develop, film, and edit their own short video stories while exploring experiences, ideas, and perspectives. No previous experience is necessary.

For more information, call (773) 927-0512 or email patrick@aquinasliteracycenter.org.

Printers Row Fest

The 41st Annual Printers Row Lit Fest will be held on the streets of South Dearborn, from Ida B. Wells to Polk st. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12th & 13th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free, rain or shine.

Fireworks Finale At Navy Pier



Photo provided by Navy Pier

Catch the final Summer Fireworks at Navy Pier on Sept. 5th and take one more spin around the rink at Summer Skate before the season wraps up on Sept. 7th.

From Movies at the Pier, Pier Fitness, and live music at Skyline Sessions and Wave Wall Wax, there's plenty of free programming to enjoy before the summer season ends.

Join the crowd at the RYTHM Stage in Navy Pier's Beer Garden. Put your knowledge to the test during Trivia on the Lake on Sept. 3rd and enjoy Live on the Lake Fridays - Sundays, plus Labor Day.

Chicago Live Festival returns to Navy Pier for its sixth year with free performances on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19th & 20th. Enjoy music, dance, and theater featuring 100+ artists

across five stages including The Second City, Joffrey Ballet, Trinity Irish Dancers and Anthony Rapp.

For more information, visit https://navypier.org.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

This September, the American Cancer Society encourages men to talk with their doctor about their personal risk for prostate cancer. The number of new cases continued to increase by 3% per year from 2014 to 2022, with the steepest rise occurring in advanced-stage diagnoses.

The report estimates that in 2026, 333,830 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. and 36,320 men will die from the disease.

The increase in diagnoses is largely due to more men being screened. This creates opportunities for early intervention and improved patient outcomes, although too many men are still not being screened early enough.

There are risk factors that can be assessed for free using the online tool ACS CancerRisk360™. The chance of having prostate cancer rises rapidly after age 50, and the disease occurs more often in Black and Caribbean men.

To find low-cost or free screening locations and support during treatment, call the 24/7 helpline at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Girls Day of Play At Local Parks

The Chicago Park District will conduct Girls Day of P.L.A.Y. at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie and Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth on Friday, Sept. 25th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Girls have the opportunity to engage in sports, arts and crafts and fun. This free event is available during a free public school day. Participants should pack a water bottle, lunch and snack, wear gym shoes and comfortable clothes. Ping Tom Park also offers swimming.

Summer Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark st. invites families to see the animals and enjoy the beauty of the zoo, which is also an accredited arboretum and botanic garden.

For the most up-to-date schedule, visit go.lpzoo.org.

Jamaican Iguana Care 11 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House.

Monkey Cognition 11:45 a.m., Mondays through Fridays at Regenstein Macaque Forest.

Ape Cognition and Care 1 p.m., daily at Regenstein Center for African Apes.

African Penguin Feeding 2 p.m., daily at Robert & Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove.

Feedings at Farm-in-the-Zoo. Feed the Chickens 11 a.m., daily through Sept. 7th. Feed the Cows 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., daily through Sept 7th.

Visit the Rhino Calf, Hazina and her mother Kapuki are now outside intermittently, and you might get a chance to see her if you come to the zoo and head to the southernmost rhino habitat at Regenstein African Journey.

'80s vs. '90s Night at the Zoo will be presented by River North Fests on Saturday, Sept. 19th from 6:30 to 10p.m., 21+. Whether you were living for synth-pop and shoulder pads or grunge and Game Boys, this is your chance to relive the best of both decades with karaoke, cocktails and throwback jams. Tickets for ages 21+ are \$20.

Fall Fest on Fridays - Sundays, Sept. 25th to Nov. 1st from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free at this family-friendly celebration. Every weekend brings something new, rides on the Ferries wheel and giant fun slide, s'mores roasting over a fire pit, fall-themed enrichment for the animals, live music ad entertainers, fall garden tours, and seasonal decor.

LEAP: Learn, Explore and Play, various dates. Investigate and explore the natural world through play. Children guide the way as they choose whether to dig in the dirt, create a collaborative work of art, or settle in with a story.

Haunted History Tours for age 16+ Tues-

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).

TWEENS & TEENS

Teen Volunteer Hours Thursday, Sept. 24th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 1 volunteer hour while helping at your library. Bring your timesheet. Grades 6 - 12 only.

Tween Tuesday - Sept. 15th, Tissue Paper Jar Luminaries, 4 to 5 p.m. Bi-monthly craft just for ages 10 to 14. Materials and snacks will be provided.

CHILDREN

Matinee Movies, Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m. Join us for family films and snacks. Family Movie, Sunday, Sept. 27th "Coco". Snacks available while supplies last.

Sensory Friendly Cinema on Sunday, Sept. 6th from 2 to 4 p.m. Join us for "Kung Fu Panda".

Family Story time on Thursdays, Sept. 17th and 24th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Stories, songs and fun for the whole family. For children 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

Paper Cup Rocket Launcher on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 12 p.m. Make a set of paper cups decorated as rockets. They launch with rubber bands.

Messy Art: Paper Bag Pinata on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 6 p.m. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by making paper bag pinates.

LEGO Club on Monday, Sept. 28th from 6 to

Obituaries



ALVERA VANTES (nee Regalado) Preceded in death by parents Felix & Mary, brothers Benjamin, Rudy, John, Carl, Robert, Gary and sisters Virginia, Louisa and Marianne. She is survived by siblings Rudolph (Angela), Ronald (Carol), Sheila (Robert) and Carol. Vera was the mother of 5, grandmother of 22, great-grandmother of 37 and great-great grandmother of 3. Visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 4th from 12 noon to 9 p.m. at Sagrada Familia Funeral Home, 4950 W. 79th st. Burbank. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Sept. 5th at 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception/Five Holy Martyrs Church. Interment will be at St. Casimir Cemetery.



TRANSITO LOPEZ who was born on Aug. 16th, 1948, passed away on Aug. 24th at the age of 78. Visitation was held Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director. Visitation and Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Pius V Parish, 1919 S. Ashland ave. on Thursday, Sept. 3rd at 9:30 a.m. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery, 7201 S. Archer rd., Justice, IL.

VICTORIA ANN MICHALIK, (nee Jania), wife of Matthew S. Michalik; mother of Mitchell Michalik, Paul Michalik and Marie (Michael) Brewer and grandmother of Summer, James, and Thomas. She was the daughter of late Eleanor (nee Wierzbowski) & late Anthony F. Jania; sister of Tony (Linda) Jania and Carole Jania; sister-in-law of Cynthia (late Bill) Laszlo, Kathy (Bill) Albertino, late Ronald Michalik, late Theresa Alexa, and late Mary Ann Michalik. After graduating from Chicago Teachers College, she began teaching special education and later continued her vocation at St. Turibius School, from 1993 until her retirement in 2015. Visitation will be held Friday, Sept. 11th, 10 a.m. at St. Turibius Church. Mass will follow at 11 a.m. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery. (773) 767-2166 or www.ZarzyckiManor-Chapels.com.



JESSIE G. GONZALES, a long time Pilsen resident passed away on Aug. 28th at the age of 85. She was born on May 1st, 1941, to Felix & Maria Guerrecia; wife of Antonio R. Gonzales who preceded her in death on October 6, 2000; sister of three brothers and eight sisters who also preceded her in death. Survivors include her children, Cecilia (Robert) Alaniz, Sylvia (Bruce) Pawlecki, Tony (Anna Marie) Gonzales, Julia (Larry) Spearman, Joe Gonzales and Michael (Theresa) Gonzales. She is the grandmother of Michaela Alaniz, Robert Alaniz Jr, Julian (Bailey) Spearman, Lauren Spearman, Ariana Gonzales, Dr. Anthony Spearman, Matthew Gonzales, Ramon Gonzales, Jacob Pawlecki, Kathryn Pawlecki, Michael Antonio Gonzales, Antonio Pawlecki, and Marcos Gonzales; great-grandmother of Briana Alaniz, Jaslene Alaniz and Leonidas Gonzales. Additional family members include Christopher (Karla) Hazlett, Lyndsie (Andrew) Shipley, Emma Shipley and Ricardo Hazlett. Visitation will be held Thursday, Sept. 3rd from 4 to 8 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki; owner-director. Interment will be at Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery, 1400 S. Wolf rd., Hillside, IL.

Pancake Breakfast At St. Daniel

23rd Ward Alderman Silvana Tabares who will host the Get Behind The Vest Pancake Breakfast at St. Daniel the Prophet School, Brennan Hall, 5337 S. Natoma on Sunday, Sept. 13th from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Donation is \$10 person at give.cpdmemorial.org/23rdWardPancake. 100% of proceeds fund the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and new vests for Police Officers and K9s.

For more information, call (773) 582-4444 or visit ward23@cityofchicago.org.

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 am. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

KIDS & FAMILIES

Little Learners Story Time for ages 0 to 5on Fridays to Sept. 25th at 10:30 a.m. for 30 minutes of songs, movements, and stories. Play time follows.

Family Nintendo Switch (ages 8+) on Sunday, Sept. 27th from 1 to 3 p.m.

Teacher in the Library, Monday to Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. Schedule is subject to change.

Family Fun: Building Activities on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 3 to 4 p.m. Family Fun: International Dog Day Art, Tuesday, Sept. 15th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Most weeks we feature a drop-in activity which may include a simple STEM or craft activity, building materials, puzzles, toys or maybe even a coloring bonanza. For families with kids of all ages.

Singing Lesson 101, Ages 6 -15 on Sunday, Sept. 13th from 2 to 4 p.m. Come learn, sing and build your confidence with Ms. Song. No experience is needed.

McKinley Park Music School Recital on Sunday, Sept. 20th from 1 to 4 p.m.

TWEEN/TEEN

Need service hours this summer? Ask the front desk for a volunteer application, ages 12-17.

Teen Gamer's Choice on Wednesdays, Sept. 23rd & 30th from 3 to 5 p.m. We have Nintendo games such as Princess Peach: Showtime!, Minecraft, Mario Wonder and more. For ages 12 to 16.

LEGO Club on Thursdays, Sept. 3rd & 17th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Complete our design challenges or let your imagination run wild. LEGO bricks and materials are provided. For kids 6 to 13.

STEAM DAY on Thursdays, Sept. 10th , Oct. 8, & Nov. 12th from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. A fun, story powered introduction to science, technology, engineering, art and math for young learners presented by FIRST STAR FORCE. Each session starts with an engaging picture book read aloud, followed by an activity inspired by the story. For ages 6 to 10.

Spy Science on Monday, Sept. 21st from 4 to 5 p.m. Uncover the science behind popular secret agent tricks like reflective glasses and

color-decoded messages. Participants receive their own science kit from Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, while supplies last. For kids 6 to 13 and their caregivers.

Teen Craft n; Snack: Mosaic Tins, ages 11 - 19 on Saturday, Sept. 5th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. A safe space where teens can create art together. Decorate a storage tin with embellishment charms and letters. Snacks will be provided to participants.

ADULTS

A Dance & Movement class for older adults will be held on Saturdays, Sept. 12th & 26th from 1 to 2 p.m. Join us for gentle stretches to improve flexibility and mobility. Easy-to-follow, music based movement routines.

ESL Conversation Cafe with Aquinas Literacy Center, ages 18+ on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Practice English in a friendly space and improve speaking and listening skills. Ask librarians to register. Tutoring is also available.

Adult Book Club: "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Plus Size Clothing Swap on Saturday, Sept. 19th from 2 to 4 p.m. Sizes XL - 6X. Shoes, jewelry, handbags, and accessories. All genders are welcome. Donations not required to participate.

Adult Craft Club: Wood Block Apple, 18+ on Sunday, Sept. 6th from 2 to 3 p.m. Join Ms. Shelley as we construct a cute apple (or pumpkin) from tumbling tower blocks. Registration is required. This is an Adult program; children will not be permitted.

Visit chippublib.org to register.

Jazz Institute Offers Concerts

The Jazz Institute of Chicago's Emerging Artists Project has scheduled several free programs.

The Chicago Jazz Festival features an acclaimed slate of headliners at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 3rd to 6th. Friday hours are 11:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Saturday and Sunday hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

On Sunday, Sept. 27th take a cruise down the Chicago River while enjoying the sounds of Dev Shaw and the Ghetto Space Band from 5:30 to 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit chicagoline.com.

For more information, visit jazzinchicago.org.

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.

Crafting Corner for adults on Wednesdays, Sept. 9th, 16th and 30th; Oct. 21st and 28th; Nov.

4th to 18th from 4 to 5 p.m. and Sundays, Sept. 20th and Oct. 4th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Family Story Time on Tuesdays through Nov. 17th from 11 a.m to 12 p.m. Join us for picture books, stories, songs and a simple craft or play time. For families with children up to 5 years old.

Toddler Time and Play Time on Wednesdays through Nov. 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We sing songs, read stories and do fun activities to build early literacy skills! For ages 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers.

Visit chippublib.org to register.

State Treasurer Posts Earnings

The State Treasurer's Office made \$1.45 billion in earnings from the state investment portfolio during Fiscal Year 2026, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced.

Also in Fiscal Year 2026, the Treasurer's Office made nearly \$759 million in gross investment earnings for cities, villages, school districts, counties and other units of government that take part in the Illinois Funds local government investment pool. The Illinois Funds has received the highest rating of AAA from Fitch, a national credit ratings agency.

Under state law, the Treasurer's Office is prohibited from investing the state's portfolio in the stock market. Frerichs convinced the General Assembly to allow his office to invest in local government bonds, such as those issued by Illinois school districts to purchase land or erect buildings, and prime money market funds.

For FY26 the portfolio had gross earnings of \$1.445 billion and for July, the first month of Fiscal Year 2027, the gross earnings were \$122.7 million.

Key monthly metrics and more are available at iltreasurervault.com.

Community Clean-Up

The McKinley Park Development Council will conduct a Community Cleanup of Canal Origins Park, 2701 S. Canal on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

Both Churches: Air Conditioned and Wheel Chair Accessible

Masses at St. Barbara Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop Saturday, 5 PM, Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM 6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses Weekday Schedule (Chapel) Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass	Masses at St. Therese Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander Sunday Masses 8:00 AM in English 10:30 AM in Cantonese Weekday Schedule Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass September 6, 2026
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St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

Join Us in Celebrating the Feast of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Opening School Mass, Fri Sept 4, 8:00 AM, St. Therese

Feast Day Mass, Sat Sept 5, 11 AM, St. Therese, w/Bishop Bartosic

Parish Celebration, Sun Sept 6, St. Barbara, 9:30 Mass & Reception



A Salute To Hardworking Americans!

During our daily routines, we do business alongside other hardworking people. Even when we are outside of work - at the movies, the grocery store, driving on the highway - we encounter people who are working just as hard, even on weekends, night or at two jobs. Labor Day is a day to honor all of the men and women who work to provide for themselves and their families. Your efforts help keep our country and our communities strong, and we salute your commitment to a job well done. We hope you enjoy a great holiday weekend of festivities and relaxation.



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Ridge Library Plans Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch Library, 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.

Homeschool Family Meet Up Fridays, Sept. 11th, Oct. 9th and Nov. 13th from 1 to 2 p.m. Games and activities are available for kids while caregivers can join in the fun or chat and share resources. For ages 6 to 13, “Tot Spot Learning” on Wednesdays, Sept 9th and 16th at 11 a.m. ages 18-36 months. Registration required. We will sing songs and learn our letters, numbers, colors and shapes in this fun, 45 minute program. Using puzzles, ABC letter matching, scissors, glue and more. Kids will get a taste of preschool.

Play Doh Fun! Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 to 4 years. Registration required. Using rollers, cookie cutters and other manipulatives, children can be creative.

“Tot Play Time” Saturdays, Sept. 12th & 19th and Oct. 10th to 24th at 9:30 a.m. Ages 0-4 years. Babies and toddlers will have fun, educational toys to choose from while older kids can play with Duplo blocks, magnetic tiles, puzzles and pretend play toys. No registration is required.

Children’s LEGO Club: Build an Airplane on Thursday, Sept. 17th from 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 7 to 13. Each registered child will get a kit to build an airplane to take home.

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

Learn to Play Chinese Mahjong on Wednesdays during September and October from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion of “The Guest” by Emma Cline on Thursday, Sept. 10th from 6 to 7 p.m.

Senior Chair Yoga Fall Fridays with Ms. Kim through Oct. 2nd from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Register at (312) 747-6094 or in person for each session.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

Heritage Museum of Asian Art



Photo provided by Heritage Museum of Asian Art

The Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st., has scheduled Chinatown Renaissance Man, The Life and Art of Andy Hoi-Csiu Chan now on view through Oct. 4th. Since 2025, the museum has worked with Andy Chan's family to preserve his archive of 30,000 items, including photographs, documents, artworks, tools, personal objects, and VHS recordings.

Introduction to Chinese Imperial Embroidery on Saturday, Sept. 5th from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Discover the beauty of Beijing Embroidery, a traditional embroidery style developed for China's imperial court and recognized as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage. Guided by artist

Aodan, participants will explore from HMAA's collection and learning traditional stitching techniques. \$35.

Introduction to Japanese Embroidery on Friday, Oct. 9th from 6 to 8 p.m. Discover the tradition of Japanese embroidery, through an introduction to its materials, visual language, and techniques. \$50.

Kintsugi for Beginners on Friday, Sept. 18th from 6 to 8:30 p.m. This beginner's workshop introduces the art of Kintsugi, a Japanese technique of repairing broken ceramics with gold-infused lacquer, emphasizing the beauty of imperfections. \$120.

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

Back of the Yards Schedules Programs

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

CHILDREN
Fun with Reading on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. Ages 2 to 8.

Outdoor Play on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Ages 3 to 12.

Story Time at Coffeehouses on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Ages 0 to 5.

STEAM Kids for ages 3 to 12 on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

Family Story Time on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Ages 0 to 5.

Bilingual Story Time on Saturdays, Sept. 5th, 12th and 26th from 2 to 3 p.m. Join us for lively stories, songs and rhymes. Then stick around to play after the program or to make a craft. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

Kids' Sewing Craft on Wednesday, Sept. 16th from 4 to 5 p.m. Learn the basics of machine sewing and more. All levels welcome. All materials are provided. Participants are also encouraged to bring clothing and materials. For ages 3 to 13.

Kids' Cooking Demo on Wednesday, Sept. 9th and 23rd from 4 to 5 p.m. Join the children's staff

as we teach kids how to make some yummy snacks. For ages 5 to 13.

TEENS

Teen Chess Open Play on Fridays, Sept. 4th to 25th from 3 to 4 p.m. All levels of expertise are welcome. For teens 13 to 18.

Teen Color Collage on Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 4 to 5 p.m. Taking inspiration from Josef Albers' Interaction of Color, we will explore color combinations with paper. For ages 13 to 18.

ADULTS

Adult Book Club on Thursday, Sept. 17th from 6 to 7 p.m.

ALL AGES

Mexican Heritage Night on Tuesday, Sept. 15th from 5 to 7 p.m. Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with a fun evening of arts and crafts, games and music. For all ages.

Create Space on Saturdays through Oct. 31st from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn how to use our 3D printers, vinyl cutter, and more. Use our various art supplies. Have a low pressure space to create.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

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, with summer programs for children ages 7 and up.

The National Museum of Mexican Art is delighted to announce the upcoming exhibition *Where Memory Lives: 40 Years of Día de Muertos*, opening on Friday, Sept. 25th in the Main Gallery. This exhibition looks back through the Permanent Collection to trace the evolution of Day of the Dead and the Museum itself.

This year's exhibition honors Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas (1947-2026), a scholar, pioneer of Chicano Studies, and friend of the Museum.

The exhibition opens with a reception on Friday, Sept. 25th from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Visit these thought-provoking exhibitions: *Xochicago: Floating Gardens of the Chicago River and México* in the Xicágo Gallery through Oct. 4th. *Vivir la Tierra: Acqui-*

sitions from the Permanent Collection 2010–2026, in the Rubin & Paula Torres Gallery through Feb. 7th.

Nuestras Historias: Stories of Mexican Identity from the Permanent Collection, ongoing.

Visit nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org to learn more and to register for the free tour.

Canoe Outing For Birders

The Chicago Park District will conduct “River-Lab: Birding Paddle” at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

This peaceful guided canoe outing is designed for bird enthusiasts of all levels to observe and experience the beauty of the Chicago River. We'll provide waterproof field guides and binoculars, but feel free to bring your own. Wear comfortable clothing and bring water and sunscreen. All equipment is included in your registration fee of \$5. Basic instruction will be provided, and beginners are encouraged.

Vehicle Show In Springfield



Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced the 76th Annual Secretary of State's Vehicle Show will be held in Springfield on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

First held in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, the Vehicle Show features some of Illinois' finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors. The advisory committee will present the Illinois State Champion Award to the best vehicle in show, with first-, second- and third-place awards presented

across 60 categories.

For more information or to request a brochure, call (312) 793-8876 or email vehicleshows@ilsos.gov.

Free Food

The Greater Lawn West 55th Street WIC is partnering with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to provide free fresh fruit and vegetables to WIC and behavioral health clients at 4050 W. 55th st. on Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Chinatown Library Schedules Programs

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

Board Game Play on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn to play that gifted or purchased game or the ones that the Chicago Tabletop and Board Game Meetup Group has on hand. For ages 13 and up.

Film Screening & Panel Discussion of “Bluff City Chinese” (2024) on Saturday, Sept. 5th from 2:30 to 4 p.m. A panel discussion with director Thandi Cai and members from the Coalition for Better Chinese American Community will be held afterwards. For teens and adults.

Bookmarks for Liberation Library on Wednes-

day, Sept. 9th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. All materials will be provided. Liberation Library is a Chicago-based and volunteer-led prison abolition organization that provides books & youth-led magazines to incarcerated young people. For teens in high school.

Film Screening of “Mean Girls” (2024) on Saturday, Sept. 26th from 1 to 3 p.m. From the comedic mind of Tina Fey comes a new twist on the modern classic. © Paramount Pictures [2024]-112 minutes - PG-13. Teens and adults.

Teen DIY: “Felt Name Flags” on Wednesday, Sept. 30th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Learn how to use the Cricut and create a felt pennant flag with your name on it. No sewing required! All materials will be provided while supplies last.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

Walk Benefits Lung Health

Hundreds of walkers are gearing up to put their best foot forward for the American Lung Association's annual LUNG FORCE Walk, presented by Northwestern Medicine Canning Thoracic Institute. The family-friendly event steps-off at Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield rd. in Wheaton on Sunday, Sept. 13th. Participants will take in beautiful views as they make their way along a 2-mile route through the park to raise funds and awareness about lung disease and clean air. There will also be a health and wellness expo with free resources.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the Health and Wellness Expo continues until 10:30 a.m. The walk steps off at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, and to register, visit LUNGFORCE.org/Chicago.

Campaign For Organ Donors

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas launched a new public awareness campaign encouraging Illinoisans to become organ and tissue donors.

The campaign uses humor to highlight the sometimes questionable gifts and family traditions that are passed down through generations, including an outdated prom suit, an antique lamp and a treasured family recipe.

A single donor can save or improve the lives of up to 25 people. Register online at LifeGoesOn.com or by calling (800) 210-2106.

Fall Programs In The Park

The Chicago Park District announces that programs and activities are available for the Fall Program Session.

Visit chicagoparkdistrict.com for information on creating an account and registering for an activity that interests you.

Now through Sept. 13th, explore the colorful world of the Artist's Garden Show, *Pigments!* at the Garfield Park Conservatory. The garden features plants that have been used throughout history to impart color into textiles, paints, inks and cosmetics. Reservations are required.

The Junior Bear Football program offers competitive tackle football for ages 8 to 12 at 14 park locations on Saturdays through mid-October.

Movies in the Parks' Summer 2026 season offers free admission to screenings of familiar favorites and the latest blockbuster. At dusk, bring lawn chairs, blankets and join us for complimentary popcorn while supplies last.

The Chicago Park District cut the ribbon on the new, fully inclusive playground at 1500-1600 Midway Plaisance North. The 21,000 square-foot play space is engineered for use by children and adults of all abilities.

Three themed play-zones: Stone Creek, Musical Grove and Picnic Plaza are intersected by accessible pathways and nature landscaping.

Fall programs include

Police Beat 912 Plans Meeting

The Chicago Police Department 9th District will conduct a zoom meeting for Beat 912 on Wednesday, Sept. 9th 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.

Snap and Medicaid Benefits

New SNAP requirements and upcoming Medicaid eligibility changes may affect some residents.

Find out if you are exempt from SNAP requirements. If you qualify for an exemption, file a new application.

Visit abe.illinois.gov or talk to a benefit specialist at (773) 247-3663.

New Medicaid rules are coming but not every member will be impacted: To stay enrolled, connected and informed visit: GetMedicaidFacts.com.



Rent In The ‘Burbs!

We invite you to visit this quiet residential community located near the forest preserves in Palos Hills. Scenic Tree is convenient to shopping and dining at Orland Park and Chicago Ridge, excellent school district, Moraine Valley Community College and Midway Airport.

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