



Cell Phone Policy



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The Illinois State Legislature recently passed a bill that all public school districts must develop and implement a "bell to bell" cell phone policy. While many administrators have asked for this, there still is a problem of implementation. This policy will go into effect during the 2027 - 2028 academic school year.

The new policy announced by Governor Pritzker includes tablets, personal laptops, gaming devices, smartwatches and smart glasses. The reasons for this policy given by some legislators states that about 25 other states have implemented cell phone policies and the majority of those other legislators are pleased with the results.

Teachers have noticed that after the implementations they have more time to teach with less distractions. This, of course, is hard to prove but makes sense. Logistics is the first thing that must be considered because all schools and buildings are different.

Jessica Handy, the Executive Director of Stand for Children Illinois, believes the best

situation is to have the phones stored in a centralized location. Some have been successful using regular lockers or in magnetically sealed pouches. The pouches can be expensive, but those who have made the investment seem to be satisfied.

What happens if a student still carries a cell phone or other item to class? Well, the legislature forbids giving students out of school suspensions or expulsions. If it still occurs, as usual, it's off to the principal's office. The policies must include exceptions for medical reasons or if called for by Special Ed placement. High School districts have allowed cell phone usage during breaks and during lunch time. The problem is, again, logistics. Many high schools in Illinois have over 1,000 kids. How do you handle all of them going to get their cell phones and returning them to a location in time for class?

A policy on the use of cell phones has been asked for often but a State policy gives the effort teeth. The time to make a working districtwide policy will, of course, take people with different views of life. For those who think the school is always correct to those who think the school is never correct. And those who think rules are great for kids to those who say the rules are not good for my kid.

I'm sure that some of the members of the PTAs, and LSCs, will be willing to participate. But before you volunteer, the principals are expecting a template from the Board of Ed that must be adhered to.

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 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.

Dean's List At Augustana College

Augustana College of Rock Island, Illinois announced more than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2025-2026 spring semester. This academic honor requires a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale.

Local scholars are Samantha Golab, English and English Education major; Abigail Plachta, Communication Sciences & Disorders and Psychology major; Gianina Ponce de Leon, Psychology major and Charlotte Stec, Psychology major.

Conversation Cafe on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at Aquinas Literacy Center and Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. A free, drop-in conversation group where English learners practice speaking, build confidence, and connect with others in a supportive environment.

No registration is required, and participants are welcome to attend any session that fits their schedule. English learners of all levels are welcome.

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

Free Food At WIC Clinic

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 Wednesdays, Aug. 12th and Sept. 9th from 9:30 to 11 a.m. For more information, visit Chicago.gov/WIC

Jin Honored

Jeremiah Jin, a freshman Computer Science major at Grove City College, has been named to the Dean's List with High Distinction for the spring 2026 semester.

Honorees have a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

Backpack Giveaway

The Midway Chamber of Commerce will conduct its annual Back To School Backpack Giveaway in the Kennedy High School Park Lot, 6325 W 56th st. on Saturday, Aug. 8th from 9 to 11 a.m.

Geisbush Graduates

Ella Geisbush, of Chicago, graduated from the University of Tampa with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sociology BS Criminology and Criminal Justice B.S.

Chess Camp Winners at Saint Ignatius



Saint Ignatius College Prep recently conducted summer chess camps. The July Camp featured 31 children and young adults (four 5th graders, two 6th graders, nine 7th graders, nine 8th graders, and seven incoming freshmen). The June Camp consisted of 22 participants (including five girls and four incoming freshmen).

Air and Water Show Returns Aug. 15th - 16th



Photo credit City of Chicago

The City of Chicago and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will present the 2026 Chicago Air and Water Show on Aug. 15th and 16th along the lakefront from Fullerton ave. to Oak st., with North ave. Beach serving as the show center from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. This year's event will feature the return of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Golden Knights, military demonstrations, civilian aerobic performers and more.

First held in 1959, the Show remains the nation's largest free-admission air and water exhibition also serves as one of Chicago's signature celebrations of America's 250th anniversary, honoring the nation's history through spectacular aerial demonstrations and military tributes.

Presenting sponsor American Airlines will open each day of the show with special ceremonial flyovers commemorating the airline's 100th anniversary and America's 250th anniversary. Saturday's flyer will feature the airline's Centennial livery aircraft created to commemorate the milestone anniversary.

On Sunday, American will feature its America250 livery created in honor of America's 250th anniversary.

For more information and to view the list of performers, visit ChicagoAir and Water Show.us, follow @ChicagoDCASE on Instagram, and use #ChicagoAirandWater.

On Dean's List

The following students have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Diana Chavez, 60632, who is enrolled in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts and Mandy Zhao, 60608, who is enrolled in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Public parking is not available at North Avenue Beach, and attendees are encouraged to use public transportation. Pick-up and drop-off will be available at the north-bound entrance of DuSable Lake Shore Drive, depending on crowd size. Guests may sit or stand on the sand or grass areas, with an accessible viewing area available near Castaways.

Audio description will be available online for guests who are blind or have low vision during both days of the event.

Featured military performers are U.S. Air Force C-17 Demo – 15th Airlift Squadron, Illinois Air National Guard KC-135 – 126th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue Demo, F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team and USMC F-35B Lightning II Demonstration Team.

Featured civilian performers are Kevin Coleman – Red Bull, Susan Dacy Super Stearman "Big Red", Ed Hamill Folds of Honor Biplane, Trojan Phylvers Flight Demonstration Team, Chicago Police Department Helicopters and Chicago Fire Department Air / Sea Rescue.

Independence Day For Columbia

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas hosted a Colombian Independence Day Celebration on July 29th. The event was attended by Consul General Diego Alexander Angulo Martinez of the Consulate of Colombia in Chicago.

Colombian Independence Day July 20, 1810, marks the beginning of Colombia's movement toward independence from Spanish rule.

Certificates of Excellence were presented to distinguished members of the Colombian community whose accomplishments have made a lasting impact.

70th Year For Disability Insurance

The Social Security Administration celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Disability Insurance program, marking the agency's commitment to supporting Americans with disabilities. SSDI was enacted on August 1, 1956, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Social Security Amendments of 1956. The program has become a cornerstone of our nation's commitment to support American workers whose lives were changed by disabling illness or injury.

Currently, more than eight million Americans with disabilities rely on SSDI. Improvements in service delivery include: Reduced Wait Times, Achieved Lower in Hearings Wait Times, Increased Productivity and Expedited Decision. The digital-first approach prioritizes Operational enhancements to streamline case management and ensure timely service for applicants and Leveraging data and technology to enhance service delivery.

The Ticket to Work program, empowers beneficiaries with opportunities for rehabilitation and employment.

SSA recently announced major enhancements to my Social Security, expanding self-service options and the notices available to individuals navigating the disability claims and appeals process.

Americans who do not yet have a personal my Social Security account can create one at ssa.gov/myaccount. Creating an account provides immediate access to a full suite of online services.

Puppet Show



Photo provided by Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will present "The Dinosaur of Lake Michigan" at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Saturday, Aug. 22nd from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mary is fascinated by the legends of monsters in the Great Lakes. She invites audiences to join her treasure hunt for the "dinosaur of Lake Michigan", also known as a sturgeon. Kerfuffle and Rabbitfoot Puppetry use realistic animal puppets made out of recyclable items, live music, and physical storytelling to bring this participatory play to life. Best enjoyed by children ages 3-6 with their caregivers. Visit www.kerfuffletvty.com

Business Resource Expo Scheduled

The Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection announced the last Chicago Business Resource Expo of 2026 will take place on Saturday, August 29th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson blvd.

The free expo will kick off with a networking session sponsored by the

Office of the City Treasurer, an exhibition hall offering resources from over 30 nonprofit and government agencies, workshops and a keynote address.

The keynote address will feature Chef D'Andre Carter and Heather Bublick, Co-Founders of Soul & Smoke. To register and learn more, visit Chicago.gov/BizExpo.

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.

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan ave. Free for Illinois residents on Thursdays, Aug. 6th, 13th, 20th 27th from 5 to 8 p.m. artice.edu.

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 to Aug. 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. 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; nature-museum.org.

Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive. Free for Illinois residents from 5 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 11th, 18th and 26th; sheddaquarium.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/mindworks.

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.

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Walking Tour of Hyde Park



Photo provided by the Chicago History Museum

The Chicago History Museum will present a walking tour of Hyde Park Murals on Sundays, Aug. 9th and Sept. 13th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join artist and educator Juarez Hawkins for a historical tour of the murals along the Metra underpassess linking Hyde Park Boulevard and Cornell ave. Tickets are \$25.

A free film screening of "Godspeed" (2016) will be shown on Saturday, Aug. 8th at 1 p.m. An over-the-hill cab driver's life is turned upside down when he offers a ride to a desperate small-time drug smuggler. Driving crosscountry to deliver a mysterious package to southern gangsters, the bickering pair suffer an endless run of bad luck. Expertly blending buddy comedy and gangster noir, the film careens toward an unforgettable, bloody conclusion. Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese, and Thai; 111 minutes.

Swim Raises Cancer Funds

Swim Across America, the national nonprofit that fights cancer through charity swims, will host its annual Chicago Open Water Swim on Saturday, Aug. 8th at Ohio Street Beach, 400 N. Lake Shore Drive. Swimmers of all ages and skill levels are welcome for half-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile swim, as well as the Miracle Mile competitive race option. A virtual SAA My Way option is also available. Proceeds will support cancer research and patient care at Rush. To register to swim, volunteer or support with a tax-deductible donation, visit swimacrossamerica.org/chicago.

Established in 1994, the organization partnered with Rush in 2012 and has since donated more than \$3 million to support cancer research and clinical trials.

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“Refugio” Concert



Photo provided by the Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will present Christian Larumbe “Refugio” at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Thursday, Sept. 10th from 6 to 7 p.m. The concert experience is built around the album titles that translates to “shelter” reflecting the comfort these classic Latin American songs have provided during her years away from home. Featuring drummer Gustavo Cortiñas, bassist Kitt Lyles, and guest soloist Emily Kuhn, the performance reimagines beloved pieces like “La Llorona” and “Como Fué,” or “La Bikina”.

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.

Cast your vote through Aug. 27th to tell how the Chicago Park District should use \$500,000 on park improvements city-wide. 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.

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, Musi-

Craft Station At McKinley Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct Imagination Station at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Saturday, Aug. 29th from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The all-ages craft station focuses on reusing everyday items and recycled goods into craft projects. This event will run in conjunction with the “A Multi-ethnic Ode to Autumn” presented by the Chicago Culture & Arts Society. Visit www.creativechirx.org.

Tennis Challenge For Veterans

The Chicago Park District will sponsor a Veterans Tennis Challenge at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Thursday, Sept. 3rd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact ricardo.lara@chicagoparkdistrict.com for more information. Proof of service is required (DD214, signifier on Drivers License).

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.

- ADULTS
- A Dance & Movement class for older adults will be held Saturdays, Aug. 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 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.
- Senior Social: Sticker by Number Activity for ages 50+ on Tuesday, Aug. 18th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
- TWEEN/TEEN
- Need service hours this summer? Ask the front desk for a volunteer application, ages 12-17.
- Tween/Teen Programs on Wednesdays, Aug.

Astronomer At McKinley Park



Photo provided by the Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will provide Chicago Astronomer at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Saturday, Aug. 22nd from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join the Chicago Astronomer for guided stargazing sessions using professional-grade telescopes, perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike. Each event features educational presentations on celestial phenomena visible that evening, hands-on telescope instruction, and views of planets, stars and deep space objects. All ages are welcome.

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 Tues-

- ADULTS
- A Stitch in Time Crochet Club on Tuesday, Aug. 11th from 6 to 7 p.m. We have yarn and crochet hooks to share! Bring your own project or start one based on one of our ideas!
- Adult Book Club on Thursday, Aug. 20th from 6 to 7 p.m.
- Visit chipublib.org to register.

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.

MPDC Schedules Neighborhood Events

The McKinley Park Development Council will conduct a Community Cleanup of Canal Origins Park, 2701 S. Canal on Saturday, Aug. 8th & Sept. 12th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Photo Contest For Forest Preserves



Photo provided by the Cook County Forest Preserves

Green sweat bee smooth blue aster, Deer Grove, Mike Mulcahy, Sept. 24th.

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 campground, 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 is open to Aug. 16th. Follow the Forest Preserves’

15 CPS Schools Become Hubs

Fifteen additional Chicago Public Schools will soon become community hubs that offer wrap-around support and partnerships with community-based organizations to provide integrated care for students. The latest expansion will bring the number of Sustainable Community Schools to 51, with 19 more planned next year.

The model treats the neighborhood as a “village” and pairs schools with community-based organizations to provide integrated support, including health and wellness services, trauma-informed care, restorative justice practices, and expanded after-school learning.

One of the new hubs will be at Marie Skłodowska Curie Metropolitan High School, where Principal Homero Penuelas hopes his school will become more than a place of learning. With the additional resources, Curie will become a place where families connect, partnerships flourish, and the entire community grows stronger together.

The latest strategic expansion prioritizes historically underserved communities and aligns with the District’s equity framework, which seeks to close opportunity gaps and elevate student voices.

The Board of Education affirmed this vision by passing a resolution in December 2023, officially naming Community Schools a strategic priority within CPS’s Success 2029: Together We Rise five-year strategic plan.

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, 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. 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.
- 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”.
- 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.

Summer Day Camp



Photo credit the Chicago Park District

During the final day of the 6-week Summer Day Camp experience at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd., more than 50 campers were treated to a carnival-style send-off with bouncy houses, a dunk tank, putt-putt course, ring toss inflatable, and more activities. The fun-filled day culminated with a back-pack giveaway to prepare students for the start of the academic year.

CVS Health provided the campers with markers, glue, pencils, and more school supplies after presenting the Chicago Park District’s Financial Assistance Fund with a \$50,000 grant to continue to support kids unable to pay for Summer Day Camp and year-round after-school programming in parks.

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 | Brandon Johnson, Mayor
Chicago Park District | Board of Commissioners | Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, General Superintendent & CEO

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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.

MPDC Schedules Neighborhood Events

The McKinley Park Development Council will conduct a Community Cleanup of Canal Origins Park, 2701 S. Canal on Saturday, Aug. 8th & Sept. 12th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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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 & 10:30AM in English

Weekday Schedule

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

August 9, 2026

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

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

St. Rocco Feast Day Mass, Sunday, Aug. 16, 10:30 AM @ St. Therese - Followed by Outdoor Procession!

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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.

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.

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. Dinos! 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.

Zoo Brews: Howls and Growls is a 21+ Halloween-party during which you can trick-or-treat for unlimited samples of your favorite potions and elixirs (craft beers and ciders) on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23rd & 24th from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$60.

Guests can find event schedules, ticket information, animal updates and more by visiting brookfieldzoo.org.

“Dutch Reach” Prevents Crashes

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announces Dutch Reach awareness campaign to help prevent crashes.

The Dutch Reach safety technique requires drivers and passengers to use the hand farthest from the door when exiting a vehicle. This motion naturally causes a person to rotate their body and look over their shoulder, helping them spot approaching cyclists, scooter riders, pedestrians and other road users.

For more information about traffic safety and educational resources, visit www.ilsos.gov.

Autumn Ode At McKinley Park

The Chicago Park District will perform a multi-ethnic ode to Autumn at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Saturday, Aug. 29th from 1 to 4 p.m.

A showcase of singing, dancing, fashion shows, and other forms of performing arts will be presented by artists from the Chinese, Hispanic, and Black communities. This event is organized by the Chicago Chinese Culture & Arts Society. Visit <https://www.chicagochineseculture.com>.

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.

Family Game Time on Wednesday, Aug. 12th from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ages 4 and up. 1 per family.

Tot Spot Learning on Wednesdays, Sept. 2nd to 16th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. An early education program for ages 18 months to 3 years. We will sing songs and learn our letters, numbers, colors and shapes in this fun program.

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, Aug. 14th, 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 families ages 6 to 13.

Back to School DIYs on Thursday, Aug. 20th

from 5 to 6 p.m. Customize a tote bag using the vinyl cutter, make a button or keychain. Only for ages 13 to 18.

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

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

Learn to Play Chinese Mahjong on Wednesdays, Aug. 12th to 26th from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This beginner-friendly program will teach the basics of gameplay, tile identification, and strategies. No experience necessary. All materials and light refreshments will be available.

Adult Book Discussion of “Dogland” by Tommy Tomlinson on Thursday, Aug. 13th from 6 to 7 p.m. In this off beat report, memoirist Tomlinson (The Elephant in the Room) delves into the eccentricities of the dog show world.

Watercolor Postcards on Saturday, Aug. 15th from 2 to 3 p.m. Patrons will design and paint a watercolor postcard inspired by their city.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

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.

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 nationalmuseumofmexicanart.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.

Lawyers Offer Phone Advice

The Chicago Bar Association is reminding the public that attorneys are available to provide legal assistance online or over the telephone.

The CBA sponsors a monthly “Call A Lawyer” program through the Lawyer Referral Service, making attorneys available to take calls from the public. On Saturday, Aug. 15th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the public may call (312) 554-2001 and explain their situation to an attorney.

These services can also be accessed on CBA’s website at www.chicagobar.org.

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.

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 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 Wednesday, 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.

Crafting Corner for adults on Wednesdays, Aug. 12th 19th and Sept. 2nd & 9th from 4 to 5 p.m. plus Sunday, Aug.

23rd from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

South Branch PAC Plans Meetings

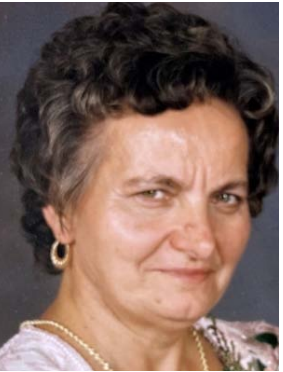
The South Branch Park Advisory Council will meet at the Park #571 field house, 2828 S. Eleanor st. on Tuesdays, Aug. 11th and Nov. 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Email SouthBranchPAC@gmail.com for the meeting agenda and <https://meet.google.com/hut-viae-fqu> to attend virtually.

Yoga Class

The Forest Preserve of Cook County will conduct Wellness in the Woods: Yoga at Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, 87th & Western on Saturday, Aug. 8th at 11 a.m. Dress in active wear and bring a yoga mat.

Obituaries



JOZEFA DABROWSKI passed away on July 31st, at Terra Vista Senior Living at the age of 85. She was born on March 11, 1941, in Poland to Józef & Stefania Gębczyński. As the second oldest of their daughters. In the winter of 1960, Józefa met Mieczysław Dąbrowski and they married in 1961, in the town of Józefów, Poland, and began their married life in Jaslany, following the tradition of settling in the husband's hometown. In 1965, they immigrated to the United States and settled in the Chicago area. Jozefa worked for Harris Bank and later AT&T until her retirement in 2002.

She was the wife of Mieczysław Dąbrowski; mother of Gene Dąbrowski, wife Barbara (nee Slepowska); Stella Jelinek, husband Mark Jelinek; Casey Dąbrowski, wife Lisa (nee Wrobel) and Anna Mitchell; grandmother of Melaney Mitchell-Jackson, Kevin Dąbrowski, Mariann Jelinek, Michelle Jelinek, and Brann Mitchell.

Visitation will be held Friday, Aug. 7th from 4 to 8 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan - Siedlecki, owner-director. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, 6435 S. Kilbourn on Saturday, Aug. 8th at 10 a.m. Interment will be Resurrection Cemetery, 7100 S. Archer rd., Justice.



JONATHAN LEP-ROZO McKinley Park area resident, passed away on July 26th at the age of 44. He was the husband of Kristina Leprozo; father of Adi Jace and Mikayla Jade; son of Virginia Garcia and David Leprozo; brother of John David, Giel and Nico. Visitation was held July 31st at Wollschlager Funeral Home, 3604 S. Hoyne ave. Cynthia A. Wollschlager, Funeral Director/Owner.

Report Illegal License Plates

As federal immigration activity intensifies once again in Illinois, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is urging residents to report any vehicle displaying altered, obscured, missing or unlawfully switched license plates, warning that plate tampering is illegal under Illinois law, regardless of who commits it.

Anyone who witnesses potential violations should contact the Plate Watch Hotline by calling (312) 814-1730 or email platawatch@ilsos.gov.

The law aims to protect public safety, ensure accountability and allow law enforcement to identify vehicles involved in criminal activity, crashes and emergencies.



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Photo provided by Devices 4 the Disabled

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Jazz Institute Offers Concerts

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

“Cab Ride” will perform at the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan ave., suite 560 on Saturday, Aug. 8th from 6 to 7 p.m.

Band members are Dylan Reed, bass; Kevin Cabrera, saxophone; Charlie Fee, piano; Donell Brisco, trumpet and Michael Brewer, drums.

On Friday, Aug. 14th, experience the Anthony Olague Trio Sonambulo at the same location from 6 to 7 p.m.

On Thursday, Aug. 20th, the Oliver y Su Orchestra will perform at Sulzer Regional Library,

4455 N. Lincoln ave. from 12:30 to 1:30.

On Sunday, Aug. 30th, the Michael Ciesielski Quartet will perform at the Bucktown Arts Festival, Leavitt & Lyndale from 1 to 2 p.m.

For more information, visit jazzinchicago.org.

BPNC Offers Teen Nights

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is hosting Teen Nights at 4000 S. Archer ave. on Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. Free for ages 14-21 years.

Sign up at (708) 497-9952 or esantillan@bpnc-chicago.org.



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