

SO MUCH TO DO ON THE NORTH SHORE

By Matt Beardmore



No matter if you want to enjoy some quiet time in nature, take in the energy, food and music at a local festival or concert, participate in recreational activities, attend a play, or spend a summer afternoon perusing local artists' latest works, the North Shore is the place to be!

NATURE

To escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, what better place to spend a few hours than being surrounded by the beauty of nature and 2.8 million plants at the **Chicago Botanic Garden's** "385 acres of nature, beauty, and respite to discover." Enjoy biking, walking, exhibitions, birding, taking photos, visiting the Garden Shop, and more! Visit www.chicagobotanic.org for details on upcoming events and information on the monthly Free Admission Days for Illinois residents.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

There are no residency requirements to enjoy the **new croquet court at the Glencoe Golf Club**. After opening late last summer with limited availability, the court – which can be modified to host up to two concurrent

matches – is set to open in May with scheduled play dates and events throughout the season. There are also membership opportunities available, which include the use of equipment and invitations to tournaments and events.

Here's some good news for golfers on the North Shore: the enhancement project at the **Winnetka Golf Club** is nearing completion. Closed since the fall of 2022, the 9- and 18-hole courses are projected to open this year (the 9-hole in late 2024 and August for the 18-hole course), depending on the weather this spring and summer. To celebrate the re-opening, the Winnetka Golf Club will be holding several special events. Stay up to date at www.winnetkagolfclub.org.

If racket sports are more your thing, the **Winnetka Park District** has plenty of places to play. The park district's pickleball program is held at The Skokie School, while the park district's Paddle/Platform Tennis is located at the Platform Tennis Hut. Adjacent to the Platform Tennis Hut is the A.C. Nielsen Tennis Center, which features eight indoors courts, 12 outdoor courts (five of which are lit), a pro shop, and indoor ball machines.

At the **Winnetka Ice Arena**, skaters of all ages and skill levels can enjoy the open skate opportunities. There are also a number of ice-skating events throughout the year – most notably the Annual Ice Show on May 3-4, which is open to the public.

If some sun and sand sound good right about now, why not stop by the **Glencoe Beach**? Open year-round (sunrise-sunset during the off-season and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer), Glencoe Beach is a favorite spot among locals and visitors. The beach hosts a number of special events, including the popular Beach Campout, Independence Day celebrations, Trellis Table dinner, and Beir on the Pier. The Glencoe Park District also operates Perlman Boating Beach, which is adjacent to Glencoe Beach. Learn how to sail, participate in the Aquatics & Sailing Camp, or rent a kayak, sailboat or paddleboard. Visit www.glencoeParkDistrict.com for information on rates and residency requirements.

The **Winnetka Park District** also operates a number of **beaches**. Centennial Beach, Elder Lane Beach, Lloyd Beach and Stepan Family Boat Launch, Maple Street Beach, Tower Road Beach are open this year from May 25 to Sept. 2.

In Northfield, there is good news to report as progress is being made on the Old Orchard Road to Voltz Road segment of the **Skokie Valley Trail**. Phase I (preliminary engineering) is complete, and Phase II (detailed engineering) will conclude in mid-2024. Phase III (construction) is dependent on funding, said Melissa Jewett, Director of Administrative Services at the Village of Northfield. "The completion of the SVT has been a community goal for over 20 years," Jewett said. "The

trail will provide many benefits including increased recreational opportunities, decreased reliance on motor transportation, and will bring trail-goers straight through Northfield's vibrant Village Center. It will be a wonderful way to bring customers into our local businesses."

FAIRS, FESTIVALS AND MARKETS

When summer approaches, it's time to plan to attend some of the fairs, festivals and markets that North Shore residents and visitors alike enjoy so much.

On June 1, the **Winnetka Farmers' Market** opens in the heart of the downtown business district. The weekly Saturday market, now in its 9th year, runs through October 26. See page 56 for details.

The **Winnetka Children's Fair** will celebrate its 77th anniversary on June 7-8 at Village Green where children will play games and enjoy plenty of treats and carnival rides.

On Father's Day weekend, the 8th annual **Winnetka Music Festival** will take place in downtown Winnetka. The full lineup will be announced soon, but tickets can be purchased online now. See page 57 for details.

Schedules for **Market & Music** and the **Clarkson Cookout** in Northfield will be released soon as the Northfield Park District is currently selecting bands for both events, which take place at Clarkson Park. Started in 2018, Market & Music offers concerts, kids entertainment, food and drink. The Clarkson Cookout, which started in 1992 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Northfield Park District, was renamed last year by the park district after previously being called the Northfield State Fair. It's also commonly referred to as Ribfest.

From July 20-21, the 15th Annual **Glencoe Festival of Art** will take place in downtown Glencoe as visitors can shop from more than 100 artists. The event features artwork of all mediums including ceramics, glass, jewelry, metal, painting, photography and wood.



THEATERS

At **Writers Theatre** in Glencoe, there are several productions remaining this season, including Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin (starting April 10) and The Hot Wing King (starting June 20), said Kelly Helgeson, General Manager at Writers Theatre.

Even if you're not attending a performance at Writers Theatre, it's worth your time to check out the 36,000-square-foot theater center. The LEED Gold Certified building, completed in 2016 and open to the public, was designed by Chicago-based architecture and design practice firm, Studio Gang, which is led by Jeanne Gang (who also designed the Aqua Tower in Chicago and the St. Regis Chicago Vista Tower).

At the **Children's Theatre of Winnetka (CTW)**, there will be a CTW 50th anniversary celebration on May 5 at the Winnetka Community House. "We are encouraging all CTW alums young and old to join us in a celebration with live performances, video revues honoring each of the decades, a costume parade and more all to commemorate our 50 years," said Carrie Compall, a member of CTW's Board of Directors.

In Wilmette, the **Youth Choral Theater of Chicago** continues its dedication "to helping students from Pre-K through high school find their voices and make a difference in our world." Visit www.youthchoraltheater.org for details on performances and how to join an ensemble.

