

## Family Fun in the Chicago suburbs

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Get the family out to these area events:GURNEE

The forest preserves may seem quiet and still in winter but there is plenty of wildlife about. You and your children, ages 6 and older, will learn to recognize signs left by these creatures during "Footprints in the Snow." The off-trail adventure is 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18 at Lake Carina, Milwaukee Ave., north of Belvidere Rd., Gurnee.

The group will take a walk and "assess what you're seeing," reported Jenny Sazama, environmental educator with the Lake County Forest Preserves District. "A lot of it is tracks and gaits of animals. You learn a little bit about different tracking signs, what kind of animal tracks belong to which animals, how the animals are eating the twigs and also looking at animal scat, or droppings."

Sazama said that the activity is "quite educational and a lot of fun, especially if you have a decent snowfall. You can learn so much about what's active by looking at the tracks they leave behind."

The cost is \$5 for residents, \$7 for nonresidents, for this walk led by trained nature guide Kirk Morris. Registration deadline is Saturday, Jan. 17. For details, call (847) 968-3321.

### MUNDELEIN

The indoor pool will be open and one gym court will be set aside for parents and children at "Friends & Family Frenzied Fun Friday," 5:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 16, at Mundelein Community Center, 1401 N. Midlothian Rd. Toys and equipment will be available. Cost is \$8 for up to four family members ages 2 and older, \$12 for nonresidents, \$1 for each additional person. For details, call (847) 566-0650.

### LINDENHURST

You'll do up-do's at "Mother Daughter Glamour Hair," 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Lindenhurst Park District, 2200 E. Grass Lake Rd. Class is for girls ages 3-14 with their mom. Cost is \$36 for residents, \$45 for non residents per couple, \$15 per additional child. Registration is required. For details, call (847) 356-6011.

### GRAYSLAKE

Dads have until Jan. 23 to make reservations for Grayslake Park District's gala "Daddy/Daughter Dance," 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Country Squire Restaurant & Banquets, 19133 W. Rte. 120, Grayslake. Event includes a complete dinner, DJ, contests, prizes and a keepsake for each girl. Cost is \$60 per resident couple, \$75 for nonresidents, \$28 for each additional child and \$39 for each additional adult.

For details, call (847) 223-7529.

### LINCOLNSHIRE

Children from birth to age 5, with caregivers, will sing and dance to old favorites, and learn new multicultural songs with New York performers Erin Lee and Marci, 10 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Vernon Area Public Library, 300 Olde Half Day Rd., Lincolnshire. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 634-3650.

#### NORTHBROOK

Last year, Northbrook Musical Theatre for Young Audiences charmed children and parents with the tale of "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day." Judith Viorst's hero returns to the theater at 3323 Walters Ave. in "Alexander Who's Not, Not, Not, Not, Not, Not Going to Move," 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays through Feb. 28.

"This one confronts the issue that many kids have to confront," said Performing Arts Manager Dr. Gregory Dennhardt. "The dad has gotten a new job and they're going to move 1,000 miles away. Alexander's two brothers, being older, are able to take it much more confidently. Alexander doesn't want to move."

The musical shows "the funny and sad things that happen as Alexander is saying good-bye to his friends and the people he's known for so long," Dennhardt added.

#### LINCOLNWOOD

A seven-member folk music group will help the Lincolnwood Public Library celebrate the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. Loose Change and Friends presents "Lincoln and Liberty," 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at 4000 W. Pratt Ave. Reservations are required.

"The program parallels Lincoln and the country both growing up at the same time," said band member Marcy Novit of Arlington Heights. The concert will include old-time folk songs the band normally performs, as well as other numbers specifically about Lincoln.

"For instance, one of his campaign songs was called 'Lincoln and Liberty,'" Novit reported. "That was from an old Irish folk tune. In 1860, somebody put words to that melody." They will also perform the 19th century song, "Dixie." "It was the President's favorite song until the Civil War," Novit related. "It was played at his first inauguration."

The songs will follow Lincoln's life chronologically, with narration about Lincoln and the country. "One song was written by a white man to help a former slave buy back his sweetheart," Novit said.

"Lincoln and Liberty" offers an entertaining history lesson for all ages.

For details, call (847) 677-5277.

#### DES PLAINES

Families will learn what happens "If You Take a Mouse to School," when Emerald City Theatre Company presents the play based on Laura Numeroff's and Felicia Bond's best-selling book, 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St. Here's a clue to the trap that mouse sets. First he'll want a lunchbox, then a sandwich to go in it, then...

For details, call (847) 827-5551.

#### PARK RIDGE

Parents can't join "The Art of East Africa" workshops at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge, but by enrolling their kids they will help Park Ridge Cares' "Kibosho Library Project" establish a library/community center in the Tanzania city. Kids will learn about East African culture through music, a story, beading, weaving and printmaking. Sessions are: 3-5-year-olds, 10-10:50 a.m. or 11-11:50 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 17 (\$10), and 6-9-year-olds, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 24 (\$20). All proceeds benefit the project.

For details, call (847) 823-6611.

#### SKOKIE

The famous fairy comes out of Peter Pan's shadow in "Tinker Bell," an animated family

feature being screened at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. You'll learn the role fairies play in the changing colors of the season during this 78-minute G-rated film.

For details, call (847) 324-3149.

#### MORTON GROVE

Your family can spend part of the Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 19, hearing "Peace Tales Around the World," at 2 p.m., at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Music and dancing will help tell these stories.

For details, call (847) 965-4220. t said. These include his trying to get adopted by another family.

The director described the interactive show as "very endearing and very funny." It draws the conclusion, "Home is where your family is."

Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 performance day and online. For details, call (847) 291-2367 or see [www.northbrooktheatre.org](http://www.northbrooktheatre.org).

#### WINNETKA

An early Valentine's Day celebration is planned for "Dad/Daughter Date Night," 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Skokie School Gym, 520 Glendale, Winnetka. Register at the Winnetka Park District, 540 Hibbard Rd., for this evening of dinner, dancing, entertainment, pictures and a Valentine's gift bag for girls in kindergarten-fifth grade and their fathers. Tickets are \$55 per couple, \$10 for each additional child. For details, call (847) 501-2040.

#### EVANSTON

You'll hear the sounds of trombones, trumpets, horns, tubas, flutes, clarinets, oboes, saxophones, bassoons and percussion instruments at "Strike Up the Band!" 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The Kids Fare concert is for children ages 3-8, and their families and friends. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children and students. For details, call (847) 491-5441.

#### EVANSTON

That could be your cue after you and your child, age 2-3, attend "Parent-Tot Circus" classes, 9:30-10:10 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 29-April 2, at The Actors Gymnasium, Noyes Cultural Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Cost is \$130 a couple for these classes designed to develop strength, creativity and self-esteem through circus-themed activities. For details, call (847) 328-2795.

#### EVANSTON

Your kids can learn a Native American craft while you explore the wonderful exhibits at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston. "Kids Craft Mornings" activities are free with suggested admission donation of \$5 adults, \$2.50 seniors, students and children, maximum of \$10 per family. Next is "Woven Miniature Rugs," 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 24. For details, call (847) 475-1030.

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#### SCHAUMBURG

The New York duo known as Erin Lee and Marci aims their original songs at 4- to 9-year-olds but they have noticed infants sucking their bottles in rhythm with the music. The pair will present programs for all ages 1-1:45 p.m. and 2-2:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Hoffman Estates Branch of the Schaumburg Township District Library, 1550 Hassell Rd.

Marci Appelbaum and Erin Lee Kelly write material for kids "that have outgrown all the preschool bands that everybody loves and are not ready for 'High School Musical' yet but they want to have pop music that sounds like the music their elder siblings are listening to," Kelly said.

Their songs address such topics as having loose teeth and being afraid because you

haven't done your homework.

Kelly noted, "The lyrics will be something that an older child can relate to but we'll have activities and movements that the younger children can do so they're participating at their own comfort level."

For details, call (847) 885-3511.

#### ALGONQUIN

Any child old enough to play their own card can participate in Family Bingo Night, 7-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Algonquin Area Public Library, 2600 Hamish Drive. The free drop-in event will be in the Hamish Meeting Room.

For details, call (847) 458-6060.

#### HOFFMAN ESTATES

That's the meaning of "Saltimbanco," the Cirque du Soleil show, Wednesday, Jan. 21-Sunday, Feb. 1, at Sears Centre Arena, 5333 Prairie Stone Pkwy., Hoffman Estates. The show explores urban life, from the hustle and bustle of the streets to families and even skyscrapers. "Saltimbanco" features amazing feats, dance, music and spectacular costumes and lighting. Tickets are \$32-\$95. For details, call (312) 559-1212 or see [www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com).

#### WAUCONDA

Preschoolers and parents can enjoy the season from the warmth of the Lake County Discovery Museum, 27277 Forest Preserve Road, Wauconda, during Winter Tales, 10 a.m.-11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21. Kids up to age 5 will hear seasonal stories and create a winter-themed craft with the help of their caregiver. It's a good time to explore the museum because the registration fee of \$2.50 per child, \$6 per adult includes admission. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 968-3321.

#### WHEELING

You and your children can enhance your home library at the Indian Trails Public Library's, Children's Used Book Sale, at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling, Jan. 16-18. Hours are 5-8:30 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon-3 p.m. Sunday. For details, call (847) 459-4100, Ext. 248.

#### WESTCHESTER

Preschoolers and their parents will have loads of winter fun in the warmth of Westchester Park District's Mayfair Recreation Center, 10835 Wakefield, during Kid Rock's Winterpalooza from Rock-It Productions, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. Children from ages 1-5 and their parents will move to music, play rhythm instruments, work with movement props and engage in creative play—all based on a winter wonderland theme. Every activity is about playing in the snow.

Laura Heffron, administrative assistant for Rock-It Productions, said, "We're going to pretend to decorate a snowman with ribbons and handbells, and gallop and do different activities to get to the snowman. Pretend snowflakes will fall in the form of cotton balls. We'll use tambourines and do a 'Frosty the Snowman' song." Participants will also pretend to ski and sled, and color a snowman. It's a great socialization opportunity for both kids and parents.

You can learn more about this program at [www.rockitkids.com](http://www.rockitkids.com).

Registration is required. Cost is \$10 for the first child, \$5 for each additional child, no charge for parents, who are expected to participate in the activities.

For details, call (708) 865-8200.

#### ELMWOOD PARK

All ages are invited to join the Camp Rock Sing-a-long, 2-3:40 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at Elmwood Park Public Library, 1 Conti Parkway. The 94-minute, G-rated TV musical will be screened in the first floor community room. Popcorn will be served. Kids under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

For details, call (708) 453-7645.

#### RIVER FOREST

Imagine sailing across the Concordia University pool with your child (minimum age 5), 7400 Augusta St., River Forest, in a raft you created yourself. That's the treat planned for Mom & Son Aqua Noodle Challenge, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. When you register, you'll get duct tape, swim noodles and wacky supplies for raft-building. Bring your creation to the pool for contests and a treasure hunt. Cost is \$52 per couple for residents, \$69 for nonresidents.

For details, call (708) 383-0002.

#### RIVER FOREST

Your family will investigate clues, learn about forensics and explore the science behind crime solving when Mad Science presents Family Mystery Night, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at The Depot, 401 Thatcher Ave., River Forest. It's a great chance to test your powers of observation. Cost is \$2 per participant, \$20 per family for Junior Detective experiment kit.

For details, call (708) 366-6660.

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