

Sunday Edition



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LAWNDALE
NEWS



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WEST SIDE TIMES

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ESTABLISHED 1940

Tourism Growth in 2023

ANNOUNCING:

Record Tourism Growth in 2023



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Tourism announced Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitors who spent \$47 billion in 2023 – an increase of 1 million visitors and \$3 billion

in spending from 2022, according to data provided by Tourism Economics. This surge in tourism also led to a new all-time high in hotel tax revenue figures in FY24, totaling \$322 million—a 4.5% increase over the previous record set in FY23. In 2023, leisure travelers spent more time

exploring Illinois, with overnight leisure stays increasing by 4.3 percent statewide. The city of Chicago, in particular, saw an impressive 19.6% rise in overnight visitors, further highlighting the state's appeal as a premier destination

for both domestic and international tourists. As a result of tourist spending and visits in 2023, the overall economic impact – which includes indirect and induced impacts – amounted to \$83 billion, which is a 6.4% increase from 2022 figures.

State hotel tax revenue collections are provided by the Illinois Department of Revenue, representing all taxable revenue from hotels, motels and lodging establishments across Illinois. In 2023, visitor spending generated \$4.6 billion in state and local tax revenue, according

to Tourism Economics. This boost in revenue has stimulated various sectors of the state's economy while directly supporting 278,200 jobs in the state's tourism and hospitality industry, an increase of 7,600 jobs from 2022.



DNC Highlights



Caption by Ashmar Mandou

The stage on Chicago's United Center was lit up with blue lights and filled with enthusiastic spectators to hear their favorite officials talk

about important issues in this coming election. As the Democratic National Convention comes to end in Chicago and here we highlight a few Vice President Kamala Harris' surprise appearance:

"Joe, thank you for your historic leadership, for your lifetime of service to our nation, and for all you will continue to do, we are forever grateful to you," said Harris of Biden, who spoke at the DNC late Monday. Other speakers



included former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and United Automobile Workers president Shawn Fain. **President Joe Biden speaks at DNC:** President Biden during his Aug. 19 DNC speech said: "We're facing an inflection

point, one of those rare moments in history when the decisions we make now will determine the fate of our nation and the world for decades to come. ... We're in a battle for the very soul of America." **Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**

makes appearance: Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her Aug. 19 speech praised Harris, thanked President Biden for being "democracy's champion" and taunted Trump.



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Diversión de Fin de Verano para todas las Edades en la Ópera Lírica de Chicago



Termina el verano con una nota alta con el primer Art-See Jamboree de la Ópera Lírica de Chicago el domingo 25 de agosto, de 11 a. m. a 2 p. m. El Art-See Jamboree es un evento gratuito para niños que lo tiene todo: arte, lectura, música, obsequios y más. Los invitados pueden disfrutar de pasar el día

con sus seres queridos antes del evento anual Sunday in the Park with Lyric la misma noche en el Jay Pritzker Pavilion en Millennium Park. Todas las actividades del Art-See Jamboree se llevarán a cabo bajo la carpa del evento ubicada al este del pabellón, hacia el lago. El Art-See Jamboree ofrece

actividades divertidas para todas las edades. A partir de las 11:30 a. m., la narradora Jasmin Cardenas presentará una interpretación de Frida Kahlo y la niña más valiente del mundo de Laurence Anholt en varios horarios durante el evento, incluidas las 12 p. m., la 1 p. m. y la 1:30 p. m. Los visitantes también

pueden participar en un sorteo para ganar una copia del libro. Estas sesiones de narración de cuentos brindarán un adelanto de la próxima gira de presentaciones de la ópera basada en el libro, que es

parte del programa Opera in the Neighborhoods de Lyric. Para obtener más información sobre el programa Opera in the Neighborhoods y entradas para presentaciones públicas, a partir del 12 de

octubre, visite lyricopera.org/frida. Para obtener más información sobre Art-See Jamboree y Sunday in the Park con Lyric, visite lyricopera.org/millennium. **Crédito de la fotografía: Ópera Lírica de Chicago**

End-of-Summer Fun for All Ages at Lyric Opera of Chicago's

End summer on a high note with Lyric Opera of Chicago's first-of-its-kind *Art-See Jamboree* on Sunday, August 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Art-See Jamboree* is a free child-oriented event that has it all—art, reading, music, giveaways, and more. Guests can enjoy spending the day with loved ones before the annual *Sunday in the Park with Lyric* event the same evening in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. All of the *Art-See Jamboree* activities will

take place under the event tent located just east of the Pavilion, toward the lake. *Art-See Jamboree* offers fun activities for all ages. Starting at 11:30 a.m., storyteller Jasmin Cardenas will present an interpretation of *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World* by Laurence Anholt at various times throughout the event, including 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. Visitors can also enter a raffle to win a copy of the book. These storytelling sessions will give a sneak peek into the

upcoming performance tour of the opera based on the book, which is part of Lyric's *Opera in the Neighborhoods* program. For more information on the *Opera in the Neighborhoods* program and for tickets to public performances, beginning October 12, please visit lyricopera.org/frida. To learn more about *Art-See Jamboree* and *Sunday in the Park with Lyric*, visit lyricopera.org/millennium.

Photo Credit: Lyric Opera of Chicago

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Elmhurst Art Museum Presents Fall Exhibition Rafael Blanco: Reflection on a Decade of Public Art

The Elmhurst Art Museum presents the first solo museum exhibition of muralist Rafael Blanco, whose work can be found in cities from California to Maryland breathing new life into high-visibility, urban spaces. Through photographs, video timelapses, documentary footage, and a series of new, original paintings, the exhibition will introduce the viewer to Blanco's revelatory artistic journey. A highlight of the exhibition is large-scale, site-specific works transforming the museum's galleries into a landscape filled with color, texture, and the serendipity of discovering public art in the wild. For this exhibition, Blanco resurrects previously rejected public art

maintaining one's own identity. The exhibition will feature a map showcasing the locations of Blanco's works across the US. Near the museum, Blanco's 32' x 190' -foot mural declaring "Be Bold" is on the wall of Elmhurst University's R.A. Fagnel Hall, facing north on Park Avenue west of Prospect Avenue. The first mural in the city of Elmhurst, *Be Bold* serves as both inspiration and call to action. With gratitude to exhibition Presenting Sponsor: Wintrust Bank, with support from Tom Watson and Mary Cunningham Family Charitable Fund, Illinois Arts Council, Discover DuPage, and Enjoy Illinois.

Photo Credit: Elmhurst Museum



proposals, allowing the public to see them for the first time. Rafael Blanco: Reflecting on a Decade of Public Art takes place at the Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 South Cottage Hill Avenue, from September 7, 2024 to January 5, 2025. Born in Spain and based in Aurora, Illinois, Blanco's work is deeply influenced by his immigrant experience and the beauty of embracing a new country while

Un Robo de Auto en un Suburbio de Chicago lleva a una Sentencia de 15 años de Prisión Federal



Un hombre que robó un vehículo en un suburbio de Chicago y disparó contra un oficial de policía que lo perseguía ha sido sentenciado a 15 años de prisión federal. David Johnson robó un vehículo en Orland Park, Illinois, el 12 de febrero de 2021. La víctima estaba sentada en su auto en la calle afuera de su casa cuando Johnson se acercó, apuntó con un arma a la cabeza de la víctima y le exigió la

llave. Johnson robó el vehículo y llevó a la policía a una persecución a alta velocidad hasta Chicago, donde se estrelló contra otro auto en el vecindario Morgan Park de la ciudad. Johnson luego huyó a pie y disparó contra un oficial de policía de Oak Forest que lo perseguía. Los oficiales de policía de Chicago arrestaron a Johnson poco tiempo después. En el momento del robo de auto, Johnson estaba en

libertad supervisada por el tribunal luego de su encarcelamiento por un delito federal previo de armas de fuego. Johnson, de 27 años y residente de Chicago, se declaró culpable a principios de este año de cargos federales de robo de vehículos y posesión de armas de fuego. El juez de distrito de EE. UU. Thomas M. Durkin impuso la sentencia el jueves durante una audiencia en un tribunal federal de Chicago.

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Edly-Allen Law to Expand Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

State Senator Mary Edly-Allen passed a new law to fill gaps in current breast cancer screening coverage to ensure that all Illinoisans are able to receive screening that accurately detects breast cancer. "We must ensure we are putting people's health over profit, and require insurance plans to cover all medically necessary tests – not just the bare minimum," said Edly-Allen (D-Libertyville). "Unfortunately, insurance companies may deny further testing that is needed beyond a mammogram. This lack of testing can lead to life-threatening situations for those who cannot afford additional tests." In Illinois, insurers must cover mammography screenings for women ages 35 and older. Under the new law, all health insurance plans, including Medicaid, must cover magnetic



resonance imaging (MRI) and molecular breast imaging (MBI) if medically necessary, or if a mammogram shows heterogeneous or dense breast tissue, so that all plans align. "If we are committed to making healthcare available to everyone, effective breast cancer screenings have to be part of the effort. However, millions

of patients with dense breasts are being forced to live with screening options that don't work for them. For the health of those patients, medical coverage must expand to include Molecular Breast Imaging," said State Representative Nabeela Syed (D-Palatine). House Bill 4180 was signed into law Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2026.

Lisa Hernández Elogia Nueva ley que Elimina Impuesto a Comestibles



Una medida respaldada por la representante estatal Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernández, D-Cicero, que reduciría costos en la tienda de comestibles y ahorraría más dinero a los contribuyentes, se convirtió en ley el lunes 5 de agosto. "Muchos en nuestra comunidad hacen viajes regulares y diarios a la tienda de comestibles para abastecer sus estantes y llenar los estómagos de

sus hijos, pero pagan por ello con altas facturas de comestibles", dijo Hernández. "En nuestro presupuesto más reciente, hicimos avances significativos para reducir los costos de atención médica, cuidado infantil y vivienda, pero esta legislación tendrá el impacto inmediato y profundo que nuestras comunidades deberían esperar. El impuesto estatal a los

comestibles es, en el mejor de los casos, anticuado y, en el peor, perjudicial para los más vulnerables. Estoy orgullosa de decir que este impuesto ahora es cosa del pasado ". Illinois ha sido uno de los 13 estados que impone un impuesto estatal a los comestibles del 1%. Trabajando en estrecha colaboración con minoristas y líderes del gobierno municipal, Hernández aprobó el Proyecto de Ley de la Cámara de Representantes 3144, que eliminará el impuesto estatal. Las ciudades, pueblos y aldeas recibirán recursos estatales adicionales para compensar el cambio. La eliminación del impuesto a los alimentos entrará en vigor el 1 de enero de 2026, lo que les dará tiempo a los municipios para planificar.

Obtén el apoyo que necesitas en el colegio universitario de tu comunidad.

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Austin Harvest, the youth-led fresh produce market on Chicago's west side, Opens Permanent Building to Serve Local Community Year-Round



By The Hand Club For Kids opened the doors on a permanent home

for its youth-led produce market, Austin Harvest, located at 423 N. Laramie

Ave on Chicago's west side. Austin Harvest's permanent building—

supported by partnerships with Jewel-Osco and Flowers for Dreams—will support year-round access to fresh produce and flowers for residents of Chicago's west side while creating immersive entrepreneurship experiences for students from By The Hand Club. Austin Harvest is mission-driven and entirely student-led. By The Hand Club high school students from neighboring CPS schools are responsible for all aspects of operations, including budgeting, ordering, and staffing and inventory management. Students receive an

educational stipend for their work as well as valuable business, marketing and customer service skills they can leverage in their future careers. Mentorship and collaboration with leadership at Jewel-Osco provide students the resources they need to successfully run their business while positively impacting the Austin community. Austin Harvest's permanent building features 2,200 square-feet of space and an open-air patio that serves as a community gathering space. The new building is equipped with state-of-the-art refrigeration units,

enabling the students to offer a broader selection of produce and seasonal offerings while reducing costs. Austin Harvest will operate Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and students will continue hosting a variety of special events and pop-ups to engage the neighborhood throughout the year. For the latest news, information and calendar of events, please follow Austin Harvest on Instagram (@austinharvestfreshmarket). **Photo Credit: By The Hand Club for Kids**



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Dear Illinoisans,

You may have seen news stories or social media posts announcing changes to how real estate commissions work. Some of what you've read and heard is fact, some is fiction.

Illinois REALTORS® represents the 50,000 licensed, professional REALTORS® throughout the state, and we want to take this opportunity to set the record straight and fully explain the changes.

Historically, the way a real estate agent has been paid has always been negotiable. In some cases, agents are paid directly by their buyer or seller client. However, in other cases, an agent may be paid indirectly, with the broker for the seller "sharing" a portion of their compensation with the buyer's broker.

Until now, brokers have communicated the amount of shared compensation on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). This is the platform where your broker will list your property and that feeds information to all the various real estate sites you're used to seeing.

This competitive and highly efficient process has helped many buyers to obtain professional representation and to realize their dream of homeownership. State governments across the nation have long recognized this lawful process as good for consumers and that it promotes fair housing and housing access for more people.

Recently, class action attorneys targeted this practice of sharing compensation in lawsuits against the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), as well as a number of real estate firms and individual REALTORS® throughout the country. Illinois REALTORS® members are members of NAR. The class action attorneys argued that buyers should pay their broker out of their own pockets exclusively.

Earlier this year, NAR reached a settlement with these class action attorneys, negotiating to retain consumer protections and options. The settlement also provides two industry practice changes, including:

- (1) Beginning on August 17, 2024, brokers will stop including shared compensation information on the MLS. Shared compensation will still be allowed, it just cannot be communicated on the MLS platform. Instead, brokers will communicate this information, in writing, privately or on their own websites. The amount of compensation will remain negotiable, as it's always been.
- (2) Also, beginning August 17th, all buyers who are working with a REALTOR® will be required to have a written agreement detailing the work the broker will do for them, the rate of compensation and how it will be paid. Illinois REALTORS® has long provided and encouraged the use of these written agreements to protect everyone in the transaction.

Buying a home is often the largest, most significant financial transaction of your life. That is why it's so important to have a trusted professional help you. REALTORS® subscribe to a strict Code of Ethics and are market experts trained to help guide you in everything from setting up the appointments, to negotiating the offer, to organizing inspections, and coordinating the closing on your home.

Over the coming weeks, you're certain to read or hear more about these industry changes. You may even receive a postcard in the mail from attorneys claiming to be involved in the lawsuits. For REALTORS® in Illinois, our highest priorities will always be fairness and transparency in every transaction and access to homeownership for EVERYONE. Today, we are emboldened to continue to be the strongest advocate for the buyers and sellers we serve every day.

Through every economic high or low and with every technological change, REALTORS® have been there to support their customers and communities, our state and nation.

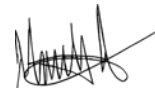
For more than 100 years, Illinois REALTORS® has been there to help you achieve the American Dream of homeownership. Through every economic high or low and with every technological change, REALTORS® have been there to support their customers and communities, our state and nation. This period will be no different and you will continue to be able to rely upon your REALTOR® to be your trusted advisor in your next home sale or purchase.

For more information, visit www.IllinoisRealtors.org/Consumers or contact your local REALTOR®.

Sincerely,



Jeff Baker
CEO



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