

American Scientists May Be Under Siege



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The headline reads "Eleven American Scientists missing or dead". This or something similar has been in at least a dozen articles I have read. It seems like a huge story, but the articles are all short and speculative.

Some articles say that it is a danger to national security. Others say it is probably just a coincidence. Either, of course, is possible. I decided to write this article because despite that it's been covered in many places, very few I have talked with seem to know about it.

Here are some of the facts available in these articles. It included eleven scientists that have disappeared or been killed but this counts from 2022 to the present. That is a long period. Six of these have already died. Five are still missing.

Representative Comer, of the House Oversight

Committee has been quoted that "it does appear that there is a high possibility that something sinister is taking place". The FBI has opened an investigation that also involves the White House, The Department of Energy and the Department of Law. Some have admitted they are looking for a connection, but none of these organizations have publicly pointed to one. They are working with local jurisdictions, several of which have been investigating the deaths.

Something that is easy to notice when you see the names, four of these eleven worked for NASA and two worked with Los Alamos National Lab. Another also worked in New Mexico at the National Security Campus. Other scientists are pharmaceutical research and propulsion scientists. One was a retired military officer who had many duties over the years.

With all these agencies, there is hope that an answer will come. But if it is an issue of national security, it may be slow or as we often see, have redacted information. One member of Congress, who asked for anonymity, stated there may be more victims because some of these people live very private lives. And it is not illegal to go away and not tell anyone. If you want more information, there are many articles on the internet that are easy to find.

Scout Troop 1441 Conducts Food Drive



On April 18th, members of Boy Scout Troop 1441, sponsored by St. Mary Star of the Sea Holy Name Society, completed the second phase of their Service Project food drive. The first phase was held on April 11th when Scouts distributed door hanger announcements that the Troop was looking for non perishable items for a food pantry. Any boys ages 11 to 17 who are interested in Scouting can have a parent contact Ed Melkonian (for English) at (312) 316-5825 or Angie Kozel (for Spanish) at (773) 851-7855 for further information. Pictured are Gabriel Hernandez, Andres Burgos, Luis Burgos, Alexi Ayala (Asst. Patrol Leader), Adan Moreno, Minerva Gonzales (Committee Member), Pedro Moreno (Committee Member), Ed Melkonian (Asst. Scout Master) and John Massura (Scout Master).

Spring Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark st. will conduct Sunset Garden Tours on the second Thursday evening of each month through October. The con-tent will be geared towards adults. The cost is \$20.

Sensory-Friendly Morning, all ages on Sunday, April 26th, 8 to 10 a.m.

River-North Fests will present Saturday Night at the Zoo with karaoke, photo booths, and pop-up bars on Saturday, May 2nd, 6:30 to 10 p.m. \$15 for nonmembers age 21+.

The Language of Flowers on Thursday, May 14th from 6 to 7 p.m. Explore the folklore and symbolism behind popular spring flowers like lilacs, irises, and flowering dogwoods.

Immerse yourself in a restorative Sound Meditation session among native plants and skyline views on select Saturdays, May 17th to Oct. 17th from 9 to 10 a.m. Jay Taylor blends singing bowls, gentle breathwork, and guided relaxation in a welcoming space. No specific training is required.

An after-hours celebration for the 21+ crowd is scheduled for Friday, May 22nd from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Adults Night Out: Block Party features games, music, and good times. Play mini golf, ride the Ferris Wheel and Giant Fun Slide while dancing to a live DJ while visiting your favorite animals.

Sunshine Season starts Memorial Day Weekend, May 23rd to 25th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission, all ages. Summer Kickoff is a free

and family-friendly celebration on Memorial Day weekend that brings rides and attractions, including the Ferris Wheel and Giant Fun Slide. Guests of all ages can enjoy a range of free daily programming.

The 2026 Run for the Zoo is scheduled for Sunday, May 31st with a 10K Run, 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Course. \$24.99+, all ages. This year's spotlight belongs to the eastern black rhinoceros. The race medal and race shirt will feature this iconic animal.

A Family-Friendly Zoo Fiesta on Friday, June 26th from 6 to 10 p.m. Children are \$14 and adults are \$20. Automatic discount with purchase of 5+ tickets. Bring your family for an upbeat celebration of Latin American cultures with lively musical performance, dance demonstrations, and a zoo minus the summer crowds. There will be activities for all ages, including tablas de loteria on Park Place Cafe Terrace and free rides on the train and carousel.

Summer Wine Fest on Saturday, July 18th from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$62+ for adults age 21+. An open-air wine sampling event set within the botanical garden and arboretum.

Features are recyclable 12-ounce Lincoln Park Zoo wine glass, Chats with representatives from wineries, Outdoor tent with stage and dance floor, Drop-in ballroom dance workshop and Live string quartet.

For registration, visit lpzoo.org.

Groundbreaking For Industrial Campus

On April 17th, Mayor Brandon Johnson joined City officials and community leaders to break ground on Western Works, a four-building industrial campus at 4435 S. Western blvd. The \$100 million City-backed project is revitalizing a vacant 28-acre site, into a modern hub designed to attract major economic investment and employment.

City Council approved Ordinance 02025-0019967 in October 2025, authorizing the redevelopment of the site. The development replaces the former Wheatland Tubing warehouse facility, which closed in 2024, with 568,782 square feet of industrial space. The project is projected to generate over \$30 million in real estate tax revenue over the next decade, with \$6 million earmarked for community reinvestment.

The development was made possible through a Cook County Class 6(b) incentive provided by the Department of Planning and Development. The incentive encourages the rehabilitation of abandoned properties by lowering the property tax assessment rate for a period of 12 years. This reduction is estimated to save \$7.2 million in development costs.

The campus will feature four facilities ranging from 75,000 to 198,000 square feet, equipped with 87 dock doors and 635 parking stalls to support modern logistics and manufacturing needs. The project is expected to create 150 construction jobs and 100 full-time positions.

Construction is slated for completion by late 2027.

CPS Preserves May 1st As Full Instructional

Chicago Public Schools will maintain Friday, May 1st, as a full instructional day, as originally scheduled in the 2025-26 academic calendar. An agreement with the Chicago Teachers Union reflects the District's position that the school day proceeds as scheduled, while allowing schools to offer lesson plans on civic engagement or join local related events.

A CPS-CTU Memorandum of Understanding outlines the agreement.

CPS has preserved May 1st as a full instructional day for students. All planned activities, such as field trips, proms, senior nights, and other events continue as planned.

Staff are expected to report to work as scheduled and work a full day. Any use of benefit days (personal business or zero days) must follow each school's established notice and approval processes. Central office teams will work to support schools.

Principals may exercise their authority to provide students the opportunity to participate in events and field trips, including civic engagement activities during the school day. Schools wishing to participate must follow the existing CPS student travel policy and normal field trip procedures.

Participation in local events is voluntary and is at the discretion of school leaders. No student is obligated to participate; they can opt to stay in school. No staff member is obligated to participate, nor are staff excused from normal duty for the purposes of their participation.

If a student's school chooses not to participate in events on May 1st, Illinois law (105 ILCS 5/26-1(8)) allows students in grades 6 to 12 one excused absence per school year to participate in a "civic event." However, parental permission must be provided to the school in advance.

A qualifying "civic event" must be open to the public and sponsored by a nonprofit organization or a government agency. Examples include cultural or artistic performance, educational gatherings or activities that support a nonprofit's mission.

Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct 3rd Fridays Open Studio on May 15th from 6 to 10 p.m. Attendees will explore various art studios, interact with local artists, and witness their works in progress. Reserve tickets for free at bridgeportart.com

Be sure to explore the other floors of the Art Center and discover the studios and workshops of tenants. In addition to over 10,000 sq. ft. of gallery space, there are artists on every floor. The Chicago Maritime Museum is open for free on the River Level during open studios.

The 14th Annual Art Competition will be exhibited in the 4th Floor Gallery.

The event is open to artists 18 years of age and older, who are living or working within 150 miles of Chicago. Work must have been completed within 2023-2026. This juried competition accepts a broad range of art media and styles. Not eligible are functional pottery, jewelry, clothing, accessories, furniture, other functional art, or time-art such as video, sound, or film; or works previously exhibited at the BAC.

Awards are Best of Show, \$3,000; 2nd Place, \$1,500; 3rd Place, \$750; 4th Place, \$250; 5th Place, \$150 and People's Choice, \$500.

The opening reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 15th from 7 to 10 p.m.

Visit bridgeportart.com or call (773) 843-9000 for more information and application.

"The Coolest Thing Made In Illinois"

Chosen by voters from an initial field of more than 100 entries, the NASA Standard Initiator made by Chemring Energetic Devices in Downers Grove has been crowned the winner of the 2026 "Makers Madness" contest, earning the title of The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois.

Hosted by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and sponsored by Comcast Business, the bracket-style competition celebrates the work of manufacturers. Manufacturing is the largest contributor of any industry to the state's Gross Domestic Product, supporting nearly a third of all jobs and contributing more than \$580 billion to the state's economy each year.

Manufactured by Chemring Energetic Devices in Downers Grove, the electrically activated pyrotechnic device played a critical role in the recent launch of the Artemis II/Orion mission.

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, May 15th 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.

Qingming Festival (Tomb-Sweeping Day) is a traditional Chinese holiday dedicated to honoring ancestors. Families visit graves, clean tombs, and make offerings as acts of remembrance, while also marking the arrival of spring. Engage in storytelling through lectures and workshops.

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

Programs at Beverly Arts Center

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled the 59th Annual Auction on Saturday, April 25th, a night of cocktails, music, dancing, savories and sweets, live & silent auctions. Tickets are \$150.

Chicago Repertory Ballet announces it's Spring Performance Series with Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring) set to Igor Stravinsky's iconic score on Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

RE.S.P.E.C.T.: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin is scheduled for Friday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

Celebrate Mother's Day Weekend with an unforgettable night of legendary soul. Soundtracks of a Generation features vocalist LaShera Moore Ellis, backed by a 10-piece band led by Music Director and guitarist Chris Forte.

The awards reception for ART COMP 49 is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 2 to 4 p.m.

Join us on Saturday, June 20th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. for our Summer of Soul concert. Soundtracks of Generation will perform the music of Motown and the Philadelphia Soul scene. The Mo Soul Revue features an 11 piece lineup with three lead vocalists and the Mo Better Horns with songs by The O'Jays, The Stylistics, The Jackson 5, The Supremes and the Temptations. Tickets are \$35

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

Mayor Kicks Off Construction Season

On April 20th, Mayor Brandon Johnson joined the City's Departments and Sister Agencies to celebrate the beginning of Construction Season 2026 by highlighting projects which are spurring economic development through the Build Better Together initiative.

Construction officially began with a CDOT-led streetscape improvement project at Lockwood and Chicago ave. in the Austin community.

The 12th Ward was among 15 wards that experienced zero traffic fatalities during 2025.

The milestone coincided with investment in Complete Streets infrastructure during 2025, including the addition of 26 miles of bikeways, more than 100 bus stop accessibility improvements, nearly 100 new pedestrian refuge islands, and over 740 curb extensions.

Last year, the City completed the resurfacing of more than 170 miles of residential, arterial streets, and alleyways; modernizing street lighting across more than 380 blocks; repairing over 3,000 sidewalks; installing of more than 6,000 ADA ramps; and the completion of more than 50 blocks of green alleys to improve drainage.

Build Better Together is the Johnson administration's economic development strategy aimed at driving sustainable growth in each of Chicago's 77 diverse community areas.

Amnesty Week For Moving Violations

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos will conduct Amnesty Week, April 27th to May 1st. Collection fees will be waived for moving traffic violations. They do not cover parking tickets or red light camera violations.

Full or partial payments accepted. Pay by cash, check, money order, or credit card at the Daley Center Traffic Division, lower level and all 5 suburban districts or by phone at (312) 603-5030.

Nominations For Sr. Hall of Fame

The Illinois Department on Aging is seeking nominations for the 2026 induction class of the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame, which honors the accomplishments of residents aged 65 and older.

Each year, four older adults are inducted into the Hall of Fame for their

work in the arts, sports, and entertainment; community service; education; or the labor force. Anyone may nominate an adult for consideration.

Eligible nominees must be: At least 65 years old and a current or previous resident of Illinois for most of their life.

Posthumous nominations are also accepted, provided the nominee was living in Illinois at the time of death.

Nominations must be submitted on or before June 2nd. Nominators of new Hall of Fame inductees are expected to participate in an award ceremony honoring their nominee and highlighting their accomplishments.

Completed nomination forms may be submitted electronically or returned via U.S. mail, fax, or email. For more information, visit https://ilaging.illinois.gov.

CDOT Announces Spring Bridge Lifts

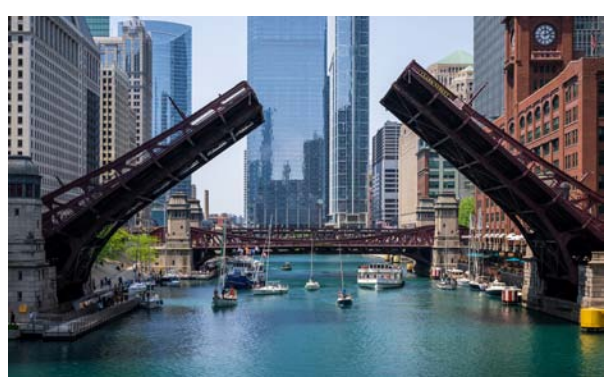


Photo provided by the City of Chicago

The Chicago Department of Transportation announced spring bridge lifts began Wednesday, April 22nd with the raising of 27 bridges from Ashland Avenue to DuSable Lake Shore Drive. Each year, in the spring and fall, CDOT raises the movable bridges along the Main and South Branches of the Chicago River on a twice-weekly schedule on Wednesdays and Saturdays to accommodate recreational boats traveling to and from their storage yards. The bridges are typically raised one at a time, with each lift taking an average of 8-12 minutes. While a bridge is in the upright position, traffic is temporarily halted. Drivers may use alternate routes or wait until the bridge is lowered. CDOT reminds all motorists to stay alert, follow posted signs and signals, and use caution to ensure the safety of crews working on site.

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, 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 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. “Earth Day Program & Free Tree Pick-Up” on Saturday, April 25th at 11 a.m. Celebrate Earth Day with a story and craft.

Decorate a Poster for summer reading 2026. Pick up a poster board on Saturday, April 25th, May 2nd or May 9th. Ages 8 to 13. Children can be creative in decorating a poster that will reflect “Chapters of Chicago”: Lake Michigan, the CTA, their favorite museum or sports team, their neighborhood or favorite landmark. Posters are due by May 23rd to be put on display.

Open Play on Wednesdays, May 6th & 13th at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 12 months to 3 years can play with various toys and puzzles and meet new friends.

WTTW Kids Learn & Play on Saturday, May 16th at 11 a.m. Participate in fun, guided learning while developing skills in social-emotional development, math and language and literacy. For ages 3 to 5 with an adult

TEENS

Teen Volunteer Hours on Wednesday, April 29th from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Make handmade cards, prepare crafts for the library and more. Bring any forms you need signed.

“Summer Reading” Volunteer Training Meeting on Saturday, May 16th from 2 to 3 p.m. Children ages 12 to 16 who are interested in volunteering for the summer reading program that runs June 8th to Aug. 1st. Chicago/America’s 250th Birthday is this year’s theme. For more information email ptyznik@chipublib.org.

ADULTS

The adult book club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The May 14th topic is “Glorious Exploits” by Ferdia Lennon.

Saturday Game Day through May 30th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a game or play one of ours: UNO, Skip-bo, Mexican Train, Scrabble, Outburst, Upwards, Rummy 500, Canasta, Chess, Checkers, Sorry and more. No registration is needed.

New Device Advice on Tuesdays, through April 28th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Library staff will help set

up a new device, teach the basics, connect to Wi-Fi, change settings and answer questions.

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

Games People Play on Thursdays, through June 4th from 2 to 4 p.m. Once a month we will play only Scrabble, Yahtzee or Trivia games for the two-hour session. Light refreshments will be available. Feel free to bring a treat as well. As always, bring one of your own games or use one of ours.

Estate Planning for Peace of Mind presented by the Chicago Estate Planning Council on Thursday, April 30th at 6 p.m. This 60-minute presentation guides attendees through key estate planning topics - wills, trusts, healthcare decisions, powers of attorney, and beneficiary selection.

SENIORS

Coffee Hour on Thursday, April 23rd from 1 to 2 p.m. Guest speaker, Celeste, our travel guru will discuss her trip from England, Wales and Scotland. Refreshments will be provided.

Identity Theft Program on Thursday, April 30th at 12:30 p.m. Learn the ways your ID information can be stolen and what you can do to prevent that from happening. Presented by the Cook County’s Sheriff Office.

Coffee Hour “Travels to the UK” on Thursday, April 23rd from 1 to 2 p.m. Join guest speaker, Celeste, our travel guru, and hear about her amazing trip to England, Wales and Scotland.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

12th Ward Plans Clean-Ups

The 12th Ward will conduct Community Clean-Ups at Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th st. on Saturday, April 25th from 2 to 4 p.m. and Calmecca Academy, 3456 W. 38th st. on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Materials will be provided. For more information, contact (773) 475-6783 or ward12@cityofchicago.org.

Opening Day Baseball Parade

The Omega Delta Youth Baseball League will conduct its Opening Day Parade from the parking lot of Target, 33rd & Damen on Saturday, April 25th at 10:15 a.m.

The procession will head west on 33rd to wind through Seeley, Hoyne, Hamilton, Leavitt and Bell streets to Hoyne Park, 34th & Hamilton for opening ceremonies.

Spring Events At Brookfield Zoo Chgo



Photo credit © Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Spring events are in full swing at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, including special brunches, after-hours fun, and new events.

Glow Wild: A Lantern Festival of Hope features larger-than-life glowing lanterns, cultural performances, an event-exclusive menu, and free rides on the Carousel and Ferris Wheel open from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursdays to Sundays through May 10th.

Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 10th features a gourmet brunch buffet, bottomless mimosas and a glass of rosé for mom. Every brunch ticket also includes full-day access to zoo attractions.

Come face-to-face with life-size dinosaurs May 22nd to Oct. 22nd. Journey through a massive rib-cage tunnel, climb on a giant fossil, dig for ancient discoveries, and snap epic photos. This experience is free with Zoo Membership or general admission.

Grab your dino costume and have a roaring good time at our Dino Dash! on Saturday, May 30th. Race, jog, or stroll along a 2-mile fun run course within the zoo.

The Roaring Nights summer concert series includes Melissa Etheridge: RISE on June 7th, Blues Traveler on July 24th, and Nelly on July 25th. Tickets include free parking, unlimited evening rides on the carousel and Ferris Wheel, and free all-day admission to the zoo. Wear your coziest pajamas and explore the Zoo and see all the dinos after dark on Saturday, July 11th. The nighttime event is filled with prehistoric encounters, animals, treats, live entertainment, unlimited rides on the Ferris Wheel and Carousel.

Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 10th features a gourmet brunch buffet, bottomless mimosas and a glass of rosé for mom. Every brunch ticket also includes full-day access to Zoo attractions.

Wear your coziest pajamas and explore the Zoo and see all the dinos after dark on Saturday, July 11th. The nighttime event is filled with prehistoric encounters, animals, treats, live entertainment, unlimited rides on the Ferris Wheel and Carousel.

For ticket information, visit brookfieldzoo.org.

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. Call (312) 747-0032 or visit www.chipublib.org for more information and to register for the following programs.

CHILDREN

Pokemon GO for ages 6 & up on Saturday, April 25th from 3 to 4 p.m. Bring your own device to use the Pokemon GO app.

TEENS

Teen Uno Night on Thursday, April 30th from 4 to 5 p.m. Play multiple rounds and enjoy snacks. No experience necessary.

FAMILIES

Family Story Time on

Mondays, May 4th to 25th from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for a story time full of books, songs and rhymes for kids ages 0 to 6 and their caregivers.

Tuesday Craft Corner on Tuesdays, May 5th to 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Get creative with us after school. Each week we offer a different craft for the whole family to enjoy. All materials are provided.

CINEMA

Film Screening of “Zootopia 2” (2025) on Tuesday, April 28th from 4 to 5:45 p.m. Brave rabbit cop Judy Hopps and her friend, the fox Nick Wilde, team up to crack a new case, the most perilous of their careers. Walt Disney Pictures - 108 min – PG

Film Screening of “The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants” (2015) on Thursday, May 7th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Desperate to be a big guy, SpongeBob sets out to prove his bravery to Mr. Krabs by following the Flying Dutchman, a swashbuckling ghost pirate, to the deepest depths of the sea. Paramount Pictures - 1 hour and 28 min – PG

Film Screening of “Big Hero 6” (2014) on Thursday, May 14th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. A special bond develops between plussized inflatable robot Baymax and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes. Walt Disney Animation Studios - 1 hour & 42 min – PG

Guided Hike Of Bird Sanctuary

The Chicago Park District will conduct a guided hike of the McCormick Bird Sanctuary at Burnham Park, 5700 S. Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive on Saturday, May 2nd from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Participants will be introduced to basic birding techniques, common Chicago birds, points of interest at the Bird Sanctuary and Lakefront. Meet up at the Caracol Gathering Space, and walk to the Bird Sanctuary. Caracol Gathering Space can be found on google at: <https://goo.gl/maps/8QcdFkXEUzJqmk28>. Paid parking is nearby along Fort Dearborn Drive. For more information, call (773) 520-6956.

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).

CHILDREN

Family Story Time on Thursdays through April 30th 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

High school students who need help with re-

search for a school assignment can request an appointment with our Teen Librarian to review databases, printed sources and other resources. Call (312) 747-9241 to make an appointment.

Teen Volunteer Hours on Thursday, April 30th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 1 volunteer hour while helping at your library. Remember to bring your time sheet. Grades 6-12.

Teacher in the Library Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

ADULTS

Estate Planning on Monday, April 27th at 1 p.m. (English), 2 p.m. (Spanish). Participants will learn the purpose of core documents like wills, powers of attorney, health care directives, and basic trusts.

Adult Book Discussion of “Hidden Valley Road” by Robert Kolker on Wednesday, May 27th from 1 to 2 p.m. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk.

Lakefront Loop 5K



Photo provided by Navy Pier

The annual Lakefront Loop 5K, will be held entirely on Navy Pier, 600 East Grand ave., on Sunday, May 31st at 8 a.m. This timed race takes place along Northwestern Medicine Wellness Way and offers runners of all levels a scenic route along Chicago's iconic lakefront.

Registration includes race entry, a commemorative t-shirt, one Centennial Wheel ticket, and access to the post-race party. Register at navypier.org/pier-events/lakefront-loop-5k/

Chicago Announces Blues Festival

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announced the lineup for the 2026 Chicago Blues Festival, taking place June 4th - 7th.

The festival begins Thursday, June 4th, at Ramova Theatre, 35th & Halsted in Bridgeport with an opening night program, followed by three days of performances June 5-7 at Millennium Park. All performances in Millennium Park are free and open to the public.

ASL Interpretation will be provided for main-stage shows. Email dcase@cityofchicago.org by May 27 if other accommodations are needed.

Opening night at Ramova Theatre has doors open at 5 p.m., with programming from 6 to 10:30 p.m. The event is open to guests 18 and older; minors must be accompanied by a guardian. Tickets can be reserved online. at box@ramova.chicago.com.

The evening includes a panel discussion, “Fire-side Chat: 20 Years of the Mississippi Blues Trail,” followed by a double-bill concert: 7:15-8:30 p.m. - John Primer: Tribute to Theresa's Lounge. 8:45-10:15 p.m. - Willie Clayton.

Millennium Park Lineup, June 5th to 7th from noon to 9 p.m. across multiple stages, includes the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Mississippi Crossroads Stage, Rosa's Lounge

Stage and Wrigley Square.

For details, visit Chicago.gov/DCASE.

Scavenger Hunt At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a Scavenger Hunt, “I Spy with My Five Senses” for children in grades 2-8 with adult at Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Thursday, May 14th from 3 to 6 p.m.

For more information, visit fpdcc.com or call (708) 771-9632.

Cherry Blossoms At Jackson Park



Photo provided by Chicago Park District

The area surrounding the Columbian Basin in Jackson Park, is home to pink and white cherry blossom trees that bloom each Spring. The trees are located just south of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, 57th and DuSable Lake Shore Drive, on either side of the South Portico and surrounding the Columbia Basin. The trees are also found on the north end of the Wooded Island and in

the Osaka Garden, south of the Columbian Basin. Peak bloom typically happens in late April to early May, and lasts from 6 to 14 days.

The Annual Hanami: Cherry Blossom Festival is Saturday, April 25th from 1 to 3 p.m. The Japanese word “Hanami” means “flowering viewing” and in reference to the cherry trees, this means cherry Blossom viewing.

Senate Passes E-Bike Bill

Illinois Senators approved a safety initiative spearheaded by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias to address the growing dangers posed by unregulated high-speed e-bikes, e-motos and other powerful electric transportation devices operating on streets, bike lanes and sidewalks.

The legislation is part of Giannoulias' Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Ready campaign – a multi-pronged effort combining public education, updated rider training and legislation designed to modernize Illinois law as the micromobility industry rapidly evolves. From 2019 to 2022, micromobility-related injuries and fatalities surged 300% across the country.

Illinois currently has no laws governing e-bikes and other micromobility devices that exceed 28 mph. Many of these devices have motors that exceed 750 watts and can travel well beyond 28 mph – in some cases over 50 mph.

Illinois will maintain its current three-class e-bike structure, which covers pedal bicycles with electric motor assistance up to 28 mph. Under the proposal, those classifications would remain unchanged except for new age requirements that a rider on a Class 1 or Class 2 must be at least 15 years old.

Under the legislative framework: Riders of e-bikes and e-motos capable of traveling over 28 mph would be required to have a driver's license, title, registration and insurance.

High-speed micromobility devices such as e-scooters, electric skateboards and electric unicycles would be prohibited from operating over 28 mph on roads, bike lanes, bike paths and sidewalks. In addition, riders of any electric micromobility device must be at least 16 years old.

The legislation establishes statewide consistency, replacing the current patchwork of local ordinances that vary widely from one municipality to another.

If signed into law, the bill would take effect on January 1, 2027. E-bikes and e-motos purchased prior to that date would be exempt from the title requirement but must still be registered.

Free Screening For Cancer

Cook County residents over the age of 40, can schedule a free prostate and breast cancer screening during their birthday month.

Call (312) 864-4289 to schedule your appointment.

Commercial Corridor Storefront Activation Program



Through the Commercial Corridor Storefront Activation program (CCSA), the City of Chicago is investing \$30.5 million across 12 commercial corridors over 3 years.

The CCSA program offers reimbursable grants to small businesses and property owners for capital improvements to vacant and existing commercial spaces, as well as wraparound technical assistance at no cost to the corridor businesses.

CCSA Small Business Grant basic eligibility requirements:

- Business owner, property owner, or nonprofit in good standing with State of Illinois and City of Chicago.
- Physical property is located within approved CCSA corridor boundaries.
- Business type must be eligible (see website for list of excluded businesses).
- Applicant has site control (ownership of the property or permission from the property owner to make improvements).

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with grants awarded quarterly until funds are fully dispersed.

Application Info

The first round of applications opens March 31, 2026.

For grant application questions, contact Program Administrator **Allies for Community Business:** granthelp@a4cb.org or (312) 275-3000.

To learn more about no-cost technical assistance or the plans for your corridor, connect with your Corridor Lead agency. Corridors and agencies are listed on the website and on the reverse side of this flyer.



Scan code to visit website.

Visit Chicago.gov/CCSA to learn more and apply.



Allies for Community Business



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

Both Churches are Handicapped 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

April 26, 2026

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

Mandarin Mass, Sunday, April 26, 12:30 PM @ St. Therese

Come and Pray in our Beautiful Churches!



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Sat. 6 a.m. - 12 noon

TOWING SERVICE

Continued from Page 3

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- RODNEY NUNEZ; RACHEL MEJIA; Defendants. 2025CH07577 6741 S Bell Ave, Chicago, IL 60636 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 2/13/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 5/18/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on May 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 6741 S Bell Ave, Chicago, IL 60636 Property Index No. 20-19-303-017-0000 The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$85,066.58 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 6741 S Bell Ave into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(i) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC (561) 241-6901 please refer to file number 25-322590. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 25-322590 Case Number: 2025CH07577 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 13285663

Gamer's Universe Showdown Series

YOUmedia will conduct the Gamer's Universe Showdown Series at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State st. on Saturday, May 23rd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us for Gamer's Universe Showdown Series, our monthly esports celebration leading up to the 2026 edition of Gamer's Universe. The Chicago Teen Gamer's Guild will run monthly tournaments showcasing a variety of competitive games. SquidWest will host Splatoon 3 locals. Participants must bring their switch, copy of the game, headset, and controller. A variety of free-play stations will feature competitive and non-competitive games. Registration is not required for any of the tournaments or activities. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Mario Kart 8 Tournament begins at 12 p.m., and a 2nd tournament will start at 2 p.m.

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, May 16th 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.

McKinley Library Schedules Programs

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

KIDS & FAMILIES

Little Learners Story Time for ages 0 to 5. Join us on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for 30 minutes of songs, movements, and stories. Play time follows. Science Stories in the Park for ages 5 to 12, presented by Shedd Aquarium on Saturday, April 25th, 10 to 11:30 a.m. After nature stories with Ms. Rachel. Shedd educators will lead participants in hands-on activities. Teacher in the Library returns on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Run Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo's annual fundraiser, Run for the Zoo! will be held on Sunday, May 31st. Events include 10K Run, 5K Run/Walk and Kids' Course. The cost is \$24.99+, all ages. Sign up at lpzoo.org.

Back of the Yards Schedules Programs

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

CHILDREN

Little Readers Book Club for ages 4 & up on Thursdays through April 30th from 5 to 6 p.m. Play phonics and word games. Club Create for ages 3 to 13 on Tuesday, April 28th from 6 to 7 p.m. An afternoon program for kids and teens to unleash their creativity.

ADULTS

A Stitch in Time Crochet Club on Tuesday, April 28th from 6 to 7 p.m. "A stitch in time saves nine" inspired this relaxed crochet club.

ALL AGES

Earth Day Celebration and Community Clean Up for all ages on Saturday, April 25th from 2 to 3 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day / Day of the children with a community clean up around the library and fun crafts. Light refreshments will be served. Service hours are available.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Applications For CPS Preschool

Applications for Chicago Public Schools' 2026-27 preschool programs provide high-quality programs for four-year-olds and a limited number of half-day programs for three-year-olds at 372 elementary schools. Families are encouraged to apply online at chicagoearlylearning.com within the first three weeks for the widest selection of options. More information about Preschool programs is available on the District's website www.cps.edu or visit chicagoearlylearning.org to submit an application. Parents may also call the Chicago Early Learning Hotline at (312) 229-1690 for application support in English and Spanish.

Spring Clean Up At Play Garden

The McKinley Community Play Garden, 3518-28 S. Wolcott ave. will conduct a Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are invited to participate.

Spring Events At Newberry Library



Photo provided by Newberry Library

The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton will feature the exhibition "Free and Independent: The Declaration of Independence and the Words that Made the United States" on display in Hanson Gallery through July 18th.

This exhibition, anchored by a rare early copy of the Declaration of Independence, invites visitors to survey the words of the founding document of the United States, to consider some of the surprising ideas behind those words, and to trace their circulation and impact in the age of the American Revolution.

The exhibition "Conceived in Liberty: Cartoons, Caricatures, and Illustrations in the Wartime U.S., 1812-1918" is scheduled from June 11th through Sept. 19th.

Though Americans

grappled with these issues in all times and places, nothing crystallized the tensions around liberty quite like the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln, in his address at the newly dedicated Gettysburg National Cemetery centered his reflection on this very question: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." At the site of so much death and destruction, he wondered whether a nation, "So conceived and so dedicated can long endure."

Join a docent-led building tour to learn about the library's nearly 140-year history.

Shop the used book sale, which offers literary treasures at low prices. Visit newberry.org

Chinatown Library Schedules Programs

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

Game On: Board Game Play for ages 13 & up on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Multilingual Playgroup on Friday, May 1st & 15th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. A bi-weekly playgroup for children, ages 0 to 5 who speak Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese.

Family Game Day for ages 3 & up on Monday, May 4th from 4 to 5 p.m.

Get together to play cards, board games and more.

Family Story Time for ages 0 to 5 on Thursdays April 23rd through May 14th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Support your child's pre-literacy skills through songs, stories and play.

Tween Club on Thursday, May 7th from 4 to 5 p.m. An after-school session to hang out, do homework, participate in a craft, enjoy a snack, or socialize with library friends.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

Church Services

ST. BRUNO CHURCH
48th & Harding
ST. RICHARD CHURCH
50th & Kostner

Mass scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd, St. Bruno, 8 a.m., Misa Diaria; 3 to 6 p.m. Adoration.

Friday, April 24th: St. Richard Church, 8 a.m. Daily Mass; 5 p.m. Adorations and confession; 6 p.m. Polish Mass. Saturday, April 25th, St. Bruno, 8 a.m. Polish Mass, 4 p.m. Confession and 4:30 p.m. English Mass.

Sunday, April 26th, St. Richard Mass: 7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English, 10:30 a.m. Spanish.

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

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Sunday, 10 a.m., Worship Service: the speaker is Kensen Lam who will be continuing our series in Philippians. He will preach Philippians 1:12-26.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., dinner and Bible study. Discussion will be centered on Sunday's sermon topic.

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., AWANA kids clubs (3 yrs. - 6th grade) and Youth Group (7th - 12th grades).

Mother's Day Run & Walk

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a Mother's Day Fun Run & Walk at Dan Ryan Woods, 83rd & Western on Sunday, May 10th at 8 a.m.

Celebrate with family-friendly activities and treats.

For registration, visit fpdcc.com/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.

Family Story Time on Tuesdays through May 26th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for picture books, stories, songs and a simple craft or play time. For children up to 5 years old.

Baby Lapsit Story Time and Play on Wednesdays, May 6th to 27th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie for stories, songs and other fun activities as we practice

literacy skills and build a love for books. For babies up to 18 months and their families. Siblings are welcome.

LEGO Club on Thursdays through May 28th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for families with children age 6 and up.

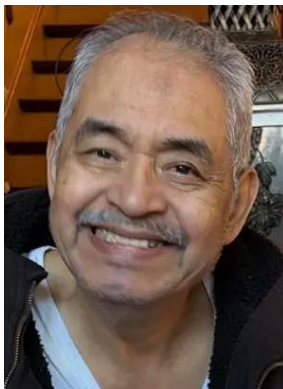
Toddler Time and Play Time on Monday, May 18th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ages 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers will sing songs, read stories and do fun activities to build early literacy skills.

Free Homework Help is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

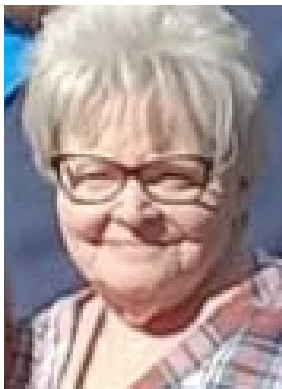
Teen Hideaway on Tuesday, April 28th and Thursdays through April 30th from 5 to 7 p.m. Explore art media, technology, crafts and games.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Obituaries



FRANCISCO ARROYO who was born on Sept. 17th, 1955, passed away on April 16th at the age of 70. Visitation was held Wednesday, April 22nd from 4 to 8 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer. ave., Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director. Visitation and service is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd from 9 to 11 a.m. Interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery, 3401 W. 47th st., Evergreen Park.



GERALDINE F. SAPIKAS (nee Bochen-ski) age 83, life-long McKinley Park resident. Wife of James; mother of Mary and Noreen Sapikas; guardian of Mathew (Megan) Sapikas, great-grandmother of Lily, Aiden and Kendra Sapikas; sister of Norbert (Geri) Sapikas, Joyce, late Richard (Angeline) and late Bernadette Bochen-ski; daughter of late Joseph & late Stella Bochen-ski; sister-in-law of Catherine (James) Duffek, Robert and late George Sapikas. Visitation was held on Saturday, April 18th followed by Mass at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 3745 S. Paulina. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, IL. Arrangements were entrusted to Wollschlager Funeral Home, 3604 S. Hoyne ave.

Free Programs At Architecture Ctr.

The Chicago Architecture Center, 111 E. Wacker Drive will conduct hands-on Architecture & Design programs this summer. Join us for Girls Build! — a free program designed for 6th-8th grade June 8th - 12th at Chicago Architecture Center and July 6th - 10th at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. Through fun, hands-on activities, participants will explore design, creativity and community.

We Build! on July 20th - 24th at the National Public Housing Museum and Aug. 3rd - 7th at the Chicago Architecture Center. Join us for free, hands-on summer camps where 6th-8th grade students are introduced to architecture and design through fun hands-on activities, engaging field trips and dialogue with professional guest speakers.

Register at www.architecture.org/

Tone-Stretch At Park 596

The Chicago Park District will conduct Tone Stretch Balance at Park No. 596, 4830 S. Western ave. on Tuesday, May 7th from 1 to 2 p.m.

May in Motion is a citywide initiative to motivate all ages to get moving. Increase flexibility and range of motion, improve core strength and balance. Participants will transition from standing to mat exercises on the floor. Chair option is available. All fitness levels are welcome.



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

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