BRIDGEVIEWS

Bridgeview-il.gov VillageofBridgeviewIL **HIGHLIGHTING COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS** OCTOBER 2026 - Volume 35, No. 5

BRIDGEVIEW FIREFIGHTERS HONOR 9/11 SERVICE MEMBERS

9/11 Stair Climbers after completing the 78 stair climb.

Firefighters make the trek through the stadium stairs.

Members of the Bridgeview Fire Department and the local community gathered at SeatGeek Stadium on Saturday, September 19, for the sixth annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Over 40 firefighters from five area departments climbed the equivalent of the World Trade Center's 78th floor—the highest point firefighters reached before the South Tower collapsed—to honor the 343 New York City Fire Department members who lost their lives on September 11. According to Bridgeview Fire Chief Keith Grzadziel, the climb serves as both a memorial and a way to support those left behind. Proceeds were donated to the 100 Club of Illinois, which provides financial and emotional support to the families of first responders who die in the line of duty.

The event has grown significantly since its 2021 inception, when just six firefighters climbed the toboggan slide stairs at Swallow Cliff Woods in Palos Park.

Despite Saturday's rain, the spirit of the event remained unbroken as Battalion Chief Yerkovich reflected on the turnout: "In spite of the weather, our community and outside fire departments showed up to challenge the power of time. We are beyond blessed to have the stadium and cannot wait to watch the seeds we have planted together grow, so future generations know the purpose of life is to serve your fellow man."

First responders carrying our American flag in remembrance.

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW MAYOR

Steven M. Landek

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Mon:	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tue:	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed:	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Thu:	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri:	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat:	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sun:	CLOSED

Open 56 hours a week to serve you better!

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Bridgeview, IL 60455
Village Services:
708-594-2525
Questions?
info@villageofbridgeview.com
Emergency: 911

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FIRE CHIEF & LIEUTENANT SWORN IN

From left to right: Mayor Steve Landek, Trustee Lewis, Fire Chief Grzadziel, Trustee Pinion, Clerk Altar, and Trustee Pticek.

Fire Chief Grzadziel sworn in by Mayor Landek.

During the August 5, 2026 board meeting, the Village of Bridgeview Board of Trustees and Mayor Steven Landek officially appointed Interim Fire Chief Keith Grzadziel as permanent Fire Chief and promoted Firefighter Joe Maly to the rank of Lieutenant.

Born and raised in Bridgeview, Chief Grzadziel has dedicated 36 years to the department, starting as a cadet in 1990 and advancing through every rank. He served as Acting Fire Chief for over four years before his official appointment. Grzadziel's passion for service runs deep, inspired by his great-grandfather, a Chicago Assistant Fire Marshal, and marked by deployments following 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. As chief, he has worked closely with village leaders to modernize the fleet with new fire engines, ambulances, and command vehicles.

"Chief Keith has always put the best interests of our residents and firefighters first, and that is why we are proud to appoint him as our permanent Fire Chief," said Mayor Landek.

Lt. Joe Maly, also a Bridgeview native, joined the department full-time in 2016 after earning degrees in Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services. Over the past decade, Maly has earned widespread respect for his dedication, professionalism, and leadership.

Mayor Landek and the Village Board congratulated both leaders on their well-deserved appointments and thanked them for their continued service to Bridgeview.

Lt. Joel Maley pinned by his wife.

BRIDGEVIEW NIGHT OUT IN THE DOME

The Village of Bridgeview hosted Bridgeview Night Out: Camping Under the Stars at the Bridgeview Sports Dome and SeatGeek Stadium, delivering a weekend filled with family activities, great food, and community spirit.

Despite a raining weekend, residents came out in full force to set up tents inside the Sports Dome, with Village staff on hand to assist first-time campers. Day one kicked off with local food truck favorites, including hot dogs and hamburgers from Joey's and tacos from Don Rafa. Campers enjoyed a sports zone, an obstacle course, and music from DJ Mike "The Italian Stallion."

As evening set in, families roasted s'mores over an outdoor fire pit before settling inside for a movie double feature of The Great Outdoors and Open Season. The indoor campout turned into a late-night celebration, with kids playing games into the early morning hours and families bonding across the campsite.

Saturday morning began with a warm breakfast of pancakes and sausage from Krave. Following the morning activities, the festivities shifted into full swing with a pizza lunch from Slice Factory, an interactive exotic reptile show featuring snakes and other creatures, and a lively bean bag tournament.

Family enjoying cookout dinner.

Siblings roasting s'mores.

Camper roasting s'mores.

Fireworks finale to end Bridgeview night out.

As evening approached, the Bridgeview Police Department hosted its annual community cookout, serving a delicious spread of hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, pasta salad, and corn. Families gathered around tables to enjoy the meal, share stories, and celebrate new friendships made throughout the weekend.

The celebration concluded on a high note with a spectacular fireworks display illuminating the night sky over Bridgeview—a memorable finale to an unforgettable two-day event.

The Village of Bridgeview thanks everyone who joined us for Camping Under the Stars and looks forward to creating even more memories together at future community events!

Camp out family gathers for a photo.

Reptile show lets children get up close to animals.

Bags tournament participants gather for a photo.

HALLOWEEN

Trick or Treat Coloring Page

Color this drawing and post it on your window or door to signal trick-or-treaters on Halloween

KEEP ALL GHOST AND GHOULS SAFE ON HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31ST

OFFICAL HOURS FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING ARE 3PM-7PM ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 31ST

HERE IS WHAT TO KNOW

- COSTUMES SHOULD BE CLEARLY VISIBLE
- MASKS SHOULD HAVE LARGE EYE HOLES CUT INTO THEM FOR CLEAR VISION.
- STAY AWARE OF ONCOMING TRAFFIC
- DRIVERS MUST KEEP THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON AND SLOW DOWN

LET'S ALL WORK TO MAKE THIS DAY SAFE AND FUN FOR EVERYONE!

$1,000,000 IN BRIDGEVIEW ROADWORK IN 2026

Road workers smooth out a freshly paved road.

This past spring, the Village of Bridgeview moved forward with a $1,000,000+ infrastructure project, delivering smoother roads and improved drainage across several key residential corridors. By pairing surface repaving directly with underlying sewer maintenance, work crews simultaneously addressed road conditions and stormwater capacity, maximizing overall project efficiency.

Completed Spring Repaving

- Stickney Avenue: 75th Street to 76th Street
- 77th Street: Sholer Avenue to Roberts Road
- 80th Street: 7700 South to 78th Avenue
- 83rd Street: Harlem Avenue to Oketo Avenue
- Homestead Lane: 91st Street to Stanford Drive
- Beloit Avenue: 91st Street to 92nd Street
- Columbia: 77th Avenue to LaPorte Court
- 9th Avenue: Suburban Lane to Columbia
- 79th Street: Roberts Road East

Fall Paving Schedule (Weather Permitting)

As autumn begins, crews are transitioning to the final phase of the $1,000,000+ plan to complete the remaining scheduled roadways:

- 91st Street: Willow Avenue to Oak Park Avenue
- Odell Avenue: 93rd Street to 94th Street
- Octavia Avenue: 71st Street to 72nd Street

All remaining resurfacing and drainage work on these final corridors is scheduled for completion before the end of the fall season.

BACK THE BLUE

THANK YOU
BLUE
FOR ALL YOU DO

Mayor Landek, the Village Trustees, and the entire Village of Bridgeview take immense pride in honoring the dedication, bravery, and selfless service of the men and women of the Bridgeview Police Department, led by Chief Ricardo Mancha. Day in and day out, these outstanding officers work tirelessly to ensure the safety, protection, and well-being of our community.

To show your appreciation for our local heroes, we invite all residents to stand united with our law enforcement officers. Stop by the Bridgeview Police Department today to pick up your Back the Blue yard sign and display your support with pride!

PARK DISTRICT HOSTS AMERICAN RED CROSS

A pint of blood.

Phlebotomist prepares to draw blood.

The American Red Cross hosted a community blood drive on Friday, August 21, at the Bridgeview Park District, bringing local residents together to make a tangible difference for patients in need. The event drew a steady stream of generous community members, first-time donors, and local volunteers.

Participants stepped up to give the gift of life, answering the ongoing call for reliable blood supplies to support local hospitals and emergency care. Blood drives remain a critical lifeline for the healthcare system. Donations are used for trauma and accident care, cancer treatments requiring transfusions, surgeries, and ongoing medical needs.

As a thank-you for stepping up, participating donors received a $15 gift card from Casey's and a $20 gift card from Amazon.

Events like this highlight the strong community spirit in Bridgeview, proving that neighbors are always willing to lend a helping hand when it matters most. The need for blood is constant. If you missed the August 21 drive or want to find the next one, visit the American Red Cross website to schedule an appointment at an upcoming local drive or donation center.

SEATGEEK STADIUM HOSTS CHICAGO STATE FOOTBALL

Donovan Blair drives in the first field goal for CSU.

Michael Dabney Jr. is tackled at the endzone and puts the first Touchdown of CSU History on the board.

Kymari Gray catches a 27yd pass and scores.

History was made on home turf Saturday as SeatGeek Stadium hosted the inaugural football game for Chicago State University. The historic debut marked the official launch of Chicago's only NCAA Division I FCS football program after a three-year effort by university leadership and Head Coach Bobby Rome II.

SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview will serve as the Cougars' home field for the remainder of the season.

The landmark event brought a major regional spotlight to Bridgeview. Alumni, community leaders, and supporters traveled from across the region to witness the kickoff.

The launch placed local talent front and center, bringing together players who are alumni of local and regional high schools—including powerhouses like St. Rita, Brother Rice, Marist, and Homewood-Flossmoor—to join CSU's first-ever football program. The celebration extended through halftime, when the CSU Marching Band delivered an electric 10-minute performance that brought the packed stands to their feet.

Despite a 44-28 loss to Roosevelt University, the afternoon served as a major showcase for SeatGeek Stadium as a prime venue for collegiate athletics. The historic debut establishes a strong community foundation for Chicago State as the Cougars begin their inaugural independent season ahead of their planned entry into the Northeast Conference (NEC) in 2027.

TRUCK INVASION

SECOND ANNUAL CHICAGO TRUCK INVASION BRINGS HORSEPOWER AND MUSIC TO SEATGEEK STADIUM

Crowds jump on trucks to view the burnout pit.

Burnout begins to envelope a truck in smoke.

Truck enthusiasts and local families gathered across SeatGeek Stadium and its west lot on Saturday, August 22, for the second annual Chicago Truck Invasion—an 11-hour celebration of custom trucks, live music, and high-octane stunts.

The event's undisputed main attraction was the burnout pit. Spectators packed in close as custom rigs pushed their engines to the limit, sending thick plumes of smoke and the scent of burning rubber into the air. Thrills reached a high point when a Chevy C10 and GMC Z71 both blew tires mid-spin, and another truck briefly caught fire—adding to the crowd's excitement.

Beyond the roaring engines, the festival offered a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere with hundreds of custom trucks on display, local food vendors, and a full day of live entertainment.

The main stage featured eight Latin music acts, including Los Austeros De Durango, Nuevos Escoltas, and Herencia De Patrones. Following a last-minute lineup change due to health issues with scheduled headliners Los Farmerz, singer Tito Torbellino Jr. stepped in as the replacement headliner. He delivered a crowd-pleasing performance of original hits and fan-favorite covers, closing out the festival on a high note.

Classic truck Chevy C10 enters the burnout pit.

Tito Torbellino closes out the Truck Invasion.

Luis Sanchez Jr. opens for the headliner.

CHICAGO FIRE SOCCER LEAGUES CUP JOURNEY!

Cruz Azul fans pack SeatGeek Stadium

Chicago Fire defeat Club Nexaca 2-0

Chicago Fire defeat 2026 Liga MX Champions Cruz Azul 2-1

Chicago Fire defeat Santos Lagunas 3-1

The 2026 Leagues Cup took center stage at SeatGeek Stadium this past month as the Chicago Fire competed in one of North America's premier soccer tournaments. The Fire earned their place in the competition by finishing among the top 18 clubs in the previous season's Supporters' Shield standings.

The Leagues Cup is an official annual tournament organized by Major League Soccer (MLS) and Liga MX, Mexico's top professional soccer league. The month-long competition brings together clubs from both leagues in a World Cup-style format, beginning with a group stage and culminating in single-elimination knockout rounds. Beyond competing for the championship trophy, teams also vie for automatic qualification to the prestigious CONCACAF Champions Cup. By bringing together top clubs from MLS and Liga MX, the Leagues Cup provides high-stakes international competition and showcases some of the best soccer talents in North America.

SeatGeek Stadium hosted four matches during the 2026 Leagues Cup, bringing fans from across the region to Bridgeview for a month of international soccer competition. Three of the matches were group-stage contests featuring Chicago Fire FC against Club Necaxa, Santos Laguna, and Cruz Azul, while the fourth and final match hosted at the stadium was a quarter-final matchup between Chicago Fire FC and CF Monterrey.

Throughout the tournament, fans were treated to exciting competition between clubs from MLS and Liga MX, showcasing SeatGeek Stadium's role as a premier destination for world-class soccer events. Chicago Fire FC enjoyed a successful group stage, posting a perfect 3-0 record with victories over Club Necaxa, Santos Laguna, and Cruz Azul. The club's Leagues Cup run came to an end in the quarterfinals, where CF Monterrey earned a 2-1 victory to advance to the tournament's semifinal round.

As the tournament came to a close, the 2026 Leagues Cup left fans with memorable moments and exciting matches throughout the month. SeatGeek Stadium was proud to host another major international soccer event and welcome visitors to Bridgeview.

Legendary Polish striker Robert Lewandowski made his 4th appearance for the Chicago Fire at Seatgeek Stadium against Club Nexaca.

C.F. Monterrey defeated the Chicago Fire in the quarterfinal round of the Leagues Cup 1-2

BRIDGEVIEW DELIVERS QUALITY WATER SERVICES AT AN AFFORDABLE RATE!

Freshly painted Bridgeview water tower

Final lead line removed.

Fire hydrant water lock

The Village of Bridgeview is nearing the completion of a multi-year project to revitalize and modernize its municipal water system. Village officials state the comprehensive effort ensures a reliable, sustainable water system while keeping local rates affordable and competitive with neighboring communities.

"A strong community relies on strong, modern infrastructure," said Mayor Steve Landek. "By taking on this comprehensive overhaul—from securing our hydrants and pipelines to restoring our water tower—we are delivering the high-quality, reliable service our residents deserve and securing Bridgeview's water system for generations to come."

The modernization effort began in 2021 with a focus on public safety and system integrity. Working alongside the Bridgeview Fire Department, the Village installed specialized locks on all local fire hydrants to eliminate unauthorized water use and protect water pressure during emergencies. That same year, state and federal safety inspections confirmed the Village's water reservoirs were operating safely.

Major water quality upgrades followed in 2023. Crews removed legacy lead service lines, replacing them with modern, lead-free piping, while installing real-time network monitoring systems to track water quality and pressure community-wide. Workers also power-cleaned accumulated environmental debris from the exterior of municipal water reservoirs

By 2024, the project turned toward preserving major community assets. The Village undertook a complete restoration of the iconic municipal water tower, which involved stripping down worn paint, applying durable primer, and finishing with a protective topcoat.

Crews are currently completing the project's final phase: stripping, priming, and repainting the village's fire hydrants to shield them against harsh Midwest winters. This final detail marks the culmination of nearly five years of work to deliver a safer, cleaner, and more resilient water network for Bridgeview residents.

Stripped down fire hydrant before paint is applied

Newly painted fire hydrant

BRIDGEVIEW CLEANS UP 76.08 TONS OF WASTE

African elephants can weigh up to 1.9 tons

Fall 2026 Cleanup Day has come and gone. If you missed out this year, don't worry—you will have two more opportunities next year in the spring and fall! Keep an eye out for future announcements in the Bridgeview Newsletter and on our social media pages.

During this year's fall cleanup event, Village of Bridgeview residents got rid of unused items from their homes, garages, and yards, eliminating thousands of pounds of garbage. In total, more than 76 tons of trash was removed from our beautiful community. Residents could be seen sweeping, carrying garbage bags, and moving heavy objects as they lined up their unneeded items on the curb the night before. Everything from broken electronics and worn-out furniture to useless tires and old paint cans was arranged along the curbside and properly prepared for disposal.

This year's total is ten tons fewer than last year's Fall Cleanup Day, suggesting there may be less waste to dispose of as residents routinely clean out their homes twice each year.

Congratulations to SBC Waste Solutions, families throughout the Village, and the Bridgeview Public Works Department for their successful Cleanup Day efforts resulting in a cleaner, brighter Bridgeview!

BRIDGEVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDER TO CHARGE INTO SAFETY

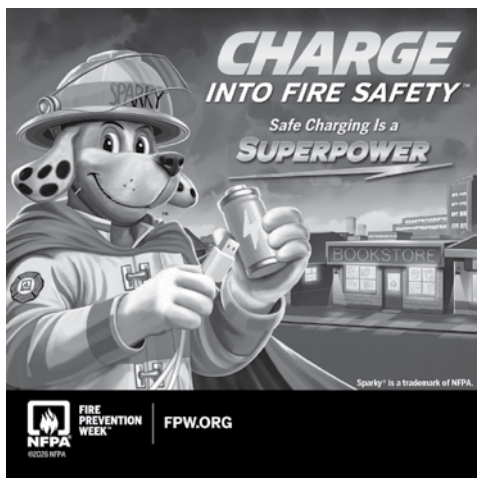
This October, the Bridgeview Fire Department is partnering with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week. Celebrated annually, Fire Prevention Week aims to educate the community about home fire risks and practical ways to prevent them.

This year's official theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower," focuses on lithium-ion battery safety. "Safe charging truly is a superpower when it comes to preventing household fires," said Village Trustee Patricia Higginson. "Our top priority is keeping Bridgeview families safe, and taking a few extra precautions with our electronic devices is one of the easiest ways to protect our loved ones."

To keep your family, friends, and home safe, the Bridgeview Fire Department and the NFPA recommend following these battery safety tips:

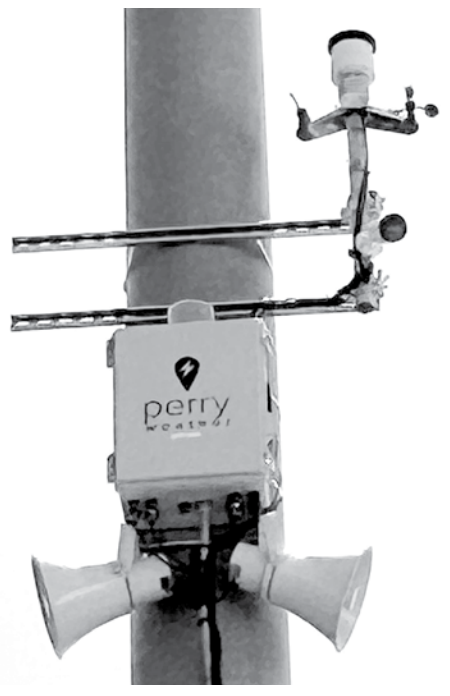
- Use the right equipment: Always use the manufacturer-approved charging cord and adapter designed for your specific device.
- Choose a safe surface: Charge devices on a hard, flat, stable surface like a table or desk—never on soft surfaces like beds, couches, or under pillows.
- Watch for warning signs: Stop using and charging the device immediately if you notice overheating, swelling, smoking, a strange odor, or unusual noises.
- Unplug when finished: Unplug devices and chargers once they reach full charge or are not in use.
- Charge large devices safely: Charge larger items—such as e-bikes, electric scooters, and power tools—outdoors or in a clear area well away from doors and emergency exits.

If you have non-emergency questions, please contact the Bridgeview Fire Department at (708) 924-8250. In the event of an emergency, call 911.



WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

Scan a safety sign QR code for live weather information on your phone



Perry system siren

The Village of Bridgeview is once again proving why it is recognized as a StormReady community. In a joint effort, the Village and SeatGeek Stadium are proud to announce a state-of-the-art technology upgrade at the facility. This investment will keep residents and visitors safe during severe weather events while ensuring SeatGeek Stadium remains a premier destination for world-class concerts, sports, and major events.

Severe weather can develop quickly, and both the Village of Bridgeview and SeatGeek Stadium must be prepared to respond. As a major Chicago-area venue that welcomes visitors throughout the year, SeatGeek Stadium places public safety at the center of its operations. That need for preparation became especially clear this year, as our own community experienced an unusually high number of severe storms.

To meet these challenges head-on, SeatGeek Stadium has integrated the cutting-edge Perry Weather system across the stadium fairgrounds. Equipped with real-time lightning detection, site-specific radar, and automated campus-wide alert sirens, the new technology ensures operations staff will be the first to know when severe weather enters the vicinity. By delivering real-time weather intelligence directly to venue personnel, staff can monitor incoming storms well in advance. Once severe weather crosses designated safety thresholds and enters specific venue parameters, stadium officials can immediately make the call to suspend events, notify guests, and initiate evacuation procedures.

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BRIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fall Programs

SCHOOL AGE

Lego Build Night
11/10 at 6pm Ages 3–12yrs
Drop-In Yay for Fridays
11/13 3–5pm Grades K–6th
Bubble Prints
11/14 at 2pm Grades K–6th
Disguise a Turkey Storytime
11/16 at 4pm Grades K–2nd
Homeschool: Science Wow!
11/18 at 1pm Grades K–6th
Family Literacy Night
11/19 at 6pm Grades K–3rd
Drop-In Yay for Fridays
11/20 3–5pm Grades K–6th
Family Volunteer Day
11/21 at 3pm All Ages
3D Thanksgiving Craft
11/23 at 1pm Grades 3rd–6th
Turkey Bingo
11/24 at 6pm Grades K–6th
Drop-In Thanksgiving STEM
11/25 3–5pm Grades K–6th
Drop-In Game/Puzzle Night
11/28 2–4pm Grades K–6th
3D Polar Bear
11/30 at 4pm Grades K–6th

TEENS

Pringles Taste Test
11/10 at 4pm Grades 7th–12th
DIY Iron-On Patches
11/12 at 6pm Grades 7th–12th
Dungeons and Dragons
11/17 at 6pm Grades 7–12th
family Volunteer Day
11/21 at 3pm All Ages
Felt Keychains
11/24 at 4pm Grades 7th–12th

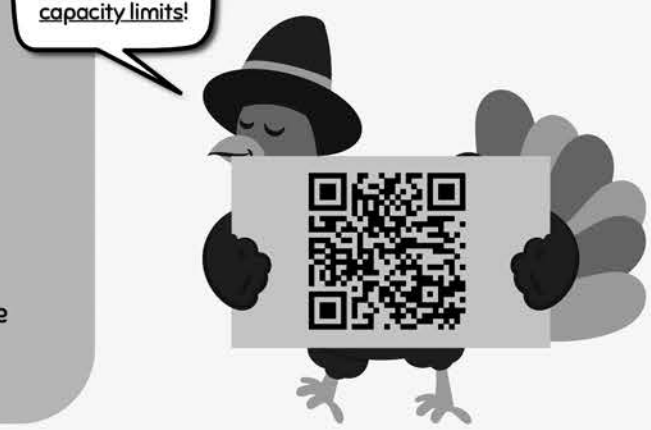
Register at the YS desk 30 minutes before program begins. First come, first served until capacity is reached.

No registration for Drop-in programs.

7840 W 79th St. Bridgeview, IL 60455
bridgeviewlibrary.org
(708) 458-2880

FAMILY

Yoga Storytime @ Little Red Schoolhouse
11/9 at 11am Ages 3–6yrs w/Adult
Lego Build Night
11/10 at 6pm Ages 3–12yrs
Book, Boogie, and Play!
11/13 at 11am Ages 18mths–4yrs
Messy Art
11/18 at 3pm Ages 3–6yrs
Family Volunteer Day
11/21 at 3pm All Ages
Yoga Storytime @ Little Red Schoolhouse
11/23 at 11am Ages 3–6yrs w/Adult



Chicago Movie Tours presents:

Planes, Trains and Automobiles and the Trappings of Home

Join Kelli as we visit the home where the acclaimed movie ends while getting behind the scenes information and also combining humor with the notion of home- comfort or constraint?

Tuesday, November 10th, 2026 6pm

Register by calling (708) 458-2880

BRIDGEVIEW PARK DISTRICT
8100 S. Beloit Ave. Bridgeview, IL 60455 | (708) 594-1818 | Bridgeviewparkdistrict.com

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IMPORTANT DATES 2026

OCTOBER TO DECEMEBER

SATURDAY, OCT. 31	HALLOWEEN (TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS 3-7PM)
SUNDAY, NOV. 1	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
TUESDAY, NOV. 3	GENERAL ELECTION DAY
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11	VETERANS DAY
THURSDAY, NOV. 26	THANKSGIVING (VILLAGE HALL CLOSED)
THURSDAY, DEC. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE (MODIFIED HOURS)
FRIDAY, DEC. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY (VILLAGE HALL CLOSED)
THURSDAY, DEC. 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE (MODIFIED HOURS)
FRIDAY, JAN. 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR ! 2027 NEW YEARS DAY (VILLAGE HALL CLOSED)