

The Next Wave Genetic Testing



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I know many people who their physician asks and sometimes suggests they do genetic testing. Several asked me if it was worth it. Most of the articles I read are above my understanding. But in the October, 2026 Newsmax Vera Tweed published an article that seems to explain it.

If you are looking to understand more of your family history, that is fine. If you think it will predict the future, it's not that simple. Tweed lets us know that Huntington's disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and Sickle Cell are heavily linked to heredity. Other tests are given for diseases that can only estimate the risk you have. Dr. Brendish, Director of Genetic Counseling at Arizona State University, writes that you should decide why you want the test and how the results will be interpreted.. She suggests you visit a genetic counselor. Some of these tests are available over the counter for you to do at home with just saliva.

I know several people who refused the tests and for these the number one reason was that at their age they are not going to have any more children, so why worry about it. Second reason is that my family and I already worry too much and the tests will never rule out these terrible diseases that might possibly come

to our future. Still some others have said if I do it I'll wait until the tests are even better.

Many of the people that are considering the tests worry about Alzheimers. The present test looks for the gene APOE. It does not tell you much except if your gene has that trait, 30 - 55% will develop the disease, but 45 - 70% will not get it. These figures seem odd but that's what the research says.

Many of us know people who are going through or who have had breast cancer. There are two genes that are part of the study. They are BRCA1 and BRCA2. Under normal circumstances, these genes help prevent other genes from mutating. If they find that these cells have mutated, it does not mean that you will definitely get the cancer, but they will have to watch you more closely, such as more mammograms.

The National Society of Genetic Counselors suggest checking with specialists so that they can keep you with current research and try to relieve your anxiety. Some very old studies could contradict the information available now. Artificial Intelligence, AI, is mentioned in several medical journals saying it could greatly help researchers. AI would allow collecting more data from more sources and may even subdivide some of the groups they now have.

These doctors believe that genetic testing can help but is not the answer to all our prayers. It can tell you the likelihood of you getting this or that cancer but there still is the unknown for example George Burns who drank and smoked lived to 100. Then you hear about a young person that was in the Olympics dying young due to cancer. These physicians all believe live a healthy lifestyle and get your checkups.

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 exhibition *Where Memory Lives: 40 Years of Día de Muertos*, traces the evolution of Day of the Dead and the Museum itself through Nov. 29th.

Vivir la Tierra: Acquisitions 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.

Join artist Socorro Carlos, Colectivo Fuentes Rojas, and members of Stitches of the Soul, NMMA's quilting and fiber arts group, for hands-on workshops on Saturday, Oct. 31st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will create a 14" x 14" textile honoring missing persons while supporting the Fuentes Rojas Collective's work. Using heart-and-flower templates, participants will learn appliqué and embroidery techniques to create their own textile piece. Visit nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org to sign up.

¡TINTA ARDIENTE! Igniting Community

Through Collective Action, a new exhibition in the Xicágo Gallery brings selections from the Instituto Gráfico de Chicago's print collection, objects, event documentation, and traces of print histories from Mexico and Chicago.

Día de los Muertos Xicágo is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24th from 3 to 8 p.m. when the Museum and its surroundings will be transformed to remember departed loved ones. Experience this tradition through ofrendas created by community members, live music and performances, art activities, and an illuminated ofrenda projected onto the Museum's exterior.

The Auxiliary Board invites you to the 12th annual Día de los Muertos Love Never Dies Ball on Saturday, Nov. 7th from 6 to 10 p.m. In honor of Day of the Dead. Guests will enjoy culinary treats from some of Chicago's best restaurants, cocktails, a silent auction, open galleries, dance to live music and a DJ. Get your tickets today visit nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

This month's classes and workshops feature engaging art-making activities for children, families, and adults.

Hearts and Flowers of Hope Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 31st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ages 15+.

Programs At Cultural Center

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announced a season of exhibitions, films, performances, workshops and cultural programs at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington this fall and winter. Admission to all exhibitions and DCASE programming is free and open to the public.

Consult DCASE on Thursday, Nov. 12th; Wednesday, Dec. 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Workshops and exchanges will offer access to city resources, professional industry feedback on creative projects and opportunities to engage with department programming.

Creative Hour on Thursday, Nov. 12th; Wednesday, Dec. 9th from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Curated by Alexie Young (Art West LLC) each session offers a welcoming, structured space for creatives of all personalities in the Learning Lab.

Under the Dome in Preston Bradley Hall on Thursday, Oct. 22nd from 5 to 9 p.m. The all-ages program will feature two Chicago musical artists alongside a clothing swap with Chicago Fair Trade and Conscious Closet Club.

Crocheting Oya Workshop in Chicago Rooms on Friday, Nov. 6th at 6:30 p.m. Artist Hale Ekinci leads participants in creating small, crocheted shapes inspired by traditional Turkish lace edging.

On Set Conversations: Kathy Byrne from SAG-AFTRA and Director George Ellzey in Claudia Cassidy Theater in Friday, Nov. 6th at 6:30 p.m. The discussion will

offer insights into storytelling, collaboration, career experiences and the evolving opportunities and challenges shaping the industry.

City Civics Day in G.A.R. Hall and Rotunda, Claudia Cassidy Theater & Yates Hall on Saturday, Nov. 14th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Neighbors, community organizations and City officials will gather for this free celebration of civic involvement and community connection.

SHOWING UP Screening and Talkback in Claudia Cassidy Theater on Wednesday, Nov. 18th at 6:30 p.m. A witty and observed look at the everyday realities of an artist's life through Michelle Williams.

Embroidering Symbols Workshop in Chicago Rooms on Saturday, Nov. 21st, noon - 2 p.m. Participants will learn simple embroidery stitches, surface design and embellishment techniques with artist Hale Ekinci.

Accessible Weaving Workshops in Chicago Rooms on Saturday, Dec. 5th and Friday, Dec. 11th from noon to 2 p.m. Artist Thường Hoài Trần will demonstrate how weaving can be practiced with affordable.

DON'T THINK TWICE Screening and Talkback in Claudia Cassidy Theater on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, 7 p.m. Mike Birbiglia explores the complicated emotions that arise when two members of a veteran sketch comedy troupe find the success they have been working toward.

For the programming and events, visit [Chicago CulturalCenter.org](http://ChicagoCulturalCenter.org).

Fall 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.

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.

Fall Fest on Fridays - Sundays 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 and 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+ Tuesday and Wednesday nights in October. Take a spine-tingling walking tour that digs into the zoo's cemetery roots and infamous locations from its haunted history.

Zoo Brews: Howls and Growls on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23rd and 24th. This 21+ Halloween party comes with free samples of craft beers and ciders, plus a pumpkin-carving demonstration, a costume contest with prizes. The cost is \$60 person.

Story Time and Book Giveaway with Reading is Fundamental on Saturday, Oct. 31st. Stop by Pepper Family Wildlife Center for story time and come home with a free book from Reading is Fundamental.

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

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

New Events At History Museum



Photo provided by the Chicago History Museum

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

Visit our exhibition *Injustice: The Trial for the Murder of Emmett Till*, to see courtroom sketches drawn by Franklin McMahon that capture the 1955 trial in a Mississippi courtroom where photography was not permitted.

McMahon was born in 1921 in Chicago and worked as a cartoonist and illustrator after serving in World War II. His ink-wash drawings of the trial for Emmett Till's murderers were published in the October 3, 1955, issue of *Life* magazine.

His career as an artist-reporter, covered notable

events including the Chicago Seven Trial, the Second Vatican Council, and Senate Watergate hearings. His drawing technique allowed him to interact with his subjects and captured different angles, moods and drama.

Aquí en Chicago closing program on Sunday, Nov. 8th from 12 to 4 p.m. A day full of fun activities, tours, talks, music and more. Included with general admission.

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

Community Learning At Aquinas Literacy

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. will conduct 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.

Digital Literacy Lab featuring drop-in technology support on Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. The Lab offers a welcoming space to learn at your own pace, with support in email, typing, Microsoft word, Excel, PowerPoint, and basic computer use.

Stories That Connect Us: Aquinas will offer a video storytelling course on Mondays, Oct. 26th and Nov. 2nd to 16th & 30th from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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.

Anniversary For Cuerdas Clasicas

Estudiantina Cuerdas Clasicas is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a performance at Benito Juarez Community Academy, 1450 W. Cermak rd. on Saturday, Nov. 14th from 7 to 9 p.m.

Special guests are Dueto Dulcemelos, La Tuna de Oro de Guanajuato and The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago.

Free parking is available in two lots on Loomis st. at 21st st.

For tickets and information (773) 387-6744 or <https://cuerdasclasicas-chicago.org/50/>.

Runway Closure At Midway Airport

In consultation with the Federal Aviation Administration, the Chicago Department of Aviation announced the temporary closure of Runway 22L at Midway International Airport to arrivals and departures for repairs to a runway safety system. The closure is effective immediately, and repairs are currently targeted for completion in mid-November.

The closure has the potential to cause flight delays and cancellations. The extent of these disruptions will vary based on airline schedules and weather conditions, particularly wind direction, which affects how the airport's four-runway network can be used for arrivals and departures.



Photo provided by Heritage Museum of Asian Art

This October, the Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st. presents two new exhibitions: Cutting East to West and Becoming Words, alongside 17 public events celebrating papercutting, calligraphy, tea culture, embroidery, and other Asian artistic traditions. Join us for exhibition openings, artist talks, live demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and many free programs.

A Night of Chinese Art and Tea Culture on Friday, Oct. 23rd from 6 to 9 p.m. Enjoy a display of Yixing purple-clay teapots, a talk on tea's history, a live tea-art demonstration and tasting. Cost is optional.

One Sheet, Many Stories: Chinese Paper-cutting Across Cultures on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 2 to 4 p.m. Create your own meaningful artwork inspired by your culture, family, faith, nature, or personal story. \$45.

Intro to Wycinanki The Polish Folk Art of Papercutting on Sunday, Oct. 25th from 2 to 4 p.m. Create two papercuttings of your own, with artist Sam Wróbel. \$45.

Flower Hairpin

9th District Police Plan

The Chicago Police 9th District will conduct a Community Conversation to create the 2027 Strategic Plan at Five Holy Martyrs Church, 4327 S. Richmond st. on Thursday, Nov. 12th from 6 to 8 p.m.

To register, visit www.chicagopolice.org/community-conversations.

Heritage Museum of Asian Art

Programs At Beverly Arts Center

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled exciting shows through Nov. 24th. A favorite Halloween tradition features The Rocky Horror Picture Show (complete with live shadow cast!) for a night of campy fun and audience participation on Friday, Oct. 30th at 7:30 p.m. Guests are encouraged to attend in costume and every patron will receive a throw bag that will allow them to take part in all of the spooky mayhem.

Tickets are \$25 before Oct. 30, \$30 at the door. Smiley Tillmon

Property Tax Appeal Events

The Cook County Assessor's Office will conduct Property Evaluation Appeal Events at Archer Park Fieldhouse, 4901 S. Kilbourn on Monday, Oct. 26th, both from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Have Pin # and ID. The final date of appeal is Oct. 29th. Questions? Call (773) 376-2700.

Workshop At Marquette Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct an Ofrenda Sculptures Día de los Muertos Workshop at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie on Monday, Nov. 2nd from 5 to 7 p.m.

The hands-on workshop with Artist William Estrada explores the cultural traditions surrounding Day of the Dead with a particular focus on the construction of altars and ofrendas.

Free Workshop At Marquette Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct Día de los Muertos at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie on Friday, Nov. 6th from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Connect with community resources, get creative with hands-on workshops led by Maestro William and the Mobile Street Art Cart and Chicago Public Library, plus enjoy live performances from the Marquette Park Band Program and Xochitl-Quetzal Aztec Dance.

Meeting Concerns 4147 S. Archer Ave.

A Community Meeting regarding the property at 4147 S. Archer will be held at the 12th Ward Office, 3868 S. Archer ave. on Wednesday, Oct. 28th from 6 to 7 p.m.

The current owner is seeking to open a pizza restaurant and liquor store (with restrictions) with video gaming terminals.

Translation will be available. Live stream option.

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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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 Friday, 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.

Art in the Library Families Together on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Families can attend any session to create mixed media art with their children. This session focuses on artists Mary Cassatt, Margaret Burroughs, Romare Bearden, Suzuki Harunobu and Jacob Lawrence. Once you have your inspiration, kids will draw a picture on water-color paper and then fill in using markers, colored pencils, paint brushes and water, patterned paper and more. Supplies will be available. For ages 3 to 13.

Reading Hour with Cipriani's Pizza on Saturdays, Nov. 21st and Dec. 19th from 2 to 3 p.m. Bring a book or find one at the library. Free pizza for participants. Registration is required at chipublib.org/events. For ages 3 to 18. Children under age 11 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tot Spot Learning on Wednesday, Oct. 28th at 11 a.m., ages 18-36

Free Concert At Cultural Center

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will present an "Under the Dome Concert and Clothing Swap" at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington st. Preston Bradley Hall on Thursday, Oct. 22nd from 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

In addition to live performances by Chicago musicians, the event will feature a community clothing swap in partnership with Chicago Fair Trade. This all-ages, alcohol-free event offers a free concert experience by "Mansa" 5-piece band from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. and "Senite", Eritrean-American singer and songwriter from 7:40 to 8:30 p.m.

Entering the space will be considered acceptance to be filmed. RSVP to this event confirms your subscription to DCASE events monthly email.

Bring clean items you want to add to the swap and leave with a new look. Folks can take up to 5 items. Be ready to pose and show your new look, or the one you arrived in, at the Under the Dome Step & Repeat.

For more information visit cityofchicago/dcse.

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.

TEENS
Tween DIY Crafts on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Volunteer tweens will be running each of the various craft stations and will assist as needed. Snacks will be provided. Registration is required.

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 October from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion of "Family Lore" on Nov. 12th and "Absolution" on Dec. 10th from 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturday Game Day through Nov. 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is a drop-in program. Bring a game or play one of ours. UNO, Skip-bo, Mexican Train, Canasta, Chess, Checkers, Sorry and more. Players gather on adult side of building as space allows. No registration is needed. Make new friends.

Games People Play on Thursdays through Dec. 10th from 2 to 4 p.m. We play Scrabble, Dominoes, Sorry UNO, Yahtzee, cards, trivia, Canasta, Mexican Train and more.

City Work Learning about career opportunities with City of Chicago on Tuesday, Oct. 27th at 5 p.m. Employees from City departments will share what their work is really like.

Chicago Society for Space Studies speakers "The Physics of Project Hail Mary" on Thursday, Nov. 5th at 6 p.m. You loved the movie, now learn about the science and physics of *Project Hail Mary*, presented by Gerry-Jackson of the Chicago Society for Space studies.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

Yoga Class At Dan Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct Wellness in the Woods: Yoga at Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Saturday, Nov. 14th at 11 a.m.

The free 60-minute class is focused on building stability, flexibility, and relaxation through breath-work, mindful movement, and meditation. Liz, from Serendipity Yoga and Wellness in Homewood, will conduct a series of seated, kneeling, lying, and standing poses. Come dressed in active wear with a yoga mat.

Halloween Fun At Navy Pier



Photo provided by Navy Pier

every admission.

The Winter's Tale through Dec. 12th is a tale of romance, betrayal, forgiveness and reconciliation, brought to life with shipwrecks, a few bears, and magical oracles.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Nov. 11th to Jan 3rd. Enjoy Shakespeare's iconic production that celebrates the spirit of the holiday season.

Dom Dolla, Oct. 30th and 31st, witness the energy that propelled the meteoric rise of the DJ, producer and songwriter.

Chicago Children's Museum, Kids Visit Free Day on Nov. 1st. Featuring unique programs and activities including performances by the Crossing Borders string quartet and Rabbitfoot Puppetry.

For tickets, visit navypier.com.

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.

Multilingual Playgroup on Fridays, Oct. 30th, Nov. 13th & 27th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. A bi-weekly playgroup for children who speak Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

Teen Librarian Office Hours on Tuesday, Oct. 27th from 3 to 5 p.m. Do you need an essay proofread or a resume reviewed? Get help with writing, college applications, and job searches. For teens in high school.

LEGO at the Library on Wednesday, Nov. 4th from 4 to 5 p.m. Drop in for some design challenges and open play time. For ages 5 and up.

Family Story Time on Thursdays to Nov. 19th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Support your child's pre-literacy skills through songs, stories and play. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

Halloween Karaoke on Thursday, Oct. 29th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Celebrate Halloween by singing along to your favorite spooky songs! Costumes are encouraged. Light re-

freshments will be provided. For adults, teens and ages 6 and up.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

Writing Workshop On Your Memoir

Join other aspiring authors this fall for Write at CPL, a series of workshops presented by Story Studio. This workshop will focus on Finding the Story in Your Life: A Memoir Writing Workshop and is led by Kim Brooks, author of "Small Animals" at Archer Heights Branch, 5055 S. Archer on Saturday, Nov. 7th from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

This interactive workshop introduces key craft elements of memoir writing—including scene-building, voice, and selecting meaningful details—through short lectures paired with generative writing exercises. Participants will leave with new writing tools and pages of fresh material, all in a supportive space designed for new and experienced writers. No prior writing is experience necessary. Registration is at chipublib.org.

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

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

ALL AGES

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

Grab & Go - Due to our Community Room being used for early voting, we will be offering activities for our patrons to take home. Starting Monday, Oct. 12th, pick up your Grab & Go from the Adult Reference Desk. One per patron, while supplies last. Kids, ages 6 - 12, Pipe Cleaner Ninjas; Tweens, ages 10-14, Mystery Craft; Teens, grades 9-12, Dungeon Crawl Classics RPG, also Oct. 26th. Adult Spice Kit: Cinnamon

Crime Book Club 2026. Discuss mystery, thriller and true crime books on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 11th, "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann. Dec. 9th, "Harlem Shuffle" by Colson Whitehead. Books available at the circulation desk. No registration required.

CINEMA

Join us on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Snacks available while supplies last.

Visit chipublib.org.

TWEENS & TEENS
Teen Volunteer Hours Tuesday, Oct. 27th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 1 volunteer

hour while helping at your library. Bring your timesheet. Grades 6 - 12 only.

CHILDREN

Family Story time at Archer Park, 4901 S. Kilbourn on Thursdays, Oct. 22nd and 29th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Stories, songs and fun for children 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

ADULTS

Adult Book Discussion of "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey on Wednesday, Oct. 28th from 1 to 2 p.m. "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich on Nov. 25th and "The Disaster Tourist" by Yun Ko-Eun on Dec. 16th. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk.

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School Bus Safety Week

Chicago Public Schools is participating in National School Bus Safety Week, Oct. 20th to Oct. 24th to promote safety among students, parents, motorists, bus aides, bus monitors, and school bus drivers.

The District continues to work on safely and efficiently transporting the approximately five percent of our more than 300,000 students who are eligible for yellow bus service – and other transportation services – in alignment with state and District eligibility guidelines.

Quick facts include Number of Bus Routes: 1,193, Bus Drivers: 1,282, Bus Aides: 642 and Students Routed: 14,745.

In Illinois, drivers are prohibited from passing a stopped school bus when its visual stop signals, including flashing red lights and an extended stop arm, are activated. This law applies whether the bus is on a public road, highway, school property, or in a parking area.

The District will be launching an electric bus fleet later this school year. This fleet will serve students and schools in Pilsen, Little Village, McKinley Park, Back of the Yards, North Lawndale, Altgeld Gardens, East Side, Roseland, and South Deering.

CPS prioritizes yellow bus transportation for the District's most vulnerable students, specifically those with disabilities and students in temporary living situation.

Day Of Dead At Wentworth Park

The Midway Chamber of Commerce will conduct Dia De Muertos at Wentworth Park, 5625 S. Mobile on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Performers are Madera Once, Ballet Folklorio and Mariachi Juvenil Zamora. Features include music, art, vendors, food and altars.

Obituaries



ESTELLA VILLEGAS HERNANDEZ who was born on Nov. 8th, 1947, passed away on Oct. 15th at the age of 78. Visitation will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21st at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director. Visitation with service to follow will be held Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at St. Piux V Parish, 1919 S. Ashland ave. Interment will be at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 1400 S. Wolf rd., Hillside, IL.



VALERIA RODRIGUEZ who was born on April 28th, 1948, passed away on Oct. 15th at the age of 78. Visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 21st at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director. Visitation with service to follow will be held Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at St. Piux V Parish, 1919 S. Ashland ave. Interment will be at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 1400 S. Wolf rd., Hillside, IL.

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 platewatch@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.

In November, Chicago voters will elect the entire Board of Education.

Journalists from 17 media outlets created resources to help you vote.



ckbe.at/schoolboard2026

2026 Chicago School Board Voter Guide

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
8AM & 10:30AM in English
Weekday Schedule
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass
October 25, 2026

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

Mandarin Mass, Sunday, Oct. 25, 12:30 AM @ St. Therese

Come and Pray in our Beautiful Churches!

FREE IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Saturday October 24, 2026

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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<https://bit.ly/CDPH12thWard>

For more info contact the 12th Ward office at 773-475-6783 or Ward12@cityofchicago.org

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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

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

Little Learners on Fridays, Nov. 6th to 20th and Dec. 4th to 18th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for 30 minutes of songs, stories and play time.

Toddler Open Play Group on Tuesdays, Nov. 17th, Dec. 1st & 15th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Engage with your toddler through sensory and creative play. Early Childhood research supports that free play is vital to a child's intellectual and physical development. For ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers.

TWEEN/TEEN

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

LEGO Club on Thursdays, Nov. 5th & 19th and Dec. 10th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Complete our design challenges or let your imagination run wild. LEGO bricks and materials are provided. For ages 6 to 13.

STEAM DAY on Thursday, 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

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, Nov. 4th 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.

an engaging picture book read aloud, followed by an activity inspired by the story. Ages 6 to 10.

ADULTS

ESL Conversation Cafe with Aquinas Literacy Center, ages 18+ on Saturdays Nov. 7th to Dec. 19th 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 Berry Pickers" on Wednesday, Nov. 11th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join us for "Remarkably Bright Creatures" on Monday, Dec. 7th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Autumn Dance At St. Richard

Sts. Bruno & Richard's Parish will sponsor an Autumn Dance at 5030 S. Kostner on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The cost of \$50 person includes dinner, live music, DJ and raffle prizes.

For more information or to purchase tickets call the parish office (773) 585-1221.

Research House For Asian Art

The Research House for Asian Art, 3217 S Morgan st. will feature a joint calligraphy exhibition titled, "Becoming Words" through Nov. 15th.

The Seldon Institute will offer a conversation between artists and calligraphers Bahman Panahi and Hekiun Oda on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Relief Program For Water Bills

CEDA announces a Water Bill Assistance Program for Chicago homeowners of a single-family home, 2 or 3 flat.

No penalties or debt collection on past-due bills. 50% reduction on water and sewer rates. Debt forgiveness on previous balance.

Apply by calling (800) 571-2332 or visiting cedaorg.net/bills

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. 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.

Fall hours are 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.

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 ribcage tunnel and come face-to-face with life size dinosaurs.

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.

Through Oct. 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 Bootastic costume parades, trick-or-treating stations on the East Mall, inflatables, purchasable pumpkin decorating experience and more.

Select Dates through Oct. 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. 24th: Boo! Brunch. This Halloween celebration features a festive buffet with brunch favorites and a signature witches' brew lemonade.

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Mass scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 22nd, St. Bruno, 8 a.m., Misa Di-aria.

Friday, Oct. 23rd, St. Richard Church, 8 a.m. Daily Mass and 6 p.m. Polish Mass.

Saturday, Oct. 24th, St. Bruno, 8 a.m. Polish Mass, and 4:30 p.m. English Vigil Mass.

Sunday, Oct. 25th, 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. and 7 p.m. Spanish.

Workshop For Paper Flowers

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Paper Flower Dia de los Muertos Workshop at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie on Friday, Oct. 23rd from 5 to 7 p.m.

This free workshop with artist William Estrada offers a unique opportunity to delve into the rich cultural history of the Cempasúchil flower, often known as the Mexican marigold. Participants will explore its profound significance and integral role in the Day of the Dead (Dia de Muertos) celebrations.

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, Oct. 28th; Nov. 4th to 18th; Dec. 2nd to 16th and Jan. 6th from 4 to 5 p.m.

Teen Hideaway on Tuesdays, Oct. 27th, Nov. 10th & 24th and Dec. 8th; plus Thursdays, Oct. 29th, Nov. 5th & 12th and Dec. 3rd and 10th from 5 to 7 p.m. Explore a mix of art, technology, crafts and games in this drop-in program.

Blood Pressure Screening on Tuesdays, Oct. 27th, Nov. 24th and Dec. 22nd from 3 to 6 p.m.

Family Story Time on Tuesdays through Nov. 24th from 6:30 to 7:30

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. 25th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. We sing songs, read stories and do fun activities to build early literacy skills. For ages 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers.

Write at CPL: Editing & Publishing Basics on Tuesday, Nov. 10th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Join other aspiring authors for a series of workshops presented by our partners at Story Studio. This workshop led by Vincent Francone, will discuss the basics of editing manuscripts, revising tips, and querying agents and publishers, as well as the pros and cons of small presses versus major market publishers. Emphasis will be on basic revision red flags and what to expect when submitting to journals and presses.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Applications For Lifeguard Positions

Last year, the Park District hired more than 700 summer lifeguards, which allowed all beaches and outdoor pools to open seven days a week as well as all indoor pools six days a week for an extra week of operations. In 2025, the district teamed up with After School Matters to expand the stipend-based training program to three additional park sites and increased access to this program citywide where attendees are welcome to learn the life-saving skills necessary to complete the Lifeguards Skills Test and become a summer lifeguard. Learn more at chicagoparkdistrict.com/lifeguards.

Lifeguards 2027 Pay Rate is \$21.25/hour. Candidates will have access to a full schedule of Swim Test dates upon completing the application. The next test will be offered Friday, Nov. 13th, 4 pm at Whitney Young High School, 211 S. Laflin st. The Swim Skills Test entails a 200-yard timed swim, a 20-yard underwa-

ter swim, and the retrieval of an underwater object.

After fulfilling the swim test requirements, candidates will be assigned to an American Red Cross Blended Learning Waterfront Lifeguard Training Course. The Chicago Park District will provide participants with a \$200 stipend for completing the course, and receiving the necessary certification. Apply at chicagoparkdistrict.com/lifeguards.

Shallow Water Attendant 2027 Pay Rate: \$18.52 hour. Applicants for this Lifeguard position who complete the 200-yard swim test in 3 minutes, 30 seconds to 4 minutes, 30 seconds will also be considered for the Shallow Water Attendant position. In this role, the attendant will ensure the safety of swimmers at water playgrounds and smaller pools with a depth of four feet or less, and support the lifeguard in responding to emergency situations.

Gage Park Library Schedules Programs

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

Family Story Time on Mondays through Dec. 14th from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for a story time full of books, songs and rhymes for ages 2 to 8.

LEGO Club on Tuesdays through Dec. 15th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Ask a librarian for a build challenge and display your creations. LEGO bricks will be provided for use in the library. Ages 6 to 13.

Baby Story Time on Wednesdays through Dec. 16th, 11 to 11:30 a.m. A gentle story time of songs, rhymes and stories aimed at babies 0 to 18 months and an engaged grownup. Siblings always welcome!

After-School Reading Practice on Mondays to Dec. 21st from 4 to 5 p.m. All levels of experience are welcome! Each week, we will rotate between popcorn reading in

groups, word games and one-on-one assistance. Afterward, we'll enjoy a simple craft or sensory play time. For ages 6 to 13.

Collage Club on Wednesdays through Dec. 16th from 4 to 5 p.m. Make a collage to decorate your wall, be the author of your own collage zine, or customize objects like notebooks, pencil holders and bookmarks. Materials provided include scissors, glue, mod-podge, magazines, pre-cut magazine scraps, patterned tape, upcycled cardboard and tin cans. For ages 3 to 19

Halloween Party



Photo provided by Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will conduct a free Halloween Party at West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st. on Friday, Oct. 30th from 4 to 6 p.m. Enjoy tricks and treats, games, costume contests and more. Halloween in the Park is presented by Mars.

Back of the Yards Schedules Programs

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

Adult Book Club on Thursday, Nov. 19th from 6 to 7 p.m.

A Stitch in Time Crochet Club on Tuesdays, Oct. 27th; Nov. 3rd to Dec. 8th from 6 to 7 p.m. We have yarn and crochet hooks to share! Bring your own project or start one based on our ideas. Ages 18 and up.

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.

Film Screening of "Pokemon Detective Pikachu" (2019) on Friday, Oct. 23rd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Ace private eye Harry Goodman goes mysteriously missing, prompting his 21-year-old son Tim to find out what happened © Warner Bros. Home Entertainment . 135 min- MPAA Rating PG

Teen Checkers Open Play on Fridays, Oct.

Open Enrollment For Medicare

Before Medicare's Open Enrollment period begins on Oct. 15th to Dec. 7th, the Illinois Department on Aging is encouraging beneficiaries to start browsing to get advice through the Senior Health Insurance Program.

Beneficiaries may join, switch, or drop certain Medicare plans. Current beneficiaries should be receiving their plan's Annual Notice of Change, which summarizes the changes in their plan's cost and coverage for the coming year.

An updated "Medicare & You" handbook was mailed in late September. The handbook is also available at <https://www.medicare.gov> in many different formats and languages.

For additional help understanding Medicare options and how to save money, beneficiaries can contact Illinois' Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program by calling 1-800-252-8966 or emailing Aging.SHIP@Illinois.gov.

Property Tax Assessment Appeal

The Cook County Board of Review will accept 2026 property tax assessment appeals for Lyons, Northfield, Stickney and West Chicago townships through Nov. 6th. Property owners in these designated townships are encouraged to review their assessments and file an appeal if they believe their assessed value is inaccurate.

Appeals may be filed online at www.cookcountyboardofreview.com or through attorneys or authorized tax representatives. They may also be filed in person at the Cook County Board of Review office weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 118 N. Clark st. There is no fee to file an appeal.

For more information, filing deadlines, and educational resources, visit www.cookcountyboardofreview.com or call (312) 603-5542.



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