

Commies, Crime and Cartels



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Latin America has been a scene of multiple problems with rebels, organized crime and cartels. These issues have made the public in many of the Latin American countries to stand up and vote differently. These issues have affected their lives and in some ways have encouraged them to leave their countries.

In an article in Newsmax, May, 2026, John Gizzi wrote about the change in atmosphere recently. He looked at some recent elections and found that many political advertisements showed that candidates were against Commies, crime and cartels. It helped several candidates win. Some of the successful leaders are Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, Nasry Asfura of Honduras, Rodrigo Paz of Bolivia, Javier Milei of Argentina, Daniel Noboa of Ecuador, and Antonio Kast of Chile.

The author also looked at coming elections in Colombia, Venezuela, and possibly in Cuba

along with the relieving of Panama from Chinese influence. Some of the highlights of these leaders

Noboa, a Northwestern University Grad, has vowed to work to stop illegal immigrants from Ecuador. Kast won his election on law and order and seeking U of Chicago economists to help expand the free market economy. Milei has encouraged economic growth by lowering taxes and the number of public employees. Paz's campaign slogan was "Capitalism for All.

Bukele, in his search for law and order, built a huge prison for 40,000 inmates. Asfura considers himself a traditionalist who keeps lowering taxes so people can help the economy by spending.

Some US historians of Latin America believe this is a very good sign for the people. These leaders were invited along with others to a meeting in Florida to consider multinational efforts at defense and collecting information to fight cartels. Several newspapers in Latin America called Trump "the man up North."

Several nations in Latin America are worried about the rise in gangs due to money from drugs, from illegal gold mines, and human smuggling. They hope to attack these issues as a group.

If you are interested in more in depth about a particular country, the information is not hard to find. Make a computer search, but please remember as you read the articles separate fact from opinion.

Summer Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Spend the first week-end of summer at Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark st. with free entry, ticketed attractions and rides, and animal chats. Spend the day seeing the animals and enjoying the beauty of the zoo, which is also an accredited arboretum and botanic garden.

Enjoy free summer activities for young learners. For the most up-to-date schedule, visit go.lpzoo.org.

Zoo Fiesta on Friday, June 26th from 6 to 10 p.m. Enjoy music, folk dancing, animal chats, and more. Children \$14, adults \$20.

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 from July 8th to Aug. 4th on the South Lawn.

Curiosity Carts from 10:30 a.m. to noon, week-days from July 8th to 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 from July 8th to 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.

The zoo is now home to two Sichuan Takins, 3-year-old Porter and 2-year-old Taiyang.

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

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.

12th Annual Millennium Art Festival



Photo provided by Millennium Art Fest

The Millennium Art Festival offers an array of artwork, including paintings, ceramics, photography and furniture, showcasing the talents of more than 110 juried artists at Michigan ave. and Lake st. on Saturday and Sunday, June 27th - 28th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival also includes live music, festival snacks, cocktails and food from local restaurants. Take the kids to the face painting tent and the other kid-friendly art tents. Live art demos and interactive installations will engage art lovers on all levels. Admission is free. Continue your art viewing at The Lurie Garden and the Chicago Cultural Center. For more information visit, amdurproductions.com/new-millennium-art-festival/

Budget Forecast For Cook County

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle released the County's FY2027 Preliminary Budget Forecast, highlighting how financial, budgeting and planning will navigate a period of economic and fiscal uncertainty. Through investments, strengthened reserves, pension stabilization and credit rating upgrades, the County has built a strong fiscal foundation that will address pressures from a recent court ruling, federal reductions in health care funding economic strain from the conflict in Iran and general inflationary pressures.

The forecast projects a budget gap of \$550.7 million across General and Health Funds in FY2027. Absent a court-ordered restriction on tax revenue use of \$258.0 million and an expected \$138.0 million fallout of federal changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act impacting the hospital system, the FY2027 gap would be a \$154.6 million.

The preliminary forecast report presents a mid-year projection of year-end revenues and expenses for FY2026. The report also presents an initial forecast for FY2027 revenues and expenses for the General Fund and Health Enterprise Fund.

For the FY2026 year-end, the County is projecting a surplus of \$283 million in the General Fund.

In FY2027, the General Fund is expected to have a budget gap of

\$336.0 million. Total base revenues are expected to increase driven primarily by a \$147.2 million projected uptick in Sales Tax revenues while expenses are forecasted to increase principally due to a court ruling restricting the use of transportation related taxes causing a structural budget deficit of \$258.0 million, scheduled increases in personnel costs and rising health care costs.

Even though year-end revenues are expected to be \$315.9 million higher than budgeted, Cook County Health projects a \$42.8 million gap for the FY2026 year-end, driven largely by increase in charity care services.

In FY2027, the Health Enterprise Fund is expected to have a budget gap of \$214.7 million.

Revenues are expected to decline by \$486.5 million due to a decrease in CountyCare membership caused by federal cuts and Medicare eligibility restrictions. While payroll and pharmaceutical expenses are projected to grow, overall expenses are projected to be lower than FY2026 budget by \$271.9 million due to reduced Managed Care Claim expenses.

A public hearing on the forecast will take place at 5:30 p.m. on July 9th. Residents will have an opportunity to provide testimony and engage with their budget priorities. The public hearing will be livestreamed.

Visit www.cookcounty.il.gov/Budget to view the forecast.

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.

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.

Zoo Chats share animal insights from experts throughout the day.

Guests can access activities to plan their Zoo experience by selecting "Today at Brookfield" on brookfieldzoo.org.

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

Guests can connect with wildlife and nature during Wildlife Walking Tours. Dinosaur Discovery at 10 a.m. or

African Safari at 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Dinos After Dark on July 11th explore the Zoo and see all the dinos in the night air, enjoy unlimited carousel and Ferris Wheel rides.

Roaring Nights featuring Blues Traveler July 24th. Concert tickets include live music plus free parking, unlimited Carousel and Ferris Wheel rides and Zoo admission.

Roaring Nights featuring Nelly on July 25th. Concert tickets include Nelly's performance plus free parking, unlimited Carousel and Ferris Wheel rides and Zoo admission.

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.

YMCA Memberships For Chicago Teens

YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago President & CEO Adam M. Alonso announced the launch of the Get Summer Program, new partnership that will provide teens ages 12 to 18 free memberships at seven YMCA locations including Rauner Family YMCA, 2700 S. Western. The program, which will run through the end of August, aims to expand access to safe, welcoming spaces. Qualifying youth in the city with existing YMCA memberships will receive complimentary memberships during July and August.

Participating teens will be granted free access to YMCA fitness

centers, gymnasiums, basketball courts, swimming pools during designated open-swim hours, athletic turf fields, and other recreational spaces.

Mielle Cares, a foundation dedicated to the mental wellbeing of teens announced plans to launch a \$250,000 Summer Opportunity Fund focused on expanding safe, welcoming, gathering opportunities across the city. This follows a two-year, \$2 million MiSpace Grant the foundation made to help create and sustain dedicated third spaces for teens and preteens.

Valid proof of age and Chicago residency are required to register. Teens 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult at registration. For more information visit ymcachicago.org/getsummer.

Road Safety Act In Effect July 1st

A major component of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias' Road Safety & Fairness Act will begin next month with the elimination of the state's mandatory driving tests for Illinois drivers ages 79 to 86.

Starting July 1st, the new law raises the age at which drivers must take a driving test from 79 to 87.

Under the Road Safety & Fairness Act, drivers ages 79 through 86 will still be required renew their licenses in person at a DMV and pass a vision screening.

Beginning July 1st,

renewal requirements for Ages 79-80: Renew every four years, in person, with a vision test. Ages 81-86: Renew every two years, in person, with a vision test.

Ages 87 and older: Continue annual in-person renewal with a vision test and driving test.

Commercial driver's license holders must continue taking a driving test beginning at age 75 and at each subsequent renewal.

The law strengthens road safety by creating a new process that allows immediate family members to report legitimate concerns when a loved one's medical condition, vision impairment or driving behavior may affect their ability to drive safely.

Spring Graduates At U of Alabama

The University of Alabama conducted its spring 2026 commencement at Coleman Coliseum in May 2026.

Local graduates include: Mackenzie Marousek (60638) Bachelor of Science; Ava Mustari (60609) Bachelor of Science and Natalie Swan (60609) Bachelor of Science.

Heitschmit Graduates

Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis. congratulates Shannon Heitschmidt from Chicago, IL (60638), who graduated Cum Laude earning a degree in Biology.

History Museum Schedules Events

The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark st. is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

City Tours are back to explore the histories of Chicago and its many neighborhoods by foot, van and trolley. Delve into neighborhood evolutions, hidden histories, and public art in the West Loop, Humboldt Park, Hyde Park and more.

Walking Tour of Historic Old Town on Saturday, June 27th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join volunteer Carol Fitzgibbons to explore stories of recovery from the 1871 Great Chicago Fire and when Old Town was the center of Chicago bohemianism in the 1960s and '70s. \$25.

The Chicago History Museum will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States with a day full of festivities on Saturday, July 4th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Museum will host a range of indoor, family-friendly activities and civic engagement experiences tied to the nation's 250th anniversary and Chicago's long history of civic action, including the reopening of its "Facing Freedom" exhibition with refreshed content and new Chicago stories. The exhibition reopening is part of the Museum's year-long "US at 250: Civic Action in Chicago" initiative.

At 10 a.m., there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the refurbished Augustus Saint Gaudens' Lincoln: The Man (1887).

At 4:30 p.m., activities move outdoors to the Museum plaza, with a free public concert by the Americana Concert Band, under the direction of Joe Lill. At 6:30 p.m. The Museum café will offer hot dogs, sodas, and ice cream.

The reopening of the "Facing Freedom" exhibition invites guests to consider their own role in advancing freedom and civic participation.

Originally opened on July 4th, 2010, "Facing Freedom" is a permanent exhibition on the first floor that highlights eight conflicts in U.S. history. With a middle- and high-school student audience in mind, the exhibition explores how various communities have demanded freedom and created change through civic action, protest, innovation, and advocacy.

Guests will be treated to two new stories examining the work of freedom seekers in Chicago, particularly abolitionists John and Mary Richardson Jones, and the role house music played in establishing safe spaces.

Multi-disciplinary artist, cultural strategist and creative entrepreneur Barrett Keithley, widely known as Bkeezzy—created "The People. We Are: A Living Reflection on the U.S. Constitution," that will open to the public on Tuesday, July 14th, and remain on display.

For more information, visit chicagohistory.org.

Mexican Museum Offers Programs

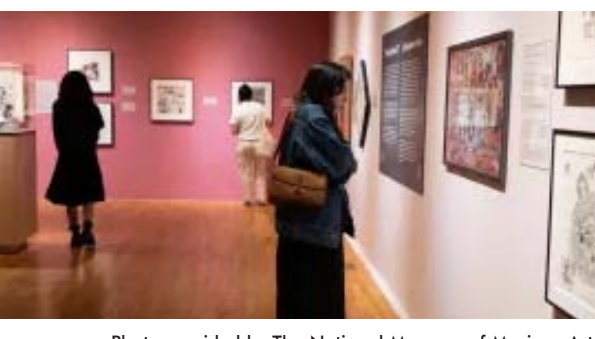


Photo provided by The National Museum of Mexican Art

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

Visit Hoy Cultura en nuestra comunidad: Ray Patlan in Chicago 1968-1975. The exhibition highlights early painting, drawings, photographs, and personal belongings.

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

Images of Faith: 3000 years of Spiritual Expressions in Mexico features ancient artifacts and contemporary icons that trace three millennia of spiritual beliefs and sacred rituals.

The 32nd Annual Sor Juana Festival continues, celebrating women who keep fighting for

access, equality, and justice. Themed "Knowledge as Resistance; the festival highlights first-voice activists, educators, community leaders, and artists.

The Museum will offer summer programs for children ages 7 and up.

Escuelita de Arte for ages 10 to 12, July 27th to 31st from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will explore galleries and learn about Mexican art and culture through a new art technique. They will participate in painting, printmaking, sculpting, and more, and take home their creations.

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

Visit nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org for more information.

Curtin Graduates

Colleen Clare Curtin was awarded a Professional Master of Business Administration degree from Iowa State University during commencement May 14th - 16th.

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Summer Events At Navy Pier



Photo provided by Navy Pier

This summer, live music takes over Navy Pier with lakefront concerts, DJs, local bands, and unforgettable nights running through September.

The Lake Stage Summer Concert Series brings folk, jazz, Caribbean rhythms, and more live music and entertainment.

The Ferrara Candy Wave Wall Stage returns with Skyline Sessions every Thursday and Friday featuring free, live solo and small-ensemble performances. Saturdays heat up with Wave Wall Wax as summertime DJs bring house beats and high-energy summer sounds.

At the new RYTHM Stage in the Navy Pier Beer Garden, Live on the Lake returns every Friday through Sunday with free performances, cold drinks, and laid-back vibes.

On the East End Plaza, the energy peaks with sets from Chris Lake and ZHU.

Navy Pier's award-winning Summer Fireworks, light up the lakefront every Wednesday at 9 p.m. and Saturday at 10 p.m. through Sept. 5th.

Independence Day will

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.

Family Story time on Thursdays to 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.

Multilingual Playgroup on Friday, June 26th, July 10th thru 24th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. A bi-weekly playgroup for children who speak Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese. For children 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

LEGO at the Library

Midway Chamber Schedules Parade

The Midway Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Patriot's Day Parade on Thursday, June 25th with Geno Randazzo as grand marshal. Kick-off will be at 7 p.m. from Archer and Parkside.

McKinley Library Schedules Programs

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

KIDS & FAMILIES

Little Learners Story Time for ages 0 to 5. Join us on Fridays, June 26th, July 17th to 31st at 10:30 a.m. for 30 minutes of songs, movements, and stories. Play time follows.

LEGO Club, ages 6 to 13 on Thursdays, June 25th and July 9th & 23rd from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Complete one of our design challenges of use your imagination. Materials will be provided.

Family Fun Series (ages 3 to 13) Tuesday, July 7th from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 11th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and Friday, July 24th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. A drop-in activity which may include a simple STEM or craft activity, building materials, puzzles, toys or a coloring bonanza. Parent or adult guardian must be present.

Family Fun: Building Activities on Tuesday, June 30th, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Art Institute Field Trip (families) on Saturday, July 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This program includes round-trip transportation. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the exhibits and make art in the Ryan Learning Center. Spots are limited, so call (312) 747-6082 to sign up.

Toddler Open Play Group, ages 1 to 5, on Tuesdays, July 14th & 28th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Engage with your toddler through a simple craft and sensory play.

Family Game Night: Chicago Edition (ages 5+) on Monday, July 27th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. We'll have Chicago-themed games like Chicago Monopoly and Loop Rush.

Improv Games, ages 6 to 13 on Tuesday, July 14th from 1 to 2 p.m.

Canoe Ride At Marquette Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct "River-Lab: Canoe on the Lagoon" at Marquette Park, 6743 S. Kedzie on Wednesday, July 8th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and remember to bring water and sunscreen. All equipment is included in your registration fee of \$5. Basic instruction will be provided and beginners are encouraged. Arrive 15 minutes before the start time. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

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, July 19th 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. Through talks, presentations, and conversations, the series intend to foster cultural exchange and build connections between local communities and international art networks.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

FAMILIES

Speed Puzzle Event on Saturday, July 11th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ages 10 to adult. Each group will work on a 300-piece puzzle. 1-4 team members max. Register as one family.

K9 Patrol Demo presented by the Cook County Sheriff's Office on Monday, July 6th, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ages 6 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.

LEGO Builder's Club on Tuesdays through July 28th from 2 to 3 p.m. Ages 5-10.

Live Music Play with the Scribble Monsters on Saturday, June 27th, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Ages 3 to 6.

Summer Kids' Crafts on Mondays, June 29th; July 6 to 27 from 2 to 3 p.m. Ages 6-10.

"Story Time Stars", story and craft on Mondays, June 29th; July 13th & 20th at 10:30 a.m. Ages 18 months to 4 years.

Axolotl Story & Craft on Thursday, July 9th at 1:30 p.m. Ages 3 to 6.

Goodman Theater for the Young on Wednesday, July 29th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. ages 3-8. "The Lizard y El Sol".

"City Builders" duplos, magnetic tiles, snap cubes and block on Wednesdays July 8th & 15th at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 to 4.

Itty Bitty Play Time on Monday, June 29th, 1 to 1:30 p.m. Ages 6 to 24 months.

Babbling Babies Story Time on Thursdays, June 25th; July 16th & 23rd from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

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.

Register for events at chippublib.org/events.

Brighton Park Library Schedules Programs

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

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

Teen Hideaway on Tuesdays, June 30th to July 28th and Thursdays to July 16th from 12 to 3 p.m. Drop in and explore a mix of art, technology, crafts, and games.

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 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 Thursdays to July 30th from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop in for puzzles and board games the whole family can enjoy. All ages welcome!

WTTW Kids Learn & Play in Monday, July 6th from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Ages 3 to 5 and families. Participate in fun, guided learning while developing school readiness skills.

Sing and Soar With Nanny Nikki on Saturday, July 11th from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Ages 0 to 6 and

Aquinas Literacy Ctr. Schedules Programs

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. has scheduled Community Learning and Conversation Opportunities.

Everyday Democracy: Community Conversation Series on Mondays to July 13th from 6 to 7 p.m. This community conversation series invites participants to practice English while exploring questions about community, participation, collaboration, and everyday civic life. Participants will share experiences, perspectives, and ideas in a welcoming, discussion-based environment.

Topics include: How people participate in their communities, What makes communities stronger and How we work through challenges together.

Participants may attend one session or all four. The series is open to community members and intermediate-to-advanced English learners.

To register, call (773) 927-0512, or email patrik@aquinasliteracy-center.org.

Programs are free and designed to create welcoming, community-centered spaces where participants can build confidence, connection, creativity, and communication through shared experience.

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.

FIRST ANNUAL MCKINLEY PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENING Contest



OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS within the McKinley Park Area!

ENTRY PERIOD
JUNE 15, 2026 – AUGUST 1, 2026
Submit your application and showcase your garden!

JUDGING PHASE
AUGUST 2, 2026 – AUGUST 8, 2026
Applications that advance to the next phase will be reviewed and judged.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED
AUGUST 8, 2026
Winners will be announced and recognized following the completion of judging!

CONTEST CATEGORIES

- Single family residential
- Multi family residential
- Container gardening
- Vegetable gardens

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Submit your application by August 1, 2026.
- Applications will be reviewed and selected to advance.
- Judges will visit gardens during the judging phase.
- Winners announced August 8, 2026!

PRIZES

1 WINNER FROM EACH CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A \$100 HOME DEPOT GIFT CARD AND A RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE AT THE SEPTEMBER 2ND 2026 REGULAR MEETING CIVIC ASSOCIATION AT 6PM

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE:
MCKINLEYPARKCIVICASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM
At the McKinley Park Branch Library Front Desk or the 17th Ward Service Office

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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
June 28, 2026

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

Mandarin Mass, Sunday, June 28, 12:30 PM @ St. Therese

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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, July 18th 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.

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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FIFTH THIRD BANK N.A Plaintiff vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF MICHELLE E. HATCHETT, CITY OF CHICAGO, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ALBERT GLOVER, JOSEPH HATCHETT, JEREMY HARRIS, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MICHELLE HATCHETT, JEREMY HARRIS, CLARENCE HATCHETT, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant
24 CH 6510 CALENDAR 57
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 21, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 19-26-407-021-0000.
Commonly known as 3507 W. 77th Place, Chicago, IL 60652.
The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563. (630) 453-6960. 6722-203020
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13298809

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION TOWD PLANT MORTGAGE TRUST 2020-1, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE Plaintiff vs. ROBERT BURNS, MARY KENNEDY, SHIRLEY BURNETT, PARK TOWER MANAGEMENT, LLC UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant
25 CH 110 CALENDAR 63
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 27, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 20-04-308-008-0000.
Commonly known as 465 W. 43rd Pl., Chicago, IL 60609.
The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Altman, Strautins & Kromm, LLC d/b/a Kluever Law Group, 200 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1880, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (312) 236-0077. SP5002704-25FC2
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13298076

Use The Want Ads
brightonparklife@aol.com
Deadline Tuesday 12 p.m. noon

Millennium Park Summer Series

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announces the return of the free Millennium Park Summer Workouts, Music Series and Film Series through August. Set across the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Wrigley Square and the Great Lawn, the 2026 lineup reflects Chicago's commitment to accessible arts, wellness and community.

Outdoor fitness classes that invite Chicagoans to stay active on select Saturdays through Sept. 5th from 8 to 11:45 a.m. at Wrigley Square or the Great Lawn in Millennium Park, the series features a variety of high-energy classes including yoga, Pilates, cardio kickboxing and Zumba.

The Millennium Park Summer Music Series returns select Mondays and Thursdays through Aug. 6th featuring Sheila E., Arrested Development, Linda Sol, Aterciopelados, DJ Ca\$h Era and La Rosa Noir.

Presented by Wells Fargo, the Millennium Park Summer Film Series

Assistance With Down Payment

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development's Department of Planning and Development announced the launch of a third phase of the Down Payment Assistance Program on July 20th.

A \$3 million pilot program launched in 2024 and assisted in the purchase of nearly 200 homes and an \$8.6 million Phase II that assisted with the purchase of over 500 homes.

Participants received an average of \$15,000 in assistance, and 80% were first-time homebuyers. The program allowed buyers to access homes priced from \$200,000 to \$400,000.

The program provides subsidies equal to 5% of the home's sale price, up to \$25,000. Subsidies can assist with down payments, closing costs or interest-rate buydowns for homes located in Cook County.

Assistance is provided as a forgivable second loan over a five-year term.

For more information, visit club720.org/cook-county-dpa/.

returns to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion with free Tuesday screenings June 30th through Aug. 18th at 6:30 p.m. on a 40-foot LED screen.

View the full schedule at chicago.gov/DCASE. All guests attending Pritzker Pavilion events must enter through designated entrances on Randolph and Monroe streets. For additional details, visit MillenniumPark.org.

Millennium Park Summer Workouts on Saturdays through Sept. 5th. 8 a.m. – Pilates, 9 a.m. – Yoga, 10 a.m. – Cardio Kickboxing and 11 a.m. – Zumba.

Millennium Park Summer Music Series Mondays & Thursdays through August at 6:30 p.m. June 25th, Patrice Rushen, Sparklmami, DJ Shon Dervis, June 29th, Sir Chloe, Venus & the Flytraps, DJ Jill Hopkins.

Gage Park Library Schedules Programs

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

CHILDREN
Craft Club for ages to 13 on Wednesdays through July 29th from 4 to 5 p.m. Get creative with us every Wednesday afternoon. All materials provided.
Game Day and more on Tuesdays, July 7th to 21st from 2 to 4 p.m. Drop in to play videos games, board games or make a craft. For ages 8 and up.

FAMILIES
Family Story Time on Mondays through July 27th (except June 29th) from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for a story time full of books, songs and rhymes for our littlest patrons. For kids 0 to 6 and their caregivers.

CINEMA
Film screening of “Wreck-It Ralph” (2012) on Thursday, June 25th from 4 to 5:45 p.m. Ralph is tired of playing the role

of a bad guy and embarks on a journey to become a video game hero. But he accidentally lets loose a deadly enemy that threatens the entire arcade. Disney - 1h 41 min - PG

July 16th, Marcos Valle, Daniel Villarreal, DJ Clark Quente. July 27th, Aterciopelados, La Rosa Noir, Lumpen Radio DJs. Aug. 3rd, The Budos Band, Zeshan B. Radius. Aug. 6th, GRAMMY Legacies and Looking Ahead feat. Lila Iké, Matt B, DJ Blair Elise.

TIP Fest Artist Workshop

A TIP Fest Artist Workshop will be conducted at Park No. 596, 4830 S. Western ave. on Thursday, June 25th from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The workshop is a creative lab where teen performers sharpen their skills, build confidence, and prepare for the TIP Fest stage.

Participants receive coaching in vocals, songwriting, movement, and stage presence while connecting with peers and learning what it takes to deliver a professional performance.

For more information, visit <https://www.chicago.parkdistrict.com/tip-fest>.

Jazz Festival At Humboldt Park

The Jazz Institute of Chicago, in partnership with the Chicago Park District will present the 2026 Chicago Latin Jazz Festival, a free, family-friendly celebration of jazz, rhythm, and community. The outdoor event will take place at the Humboldt Park Fieldhouse, 1440 N. Humboldt blvd. on Friday, July 10th from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, July 11th from 5 to 8 p.m.

Audiences are invited to bring lawn chairs, picnic baskets, and coolers.

Dance Performance At McKinley Park

The Chicago Park District will present the Summer Sunset version dance performance at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Friday, July 10th from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

The 18th season features seven professional dancers performing six contemporary works by Chicago choreographers. This family-friendly performance invites casual viewing from your lawn chair or blanket.

Piano Playing In The Parks

The Chicago Park District will offer “Pianos in the Parks” at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. and Park No. 596, 4830 S. Western ave daily from June 21st through July 31st during field house hours.

Everyone gets the opportunity to play piano. A free introductory lesson is available during scheduled times. Experienced players are welcome during opening hours. Visit <https://makemusic-chicago.org>.

Nature Play Day At Ryan Woods



Photo provided by the Forest Preserves of Cook County

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct Open Nature Play Day for Children at Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Wednesday, July 1st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov or call (708) 771-9632 for more information.

Back of the Yards Schedules Programs

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

CHILDREN
Kid's Sewing Craft on Wednesdays, July 1st, 15th & 29th from 4 to 5 p.m. Learn the basics of machine sewing and more, all levels welcome. All sewing materials are provided. Participants are encouraged to bring clothing and materials, if desired. Get a project pre-sewn with the machine by the librarian, and complete the project by hand sewing it using kid's needles.

Kids' Cooking Demo on Wednesdays, July 8th & 22nd from 4 to 5 p.m. Do your kids enjoy cooking and trying new recipes? We will teach kids how to make yummy snacks. For ages 5 to 13.

ABRA - CA - DABRA Pocket Circus Magic Show on Thursday, June 25th, 2 p.m. All ages.

Crosstown Exotics Reptile Show on Tuesday, June 30th, 6 p.m. All ages.

Devon Ave. Adventures: Bollywood Groove

Family Fishing At McKinley Park

The Chicago Park District Night Out in the Parks program will feature family fishing at McKinleyPark, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Saturday, July 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

No registration is 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.

For more information, visit www.nightoutinthe parks.com or call (312) 747-6527.

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.

Activities include: Movie Night (Spiderman: No Way Home) on June 26th; Board games, July 10th; Karaoke, July 17th; Tote Bag Making, July 24th and Trivia Night on July 31st. Sign up at (708) 497-9952 or esantillan@bpncchicago.org.

Resource Workshop For Homeowners

The Greater Southwest Development Corporation will conduct a free Homeowners Resource Workshop at the West Lawn Branch Library, 4020 W. 63rd st. on Saturday, June 27th at 10:30 a.m.

Attendees will learn about energy assistance programs, home repair programs and protection of property value. Register at (773) 436-1000.

Music Festival In Grant Park

Christopher Bell will lead the Grant Park Orchestra in musical fireworks—with the sounds of Gershwin, Hollywood blockbusters and patriotic anthems at Millennium Park on Saturday, July 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Visit gpmf.org or call Patron Services team at (312) 742-7647 for your One Night Pass.

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).

Archer Heights Stepping Stone Saturday, June 27th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Paint rocks which will be added to our community stepping stone. We will be placing the stepping stone that was made last summer during this program.

DCASE Events At Cultural Center

The City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announced its 2026 Summer happenings at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington st., featuring a lineup of visual art exhibitions, educational programs and free film screenings.

Residents from Chicago and global visitors are invited to experience architecture, music, dialogue and visual culture with free admission, seven days a week.

Chicago-based artist Alberto Aguilar will present a two-part retrospective exploring the theme of communication, translation and collaboration, through Aug. 23rd.

Ornament & Information presents artists working in Chicago and Vienna whose practices explore the historic intellectual exchange between the two cities, from modern architecture to mid-century economic thought, through July 19th. Sculpture, painting and conceptual approaches, reflect on how ideas evolve as they move between cultural contexts.

Photographer Lauren Deutsch and filmmaker Jonathan Woods will

CHILDREN
Matinee Movies on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Join us for family films and snacks. “Hop-ers” (PG) June 25th.

LEGO Club Monday, June 29th, 6 to 7 p.m. Put your engineering skills to the test with one of our challenges or use your imagination to build your own creations. For children age 5 and up.

ADULTS
Adult Book Discussion of “Circe” by Madeline Miller on Wednesday, July 22nd 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”.

CINEMA
Join us on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. for a screening of “The Iron Giant” (PG) on June 28th. Snacks available while supplies last.

present an immersive exhibition translating the energy of Chicago's improvised music scene into color, movement and visual form, through Sept. 27th.

Travel the world through film this summer with free weekly screenings in Claudia Cassidy Theater on Wednesdays through Aug. 19th at 6:30 p.m.

For details, visit Chicago.gov/DCASE.

MPCA Sponsors Garden Contest

The McKinley Park Civic Association will be sponsoring its 1st annual garden contest through August 1st and is open to all neighborhood residents. Four \$100 Home Depot gift cards will be awarded to each winner in each of this year's categories which are Single Family Residential, Multi Family Residential, Vegetable Gardens and Container Gardens.

For a list of contest rules or an application, email mckinleyparkcivicassociation68@gmail.com.

In Memory Of

Albert D. Silinski

6/25/63 - 8/30/87

The initial shock has long ago faded, just sadness tugs at our hearts. Memories of your smile and laughter remain. The glimmer in your eyes when you thought something was funny, the manner in which your jokes were told. We miss your tender way, and gentle personality.

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