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Sunday, May 26, 2024

WEST SIDE TIMES



V. 84 No. 20

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City's Beloved Summertime Traditions Return



The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) announced the lineup for Chicago SummerDance, a beloved summertime tradition and cultural gathering hosted in parks across the city and downtown. From June 15 through September 8 (select dates), the free outdoor series offers dance and movement lessons for all skill levels taught by professional instructors, followed by music and social dancing. Again this year, Chicago Summer Dance's neighborhood events will include a

variety of creative activities for the whole family in addition to dance lessons and music. Full schedule enclosed and available at ChicagoSummerDance.org. This year's SummerDance programming offers several highlights:

- Chicago SummerDance returns to Taste of Chicago events this year, starting with Rogers Park (June 15) offering Vogue, Hip Hop, Swing and Bhangra lessons.
- Chicago SummerDance downtown in the Spirit of Music Garden will kick off August 8 with the Texas-based psychedelic Cumbia band, **Money Chicha** with

dance instruction from **Teatro Tariakuri**. Money Chicha's reverb-drenched and percussion-heavy style of music is inspired by the sounds of Peru and Colombia in the 60s and 70s.

- August 17 is Salsa night in Grant Park with physically integrated dance instruction led by **Desueño Dance** in collaboration with **MOMENTA**, and live music by the popular **Flaco Navaja & the Razor Blades**.

- Taste of Chicago Grant Park (Sept 6-8) will bring

back an array of styles including Footwork, Hustle and Line Dancing, and introduce for the first

time **KPOP** taught by **Chemical X**, along with popular Mexican Regional dance styles led by Ballet

Folklorico de Chicago.
Photo Credit: Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events



Vuelven las Queridas Tradiciones Veraniegas de la Ciudad

El Departamento de Asuntos Culturales y Eventos Especiales (DCASE) anunció el programa de Chicago SummerDance, una querida tradición veraniega y reunión cultural que se celebra en parques de la ciudad y el centro de la ciudad. Desde el 15 de junio hasta el 8 de septiembre (fechas seleccionadas), la serie gratuita al aire libre ofrece lecciones de baile y movimiento para todos los niveles impartidas por instructores profesionales,

seguidas de música y baile social. Nuevamente este año, los eventos vecinales de Chicago Summer Dance incluirán una variedad de actividades creativas para toda la familia, además de lecciones de baile y música. Horario completo adjunto y disponible en ChicagoSummerDance.org. La programación de SummerDance de este año ofrece varios aspectos destacados: •Chicago SummerDance regresa a los eventos Taste

of Chicago este año, comenzando con Rogers Park (15 de junio) que ofrece lecciones de Vogue, Hip Hop, Swing y Bhangra. •Chicago SummerDance en el centro de Spirit of Music Garden comenzará el 8 de agosto con la banda de cumbia psicodélica con sede en Texas, Money Chicha, con instrucción de baile del Teatro Tariakuri. El estilo musical lleno de reverberación y percusión de Money Chicha está inspirado en los sonidos de Perú y Colombia en los



años 60 y 70.

•El 17 de agosto es la noche de salsa en Grant Park con instrucción de baile físicamente integrada dirigida por Desueño Dance en colaboración con MOMENTA y música en vivo del popular Flaco Na-

vaja & the Razor Blades.

•Taste of Chicago Grant Park (del 6 al 8 de septiembre) traerá de vuelta una variedad de estilos que incluyen Footwork, Hustle y Line Dancing, e introducirá por primera vez KPOP impartido por

Chemical X, junto con populares estilos de danza regional mexicana dirigidos por Ballet Folklórico de Chicago.

Crédito de la foto: Departamento de Asuntos Culturales y Eventos Especiales.

Te ofrecemos más que sólo seguros para autos.

Allan Gersonovic

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Chicago's Historic Fine Arts Building Hosts Free Second Fridays Open Studios



On the heels of its 125th anniversary last year, Chicago's historic Fine Arts Building (410 S. Michigan Avenue) presents a monthly showcase of artists throughout the building with its ongoing Second Fridays open studios events, free and open to the public on the second Friday of each month from 5-9 p.m. Upcoming dates are June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13 and Oct. 11, 2024. For

more information, visit fineartsbuilding.com/second-fridays. The Fine Arts Building is a home for art in all forms. Second Fridays open studios feature artists and creatives across disciplines, from opera and puppetry to visual art, literature, jewelry and design. Additionally, historic exhibits *Art Alone Endures* and *Staging Ground* (5th Floor) share stories of the artists and companies

that have called the Fine Arts Building home over the past 125 years. Both the building and historic exhibits are open to the public seven days per week—but Second Fridays offer a unique opportunity to experience the artistic vibrancy of the Fine Arts Building and meet the artists and craftspeople who inhabit Chicago's premier artistic landmark. For more information, visit fineartsbuilding.com.



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This Memorial Day, let us bow our heads in silence to remember and honor the sacrifices of hundreds of men and women who gave their lives for the country.

En este Día de los Caídos, inclinemos la cabeza en silencio para recordar y honrar los sacrificios de cientos de hombres y mujeres que dieron sus vidas por el país.

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2023 Population Estimates for the City of Chicago



The City's challenge to the 2020 Census counts resulted in the identification of 5,547 people living in uncounted group quarters in Chicago and was approved by the Census Bureau in November 2023. The City's challenge to its 2022 population estimate resulted in an upward revision of over 7,600 to Chicago's 2022 population estimate and was announced this February. The City of Chicago will continue to work with the Census Bureau to ensure that its population is accurately represented in official statistics, including these new estimates, ensuring that Chicago residents receive their fair share of funding and that services are available to residents where they need them to be.

The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2023 population estimates for the City of Chicago. Ensuring the accuracy of the population estimates for Chicago remains a priority effort for the City, and we will continue to work with the Census Bureau towards that goal. The Covid-19 pandemic was a highly disruptive time period with population shifts occurring throughout the United States. Like other big cities,

Chicago was impacted by the large drop in net international migration at the onset of the pandemic and its population counts were further impacted by incomplete counts for residents of the City living in group quarters. For these 2023 population estimates, it is likely that the data inputs are not current enough to reflect the rebound of international migration and the recent inflow of asylum seekers.

Safety Tips for Pets During Cicada Season

The Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control (ARC) urges pet owners to take special precautions to protect the health and welfare of their pets this spring and summer as two different groups of periodic cicadas emerge simultaneously. This natural phenomenon hasn't taken place in more than 200 years, as billions of cicadas are expected to emerge in Illinois in late May or early June. ARC offers the following tips for pet owners to keep in mind: **Cicadas can startle pets:** Cicadas do not bite or sting, are not toxic to pets and are not known to carry diseases, so interactions are generally safe. However, the noise, size and movements of cicadas may be startling to some pets. If a pet seems scared, owners should try to direct them to an area with less cicadas like a comfortable



and quiet place inside the home to relax. **Keep your pet on a leash:** In Cook County, dogs must be leashed when outdoors unless in a designated, dog-friendly area. Keeping pets on a leash could prevent a startled pet from accidentally getting away as well as help to prevent overconsumption of insects, bites, cuts or other hazards. **Monitor cicada consumption:** While cicadas aren't toxic to pets, gastrointestinal upset can occur if a pet consumes too many cicadas or their discarded

"shells" (exoskeletons). Intestinal obstruction or perforation could occur as exoskeletons move through the gastrointestinal tract, particularly if a small pet consumes many cicadas in a short period of time. Owners should monitor their pets outside to be sure they are not consuming too many cicadas. If a pet starts experiencing vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite or excessive drooling, owners should seek veterinary care. If your pet appears to be in distress, contact your veterinarian for further guidance.

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IDPH Reports Discovery of First Two Rabid Bats of 2024



With the weather warming up, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is warning the public to beware of wild animals that may carry rabies, especially bats, as they become more active this time of year. The warning follows the discovery since May 10 of the first two rabid bats of 2024 in the state in Cook and Will counties, IDPH said. IDPH is also reminding the public to make sure that rabies vaccinations are up to date for pets and any valuable livestock and horses for which a rabies vaccine is available. If a pet is exposed to a high-risk wild animal – such

as a bat, skunk, raccoons, fox or coyote – pet owners should immediately contact a veterinarian for advice. If you have been bitten by any animal, seek immediate medical attention. Bite wounds can become infected and if the animal is high risk for rabies, preventive treatment, must begin quickly. The following tips can help prevent the spread of rabies:

- Do not touch, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.

- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick, wild animals to health.

Call animal control or an animal rescue agency for assistance.

- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. “Love your own, leave other animals alone” is a good principle for children to learn to reduce the risk of exposures to rabid animals.
- Maintain homes and other buildings so bats cannot get inside.

Steps you can take to capture the bat are:

- When the bat lands, approach it slowly, while wearing gloves, and place a box or coffee can over it.

- Slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside.

- Tape the cardboard to the container securely, and punch small holes in the cardboard, allowing the bat to breathe.

CDC Releases Guidance for Preventing Spread of Infections in Schools

CDC released consolidated, evidence-based guidance for preventing the spread of infections in K-12 schools. The guidance includes everyday actions that schools can take to prevent and control the spread of respiratory and stomach viruses, such as influenza and norovirus, and bacterial illness, such as strep throat. This guidance is designed to maximize school attendance and its benefits for all students, while also preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Being in school provides many benefits, including ongoing learning and social and emotional development. This guidance is being released for consideration for the



2024 – 2025 school year. As school administrators are closing out the current school year and planning for the new school year in the fall, CDC is providing the guidance now to ensure it can be part of those back-to-school preparations. The strategies found in the new guidance are based on research and expertise CDC gained from decades of working to prevent disease transmission in school settings. They include:

- Teach and reinforce proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

- Take steps for cleaner air by improving ventilation in schools. Schools should consider ventilation enhancements and design when undergoing remodeling or when undertaking new building construction to optimize clean air.

- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect, when appropriate.

- Promote vaccinations for students and staff.

Disfruta el verano responsablemente.

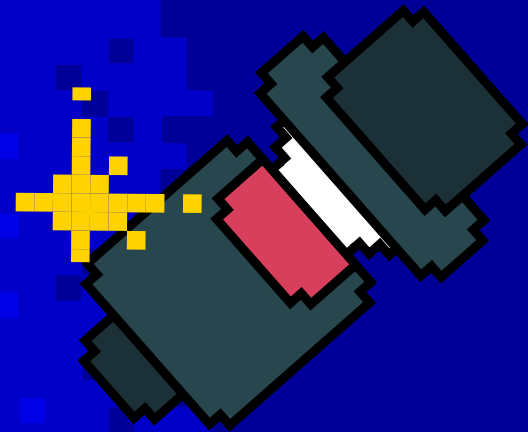


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Sheriff Dart Calls for Increased Funding for Law Enforcement to Address the Growing Number of Non-Compliant Revoked FOID Card Cases

Nearly three out of every four revoked FOID card holders have either not accounted for their firearms or returned their FOID cards, according to a new report compiled by the Cook County Sheriff's Office. According to the report, of the more than 39,000 people in Cook County who have their Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card revoked, 68 percent (about 27,000) have not accounted for their guns or turned in their FOID cards as required by law. Statewide data is even more disturbing. Of the approximate 112,000 revoked FOID cardholders, 74 percent (about 84,000)

are not compliant. Making matters worse, the report found that in Cook County, between April 1, 2022, and December 30, 2023, the backlog of 24,000 non-compliant FOID card holders increased to more than 27,000. This pattern is not limited to Cook County. Statewide, the backlog of non-compliant revoked FOID card holders increased by more than 1,000 from October 2023 through February 2024, according to the Office's analysis of Illinois State Police data. Among the most common reasons for FOID revocations are felony convictions, mental health concerns, and orders of

protection. In 2013, Sheriff Dart created a Gun Team to retrieve FOID cards and guns. As a result, there is no backlog of cases in unincorporated Cook County or Ford Heights where the Sheriff's Office patrols. To date, the team has worked nearly 9,200 revoked FOID cases, resulting in the recovery of more than 4,050 revoked FOID cards and more than 1,300 guns, as well as the safe transfer of more than 3,000 firearms. However, cities, towns, and villages in Cook County struggle to keep up with revoked FOID cards. A few jurisdictions have been able to stay on top of the growing FOID revocations, but the vast



majority have no personnel to do this work. It is clear that unless there is an infusion of state money, communities across the state will never be able to catch up. Sheriff Dart also called on lawmakers to pass

HB 5442, a bill sponsored by State Representative Bob Morgan (IL-58), that would increase the Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP) fee to \$10. FTIP is operated by the Illinois State Police

and uses firearm dealers to perform background checks on potential buyers. The \$2 fee has not changed since 1992, and the increase would provide an additional estimated \$1.44 million.

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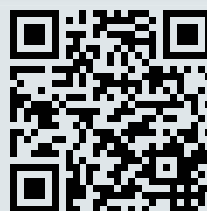
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