

Voter Integrity



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Some political issues are settled because people change their opinions. Others are convinced by being bombarded with commercials that everyone believes as they do. A few of the political science professors love these quotes and they are very true though I don't know who the original authors were. First is: "figures don't lie, but liars figure", and "don't worry, people have short memories".

So regardless of where you may consider yourself on the political spectrum, these facts may be interesting about voter integrity. One of the strangest is, In the world of polls there seems to be an agreement among all of them that regardless of race, age, or ethnicity, the polls show a 70 - 80% desire the "SAVE America Act". It's simple, you should have a photo ID to register to vote, and then only citizens should vote in Federal elections. The people appear to be very much in favor of it, but our US Senators can't get the votes necessary to pass it.

You may take your argument but regardless, many of our Senators want us to think they know better than the citizenry does. The newspapers are often filled with different events you need a photo ID for. One Senator even announced

that so few people have been convicted for illegal voting, that what difference does it make, we already have the laws.

I found these that have been taken to court. In Florida, there have been illegal voting from Brazil, Cuba and Haiti. In Hawaii, a Filipino was charged with voting in the last two Federal elections. In North Carolina, a Canadian took a plea bargain for voting in Federal elections since 2004. In Michigan, the Secretary of State testified that no non-citizens voted in the last election, and then had to admit at least 15 cases occurred in the 2024 election, some of which were students from China. There have been Pakistanis charged in New Jersey and an Australian in Louisiana.

Another issue is that states have refused to clean their voter rolls. This means after a voter moves out of a jurisdiction or passes away, the names should be taken off the rolls. The Department of Justice announced that enforcing this law, 20,000 - 30,000 noncitizens were eliminated from cooperating states. They believe there are many more but some states are not cooperating. States of California, Illinois, New Jersey and New York are fighting the order to clean the rolls. Using various legal arguments, they are fighting this order that some say the state is using money to fight the will of the people.

If you want more to look into the situation, here are a few organizations that have a lot on their webpages: AMAC, DHS, Judicial Watch, Just The News, PEW Research, and The Wall Street Journal. I realize this is a very short article for a very complex problem, but it has information you can use to help formulate your opinions.

Silent Theatre Opens "The Missing Piece"



Silent Theatre Collective will present the Chicago premiere of "The Missing Piece", an adult clown show co-created by Gillian Hastings and Tonika Todorova, running Aug. 28th through Sept. 20th at Visceral Adventure Lounge, 3638 W. Grand ave.

Performances: Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25, or pay-what-you-can. Every Sunday performance includes a special guest event following the show.

The story follows Gilly Willy and Toni Woni, two clowns who experience the same revelation: the end of the world is coming. The trouble is, they can't agree on what that actually means. In the meantime, the system never sleeps, so they must keep making internet content to pay the bills.

The *Missing Piece* began as *The Missing Box Top*, developed by Todorova and Hastings as a 3-weekend workshop run in Chicago in May/June 2025. Among the audience members was theatre artist and critic Mary Poindexter McLaughlin, who reviewed the show and called it "a theatrical bullseye for these times." McLaughlin then invited the pair to Florida for a week-long intensive to further develop the piece with her direction, leading to a mini-tour of packed-house performances in the Tampa/Palm Harbor area. Now, with McLaughlin at the helm, the fully realized production returns home to its Chicago audience.

For tickets and info, visit <https://www.silenttheatre.com/>.

Forest Preserves Photo Contest

The Forest Preserves of Cook County invites photos of landscapes, plants, insects, birds and other wildlife, images that highlight the seasons and shots of people enjoying the outdoors or participating in recreational offerings.

Winning photos will be featured in the annual wall calendar and on social media accounts. Winning photographers will receive 10 copies of the 2027 calendar and a prize package full of Forest Preserves experiences. Brookfield Zoo Chicago and Chicago Botanic Garden tickets, a free one-night cabin stay at a Forest Preserves' campgrounds, a ticket to the GoApe Zipline & Adventure Park Treetop Adventure Course, a one-hour kayak rental for two people at Maple Lake, a one-hour kayak rental for two people at Busse Lake, Tampier Lake or Skokie Lagoons, one round of golf at any Forest Preserves golf course and more.

The submission period opens on Friday, July 31st to Aug. 16th. Follow the Forest Preserves' at facebook.com/FPDCC/ for updates and rules.

To participate in this

Dean's List At Holy Cross

College of the Holy Cross of Worcester, MA congratulates students named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of 2025-26 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Scarlett McGuire and Claire Slattery both of 60609, Class of 2028.

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

Marketplace At Ping Tom Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct "Get Flea" at Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth ave. on Saturday, Aug. 15th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The arts, culture and marketplace experience features creatives, vendors, artists, designers and small businesses.

Fall Programs In The Park

The Chicago Park District announces that programs and activities are available for the Fall Program Session. Registration opens at 9 a.m. on Aug. 3rd at parks west of California ave. and at 9 a.m. on Aug. 4th at parks east of California.

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

Cast your vote through Aug. 27th to tell how the Chicago Park District should use \$500,000 on park improvements citywide. The campaign "Your Voice. Your Park" invites Chicagoans that are at least 13 years old to vote and inform which types of improvements should be implemented.

Visit the Healthy Hues event at Douglass Park on Aug. 8th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for free health screenings, wellness classes, lawn games, healthy food demos, giveaways and more. Registration is not required.

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.

The inner-City Flag Football program offers ages 9 to 12 the opportunity to compete on 20 teams for boys and 10 teams for girls. Registration begins in-person in conjunction with Fall Registration on Aug. 3rd at parks located West of California ave. and on Aug. 4th at parks located East of California ave. All games are played on Saturdays at Ellis Park, 3520 S. Cottage Grove from Sept. 12th through Oct. 17th.

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 playzones: Stone Creek, Musical Grove and Picnic Plaza are intersected by accessible pathways and nature landscaping.

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 Free Admission Night on Friday, Aug. 21st from 5 to 8 p.m. The tour will start at 6 p.m. from the reception desk. The event offers wine and appetizer.

Morning Asia is a hybrid (online and in-person) program series that introduces art organizations, artists, and residency programs from across Asia.

Stitching Stories: Interwoven, an exhibition brings together Asian and African American artists through textile art, storytelling, and collaborative practice.

The exhibit "Beasts, Aviary and Ritual of Ancient China" explores ancient Chinese jade through nearly 61 rare carvings spanning from the Neolithic period to the Ming dynasty. Featuring ritual objects, mythical creatures, birds, and ceremonial forms, the exhibition traces how jade reflected spiritual beliefs, power, protection, and humanity's relationship with the natural and cosmic worlds.

"The Meticulous Mystics" Wonders of Chinese Gongbi Painting, a solo exhibition by artist Cheuk Yan Tung features exquisitely detailed brushwork and contemporary perspectives. The cost is open.

Gala 2026 features artists, supporters, art and culture leaders for a festive night of exhibitions, performances and food on Saturday, Aug. 15th from 6 to 9 p.m. The general admission cost is \$200.

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

Spring Dean's List At UW-Madison

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Honorees must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements.

Local scholars are: Kasandra Acosta, Sadie Ahern, Giovanni Arevalo, Vincent Biggs, Grace Billows, Leandra Branscomb, Leilany Calvillo, Angela Chan, Kyle Chen, Steven Chen, Edison Chiu, Anaiz Chorne, Olivia Crofton, Vanessa De La Rosa, Natalie Feng, David Flores, Amaryssa Garcia, Kaylie Gilbert, Eloise Guth, Alexa Hernandez, Sarah Lee, Jatsarah Leon, Ashley Lesnicki, Angel Leung, Siyong Li, Danny Lin, Angel Ma, Karen Miranda, Evelyn Morales, Tiffany Ngai, Jaden Nhan, Melissa Penafiel, Tyla Pendarvis, Xavier Rivera, Manuel Salgado, Yactzil Sanchez, Elliott Sanders, Adrian Santana, Gabby Silvas, Cinthya Urgilez Tenesaca, Leo Xiao and Wenyu Zhao.

Community Fiesta And Health Fair

The Brighton Park Neighborhood Council will conduct a community fiesta and health fair at 4136 S. California on Thursday, Aug. 6th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free boy haircuts, first come first serve basis. Fun activities for all ages: bouncy house, face painting, snacks, games, prizes, raffle, dunk tank, mechanical bull, health screenings, Zumba and more than 20 resource tables.

Homeowners Blast Property Tax Hikes



By Maria Pappas

Just one in five Cook County voters bothered to vote in the last two elections when asked whether to approve property tax increases, allowing a distinct minority of voters to approve hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxpayer-backed bonds and million more in direct tax increases.

Turnout for the 2025 local elections and the 2026 primary election averaged just 20.1% with less than 10% of voters weighing in on four of the 20 binding property tax referendums in those elections, a new analysis from Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas found.

In the end, voters who did participate in referendums approved 15 and rejected five. Those 15 successful referendums triggered the issuance of \$335.5 million in new bonds and tax increases totaling \$3.5 million. The two elections occurred doing a time when complaints about property tax increases were at fever pitch, with some upset homeowners going as far as to burn their bills in protest, Pappas noted.

"People come to my office to complain about high taxes every day, but when they get a chance to make a decision about those taxes at the ballot box, they stay home," said Pappas. "It makes absolutely no sense."

The lowest turnout was a referendum to increase taxes for the Northbrook Rural Fire Protection District, where just 815 of 16,795 eligible voters, or 4.9% approved a \$425,000 tax increase, which will boost taxes for that agency by 14.9%. The owner of a home valued at \$350,000 will now pay an extra \$106.25 a year in taxes.

The turnout was only slightly better for two referendums staged by the Leyden Fire Protection District. There, less than 9.4% of eligible voters approved issuance of \$3 million in bonds for a new fire station and equipment, as well as a tax increase of \$730,000. That tax increase amounts to a 24.4% increase in taxes that will cost the owner of a home valued at \$350,000 an extra \$232.72 a year.

In none of the 20 referendums did more than four in ten voters participate. The highest turnout was in Oak Park, where 40.6% of voters rejected, by a more than four-to-one margin, a Park District proposal to issue \$40 million in bonds to build an indoor aquatics center.

Turnout in local elections, referred to as consolidated elections, and non-presidential primaries has historically been very low. During the last nine years, turnout has only topped 50% in the presidential general elections, with even non-presidential general elections falling below that threshold, according to Treasurer's Office data.

Even when voters do go to the polls, they often skip the often complicated referendum questions that appear at the bottom of the ballot, the Treasurer's Office found. Of 1,631 voters who went to polls within Roselle Fire Protection District boundaries in the 2025 consolidated election, just 504 weighed in on whether to increase the District's taxes by \$375,000. That means 69% of the voters skipped the question.

"Homeowners need to do more than just complain," Pappas said. "They need to vote."

Community Learning At Aquinas Literacy

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. has scheduled free community learning opportunities.

"Growing Together: Gardening for Community and Well-Being" on Wednesdays, Aug. 26th and Sept. 30th from 1 to 2 p.m. Join us for a hands-on gardening series in partnership with Just Roots Chicago. Everyone is welcome. No registration is required.

August Improv Series on Wednesday, Aug. 5th from 6 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 15th from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesday, Aug. 25th from 12 to 1 p.m. This welcoming improv series uses games, storytelling, and creative play to strengthen communication, encourage creativity, and build community. No acting experience is necessary, and English learners are welcome. Participants are welcome to attend one or all sessions.

Conversation Cafe on

McElroy Honored

Quincy University released its Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester. Honorees must earn a semester grade point average of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale). Robert Raphael-McElroy was among 402 students who received the honor.

Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



Image: SuRa Dupart — Green Sun Drummer, foam acrylic paint sculpture with black frame 54"x 40"x 6". Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct 3rd Fridays Open Studio on Aug. 21st from 7 to 10 p.m.

The opening reception for "Color Songs: Musicians as Visual Artists" will be held in the 4th Floor Gallery. The exhibition focuses on a marriage between the disciplines of visual art and music.

Gurushots Photo Exhibition: Chicago 2026 is open in the 3rd floor

Truta Honored

Magdalena Truta of Chicago was named to the University of Evansville Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester. Honorees must have carried a full academic load of 12 hours or more and earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above

Reading For Young Children

In collaboration with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the Illinois State Fair is promoting early childhood literacy through the gift of books, Aug. 13th thru 23rd. This inspiring book gifting program mails free, high-quality, and age-appropriate books to children from birth to age five, regardless of the family's income.

Families are invited to enjoy a daily story time session at 2 p.m. inside the Sensory Station (Emmerson Building) during the Illinois State Fair.

Since its launch in 1995, the program now mails over 3 million books to participants every month.

To check to see if a program is available in your area, visit the "find my program" page on www.imaginationlibrary.com. You can enroll your child or sign up to be notified when a program comes to your community.

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.

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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). Family Story Time on Thursdays, July 30th and Aug. 13th to 27th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Start your day with stories, songs and fun for the whole family. For children 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

TWEENS & TEENS
Tween Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 4th Pokemon Terrarium and Aug. 18th, Tie-Dye Bandanas. Join us for a bi-monthly craft just for tweens. Materials and snacks will be provided. For ages 10 - 14 only.
Teen Volunteer Hours Thursday, Aug. 27th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 1 volunteer hour while helping at your library. Bring your timesheet. Grades 6 - 12 only.

CHILDREN
LEGO Club Monday, Aug. 3rd, 6 to 7 p.m. Put your engineering skills to the test. For children ages 5 and up.
Lowrider Story Cruise, Wednesday, Aug. 5th, 6 p.m. Create your own wearable custom car to cruise around the library. Follow our map and the road will moveyou through the pages of My Little Car by Gary Soto.
Matinee Movies, Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m. Join us for family films and snacks, Aug 6th, "Ratatouille" (G); Aug. 13th, "The LEGO Movie" (PG); and Aug. 20th, "Monster University" (G).
Sensory Friendly Cinema Sunday, Aug. 2nd, 2 to 4 p.m. "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure". Sunday, Aug. 16th, "Two Mules for Sister Sarah".
Family Movie, Sunday, Aug. 30th, 2 to 4 p.m. "The Sandlot"

ADULTS

Adult Book Discussion of "Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law" by Mary Roach on Wednesday, Aug. 26th from 1 to 2 p.m. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk.
Visit the reference desk for a free Grab & Go Spice Kit of "Rosemary".
Introduction to Screen Printing Monday, Aug. 1st, 12 p.m. Offered in partnership with Somos Arte Chicago! This workshop will be an introduction to screen printing.
Craft Lab: Vinyl Heat Transfer Tote Bag, Monday, Aug. 10th, 6 p.m. All materials are provided. Register online.

Crime Book Club, Wednesday, Aug. 12th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. A discussion of "Long Bright River" by Liz Moore. Copies are available at the circulation desk.
Write and Watch: Chicago: Candy Capitol, Wednesday, Aug. 19th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. This program is a part of Letters to America, a citywide initiative commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States by creating space for civic reflection and storytelling.
Saturday Craft Lab: Mosaic Crafts, Saturday, Aug. 29th 2 p.m.

CINEMA
Join us on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. for a screening of Lowrider Movies. Aug. 9th, Lowriders (PG-13) and Aug. 23rd, Boulevard Nights (R).
More Than Cars Closing Showcase featuring Bread n' Roses, Saturday, Aug. 22nd at 2 p.m. Snacks available while supplies last.

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.

Join us for Late Wednesdays on Aug. 5th when we'll be open until 8 p.m. Enjoy the Museum after hours with extended access to the galleries and a preview of Sonido Fest, taking place on Aug. 15th.

Under Pressure: Ana Teresa Fernandez closes on Sunday, Aug. 2nd. The multimedia artist invites us to confront the proximity of irreversible harm to our planet and the ways climate change affects migration patterns.

Yollocalli Class of 2025 in the Courtyard through August 16th.

Explore the world of premium agave spirits such as mezcal, tequila, and raicilla on Sunday, Aug. 9th. Plus, we'll be pairing brands with some of Chicago's best restaurants. Each team will serve small bites, cocktails, pours and craft brews. Agave Tales will run from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Enjoy conversations with brand ambassadors, restaurateurs, and bartenders. Finish up with a guided tour of the exhibition *Nuestra Historias: Stores or Mexican Identity from the Permanent Collection*.
Agave Vibes will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This upbeat session is for those who want to enjoy the event in a livelier atmosphere with brand ambassadors, restaurants, a live DJ and dancing. 21 years or older to attend. Get tickets at national museumofmexicanart.org
The Museum will present Sonido Fest 2026 at Harrison Park, 1824 S.

Wood on Saturday, Aug. 15th at 2 p.m. The free outdoor music festival will feature Surely Tempo, a five-piece indie rock band from Santa Ana, California; Niko Rubio, Mexican-Salvadorian-American singer-songwriter blending indie pop, alternative rock, and Latin influences.

Selines, a Bronx-born, Mexican-American singer-songwriter whose bilingual music blends storytelling with indie-folk.

Los Aptos, a trio from Fort Wayne, Indiana is best known for their breakout hit "Enamorado." They have performed at major festivals including Lollapalooza and Coachella.

Dromedarios Mágicos is the project of Chihuahua-based singer-songwriter Diego Puerta, a pioneer of Mexico's "folk de alcoba" movement. His music has led to collaborations with José Madero, Gera MX, Ed Maverick and Alex Cuba.

Tala Silva is a Chicago-based Filipina-American artist blending indie pop, alternative R&B, neo-soul, and house. Known for her vocals, songwriting and lush production, she earned recognition with her single "Call Back".

Jesse is a Mexican-American singer-songwriter whose bilingual music blends pop, Latin and R&B influences. To explore themes of identity, womanhood, ambition and self-discovery.
Destiny Ron is a singer-songwriter with Mexican and Greek roots. She blends Regional Mexican music with indie, pop, EDM and other contemporary influences.

This outdoor event will take place rain or shine. Admission is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged but not required.

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.
Family Story Time for children ages 5 to 5 years on Tuesdays to Aug. 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for picture books, stories, songs and a simple craft or play time.
Toddler Time and Play Time on Wednesdays to Aug. 12th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We sing songs, read stories and do fun activities to build early literacy skills! For kids 18 months to 3 and their caregivers.

Common Pieces on Thursday, July 30th from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop in for puzzles and board games the whole family can enjoy. All ages welcome!
Paint Along with Vanessa De La Torre on Thursday, July 30th from 5 to 7 p.m. Local artist, Vanessa De La Torre will instruct teens how to prep canvas and lead a painting session using acrylic paints. All materials provided.
Visit chipublib.org to register.

Programs At Chinatown Library

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.

Family Story time on Thursday, July 30th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Support your child's pre-literacy skills through songs, stories and play. For children 0 to 5 and caregivers.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

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 for ages 0 to 5. Join us on Fridays, July 31st to Aug. 28th at 10:30 a.m. for 30 minutes of songs, movements, and stories. Play time follows.

LEGO Club, ages 6 to 13 on Thursday, Aug. 6th to 20th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Complete one of our design challenges or use your imagination. Materials will be provided.

Summer Finale (families) on Friday, July 31st from 3 to 4 p.m. Stop by to pick up your prizes and rewards, then stay for an afternoon of fun with carnival games and popcorn.

Family Nintendo Switch (ages 8+) on Sundays, Aug. 2nd, 16th & 30th from 1 to 3 p.m.

Family Fun Bingo for ages 3 to 13 on Monday, Aug. 10th from 3 to 4 p.m.

Family Fun: Collage Making for ages 3 to 13 on Tuesday, Aug. 25th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

STEAM Day for ages 5 to 10 on Thursday, Aug. 13th from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.

McKinley Park Music School recital on Sunday, Aug. 9th from 1 to 4 p.m.

Teacher in the Library

starts on Monday, Aug. 31st from 4 to 6 p.m.

TWEEN/TEEN

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

Teen/Teen Programs on Wednesdays, Aug. 5th, 19th & 26th from 3 to 5 p.m. Gamers Choice, ages 12 to 16, Students can hang out, play games, snack and use the Teen laptops and digital equipment.

Craft n' Snacks 3D Printing for ages 11 to 15 on Wednesday, Aug. 12th from 3 to 5 p.m.

ADULTS

A Dance & Movement class for older adults will be held Saturdays, Aug. 1st, 15th & 29th from 1 to 2 p.m. Join us for gentle stretches to improve flexibility and mobility. Easy-to-follow, music based movement routines.

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Tom Lake" on Wednesday, Aug. 26th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ESL Conversation Café 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.

Senior Social: Sticker by Number Activity for ages 50+ on Tuesday, Aug. 18th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Summer Events At Brookfield Zoo



Photo credit © Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is offering summer fun for all ages with seasonal attractions, wildlife experiences and live entertainment. Visiting hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Join us on Wednesday, Aug. 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Discovery Center to participate in our blood drive with American Red Cross. Participants will receive free general Zoo admission the day of the drive for one adult and up to two children, plus free parking. Participants will also receive a \$20 Amazon E-Gift Card and a pair of socks featuring American Red Cross & Brookfield Zoo Chicago Dinosaurs.

ZAP!: Storytime series runs through Aug. 6th on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Hamill Family Nature Plaza.

Upcoming activities and events include: Aug. 5th: Blood Drive with American Red Cross and Aug. 22nd: Zoo Uncorked. The American flamingos get the opportunity to strut their stuff at Formal Pool 10 a.m. each day, with a return walk back to The Swamp at 2:45 p.m. Having daytime experiences provides variety and enrichment for the flamingos, and you may even see them interact with pelicans.

Themed children's birthday party experiences are designed to make celebrations stress-free. Bookings include food and drink, themed decorations, gift bags for guests, party setup and cleanup. Celebrate with a butterfly or dinosaur theme.

Dolphin Discovery offers daily shows at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Giraffe Feeding Adventures will be daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (weather permitting).

Nature Stage programming offers free up-close encounters with Animal Ambassadors during training sessions at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily.

Guests can come face-to-face with 35 life-sized dinosaurs throughout Zoo grounds. Dinosaurs! also includes opportunities to explore a massive rib-cage tunnel, climb on a giant fossil, dig for ancient discoveries, snap epic photos and find prehistoric pals and more.

Wildlife Walking Tours Dinosaur Discovery at 10 a.m. or African Safari at 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Zoo Uncorked on Aug. 22nd. This after-hours event for guests ages 21 and over offers elevated flights and bites paired with Zoo Chat and live music. From 4-8 p.m., guests will receive a passport to explore the Zoo and try a variety of animal-themed cocktails and mocktails. Event tickets are required in advance and include free parking, unlimited Carousel and Ferris Wheel rides, live entertainment and more. Guests can find event schedules, ticket information, animal updates and more by visiting brookfieldzoo.org.

Hot Weather Tips For Pets

An extreme heat warning has been issued for our region this week. The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control urges pet owners to take special precautions to protect the welfare of their pets. The department offers the following tips.

Do not leave your pet in a hot car. Keep your pets cool when outside. Consider a haircut. Take care of your dog's paws. Keep inside temperatures cool. Ensure window screens are secure. Signs of heat stroke. If your pet is experiencing any of these symptoms, seek veterinary help.

Obituaries



ROSaura ACEVEDO (nee Alvarado) of McKinley Park area resident passed away on July 18th at the age of 76. She was the wife of Santos Acevedo; mother of Eduardo, Saul, Miguel, and Carlos Acevedo; sister of Manuel Alvarado, and Graciela Alvarado. Visitation was held on July 27th followed by a Funeral Mass on July 28th at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Interment was at St. Casimir Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Wollschlager Funeral Home, 3604 S. Hoyne Ave. Cynthia A. Wollschlager, Funeral Director.

MANUEL A. SIERRA passed away on July 19th at the age of 50. Born in Chicago on Oct. 2nd, 1975 to Milagros Moyet Rodriguez, he was the grandson of Vicenta Moyet and Dionisio Moyet. Survivors are his mother Milagros; children Jocelyn, Manny Jr. and Jazmin; grandchildren and brothers Carlos and Eleazar. Visitation was held July 23rd at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director. After services at the funeral home on July 24th, interment was at Resurrection Cemetery, 7100 S. Archer ave., Justice.

Free Programs At Architecture Ctr.

The Chicago Architecture Center, 111 E. Wacker Drive will conduct hands-on Architecture & Design programs this summer.

We Build! on Aug. 3rd - 7th at the Chicago Architecture Center. Join us for free, hands-on summer camps where 6th-8th grade students are introduced to architecture and design through fun hands-on activities, engaging field trips and dialogue with professional guest speakers.

Register at www.architecture.org/



Clearing artist Anne Nordhaus-Bike (right) has two paintings at the Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. "Color Songs" exhibition, which runs through Friday, Sept. 4th. She is shown with art enthusiast Jeanette Guzman.

Art Display

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

CITYWIDE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

The Chicago Park District is putting community voices at the center of park improvements through **Citywide Participatory Budgeting (PB)**. Thousands of residents shared ideas to improve parks across Chicago. Those ideas were reviewed for feasibility, and now it's your turn to decide what gets funded. The category with the most votes will receive funding, and at least nine projects—three in the Central Region, three in the North Region, and three in the South Region—will be implemented.

HOW IT WORKS:

✓

Review the project categories on the ballot.

✓

Rank the categories in order of your preference.

✓

Submit your ballot.

VOTE: JULY 27 - AUGUST 27

Vote online using the QR or at any Chicago Park District fieldhouse. Learn more and find voting locations at:

ChicagoParkDistrict.com/PB

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT, VISIT www.ChicagoParkDistrict.com OR CALL 312.742.7529

CITY OF CHICAGO | BRAD L. JOHNSON, Mayor

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT | BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS | CARLOS RAMIREZ-ROSA, General Superintendent & CEO

YOUR VOICE. YOUR PARKS. WHAT WOULD YOU IMPROVE?

VOTE

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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

8AM in English

10:30am Cantonese

Weekday Schedule

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass

August 2, 2026

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

Cantonese Mass, 10:30 AM, this Sunday, August 2, at St. Therese

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First Birthday For Amur Leopard Cubs



Photo credit © Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Amur leopard cubs Sady and Lacy celebrated with first birthday enrichment at Brookfield Zoo Chicago this week. The tasty treat also encouraged natural behaviors and provided stimulation for their mental and physical health.

Here are some interesting facts about the world's rarest big cat:

Amur leopards are critically endangered, with less than 100 believed to remain in the wild. The agile climbers often spend their time hidden in trees or on

rocky ledges. Each has their own unique set of nose bridge patterns. Sady has a zigzag or "W" pattern, and Lacy has a diagonal line of spots.

Sady is more independent, while Lacy loves to be near mom Mina. They're both good jumpers and building vocal strength to turn their squeaks into raspy roars.

Guests can visit the cubs and wish them a happy birthday at Big Cats Walkway near the entrance of Desert's Edge. Visit brookfieldzoo.org.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

FAMILIES

"Family Bingo" on Monday, Aug. 10th from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For families with children ages 4 and up.

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 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.

ADULTS

The adult book club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The Aug. 13th title is "Dogland" by Tommy Tomlinson.

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

Learn to Play Mahjong on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This beginner-friendly program will

teach the basics of gameplay, tile identification and strategies. No experience necessary and all materials will be provided.

Watercolor postcards on Sunday, Aug. 2nd at 2 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 15th at 2 p.m. Patrons will design and paint a watercolor postcard inspired by the city of Chicago.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

Beats 815 & 821 Plan Meetings

Chicago Police Department Beats 815 & 821 will conduct a public meeting at the Archer Park Field House, 4901 S. Kilbourn on Wednesday, Aug. 5th at 7 p.m.

Boundaries for 815 are 38th st to 55th st. / Pulaski rd to Cicero ave. 821 boundaries are 38th st. to 51st st. / Pulaski rd. to Kedzie ave.

For more information, contact (312) 747-8724 or email at caps.008district@chicagopolice.org.

Free Days At Chicago Museums

Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. DuSable Lake Shore dr. Free for Illinois residents Aug. 26th and Sept. 8th to 10th and 14th - 15th; visit adlerplanetarium.org.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark st. Free for Illinois residents on Aug. 13th and 27th and Sept. 7th and 24th; chicagohistory.org.

Field Museum, 1400 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive. Free for Illinois residents every Wednesday, Aug. 5th to 26th; fieldmuseum.org.

Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive. Free for Illinois residents on Aug. 24th - 27th and 31st and Sept. 1st-2nd, 8th-10th, 15th - 16th, 20th-23rd and 27th to 30th; griffinmsi.org.

Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st. Free admission on the third Friday of each month; heritageasianart.org.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago ave. Free for Illinois residents on Tuesdays, Aug. 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th from 5 to 9 p.m.; mcachicago.org. Every Tuesday through Aug. 25th, the MCA put on a free contemporary jazz concert.

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon dr. Free for Illinois residents on Aug.

24th-26th, and Sept. 8th-11th, 14th-18th, 21st-25 and 28th-30th; naturemuseum.org.

Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive. Free for Illinois residents from 5 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 4th, 11th, 18th and 26th; shedd-aquarium.org.

Free All Year Long Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington st.; chicago.gov.

Chicago Fed Money Museum, 230 S. LaSalle st.; chicagofed.org.

Climate Action Museum, 300 S. Riverside Plaza; climateactionmuseum.org.

Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell ave.; hydeparkart.org.

Jane Addams Hull House Museum, 800 S. Halsted st.; hullhousemuseum.org.

Mindworks: The Science of Thinking at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, 224 S. Michigan ave.; chicagobooth.edu/mind-works.

Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan ave.; mocp.org.

National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th st.; nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood ave.; smartmuseum.uchicago.edu.

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.

Play! At Farm-in-the-Zoo 10 a.m.–noon, Wednesdays through Sept. 2nd.

Nature Play from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays through Aug. 4th on the South Lawn.

Curiosity Carts from 10:30 a.m. to noon, weekdays through Aug. 4th at seven locations. Run by Malott Family Zoo Intern Program teens, these stations will teach you about black-crowned night herons, enrichment, animal diets, and more!

Reading With the Animals 10:30 a.m. to noon, Mondays through Aug. 4th at Farm-in-the-Zoo. For families with children ages 10 and under.

Training and Care Demonstrations. Giraffe Training 1:45 p.m., Wednesdays through Sept. 2nd at Regenstein African Journey.

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 southern-most rhino habitat at Regenstein African Journey.

Family Fun Fur-idays on July 31st, an evening featuring animals, games, learning stations, music, free rides, and more.

A Night Out for Craft enthusiasts on Friday, Aug. 21st from 6:30 to 10 p.m., 21+, \$25. Adults Night Out: Crafted Presented by Grey Goose Vodka, Patron Tequila, and St. Germain. Crafters of every experience level are invited to spend an evening at the zoo after hours with watercolor painting hosted by The Paintbrush, a stitch circle and yarn swap with Knit 1, live acoustic music.

Through Oct. 31st, Malott Family Penguin Encounters, Age 6+.

Through Nov. 15th, Behind the Scenes Tour of Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House. Ages 13+.

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.

End of the Summer Party on Friday, July

Pilates In Pink At Ping Park

The Chicago Park District will perform Pilates in Pink at Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth on Wednesday, Aug. 12th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Register for this event at <https://endurance.cui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=97134611>

The wellness experience allows teens and adults to enjoy an R&B themed Pilates session, matcha, health and wellness vendors.

Family Fishing At Marquette Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct Family Fishing at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie on Saturday, Aug. 8th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

No registration required. Participants must be at least 8 years of age. Each session includes instruction, limited equipment, and bait. Child participants must be accompanied by an adult.

Teen Fun Night At Park 596

The Chicago Park District will conduct Teen Fun Night at Park No. 596, 4830 S. Western ave. on Monday, Aug. 3rd from 4 to 7 p.m. Teens will enjoy a night of laser tag and silent party.

Residents To Decide Park Investments

The Chicago Park District announced the launch of the voting period for the Citywide Participatory Budgeting program created to provide an avenue for public stake in identifying local park needs, proposing ideas for park improvements, and selecting projects.

Voting runs through Aug. 27th. Ballot boxes are accessible at fieldhouses and voting is available online at chicagoparkdistrict.com/pb/. Participants must be at least 13 years of age and Chicago residents to vote.

In March, the public is invited to submit ideas and/or feedback for park improvements citywide to be considered for an inaugural investment of \$500,000 and officially launch the democratic selection process.

Through this newly introduced participatory governance and community involvement process, the Park District received 1,082 project ideas that were reviewed for feasibility, cost and safety by an internal park team. The qualifying ideas were divided by the Steering

Committee into four categories that are being made available to the public during this voting period.

The four categories are: Accessibility, Public Safety and Inclusion; ADA accessible playground, ramps, lighting and security cameras. Recreation Infrastructure: Ballfield/sports courts rehab. Permanent Fixtures and Park Amenities: Benches, picnic tables, bike racks. Nature and Beautification: Trees, pollinator gardens, nature play spaces.

More specific examples will be available at chicagoparkdistrict.com/pb. Residents are being invited to rank the broader project categories that include feasible project scopes. The eligible categories with the most votes, which will include at least nine projects identified by community members as park improvement priorities, will be funded citywide. Awarded projects will be announced later this year with construction to begin in late 2026 and continue into 2027.

Church Services

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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.

ST. BRUNO CHURCH

48th & Harding

ST. RICHARD CHURCH

50th & Kostner

Mass scheduled for Thursday, July 30th, St. Bruno, 8 a.m., Misa Diaria.

Friday, July 31st, St. Richard Church, 8 a.m. Daily Mass and 6 p.m. Polish Mass.

Saturday, August 1st, St. Bruno, 8 a.m. Polish Mass, and 4:30 p.m. Mass.

Sunday, August 2nd, St. Richard Mass: 7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English, and 10:30 a.m.

St. Bruno Mass: 10:30 a.m. Polish, 12:30 p.m. Spanish, and 7 p.m.



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