Sat., Aug.1, 7-10pm, movie begins at 8pm
Dive-In Theater
Deerfield: 847-945-0650 dfpd.org
Mitchell Pool. Bring your inner tube or noodle & watch a movie on a 10-foot screen from the water. No fee & no registration required. The concession stand will be open & popcorn is Free!

Sat., Aug. 1, 9am-noon
Annual Fishing Derby
Downers Grove: 630-963-1300 dgparks.org
Barth Pond in Patriot Park, 55th St. Prizes are awarded for the shortest &longest fish caught by each age category. A fishing license is required for age 16 +. Bring your friends have some "reel" fun! Free

Sat., Aug. 1, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Soapstone Carving
Elmhurst: 630-833-1616
Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, 220 Cottage Hill. Learn the basics from blocking out a design to final polish. Take home a carving of your own creation. All materials are included. Ages 9 yrs-adult. $15/person. Reservations Required.

Sat., Aug. 1, 8am check-in, 9am start
Kids' Bike and Run
Highland Park: 847-579.4554 pdhp.org
Sunset Woods Park, 1801 Sunset Rd. Age groups: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 & 11-12. Distances: Ages 5-8, .9 mile bike & .3 mile run; Ages 9-12, 1.8 mile bike & .6 mile run. $10/15.

Fri.-Sun., July 31-Aug. 2, All Day
Busy Brains at the Lake County Fair
Grayslake: 224-381-0138 busybrains.org
Lake County Fairgrounds, 1060 E. Peterson Rd. Busy Brains will offer traveling exhibits for children up to age 10 in art, science and humanities. Exhibits available for birthday parties events.

Sat., Aug. 1, 10am-4pm
Kidzfest
Joliet: 815-723-5201
Downtown. Designed for kids up to age 12. Highlights include activity zones that invite kids to interact, hands on including Science & Technology, Art & Imagination. Live entertainment on the stage throughout the day.

Sat., Aug. 1, 5pm doors open, 6pm performance start
The Taming of the Shrew
Naperville: 630- 420-6010 napervillesummernights.com
Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St. Pack a picnic & relax under the open sky & enjoyable the performance. Bring blankets & lawn chairs; limited food & drink vendors on site. $15/advance, $20/door.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 1-2, noon-5pm
Baseball & Barbershop
Rockford: 815- 397-9112 midwayvillage.com
Midway Village Museum, 6799 Guilford Rd. Huzzah! Lay the willow on that onion! Barbershop quartets will be strolling up & down the Midway Village streets all day while the Midway Marauders Vintage Base Ball Club take on five other vintage teams in a weekend of non-stop base ball. $8/adults, $4 children (3 to 17).

Sat., Aug. 1, 8:30am-1:30pm
All Village Garage Sale
Woodridge: 630-353-3300 woodridgeparks.org
8115 Woodridge Dr. Come early for the great prices on hidden treasures at Woodridge's biggest garage sale of the year. Interested in having a seller table at the garage sale? Visit online for fee & registration information."

Sun., Aug. 2, 2pm
A Visit With Local Authors
Deerfield: 847-945-3311 deerfieldlibrary.org
Deerfield Public Library, 920 Waukegan Rd. Come meet Brenda Ferber, author of Julia's Kitchen; Charlotte Herman, author of the Max Malone series, My Chocolate Year, & more; Jenny Meyerhoff, author of Third Grade Baby; and Ruth Spiro, author of Lester Fizz, Bubble-gum artist. Registration begins 6/29. FREE

Sun., Aug. 2, 1:30-3pm
Smoothies and Energy Drinks Workshop
Glenview: 847-971-0268 youngchefsacademy.com
Young Chef's Academy, Glenbrook Market Place, 2825A Pfingsten Rd.. Treat your body good. Come in & create a cool fruity drink & an energy snack on a hot day. Workshop: $20.

Sun., Aug. 2, 7am start
The 2nd Annual Lake County Triathlon
Lake Zurich: 847-540-3177 lakecountytriathlon.com
Paulus Park, 200 S Rand Rd. Participants enjoy a beautiful course to swim, bike, & run through the beautiful city of Lake Zurich. Includes sprint & olympic distances. $85.00 . Ages 16+.

Sun., Aug. 2, 11:30am-7pm
Grandparents Day
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park. 433 E. St. Charles Rd. Enjoy water slides, drop slides, a zero-depth leisure pool, an enclosed tot pool, spouts, fountains & more. All grandparents are admitted free when bringing at least one paying grandchild. See website for daily admission fees.

Sun., Aug. 2, 8am-2pm
I Tried A Triathlon!
Montgomery: 630-554-1010 oswegolandparkdistrict.org
Civic Center, 5 Ashlawn Ave. Rookie triathletes will love this event! Swim 250 yards, bike six miles, & run two miles. T-shirt & ribbon included.$26 . Ages 9+.

Sun., Aug. 2, 6pm
Concert In The Park with Ken Dix & The Soda Jerks
Mt. Prospect: 847-392-2277 capannaris.com
Capannari Ice Cream, 10 S. Pine St. Bring your blanket, picnic basket & enjoy a wonderful evening with great music! Free.

Sun., Aug. 2, Tee Times begin at 11:00 am
Parent & Child Golf Outing
Niles: 847- 967-6633 niles-parks.org
Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, 6700 Howard St. Have a great time golfing & catching up with each other. Then enjoy a delicious lunch. Riding carts included. Res $55; Non-Res $69, per couple. Ages 7+.

Sun., Aug. 2, 2:45-9pm
Trip to Ravinia Festival
Palatine: 847-359.2400 buehlerymca.org
Buehler YMCA/Ravinia Festival, 1400 W. Northwest Hwy. We're off to Ravinia for a picnic in the park! The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, will perform works by Shubert & Strauss. Price includes transportation, admission, box dinner, & chair. Register by 7/29. $40/member, $60/non-member..

Sun., Aug. 2, 1-4pm
The Secret Garden at the Kruse House
West Chicago: 630-231-1791
The Kruse House Museum, 527 Main St. Visitors will stroll through history that has literally been unearthed & restored to its former glory. Refreshments served. Free.

Sun., Aug. 2, 9am-6pm
Flea Market on the Farm
Wood Dale: 630-595-0790 joannehosek@gmail.com
Yesterday's Farm Museum, 850 N. Wood Dale Rd. There will be approximately 60 booths selling anything from antiques and collecticles to garage sale items.

Mon., Aug. 3-7, 9am-11:30am
Great Big and Tiny
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St. From building with giant shapes to painting with tiny brushes, your child will become an explorer in the world of size & scale. Advance registration required; $159 member/$189 nonmember. Age 3-5.

Mon.-Thur., Aug. 3-6, 9:30am-10:30am
Computer Explorers
Oakbrook Terrace: 630- 627-6100 obtpd.org
Heritage Park ,1 S 325 Ardmore Ave. COMPUTER EXPLORERS provides fun & educational technology classes to children ages 3+. Our classes allow students to learn about technology in unique and creative ways. $42 R/$47 NR.

Tue., Aug. 4, 5:30-8:30pm
National Night Out
Arlington Heights: ahpd.org
North School Park, 500 E. Miner St. Step outside & spend an evening with friends & neighbors. Organize block parties, picnics, get to know one another, attend National Night Out! Free

Tue., Aug. 4, 6-8:30pm
National Night Out Against Crime
Barrington: 847-381-0687 barringtonparkdistrict.org
Citizens Park, 511 Lake Zurich Rd. There will be free child ID badges & fingerprinting, free women's self-defense demonstration, ADT alarm detection, Illinois State Police, Operation Life Saver, FEMA Trailer, & a free concert featuring "The Runaways" band.Free.

Tue., Aug. 4, 10am
Parent Connection Welcome Coffee
Crystal Lake: 815-425-3766
https://bigtent.com/groups/connection
Woodscreek Park, 1416 Willow Tree Dr. Open to anyone interested in learning more about the group. Children welcome! A fun social & support network connecting families with young children. Free.

Tue., Aug. 4, 1-3pm
Create a Comic Book Character
Elmhurst: 630-833-1457 elmhursthistory.org
Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 E. Park Ave. Kids can channel their inner super heroes all summer long with this fun family craft program. Drop in each week for a different comic book-themed craft. $2/project.

Tue., Aug. 4, 6-8pm
National Night Out
Glendale Heights: 630-260-0018 glendaleheights.org
Sports Hub, 250 Civic Center Plaza. Enjoy an evening out with your neighbors, friends, members of the police force, & other agencies in their crime & drug prevention efforts for hands-on police related activities & demonstrations for the entire family! Free

Tue., Aug. 4, 6-8:30pm
National Night Out
South Elgin: 847-622-0003 southelgin.com
Concord Park. The event is designed to heighten crime &drug prevention awareness in the community. Free

Tue., Aug. 4, 5-9pm
National Night Out
Yorkville: 630-553-4340 nationaltownwatch.org/nno/
Town Square Park, Rt. 47 & Main St. Help the Yorkville Police Department & Citizens Police Academy Alumni promote crime & drug prevention with demonstrations, food, games & prizes. Free!

Wed.-Thur., Aug. 5-6, 9:30-11am & 1-3pm
Barrington: 847-381-6592
Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Rd. Looking for summer adventure? Come explore the woodland, wetland and grassland habitats of Crabtree Nature Center. Registration is required. Ages 5-8.

Wed., Aug. 5, 3-7pm
Gary Kantor Magic Show
Grayslake:grayslakefarmersmarket.com
At the Grayslake Farmer's Market. Center St. & Slusser St.

Wed., Aug. 5, 10:30am
X-Games Medalist, Matt Wilhelm
Palatine: 847-202-5222 palatineparks.org/boxoffice.html
Community Center Gym, 250 E. Wood St. BMX World Champion Matt Wilhelm performs amazing bike stunts while educating children about bicycle safety, goal setting, & becoming a champion. For tickets, call 847-202-5222 or visit online. $5

Wed.'s, Aug. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 8pm
Midweek Movies at Meineke
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Meineke Park, 220 E. Weathersfield Way. Pay only $1 & enjoy an outdoor movie on the big screen. Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. Concessions will be sold. Aug. 5 - TwilightAug. 12 - Ferris Bueller's Day Off Aug. 19 - National Treasure: Book of Secrets Aug. 26 - Cars.

Thur.-Sun., Aug. 6-9
St. Zachary Parish Augustfest
Des Plaines: 847-956-7020 saintzachary.org
567 W Algonquin Rd. Free entertainment nightly on the main stage, bingo, raffles, children's games, classic car show & carnival rides for the whole family. Casino open Fri-Sun including a Texas Hold 'Em tournament

Thur.-Sun., Aug. 6-9
Romeofest 2009
Village of Romeoville: 815-886-6222 romeoville.org
900 W. Romeo Rd. RomeoFest 2009 is fun for all ages & includes live music, carnival, children's entertainment, food, fireworks & more! Call for an event schedule. Free.

Thur.'s, Aug. 6, Aug. 20, dusk
Movie in the Park
Bartlett:
Bartlett Park, Oak and North Ave. 8/6: "Ghostbusters" is preceded by Business Showcase beginning at 6pm. 8/20 : Alice in Wonderland". Free.

Thur., Aug. 6, 7-9pm
Geneva Ghost Walking Tour
Geneva: 630-232-4951 genevahistorycenter.org
Geneva History Center, 113 s. 3rd St. A guided walk through the streets of haunted Geneva. You will hear a few old favorite tales as well as some new stories recently unearthed. The walk will take place rain or shine. $5/member, student, $10/non-members

Thur., Aug. 6, 8-10pm
Family Dive-In Movie Night
Park Ridge: 847-692-5127 prparks.org
Hinkley Pool, 25 Busse Hwy. Bring the family andtake a dip while you watch a family favorite on our big screen and enjoy a beautiful summer night. Preregistration is required. $6 res., $13 non-res.

Thur.,Aug. 6, 10am-2pm
Back to School Bazaar Fundraiser
Wheeling 847-229-0400 nibblesplaycafe.com
Nibbles' Play Cafe, 13 Huntingon Lane. Get ready for the upcoming year. Vendors, including Kidoodles, Usborne Books, Discovery Toys, & more showcasing their get back to school items. Proceeds benefit organizations that provide free school supplies in our area.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 7-8, 7-8:30pm Fri, 1-2:30pm Sat
Protect & Grow your Money in this Economy
Des Plaines: 847-337-8321 billeon.net
Billeon Financial Group, Inc., 1111 E. Touhy Ave. Learn how to make your money work hard for you! Learn the power in life insurance, the choices for college funding, & the newest & safe way to save for retirement. Kids, family & friends welcome. There will be NO SELLING, just good honest advice so you can protect & grow your money!

Fri., Aug. 7, 10am-4pm
Gallery Exhibit: Digging up the Past
Naperville: 630- 420-6010 napersettlement.museum
Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St. Learn about Naperville's early history & founding family as told through the discovery of exciting & unique artifacts. Exhibit is included w/admission. $8 /adult, $7/senior, $5.50/youth 4-17.

Fri., Aug. 7, 7-9 pm
Dive-In Movie-Madagascar Escape 2 Africa
Oak Brook: 630-645-9590 obparks.org
Oak Brook Family Rec Center, 1450 Forest Gate Rd. Float in the pool on your own raft or noodle while watching a movie on the big screen! No registration required. $2/R, $5/NR, members free.

Fri., Aug. 7, 7pm
Flick and Float Night
Schaumburg: 847- 985-2143 parkfun.com
Bock Pool, 1223 W. Sharon Lane. For District 54 & parochial school students entering fourth-sixth grades in Aug. Games, music, prizes and more are all part of the fun.$15, Pre-registration is mandatory.

Fri., Aug. 7, Dusk
Movie in the Park in Springfield
Springfield: 217-544-1751 springfieldparks.org
Springfield Park District, Centenial Park. This family oriented event is always popular an is completely FREE to all participants. Shaved ice and glow sticks available to purchase. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Featured Movie will be Jumanji. Free.

Fri.Sat., Aug. 7-8, 5:45pm-9am
Museum After Dark Overnight
Wauconda: 847-968-3400
LakeCountyDiscoveryMuseum.org
Lake County Discovery Museum, 27277 N Forest Preserve Rd. You're invited to a sleepover! Explore the museum's incredible exhibits, take part in a variety of hands-on activities, watch a movie, enjoy a snack & much more. Wrap up your stay with a light breakfast the next morning. Chaperones, age 21+, required. No more than 3 children per chaperone. Registration required.

Fri. Aug. 7, 7-9pm
Beauty and the Beast
West Chicago: 6307846100 csparks.org
Wheaton Academy, 900 Prince Crossing. Come see the Carol Stream Park District's performance of this Disney production that includes kids from Kindergarten through 10th grade. $7 ticket .

Sat., Aug. 8, noon-4pm
All-American Girl Birthday Celebration
Aurora: 630-966-4527 foxvalleyparkdistrict.org
Blackberry Farm, 100 S. Barnes Rd. Enjoy four traditional parties as we celebrate with some of your favorite fictional, historical characters - Kirsten, Addy, Samantha & Josephina. Participants will experience candle dipping, weaving, crafts, ice cream & live entertainment. Res.: $4.25/adult, $3.75/child. non-res.: $7/adult, $6/child

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 8-9, 10am-4pm
Civil War Living History
Des Plaines: 630-963-1309 10thillinois.com
Methodist Campground, Algonquin & Campground Rd.Civil War Living History Encampment: period displays & demonstrations, both military & civilian. Entrance fee charged at the gate.

Sat., Aug. 8, 9:30-11 am
Little Lady Bugs
Downers Grove: 630-963-9388 dgparks.org
Lyman Woods, 901 31st St. Learn about these fascinating beetles! Games & outdoor fun, & then create a lady bug craft to take home! Dress to be outdoors. Must pre-register. $8/child. Ages 4-6

Sat., Aug. 8, 7:30-9pm
Goodnight Twilight Hike: Insects at Night
Downers Grove: 630-963-9388 dgparks.org
Lyman Woods, 901 31st St. Hike the trails with a naturalist to explore the nighttime sky, search for nocturnal critters. End the evening sharing stories around a roaring campfire complete with marshmallow roasting! Pre-registration is required. $14/family

Sat., Aug. 8, 10am-2pm
Old Fashioned Fun in the Park
Elmhurst: 630- 993-8925 epd.org
Wilder Park, 175 Prospect. Enjoy authentic old-fashioned games, activities & time for socializing with friends & neighbors. FREE

Sat., Aug. 8, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Spiders by Night
Pingree Grove: 847-741-8350
Pingree Grove Forest Preserve. 14N187 Rt. 20. The architects of nature's finest structures are busy at work in the summer. Orb weaving spiders weave intricate designs, grass spiders create fantastic funnel webs, & house spiders make complex cobwebs. Free

Sat-Sun., Aug. 8-9, 7pm-9am
Night at the (Burpee) Museum 2 Sleepover
Rockford: 815-965-3433 x 1020 burpee.org
Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 N Main St. Activities, snacks, & a movie all included. Bring your sleeping bag. Ages 6 +, one adult required w/every 3 children. Registration required. $25/person.

Sat., Aug. 8, 10-4 pm
Illinois State Museum Super Saturday
Springfield: 217-782-7386 museum.state.il.us
Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring. Free, thematic activities each month. For ages 4-8. Activities are ongoing, take 30-45 min.'s to complete, & feature take-home crafts. Registration is not required. Free..

Sat., Aug. 8, 10am-noon
Big Truck Show
St. Charles: 630-513-6200 stcparks.org
Langum Park, 999 S. 7th St. Have you ever wanted to see a worker's truck up close? Here's your opportunity to touch, climb on, & pretend to operate a huge variety of big trucks such as emergency vehicles, tractors, delivery trucks & more! FREE

Sat., Aug. 8
New Library Grand Opening
Sugar Grove: 630-466-4686 sugargrove.lib.il.us
Sugar Grove Public library, 125 S. Municipal Dr. Ribbon cutting & areas of celebrtion throughout the day. Admission is free

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 8-9, 10am-4pm
Threshing
West Chicago: 630-876-5900
Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Rd. See an antique steam-powered tractor in action. See our horses at work & help us bale straw & tour our living history farm. Tour our farmhouse & learn how a farmwife provided a meal to energize the many hands needed to make threshing a success. Free.

Sat., Aug. 8, 11am-1pm
Golden Fest Kid's Flea Market
Westmont: 630-963-5252 wpd4fun.org
Westmont Community Center, 75 E. Richmond St. Have fun selling all the things you don't play with anymore. Learn how to greet customers, barter, make change & sell your unwanted stuff. A table will be provided. An adult must be present with all 6-14 year old sellers. .

Sat., Aug. 8, 9-11am
Basic Canoe Crazy
Highland Park: 847-433-6901 pdhp.org
Skokie Lagoons. Have a mini adventure and paddle the Skokie Lagoons this summer! Heller's certified staff will provide canoes, paddles, P.F.D.s, instruction, games & more. Max. of four family members per canoe. Ages 6+.

Sun., Aug. 9, 1-4pm
Water Carnival
Bartlett: 630-372-7665 bartlettparks.org
Bartlett Aquatic Center, 620 W. Stearns Rd. Relay races, & contests in the pool. Come & have fun! Free with daily admission.

Sun., Aug. 9, 1-4pm
1867 Pringle School Open House
Marengo: 815-923-2267
River Rd. Open house of 1867 Pringle School to see restoration progress. Enjoy light refreshents. Try your hand at old fashioned children's games. Free

Sun., Aug. 9, 2-4pm
Chess for All Ages
Mount Prospect: 847-253-5675 mppl.org
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson. Open play chess. While a base knowledge of the game is required, all ages & skill levels are invited. Refreshments served. Children under age 9 must be w/adult. Registration is required. Free.

Sun., Aug. 9,1-4pm
West Suburban Lapidary Club
Oak Brook: 630-655-2090 grauemill.org
Graue Mill and Museum, 3800 York Rd. Learn how rocks are cut & polished to become gemstones. $1.50/child, $3.50/adult. .

Sun., Aug. 9, 8am-7pm
The Palatine Chocolate Bike Tour - The Sweet Ride
Palatine: 847-359-3454
Starting at Morkes Chocolates,1890 N. Rand Rd. Ride thruout Palatine, stopping along the way at at least 5 diff. unique Palatine businesses for food &/or drink with the taste of CHOCOLATE. Approx. 15 miles of mostly bike paths, with the finish back at Morkes Chocolates. $40/adult, $15/under 12, Free/under.

Sun., Aug. 9, 11am-7pm
Grandparent's Special Day
Vernon Hills: 847-996-6800 vhparkdistrict.org
Vernon Hills Park District's Family Aquatic Center, 635 Aspen Dr. All grandparents are admitted FREE on their special day; season pass holders may instead receive a coupon for a frozen ice.

Sun., Aug. 9, 11am-4pm
Classic Car Show
Westmont: 630- 969-8080 wpd4fun.org
Veterans Memorial Park, 75 E. Ricmond St. Dash plaques & goodie bags for the first 100 entrants. This event will feature participant voting & awards in various categories, as well as an award for the Best of Show! $10/early bird, $15/at gate.

Sun., Aug. 9, 11am-2pm
Golden Fest Flea Market
Westmont: 630- 969-8080 wpd4fun.org
Westmont Community Center, 75 E. Richmond St. Make extra cash selling your wares at the indoor, air conditioned Flea Market. No furniture please. You will be provided an 8' table & plenty of advertising. .

Mon.-Wed., Aug. 10-12, 9:30am-4:30pm
Superhero Search
Arlington Hts: 847-590-5877 littlevillageplayplace.com
Little Village Playplace, 176 N. Arlington Heights Rd. We're looking for the best Superheroes! Dress as your favorite Superhero or create your own costume. Make a Superhero mask, show us your Superhero skills! $8.25/child. No reservations are required. Ages 1-7

Mon.-Fri., Aug. 10-14, 9am-11:30am
Arts Explorers
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St. Arts explorers will experiment this week with a variety of processes & media including clay sculpture, primary painting, printing, collage, & more. Advance registration required; $159 member/$189 non-member.Ages 3-5.

Ongoing Aug. 10-30
Peaches and Cream Festival
Racine County, WI: 800-238-3629 appleholler.com
Apple Holler, 5006 S. Sylvania Ave. Build your own peach shortcake & sundaes. Weekend outdoor cookout featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, ribs, brats &chicken. Live music. Pony rides, pedal carts, Kid's Korral play area & more. Free. Tickets required for some activities.

Tue., Aug. 11, 1-3pm
Super Hero Accessories
Elmhurst: 630-833-1457 elmhursthistory.org
Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 E. Park Ave. Kids can channel their inner super heroes all summer long with this fun & reasonably-priced craft program. Drop infor a diff. comic book-themed craft. $2 per project.

Tue., Aug. 11, 6:30-9:30pm
Dive In Movie
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park, 433 E. St. Charles Rd. Watch "Surf's Up". Bring a blanket to get comfortable. $4 R/$7/NR Child, $5.50 R/$10 NR Adults, or Pool pass.

Tue., Aug. 11, 8pm
Movie under the Stars, plus Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament
Mount Prospect: 847-392-2277 capannaris.com
Capannari Ice Cream, 10 S. Pine. A night under the stars. Bring your lawn chair, picnic basket and enjoy Tale of Despereaux and some super premium ice cream! Free.

Tue., Aug. 11, 10-11am
Spiders by Day
Pingree Grove: 847-741-8350
Pingree Grove Forest Preserve, 14N187 Rt. 20. Come on our spider hunts to see these & many other eight-legged creatures. Free.

Tue., Aug. 11, 10am-noon
Touch a Truck
Streamwood: 630-372-7275
streamwoodparkdistrct.org
Park Place Family Recreation Center, 550 Park Blvd. Kids & big rigs! Children of all ages have fun sitting in cars, trucks & more! FREE

Wed., Aug. 12, 10:30-11:30am
Kindergarten Kids
Carol Stream: 630-653-0755 cslibrary.org
Carol Stream Public Library, 616 Hiawatha Dr. Children share stories and activities that acquaint them with some of the experiences they will have at school. Free. Ages 4-6

Wed.-Sun., Aug. 12-16, 3-10pm
Channahon's Three Rivers Festival- 20th Anniversary
Channahon: 815-467-7275
Channahon City Park. Carnival rides, beer tent, nightly entertainment, battle of the bands. Parade on Sunday.

Wed., Aug. 12, Shotgun starts at 8am & 11am
Annual Youth Golf Outing
Des Plaines: 847-391-5700 desplainesparks.org
Lake Park Golf Course, Lee St. btwn Howard & Touhy Ave.'s. Everyone is a winner! Participants receive a round of golf, lunch & prizes. All players must have some golf experience. Ages 9-16.

Wed., Aug. 12, 1:30-2:30pm
Creek Walks
Elgin: 847-741-8350
Tyler Creek Forest Preserve, Rt. 31 & Davis Rd. Enjoy a naturalist-guided exploration of the watery world of creeks. Wear shorts & bring an extra pair of shoes for wading. Adults must accompany children in the water. $5/person, $20 family of 4 or more.

Wed., Aug. 12, 1:15-4:30pm
End of the Year Pool Party
McHenry: 815 363-2160
Knox Park Pool, 201 S. Green St. Pool season is coming to a close. Come enjoy the pool, win lots of prizes paying the games and listen to the great music of DJ Don of Mobile Mix Entertainment. $5/person, Pool Pass Holders - FREE

Thur., Aug. 13, 7-10pm
Summer Showcase of Talent: Vegas Style!
Bartlett: 630-540-4834 bartlettparks.org
Bartlett Community Center, 700 S. Bartlett Rd. Come dance, sing, lip sync, whatever as an individual or group in this event celebrating Elvis week! $6 to perform/$1 admission. Ages 8+.

Aug. 13-23
Iowa State Fair
Des Moines, IA: 800-545-FAIR iowastatefair.org
E. 30th and E. University. The Iowa State Fair, the inspiration for the "State Fair", three motion pictures and a Broadway musical, is the country's most famous state fair. Included in the New York Times bestseller "1000 Places to see Before you Die" it annually attracts more than one-million guests. 10/adult, $4/children

Thur., Aug. 13, 7pm
Ice Cream Social
Geneva: 630-232-4951 genevahistorycenter.org
Geneva History Center, 113 S. 3rd St. Free.

Thur., Aug. 13, 7pm
Under the Stars Storytime
Grayslake: 847-223-5313 grayslake.info
Grayslake Area Public LIbrary, 100 Library Lane. Come for a family storytime outside & under the stars. We will read some fun outdoor books & try to count all of the stars in the night sky. In case of rain, program will be held indoors. No registration required. Free

Thur., Aug. 13, 5-7pm
Water Carnival at Kemmerling Pool
Roselle: 630-894-4200 roselleparkdistrict.com
Roselle Park District, 555 W. Bryn Mawr. Water games will make this day splashtastic! Enjoy a wet sponge toss, water bingo, relay races & more. Free with paid admission

Thur., Aug. 13-16, varies daily
12th Annual Riverfest Express
South Elgin: 847-622-0003 southelgin.com
Panton Mill Park, Water St. Live Stage Entertainment, Craft Show, Car Show, Carnival Rides &Attractions &Fireworks! Free

Aug. 14-16, 22 & 23
Day out with Thomas at Illinois Railway Museum
Union: 815-923-4000 www.irm.org
Day out with Thomas - Come meet Sir Topham Hat and enjoy a 20 minute ride with Thomas the Tank Engine. Activities include storytelling, live music and much more. For tickets, call 866-468-7630 or www.ticketweb.com/dowt. Advance ticket purchase is recommended & tickets are $18.00 for ages two and up.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 14-15, Call for times
Summer Palooza!
Oak Brook: 630-645-9590 obparks.org
Oak Brook Family Rec Center, 1450 Forest Gate Rd. Fri: A raffle, beer & wine garden & a concert in the park. Sat: DJ & Live Band Karoake, moon jump, a HUGE slip & slide, a rock climbing wall, touch a truck, & $100 coin hunt to name a few! Free

Aug. 14-23
Illinois State Fair
Springfield: 217-782-6661 illinoisstatefair.info
Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, 801 E. Sangamon Ave. A family friendly event featuring contests, food, carnival rides, concerts, free entertainment, livestock shows, & auto racing. Each day of the fair has it's own unique theme. More than 100 Carnival Midway & Adventure Village rides. A variety of family entertainment, safety programs, face painting, diaper changing/nursing area & a tiny tots play area. 7

Fri., Aug. 14, 1-1:45pm
Stoll(er) Through the Galleries
Elmhurst: 630-993-8901 elmhurstartmuseum.org
Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 Cottage Hill Ave. Take a leisurely stroll through the galleries in the company of other moms, learning about the current exhibitions. All children must remain in their stroller for the duration of the tour. $7/adult, children under 12 are FREE. Call to register.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 14-15, 5:30-10:30pm
7th Annual BBQ Blues Bash
Joliet: 815-693-1166
Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park, 201 W. Jefferson St. Get ready for finger lickin' good ribs & smokin' guitar licks. Free admissioin and parking.

Fri., Aug. 14, 6:30pm
United States Air Force Band of Mid-America Performance
Elmhurst: 630- 993-8923 epd.org
Elmhurst College Mall, 190 Prospect. Catch the patriotic spirit as the band's 45 talented musicians tell the inspiring Air Force story through music. FREE.S

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 14-15, 7:45-9pm
Bat Watch
St. Charles: 847-741-8350
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, Dean St. During our summer Bat Watch programs we'll use a bat detector to locate bats & follow their movements. We'll also play some bat games & learn about bat ecology. $5/person, $20/family of 4 or more

Sat., Aug. 15, 8:15-10:30pm
Under the Sea Flick 'n Float (Family)
Highland Park: 847-433-3170 pdhp.org
Hidden Creek AquaPark, 1220 Fredrickson Pl. Take an adventure under the sea and beyond your imagination to a world where mermaids live. Children and parents alike will enjoy this Disney® classic, The Little Mermaid. Don't forget to claim your duck for the duck drop. See www.pdhp.org or call 847.433.3170 for more info. $5/person.

Sat., Aug. 15, 7am-1pm
Fall/Winter Resale
Wheaton: 630-585-3745
DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd. New & gently used Clothing & Equipment for children. Premmie thru Junior Clothes for both Girls and Boys. $1

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 15-16
USPRO Championships
Downers Grove: 630-434-5555 events.downers.us
Main St. & Curtiss St. World Class Cycling in Downers Grove! Over 800 elite, Olympic-bound athletes compete for $60,000 in prize money & the National Championship Title at the 23rd National Criterium Championship. For more information visit events.downers.us or dgcycling.com FREE.

Sat.-Sun.,Aug. 15-16, 9am-5pm
Great American Yard Sale
Aurora: greatamericanyardsale.com
Westfield Fox Valley Center, 195 Fox Valley Center, across from Macys. The proceeds from the sale go to local community service agencies, which help the homeless, including Senior Home Sharing, DuPage P.A.D.s., Hesed House, Department of Human Services, Loaves &Fishes and Families Helping Families.Free admission

Sat., Aug. 15, 9-11am
Youth Fishing Derby
Bartlett: 847-608-3100 bartlettparks.org
Beaver Pond, Braintree & Kingston. Enjoy the great pastime of fishing with this free youth catch & release derby. Prizes for the largest in each species division and age divisions. Registration is on-site the day of derby. FREE ages 2-15..

Sat., Aug. 15, 10am-4pm
8th Annual Perry Farm Kite Festival
Bourbonnais: 815-933-9905 btpd.org
Perry Farm Park, 459 N Kennedy Dr. See kites as big as a school bus, or as small as your hand. Public flying fields, kite workshops and a kite hospital & a AKA Sanctioned Kite Competition.

Sat., Aug. 15, 10-11am
A Bug's Life
Downers Grove: 630-963-1300 dgparks.org
Lyman Woods, 901 31st St. Experience what it is like to be a bug as we go on a bug hunt, play buggy games and learn a few new songs! Dress to be outdoors. Pre-registration is required. $6/pair. Ages 2-3

Sat., Aug. 15, 11-11:45am
Music for Wiggleworms With Shana and Karen
Mount Prospect: 847-253-5675 mppl.org
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. Clap, clap, your hands & stomp, stomp, your feet with Wiggleworm renditions of classic & original children's songs. Must pre-register. FREE

Sat., Aug. 15, noon-5pm
A Night at the Museum
Rockford: 815-397-9112 ext. 110 midwayvillage.com
Midway Village Museum, 6799 Guilford Rd. Meet our night watchmen & discover the mischief the Village's inhabitants have created. Delicious & fun food with cash bars along your way, with chances to win prizes, & other surprises around every corner. Musical entertainment provided throughout the event. $60/person, $55/person, if purchased prior to 7/15.

Sat., Aug. 15, 6-10pm
Summer Talent Show
Schaumburg: 847-490-7020 parkfun.com
Community Recreation Center, 505 N. Springinsguth Rd. New & seasoned acts will perform their unique talents in dance, drama, vocal & instrumental categories. Tickets go on sale at the CRC north registration counter on 8/3. $6.

Sun., Aug. 16, 8am 5k, 9am Kids Sprint
5k Hero Run & Kids Sprint to the Finish
Palatine: 847-359.2400 buehlerymca.org
Buehler YMCA, 1400 W. NW Hwy. USATF certified & computer timed. NEW events for the kids this year. Children will run through the same finish line as 5k participants. Stop by the Family Fun Zone. Registration:5k: $20 (Before 8/13). $25 (Race Day)Kids Sprint. $5 (Before 8/13), $10 (Race Day)..

Sun., Aug 16, 2-6pm
Bug Bash Open House
Oak Brook: 630-850-8110 dupageforest.com
Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, 3609 Spring Rd. Celebrate bugs galore! Touch 'em, see 'em & hold 'em-get to know the wold of bugs. Arts & crafts, hikes, games & more. Reservations not required, & activities are ongoing throughout the event. Free.

Sun., Aug. 16, 3-4pm
Pooches at Splash Pad
Oakbrook Terrace: 630-627-6100 obtpd.org
Heritage Park, 1S325 Ardmore Ave. Have fun in the sun with your best canine friend! Dogs must be leashed and wearing a collar with tags at all times. Must be pre-registered to participate in events and contests and to receive a treat bag. $5.

Sun., Aug 16, 6pm
Concert In The Park with Henhouse Prowlers
Mt. Prospect: 847-392-2277 capannaris.com
Capannari Ice Cream, 10 S. Pine St. The last concert for the 2009 season. A local band, The Henhouse Prowlers will be playing traditional bluegrass music. Bring a picnic blanket & dinner for a wonderful night of music under the stars. Free.

Mon., Aug. 17, 9am-Noon
CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
Highland Park: 847-579.3121 pdhp.org
West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Rd. Have fun learning about forensics, crime scene investigations & lab chemistry as you perform as many as 15 different experiments designed to show you just how those tricky cases are solved. $149/169. Ages 9-12.

Mon., Aug. 17, 9:45am - 11:15am
Pirate Party
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park, 433 E. St. Charles Rd. Play pirate games & hunt for gold coins on the grass. Bring a bag to carry the coins. Wrap up the pirate adventure by purchasing prizes from the Pirate General Store with their coins. Registration deadline is 8/15. $5/1 parent & child, $4 add'l child. Ages 3-5.

Mon.-Tue., Aug. 17-18, 10am-3pm
Starved Rock Overnight Excursioin
Utica: 800-868-7625 ext. 386
Spirit of Peoria, Rt. 178 & Rt. 71. Two days of cruising & an overnight at the historic Starved Rock Lodge. Includes meals, non alcoholic drinks, transportation, taxes..

Mon., Aug. 17, 12:30-3:30pm
The Rockit Robo
Highland Park: 847-579.3121 pdhp.org
West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Rd. Build & take home your own sound activated Rockit Robot. You will also get to build other robotics as a part of a small group. Be a part of robotic technology and have fun investigating the future effects it will have on our lives. $149/169. Ages 9-12.

Tue., Aug. 18, 1-3pm
Comical Silly Putty Stretchers
Elmhurst: 630-833-1457 elmhursthistory.org
Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 E. Park Ave. Kids can channel their inner super heroes all summer long with this fun and reasonably-priced family craft program. Drop in each week for a different comic book-themed craft in the Education Center. $2 per project.

Digital Photography for Kids Ages 8-12
Arlington Heights: 847-255-1225 ahpd.org
Arlington Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont St. Explore the museum grounds using your digital camera. Learn the basics of photography using the buildings & nature throughout the grounds. Bring your own camera. Must pre-register. $20/res, $25/non-res.

Thur., Aug. 20, dusk
Movie in the Park: Alice in Wonderland
Bartlett: 630-540-4800 bartlettparks.org
Bartlett Park, 102 N. Eastern Ave. Disney's Alice in Wonderland on a huge blow up screen in a wonderful park setting. Free!

Thur., Aug. 20, Noon
Elgin's Mom & Pop Stores
Elgin: 847-742-4248 elginhistory.org
Old Main Musuem, 360 Park St. Bring your lunch & learn more about neighborhood family owed & run stores. Often called "Mom & Pop" stores they supported families & neighborhoods - gone from our landscapes but not our history. $3/nonmembers

Thur., Aug. 20., 7pm
Historic Batavia Avenue Armchair Walking Tour
Geneva: 630-232-4951 genevahistorycenter.org
Geneva History Center, 113 A. 3rd St. An exclusive armchair version walking tour of Batavia Ave. The tour will feature 11 homes of interest along the historic ave. $3/member & students; $5 non-members

Thur., Aug. 20, 5:30pm open play, 6:30pm concert
Music at the Museum: Emily Bear
Glenview: 847-832-6600 kohlchildrensmuseum.org
Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd. Emily Bear is seven years old & is equally comfortable playing jazz, classical & her own compositions as is shown by her diverse & extensive concert repertoire.$5/person ($4 for members).

Thur., Aug. 20, Dusk
Geneva Park District Movie in the Park WALL-E
Geneva: 630-232-4542 genevaparks.org
Wheeler Park, North St. & Rt. 31. Bring your chairs and/or blanket to sit out on. Concessions available for purchase. Rated G. Free.

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 21-22
Water Fools
Chicago: 312-595-5600 chicagoshakes.com/water
Off the eastern end of Navy Pier, 800 E Grand Ave. The acclaimed French troupe Ilotopie has created waterborne theatrical wonders on the Thames in London & the River Seine in Paris. All ages will be enchanted as Ilotopie makes its American debut, transforming Lake Michigan into a world where cars drive on water, heads burst into flames & a 12-foot-tall lady glides by on a penny-farthing. $25-30.

Aug. 21-Sept. 16, 10am-10pm
Abraham Lincoln: Selfmade in America-Exhibition Opening
Lockport: 815-838-9400
Galord Building Historic Site, 200 W. 8th St. This travelling exhibit examines Lincoln's life from his poor beginnings to his ascension to the presidency and his assassination. The opening reception features a performance by the Battlefield Balladeers. Free

LEGO Mania
West Chicago: 630-231-1552 westchicago.lib.il.us
West Chicago Public Library, 118 W. Washington St. We host a giant LEGO display by regional collector, Joe Ellenbecker. Kids will have an opportunity to build their own LEGO creations at tables & register to win LEGO building sets of their own. Free.

Sat., Aug. 22, 6-10:30pm
Pack the Park
Elmhurst: 630- 993-8925 epd.org
Berens Park, 493 Oaklawn Ave. Spend the evening at Berens Park as we pump up the fun with inflatables, games, and activities. Then pull up your lawn chair and grab your blanket for a family movie in the park.Free.

Sun., Aug. 23, 10-11am
Wonders of Wildflowers
Elgin: 847-741-8350
Burnidge Forest Preserve, Coombs Rd., W. of Randall Rd. Explore the tall grasses and flowers that once gave Illinois the nickname "The Prairie State". Free

Tue.-Thur., Aug. 25-27, 9am-noon
Scrapbook Camp
Arlington Heights: 847-255-1225 ahpd.org
Arlington Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont St. Create beautiful scrapbook pages with your special photos. Campers will receive 12 x 12 scrapbook pages & other supplies & have access to a wide variety of equipment decorations. Pre-registration required at ahpd.org. $33 res, $40 non-res.

Tue., Aug. 25, 10-11:30am
Homeschool - Prairie Flowers
St. Charles: 847-741-8350
Campton Forest Preserve, Townhall Rd., W. of Randall Rd. Join forest preserve naturalists for a program designed for home school families. Activities will focus on ages 5-10 but all ages are welcome. $2/person, $8/family of 4+

Thur., Aug. 27, 5:30pm
Neighborhood Block Party
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Campanelli Park, 1024 W. Weathersfield Way. A block party right in your neighborhood! Just stop by & enjoy unlimited use of moon-bounce inflatables, carnival games & great barbecue. Face painting, music and more are all part of the fun. $3..

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 28-30
Cherry Valley Festival Days
Cherry Valley: 815-332-2152 valleydays.com
Baumann Park, 218 S. Walnut St. Family festival including musical entertainment, amusement rides, adults & children's games & events, bingo, food, fireworks, & more. Fri: $5/3 days, Sat: $4/2 days, Sun: $3. Fri: 5pm-midnight; Sat: noon-midnight; Sun: noon-7pm.

Fri., Aug. 28, 4-9pm
Webelo Cub Scout Nature Jamboree
Elgin: 847-741-6655 elginpublicmuseum.org
Hawthorne Hill Nature Center, 28 Brookside Dr. Complete Naturalist, Geologist, & Forester pin requirements with our team. Take a hike in the woods, discover amazing plants, catch all sorts of bugs, solve rock mysteries & more! $20/scout. Ages 9-11

Taste of Lincolnshire
Lincolnshire: 847-793-2409
Lincolnshire Commons, corner of Aptakisic Rd/Milwaukee Ave. Enjoy some of the amazing food offerings. Enjoy live entertainment & show off your pet in the Pet Parade. Free parking. Food tickets can be purchased at event. Fri. 11:30am-10pm, Sat. 11am-10pm Sun. noon-6pm.

Sat., Aug. 29, noon-dusk
Summer's Last Blast
Bolingbrook: 630-739-1700 bolingbrookparks.org
Bolingbrook Recreation & Aquatic Complex, 201 S. Lindsey Lane. Join us for swimming at Pelican Harbor (just $1; free to Pelican Pass holders & aquatic members), games, music, inflatables, a fishing derby, 5K run, car show & stage entertainment/concert. Free.

Sat., Aug. 29, 9-11am
Kids Outdoor Flea Market
Downers Grove: 630-963.1300 dgparks.org
Hummer Park, 4833 Fairview Ave. Bring your old games, toys & stuff that has been cluttering up your room. Picnic tables for merchandise are assigned & advertising provided. Each table must have an adult present. $12 res/$18 non res per table. Ages 6+.

Sat., Aug. 29, 10am
Jigglejam
Morton Grove: 847 929-5102 webrary.org
Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Jodi Koplin, accomplished musician, sings & dances with all of the children showing them an interactive rockin good time. Free

Sat., Aug. 29, 11am-2pm
Centennial Beach Skate Park Picnic
Naperville: 630-527-6562 kidsmatter2us.org
Centenial Beach Skate Park. All skaters are invited to attend a free picnic lunch served by the Naperville Police, Naperville Park District Police & KidsMatter. Performances by Character Skateboards from Chicago. Free.

Sun., Aug. 30, 9am
St. Fest Spectacular "Sprints on Wheel"
Palatine: 847-392-2848 Rachel nwsra.org
Individuals 5-25 years of age who use manual or power wheelchairs or is ambulatory with physical impairment & would like to try wheelchair racing is eligible. NWSRA has a limited number of manual chairs available. Free.

Sept. 3-6, 10am-11pm
On The Waterfront
Rockford: 815-964-4388 onthewaterfront.com
Downtown. Illinois' largest music festival. Held annually over the Labor Day weekend, the festival attracts over 300,000 people to the streets of downtown Rockford. Over 100 not-for-profit organizations raise funds through the festival.

Fri.-Mon., Sept. 4-7
Naperville Jaycees Last Fling
Naperville: 630-961-4143 www.LastFling.org
Downtown Naperville. End your summer on a good note with the Naperville Last Fling over Labor Day weekend filled with family activities, live entertainment including Train and Robert Cray, and fun for everyone. See our ad on this page.

Sept. 5-7
39th Annual Septemberfest
Schaumburg: 847-923-3636 septemberfest.org
Grounds of the Robert O. Atcher Municipal Center, 101 Schaumburg Ct. Admission & entertainment are FREE to the public! An arts & crafts show, carnival, entertainment on 3 stages, Taste of Schaumburg, bingo, fireworks, parade, & more. 10am-10pm Sat, 9am-10pm Sun, 9am-9pm Mon.