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Governor Pritzker Announces Funding for 46 New All-Electric School Buses



buses. The funding will allow school districts and student transportation companies to retire older diesel-powered buses and provide the necessary charging infrastructure for the new electric buses, helping improve air quality to students and the surrounding communities. The grants are funded by Illinois' allocation of the multi-billion-dollar Volkswagen (VW) Settlement and will be distributed by Illinois EPA's Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program. The grant program was developed to distribute funding for various types of mobile source electrification

projects. Illinois EPA has spent nearly \$108 million in VW Settlement funds to date, funding 122 electric school buses and 65 direct current fast charging sites in the Chicago and the Metro-East, and seven other VW priority counties. Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program recipients were selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process that was opened to school districts or commercial school bus providers located in the three priority areas outlined in Illinois' BMP for the VW Settlement. Grants ranged from \$200,000 to \$17,700,000.



Governor JB Pritzker joined the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to announced seven grant awards totaling more than \$13 million for 46 new all-electric school

Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens Is a Must-Add to Your Summer To-Do List

As Chicagoans and visitors fill their summer calendars with places to explore, *Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens*, 300 N. Central Park Ave., is a must-add to the list. Known as a beloved winter escape, the Conservatory is often considered a “must” when temperatures fall—but there’s just as much magic waiting in the summer. Step into an immersive oasis in the heart of the city, where 10 acres of vibrant outdoor gardens burst into full bloom and seasonal inclusive programs invite hands-on exploration for all ages. A one-of-a-kind destination and a hidden gem for summer adventurers,

Garfield Park Conservatory belongs on every “things to do this summer” roundup. Whether you’re a curious kid, nature enthusiast, photographer, or just looking for an easy day trip, this urban sanctuary offers something for everyone—toddlers, teens, grandparents, tourists, and locals alike. **Here is what’s blooming this summer:**
Artist’s Garden: Alfredo Ramos Martínez – This exhibit showcases Martínez’s masterful depictions of indigenous life, rural landscapes, and floral symbolism, revealing his deep reverence for the natural world.
Morning Glories – A drop-

in program for families with children ages 0–3, held most Monday mornings. Features plant-focused, sensory play experiences. Free, with advance registration recommended.
Outdoor Tai Chi – A beginner-friendly outdoor Tai Chi session led by Light of Loving Kindness instructors ZenFrankie and Mama Ayanna. Tai Chi is a slow, flowing form of movement that helps reduce stress, support balance and bring the mind into the present. This class offers visitors a peaceful way to reconnect with their body and breath.
Beekeeping Demonstration – Visit GPCA throughout



the summer on select Thursdays and Sundays as Head Beekeeper, insert name, and beekeeping volunteers demonstrate techniques with active beehives and explain their work. Demonstrations are for all ages and interest levels.
General admission is free with proof of Chicago residency, with a suggested donation, making the experience





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accessible to locals. Visitors age 7 and older who do not reside in Chicago are required to pay admission, learn more here. For additional information, visit www.garfieldconservatory.org. **Photo Credit: Garfield Park Conservatory**

Reps Ramirez, Lee, Frost Introduce Legislation to Ensure Congress' Constitutional Duty to Conduct Oversight of the Executive Branch



Congresswoman Delia C. Ramirez (IL-03), member of the Homeland Security Committee, joined Representatives Summer L. Lee (PA-12) and Maxwell Frost (FL-10) to introduce the Congressional Oversight Access Act. The timely legislation would protect Members of Congress from violence, obstruction, and retaliation when conducting oversight of the executive branch. On June 18, Congresswoman

Ramirez and members of the Illinois delegation, Danny K. Davis (IL-07), Jesús "Chuy" García (IL-04), and Jonathan Jackson (IL-01), were unlawfully denied entry to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center in Broadview, Illinois. The Congressional Oversight Access Act makes it illegal for executive branch officials to use force or obstruct a Member of Congress acting in their

official oversight capacity. The bill explicitly defines protected oversight activities to include reviewing, monitoring, supervising, investigating, or visiting federal programs, facilities, or agencies to ensure compliance with laws, court orders, and the proper administration of federal policies. Overview of the Congressional Oversight Access Act:

- Protects Members of Congress from the use of force, arrest, or retaliation while conducting oversight in their official capacity.
- Defines covered oversight activities to include investigations, monitoring, visitation, and supervision of federal entities and operations.
- Responds to recent incidents where Members were arrested or obstructed during lawful oversight.

World Business Chicago, City of Chicago, and Olive-Harvey College Showcase Chi Summer Workplace Tours

World Business Chicago, in partnership with the City of Chicago and Olive-Harvey College, announces Chi Summer Workplace Tours: TDL (Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics) — a career exploration event introducing young Chicago job seekers (ages 18–22) to the city's high-growth TDL sector. On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, participants toured employer worksites across the city to experience firsthand the career pathways and opportunities in this vital industry, which powers the movement of goods, people, and services and underpins the region's economic growth. Chicago is the main freight rail hub of North America, with approximately 25 percent of all freight trains and 50 percent of all intermodal trains in the U.S. passing through metropolitan



Chicago. This initiative aims to inspire the next generation of talent by showcasing meaningful, future-ready jobs and helping young Chicagoans connect their education to real-world careers. Students will meet directly with industry professionals, engage in hands-on learning, and explore the pathways, internships,

and training programs that define the future of work. This summer's TDL experience applies that same hands-on approach to a sector driving Chicago's global competitiveness — and offering strong wages, upward mobility, and future-proof jobs.

Photo Credit: City Colleges of Chicago

Recibí mucha atención personalizada y apoyo en City Colleges.

Siento que estoy listo para lo que sea.

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El Gobernador Pritzker Anuncia Financiación para 46 Nuevos Autobuses Escolares Totalmente Eléctricos



El Gobernador J. B. Pritzker se unió a la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Illinois (EPA de Illinois) para anunciar siete subvenciones por un total de más de 13 millones de dólares para 46 nuevos autobuses escolares totalmente eléctricos. La financiación permitirá a los distritos escolares y a las empresas de transporte estudiantil retirar los autobuses diésel más antiguos y proporcionar la infraestructura de carga necesaria para los nuevos

autobuses eléctricos, lo que contribuirá a mejorar la calidad del aire para los estudiantes y las comunidades circundantes. Las subvenciones se financian con la asignación de Illinois del Acuerdo multimillonario Volkswagen (VW) y serán distribuidas por el Programa "Conduciendo un Illinois más Limpio" de la EPA de Illinois. Este programa de subvenciones se creó para distribuir fondos para diversos tipos de proyectos de electrificación de fuentes móviles.

La EPA de Illinois ha invertido casi 108 millones de dólares en fondos del Acuerdo VW hasta la fecha, financiando 122 autobuses escolares eléctricos y 65 puntos de carga rápida de corriente continua en Chicago y el área metropolitana del este, así como en otros siete condados prioritarios de VW. Los beneficiarios del Programa Impulsando un Illinois Más Limpio se seleccionaron mediante un proceso competitivo de Notificación de Oportunidad de Financiamiento (NOFO), abierto a distritos escolares o proveedores comerciales de autobuses escolares ubicados en las tres áreas prioritarias descritas en el Plan de Gestión de Illinois (BMP) para el Acuerdo VW. Las subvenciones oscilaron entre \$200,000 y \$17,700,000.

Chicago Public Schools Announces Lay Offs



**Caption by
Ashmar Mandou**

Earlier this week, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) announced it is set to lay off more than 1,400 works to adjust for enrollment and programming changes. The total includes 432 teachers, about 1.8 percent of the total teaching force, and 311 paraprofessionals and school-related personnel. CPS said such layoffs

are part of traditional school-level changes it makes nearly every year. Last year, the district laid off 1,410 workers, but about 80 percent of them were able to find new positions at CPS before the start of the next school year. "While the budgets provided to schools in May and approved by Local School Councils in June maintain overall levels of funding, CPS is still

working to close a \$734 million budget deficit before bringing a balanced Fiscal Year 2026 budget to the Board for approval in August. Despite this financial challenge, the goal of the District remains protecting the current funding provided in the posted school budget," a statement from CPS. Two weeks ago, 161 employees were fired, including 87 crossing guards. Back in May, CPS also laid off 530 tutors originally hired with pandemic relief funds, a program the district said did not yield the results it hoped for. Over the next two weeks, CPS will host a series of community engagement events to garner public input on strategies to close the budget deficit. Information about these events can be found on cps.edu/budget.

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Nina Sánchez, Enrich Chicago Executive Director, to Exit Organization



The Board of Directors of Enrich Chicago, the non-profit organization formed in 2014 to promote racial and cultural equity in the Chicago arts sector, will launch an executive search to replace Nina Sánchez, its longtime Executive Director, who departs the company effective today. After serving at the helm for nearly eight

years, Sánchez's transition reflects a commitment to shared leadership and making space for emergent perspectives to sustain and grow the organization's long-term equity efforts. Adria Husband, who has served as lead facilitator for Enrich Chicago's philanthropy affinity group for two years, has been named

the Interim Executive Director. Sánchez says, "I am proud of what our community has achieved together and grateful for the privilege of being able to steward our collective vision. After nearly eight

years in my role, I am embracing that it is time for the next stage of our vision to be carried forward with fresh leadership and perspectives. This shift reflects our core values: that no single person should

hold power indefinitely, and that transformation requires both continuity and renewal." During Sánchez's tenure, Enrich amplified awareness of the ideologies of anti-racism and racial equity

to over 5,000 people via workshops and public engagements. For more information on Enrich Chicago, visit enrichchi.org.

Photo Credit: Enrich Chicago

El Evento más Grande de Prevención del Suicidio en E.U., Comienza el 27 de Septiembre



El 27 de septiembre, personas de toda la región se reunirán en el evento más grande de prevención al suicidio del país: Out of the Darkness (OOTD) Chicago Walk. Este evento anual ayuda a prevenir el suicidio y a llevar esperanza a quienes están afectados por el suicidio. Patrocinado por Illinois Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), la caminata de tres millas empieza en Montrose Harbor y es de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m. el 27 de septiembre del 2025. La Caminata de Chicago (Chicagoland Walk) es una de cien llevada a cabo en ciudades de todo

el país. El evento presenta una tienda de servicios de salud mental, extensión educativa, un poderoso muro de "Por qué caminamos" que rinde homenaje a aquellos que se perdieron por suicidio, y cuentas de homenaje que significan cómo el suicidio ha tocado a cada participante. En Illinois, el suicidio es la 3ª. causa de muerte en las edades de 15-34 y la 4ª causa principal en las edades de 35-54. La gente puede aprender los síntomas de prevención en afsp.org/signs. Los interesados en inscribirse deben visitar www.afsp.org/Illinois o www.chicagowalk.org.

Cicero Police Department Accepting Applications!



Application Deadline: Thursday, August 21, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Starting Salary: \$80,640 - \$105,750 (after 5 years)
Current CBA with annual pay increase

How to Apply:

- Purchase, complete, and submit your online application at www.iosolutions.com
- Submit all required supporting documentation to IO Solutions by **Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

Minimum Requirements:

- 25.00 non-refundable application fee
- 21 to 34 years of age at time of application (age exemptions for one-year minimum active military duty or one year actively working as a sworn law enforcement officer)
- Must be a US citizen or legally authorized to work in the U.S.
- Must have the ability to speak, read and write the English language
- Must possess 30 college credit hours (applicants with one year of active military duty or certified police officer may be eligible for an exemption. Please provide DD 214 or state certificate as applicable when returning application.)
- Must possess a valid driver's license- must be able to obtain Illinois Driver's License at time of employment)
- Must have no criminal background
- Must have a current POWER Test Card (valid if dated 8/21/2024 – 8/21/2025)

Testing Information:

Candidates must attend-

- Mandatory Orientation and Written Examination on **Saturday, September 20, 2025**
- Oral Interviews will be held on **Tuesday, September 23rd and Wednesday, September 24th**

Additional details will be provided to those eligible. Candidates that successfully attend the orientation and successfully complete the written exam and oral interview will have the opportunity to collect preference points. Preference points will be offered in the following categories: military and residency.

If you have questions, please call 800-343-HIRE or email recruitment@iosolutions.com





Maria Pappas

Column

Everything you need to know about your Property Index Number or PIN



By Maria Pappas

If you own property in Cook County, there's one number you should always know: your PIN. That's short for Property Index Number—a 14-digit code assigned to every piece of real estate in the county. It's tied to the legal description of your property and is used for assessments, tax rates, exemptions and collections. Whether you own a house, a vacant lot, a parking space or a condominium, your property has a PIN. Think of it as the Social Security number for your home. And just like with your

Social Security number, using the wrong one can cause major problems. If you don't pay on the right PIN—you haven't paid your taxes. You've just paid someone else's. That means your property would be marked delinquent, and you might not even know it until it's too late. You can find your PIN on any property tax bill. If you recently bought your home or purchased it years ago, it should be on your deed. If it's not on the deed, go to cookcountytreasurer.com, click the purple box and enter your address. You'll see a photo of your property and your correct

PIN. Still think you don't need to know your PIN? If your mortgage company pays your taxes through an escrow account, you might assume everything is being handled. But you should still double-check. Knowing your PIN allows you to verify that taxes are being paid in full, on time, and—most importantly—on the correct property. In another scenario you might be sharing a PIN with other owners. That happens with newly built homes, condos or townhouses that haven't yet been subdivided. If someone else with whom you share a PIN fails to

pay their share, the whole PIN can go delinquent—and your property can be at risk even if you paid your entire portion.

If that's the case, contact the Cook County Assessor's Legal Department to find out how to make payments by legal description. Doing so ensures you're only paying what you owe—and not footing the bill for a neighbor who has yet to pay. You'll also need your PIN if you want to:

- Request a duplicate tax bill
- Check for refunds or your exemption status
- Ask questions about your bill or payment history

And yes, PINs can change. When a property is split, combined or redeveloped, new PINs are assigned. That's common with new construction, subdivisions and even converted parking spaces. If you just bought a new home or condo, it's especially important to make sure you're paying taxes on the correct—and current—PIN. Bottom line: the PIN is the key to your property's tax identity. Know it. Use it. And check it online because mistakes can happen, and the longer they're left to fester, the more expensive they become.



End of Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults



Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (HBIA), which provides Medicaid-like coverage to eligible individuals aged 42-64, ended on July 1, 2025. CDPH is working closely with State, City, and community partners, to help impacted residents access the services and support they need, including:

•**Mental Health resources:** The City of Chicago Mental Health Clinics are open to all residents regardless of immigration or insurance status. Clinics offer both in-person and teletherapy services across 7 city locations. Locate a clinic: chicago.gov/MentalHealthClinics

•**Metro Chicago at 2-1-1:** Residents can call 2-1-1 or text their zip code to 898-211, to get connected to

a Resource Navigator for health and social services.

•**Free & Low-Cost Clinics:** Uninsured and underinsured Chicagoans can continue to receive care at health centers and free clinics that serve all individuals regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

•**ICIRR Family Support Hotline:** Residents can call the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) Family Support Hotline at 855-435-7693 for help navigating available resources.

•**ACA Marketplace:** Individuals who now have documented noncitizen status may be eligible for coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace at getcovered.illinois.gov

Largest Suicide Prevention Event in the U.S., Steps Off on September 27

On September 27, people from across the region will come together for largest suicide prevention event in the country: the Out of the Darkness (OOTD) Chicagoland Walk. This annual event helps prevent suicide as well as bring hope to those affected by suicide. Sponsored by the Illinois Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the three-mile walk starts at Montrose Harbor and runs from 9a.m., to 1p.m., on September 27, 2025. The Chicagoland Walk is one of hundreds held in cities throughout the country. The event features a mental health



services tent, education outreach, a powerful Why We Walk Wall that honors those lost to suicide, and honor beads that signify how suicide has touched each participant. In Illinois, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for ages 15-34 and 4th leading cause for ages 35-54. People can learn the warning signs at afsp.org/signs. Those interested in signing up, visit www.afsp.org/Illinois or www.chicagowalk.org.

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La Biblioteca Pública de Chicago Invita a los Residentes a Ayudar a Delinear el Futuro de la Biblioteca



La Biblioteca Pública de Chicago (CPL) invita a todos los residentes a ayudar a delinear el futuro del sistema de bibliotecas a través de un estudio de la ciudad lanzado esta semana como parte de su Plan de Estrategia y Capital. El estudio está listo y busca la contribución de los usuarios y no usuarios de las bibliotecas, por igual, sobre como CPL puede servir mejor a los residentes de Chicago en los años por

venir. El estudio, abierto del 21 de junio a fines de julio, ayudará a informar como inversiona CPL en espacios, programas y prioridades en sus 81 sucursales. Solo toma unos cuantos minutos terminarlo y está disponible en múltiples idiomas. Se aconseja a todos los residentes de Chicago a que participen y compartan el estudio en sus comunidades, lugares de trabajo y redes sociales. CPL ha provisto también

un volante digital que abre una nueva ventana y un kit de herramientas para redes sociales, abre una nueva ventana para apoyar a individuos, grupos comunitarios, funcionarios electos y líderes cívicos en la difusión del mensaje. Para tomar el estudio o para más información, visite chi.gov/communitysurvey, opens a new window.

Crédito Fotográfico: Biblioteca Pública de Chicago

Chicago Public Library Invites Residents to Help Shape the Library's Future

Chicago Public Library (CPL) is inviting all residents to help shape the future of the library system through a citywide survey launched this week as part of its 2026–2030 Strategic and Capital Plan. The survey is now live and seeks input from library users and non-users alike on how CPL can best serve Chicagoans in the years ahead. The survey, open from June 21 through end of July, will help inform how CPL invests in spaces, programs and priorities across its 81 branches. It takes just a few minutes to complete and is available in multiple languages. All Chicagoans are



encouraged to participate and share the survey within their communities, workplaces and networks. CPL has also provided a digital flyer, opens a new window and social media toolkit, open a new window to support individuals, community

groups, elected officials and civic leaders in spreading the word. To take the survey or learn more, visit chi.gov/communitysurvey, opens a new window.

Photo Credit: Chicago Public Library



CDPH Celebra el Programa Family Connects Chicago

El Departamento de Salud Pública de Chicago celebró el quinto aniversario de Family Connects Chicago, programa de enfermeras de visita gratis, de la ciudad, para nuevas familias. El jueves, 17 de julio, en Malcolm X College, CDPH se reunió con afiliados de cuidado de salud, enfermeras de Family Connects y familias participantes para marcar este hito. La junta anual destacó el crecimiento del programa en los últimos cinco años, compartió historias de éxito y delineó

metas para el futuro. Family Connects Chicago fue lanzado como programa piloto en el 2018 para asegurar que cada familia de Chicago tiene apoyo después de llevar a casa a un nuevo bebé. El programa ofrece, sin costo alguno, visitas de enfermeras a la casa a todas las familias que tuvieron el bebé en hospitales participantes de Chicago. Las enfermeras de Family Connects ofrecen una amplia variedad de servicios, incluyendo revisiones de salud postparto apoyo en el cuidado

del recién nacido, guía para amamantar, pruebas de salud mental y ayuda en programar visitas subsecuentes al doctor. Desde su inicio, las enfermeras de Family Connects han hecho más de 13,000 visitas a los hogares. Solo en el 2024, las enfermeras de Family Connects hicieron cerca de 2,200 visitas a familias en las 77 áreas comunitarias de Chicago. Para más información sobre Family Connects Chicago o para inscribirse, visite Chicago.gov/family-connects.

Regresan los Viajes Gratuitos de CTA Para el Regreso a Clases para los Estudiantes de K-12 de Chicago

La Autoridad de Tránsito de Chicago (CTA) ofrecerá una vez más "Primer Día, Viajes Gratis" para todos los estudiantes del área de Chicago de K-12 ya que la agencia sigue la tradición y contribuye al comienzo de un excitante año escolar 2025-2026. La Junta de Tránsito de Chicago durante su reunión anual el miércoles, aprobó el programa de viajes gratuitos para el año académico 2025-2026. Para el 2025, la CTA se afilia una vez más con Butcher Boy Cooking Oils por quinto año consecutivo para ofrecer viajes de autobús y trenes gratuitos el lunes, 18 de agosto, para estudiantes de escuelas públicas y privadas, que



vayan acompañados por un adulto. Los estudiantes pueden aprovechar las tarifas de descuento de 75 centavos en los días escolares, entre las 5:30 a.m. y las 8:30p.m., durante el año académico. Aparte de las horas de escuelas, los estudiantes de elemental de 7-11 años son elegibles para tarifas reducidas de \$1.10 por un viaje en autobús y \$1.25

por un viaje en tren. Los estudiantes de 12 años en adelante continuarán pagando el pasaje completo de \$2.25 en autobuses y \$2.50 en trenes. Los niños de 6 años y menores viajan gratis con un cliente que pague boleto. Para más información sobre Pasaje Reducido para Estudiantes, visite www.transitchicago.com/students/