Wed.-Sat., July 1-4
Barrington 4th of July Celebration
Barrington: www.Barrington4thofJuly.com
Enjoy Children's Entertainment Daily. . . Inflatables for all ages, Mad Science, Scales & Tales animal show, rock climbing walls, Eurobungee, trackless train ride, face painting, & much more. The fun doesn't stop there – each evening the tent will host two LIVE BANDS beginning at 5:30p. Food served 11am-10:30pm. Admission: Daily Wristbands - $5 (includes hotdog & bag of chips and access to all entertainment opportunities – adults are free). After 6pm - $5/adults, $1/ages 17-14, FREE/children under 13. Starting 6/1/09, check www.barrington4thofJuly.com for a complete listing of all entertainment dates & times.

Wed., July 1 at 1pm
75th Anniversary Celebration
Brookfield Zoo: 708-688-8000 www.BrookfieldZoo.org
Brookfield Zoo, First & 31st. You can be part of a special ceremony as we commemorate those who have been part of the last 75 years...including our members! Sing "Happy Birthday" to Brookfield Zoo and enjoy cake, as well as live music by Tributosaurus. June 29, 30 & July 1, kids under age 11 are free.

July 1-6
Lombard Jaycees Taste of Lombard
Lombard: www.tasteoflombard.com
The Lombard Jaycees Taste of Lombard, a free family festival with 30 restaurants, business and arts-n-crafts tent, family entertainment, carnival and main stage entertainment including 4th of July Fireworks.

Wed.-Sun., July 1-5
Frontier Days Festival
Arlington Heights: 847-577-8572 frontierdays.org
Recreation Park, 500 E. Miner St. FREE FESTIVAL SHUTTLEBUS routes to & from Thomas & Olive schools & all village parking garages. DAILY FEATURES: Carnival rides & FREE entertainment on three stages. FOOD: Taste of Arlington daily! Battle of the Bands, Bargain rides, Water Fights, Parade & much more!

Ongoing, July 1-Aug. 3
ALADDIN
Chicago: 312.595.5600 chicagoshakes.com
Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Courtyard Theater, 800 E Grand Ave. Take your family to a magical, far away land, & join Aladdin, Jasmine & the lovable Genie in this exciting musical adventure full of unforgettable songs based on the Academy Award-winning Disney film. Soar on a magic carpet with the jovial Genie, & tag along with our clever hero Aladdin as he fights for his true love, the beautiful Princess Jasmine. Adults: $23, Children (12 and under): $18. Ages 4+.

Ongoing July 1-31, 1:30pm
Observation Station
Chicago: naturemuseum.org
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr. Help our scientists collect data about local wildlife. Use real scientific tools to investigate the sights and sounds of the city. Free with Museum admission

Wed., July 1, & Thur., Aug. 20, 6-7:30pm
Old-Fashioned Campfire
Highland Park: 847-433.6901 pdhp.org
Heller Nature Center, 2821 Ridge Rd. The perfect setting for an old-fashioned campfire. Take a short hike along the trails at Heller, play games & enjoy some hot marshmallows roasted over the campfire!$6/per person.

Wed.-Sun., July 1-5
Mount Prospect Lions Village Fair
Mount Prospect: experiencemountprospect.org
Melas Park, 1500 W. Central Rd. Live entertainment every night. Taste of Mount Prospect featuring the area's best restaurants.

Ongoing July 1-Aug. 30,10am-4pm
Dog Dayz of Summer
Naperville: 630- 420-6010 napersettlement.museum
Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St. Every week during July & August, the Settlement will feature unique & fun activities for all ages, including entertainment, games, activities, stories & guest presentations. Check website for updated offerings. All activities are included w/admission. $8/adult, $7/seniors, $5.50/youth 4-17.

Ongoing July 1-19, 8am-4pm
Cherry Festival
Racine County, WI: 800-238-3629 appleholler.com
Apple Holler, 5006 S. Sylvania Ave. Fresh cherries, fresh-baked cherry pies & pastries & more. Weekend outdoor cookout featuring hamburgers, ribs, brats & chicken. Live music. Wagon & pony rides, Kit's Korral play area & more. Festival is free. Tickets required for some activities.

Ongoing July 1-31
Community Days
Springfield: 800-610-2094 PresidentLincoln.org
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, 212 N. 6th St. During the 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial summer, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum is offering residents of select IL counties half off adult admission! Show your drivers license at the ticket counter to receive your discount. Community Days schedules: May: Lake County, June: Will County, July:Cook & DuPage Counties, August 2009: Kankakee County.

Thur.'s & Sat.'s in July, 11:30am
Outdoor Creation Station
Chicago: naturemuseum.org
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Dr. Join our team to gather beautiful, natural materials and bring them back to the station to create an original masterpiece! (Weather permitting)Free with Museum admission

Thur.-Sat., July 2-4, noon-11pm
Eyes to the Skies Festival
Lisle: 630-769-1000 eyestotheskiesfestival.com
Short St. and IL Hwy. 53 in Lisle Community Park. A 3-day family festival featuring hot air balloons, nationally known music, circus, lumberjack show, Radio Disney, carnival, craft fair, top local bands, wonderful children's area & two food courts. Cost: $5/adult, (noon to 5pm), $7/adult (5-11pm). Children are $2 at all times.

Thur., July 2, 7pm
Public Art in Geneva Walking Tour
Geneva: 630-232-4951 genevahistorycenter.org
Geneva History Center, 113 S. 3rd Sreet. Join Educator Margaret Selakovich for a tour of public art in the downtown area. $10 Adults; $5 Children and GHC Members

Thur.-Sun., July 2-5, 9am-10pm
Ribfest
Naperville: 630-303-3311 ribfest.net
Knoch Park, Voted "Best Festival in the Midwesy" Ribfest features 4 days of music, ribs, fun & fireworks. Nationally & locally known musicians provide entertainment. Rib vendors from around the country compete for best tasting ribs and sauce awards.

Fri-Sun., July 3-5, 9am-5pm
Thee Olde Time Farm Show
Bourbonnais: 815-933-4119
Perry Farm Park, 459 N Kennedy Dr. Learn about the early life through actual working tractors, threshers, & steam engines from the past century. Demonstrations, contests, & more. $5.

Fri., July 3, 7:30pm
Fourth of July Pool Party
Schaumburg: 847- 985-2143 parkfun.com
Meineke Pool, 220 E. Weathersfield. Attend pool events for District 54 & parochial school students entering 4-6 grades in Aug. 2009. TGames, music, prizes and more are all part of the fun.Single-event cost is $15. Pre-registration is mandatory.

Fri.-Sat., July 3-4
Capitol City Celebration
Springfield: 217-553-2082 springfieldjaycees.org
Old State Capital Plaza, 2nd and Capitol. Music, Band and Beer Friday night till midnight. Sat., the event kicks off at 3pm with family fun, food vendors & entertainment for all. Fireworks at dusk. Free. .

Fri.-Sat., July 3-4, 5-11pm Fri,9am-11pm Sat
Independence Day Celebration!
Westmont: 630-969-8080 wpd4fun.org
Ty Warner Park, Plaza & Blackhawk Dr.'s. Join us on Friday night for food, music and a family bags tourney. Sat. events include the St. Judes Walk, hula hoop and watermelon eating for the kids, music, food and of course, the fireworks show!

Sat., July 4, 9:30-10:30am
Independence Day Ceremony
Downers Grove: 630-963-1309 dgparks.org
Downers Grove Park District Museum, 831 Maple Ave. Honor America's 233rd birthday. Celebrate the occasion with patriotic speech, music & refreshments. FREE.

Sat., July 4, 10am-5pm
Old World Wisconsin's "An Old World Fourth of July"
Eagle, WI: 262-594-6300 oldworldwisconsin.org
Old World Wisconsin, S103 W 37890 Hwy. 67. Celebrate this old-fashioned holiday with games, a concert, historic activities & special Civil War-era re-enactors. Free admission for veterans. $16/adult, $9/ ages 5-17, children under 5 are free, $43: family (two adults & two+ children 5-17).

Sat., July 4, 10am-10pm
Fourth of July
Highland Park: 847-579.3121 pdhp.org
10am Parade: Downtown Highland Park. 11am-2pmSunset Woods Park, 1801 Sunset Rd. Carnival rides. Listen to some live entertainment. 8:15-10:15PMFloat &Watch Fireworks. Hidden Creek AquaPark, 1220 Fredrickson Place. $5/person or free for Hidden Creek AquaPark season passholders.

Sat., July 4, 1pm-10pm
Kenosha Star Spangled Spectacular
Kenosha, WI: 262-653-4140 kenoshaevents.org
Kenosha's Lakefront, 5500 First Ave. Civil War Museum & Kenosha Public Museum open 1-5pm. Live music and food vendors 6-9pm.

Sat., July 4, 1-4pm
Family Day at Kemmerling Pool
Roselle: 630-894-4200 roselleparkdistrict.com
Roselle Park District, 555 W. Bryn Mawr. Backyard games & ice cream treats. Free with paid admission

Sat., July 4, 9:30pm-10:30 pm
Fireworks Extravaganza at Knight's Action Park
Springfield: 217-546-8881 knightsactionpark.com
Knight's Action Park, 1700 Recreation Dr. One of the areas most popular fireworks displays.IKnight's Action Park &Caribbean Water Adventure is over 62 acres of spligh-splashin', rip-roarin'family fun.

Sat., July 4, 1:30-3:30pm
Celebrating The Fourth
West Chicago: 630-876-5900 dupageforest.com
Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Rd. Activities for the whole family as you visit our 1890s living history farm. At 2:30, gather in front of the farmhouse porch for a Fourth of July celebration featuring songs, speeches & a traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence. Then we will launch our homemade hot-air balloon & churn homemade ice cream. Free.

Mon. & Tues., July 6 & 7 at 6:30pm
Second Annual Barrington Community Talent Show
Barrington: 847-304-3479 barrington-il.gov
Start practicing! Barrington residents of all ages bring their talents and creativity to the main stage at the Brat Tent. Application on the Village web site. For more information, contact agarrette@barrington-il.gov or 847-304-3479.

Mon., July 6, 5:15 - 6:10 pm
Magic Class
Carol Stream: 6307846100 csparks.org
Simkus Recreation Center, 849 Lies Rd. Amaze family & friends with quick to learn & easy to perform tricks that involve cards, ropes, coins, mind-reading & more. Materials & magic kit included. Grouped by age. $19 res., $28 non-res.

Mon.-Thur., July 6 - 9, 1:45-3:45pm
Video Game Animation
Woodridge: 630-353-3300
Woodridge Park District, 2600 Center Dr. Dive into the world of video game animation by creating characters that dance, sing & interact with one another. 2 students per computer. Call to register.

Mon.-Fri., July 6-10, 9am-11:30am
Water and Bubbles
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St. It's a wet & wild week as children work with soap to create floating art forms, explore bubbles, make their own bubble wands & explore the science of water. Advance registration required; $159 member/$189 nonmember. Ages 3-5.

Tue., July 7, 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! Contact us for alternate rain location. A fun social & support network connecting families with young children. Free.Free.

Tue., July 7, 1-3pm
Grow Your Own Kryptonite
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 family craft program. Drop in each week for a different comic book-themed craft in the Education Center. $2 per project.

Tue.'s in July, 6:30-9pm
DJ Nights at the Pool
St. Charles: 630-513-6200 stcparks.org
Swanson Pool at Pottawatomie Park, 8 North Ave. Kids of all ages will enjoy a variety of theme-appropriate games & activities. Rain cancels the event.

Tue., July 7, 8:15-9:30pm
Firefly Fireworks
St. Charles: 847-741-8350
LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve. Explore the fascinating world of brilliant bugs during our evening firefly programs. We'll begin our walk at dusk and watch the night time magic begin as thousands of fireflies rise from the prairie. Free

Tue.-Sat., July 7-11, 10am & 1pm
Shows for Young Audiences-Aladdin & the Magic Lamp
Waukegan: 847-360-4740 jackbennycenter.org
Waukegan, 39 Jack Benny Dr. $6/person. Ages 4+

Wed., July 8, 6:30 ice cream social, concert at 7pm
Concert & Ice Cream Social in the Park
Geneva: 630-232-4542 genevaparks.org
Island Park, Rt. 38. Mr. Myers. FREE. Sponsored by the Geneva Park District.

Wed.-Sun., July 8-12
Glendale Heights Fest
Glendale Heights: 630-260-0018 glendaleheights.org
Camera Park, 101 E. Fullerton Ave. Includes carnival and rides, exciting daily entertainment, and a variety of famous food vendors. Spectacular fireworks open and close the festival.

Wed., July 8, 11 am - 2:30 pm
Christmas In July Beach Party
McHenry: 815 363-2160
Petersen Park Beach, 4300 Petersen Park Rd. Celebrate winter in summer...enjoy lots of fun at the beach playing games, building sand castles, eating ice cream and visiting Santa Claus. Children 10 & under must be accompanied by an adult. $3 per person

Wed., July 8, 1-2:30pm
Jungle Safari Party
Mount Prospect: 847/253-5675 mppl.org/events
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. For children entering K-2nd grade. Join the expedition and hunt up a good time at the Jungle Safari Party! Registration is required.

Wed., July 8, 6-8pm
Evening Getaway Canoe Crazy
Highland Park: 847-433.6901 pdhp.org
Skokie Lagoons. Heller's Certified Staff will provide canoes, paddles, P.F.D.s, instruction, games & everything else needed. Registration must be received one week prior to trip. Max. of four family members. $24/40 per person (*$75/100 to canoe with family of four). Ages 6+. .

Thur.-Sun., July 9-12
Itasca Fest: 630-228-5662
Washington Park in Itasca. Don't miss Itasca's fun Itasca Fest. Live bands, carnival rides, interactive kid's entertainment, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, NASA exhibit, antique show, classic car show, bingo and food! Purchase unlimited ride tickets at the Park District until July 8th.

Thur., July 9, 6-9pm
Picnic in the Park
Aurora: 630-966-4527 foxvalleyparkdistrict.org
McCullough Park, 150 W. Illinois Ave. Pack a picnic basket for a summer picnic. Crafts & games & a concert. Bring your trikes, bikes & wagons for a parade. Picnic table reservation is included. Call to register. $5/res., family, $10/non-res. family

Thur., July 9, 8:15-9:30pm
Firefly Fireworks!
Elgin: 847-741-9350
Burnidge Forest Preserve, Coombs Rd. Explore the fascinating world of brilliant bugs during our evening firefly programs. Free.

Thur., July 9
Golf for $19.09
Highland Park: 847-432-7140 pdhp.org
Sunset Valley Golf Course, 1390 Sunset Rd. Sunset Valley Golf Course will commemorate the Park District's 100-year anniversary & offer greens fees for $19.09 for the day. .

Thur., July 9, 11am-6pm
NASCAR Nationwide Series Race
Joliet: 815-727-RACE chicagolandspeedway.com
Chicagoland Speedway, 500 Speedway Blvd. Enjoy a weekend of NASCAR races- the Dollar General 300 powered by Coca Cola NASCAR series on July 10 and the Lifelock.com 400 a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race.

Thur., July 9, 8-10pm
Dive-in Movie
Park Ridge: 847-692-5127 prparks.org
Hinkley Pool, 25 Busse Hwy. Spend a hot summer night chillin' at Hinkley Pool with your friends while watching a 'cool' movie on our inflatable screen. Preregistration is required for this event. $6 res., $13 non-res. Ages 8-10

Fri., July 10, 7pm - ???
Girls' Night Out - Paint til you Faint!
Arlington Heights: 847-818-1313
thrownelementspottery.com
260 N Evergreen Ave Painting, food, music & fun! 1/2 off paint-your-own-pottery studio fees, free appetizers, BYOB. Call for reservations.

Fri., July 10, 5-9pm
13th Annual Caribbean Night
Barrington: 847-381-0687
Barrington Park District, 235 Lions Dr. Enjoy swimming, hula dancing, singing, fire knife dancing, drumming, games &children's entertainment. Must pre-register by 7/2.

Fri.'s, July 10, 17 & 24, 12:00-12:45 pm
Children's Entertainment Series
Cary: 847-639-6100 carypark.com
Rotary Bandshell, Lions Park. Don't miss the wild & funny children's entertainment series. Jason Kollum will dazzle you with his high energy variety juggling show with comedy and more. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, picnic lunch, & prepare to have a great time. FREE

Fri.-Sat., July 10-11, 7-8:30pm Fri, 1-2:30pm Sat
Career Open House For Full & Part time Sales Agent
Des Plaines: 847-337-8321 billeon.net
Billeon Financial Group, Inc., 1111 E. Touhy Ave. Work from home, yet get the training, support & mentorship to ensure success. If you have the integrity & desire to succeed, you can be part of our mission of "Building Value For Life" for people by helping them achieve Financial Peace Of Mind. Free.

Fri.-Sun., July 10-12
Greek Fest 2009
Elgin: 847-888-2822 st-sophia.com
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 525 Church Rd. Authentic food, drinks (full bar), & sweets! Kids can enjoy inflatables, a ride on train, & lots of games. Children's activities not open from 11-1 on Fri. Live entertainment on Fri/Sat. night, & all day on Sun! $2/admission, but free with Oaklee's Guide in hand!. 11am-1pm Fri, noon-11pm Sat, noon-10pm Sun

Fri., July 10, 5-7pm & & Sat., Aug. 8, noon-2pm
Poolside BBQ
Highland Park: 847-433-3170 pdhp.org
Hidden Creek AquaPark, 1220 Fredrickson Place. Bring the family & join friends for a poolside BBQ & leave the mess to us. Race down the water slides or splashing in the zero-depth entry. Normal admission fees apply.

Fri., July 10, Dusk
Movie in the Park in Springfield
Springfield: 217-544-1751 springfieldparks.org
Springfield Park District, Kiwanis Park. This family oriented event is always popular and is completely FREE to all participants. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Featured Movie will be Madagascar 2: Escape from Africa. Free.

Fri.'s, July 10, Aug. 21 & Aug. 28, 10:30-11am
Story Time at Tekakwitha Woods
St. Charles: 847-741-8350
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve, Villa Maria Rd. Children from infant-age 5 & their caregivers are invited to listen to stories, accompanied by finger plays, songs & more. Registration is required. Free. .

Fri-Sat., July 10-11, 10am-9pm
Scoopin' Genesee
Waukegan: 847-599-2949 waukeganweb.net
Downtown, Genesee St. Bring out your pre-1980 car or motorcycle & scoop down Genesee St. or come out just to see the cars, listen to great music, & enjoy a great choice of food. There is also a Childrens fest on Sat. with magic show, petting zoo, & much more. Free

Fri-Sun., July 10-12
Taste of Westmont
Westmont: 630- 829-9378 tasteofwestmont.com
Downtown, Cass Ave. Woodstock 40th Anniversary Celebration. Break out the tie dye shorts & come out to listen to the music of CCR, Santana, Crosby Stills Nash &Young, The Who and more. Our Muddy Waters Blues Night will feature living legend Lonnie Brooks. Free admission. 4-10:30pm Fri, 12-10:30pm Sat, 12-10pm Sun

Fri-Sat., July 10-11, 10am-4pm
Wilmette Sidewalk Sale & Family Fun Days
Wilmette: 847-251-3800 wilmettechamber.org
Wilmette Ave. & Central Ave. A moon bounce, face painting, balloon animals, & arts &crafts for the kids. Bargains galore for the whole family include local merchants and outside craftspeople.

Fri.-Sun., July 10-12
Windmill City Fest
Batavia: 630-879-5235 www.bataviaparks.org
Batavia Riverwalk, 100 N. Island Ave. Batavia's summer carnival starts a day early & includes old favorites & new offerings. No entry fee or cover charge for bands.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, 5pm-9am
Family Campout
Carol Stream: 630-784-6100 csparks.org
Armstrong Park, 391 Illini Dr. Camp out at beautiful Armstrong Park! Canoe or bring your fishing poles & throw in a line. Bring your own dinner & we'll supply the grill. S'mores & stories around the campfire. Bring your tent & sleeping bags. Register by 7/6. $9 res., $15 non-res.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, Noon to 10pm daily
Chicago Folk & Roots Festival
Chicago: 773-728-6000 oldtownschool.org
Welles Park, 4400 N. Lincoln Ave. In addition to the live back-to-back Main Stage performances, visitors can shake their hips in the DANCE TENT; bring the young ones to the KIDS TENT to sample popular classes such as "Wiggleworms"; & even join in open jams & sing-a-longs at the GAZEBO. $8/adult, $4/seniors and children

Sat., July 11, noon-4pm
A Day at the Races at Rainbow Falls Waterpark
Elk Grove Village: 847-228-2860 www.elkgroveparks.org
200 Rev. Morrison Blvd. Duck races in the Lazy River. $1 per duck with prizes for race winners. Rainbow Falls Waterpark Daily admission applies.

Sat., July 11, 7:30am-9am
Open Water Swim Race
Crystal Lake: 815-459-0680, ext. 228 crystallakeparks.org
Crystal Lake Main Beach, 300 Lakeshore Dr. A 1-Mile & 2-Mile open water swim race. The course begins at Main Beach & follows an out & back straight line. Wetsuits are optional. Swimcaps are provided. S$25 Pre-Registration, $35 Race Day Registration

Sat., July 11, 9:30-11 am
Leap Frogs
Downers Grove: 630-963-9388 dgparks.org
Lyman Woods, 901 31st St.Search for some of our local frogs and toads down at the pond, & join in some froggy fun with games, crafts and outdoor activities. Dress to be outdoors. Must pre-register. $8/child. Ages 4-6.

Sat., July 11, 6-10pm
Teen Battle of the Bands
Downers Grove: 630-963-1300 dgparks.org
Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave. Five local teen bands perform throughout the day in Lincoln Center auditorium. You can vote for your favorite band by putting a dollar in their jar. The band with the most votes wins! $3 at the door/ $1 to vote. Ages 12+

Sat., July 11, 10am-2pm
ParX GamZ
Elmhurst: 630- 993-8925 epd.org
Crestview Park, 245 E. Crestview. Join us as we take sports to the extreme! With games, races, and activities that take the fun to a whole new level, you won't want to miss this party. Free.

Sat., July 11, 2-3:30pm
Fossil Discovery
Elmhurst: 630-833-1616
Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, 220 Cottage Hill. All ages learn how fossils are formed, where to look for fossils & study fossils. Children can keep all the fossils they find and win. Ages 7+. $15/person. Must pre-register.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, 6am-5pm
Climbing & Caving Weekend in South Central Wisconsin
Highland Park: 847-433-6901 pdhp.org
Sat. will be spent on a WI speleological society-led exploration of 600 ft of passages that make up Pop's Cave. Afterwards, we'll head to Devil's Lake State Park & spend the night camping. On Sun., we'll wake up for a morning of some of the Midwest's best rock climbing. $175. Ages 12+.

Weekends, July 11-Sept. 7
Bristol Renaissance Faire
Kenosha, WI: 847-395-7773 renfair.com
Located off I-94 at the IL/WI border, 12550 120th Ave. More than 1200 artisans, merchants & performers including jousting knights & ravishing rogues. Open Sat.'s, Sun.'s & Labor Day, July 1-Sept. 7. $18.95/adult, $9.50/children.

Sat., July 11, 11am-noon
Emerald City Theatre Presents Doctor Dolittle
Mount Prospect: 847-253-5675 mppl.org
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. Come along & learn how to talk to the animals! This world premiere production, based on the books by Hugh Lofting, is a whirlwind of puppetry, music, and fun! FREE but must register to attend

Sat., July 11, 6-8 pm
Pirate Brigade
Oak Brook: 630-645-9590 obparks.org
Oak Brook Family Rec Center, 1450 Forest Gate Rd. Bring your water gun for a night of action packed combat! This party will be filled with awesome adventures, so prepare yourself for water balloons, relay races & prizes! Pre-registration required.

Sat., July 11, 10am-2pm
FidoFest
Plainfield: 630-554-1010 oswegolandparkdistrict.org
Grande Park Community Park, 26333 Grande Park Blvd. Spend some time with your favorite four-legged friend. Enjoy demos, play areas, giveaways, and more! Free!

Sat., July 11, 10am-2pm
Fish Fest
Rockford: 815-987-8800 rockfordparkdistrict.org
Levings Lake, 1420 S. Pierpont Ave. Free for all ages. Different stations to teach safety & casting. IDNR will also stock Levings with tagged catfish for prizes (catch & release). Loaner gear for up to 200 people. Fishing clinic 10am-noon; catch & release fishing for prizes 12:30pm-2pm. Free.

Second Sat. of July & Aug., 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 in A Place for Discovery. For children ages 4-8. Ongoing activities take 30 to 45 minutes to complete, and feature take-home crafts. Registration is not required. Free.

Sat., July 11, 10-6 pm
Zoofari at Henson Robinson Zoo
Springfield: 217-753-6217 hensonrobinsonzoo.org
Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 East Lake Dr. Animal programs, turtle races, animal enrichment activities &vendors. Visitors will be given the opportunity to observe as the animals are given special treats. Free.

Sat., July 11, 10-11am
The Buzz About Bees
St. Charles: 847-741-8350
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve, Villa Maria Rd. Naturalist Jaclyn Olson will lead an exploration of the prairie looking for worker bees collecting nectar & pollen. We'll examine the live bee hive display in the nature center which will give us an inside look at bee society. Free.

Sat.-Sun., July 11-12, 11 am-5pm, 9am-3pm
Civil War Days
Wauconda: 847-968-3400 LCFPD.org/CivilWar
Lakewood Forest Preserve, 27277 N. Forest Preserve Rd. Ongoing drills, activities, & Civil War era shopping available both days. View the Big Battle on Sunday to see artillery, infantry, cavalry & medical units in action. Also, visit the 1863 Summer Fair - a recreation of a 19th century agricultural fair.

Sun.-Mon., July 12-13
Disney's Alladin Jr.
Aurora: 630-966-4527
Paramount Arts Centre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. All of your favorite characters are here in this stage adaptation of the Disney hit, including Alladdin, Jasmine, and of course, the Genie. $8 before 7/3; $10 after

Sun., July 12, 1-4pm
Dancing Through the Decades
Bartlett: 630-372-7665 bartlettparks.org
Bartlett Aquatic Center, 620 W. Stearns Rd.Welcome back to the 60's, 70's, and 80's! Join us for a day of music, dancing, and crafts. Each hour a different decade! Free with daily admission.

Sun., July 12, 6:15 - 8:15 pm
Intro to Kayaking
Carol Stream: 630-784-6100 csparks.org
Coral Cove Water Park, 849 Lies Rd. Kids in Grades 3-8 can hit the water this summer in a kayak! Learn all the essential kayaking techniques and safety rules. Kids must be comfortable gonig under water. $50 resident/$70 non-res.

Sun., July 12, 10am-12pm
The Buzz on Bees
Chicago: 312-742-8497 millenniumpark.org
Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. Learn about the importance of bees and pollination. Then make bee-u-tiful crafts and taste different honeys. Free.

Sun., July 12, 1-5pm
Vintage Baseball Game
Elmhurst: 630-833-1457 elmhursthistory.org
Berens Park, 493 Oak Lawn Ave. Come out and watch America's pastime played by 1850s rules as the Chicago Salmon Vintage Team takes on Elmhurst's own boys (& girls) of summer. Old-fashioned fun for the whole family. Bring your own chair or blanket.~ FREE.

Sun., July 12, 11am-4pm
Show & Shine Car Show
Glendale Heights: 630-260-0018 glendaleheights.org
Americana Park, 1615 Van Meter. A variety of cars & trucks from antique to present will be on exhibit. Following the show, spend the evening at Glendale Heights' Summer Fest, including rides, games, entertainment, food, & fabulous fireworks at dusk.

Sun., July 12, 1:30-3pm
Grandparents Workshop - Ice Cream Social
Glenview: 847-751-9474
Young Chefs Academy, Invite Grandma or Grandpa for a special day in our kitchens. Create our version of snickerdoodles & homemade ice cream! Workshop: $35/pair, 10 add'l child.

Sun., July 12, 11:30am-7pm
Mother's Day
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park, 433 E. St. Charles Rd. It's Mom's day in Paradise, bring her to the water park for a day of fun. Mother's are free when accompanied by their children. See website for daily admission fee

Sun., July 12, 2pm
A Wild & Wacky African Safari
Morton Grove: 847 929-5102 webrary.org
Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Karen Jordan children's musician & storyteller takes the family on a musical tour of Africa and all of its wildlife using authentic african instruments. Come dressed for a safari. Free. Ages 2+

Sun., July 12, 6pm
Concert In The Park with Optical Distortion
Mt. Prospect: 847-394-2277 capannaris.com
Capannari Ice Cream, 10 s. Pine St. We encourage everyone to bring a blanket & dinner & enjoy a wonderful evening of music. Free..

Sun., July 12, 6am-noon
SPD Triathlon & Duathlon
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Meineke Recreation Center, 220 E. Weathersfield Way. The Splash, Pedal, Dash Triathlon consists of a 400-meter swim, 15-mile bike ride & 5K run, while the Dash, Pedal, Dash Duathlon consists of a 15-mile bike ride sandwiched between two 5K runs. Multiple age divisions available. Call for costs.r

Sun., July 12, 10am-4pm
Heritage Fair
Union: 815-923-2267 mchsonline.org
6422 Main St. Museum is open with many demonstrators + one room school &log cabin. Pie Baking contest, entertainment, live auction, white elephant, vintage clothing, book &bake saies, quilt bed turning, magic show. Food available. Free

Sun., July 12, 11am-7pm
Mom's Special Day
Vernon Hills: 847-996-6800 vhparkdistrict.org
Vernon Hills Park District's Family Aquatic Center, 635 Aspen Dr. All mothers are admitted FREE; or, if they are season pass holders, they may instead receive a coupon for a frozen ice at the Backyard Grille concession stand.

Mon.-Wed., July 13-15, 9:30am-4:30pm
Princess Days
Arlington Heights: 847-590-5877
littlevillageplayplace.com
Little Village Playplace, 176 North Arlington Heights Rd. Dress as your favorite princess & enjoy a royal day! Make your own special wand & wish upon a wishing star! $8.25/child. No reservations are required. Ages 1-7.

Mon.-Thur., July 13-16, 2:15-4:15pm
Moviemaking 101 - Making Your Own Batman™ Movie
Darien: 630-968-6400
Darien Park District, 7301 Fairview Ave. Create our own Batman™ movie using special digital movie making cameras & software. We will use graphic editing techniques & stop motion animation, add background noise & music, & show our movie at a private screening on the last day of class. Call to register.

Mon., July 13, 7pm-830pm
Wackiest Geneva Pets
Geneva: 630-232-4951 genevahistorycenter.org
Geneva History Center, 113 s. 3rd St. Do you have a weird, wacky or wild pet? Write your pet's story & include a photo or drawing & you could win a chance to be a presenter at this weird, wild & wacky event. Free.

Mon., July 13, Races Begin at 6:30pm
Big Wheels Race
McHenry: 815 363-2160
Petersen Park East Parking Lot, 4300 Petersen Park Rd. Children will ride their all-plastic big wheels to compete for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place trophies by age/gender category. Pre-registration is preferred by 7/10. $5/child. Ages 3-5

Mon.-Fri., July 13-17, 9am-11:30am
Up in the Air
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St. Experiment with the wonders and power of moving air. Children will design and build their own pinwheels, gliders, paper airplanes and even more fanciful creations to test in the Museum's one-of-a-kind AirWorks Neighborhoos. Advance registration required; $159 member/$189 nonmember. 3-5.

Tue., July 14, 1-3pm
Super Hero Capes
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. $2 per project

Tue-Wed., July 14-15, 2-10pm Tue, 2:30-11pm Wed
Frontier League All Star Game & Festivities
Loves Park: 815-885-2255 rockfordriverhawks.com
4503 Interstate Blvd.Tue.: Youth clinic, Cubs/White Sox Legends Autograph session/ Cubs/Sox Legends game, Home Run Derby, Cubs/White Sox Jersey Auction. Wed.: MLB Scouts workout, batting practice, Fun Fest in parking lot, Frontier League Autograph session, Military flyover, All Star game, fireworks & post game party. $15/day; $25/2-day pass

Tue., July 14, 6:35pm & 6:45pm
McHenry River Run
McHenry: 815-363-2160
Veteran's Memorial Park, 3400 Pearl St. 3 Mile Fun Run race begins at 6:35pm & 6.8 Mile Run begins at 6:45pm.Registration forms will be available at the Parks & Recreation Depo & the Chamber of Commerce offices after 5/1. Rain Date is 7/16. $15/until 7/10, $20/after7/10

Ongoing, July 14-20
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Pro-Am Fore Kids hosted by Skip Kendall
Milwaukee: 414-266-6344 chw.org
Brown Deer Golf Course, 7625 N. Range Line Rd. PGA Tour member Skip Kendall hosts Children's Hospital of Wisconsin' Pro-Am Fore Kids. Golf clinic, tournament & dinner.Reservations made by calling 414-266-6320.

Tue., July 14, 8pm
Movie under the Stars, plus Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament
Mount Prospect: 847-392-2277 capannaris.com
Capannari Ice Cream, 10 S. Pine. Come out for a night under the stars. Bring your lawn chair, picnic basket & enjoy "Hotel For Dogs" & some super premium ice cream! Free.

Tue.-Thur., July 14-16, 9am-Noon
Cardboard Carpentry
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St. Measure twice, cut once! Girls & boys alike enjoy working with tools. Learn some basics of carpentry as you create a useable piece of furniture for your room out of super-thick cardboard.Advance registration required; $100 member/$110 nonmember. Ages 7-10

Tue., July 14, 5-7pm
Pirate Night at Kemmerling Pool
Roselle: 630-894-4200 roselleparkdistrict.com
Roselle Park District, 555 W. Bryn Mawr. Ahoy, Matey! We have some fantastic prizes for you to enjoy if you can find the buried treasure! Free with paid admission

Tue., July 14
All Star Baseball Day!
Wheeling 847-229-0400 nibblesplaycafe.com
Nibbles' Play Cafe, 13 Huntingon Lane. Come eat Wa-pa-ghetti's Pizza, watch the All-Star game & play baseball trading card games! $8/person, incl.'s admission, pizza, drinks!

Wed.-Sun., July 15-19
Kane County Fair
St. Charles: 630-584-6926 www.kanecountyfair.com
Kane County Fairgrounds, Randall Rd. between Rts. 64 & 38. Featuring top groups & acts appearing non-stop every day. 4H exhibits, rides, animals, games & our Great Kane County Country food. Check our website for hours, special promotions & concert information.

Wed.-Thur., July 15-16, 9:30-11am
Animal Safari
Barrington: 847-381-6592
Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Rd. Search for crawling, slithering & flying creatures in this activity packed day camp! Registration is required. Ages 5-8.

Wed., July 15, 5-8pm
Ice Cream Social
Carol Stream: 630-784-6100 csparks.org
Coral Cove Water Park, 849 Lies Rd. I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Come and enjoy some FREE ice cream with your whole family. $5 res., $9 non-res.

Wed., July 15, 5:15-8pm
Open Track Meet
McHenry: 815 363-2160
McCracken Field, Kane Ave. Running events, relay, softball throw, discus, long jum & shot put. Children with disabilities ages 6-14 are welcome to participate in 25 meter dash/assisted walk & 4 person 100 meter relay. Walkers, canes, crutches or non-motorized wheelchairs can be used. Field events include soft ball throw, disc throw & long jump. Sign up early! $10/person. Ages 7-12

3rd Annual Sister Cities French Festival
Mount Prospect: 847-253-5675 mppl.org/events
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. The Library will provide stories, songs, & a craft with a French flair. Language Stars of Arlington Heights will return to help deliver the fun! Plus, Capannari's Ice Cream Shop will bring a special French-y flavor for the occasion. (C'est magnifique!). Registration is required.

Wed., July 15, 10-11:30am
Homeschool - Food Chains
Sugar Grove: 847-741-8350
Bliss Woods Forest Preserve, Bliss Rd. A new program series designed for home school families. Activities will focus on ages 5-10 but all ages are welcome. Each month we will explore a diff. topic at a diff. forest preserve. $2/person, $8/family of 4 or more

Wed., July 15, 1-3pm
Wicks & Wax
Westmont: 630-969-8080 wpd4fun.org
Gregg House Museum, 117 S. Linden Ave. Discover the art of candle making when you create your very own candle the old-fashioned way. This is a drop-in program. Please allow 20 minutes. Get your Passport booklet stamped! $4. Ages 4-12

Thur-Sun., July 16-19, noon-10pm, Sun till 6 pm
Antioch's Taste of Summer Festival 2009
Antioch: 847-395-2233
Downtown Antioch. Music, Food, Sidewalk Sales & a carnival assures fun for each & everyone! Evening headlining performances in Antioch's Bandshell. Enjoy delicacies from an assortment of eateries. Free Admission

Thur-Fri., July 16-17, 11am-5pm
Antique Tractor & Steam Engine show
Channahon: 815-467-6766 dollingerfarms.com
Dollinger Family Farm, 7502 W. Hansel Rd. Daily Parade of Power 3pm. Food & concessions, tractor pull on Sun., steam train rides. flea market, country gift shop & much more.

Thur., July 16, 7pm
Eccentric Geneva Walking Tour
Geneva: 630-232-4951 genevahistorycenter.org
Geneva History Center, 113 s. 3rd St. Discover the fascinating stories of some of Geneva's more colorful historic figures on this engaging walking tour.Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for Geneva History Center members and children. Meet at the History Center.$10

Thur., July 16, Movie will begin at dusk
Movie in the Park - High School Musical 3
Geneva: 630-232-4542 genevaparks.org
Sunset Park, 710 Western Ave. Bring your chairs &/or blanket to sit out on. Concessions available for purchase at all movies. Held rain or shine. Rain location: Geneva Community Center. Rated G. Free.

Thur.'s, July 16 & 30, 9:30am-12:30pm
Pioneer Skills Camp
Lombard: 630-629-1885 lombardhistory.org
Sheldon Peck Homestead, 355 E. Parkside. Live like pioneers & learning about the settlers of Illinois & pioneer life. Dipping candles, making soap, churning butter, making rope, fetching wood & more. Take home handmade candles & soap. $25/child. Ages 8+.

Sacred Heart Germanfest
Lombard: 630- 627-0687 sacredheartlombard.org
Sacred Heart Church parking lot, 112 S. Elizabeth St. One of the Western Suburb's biggest event of the summer! Admission is Free! Featuring Carnival Rides, Games, Bingo, Live Music Entertainment, Beer Tent, Homemade German Food, & MORE! 6-10pm Thur, 6-11pm Fri, noon-11pm Sat, 1-8pm Sun

Fri.-Sun., July 16-19
Old Settlers Days
Rockton: 815-624-7625 oldsettlersdays.com
Settlers Park, E. Hawick St. Bring the whole family for the parade, music, carnival rides, Trading Post, food booth, fireworks & more. , 6-10:30pm Thur, 6-11:30pm Fri, 1-11:30pm Sat, 2-9:30pm Sun

Thur., July 16, 10am-12pm
Parents' Escape! Canoe Crazy
Highland Park: 847-433.6901 pdhp.org
Skokie Lagoons. A quiet, kid-free morning paddle. Heller's certified staff will provide canoes, paddles, P.F.D.s, instruction, games & everything else needed. Max. of three adults/canoe. $25/40 a person (or $75/100 per canoe of three adults).

July 17-19, 23-26,30-31 & Aug. 1, Call for times
Fiddler on the Roof
Arlington Heights: 225-345-7200 stjamestheatre.org
St. James Community Theatre, 820 N. Arlington Hts Rd.

Fri., July 17, 8-9pm
Bats
Barrington: 847-381-6592
Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Rd. We will explore their form, function, myth & truth. Later we'll take a look for these mysterious mammals of the night sky. Registration is required.

Fri.'s, July 17, Aug. 21, dusk
Movies in the Park
Crystal Lake: 847-459-0680
Main Beach Band Shell, 300 Lake Shore Dr. We will have popcorn, pop, & candy for sale. Grab the blankets for an enjoyable PG rated movie in the park. Free: 1/17: Hotel for Dogs, 8/21:Bolt

Fri.-Sun., July 17-19, During normal business hours
City Centre Sidewalk Sale
Elmhurst: 630-993-1600 elmhurstcitycentre.com
Elmhurst City Centre, 2 City Centre.The hottest deals & coolest finds of the summer! Enjoy unique shopping, delicious dining, fabulous services and all that Elmhurst City Centre has to offer. FREE.

July 17-Aug. 1
Hello Dolly!
Itasca: 630-250-7518 overshadowedproductions.com
Overshadowed Theatrical Productions, 210 S. Walnut St. Theater with a difference in historic Itasca! $12/adults; $10/students or seniors. Add $2 for tickets at the door. .

Fri., July 17, 6:30pm
Family Movie Night
Palatine: 847-359.2400 buehlerymca.org
Buehler YMCA, 1400 W. Northwest Hwy. Join us for Family Movie Night in the Family Adventure Center! Family movie night features a family friendly, G-rated film, fresh popcorn, and fun! Please register for this free event by July 15, 2009. Free.

Splashtastic Birthday Bash
Park Ridge: 847-692-5127 prparks.org
Centennial Pool, 100 S. Western. Join us as we make a huge splash celebrating Centennial Wading Pool's 1st Birthday. Music, games, refreshments, & of course, a splashtastic goody bag for every child who registers! Pre registration required. $9 res., $17 non-res.

Fri.-Sun., July 17-19, 5pm-midnight Fri , 10am-midnight Sat, noon- 6pm Sun
PlainfieldFest
Plainfield: 815-436-5510 mainstreetplainfield.org
Downtown Plainfield, 24044 W. Lockport St. Enjoy Live Entertainment on the Budweiser Stage in the Main Beer Garden,carnival rides,sidewalk beer gardens,bag tournament,food,food,food,family fun,rockwall,inflatables and more!!

Fri., July 17, 1-3pm
Horns & Frills-Homer the Triceratops & His Relatives
Rockford: 815-965-3433 x 1020 burpee.org
Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 N Main St. Get up close to Homer the fossil Triceratops. Make a ceratopsian mask to take home. For school aged children. Registration required. $6.

Fri., July 17, 6pm
Family Ice Cream Social
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Town Square. Take a break from summer's heat with a cool, refreshing ice cream sundae. Live entertainment, & no pre-registration is required. Rain moves the event to the Community Recreation Center. $3.50 for sundaes.

Fri., July 17, 6-7:30pm
Pirate's Pool Party
South Barrington: 847-381-7515 sbpd.net
South Barrington Community Center, 3 Tennis Club Lane. An evening of pirate adventure, including diving for gold coins, cannon ball contests, buried treasure & more! Pre-registration required by 7/9. Rain date:July 20.$8(R) / $10(NR) & $15 at the door

Sat., July 18, 12:30-1:45pm
Melinda the Mermaid
Arlington Heights: 847-577-3000 ahpd.org
Lake Arlington, 2201 N. Windsor. We need help in our search for Melinda the Mermaid! We will learn about mermaids & ocean life before setting off to comb the shores for clues. A light snack & juice will be provided. Ages 4-6. Fee is $20.

Sat., July 18, 7-9:30pm
A Night on the Bayou
Bartlett: 630-372-7665 bartlettparks.org
Bartlett Aquatic Center, 620 W. Stearns Rd. Enjoy an adult only night at the aquatic center with a DJ, sand volleyball, baggo & lawn games. $10 advance registration/$15 at the door.

Sat., July 18, 7-10pm
Kids Lock-In . . . Party is Here!
Carol Stream: 630-784-6100 csparks.org
Simkus Recreation Center, 849 Lies Rd. Kids from grades 2-5 can enjoy a night out of the house socializing, dancing to the latest hits, playing games, & more. Bring swimsuits and towels. Pizza, snacks & drinks are included in the fee. $25 res., $38 non-res.

Family Campout
Deerfield: 847-945-0650 dfpd.org
Maplewood Park, Clay Court. Pitch your tents & bring your flashlights. No charge & no registration required. There will be sports equipment to use, grills for cooking & a movie in the park. Bagels & doughnuts are for breakfast.

Sat., July 18, 6:30 - 8 pm
Firefly Frenzy
Downers Grove: 630-963-9388 dgparks.org
Lyman Woods, 901 31st St. Learn about the fascinating firefly & the science behind their blinking bodies. Dress to be outdoors. Pre-registration is required. Ages 7-9

Sat., July 18, 5-10pm
Naperville Summer Nights Movie Night- Ghostbusters
Naperville: 630- 420-6010 napervillesummernights.com
Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St. Pack a picnic and relax under the stars. Bring your own blankets & lawn chairs. $5/person

Sat., July 18, 10am-5pm
The Illinois Waterway Through History
Ottawa: 815-667-4054
Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, 950 N. 27th Rd. Andy Talley returns to bring us his historic interpretation of the tall tales, music & song of Andre' St. Pierre, an 18th century French-Indian fur trader.

Sat.-Sun., July 18-19, 11am-5pm
Love In Bloom: Courtship, Weddings and More
Rockford: 815- 397-9112 x105 midwayvillage.com
Midway Village Museum,6799 Guilford Rd. Take a trip back in time to experience all the festivities surrounding a typical courtship practices, Midwestern Victorian ethnic weddings including the flowers, food and proper customs of the times. $6/adult, $4/ages 3-17.

Sat., July 18, 10-11am
Buttterflies!
Sugar Grove: 847-741-8350
Hannaford Woods Forest Preserve, Merrill Rd., E. of Rt. 47. Search for butterflies & learn ways to identify them. During the hike we'll also discuss the habits & life cycles of our native butterfly species. Free.

Sat., July 18, 9-10:30am
Go Fish!!
Wheaton: 630- 871-2810 wheatonparkdistrict.com
Lincoln Marsh Natural Area, 1010 W. Madison St. Meet us at Rathje Park for a little fishing fun (catch & release). All equipment & bait are provided for children or you can bring your own. Ages 16+ are required to have a fishing license.Pre-registration required. $7/res.,$10/non-res.

Sat., July 18, 1pm
Summer Splash & Duck Race
Wood Dale: 630-595-9333
The Beach Waterpark, 161 W. Commercial Ave. Swimming, music, food & more. Sponsor a duck for $5 or 4 /$15. Prizes are awarded for 1st-10th place. You do not need to be present to win. $1.00

Theater in the Park
Yorkville: 630-553.8564 yorkville.il.us
Riverfront Bicentennial Park, Rt. 47 & E. Hydraulic. Join the United City of Yorkville and the Fox Country Players for free outdoor melodramas in the park! Bring a lawn chair, your dinner, and enjoy! Free!

Sun., July 19, 11am-4pm
Antique Car Show & Horseshoe Demo
Aurora: 630-966-4527 foxvalleyparkdistrict.org
Blackberry Farm, 100 S. Barnes Rd. Some of the coolest cars in the area, including street rods, customized cars & classic automobiles. Res.: $4.25 adult / $3.75 child. non-res.: $7 adult / $6 child

Sun., July 19, noon-3pm
Meineke Mini Carnival
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Meineke Recreation Center, 220 E. Weathersfield Way. An old fashioned carnival with lots of indoor activities, games, music & more! Ages 4-10. Pre-registration: $4/res., $6/non-res. Day-of: $5/$7. Parents are free.

Sun., July 19, 2-3pm
Designing Dryptosaurus: From Fossil to Feathers
Wauconda: 847-968-3400
LakeCountyDiscoveryMuseum.org
Lake County Discovery Museum, 27277 N. Forest Preserve Rd. Join paleo artist Tyler Keillor as he describes the research, work, & artistry that goes into recreating these ancient animals as he illustrates the process with his own photographs & models. Visit www.LCFPD.org or call 847-968-3321 to register..

Mon.-Fri., July 20-24, 9am-11:30am
Color, Light and Shadow
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St. Discover the wonders of light, shadow & color as your child investigates mixing paint, light & music, creating shadow puppets & more. Advance registration required; $159 member/$189 nonmember. Ages 3-5.

July 20-Aug. 10, 11am-4pm
Blueberry Festival
Racine County, WI: 800-238-3629 appleholler.com
Apple Holler, 5006 S. Sylvania Ave. Build your own blueberry shortcake & sundaes. Weekend outdoor cookout featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, ribs, brats & chicken. Live music. Wagon rides, pedal carts, Kid's play area & more. Free admission. Tickets required for some activities.

July 21, 10am check-in, noon shotgun start
25th Annual Lambs Farm Golf Day
Beach Park: 847-990-3733 lambsfarm.org
Lambs Farm, ThunderHawk Golf Club. A great day of golf & raise funds for our programs. Gather you foursome & hit the links. Fee includes meals, &golf. $400/indiv., $1,600/foursome

July 21, 10-10:30am
Tot Time Story Time
Carol Stream: 630-653-0755 cslibrary.org
Carol Stream Public Library, 616 Hiawatha Dr. Tots three & under & a parent are invited to share short stories & a variety of participation activities. Free

Radioactive Spiders
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.

July 21, 6:30-8:30pm
Family Luau
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park, 433 E. St. Charles Rd. Wear your Hawaiian print shirts, lei & come barefoot. We'll enjoy water games, refreshments & learn how to hula! Children under 18 admitted only when accompanied by a parent/guardian 18+. $4/R, $7/NR Child. $5.50/R, $10/NR adult or Pool pass.

Wed., July 22, 11am-12pm
Bartlett's Biggest Birthday Party
Bartlett: 630-540-4800 bartlettparks.org
Community Park Fields, 620 W. Stearns Rd. Come celebrate BIG time with our annual Bartlett's Biggest event. There will be crafts, games, and a treat! FREE.

Wed., July 22, 1-3pm
Pop-up Puppets- Drop In Program
Westmont: 630-969-8080 wpd4fun.org
Gregg House Museum,117 S. Linden Ave. Make an old-fashioned toy using cones, cups, rods, markers & lots of imagination. You can use your puppet to tell a story or put on a puppet show. Allow 20 minutes. Get your Passport booklet stamped! $3. Ages 4-12

Wed.-Sun., July 22-26
DuPage County Fair
Wheaton: 630-668-6636 dupagecountyfair.org
DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd. Great grandstand entertainment, free parking, free roaming acts, free entertainment tent with a variety of local talent. Scheduled performances: Los Lobos, The Wailers & International Demolition Derby.

Thur.-Sun., July 23-26, 7am-7pm
Downtown Sidewalk Sale
Downers Grove: 630-725-0991 downtowndg.org
Main and Curtiss St. Details to follow! For more information visit online.

Thur., July 23, 1:30-2:30pm
The Watery World of Creeks
St. Charles: 847-741-8350
Dean St., W. of Randall Rd. Enjoy a naturalist-guided exploration. We'll see aquatic life up close & personal. 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. Ages 5+

Fri., July 24, 6-7:30pm
Intro to Disc Golf
Carol Stream: 630-784-6100 csparks.org
Aldrin Community Center, 391 Illini Dr. Learn the basics needed to enjoy a round of disc golf, the lingo, locations of courses in the area, different types of throws & more. A portable basket will be on site for practice. $13/res., $19/non-res. Ages 8-18.

Fri. & Sat., July 24 & 25, Fri. 6-11pm & Sat. 4-11pm
10th Annual Irish Fest
Arlington Heights: call 847-255-1225 for more info
Arlington Heights Historical Museum grounds, 110 W. Fremont St., corner of Vail & Fremont. Irish music, dance, pipes and drums. Irish goods for sale and authentic Irish food & drink. Wee Folk tent on Saturday. Blankets & chairs welcome. For a complete schedule, see ahpd.org. Admission charged.

Fri.-Sun., July 24-Aug. 2
Des Plaines: 847-391-5711
www.desplainesparks.org
Prairie Lake Theater, 515 E. Thacker St. The classic musical based on the play by J.M. Barrie. Think lovely thoughts ... singing ... dancing ... flying! Don't miss this all-time favorite.
Shows are Fri and Sat at 8pm, Sat and Sun at 2pm. Tickets at the box office beginning June 13: $12/adult, $10/students & seniors. Footlighters Theatre Company. Directed by Jack Lampert.

Fri., July 24, 7:30pm
Drive-In Movie (Family)
Highland Park: 847-579-3120 pdhp.org
Highland Park High School, 433 Vine Ave. Hop in the car and head to Highland Park High School's parking lot for this old-fashioned movie watching experience. Tune your radio to the sound of the movie. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. The movie will be announced two weeks prior to the event and will begin at 8:30pm. See www.pdhp.org or call 847.579.3120 for more info. $15/car (all proceeds benefit S.M.I.L.E.)

Fri., July 24, 6-8pm
Parent/Child Golf Tournament
Highland Park: 847-432-7140 pdhp.org
Sunset Valley Golf Course, 1390 Sunset Rd. Introduce your child to the game that lasts a lifetime. Hit nine holes and then stop by the clubhouse for some BBQ treats. $40/per team of two.

Fri., July 24, 6:45-7:40pm
Magic Class-The Magic of Gary Kantor
Highland Park: 847-579.3121 pdhp.org
West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Rd. Learn fascinating tricks from a professional magician! Amaze family & friends with tricks that involve cards, ropes, coins, mind reading & more. All materials are provided & each child receives a magic kit to take home. Pre-registration is required. $20/27. Ages 5-12.

Fri.'s, July 24 & Aug. 14, 8-9:30pm
Evening Adventure Old-Fashioned Campfire
Highland Park: 847-433.6901 pdhp.org
Heller Nature Center, 2821 Ridge Rd. Add some twilight mystery to the old-fashioned campfire. We'll explore the forest as it gets dark & enjoy the campfire & s'mores! $6/person. .

BBQ & Blues on the Rooftop
Joliet: 815-280-1444
The Renaissance Center, 214 N. Ottawa St. Satisfy body & soul with an amazing barbeque buffet while enjoying the sweet sounds of authentic blues music.

Fri., July 24, 10am
Food Folks & Spokes
Kenosha, WI: 262-654-9622 Ext. 202 kenoshaymca.org
Library Park, 60th St. & 8th Ave. & surrounding streets. Kenosha's largest one-day, alcohol-free, family event is presented by the Kenosha YMCA. Festival of Food, Fun Fest for Kids, a wide variety of family friendly entertainment for all ages and, of course, the International Cycling Classic Pro-Am bicycle races.

Fri., July 24, 9:45am - 11:15am
Under the Sea
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park, 433 E. St. Charles Rd. A fun celebration with games, water activities, crafts & prizes! Join us as we explore the creatures of the sea. Don't forget your swim suit & towel. Registration deadline is 7/22. $5/1 parent & child, $4/add'l child

Fri., July 24, 11:30am-5pm
Create-a-Craft: Animal Art
Mount Prospect: 847/253-5675 mppl.org
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson. Let your imagination run wild!Children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult. No registration is necessary; just drop in. Free.

Fri., July 24, 10:30am
Parker In The Park
Palatine: 847-202-5222
Cutting Hall, 150 E. Wood St. Join Parker & his friends as they discover ideas for exploring nature and ways to protect the environment in this interactive show. $5. Call or visit online for tickets.

Fri., July 24, 5:30pm
Atcher Island Luau
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Atcher Island, 730 S. Springinsguth Rd. An evening of swimming, music, games & fun! Receive a lei upon arrival. Hot dog, chips & soda are also part of the package. $10/res., $15/non-res.

July 24-26, July 30-31-Aug. 1,
The Civil War - A Musical
Springfield: 217 558-8934 presidentlincoln.org
Union Square Park, across for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 North Sixth St.This inspiring musical honors the spirit of the men & women who lived & fought in the Civil War. Performed on an outdoor stage. From $5 - $15. 7:15pm preshow, 8pm show. .

Fri/-Sun., July 24-26
Streamwood's Summer Celebration
Streamwood: 630-736-3800
streamwood.org/summercelebration
Hoosier Grove Park, 700 W. Irving Park Rd. Enjoy a Sat. morning parade, carnival, activities for the children, games, food/beer tent, juried craft fair, Sun. morning golf outing, and entertainment each day on both the children's stage as well as the main stage.

Fri-Sun., July 24-26
Sugar Grove Corn Boil
Sugar Grove: 630-466-5166 sugargrovecornboil.org
Volunteer Park 85 s. Main St. Enjoy three fun-filled days of entertainment, arts, crafts, bingo and fireworks. Admission is free, Sugar Grove Library Friends Used Book Sale held concurrently at the library.

Sat., July 25, 11am-5pm
Model Train Show
Aurora: 630-966-4527 foxvalleyparkdistrict.org
Blackberry Farm, 100 S. Barnes Rd. Fun for all ages! Come and see model trains in several displays including H0, O Gaugo and lego. res.: $4.25 adult / $3.75 child. non-res.: $7 adult / $6 child

Sat., July 25, 10am-6pm
Christmas In July
Cherry Valley: 800-373-1679 magicwaterswaterpark.com
Magic Waters Waterpark, 7820 CherryVale N. Blvd. Conveniently located just off I-90!Splash around the Holiday-Themed WaterPark and find out what Santa does in the summer! Fun games & prizes! Visit online com for costs & information.

Sat., July 25, 1-3pm
Summer Splash
Downers Grove:
McCollum Park, 6801 S. Main St. Have a splish splashing good time when the park becomes a mini water park for the day. A variety of unique sprinklers, gigantic inflatables & sand toys. Wear your bathing suit & bring a towel.$13/res., $20/non-res.

Sat.-Sun., July 25-July 26, 10am-5pm
Laura Ingalls Wilder Days Plus Farm Power
Eagle, WI: 262/594-6300 oldworldwisconsin.org
75 miles from Chicago, in Eagle, WI. Experience the work & play of Laura & her family. See all kinds of animal, people, & steam-powered vintage machines. $16/adult, $9/ages 5-17, free/children under 5, $14/student, seniors 65+. $43/ family (two adults/2 children. .

Sat., July 25, 8am-3pm
Fossil Collecting Field Trip
Elmhurst: 630-833-1616
Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, 220 Cottage Hill. Travel by motorcoach to a quarry near Rockford, IL. Collect Ordovician Period (450 Million years old)marine fossils in limestone. Ages 8 yrs-adult $40./person - Reservations Required.

Sat., July 25, 10am-2pm
Sports Spectacular
Elmhurst: 630- 993-8925 epd.org
Butterfield Park, 385 E. Van Buren. Come party with us! Butterfield Park will host a fun day of sports and &. We'll keep sports fans asking for more! Free. .

Sat., July 25, 8:30am-1pm
Catch and Release Fishing Derby
Glendale Heights: 630-260-0018 glendaleheights.org
Lake Becerra, located in Heritage Park, 311 Windy Point Dr. Children are first taught safety guidelines for fishing and then the race begins. Bring your pools & everyone wins! Free

Fri., July 25, 4-10pm
Mt. Prospect's Midsummer Downtown Block Party
Mt. Prospect: experiencemountprospect.org
Join us for an afternoon & evening of great food & entertainment. Tons of great FREE fun for kids & great food– plus live entertainment. One of the best family-friendly events around.

Sat., July 25, 9am-3:30pm
Open Chess Tournament
Mount Prospect: 847/253-5675 mppl.org
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson. For children entering grades K-grade 12. Parental presence is required for children under the age of 9. Registration is required.

Sat., July 25, 5-10pm.
Naperville Summer Nights
Naperville: 630- 420-6010 napervillesummernights.com
Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St. Enjoy up-&-coming bands, Romantica & Carolina Liar. Pack a picnic & relax under the open sky. Food & drink vendors will be on site; no outside beverages allowed. $15/advance, $20/door. .

Sat., July 25, noon-3pm
Country Farm Fair
Park Ridge: 847-692-5127 prparks.org
Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview. We'll have $5 dollar hand-led pony rides, a petting zoo, games, pie eating contests, tug of war and much more! Free

Sat., July 25, 12-6pm
50th Anniversary Golf Outing
Westmont: 630-852-7167 wpd4fun.org
Twin Lakes Golf Club, 400 W. 59th St. Swing, putt & celebrate! Register as a single golfer or with a foursome. Fee includes greens fees & food. $30/golfer. Ages 16+. .

Sat., July 25, Noon to 4:00pm
70s Retro Family Fun Day
Woodridge: 630-985-5620 woodridgeparks.org
Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park, 8301 S. Janes Ave. Join us for a day filled with games, prizes, & lunch specials. Daily Admission $7(residents, 61 yrs &under), $13(non-res.s, 61 years and under), 1 year olds and younger are free, Senior discount available

Sun., July 26, 8am start, all day event
Chicago Criterium Bike Race
Chicago: 312-744-3370 chicagocriterium.us
Columbus & Balbo in Grant Park. Features 10 professional & amateur criterium bike races on a closed circuit loop, with the start/finish line at Buckingham Fountain. Best described as NASCAR on bikes! Free admission.

Sun., July 26, noon
2nd Annual Parent/Child Golf Scramble
Downers Grove: 630-963-1306 dgparks.org
Downers Grove Park District Golf Course, 2420 Haddow Ave. Junior golfers can partner up an adult for an afternoon of golf. Includes lunch & greens fees. All golfers must provide their own clubs. Must pre-register. $45 per team. Ages 10-16, plus adult.

Sun., July 26
Elk Grove Idol Finals
Elk Grove Village: 847-437-9494 www.elkgroveparks.org
Andrews Park, 150 Crest Ave. Showcase your talent. Fantastic prizes. Amateur Competition. Submit video audition. Call (847) 690-1184 for details. June 12th deadline. Preliminary round one: July 12th, 5pm at Pavilion, 1000 Wellington Ave. Preliminary round two: July 19th, 5pm at Pavilion. Finals: July 26th, 6pm at Andrews Park.

Sun., July 26,6pm
Concert In The Park with Jack Straw
Mt. Prospect: 847-392-2277 capannaris.com
Capannari Ice Cream, 10 s. Pine St. Capannari Ice Cream is pleased to announce the return of Jack Straw. We encourage families to pack a picnic dinner & bring a blanket. Free..

Sun., July 26, 10am-4pm
Scavenger Hunt at the Mill
Oak Brook: 630-655-2090 grauemill.org
Graue Mill and Museum, 3800 York Rd. Visit the Mill to get your "treasure map&". If you complete the course, you'll win a prize! $1.50/children, $3.50/adult, $3/seniors.

Sun., July 26, 10am-12pm
Ladies Only Paddle Canoe Crazy
Highland Park: 847-433.6901 pdhp.org
Skokie Lagoons. Leave the kids at home with Dad and come unwind with us on the lagoons. Heller's certified staff will provide canoes, paddles, P.F.D.s, instruction, games & more. Max. of three adults per canoe.

Mon., July 27, 7:30-9pm
Do-It-Yourself Sousa
Mount Prospect: 847-398-2450
Lions Park. Play with The Mount Prospect Community Band for one concert. Skilled, semi-skilled and novice musicians, 12 yrs+, are welcome. No tryouts necessary. Call for details

Mon.-Fri., July 27-31, 9am-11:30am
Let's Pretend
Naperville: 630-637-8000 dupagechildrensmuseum.org
DuPage Children's Museum,301 N. Washington St. Make simple costumes. Draw, create and tell stories in the Studio. A week of literacy, creativity and imagination! Advance registration required; $159 member/$189 nonmember. Ages 3-5. .

Tue., July 28, 1-3pm
Super Soap Bars
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 in the Education Center. $2 per project. .

Tue.-Sun., July 28-Aug. 2, 10am-midnight
Lake County Fair
Grayslake: 847-680-7200 lcfair.net
Lake County Fairgrounds, 1060 E. Peterson Rd. Motorcross, Pro Rodeo, Monster Trucks, Demo Derby, Carnival Games, entertainment, queen pageants, lots of various foods.

Night at the Races
Lombard: 630-627-6127 lombardparks.com
Paradise Bay Water Park, 433 E. St. Charles Rd. A fun-filled family event: kick board races, swimming races, contests on the slides & water walk. Exciting prizes will be given. $4/R, $7/NR Child. $5.50/R, $10/NR Adults or Pool pass.

Tue.-Sat., July 28-Aug. 1, 10am & 1pm
Summer Shows for Young Audiences-Pinocchio
Waukegan: 847-360-4740 jackbennycenter.org
Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Dr. Theatre for children $6 per seat

Wed., July 29, 10:30am Registration & Noon Shotgun Start
Annual Golf Outing
Bolingbrook: 630-968.8400 indianboundaryymca.org
Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Dr. Fund Raising event in support of our scholarship program. Includes greens fees, cart, range balls, lunch & dinner. A silent auction, raffle & awards. $200/golfer

Wed.-Sun., July 29-Aug. 2
Kankakee County Fair
Kankakee: 815-932-6714
Kankakee County Fairgrounds, 213 W 4000S Rd. Annual County Fair, Carnival, Grandstand Shows, Livestock Shows, Arts and Craft Shows and 4-H Shows. Daily side shows and lots of food!

Wed.'s, July 29 & Aug. 26, 5pm-7pm
Picnics in the New Park
Lombard: 630-629-0886 yorkcenterparks.org
Knolls Community Park, 1416 S. Meyers Rd. Come see the new fitness equipment, play a game of Bags or Bocce Ball. Support your Community! Grab a hot dog, chips and a drink for $1. Call to let us know how many will be attending. Free activities..

Wed.'s, July 29, 6- 8:30pm
Rootbeer Float Party
McHenry: 815 363-2160
Knox Park Pool, 201 S. Green St. Bring the family, play some games and splash around in the pool. Rootbeer Floats are free to children under the age of 14. $3/person, Pool Pass Holders - FREE

Wed.'s. July 29, 2pm
X-Games Medalist Matt Wilhelm
Mount Prospect: 847/253-5675 mppl.org
Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. See the world's fastest spinner on a bike when Matt Wilhelm demonstrates some his BMX Flatland bike tricks. Registration required. FREE. Ages 9+.

Wed., July 29, 1-3pm, allow 20 minutes
Paper Making
Westmont: 630-969-8080 wpd4fun.org
Gregg House Museum, 117 S. Linden Ave. Make your own paper using old newspaper. You can use your homemade paper for note cards, gift tags & much more. It's fun to recycle! $3. Ages 4-12.

Thur., July 30, 8:30-10pm
Flick & Float
Bartlett: 630-372-7665 bartlettparks.org
Bartlett Aquatic Center, 620 W. Stearns Rd. Bring your floating gear and enjoy a relaxing night on the water while watching movie for the whole family. $5R/$7NR.

Thur., July 30, 5:30pm open play, 6:30pm concert
Music at the Museum: BritBeat
Glenview: 847-832-6600 kohlchildrensmuseum.org
Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd. Originating from Chicago, BritBeat Beatles Tribute Band has played for numerous festivals, corporations and special events since establishing the band in 2001. $5/person ($4 for members).

Thur., July 30, 5-7pm
Aloha Luau Party at Kemmerling Pool
Roselle: 630-894-4200 roselleparkdistrict.com
Roselle Park District, 555 W. Bryn Mawr. Wear your leis & swim to the sounds of tropical music. We will have a limbo contest & other fun games. Free with paid admission.

Thur., July 30, 6pm
Neighborhood Block Party
Schaumburg: 847- 490-7020 parkfun.com
Russ Parker Park, 301 National Pkwy. A block party right in your neighborhood! No need to register, just stop by & enjoy unlimited use of moonbounce inflatables, carnival games & great barbecue. Face painting, music & more are all part of the fun. $3.

Fri.-Sun., July 31-Aug. 2,
Festa Italiana
Rockford: 815-636-2902 griaa.com
Boylan High School Grounds, 4000 St. Francis Dr. Authentic music & folk dancing, plus carnival rides & booths, kids' activities, & great Italian food. $4/person, children 12 & under free w/adult. Sat/Sun only: noon-5pm unlimited amusement rides w/$10 wristband. Hours: 5-11pm Fri, noon-11pm Sat, noon-8:30pm Sun. .

Fri., July 31, 11am-3:30pm
Fairy Tale Friday
Rockford: 815-963-6769 discoverymuseum.org
Discovery Center Museum, 711 N. Main St. Come in costume as your favorite character. Design a castle, invent ogre ears, climb a beanstalk, kiss a frog, and put Humpty together again! Included with admission: $6 adults; $5 children; Free to kids under 2 and members.

Fri-Sun., July 31-Aug. 2, Fri: 6-11pm; Sat: 11am-11pm; Sun: 11am-9pm
Taste of Roselle
Roselle: 630-671-2801 roselle.il.us
Main St. Three day festival featuring food, fun and entertainment . Free admission.

Fri., July 31, 8:30-10pm
Night Sky Adventure
West Chicago: 630-784-6100 csparks.org
McCaslin Park 27W650 North Ave. Bring your telescope as we view the night sky & learn about the universe. A local astronomer will assist us & point out points of interest. Light refreshments served. Extra telescopes available. $5/ res. family, $9/non-res. family.