

MCHENRY COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCES/SUMMER 2021

Mental Health Program	Description	Contact Information and/or Links
MCHELP App	Help is a Tap Away. A free anonymous app that allows you to confidentially text or talk to a licensed mental health counselor. Trained counselors are available. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	https://www.mc708.org/mchelp-app/
Food Programs	Description	Contact Information and/or Links
Find Food	Northern Illinois Food Bank partners with 900 feeding programs across 13 counties to serve our neighbors needing food. Please use the locator map in the link to find a food pantry or soup kitchen near you.	https://solvehungertoday.org/get-help/where-to-get-food/
Mobile Pantry & Pop-Up Market Distribution	Do you need help with groceries this month? We would like to help! Each week we're bringing mobile pantry trucks and pop-up market distributions with free groceries to neighborhoods throughout Northern Illinois. Everyone is welcome- no ID or referral is needed.	https://solvehungertoday.org/get-help/distributions/
Summer Meal Program	<p>The Summer Meal Program is open June 1-August 20, 2021</p> <p>Through the Summer Meal Program, families can get access to breakfast, lunch, and snacks for their children at 175 sites across Northern Illinois. Open to all children under the age of 18, though some site-specific requirements and restricts may apply. Days and hours of individual sites vary. Due to COVID-19, children do NOT need to present in order for parents and guardians to pick up meals on their children's behalf.</p>	https://solvehungertoday.org/get-help/summer-meal-program/

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Link Card Benefits	Description	Contact Information and/or Links
Museum Discounts With Link Card	<p>Free Museum Admission for Art Institute, Museum of Science and Industry, National Museum of Mexican Art, National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, Shedd Aquarium, and Chicago Botanic Garden (including FREE parking)</p> <p>Discounted Admission to SciTech, Adler Planetarium, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago Children’s Museum, Chicago History Museum, DuSable Museum of African American History, Field Museum, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Kohl Children’s Museum, Blocks to Bricks, and MORE!</p>	https://lowincomerelief.com/illinois-link-card-perks/
Link Card Service Discounts	<p>50% off Amazon Prime \$5 Internet with Comcast, Century Link, AT&T, and more Free Cell Phones and Service Free computers YMCA Discounts</p>	https://lowincomerelief.com/illinois-link-card-perks/
Other Link Card Discounts	<p><u>Homebuyer assistance programs</u> <u>Legal aid</u> <u>Property tax exemptions</u> <u>Student loan assistance</u> <u>Summer meals</u> <u>Tax filing assistance</u> <u>Utility assistance</u> <u>Pet care assistance</u></p>	https://lowincomerelief.com/illinois-link-card-perks/

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More Fruits and Veggies Are Coming!

Starting June 1st WIC participants over the age of 1 will be getting extra benefits to buy fruits and vegetables. WIC participants will each receive \$35 to buy fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables in June, July, August & September 2021. Make sure to use all your benefits each month as they do not roll over into the next month if unused. For questions about the extra fruit and vegetable benefit call your WIC office.

Did you know you can use your LINK card to buy fruits and vegetables at Farmers Markets?

[Cary Grove Farmers Market](#)

Sundays: 9am - 1pm, June – August

Visitors will find fresh fruits and veggies, as well as specialty canned items, salad dressings and more. Stop in the first Sunday of the month for a free reusable bag. *Located right off the Metra.*

100 W. Main St
Cary, IL 60013
815-519-4341

[Crystal Lake Farmers Market](#)

Saturdays: 8am - 1pm, June – October

Shop local vendors from organic meat and eggs to flowers and fruit to vegetables and baked goods. Enjoy regular entertainment in the Depot Park gazebo. Located in Downtown Crystal Lake, this farmers market is easily accessible, *right off the Metra.*

90 E Woodstock St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-479-0835

[Huntley Farmers Market](#)

Saturdays: 8am - 1pm, May – October

Located on the Huntley Square in downtown Huntley. This market features an amazing variety of produce, farm-raised meats to fresh roasted coffee beans. You can also enjoy live music and a host of special events throughout the season.

[Website Link](#)

<https://www.visitmchenrycounty.com/Farmers-Markets>

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11704 Coral Street
Huntley, IL 60142
847-515-5200

[Marengo Community Farmers Market](#)

Fridays 5pm-8 pm
Car shows, Christmas in July celebration, picnics in the park and fall festivals make the Marengo Community Farmers Market a great spot for fresh produce and a little fun! Their Facebook page is the best place to stay up to date on their latest events!

825 Indian Oaks Trail
Marengo, IL 60152
(815) 568-7112

[Pearl Street Market](#)

Thursdays: 4:30pm - 8pm, May – September
Music! The Pearl Street Market has teamed up with the McHenry Downtown Business Association to offer an array of homemade and home-grown farmers market fare from produce to honey to soaps and many sweet treats, along with fun crafts and other goods.

3400 Pearl St.
McHenry, IL 60050
815-263-2100

[Woodstock Farmers Market](#)

Tuesdays and Saturdays 8-1, May-October
Named the #1 farmers market in Illinois by the American Farmland Trust and #1 in McHenry County by the Best of the Fox. This exceptional market features great live music and everything from veggies, fruits and cheeses, to hand-spun yarn, desserts and seedlings for your garden. All items are grown or produced by the vendors, and the market manager inspects each vendor to ensure the market's integrity. Located right off the Metra.

Historic Woodstock Square
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-5164

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Free Family Fun	Description	Contact Information and/or Links
<p>Stories in the Park</p> <p>McHenry Public Library District</p>	<p>Free 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, 6/30, 7/7, 7/14 (all goes from 10:00am-10:30am)</p> <p>Join Youth Services Staff at different parks throughout McHenry County for some fun skits and singalongs! Bring some chairs or blankets and enjoy the show. Weather permitting.</p>	<p>815.385.0036 Website Link</p>
<p>Tails and Tales Summer Reading 2021 with Beanstack</p> <p>McHenry Public Library District- 809 Front St.</p>	<p>Free 6/1/2021-7/31/2021</p> <p>Log the books and the number of minutes you read, along with activities you do to earn badges! The K-8 program will have a halfway point prize. Happy reading!</p>	<p>815.385.0036 Website Link</p>
<p>Woodstock City Band's 137th Season</p>	<p>Free June 9th through July 28th Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm at the Park in the square.</p> <p>The City of Woodstock will host the 137th annual Woodstock City Band Season in the Park located on the downtown square in Woodstock Illinois on Wednesday evenings. The band will occupy space on and off of the bandstand to provide proper social distancing for musicians.</p>	<p>https://www.woodstockoperahouse.com/operahouse/page/woodstock-city-band-concert-season</p>
<p>Crystal Lake Concerts in the Park Series</p> <p>Main Beach - 300 Lake Shore Drive</p>	<p>Free Tuesdays @ 7:00pm, beginning June-August</p> <p>Each year the Crystal Lake Park District hosts a regional band to perform at Main Beach. Pack a dinner, pull out a blanket and enjoy a great night of entertainment lakeside. Food and beverage (beer and wine) and small charcoal grills are allowed (no glass please).</p>	<p>815.410.4475 Ext 6 https://www.crystallakeparks.org/special-events</p>

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<p>Monarchs & Music</p> <p>Main Beach- 300 Lake Shore Drive</p>	<p>Free Sunday, August 15, 12:30pm-4:30pm</p> <p>The Monarch Coalition is bringing to the beach an engaging Monarch Fair loaded with activities, games, and monarch education. Buy a pollinator plant and help us repopulate the monarchs! Wander to the band shell where we will be showcasing local bands for your entertainment.</p>	<p>https://www.crystallakeparks.org/special-events</p>
<p>Hooked on Fishing</p> <p>The Hollows Conservation Area- 3804 Route 14 Cary, IL 60013</p>	<p>Free Saturday, June 12, 9-12</p> <p>Bring the whole family out for a fun day of fishing, prizes, and more! For this event a fishing license is not required. Bring your own fishing gear or borrow ours! Children get first preference on poles- first come, first served. Adult supervision is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is appropriate for all ages and children ages 13 and under. • Registration is required and space is limited. • Participants ages 2 and older must wear face covers • Please practice social distancing. 	<p>815.338.6223</p> <p>https://apm.activecommunities.com/mccdistrict/Activity_Search/hooked-on-fishing/2091</p>
<p>Family Fun</p>	<p>Description</p>	<p>Contact Information and/or Links</p>
<p>Summer Splash Party</p> <p>Merkel Aquatic Center- 201 S Green St.</p>	<p>6/23/2021 Daily admission fees apply for this event.</p> <p>Come out for a fun filled day out in the sun! There will be races, belly flop competitions, prizes, and so much more.</p>	<p>815.363.2160</p> <p>Website Link</p>
<p>Big Wheels Race (Ages 3-5)</p>	<p>7/12/2021</p>	<p>815.363.2160</p>

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<p>Peterson Park East Parking Lot</p>	<p>\$5 per person.</p> <p>Children ride their all plastic, big wheels to compete for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place by age/gender category. Everyone will receive a participation ribbon. Must be pre-registered to participate!</p>	<p>Website Link</p>
<p>Nature Tots (Ages 2-5)</p> <p>Crystal Lake Park District Nature Center - 330 N Main Street</p>	<p>Each class is \$8 (resident) or \$12 (non-resident)</p> <p>Fun filled nature-like activities that occur on most every other Wednesday of the summer months! Advance registration is required.</p>	<p>815.459.0680</p> <p>Website Link</p>

Check www.optionsandadvocacy.org for updates!

Do you have family resources to share?

Please email Christina Keach-Johnson at christina.keach-johnson@opad.org.

Thank you to **Kristen Baldwin (D200)**, **Lauren Erickson (O&A)**, and **Kris Cozzi (O&A)** for providing information about these resources. *Special thanks* to **Penny Rogers (O&A Intern)** for researching and compiling these resources.