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Summer 2024

Teach life skills this summer **p4**

Children's Woodland Garden **p7**

Wild about wolves **p28**

Plus more!



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p11-26

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**parent**  
Summer 2024

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# Teach life skills this summer

CC PARENT | Pamela Savage

May is finally here, and with it comes the end of the school year. Between all of the spring sports, concerts, plays, graduations and family parties, so many of us parents are ready for a well-earned break from the rush and are excited for the lull of lazier, slower, summer days. And while the first few days of summer are a relief, eventually the kids (and we parents) crave something to do. Many parents opt to enroll kids in camps or go on vacations. But even if you aren't

leaving home much, summer is the perfect opportunity for kids to gain access to independent life skills that will last them a lifetime.

Think of life skills as the maintenance of our holistic daily care. Life skills include things such as personal hygiene, house cleaning, communication, preparing meals, problem-solving and time management. Parents sometimes have a tendency to brush over teaching life skills during the busier school year.

After all, it can be hard to fit these tasks in with homework and bedtime considerations.

One great example is tying shoes. I think every parent out there knows the pain of watching a kid try to master shoe-tying at 8:05 a.m. when you were supposed to have left the house 10 minutes earlier. All too often, we opt for simpler solutions (hello, Velcro shoes) as a way to ease our days, and rightfully so. But consider the informal structure





of summer as the perfect opportunity to slow down and work through these little (yet bigger) life skills with our kids.

Before the summer begins, sit down with your kids and ask them what they'd like to work on over summer break. Since they probably won't respond with "learn to use the washing machine," go ahead make a list of your own as well. Maybe you'd like them to learn to empty the dishwasher, while they'd like to learn how to nail a perfect cartwheel. That is fine. The longer days of summer allow time for both. Engaging your kids in the planning of their summers will get you the buy-in you'll need, as well as give you a glimpse into their goals and motivation.

Planning out what you'd like to work on ahead of time is also a great way to fill in your schedule. If you'd like your child to be a more confident swimmer, plan for swim lessons. If your child would like to earn and save

their own money, schedule a trip to the bank. If the entire family seems to groan at your well-honed weekly meal repertoire, summer is the perfect time to send them to the grocery store or the farmers market, to have them look through cookbooks and to experiment with preparing meals.

There are so many life skills that kids can develop during the summer - everything from cutting their own toenails to calling to order takeout pizza. Think big and small, sit down together with your children and co-caregivers, and brainstorm opportunities to give your children the gift of independence this summer and for the rest of their days to come.

*Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield. Last summer, she thought she might teach her kids to consistently use the washing machine but definitely fell short. She looks forward to trying again.*



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Stumps are strategically grouped to form a stage, balance beams, tables and more, encouraging kids to play freely in the new Children's Woodland Garden.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY MEYER

# Children's Woodland Garden to open this summer

CC PARENT | Ashley Meyer

Lincoln Memorial Garden has been a cherished outdoor space for generations of families, and this summer LMG will unveil its largest installation in nearly 60 years: The Children's Woodland Garden. This natural playscape is located just beyond the nature center, which was also upgraded over the winter to include a large, shaded deck with picnic tables that overlooks the upper play area.

Visitors are invited to picnic on the deck or simply sit back and enjoy a respite from the sun as they take in peaceful views of the lake.

Joel Horwedel, who has been LMG's executive director for more than 10 years, explained that some of the features of the upper play area were purchased, but most of the play structures were created out of materials

found at LMG. Purchased materials include a large wooden xylophone, log tunnel and giant turtle statue, but the rest of the area is beautifully accented by natural log play structures that were salvaged from various areas around the gardens. Stumps are strategically grouped to form a stage, balance beams, tables and more, encouraging kids to play freely and let their imaginations run





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Natural log play structures were salvaged from various areas around the gardens.

wild.

An accessible, paved path featuring a StoryWalk runs around the new play area. The StoryWalk was placed in LMG in April 2021 by the Lincoln Library as part of the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read. It's a whimsical activity that encourages families to read together as they read pages of a story that are placed in holders along a walking path.

Also under construction, just south of the upper play area, is a simulated stream that will wind down from the nature center. Once complete, kids and grownups will be encouraged to wade and play in the shallow stream and can even control the flow of water from a wooden chute.

The Children's Woodland Garden, which was designed in collaboration with area landscape architecture firm Massie and Massie Associates, was designed with accessibility in mind and features paved paths and a wooden footbridge over the stream. "We'll probably open the upper area first, where the log play structures are located, hopefully by the end of May," said Horwedel, "but it will ultimately depend on the weather." Heavy rain during the end of April slowed construction of the stream and lower play area, but the project is still on target to be completed in the summer of 2024.

The final installation in the children's garden will be a third wooden troll

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Construction is wrapping up on the new Children's Woodscape Garden, expected to open this summer.

statue to complement the garden's two existing giant trolls, which were inspired by the works of Danish artist Thomas Dambo and built by the Springfield Art Association. Svon (which is Swedish for sleep), the first troll installed at LMG in 2021, sits sleepily against a tree just north of the play area and will soon be joined by another troll overlooking the play area.

"We already have two guy trolls, so I think we'll have a girl troll up here," remarked Horwedel. "She'll hold a torch or some kind of a lighted feature that's yet to be worked out."

Once the Children's Woodland Garden is complete, LMG will focus on expanding the maintenance shed and greenhouse area near the Ostermeier Prairie Center over the next few years. The eventual goal is to free up space adjacent to the Nature Center to create more accessible parking.

"We're very conscious that this is a Jensen historic site," said Horwedel. "The space for the play area was previously just a nightmare of honeysuckle and wasn't being fully utilized. Our hope with the children's garden is that we will have created something positive that can be enjoyed for many more generations to come."

*Ashley Meyer is a freelance writer from Springfield whose children have always loved Lincoln Memorial Garden.*



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Location: Nelson Center  
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Activity #	Age	Day	Time	Date	R/NR Fee
270002-01	11-25	M-F	7:30a-5:30p	6/27-6/31	\$60/\$110
270002-02	11-25	M-F	7:30a-5:30p	6/31-6/30	\$90/\$110
270002-03	11-25	M-F	7:30a-5:30p	6/21-6/25	\$90/\$110
270002-04	11-25	M-F	7:30a-5:30p	6/28-7/02	\$90/\$110
270002-05	11-25	M-F	7:30a-5:30p	6/16-6/20	\$90/\$110

LEAP - May - 2024

Activity # Description Dates Times Location Age Range Fee

Activity #	Description	Dates	Times	Location	Age Range	Fee
270002-01	Camp L.E.A.P. Week 1	6/27-6/30	7:30a-5:30p	Nelson Center	11-25	\$60/\$110
270002-02	Camp L.E.A.P. Week 2	6/30-6/30	7:30a-5:30p	Nelson Center	11-25	\$90/\$110
270002-03	Camp L.E.A.P. Week 3	6/21-6/25	7:30a-5:30p	Nelson Center	11-25	\$90/\$110
270002-04	Camp L.E.A.P. Week 4	6/28-7/02	7:30a-5:30p	Nelson Center	11-25	\$90/\$110
270002-05	Camp L.E.A.P. Week 5	6/16-6/20	7:30a-5:30p	Nelson Center	11-25	\$90/\$110





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- 6/6 - 6/9 International Carillon Festival
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- 7/20 Sangamon Valley Iris Society Plant Sale
- 8/3 Central IL Daylily Society Plant Sale
- 8/10 Bug Eatin' Bogs Workshop (Jr.)
- 8/24 Reg. 9 American Iris Society Plant Sale
- 9/14- 9/15 Art Spectacular
- 9/21 Plant Workshop
- 9/21 & 9/28 Leaf Identification Hikes
- 9/28 Plant Workshop
- 10/12 - 10/13 Carve for the Carillon
- 10/18 - 10/19 Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular
- 10/26 Orchid Workshop
- 12/6 Angel of Hope Remembrance Ceremony
- 12/7-12/22 Winter Holiday Show
- 12/7 Wreath Making Workshops
- 12/8 Caroling at the Carillon
- 12/14 Centerpiece Making Workshops





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Find your **FUN**, find your *smile* at [springfieldparks.org](http://springfieldparks.org)

SPECIAL EVENTS



# INTERNATIONAL CARILLON FESTIVAL

**JUNE 6-9** 6:00PM  
**WASHINGTON PARK**

**FIREWORKS-JUNE 7 AT DUSK**



## CELEBRATE AT THE HENSON ROBINSON ZOO



5/12

### MOTHER'S DAY 10:00a to 5:00p

Celebrate the day by spending time with your Mom at the zoo! Moms get in free today with any other paid admission. Regular admission applies for all other guests.

5/18

### ARMED FORCES DAY 10:00a to 5:00p

Military members admitted free with a valid military ID!

6/15

### HENSON ROBINSON ZOO DAY 10:00a to 5:00p

Help us celebrate the City of Springfield's proclamation of Henson Robinson Zoo Day! All Guests get in FREE today!

6/16

### FATHER'S DAY 10:00a to 5:00p

Celebrate the day by spending time with your Dad at the zoo! Dads get in free today with any other paid admission. Regular Admission applies for all other guests.

6/19

### JUNETEENTH 1:00p to 4:00p

Come to the zoo for a FREE day on June 19. Juneteenth allows us to celebrate the freedom it represents today.

FOR INFO GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT [SPRINGFIELDPARKS.ORG](http://SPRINGFIELDPARKS.ORG)

## BIKE AND HIKE SUNDAYS

at Washington Park

APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Bike & Hike Sundays provide park goers an opportunity for safe recreation by minimizing vehicular traffic.

Call 217-544-1751 x1004 for any questions.





Save The Date



Great Lawn  
Kite Festival  
IN SOUTHWIND PARK

Come out to **Southwind Park** for a wholesome family friendly experience you will remember for years to come!

**Professional kite flyers & dealers** from around the nation will travel to Southwind park and demonstrate the truest form of **kite flying!**

June 22nd  
Saturday *\*Rainout Date:  
June 23rd*

Located at  
**Southwind Park Great Lawn**  
4965 S. Second St, Springfield, IL

**Kite Vendor On Site**

For more information, please call **Tammy Naumovich** at 217-585-2941 ext. 2301.







# CHOOSE YOUR OWN SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE!

With The Springfield Park District's



- Special Recreation Summer Camps
- Nelson Center Summer Camp
- Preschool Summer Camps
- Henson Robinson Zoo Summer Camps
- Athletics Summer Camps
- Tennis Summer Camps

Sign Up Today at  
[bit.ly/SPD\\_Summer-Camp](http://bit.ly/SPD_Summer-Camp)





## Nelson Center Pool

The Nelson Center Pool is a seasonal outdoor aquatic facility and is open during the Summer months between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day. Supervised by professionally trained lifeguard staff, Nelson Center Pool features a twisted flume slide and separate wading pool that will keep your kids coming back time and time again. Nelson Center Pool also features a full service concession stand and locker rooms. Concession tables may be reserved individually for \$26R/\$31NR.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

#### Regular Season Hours May 27 - August, 2024

Monday-Friday: 11:00a- 5:00p

#### Adult Masters Swim

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:00a- 7:30a  
Sunday: 8:00a- 9:30a

#### Adult Lap Swim

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 7:30a - 9:00a

#### Public Swim

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11:00a- 5:00p  
Tuesday, Thursday: 11:00a- 7:00p  
Saturday: 11:00a- 6:00p  
Sunday: 10:30a- 6:00p

### ACCESSIBILITY

Nelson Center Pool is equipped with an ADA accessible pool lift.

For more information call 217-753-2800  
Nelson Center Pool: 1601 N. 5th Street, Springfield, IL

### POOL ATTIRE

All patrons must wear clean, lined swimsuits. Street clothes, cut offs and spandex will not be permitted. Clean white t-shirts will only be allowed if proper swimming attire is worn underneath.

### DAILY ADMISSION

Children 12 and Under\*: \$5.25  
Adult: \$6.00  
Adult Lap: \$5.25

Anyone wanting to go onto the pool deck will be charged a daily admission fee.

\*Children 10 years of age and under must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult aged 16 or older. Children under 6 must have an adult 16 years of age or older within arm's reach at all times. All children not toilet-trained shall wear tight fitted rubber or plastic pants.

\*Only U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets will be allowed. No other flotation devices will be permitted. All children wearing flotation devices must remain within arm's reach of a swimming adult. Patrons may be asked to participate and pass a swim test in order to proceed into deep water.

\*Pool hours of operation are subject to change. Please visit [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org) for the most up to date pool hours of operation.





# Weddings



The Springfield Park District offers a range of stunning venues perfect for hosting your dream wedding ceremony, reception, or both!

Our venues feature **beautiful natural settings** and elegant facilities that will make your special day unforgettable.

SITE	PARK	TIME	Res	Non-Res	Contact
Gazebo	Washington	2 hr blocks	\$70	\$90	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Bandshell	Douglas	2 hr blocks	\$70	\$90	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Roman Cultural Garden	Botanical Garden	2.5 hr blocks	\$360	\$460	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Rose Garden	Botanical Garden	2.5 hr blocks	\$360	\$460	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Annual Display Bed	Botanical Garden	2.5 hr blocks	\$360	\$460	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Bridge	Lincoln	2 hr blocks	\$70	\$90	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Iron Springs	Washington	2.5 hr blocks	\$125	\$155	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Exhibit Hall	Botanical Garden	4 hr blocks	\$400	\$500	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Exhibit Hall	Botanical Garden	Additional hr	\$75	\$100	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Lincoln Park Pavilion	Lincoln	4 hr blocks	\$400	\$560	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Lincoln Park Pavilion	Lincoln	Additional hr	\$100	\$140	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Banquet Hall	Lincoln Greens Golf Course	4 hr blocks	\$400	\$560	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Banquet Hall	Lincoln Greens Golf Course	Additional hr	\$100	\$140	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	2 hr blocks	\$300	\$300	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	Additional hr	\$150	\$200	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	2 hr blocks	\$150	\$200	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	Additional hr	\$75	\$100	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Zoo	Henson Robinson Zoo	2 hr blocks	\$300	\$325	217-585-1821 (Zoo)
Zoo	Henson Robinson Zoo	2 hr blocks	\$500	\$550	217-585-1821 (Zoo)

\*Alcohol Permit Fee \$75 and Dram Shop insurance required.

\*\*Does not include golf outings

\*\*\*Non-Refundable deposit for Washington Park Botanical Gardens, Washington Park Pavilion, Lincoln Park Pavilion and Lincoln Greens Banquet Hall is 50% at the time the contract is executed. Balance is due two weeks prior to the rental.





# Weddings

## & Party Rentals at Erin's Pavilion

### WEDDING CEREMONY SITES

A wedding altar is a sacred place where you and your significant other stand in front of one another and exchange vows. Erin's Pavilion offers some of the most stunning wedding venues in Springfield at a very affordable price. (CAP— capacity, refers to seated guests)

#### Southwind Park - 217-585-2941

Babbling Brook

Erin's Pavilion Terrace

(with Erin's Facility Rental)

Gazebo

Historic Selvaggio Arches

Treehouse

#### Erin's Pavilion 4965 S. 2nd St, Springfield

217-585-2941 CAP: 300

The Pavilion's 5,000 square foot main hall can be arranged to accommodate up to 300 guests and has all the table and chairs you would need to host a successful event. It can be sectioned off into four separate meeting rooms, each hosting access to the beautiful terrace with a panoramic lakeside view. Brides have successfully staged their weddings on our terrace and then come right inside to host an elegant affair for the evening. Erin's In-House Audio Visual System or dance floor can enhance any event.







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INVITED  
to host your  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTY WITH US!**

Make your child's birthday party a memorable one. Parents relax and enjoy, while you host your party with us and we do the clean up!

Each party listed includes their own unique amenities. Pick the FUN that's right for you and your little ones...

[bit.ly/SPDBirthdayParties](http://bit.ly/SPDBirthdayParties)

**FUNSHOP PARTIES!**

Parents and children can enjoy the Funshop program in the setting of a birthday party! There are a ton of tantalizing toys and interest areas that will capture your children's imagination.

**2 Hours | Min. 20 people, Max. 50**

**COST:**  
\$100R | \$120NR for 1-10 Kids    \$150R | \$180NR for 11-15 Kids  
\$200R | \$230NR for 16-20 Kids

**AGE:** 16mo-5yrs

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Toys, games, and activities | Party host, birthday paper good, and tables and chairs provided | Bring your own food and drink.

**CALL THE FUNSHOP TO BOOK YOUR PARTY!  
217-753-6234**



**PARTY WILD AT THE  
HENSON ROBINSON ZOO**

**2 Hours | 20 Guests**

**COST:** \$170 for Members    \$180 R | \$200 NR

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Zoo Admission, Party Host, Feed for Goats + Fish, Special Gift for Guest of Honor, Birthday Decorations. Bring your own cake and ice cream! (no other outside food or drink allowed)

**ADD ONS:** Animal Encounter with Zoo Staff - \$30 | Train Ticket Package - \$30 for 20 riders | Party Favors - \$4 each | Additional Guests - \$5 per guest | Hotdog Lunch - \$5 each

**CALL THE ZOO TO BOOK YOUR PARTY! 217-585-1821**



**FOOTGOLF**

Ready, set, let's kick-it at Bergen Golf Course! Come play Footgolf for your next Birthday Party. It's a new sport that is a combination of soccer and golf. It's easy, just come dressed in athletic wear and we'll provide the soccer balls! Open early April through October (weather permitting).

**2 Hours | Min. 8 people, Max. 16**

**COST:** \$80

**AGE:** ALL

**DAYS:** Fri, Sat or Sun

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Each additional guest past 8 will incur a \$10 add-on fee per guest | Soccer Balls for all participants to play FootGolf | FootGolf Instruction card and guide from the first tee | Birthday reservations are welcome to bring their own refreshments and cake.

**CALL BERGEN GOLF COURSE TO MAKE A RESERVATION. 217-753-6211**



**ICE SKATING PARTY BECAUSE IT'S COOLER  
AT THE NELSON CENTER!**

Ice Skating, Skate Rentals, Party Room, Birthday Paper Goods

**2 Hours | Min. 5 people**

**COST:** \$18 R | \$20 NR for Gold Package \$14 R | \$16 NR for Silver Package  
(cost for packages is per person)  
\*\$25 deposit due on day of booking. \$25 subtracted from total on day of party.

**AGE:** ALL

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Ice Skating | Skate Rentals | Birthday Paper Goods

**CALL: 217-753-2800**







**SPRINGFIELD**  
PARK DISTRICT

# NOW BOOKING PARK SHELTER RENTALS!

Park Shelter rental season is from **March 1st - October 31st!**

**Picnic Rentals** can be booked up to **one year in advance** during the rental season!

\*All rentals require a non-refundable deposit.

**Barker Park**

Picnic Shelter - Basic  
\*Power

**Centennial Park**

Picnic Shelter 1 - Basic  
Picnic Shelter 2 - Basic

**Comer Cox Park**

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity  
Picnic Shelter 2 - Basic  
Picnic Shelter 3 - Basic  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Duncan Park**

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity  
Picnic Shelter 2 - Basic  
Picnic Shelter 3 - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Dreamland Park**

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity  
Picnic Shelter 2 - Amenity  
Picnic Shelter 3 - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Enos Park**

Picnic Shelter - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Iles Park**

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Indian Hills**

Picnic Shelter - Basic

**Jaycee Park**

Picnic Shelter 1 - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Lincoln Park**

Picnic Shelter 4 - Amenity  
Picnic Shelter 7 - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Rotary Park**

Picnic Shelter - Basic  
\*Restrooms, Water

**Southwind Park**

Hope Pavilion - Amenity  
Picnic Shelters 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 -  
Basic  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water

**Stuart Park**

Picnic Shelter - Basic  
\*Power

**Washington Park**

Picnic Shelter - Amenity  
\*Power, Restrooms, Water



Book here at:  
[bit.ly/SPD\\_Shelter-Rentals](https://bit.ly/SPD_Shelter-Rentals)  
Or scan the QR code!

For more information, please call the Springfield Park District at **217-544-1751**





**GET A POOL PASS TODAY!**

Provide Your Family Hours of FUN at the NELSON CENTER POOL!

# SPLASH *into Summer FUN!*

## Nelson Center Pool Passes

**Individual Pool Pass**  
**NOW JUST \$35 R** ~~Was \$65 R~~

**Senior Pool Pass**  
**NOW JUST \$25 R** ~~Was \$55 R~~

**Family Pool Pass**  
(Individual Rate)  
**\$35 R | \$45 NR**

First Additional Family Member - **\$15**

Each Additional Family Member - **\$10**

\*Up to 6 maximum on one Family Household pass

\*Season pool passes valid from May to September.

\*Children 10 and under must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible paying adult of ages 16 or older.

\*Family passes are available to immediate family members who permanently reside under the same household and who are claimed as a dependent.



Purchase at  
[bit.ly/SPD\\_Pool-Passes](http://bit.ly/SPD_Pool-Passes)

A POOL PASS at the Springfield Park District gets you **10% off** swim lessons

For more information, please contact Eisenhower Aquatic Center at 217-525-8847



# It's the Summer of Flight at Kidzeum!

New Exhibits - Summer 2024

In partnership with the Air Combat Museum

## Wheels up!

*The Science of Flight*

- Flight Simulator
- Historic objects from the Air Combat Museum
- Observation beehive and butterfly house
- Air Traffic Control Training Center
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# Kidzeum

In the Kidzeum courtyard:  
The Migrating Mural  
By Jane Kim

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## JOIN US FOR A **FUN DAY** LEARNING ABOUT **AGRICULTURE!**

A **FREE** family event!

**July 28 | 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Sherman Village Park | 1200 Rail Fence Dr. | Sherman, IL**

**EXPERIENCE HANDS-ON AGRICULTURE & TALK WITH FARMERS**

**LEARN ABOUT**

**PIGS | HONEYBEES | GARDENS | SOYBEANS | BEEF CATTLE | SHEEP  
TECHNOLOGY | POULTRY | FARM MACHINERY... AND MORE!**

**Questions?**

Call Sangamon County Farm Bureau at **217.753.5200**  
or email **farmbureau@sangamonfb.org**







# Wild about wolves

**PARENT | Pamela Savage**

Most people are probably able to conjure the sound of a howling wolf. Whether you've heard a wolf howl in real life or as part of the soundtrack to a spooky movie, the sound of howling is ubiquitously associated with wolves in the dark, dusky midnight. But did you also know that several species of wolves are precariously endangered because of human activity, and that despite our perceptions of wolves, these animals usually avoid humans as much as possible?

For as long as there have been stories, wolves have appeared in

human folklore as mysterious – and unfortunately, menacing – creatures. In Greek mythology, King Lycaon of Arcadia became one of the first werewolves when he turned into a wolf because he tried to feed Zeus human flesh in an offering (ick). The Big Bad Wolf that ate Little Red Riding Hood comes from a French story first written in the 1600s.

According to *National Geographic*, wolves nearly became extinct in the early days of the continental U.S. Settlers traveling west wiped out deer, elk and bison populations, which left wolves without their usual prey. As a result,

wolves turned to cattle, pigs and other livestock for food. This made them targets for trappers and hunters. By the mid 1930s, wolves were almost completely exterminated from the U.S. Some species have disappeared completely. To this day, the red wolf remains one of the most endangered species on the planet. Only 35 red wolves remain alive in the wild.

Located about 90 minutes from Springfield, in Eureka, Mo., The Endangered Wolf Center aims to preserve and protect Mexican wolves, red wolves and other wild canine



species. The center does so with purpose and passion, through carefully managed breeding, reintroduction and inspiring education programs.

Founded in 1971 by Marlin and Carol Perkins, along with others, the Endangered Wolf Center developed initiatives and sought funding to manage breeding programs, inspire educational programs, and ultimately release capable wolves into their native habitats. Today, every Mexican gray wolf in the wild and 70% of the red wolves now roaming free in North Carolina can trace his or her roots back to the Endangered Wolf Center.

Spurred by my younger son's love for wolves and other canids, my family and I took the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Endangered Wolf Center over spring break. We spent an hour with an extraordinarily knowledgeable guide who kept my sons interested as we saw the wolves, foxes and painted dogs that the Center cares for and protects. Although the animals are housed at the center, they do not interact much with the humans that look after them. This ensures that the animals learn not to depend on humans, so that they can ultimately be released back into the wild and increase the overall wolf population for future generations. The center is a truly remarkable resource in our region, and it's worth a day trip this summer.

In addition to guided tours, the center offers opportunities for summer day camp, field trips, animal encounters, yoga in the woods and evening wolf howls. My family and I hope to head back to the center this summer for an evening opportunity to howl by a campfire, and we hope the wolves will return our call.

*Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield. She and her family enjoyed touring Missouri's Endangered Wolf Center last month. The center can be found on the web at endangeredwolfcenter.org.*

**2024 better together Girls on the Run 5K Celebration**  
Central Illinois

**Power**

**Saturday, May 18**  
9 AM - Family-Friendly Activities | 10 AM - 5K Begins

**Lincoln Land Community College**  
5250 Shepherd Rd. | Springfield, IL 62703

**Adults: \$35 | Youth (ages 3-12): \$25**  
Standard Registration Ends May 17

**LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY: [WWW.GOTRCENTRALILLINOIS.ORG/5K](http://WWW.GOTRCENTRALILLINOIS.ORG/5K)**

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**June 10-July 25**  
**Registration**  
**Now Open**



**Class sizes are limited. For class details and registration, visit [llcc.edu/summer-CFK](http://llcc.edu/summer-CFK). Questions? Call 217-786-2432.**

**College for Kids  
 Summer Camps**

*For students entering grades 1-3, 4-6 and 6-8.*

- Black and White and Read All Over
- Bones and Stones
- Can You Dig It?
- Creating a Babysitter's Bag of Tricks
- Creative Art Activities
- Creative Coding Camp
- Digging Deep
- Digging for Dinosaurs
- Drumtastic
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Electronic Beat Making
- Fractured Fairy Tales
- Herstory
- How Does Your Garden Grow?
- Introduction to ASL
- Lego Builders Club
- Lego Engineers Club
- Let's Get Chemical
- Local History Spotlight
- Mandala Making
- Math Magicians
- Music Around Us

**Oo-La-La Olympics**  
**Pigeon Wants to Write a Book**

- Scripts and Panels
- Seasonal Art in 2 Dimensions
- Seeds and Sprouts
- Spotlight on Springfield
- Tie Dye Art
- The Wonderful World of Willy Wonka
- Web Wizards
- What's Out There?
- Xylos and Drums and More, Oh My!
- Yoga and Mindfulness
- Your Inner Artist

**Career Exploration Camps**

*For students entering grades 9-12.*

- Build Your Future: An Intro to Construction Careers**
- Girls in Construction
- Introduction to Health Care Careers
- Watt's Up? Electrical Circuitry

**Culinary Camps**

*For students entering grades 5-8.*

- Breakfast Baking
- Cookie Week
- Gluten Free Snacks
- Iconic Springfield Foods
- Make, Bake & Donate
- Pizza Week
- Pie Day
- Plan, Shop, Cook
- Ramen Bowls
- So You Want to Be a Baker?
- So You Want to Be a Chef?
- Vegetarian Dish

**Theater Camps**

*For students entering grades 1-12.*

- Backstage – Intro to Theater Production
- Introduction to Theater
- Showcasing Your Talent – Auditioning for Theater
- Standing Out – Auditioning for Theater



**Specialty Camps**

- Black Rocket Online (ages 8-14)
- Girls on the Run (grades 3-5)
- Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra (grades 2-5)







## Keep your children reading during the summer

PARENT | Deana Metzke

The school year is coming to an end and summer is quickly approaching. Summer is a time where school-age kids have more time to enjoy all sorts of fun things, like sports, bike rides, time with friends, vacations ... and reading. Just like any other skill, it is important to continue to spend time reading during the summer, even if your child is not enrolled in any sort of summer school.

One way that I've found to keep the summer reading energy going is to connect reading or books with activities

or events that were related to our summer plans. For example, if we were going to take a trip to a zoo or the aquarium that summer, then we made sure to read a book or two by Jess Keating (check out her *World of Weird Animals* series) or other books about animals we might come across on our visit. Neither of my kids are big non-fiction readers, so finding books connected to summer plans is also a great way to get some informational reading into their habits.

Another way is to really capitalize

on their interests and find books that are related to those. When my son used to play baseball over the summer, we found an audiobook biography on New York Yankee Derek Jeter (*Who Is Derek Jeter?* by Gail Herman) that he listened to repeatedly, because baseball was something he enjoyed doing at the time. At a time when both kids were letting their creative sides flourish, we read books like the *If I Built* series by Chris Van Dusen, and they would come up with ideas for their own car or house. Using





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M-F 10-7, Sat 10-5

this extra free time during the summer to take advantage of what your kids find interesting can be a great way to keep them into books.

You can also get your kids reading by connecting to events that are happening right outside their door. For example, this year is supposed to be a big one for the cicadas, with two different broods scheduled to emerge just in time for summer. Luckily, there's even a children's book for that. Christen M. Jeschke first wrote her book *Cicadas Don't Bug Me* in 2021, but has released a second edition this year for the upcoming invasions. Her motivation for *Cicadas Don't Bug Me* was her own amazement with a cicada invasion when she was a child, but her sister had the opposite reaction and feared them, hence the book title.

Jeschke's nonfiction book is a catchy, rhythmic book that gives young readers all the information they need about cicadas without feeling overwhelming. This book has photos that help give the reader a very clear idea of not only what a cicada looks like, but also their process of living underground for years and molting their skin. There are even cute "Did you know?" facts sprinkled throughout the pages that enhance the book. For instance, did you know that cicadas have five eyes? Jeschke has given us a book that is a quick, informative read and will also help your child understand what those summer insect sounds are outside.

Of course, I will always advocate for visiting your local library during the summer. Libraries also know how important reading during the summer is and they will have all sorts of summer reading plans to keep your child engaged in books over the summer (and maybe even you, too).

*Deana Metzke is the literacy/social studies/library coordinator for District 186 and a mom of two. For more children's book recommendations, follow her blog at <http://raisingreaders.site>.*



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Please visit <https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/abdc> to register.





# Summer fun calendar

## PARENT | Daron Walker

### Capital City Improv Workshops

Third Thursday of every month, 7-9pm. Through May 17. Want to try improvisational theater? Join Capital City Improv for workshops and learn improv basics and play a variety of improv games. Everyone 12+ is welcome. Space is limited. Please RSVP via a link on the Capital City Improv Facebook page to reserve a spot. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

### Kidzeum Sensory-Friendly Visit Times

First Sunday of every month, 9-11am. Through Dec. 1. Lights and noises are turned down to make the museum more comfortable for visitors with sensory differences so they can explore and discover the galleries at their own pace. Headphones are available for loan at the admissions desk. [kidzeum.org](http://kidzeum.org). Admission. Kidzeum of Health and Science Children's Museum, 412 E. Adams St., 217-971-4435.

### Illinois Products Farmers Market

Thursdays, May 16 through Sept. 26, 3:30-7pm. Local meats, produce, dairy products,

baked goods, honey and jams, craft beers, woodworking, jewelry and more. Plus live entertainment and a food truck. Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-524-9129.

### Old Capitol Art Fair

May 18, 10am-5pm and May 19, 10am-4pm. Set against the backdrop of the Old State Capitol, the art fair is the jewel of the Midwest. This tradition of fine art has brought artists and shoppers from across the country flocking to downtown Springfield's two-day outdoor art gallery for over 60 years. Free. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-553-5564. [springfieldoldcapitolartfair.org](http://springfieldoldcapitolartfair.org).

### Springfield Legends Classic III

May 25, 6:30pm. Former members of the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals battle it out in a seven-inning exhibition game. VIP meet and greets available which include autographs, photos and more. See Lucky Horseshoes web site, [shoesbaseball.com](http://shoesbaseball.com), for ticket prices. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 North Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

### Lucky Horseshoes

May 28. Springfield's Prospect League team's season begins at home against a division foe, the Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp. Regular season concludes July 31 and playoffs begin Aug. 1. [Shoesbaseball.com](http://Shoesbaseball.com). Lanphier Park, 1415 North Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

### Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales: Food!

May 28, 10-11am. Snacks and treats, veggies and sweets...we love delicious foods! The ALPLM's Education Team shares stories and activities that celebrate our love for food. Free. Advance registration required. [presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](http://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov). Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

### History Comes Alive

May 31-Aug. 4. Go back in time in this 10-week living history program. Meet the Lincolns, attend a flag-lowering ceremony, visit the local museums and historic sites and much more. Go to [visitspringfieldillinois.com](http://visitspringfieldillinois.com) for the full schedule. 217-789-2360, x5520.



### **8K Trail Race**

June 1, 7:30-9:30am. Race over the scenic trails and pathways of the historic garden, along the trails next to Lake Springfield and throughout the Ostermeier Prairie Center grounds, while kids can participate in a Fun Run. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 East Lake Shore Drive, 217-529-1111.

### **Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series**

Thursdays, 6pm. A variety of music acts will perform on 10 Thursday evenings from early June into August. Free. Y Block, Main Stage, Fourth and Jackson streets, 217-544-1723. [downtownspringfield.org](http://downtownspringfield.org).

### **International Carillon Festival**

June 6-9. Times TBA. Fireworks at dusk on Friday. Lauded as one of the world's most important and prestigious carillon events, the festival has an unsurpassed tradition of presenting the finest carillonneurs from around the world. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-306-1838. [carillon-rees.org](http://carillon-rees.org).

### **Springfield Comic and Toy Show**

June 9, 10am-4pm. Get ready for a geeky good time! Show will feature many vendors and artists. Event includes tournaments, a cosplay showcase and random drawings. \$5 admission at door. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, 217-529-7777.

### **Sangamon County Fair**

June 12-16. This is a classic Midwestern county fair featuring livestock shows, queen contest, midway, music and always some top-notch entertainment. \$5-\$10. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 316 W. Birch St., 217-488-2685.

### **The Plastic Classic Wiffle Ball Tournament**

June 17, 5-10pm. Teams of six players compete in four-inning games in search of glory in this double elimination style tournament. \$20-\$25 entry fee per player. For ages 14-plus. Equipment will be provided. Hobbs Park, 2851 Fox Bridge Road, 217-544-1751.

### **Juneteenth Celebration**

June 12-19. A weeklong, communitywide celebration featuring a variety of family-

friendly events including a talent show and a parade June 15. Find more information on the Juneteenth Inc. Springfield, IL Facebook page.

### **Henson Robinson Zoo Day**

June 15, 10am-5pm. Help the zoo celebrate the city of Springfield's proclamation of Henson Robinson Zoo Day. All guests get in free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

### **Summer Frolic**

June 15, 10am-4pm. Celebrate the frontier heritage with interpreters in period clothing demonstrating period activities throughout the historic village where Lincoln once lived. Free. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

### **Invincible**

June 28. "A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson." A multimedia spectacle featuring up to 17 musicians, vocalists and dancers, and the choreography by longtime Jackson choreographer and dancer, Lavelle Smith Jr. [devonamphitheater.com](http://devonamphitheater.com). The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Decatur, 620 E. Riverside Drive, 217-619-8025.

### **Paint the Street**

June 29, 11am-7pm. Your chance to create your Picasso on pavement for the world to see. Participants paint 6 ft. x 6 ft. squares of pavement with the artwork of their choice. Painters receive one paint supply bucket, one giveaway bag with goodies from sponsors and one Paint the Street T-shirt. \$40-\$45. Hosted by the Springfield Art Association. Downtown Springfield. 217-544-2787. [springfieldart.org](http://springfieldart.org).

### **Springfield Jaycees Capital City Celebration**

June 29. Join in all of the festivities and enjoy the fireworks in downtown Springfield. [Springfieldjaycees.net](http://Springfieldjaycees.net).

### **Independence Day Celebration**

July 1, 10am-4pm and July 2, 10am-4pm. Get your 19th century patriot on. Period demonstrations and the reading of the Declaration of Independence each day. Free. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

### **Knight's Fireworks Extravaganza**

July 4, 9:30pm. Should be a bang-up time. Knight's Action Park, 1700 Knights Recreation Dr., 217-546-8881.

### **Rock the Dock**

July 5. This celebration has been making waves for years. Food trucks, live music and the much-anticipated fireworks at dusk. Lake Springfield Marina, 17 Waters Edge Blvd., 483-3625.

### **Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella**

July 12-20. Cinderella is mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters because they fear the power of her fine character and beauty. But with the help of her fairy godmother, she learns her own worth and attracts the attention of the prince. [themuni.org](http://themuni.org). \$12-\$22. Ages 5 and under free. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Shore Drive, 217-793-MUNI.

### **Chatham Sweet Corn Festival**

July 19, 5-11:30pm and July 20, 10am-11:30pm. Live music, food, vendors and children's activities. A big shout out to the local cows' contributions to that perennial favorite, the Illinois Championship Cow Chip Throw. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St.

### **Coin Show**

July 28, 9am-3pm. U.S. and foreign coins, ancient and modern coins, gold and silver bullion, state quarters and paper money. Over 70 dealer tables. Hosted by the Central Illinois Numismatic Association. Free for members and children under 16. \$1. Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, 217-899-9996.

### **Macbeth**

July 25-28, 6:30pm. Three witches tell the Scottish general Macbeth that he will be king of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth kills the king, becomes the new king and kills more people out of paranoia. [theatreinthepark.net](http://theatreinthepark.net). \$18. Theatre in the Park, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-5440.

### **Downhome Music Festival**

July 28, 5pm-midnight, July 29, 2pm-midnight.



One of Springfield's most popular music festivals. Features local artists and performers, a wide selection of craft beers and food vendors. [downhomemusicfest.com](http://downhomemusicfest.com). Downtown Springfield, Seventh and Washington streets.

**Powerlight Abe Lincoln Car Show Spectacular**

Aug. 2, 6-9pm and Aug. 5, 8am-4pm. Super Cruise at 6pm Friday from Horace Mann in downtown Springfield to Cherry Hills Church. Car show on Saturday. Both cruise and car show features actor Claudia Wells, known as Marty McFly's girlfriend Jennifer Parker in the first *Back to the Future* movie. Free. Cherry Hills Church, 2125 Woodside Road, 217-553-5271.

**The Little Mermaid**

Aug. 2-4 and Aug. 7-10. A young mermaid, Ariel, makes a deal with a sea witch to trade her beautiful voice for human legs so she can experience life on land and impress a prince, risking more than she realizes. [themuni.org](http://themuni.org). \$12-\$22. Ages 5 and under free. The Muni,

815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-MUNI.

**Illinois State Fair**

Aug. 8-18. Every kind of food imaginable, the sounds of music and concertgoers' cheers at the Grandstand shows, a midway with all the bells and whistles, harness-racing horses kicking up the dust on the track, tons of agricultural shows and lots of 10-gallon hats and cowboy boots. Visit the Facebook page for Grandstand shows updates and admission info. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

**Powerlight Fest**

Aug. 18. Featuring Dove Award-nominated Jordan St. Cyr, The Afters and Adelaide at the Lincoln Stage. Free with paid fair admission. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-553-5271.

**Disney and Cameron McKintosh's Mary Poppins**

Aug. 23-25, Aug. 30-Sep. 1. One of the most popular Disney movies of all

time is capturing more hearts as a musical. The tale of nanny Mary Poppins delighted Broadway audiences for more than 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. [Hcfta.org](http://Hcfta.org). \$22. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

**Jubilee Morgan Horse Show**

Aug. 28-31, 9am-9pm. The stamina and spirit of the Morgan, combined with its build and way of traveling, contributed greatly to the formation of the other American breeds. Coliseum, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 248-207-4956.

**Springfield Mile**

Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 9am-4pm. The annual Labor Day weekend doubleheader of the world's premier flat track motorcycle racing series. You just now imagined the sound of all those motorcycles roaring past the grandstand, didn't you? \$20-\$150. Children 12 and under \$5-\$25. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-632-0277.



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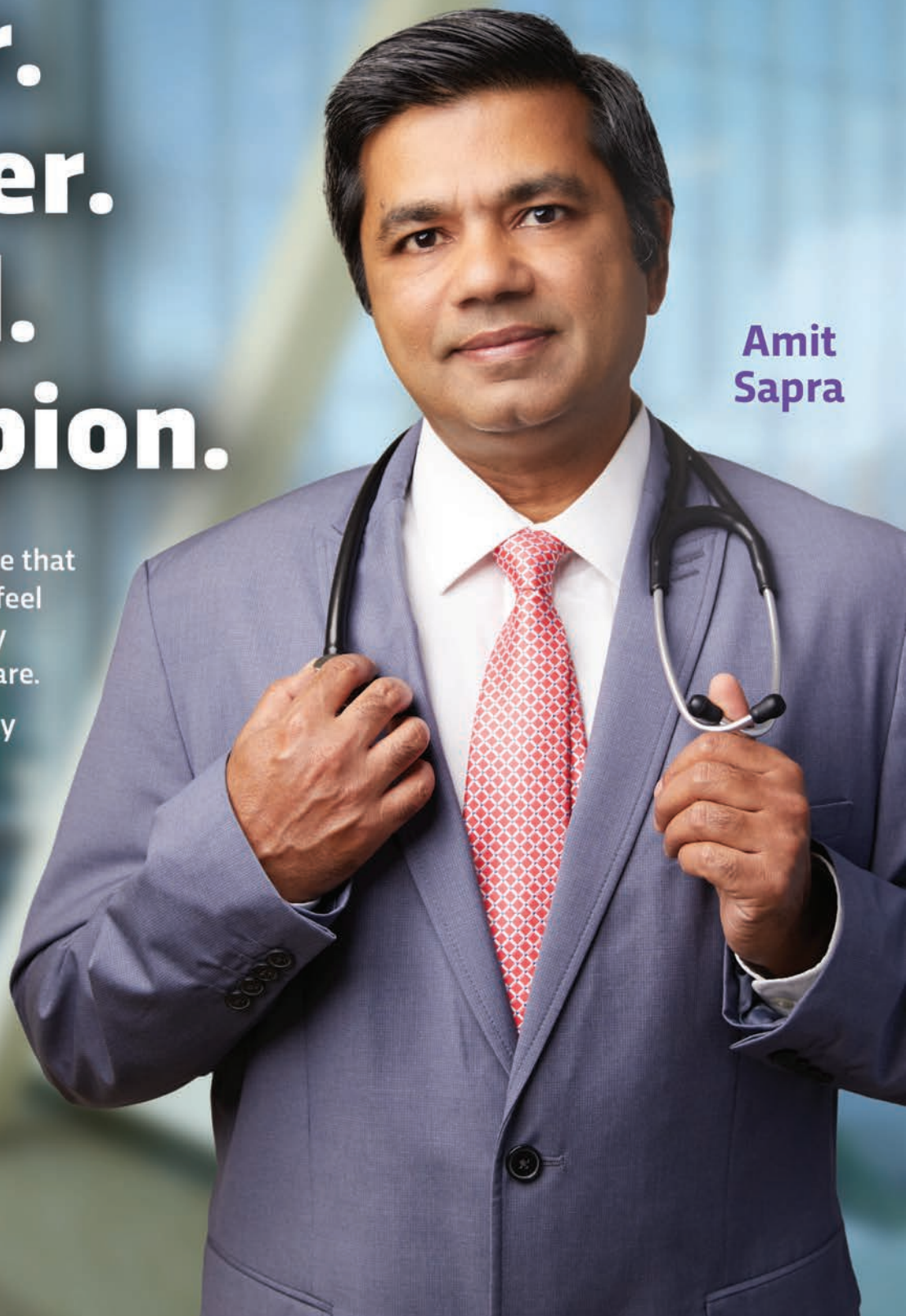


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