

OUR VILLAGE

Volume XII

P.O. Box 31391,
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www.OurVillageChicago.com

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Issue 6

Celebrate Earth Day!

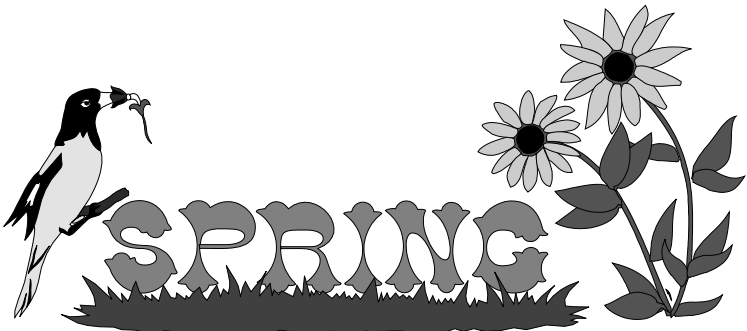
Celebrate Earth Day on Tuesday, April 22 from 10am-3pm on Daley Plaza (50 W. Washington) and learn how you can make little changes in your daily activities that help the environment. Enjoy demonstrations and exhibits that are earth friendly! Free admission.

**Green Apple Festival - Sunday, April 20, 2008, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Lincoln Park Zoo**

An Earth Day weekend celebration including information and displays by numerous environmental organizations, and featuring music by:

Miss Lori Holton Nash, The Gwalla Gwallas, The Chicago Afrobeat Project, Bassnectar, Meshell Ndegeocello, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, The Derek Trucks Band. Hosted by WXRT and Kyle Orton of the Chicago Bears. Brought to you by JPMorgan Chase

New Feature
GREAT OUTDOORS
See Page 14



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MAY 11TH FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER



Our Special Mother's Day

Menu includes:

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MOTHER'S DAY HOURS:
12 noon until 8:00 pm
"Call Early for Reservations"

Open Mon-Sat.
Lunch 11:30-3:00pm
3:00-5:00pm For Select Items

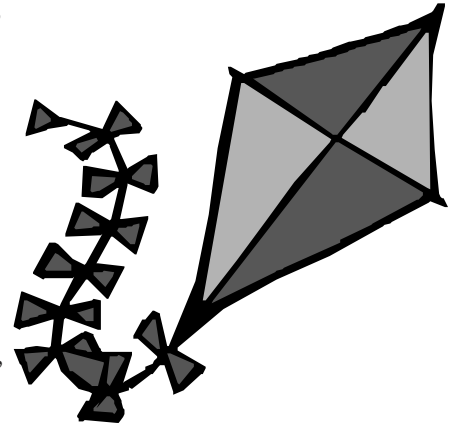
Dinner 5-10pm
Friday, Saturday 5-11
Closed Sundays
Except Mother's Day

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Mayor Daley's Kids and Kites to take place May 3 and October 4



Lets go fly a kite at Mayor Daley's Kids & Kites Festival! The dates for 2008 have been announced – Saturday, May 3 on the front lawn of the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th

Street and Lake Shore Drive and Saturday, October 4th at Montrose Harbor in Lincoln Park. Both events take place from 10 am to 3 pm. The entire family is invited to find out who in the family can fly their kite "up to the highest height, and send it soaring."

If the kids don't have a kite let alone know how to fly one, don't worry. The Mayor's Office of Special Events will provide free kits for children to design and create their own kite. Kite flying professionals will be coming out to demonstrate exactly how it is done, and help you master your kite flying skills.

While the kites are flying high, there will be plenty of family fun here on the ground with storytelling, face painting, and much, much more.

Mayor Daley's Kids and Kites Festival is programmed and produced by the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Please visit us closer to the event for more information.

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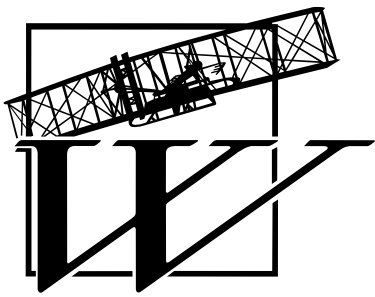
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Wright's Free Job Fair April 24

More than 60 employers will be accepting resumes at Wilbur Wright College's free job fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24 in the college's Events Building, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave.

The bevy of prospective bosses attending the college's 14th Annual Spring Job Fair and Career Day includes several health-care businesses, public agencies and banks. Admission is free but professional attire is required. It is recommended that job seekers bring at least 25 resumes.

For more information, call Joe Reaves, job placement center director, at (773) 481-8527.

Wright Names Two Outstanding Employees

Wilbur Wright College recently recognized two outstanding employees for their contributions to making the college a top quality institution. Michael Dubinin, a Wright College graduate and Portage Park resident, won this year's Clerical Service Award for his work at the front desk of the Gateway to the College, the college advising office. Dubinin started working in 2000 when he was a part-time student and continued working at Wright full-time after he graduated in 2002.

He exemplifies excellence in his position by warmly welcoming students and steering them to the right adviser. In the nomination submitted by his co-workers, they said: "He respects those with whom he works and is never too busy to go the extra mile. He genuinely cares, knowing that he is making a positive difference for the College."

John Rice was awarded the Maintenance Excellence Award for his diligence and hard work as the evening project housekeeper. Rice, of Chicago's Near West Side, takes on high-priority projects and performs them outstandingly, according to his supervisor, Pat Mannix. Rice has worked at Wright since the new campus opened in 1993.

For more information, call Ed Bannon at (773) 481-8535.

Liberty Bank for Savings Celebrates 110th Anniversary

Liberty Bank for Savings celebrated 110 years of dedicated financial service this month. While many long-standing Chicago banks have been sold, merged or changed names, Liberty Bank has remained a local, family run, independent institution, serving customers and communities with successful financial products and services.

In 1898 "The Savings Bank of the People of the Parish of all Saints" was formed and the bank's very first mortgage was made in April 1899 for just \$1,800. Today Liberty makes loans in the millions of dollars. Steady, measured growth has seen Liberty rise to more than \$730 million in assets, and over the past 11 decades the bank has grown from a single, one-office bank to five thriving offices serving Chicagoland.

The strength and stability of Liberty was noted in the 2008 edition of Crain's Chicago Business Book of Lists, where the bank ranked as the fourth largest thrift in Chicagoland. Throughout history, Liberty has never risked the security of customers in pursuit of earnings. Although the FDIC now requires a minimum capitalization of 5% for financial institutions, Liberty Bank's is in excess of 20%, more than quadrupling that minimum.

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, is proud to celebrate their anniversary this year. For more information on Liberty Bank for Savings, call Susan Andrews at 773-489-4458 or visit www.libertybank.com.

Liberty Bank for Savings to Host Free Shred Days

The public is invited to attend free Shredding Days in the coming months provided by Liberty Bank for Savings. The events will be held at the bank's 5 Chicago area locations from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays beginning this April. Protect yourself from identity theft and get rid of unnecessary financial documents at these free events.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, more than a quarter of a million identity theft complaints were reported in 2006, and identity theft continues to rise. It is estimated that around 10,000 ID theft victims are Illinois residents, and identity theft costs across the nation total over 45 billion dollars.

The dates and locations of the events will be:

Apr. 26 at the Foster Branch – 7111 W. Foster Ave.

May 24 at the Norwood Branch – 6210 N. Milwaukee Ave.

June 28 at the Main branch – 2392 N. Milwaukee Ave.

July 26 at the Park Ridge branch – 1018 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge

Aug. 30 at the Lincolnwood branch – 6666 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood

Sept. 27 at the Foster branch

Oct. 18 at the Park Ridge branch.

You can bring up to 25 lbs. to be shredded. There is no charge and reservations are not required. For more information on this Liberty Bank for Savings event and other summer activities, call Susan Andrews at 773-489-4458 or visit www.libertybank.com.

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Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk Will Raise Funds for Epilepsy Programs and Support Services 8th Annual Walk to be Held in CHICAGO and WHEATON

The 2008 Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk will be held in two locations—in Wheaton's Danada Forest Preserve on Saturday, May 10, and in Chicago's Lincoln Park on Saturday, May 17.

Proceeds from the 5K (3.1 mile) events will help fund epilepsy support and education throughout the Chicago area. The Wheaton Walk starts on the Exercise Track at Danada Forest Preserve. The Lincoln Park Walk starts at Picnic Grove #2 at the south end of Lincoln Park. Both Walks begin at 9:30 am, with participant check-in starting at 8:00 am. The registration fee is \$25 for adults and teens aged 13 and older, and \$15 for children ages 7-12. There is no registration fee for children 6 and under. All participants will receive a free 2008 Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk t-shirt.

In addition to the Walk, each morning will include family-friendly entertainment and activities. Complimentary drinks and snacks will also be provided for all participants, courtesy of the Walk's refreshment sponsors.

Participants may join the Walk on-line by visiting the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago's web site at www.epilepsychicago.org and clicking on the "Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk" link. From there, individuals can register, build teams, and collect donations for their own efforts in just minutes. Registration forms are also available at all Chicago-area Jewel-Osco locations. Participants can sign up in person on the day of both Walks as well.

Corporate sponsors of the 2008 Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk include Abbott Laboratories, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Advocate Christ Medical Center, Allscripts, AthletiCo, Central DuPage Hospital, Comer Children's Hospital, Impax Pharmaceuticals, Jewel-Osco, Marc Realty, NBC5, Ovation Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Pfizer, The Auxiliary Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, USG, and "103.5 - KISSFM."

The Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago is the only comprehensive social service organization serving people with epilepsy in metropolitan Chicago. Created in 1946 as a grassroots effort in Illinois to develop resources for people with epilepsy, the Foundation serves 43 counties in northeastern and central Illinois, and is dedicated to the prevention, cure, control, and public understanding of epilepsy and seizure disorders.

Now in its 62nd year, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago is the primary community resource for individuals with seizures seeking social services and vocational assistance. Over 80% of the Foundation's annual operating expenses go directly toward funding services for individuals affected by epilepsy, including case management, vocational counseling, medical referrals, advocacy services, a recreational camp for children, and support groups.

For more information, or to register for the 2008 Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk, visit the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago's web site at www.epilepsychicago.org or call 312-939-8622.

McAuliffe, House Reject Income Tax Scheme

State Representative Michael McAuliffe (R-Chicago) and the Illinois House of Representatives voted against a proposed constitutional amendment on April 10 calling for an unprecedented increase in the state income tax rate structure to raise an estimated \$3 billion.

House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 42 fell 19 votes short of the constitutional majority needed for passage.

Rep. McAuliffe voted against the measure stating the need for fiscal responsibility.

"Working families are having a hard time making ends meet with record high gas prices, property taxes and the CookCounty sales tax that will increase in a few months, now is not the time for the state to raise taxes," McAuliffe said. "The General Assembly needs to learn how to tighten its budget belts, just like Illinois families have to do. We need to reduce spending, not increase taxes."

McAuliffe said he also voted against the constitutional amendment because it would hurt small businesses, which employ 80-percent of Illinoisans. Small businesses would be taxed at a higher rate than many corporations, thereby driving more jobs out of Illinois and discouraging entrepreneurs and investment in new job creation.

For more information, please contact Rep. McAuliffe's district office at (773) 792-0749.

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NORTH-PULASKI-ARMITAGE CHAMBER

* Banco Popular is making movement on its new development at North & Pulaski on the northeast corner. The new development also will include a drive in facility.

* Food 4 Less is near completion at North & Cicero in the Washington Square Mall. The doors should soon open. This grocery chain is owned by Kroger Foods who is the number #1 grocery chain in the U.S.A.

* Hermosa Community is in need of a bank. It is one of two Neighborhoods that does not have a bank in a Chicago Community. The border of the neighborhood is roughly Armitage on the south, Belmont on the north, Kilbourn on the west (4600 W) and Springfield on the east (3900 W).

* Senior Suites is opening its newest location on Cicero Avenue just south of Diversey. It was once the site of one of the many car dealerships that dots Cicero Avenue.

North-Pulaski-Armitage Chamber of Commerce Welcomes New Members

Artemios Restaurant 4918 West Irving Park Road 773-545-2631
Cozy Corner 4356 West Diversey 773-777--3500
Em Iron Works 4214 West Taylor Street 773-671-4656
Fashion Avenue 4013 West North Avenue 773-394-1395
Jackson Hewitt 3937 West North Avenue 773-292-1099
Northside Mortgage 4910 West Belmont 773-286-5800
Norwegian American Hospital 1044 North Francisco 773-292-8347
St. Philomena Parish 1921 North Kedvale 773-489-1100
State Farm Insurance 4048 West North Avenue 773-749-6854
Taco Burrito King 6518 West North Avenue 773-858-1939

The Chamber is currently over 175 members. Join today to be included in the first ever member listing brochure which includes your type of business, address, phone, and web site listing. In addition, you will be listed in a future alphabetical listing in a future newsletter and be included in the next Community Shopping Guide which is published every year in the late fall. For more info on Chamber benefits and perks for membership, call the office at 773-637-2781.



North-Pulaski-Armitage Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events and Meetings

Thursday, April 17 (10th Annual Night at the Races Event at the Maywood Race Track 8600 West North Avenue): 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. (Event includes a Italian Buffet, live racing, program, picture with winning horse, and more for \$30) Call 773-637-2781 to get your tickets.

Thursday, April 24th (Come meet your new Police Commanders of the 14th and 25th Police Districts). The meeting will take place at the Maternity BVM School which is located at North & Lawndale. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. It will include a presentation and overview of the community and followed by questions from the business community.

Wednesday, April 30th (NPACC Coffee Networking Event at Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins 3347 West North Avenue): 12:30 p.m. (Come enjoy some tasty coffee and treats from one of the newest locations in Chicago and make new contacts.)

Thursday, May 15th (NPACC's Annual Bowling Night at Irving Park Lanes 5706 West Irving Park Road) 6:30 p.m. (Come enjoy some some bowling, pizza from Mom's Pizza, and prizes for top bowlers). Sign up early for \$25 and kids bowl for \$18! This event is being co-sponsored with the Belmont-Central and Portage Park Chambers.



For more info on the Chamber programs, events, meetings, and membership, simply call our office at 773-637-2781 and check our web site at www.npacc.org

Chicago Area Public Libraries

WEST BELMONT BRANCH
3104 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago, IL 60634
(312) 746-5142

Join the Shelebration!

Featuring *Don't Bump the Glump!* and Other Fantasies by Shel Silverstein
Wednesday, April 23rd 7:00 p.m.

Originally published in 1964 and now available again, *Don't Bump the Glump!* was Shel Silverstein's first poetry collection and his only book in full color. In honor of this remarkable event, children of all ages are invited to join the Shelebration!

MONEY SMART WEEK April 21- 26, 2008

(A Series of Financial Literacy Programs in Cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS MONDAY, APRIL 21 at 7:00 P.M.

This seminar will cover many aspects of the home buying-experience, including the mortgage process, finding a home, home inspections, closing, and more.

These programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. The Chicago Public Library does not endorse, promote or guarantee the products and/or services of presenters. Products and/or services are not offered or sold at these presentations. For further information, please call the Library's Adult Services Department at 312-747-4252.

Adult Book Discussion Group Meeting Dates for April 2008

Apr 22 (Tue) One Book/One Chicago
Apr 26 (Sat) To Be Announced

April Events

Saturday, April 19 9:00 a.m. Kids' Club. Membership in the club is limited. Ask the library staff to find out how to attend this field trip and other information about Kid's Club. (Grades 6th through 8th)

Thursday, April 24 9:30 a.m. (toddler); 10:30 a.m. (preschool) Story Time. Toddlers and preschoolers will interact with a group of their peers, practice listening skills, and discover that books and reading are fun. Groups of four or more are asked to register with the children's librarian prior to the event.

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- * Tuesday, April 29 * 530-7pm *please note the earlier time
- * Devon Bank Parking Lot
- * 6445 N. Western

Friends of Boone & Friends of the River Present Greg Trooper

Join us Saturday April 26, 7pm for an evening of entertainment featuring Nashville singer/songwriter Greg Trooper with an open act by Boone's own Ruth Seidner.

- * Saturday April 26, 7pm
- * Indian Boundary Park Fieldhouse
- * 2500 W. Lunt Avenue
- * Tickets are \$20 in advance/ \$15 at the door

To purchase tickets please call Kate at Friends of Boone School 773-743-2691 or Vicki at Boone School - 773-534-2160 All proceeds to benefit Boone School & Friends of the River!

Alderman Bernard L. Stone and Kindred Guardian Services present: A Senior Health Fair

Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Featuring: American Street Mortgage Company, ATI Physical Therapy, Home Care Plus, Kraff Eye Institute, Midwest Home Healthcare, Mobile Hearing, USANA

Complimentary Food and Drinks! Raffles! Give-Aways! Free Health Screenings! Please come and bring a friend.

The 50th Ward offices of Alderman Stone, 6199 N. Lincoln Avenue, 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL 773-764-5050, Lincoln Village Shopping Center (Elevator accessible)

Indian Boundary Park Docent Program

Indian Boundary Park Advisory Council is looking for volunteers to become docents at the park. Training begins on Tuesday April 22 at Indian Boundary Park and will continue for 6 weeks.

If you are interested in getting involved in greeting park visitors and providing tours of our local gem, please contact Phil Martini at 773-764-0338.

C4 Miles: Making Strides for Mental Health: May 4, 2008

Help Community Counseling Centers of Chicago(C4) fight stigma by joining the first ever C4 Miles Run/Walk: Making Strides for Mental Health on Sunday, May 4 at Lawrence and Simonds Drive (along the lakefront).

Participants can choose either a four-mile run (chip-timed and USATF-certified course) or 2-mile walk. Starting time is 8 am.

Registration is \$20; register on-line at <http://www.c4miles.org>. or phone the event hotline at 773 765-0780.

Proceeds will benefit C4's behavioral health services that reach more than 9,000 low-income men, women and children every year.

Volunteers are also needed race day for registration, water distribution , cleanup and other activities. If you'd like to help out, please leave a message at 773 765-0780.

Contact: Marcy Darin, Community Counseling Centers of Chicago 773 765-0808 marcy.darin@c4chicago.org

The West Ridge Chamber of Commerce
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westridgechamber@sbcglobal.net | www.westridgechamber.org

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MONEY SMART WEEK April 21- 26, 2008

(A Series of Financial Literacy Programs in Cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)

Understanding the Reverse Mortgage Monday April 21 7:00 p.m.

The Reverse Mortgage is a type of loan that enables senior home owners to tap into the equity they have in their homes and receive cash proceeds. Unlike traditional equity loans, no repayment is required until the home owner is no longer in the principal residence. A representative from Wells Fargo will discuss how these various products work, how someone qualifies, costs involved and the mandatory HUD counseling session required to apply for his loan.



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Lakeview Pantry Launches Green Bag Drive

Lakeview Pantry announces its 2008 Green Bag Drive Campaign, a series of four bag drives in which volunteers help to collect food donations to feed our neighbors in need. "Feed Your Neighbor, One Revolution at a Time" is a fun and easy way to help Lakeview Pantry while utilizing alternative forms of transportation. On the first Saturday of each drive, which begins April 19th, volunteers will distribute donation bags around the Lakeview neighborhood. The following Saturday volunteers will pick up the food-filled bags and return them to Lakeview Pantry for distribution to those in need.

Anyone is welcome to participate! Those using bikes, skates, and other forms of alternative transportation are encouraged, and will be provided with information on trailers and other tools.

The 2008 Green Bag Drives dates are:

April 19th and 26th June 21st and 28th
 Aug. 16th and 23rd October 18th and 25th

"Volunteering for a Lakeview Pantry bag drive is a simple, fun, and independent way to make positive changes for the community," explained Erin Stephens, Director of Volunteers.

In November 2007, over one hundred volunteers raised over 1,500 pounds of food for Lakeview Pantry with the first bicycle food drive. The Pantry is eager to continue that success with four bag drives in 2008. Those with bikes or other forms of eco-friendly transportation are welcome. Bike baskets, racks, trailers, and wagons are especially needed. Coffee and pastries will be provided for all volunteers.

Lakeview Pantry, founded in 1970, distributes over one million pounds of food each year to individuals in need in the Lakeview community. In addition to providing groceries, the Pantry also helps clients address the issues that often lead to food insecurity, such as unemployment and housing instability. Every month over 2,100 individuals are served through its two distribution centers, home delivery program, case management services, and clothing distribution. The main site is located at 3831 North Broadway. To learn more about Lakeview Pantry, visit www.lakeviewpantry.org.

For more information on the 2008 Lakeview Pantry Green Bag Drives, contact Erin Stephens at 773-517-4813 or erin@lakeviewpantry.org.

Cover the Uninsured

At Resurrection Health Care, we believe we have a special responsibility to improve the health and well being of the community, both inside and outside our hospitals. That is why we are constantly working to identify unmet community needs and develop programs and services to address them.

Resurrection Health Care supports and participates in the annual Cover the Uninsured Week campaign, April 27 through May 3, to help raise awareness of the plight of uninsured persons and share how our own financial and charity care programs and eight accessible, affordable community clinics are dedicated to helping the underserved. Our commitment to improving the health and well being of the community is integral to our mission, values and guiding principles.

Today, 47 million Americans have no health insurance, including more than 9 million children. Eight out of 10 uninsured Americans either work or are in working families but still cannot afford health insurance.

Providing health care to the uninsured improves their lives, keeping them healthy, more active and better prepared to learn and succeed in school and at their jobs. If our communities are not healthy, their life paths are unforgivably altered – and so is the path of our nation.

In support of Cover the Uninsured Week and our mission at Resurrection Health Care, we ask that you please write a letter to your elected officials and ask them to make health care coverage for all Americans a priority.

Before substantial changes can be made to the nation's health care system, the public must understand and endorse the notion that health care for everyone is a moral and practical priority. Once the public is fully engaged around this issue, pressure will build for lawmakers to take decisive action.

Visit www.reshealth.org/covertheuninsured for further details and to write your letter online.

Sincerely,

Sister Donna Wolowicki, C.R.
 Chief Executive Officer
 Resurrection Medical Center

Ivette Estrada
 Chief Executive Officer
 Our Lady of the
 Resurrection Medical Center

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Ozone Smog Season May See Double the Number of Unhealthy Days

New EPA standard set in March doesn't offer enough protection

Dry, calm days with warmer temperatures and bright sunlight may sound ideal now, but they are also the perfect conditions for making ozone smog. Chicagoans are itching to shed winter wear to enjoy the sun and many slather on sunscreen to protect their skin, but what about safeguarding their lungs? Summertime smog season is right around the corner as April 1 officially begins ozone season in the Chicago area. Breathing that ozone can damage lungs inside the body similar to the way sunburn harms the skin. Unlike sunscreen, there is no "ozone-screen" to shield lungs.

Ozone is a caustic gas that damages lung tissue, making it more difficult and even painful to breathe on days when air pollution levels increase. Breathing ozone in unhealthy amounts can trigger asthma attacks - increasing the number of trips to the doctor and missed school days. Ozone also increases the number of people going to the emergency room with respiratory difficulties and contributes to thousands of deaths a year in the US.

After examining several years worth of published medical science on ozone exposure, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set a new tighter federal ozone health standard on March 12.

"Medical science showed that ozone smog is dangerous at concentrations lower than what the federal government previously claimed was adequate to protect the public," stated Brian Urbaszewski, Director of Environmental Health Programs for Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC). "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) really had no choice but to tighten the ozone smog standard."

Although a tighter standard is a step in the right direction for public health, Urbaszewski faulted the EPA for not doing its job under federal clean air laws. "Unfortunately, the EPA simply ignored the recommendations of their own scientific advisors, as well as major national medical and public health organizations; both claimed that the medical evidence supported a tighter ozone limit. In the end, EPA set a health standard for dangerous ozone smog that is still too weak to protect public health."

Because the standard is getting tighter, it also means that more days will be called as having unhealthy air quality. In the summer of 2007, the

air in metropolitan Chicago hit unhealthy levels on eight days, but if the newly adopted ozone smog standard were used last summer, 18 days would have qualified for bad air quality levels. Under the standard endorsed by medical and public health groups, including RHAMC, over 50 days would have been accurately listed as having unhealthy air quality due to high ozone smog levels.

RHAMC still has concerns that the public isn't being given the accurate and scientifically valid information they need to make rational decisions affecting health. "This coming summer, there will be days when the EPA will tell the public that air pollution is only moderate when, according to their own scientific advisors, they should be warning the public about unhealthy air quality. The public is simply not going to get the truth about what they are breathing," said Urbaszewski.

*Submitted by Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
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"A Theatre Review"

"Sweet Charity"

Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace Theatre
100 Drury Lane Drive, Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Kyle DeSantis and William Osetek are giving Chicagoans and Suburbanites a first rate production of "Sweet Charity" that is based on the movie of Fellini's "Night of Cabiria." Charity has a book by Neil Simon and music and lyrics by Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields.

The show offers such hit songs as "Big Spender," "If My Friends Could See Me Now," and "I'm a Brass Band" along with nine others.

The show has a cast of 21 headed by the beautiful and talented singer, actress and dancer Summer Smart who appeared for ten months in the Chicago Company of "Wicked."

It is a master production that is directed by Jim Corti and the dances adapted by Bob Fosse are by Mitzi Hamilton make this a well worthwhile production to see. Corti after this production should have a great future directing other shows for regional theatre in Chicago.

Other standouts in supporting roles are Ericka Mac, Jennifer Knox, Molly Curry, Vanessa Panerosa, Amanda Tanguay, Darren Mattais and Nicholas Foster. The dance ensemble is headed by Michael Ehlers, Richard Stimer, Summer Rich, Nicole Hron and several others.

Charity is a tender, poignant and humorous look at the misadventures in the ways of love encountered by gullible and guiltless lady known as Charity Hope Valentine played by Summer Smart. Charity works at the Fan Dango Ballroom and she bumbles her way through many amorous mishaps. Nicholas Foster as Oscar the claustrophobic is the man Charity hopes to marry.

Another standout performance is given Darren Matthais as Daddy Brubeck who runs the Rhythm of Life Church.

It's an evening of dance and fun and you can't help loving "Charity" even though you know she is in one of the oldest professions.

The show runs through May 18. For showtimes, performances and reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets start at \$24.

"The Aisle Seat"

Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Writer's Theatre in Glencoe has announced a blockbuster season. One of the shows on their agenda is William Inge's play "Picnic." If I were casting the show a perfect choice for the role of Hal would be Lea Coco. He is a first rate equity actor who had supporting leads in "The Miser," for the Northlight Theatre, he has also appeared in the first play of the season at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and he just finished a run in About Face Theatre's production of "The Little Dog Laughed." The theatre is also reviving their production of "Nixon's Nixon" with its original cast of Larry Yando and William Brown in this two play cast.

Word out of Lancaster, Pennsylvania is that Chicagoans Marc Robin and Curt Dale Clark have a major hit on their hands with "Treasure Island - A musical Adventure." The two wrote the book and music, we only hope that someone will stage the musical s a holiday show in the near future in Chicago.

It's too bad that musical actresses like Mary Robin Roth, Glory Kissel and Marilyn Bogetich have to go to North Carolina, Michigan, Sullivan, Illinois and Wisconsin to get work. They are all talented veteran performers. Glory is in Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin doing "Anything Goes," Mary Robin is in Michigan doing "Nunsense" after which she will do "Hello Dolly" in Sullivan, Illinois. She would be my pick if I were casting "Mame." And Miss Bogetich is doing theatre currently in Milwaukee. There are others that also fall in that category also like Liz Pazik.


It's great to see Jill Shellabarger back on the stage. She is one first class actress and just finished doing "Jeeves Intervenes" with her husband Roger Mueller. She is now one of the leads in "Driving Miss Daisy" for First Folio Shakespeare Festival at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oakbrook, Illinois. She deserves to be seen more on local stages.

Look for Allison Batty in more strong roles when you attend the theatre. She is a bright new actress who gave a strong performance in Shattered Globe's production of Tennessee William's "Suddenly Last Summer" and is currently winding up the role of Desdemona in "Othello" for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. As they say "A Star is Born."

In closing I would like to congratulate Susan Haines on her two year extension as chairwoman of the Joseph Jefferson Committee. She has held the position for several years and does an incredible job with her committee. I'd love to campaign for her so she would head this award committee for twenty more years.

That wraps up this edition of "The Aisle Seat."

See her now!



Summer Smart in
Sweet Charity

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THE JOY OF JEWELRY



By Cynthia Sliwa

Charm School

Before I started high school, my mother signed me up for "charm school" classes. The teacher was an image consultant and etiquette coach who taught her class of young women social manners along with a few image and fashion tips. I already had mastered the niceties of please and thank you, but learning how to put on a winter coat gracefully was a lesson I remember to this day.

During class, I do believe we may actually have glided across the room with a book balanced on top of our heads.

The teacher had us bring in pictures of clothing we liked (which wasn't much of an issue for me back in those days of parochial school uniforms). She asked us, at our tender age, how we would accessorize our outfits with jewelry. "Pearls work with everything," I ventured, and was shot down when it was pointed out to me that classic strands of pearls don't really go with casual wear. My second suggestion met with more success: "a charm bracelet." Yes! Those tinkling bracelets are appropriate for both dress-up and casual wear. Besides, my favorite teacher, Mrs. Lambert, wore a set of beautiful gold charm bracelets as her signature jewelry.

Charm bracelets are a perennial favorite, and once again, with some fresh twists, they are trendy once again, receiving attention in the fashion press and being seen on the wrists of celebrities. It's not so much that the bracelets themselves are new – the classic sturdy double link designs of various weights and dimensions are beautifully designed and functionally difficult to improve upon.

What's new is the practical functionality of the charms. The latest charms are working timepieces, like miniature pocket watches dangling from a bracelet. Designers including Coach, DKNY, Michael Kors and even Hermes have come out with versions of watch charms. Other designers hang a tiny working compass on their bracelets (like a primitive GPS system on one's wrist). *In Style* magazine declares that the watch charm bracelets work equally well with jeans, business apparel, or a "slightly dressier outfit for evening."

Charm bracelets work well for women of all sizes, shapes and ages and just about all style personalities, provided, of course, that the bracelet is of an appropriate length (not too short or too long for the wrist on which it is being worn). A watch charm, all on its own, might be added not only to a bracelet, but also to a necklace or as an accessory to a handbag. What a great gift idea for Mom on Mother's Day or for any special woman in your life, a gift that reflects you've learned a thing or two about personal charm.

Cynthia Sliwa, AICI CIP, is an image consultant, jewelry designer and co-author of the book *Jewelry Savvy: What Every Jewelry Wearer Should Know*. Have a question or a story of interest? Contact me at CynthiaSliwa@aol.com or call 310-379-1742.

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NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS IN CHICAGO'S PUBLIC ART

Ivan Mestrovic (1883-1962) Mestrovic's Native American warriors were cast in the city of Zagreb, capital of Croatia. Known as "The Spearman" and "The Bowman", the statues were erected in 1928 at the Congress Plaza entrance to Grant Park.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008 TIME: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fred Christensen, history lecturer at downstate Parkland College and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, will present an informative video lecture on the portrayal of Native Americans in Chicago's public art.

ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO SPRING 2008

Please join us for our ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO discussion of Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye*.

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Today on "Credit: Myth or Truth?"

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Two best friends – roommates. Will their credit problems tear them apart? Debit or credit? The differences might surprise you! What's a credit report anyway?

Plus, how to make credit cards work for you by learning tips on avoiding interest and fees.

Pre-registration is required for all programs and attendance is limited.

Call 312-744-1478

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion

May 27, 2008 Start Time of event: at 7:00 p.m.

A Short History of Nearly Everything, by Bill Bryson

Copies of Moderated Adult Discussion books are available at the Roden Branch Circulation Desk.

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ADULT PROGRAMS

Greg Borzo, the author of *The Chicago "L"*, will discuss his popular new book on Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. The Edgebrook Historical Society is co-sponsoring this program with the Library. Travel with him through time as he presents slides portraying the growth and development of one of America's greatest, most enduring icons, The "L", that has been running 24/7 for 115 years. Come and learn how it came to be and why it needs to be preserved at Chicago Public Library's Edgebrook Branch, 5331 W. Devon Avenue. For more information please telephone the library at 312-744-8313.

The Chicago Chess Kids club is open to all students who find joy in the challenge of mental exercise and sport of chess. Come on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to learn new strategies from professional coaches that will improve your game. Inexperienced kids who have never played are always welcomed.

The Adult/Teen Chess Club continues to meet every Monday at 6:30 p.m. with coordinator Jim Brostos.

Swedish Covenant Hospital's emergency care providers will help you to understand what situations necessitate emergency department visits in a program on Thursday, May 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. They will give free first aid kits to all participants!

The adult book discussion group will discuss *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls on Thursday, May 29 from 7-8 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the library.

The Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago will present a special Asian/Pacific American Heritage program, *Creating Community Among Filipino Americans*, on Saturday, May 31 from 2-4 p.m. The group will explore historical events and celebrations honoring Filipino hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, and sample native dishes. For more information telephone Estrella Alamar at 773-947-8696.

CALLING ALL TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Hit the books! Teen volunteers are needed, and service learning hours are available at the Edgebrook Branch. We are calling all teens between the ages of 15 and 18 to help out at the library. Please consider spending a few hours organizing materials to earn those much-needed service learning hours. For more information please contact the Library at 312.744.8313.



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Event**

Nuccio D'Argento and Rocco Defrenza invite you to Vince's Italian Restaurant for this spectacular event, featuring live music, a fantastic raffle, and of course great food and drink! Help us raise money for Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago to build a new \$28 million Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research. Nowhere else in the country will education, cutting-edge research, training and independent living be so well integrated at a single campus facility.

What: A night of dining and entertainment hosted by Nuccio & Rocco to benefit Easter Seals and the new Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research

Where: Vince's Italian Restaurant
4747 N. Harlem Ave, Harwood Heights

When: Tuesday April 29, 2008
6:00pm Cocktails
6:30pm Dinner

Cost: \$125 per person

RSVP: Reservations Required
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Thank you for your support!
- Nuccio D'Argento



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Spring Book Sale

Thursday May 1 through Saturday, May 3 Browse thousands of titles for sale at the annual Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale. Thursday, May 1, 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, May 2, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Donations of gently used books, videos, CDs, DVDs, and audio books welcome. For further information, please call the library at 312-742-9590.

Bright Start College Savings Presentation

Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. In this Money Smart presentation, a representative from the Illinois State Treasurer's Office will describe the Bright Start College Savings Program. Bright Start is Illinois' 529 savings plan for college, through which money invested in an account is deductible from an Illinois resident's state taxes and qualified withdrawals for college expenses are federal and state tax free.

Homework Help

Monday – Thursday, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Kids, need help with those grades? A certified Teacher in the Library is available to provide homework assistance to children in grades K – 8. No appointment necessary. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Chicago Public Library Foundation.

Talking Book Club

Wednesday, May 14, 2:00 p.m. The Talking Book Club for the visually impaired will discuss *The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade*, by Thomas Lynch.

Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion Participants will discuss *An Inconvenient Truth*, by Al Gore.

Tuesday, May 27, 1:00 p.m. *Income for Life*, a Money Smart program for senior citizens.

Thursday, May 29, 7:00 p.m. *Getting Fiscally Fit*, a Money Smart program for adults.

NORWOOD LIFE CARE FOUNDATION TO PRESENT 2008 BENEFIT GALA

An elegant evening of dining and dancing blended with the exciting fun of live and silent auctions will be part of Gala 2008, the annual benefit for Norwood Life Care Foundation. The event will be held on Sat., May 3, at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave. in Park Ridge.

Noted WGN Radio 720 personality Orion Samuelson will emcee the affair, adding his jocular comments and lively storytelling to the program. Arriving guests will be welcomed by soft piano music during the 6:00 p.m. cocktail reception, providing a relaxing atmosphere in which to view many valuable sports collectibles, weekend getaways, dining certificates, and other eclectic silent auction items. The 7:00 p.m. four-course dinner will be followed by dancing to Joe Lill's Six of One orchestra and the spirited live auction, featuring air travel, unique vacations and added outstanding treasures. Tickets are \$200 per person.

Deerfield resident Judy Nelson, who began volunteering alongside Pauline Dolan in the beauty shop at Norwood Crossing (formerly Norwood Park Home) more than 40 years ago, will be honored with the Dr. Larsandrew Dolan award for her dedicated and conscientious contribution. Pauline Dolan, the widow of former Norwood Park Home medical director, Dr. Dolan, and Judy Nelson still maintain a Chicago/Florida friendship.

Chairing the event are Chicagoans William and Jorunn Scheiderich; co-chairs are Emil and Susan Ulstrup, of Glenview. Norwood Life Care Foundation is presenting the event with proceeds to benefit the renovation and repositioning of the Norwood Crossing campus.

The Norwood Life Care Foundation, along with Norwood Crossing and the Norwood Seniors Network, continue to enhance the independence and well-being of older adults. For more information, call Kara Mollison, executive director of philanthropy, at (773) 577-5367.

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Nobody thinks they will be in an auto accident, have a heart attack, have a stroke, or a myriad of other unexpected, sudden incidents. Those are events that happen to other, unfortunate people - not to us.

Yet, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, auto accidents injure over 2.5 million people in the United States each year. Over 42,000 of those accidents result in death.

In addition, according to the American Heart Association, over 80 million Americans have some form of

cardiovascular disease, resulting in over 5 million incidents of stroke and 5 million incidents of heart failure each year.

Of course, these only happen to *other* people. That's about 13 million "other" people involved in strokes, heart failure, and traffic accidents each year.

What can we do? Of course we can do what we can to minimize the risk of these events. We can wear our seat belts, drive prudently, and follow our doctors' orders. But, the risk of the unexpected remains.

We can prepare now to make sure that things are taken care of in the way we want. That way, we will rest easy knowing that we've done everything we can and can focus on the process of recovering from the incident.

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Chester M. Przybylo is a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and has been engaged in the practice of law for the last 40 years. For more information or to attend an upcoming seminar, call (773) 631-2525.

INVESTMENT IDEAS

Maintain a Diversified Portfolio Even In Turbulent Times

While it is always important to maintain a diversified portfolio, it is especially vital to remain diversified during volatile market conditions. As an investor, you should be careful not to get caught up in any panic selling and should maintain your focus on long-term goals. This point is especially key if you have already built a well-diversified portfolio. If you are concerned about any particular securities, it may be better to discuss these with your financial advisor before cashing out.

Although no one can be certain about how the market will react long term, history shows that cataclysmic events that prompted short-term market losses later led to a more stable investing climate across all industry sectors. But still keep in mind that past results are not indicative of what will happen in the future.

The more your portfolio is diversified, the less chance you have of one security or investment having a detrimental effect on your entire investment strategy. Bonds, stocks and cash are the three major asset classes. Analyzing your investment objectives and tolerance for risk with your financial consultant will help determine the right mix of these asset classes for your situation. Within these asset classes, you can diversify further by owning stocks in different industries and countries; purchasing different types of bonds and different types of short-term cash instruments.

Defensive stocks typically outperform in a slowing economy or recession. These are typically stocks of companies that provide necessities like food, utilities, pharmaceuticals, toiletries or other consumer products with a short shelf life. The theory is that consumers will continue to buy necessities like food and address their medical needs regardless of economic conditions. As a result, companies that sell these types of products should not be as negatively affected by a slowing economy as companies that produce more discretionary types of products.

It also is important to remember that even in good times the value of stocks and bonds go up as well as down. When the market is experiencing more volatile movements, gains and losses can seem enormous. It is important to keep your long-term strategy in mind when experiencing these changes and realize that they can balance themselves out over time.

Unfortunately many investors associate a weak or volatile period in the economy as being the same as a weak time in the stock market, a perception that is not always correct. Not all market declines lead to a recession.

The truth is that the United States economy is cyclical, meaning that it moves through stages of growth and decline, varying in duration. A mistake made by many investors is that they buy and sell securities based on fluctuations in the economic data currently being reported rather than anticipating what the economy will look like in six to 12 months (based on a variety of factors including leading economic indicators) and making their investment decisions based on that outlook.

Most successful investors take a long-term view — at least three to five years — rather than expecting stellar returns overnight or panicking when the value of their securities declines. A long-term diversified investment strategy based on your investment goals and risk tolerance can create a winning approach for you regardless of whether the economy is booming or experiencing a brief downturn.

You should talk with your financial advisor about what the best combination of investments is to accomplish your long-term goals.

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NO LONGER CONFUSED!!

Well, my furry friends the mystery of my confusion is now solved! Honestly, I cannot tell you how I feel about it either. My emotions are very mixed, I mean how would you feel? Your Human whom you adore dumps you somewhere else and leaves you there, she says she will be back but how do I know? Then an eternity passes and she still doesn't show up. So, I guess I am still somewhat upset with this Human of mine.



But, I have gotten ahead of myself, let's start at the beginning. My Human took my brother and me on a car ride, which was great for me, I love the car. We wound up at Grandma's house, which, if you remember, is a very fun place to be. However, it turns out my Human was leaving us there. This was a surprise to us because she showed no sign of leaving for a vacation and she took our housemate Attie home with her. This combined with the fact that those two were acting weird gave us much concern. Now staying with Grandma isn't all that bad, we have done it before, but it is just not like being at home. Plus, Grandma seemed to be excitable, she kept telling us about some surprise!?

Well time was passed chancing the ducks and squirrels, sleeping on Grandma's bed, and eating up her yummy goodies. But, I began to get homesick. One morning Grandma seemed to get ready to go out, and then to my surprise got the leashes too. How exciting we are going somewhere! So, into the car we went. You can imagine my surprise when I noticed we were nearing my home. (Yes, to you Human's reading this, we dog's have wonderful homing instinct and quite often know where we are!) My excitement grew, but I tried to hide it because I was still upset with my Human. I will confess to you, and only my furry friends, that when I saw her I became very excited and forgot for a moment to be upset with her. After I regained my compawsure I realized that something smelled different, literally. My Human took me into the house first and as I crept up the stairs my highly sensitive nose detected something different. I was greeted by Attie and was very excited to see her, but she smelled different too! My Human then brought me into the dining room where a x-pen was set-up. This is highly unusual for her to have such a thing in the house; all us pups are house trained. Then I heard it, some muffled little whimper. Oh no, what did the Human bring home now. My curiosity got the better of me and I crept forward. Low and behold there was a bundle of black fur! It turns out Attie was pregnant and had 1 little baby. That explains why she and the Human were so weird, but now what about this little bundle? I decided to give it a good smelling and check it out. She smelled so different and started to nibble on my ears. Isn't she cute! Ah wait, I backed up and compawsed myself. If I showed any likeness to this creature, it might stay. Why the Human needs another dog I will never understand, I think I am all she needs!

Well, my confusion is gone and I understand what happened. As it turns out, the creature is a little girl the Human is calling Flurry. I pretend to not like her, still hoping she is not staying, plus, the little devil loves to chew on my ears. But, I will confess only to you that when she is all cuddly she is the cutest thing and I can't help myself but like her. Then she chews on my ears and I can't help but wonder when she is leaving! So, mystery solved. Thanks to everyone who helped, and can someone please tell my Human that she doesn't need another dog, afterall she has me, Bosley the best Poodle!

Wish me luck, Bosley

Submitted by Bosley's mom, Nicole Carfora, CMG, owner of Canine Corral.



Available for Adoption

For more info on The Anti-Cruelty Society and our adoption process, please visit our website www.anticruelty.org or call (312) 644-8338.



Mango is a very cute and frisky 1-year old orange and white tabby! He has awesome tabby striping and cute little white paws! Mango is a very sweet and friendly little fellow, although he can playbite when he's having too much fun. Mango came to us when his former owner had no time for him, so we are hoping to find someone who will spend some quality time with this little guy helping him with his manners. Mango would do best in an adult household as the only pet. Lots of fun toys, playtime with you and a lot of love will help Mango become the perfect little cat! Mango is a smart, fun and cute -- all he needs is you! Please come and meet Mango, he's at The Anti-Cruelty Society, just ask for Tab Band #670062. Mango is ready to go home today!

Tinkertickle is a sweet and petite 5-year old black and white kitty who is adorable right down to her cute little white paws and big white whiskers! Tinkertickle came to us when her former owner no longer had time for her, but with her wonderful personality, we are sure to find someone who will adore this little girl for the cutie pie she is! In fact, Tinkertickle has already managed to steal some of our hearts here at the shelter, she is just a doll! Tinkertickle is calm and quiet, and will make someone a wonderful friend and companion. A warm bed to sleep in, cuddled up close to you is where Tinkertickle wants to be! Please come and meet this very nice little girl, she's at the Broadway Petsmart, just ask for Tab Band #667761. Hurry on over, Tinkertickle is waiting for you!



Jasper is a super cute fellow! He's a terrier mix who has great tan and white fur that has a wiry texture typical of terriers. Jasper is 9 years old and came to us as a transfer from another shelter. He is a calm and laid back guy who is easy on the leash and extremely sweet. He's a bit frightened by all the activity of the busy adoption room, but spend just a little time with him and you'll see what a great guy he is. Jasper would do best as your only pet, as the poor guy is afraid of both cats and dogs.

Jasper will be a loving and devoted companion, and deserves a home all his own. One look into those soulful eyes of his and it will be hard not to want to take him home. Do you have room in your heart for Jasper? Please come and find out. Jasper is at The Anti-Cruelty Society, just ask for Tab Band #670093.

Sammy is a 23 lb. terrier mix, approximately 2 - 3 years of age. Typical to the breed, Sammy is a high energy kind of gal, and will need plenty of exercise and playtime to keep her happy. Obedience training is recommended for Sammy to help her learn some new skills and to challenge her active mind. Sammy would prefer to be the only pet in her new home, and due to her energy level, would be best suited in a home with children over the age of 12. Come meet Sammy and The Anti-Cruelty Society and ask for tab band #669074.



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THE WORLD OF ANIMALS

This column will be a regular feature in the paper and will deal with a wide variety of topics related to pets, their care and health issues. In addition you can submit questions related to pets which would be answered in future columns. Contact us at Village Publications, P.O. Box 31391, Chicago, IL 60631; phone: 847/675-6127, fax: 847/679-8851 or e-mail contact@ourvillagechicago.com, Attn: Dr. Sakas.

Canine Distemper

By Dr. Peter Sakas

In the next series of columns we will discuss some of the routine vaccinations given to your pets and which diseases they protect against.

One of the most important vaccinations to give to your dog is the distemper vaccination. Due to its name people quite often believe that somehow this vaccination relates to the dog's temperament and is a means to keep it from becoming aggressive. It has no association with controlling the demeanor of the dog, but rather protects it against a very serious and deadly disease.

Distemper is caused by a virus which affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems. It is very contagious, incurable and often fatal. It has a worldwide distribution and was a leading cause of death in unvaccinated puppies, which are most susceptible to the infection. In the 1960s a vaccination preventing distemper was introduced which caused a dramatic reduction in cases in pet dogs. Due to widespread vaccination programs utilized currently the incidence of distemper has been greatly reduced.

Distemper still is a serious risk to all unvaccinated dogs. Young puppies between 3 and 6 months of age are the most susceptible to infection and are more likely to die than infected adults. Non-vaccinated older dogs are also highly susceptible to infection.

The virus exists in the environment, especially in unvaccinated dogs and wild animals such as raccoons, skunks and foxes. The infection is spread by airborne viral particles passed in bodily secretions, especially those from the respiratory tract.

Symptoms of the disease usually begin as a fever and eventually develop into gastrointestinal and respiratory signs, such as runny nose, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, vomiting and pneumonia. As the disease progresses neurological signs develop including seizures, incoordination, staggering, twitching, spasms and paralysis.

There is no specific treatment for the viral infection, just supportive care. Most dogs die from the disease and those that survive may have permanent central nervous system damage.

The best way to avoid this deadly disease is through vaccination. Puppies should be put on a vaccination schedule outlined by your veterinarian. You should keep to this schedule as puppies are at the greatest risk to develop the disease. The protection provided by the vaccinations begins to wane over time so booster vaccinations are essential to maintain immunity to distemper at effective levels. Depending upon the vaccinations used by your veterinarian boosters are given yearly or every three years.

Do not take any chances with this disease. Distemper is a real threat that exists for your pets. It is easily prevented by properly vaccinating your dogs and maintaining their booster vaccinations.

Submitted by Peter S. Sakas, D.V.M., Niles Animal Hospital and Bird Medical Center, 7278 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714.

The Importance of Microchipping your Pet

By Tom Van Winkle; CABC, Executive Director – Animal Care League

Microchips for our pets have been around for a very long time, but they are gaining in popularity in the recent years. The reason for this new found interest is the large number of stray animals that flow into shelters each and every year. If these animals had microchips with current owner information, then they would find their way home and shelters would not have to euthanize as many animals.

For those who may not be familiar with this technology, a microchip is a small piece of glass, about the size of a grain of rice, which has a computer chip inside it. This chip is inserted into the layers of skin by the shoulder blades of cats and dogs. When a scanner is passed over the chip, a number appears on the scanner which can be traced back to the pet's owner. The process of inserting the chip only takes seconds and simply consists of a syringe which puts the chip in place. Even though this is life saving technology, there are few misconceptions about the microchips that keep people from having them put in their pets.

First, a rumor has been circulated that microchips increase the chance of an animal getting cancer. This has been proven to be false by the veterinary community. Pets with microchips are in no greater danger of having cancer than those without them. A second misconception is that microchips act as GPS's and that a pet can be tracked down when it is lost. Microchips cannot be traced from an outside location, but can only be read if a scanner is passed directly over the animal. Furthermore, the scanner has to be within about 1 inch of the animal's shoulder blades to read the chip, so it is also impossible to track an animal with a microchip. Third, many owners don't think their pet will ever get out of their house. Unfortunately this happens everyday to people who love their pets very much and are extremely cautious about keeping them indoors. Gates get left open, window screens get pushed out, children answer the door and let the pet out, etc., etc. Those animals with microchips stand a far better chance of being reunited with their owners than those without one. Remember though, that microchips are not the best answer in and of themselves.

Microchips should be used in conjunction with the other more traditional means of identifying pets. To give your pet the best possible chance of finding its way home, they should wear collars with identification tags, including a current rabies tag as well as being microchipped. If a pet's collar falls off or is removed, the microchip is a great backup in identifying a particular animal. The converse is also true in that if a neighbor finds a pet, they can't utilize the microchip because they don't have a scanner, yet they could find an animal's home if it is wearing a collar and tags. For these reasons it is important for a pet to not only be microchipped but also to wear its identification tags.

One thing that owners must remember though is that when they move, the microchip registration information must also be changed. This is usually as simple as making a phone call to the microchip company or going to the company's website, but it is vital to keep this information up to date. A trend we have been seeing more and more is people using their cell phone numbers as the primary contact number. This way, if they move, the cell phone usually keeps its same number and their lost pet can still find its way home even if the new address has not been changed on the registration.






Microchipping is very important for all animals, but because we see a larger number of dogs wearing collars and tags than cats, it is especially important for cats to be microchipped. Even if you think your cat won't get out of the house or that it will only stay in your yard, there are many ways it can get lost. Microchipping them will help save their lives.

Animal Care League, 1013 Garfield St., Oak Park, IL 60304; (708) 848-8155; www.animalcareleague.org

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GREAT OUTDOORS

How Did Our Outdoor Plants Survive the Long Winter and Late Spring

By Nick Urhausen

The impact of a long, especially cold winter on outdoor plants will be felt long after the last snowflake has fallen. Any plant trying to make it through last winter was severely tested. Many perennials which are planted in our hardiest zones may not make it because the temperatures were those of an even colder zone, one father north. Some examples would be Asiatic lilies and hardy hibiscus. Rose bushes, even those properly winterized with mulch, may have found the cold too much and were severely damaged or even dead. In areas heavily populated with rabbits, it would not be surprising to find dead branches on buses where rabbits ate the bark off the bottom of the branches. For those who live on busier streets, road salt may have been thrown onto the lawn and severely damaged it.

Another impact of a cold winter is that it usually segues into a cold spring. A cold spring is not quite as damaging as a cold winter. Overall, the word that characterizes the impact of a cold spring is "lateness." Trees, bushes, and perennials will all leaf out later than normal. It could be late by a few days or even a few weeks. For example, a peony that blooms on Mother's Day may not bloom until Memorial Day because it sprouted out two weeks later than usual. Sometimes this leads to panic when a favorite plant isn't sprouting on time. So, its important to not disturb a plant that is not greening up because it could be a case of lateness and not severe damage or death.

A late spring also means that it might be wise to hold off on planting tender annuals for a little longer than usual. The last frost in Chicago usually occurs around May 15th. Other than peony's, violas, osteospermums, and a few other cold tolerant plants, it would be wise to wait until Mother's Day (May 11th this year) before planting most annuals, and even then one should take a wait and see attitude. Don't think it's safe to plant just because you see flowering annuals at the local supermarket or home center. Better safe than sorry.

One last impact of a cold winter and a late spring is that it really increases our appreciation for all the green plants in our world. After so many dark, cold, grey days, we are all eager to see plants burst to life and surround us with their beautiful flowers and vegetation.

Urhausen Greenhouses is located in Lincolnwood at 6973 N. East Prairie Rd. View some of their selections on their website: urhausengreenhouses.com. Pick up the next issue of this newspaper on May 2nd for a history of this family owned, longtime favorite.

The Windy City Temperature Conversion Chart

60 degrees F: Arizonians shiver uncontrollably; people in Chicago are still sunbathing.

50 degrees F: Californians try to turn on the heat; people in Chicago plant gardens.

40 degrees F: Italian sports cars won't start; people in Chicago drive with the windows down.

32 degrees F: Distilled water freezes; Lake Michigan water gets thicker.

20 degrees F: Floridians don coats, thermal underwear, gloves and wool hats; people in Chicago throw on a light jacket.

15 degrees F: People in Chicago have the last cookout before it gets cold.

0 degrees F: All the people in Phoenix die; Chicagoans close the windows.

10 degrees below zero: Californians fly away to Mexico. The Girl Scouts are selling cookies door to door.

25 degrees below zero: Hollywood disintegrates; people in Chicago get out their winter coats.

40 degrees below zero: Washington, DC runs out of hot air; people in Chicago let the dogs sleep indoors.

100 degrees below zero: Santa Claus abandons the North Pole; Chicagoans get frustrated because they can't start 'da car.

400 degrees below zero: All atomic motion stops (absolute zero on the Kelvin scale); people in Chicago start saying, 'cold 'nuff for ya?

500 degrees below zero: Hell freezes over, the Cubs win the World Series.

Submitted by, Becker Professional Pharmacy, Inc., 4744 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625, (773) 561-4486

Lakeshore Ski and Sports Club's Annual Spring Banquet

Lakeshore Ski and Sports Club will host its 2008 Spring Banquet at the Fountain Blue in DesPlaines on Friday, April 25, 2008.

The evening's festivities will begin with a social hour at 6:30PM, dinner at 7:30PM followed at 8:30PM by the announcement of LSSC's 2008-2009 Officers and 2007-2008 Ski Awards. Dancing will begin at 9PM with music provided by DJ Phil Raffini.

Cost is \$58.00 per person which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, wine with dinner and three hours open bar from 6:30-7:30PM and 9:30-11:30PM.

All who are interested are cordially invited to join LSSC members as the kick off a new year. It is also an opportunity to learn about exciting plans which the club has for the coming Spring and Summer as well as a chance to learn about the advantages of becoming an LSSC member.

For further information and to place reservation, call 708.786-3992 or email lakeshoreskiandsportsclub@yahoo.com. Advanced reservations are required by Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

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Village Cooking Corner

For Your Passover Table Spicy chocolate truffle torte

Crust:

2 cups chopped almonds
1/3 cup white sugar
1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
1/2 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips

1 1/3 cups semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
4 egg yolks
1/4 cup white sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon cloves
1/4 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup heavy cream
1/3 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1 tablespoon brandy

This is a dairy dessert. To make it parve use kosher margarine and soy milk.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F

In a medium bowl, mix together the pecans, 1/3 cup sugar, 1/4 cup butter and miniature chocolate chips. Press into the bottom and up the sides of a 9 inch pie plate. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Cool completely.

In a metal bowl set over a pan of simmering water, combine 1 1/3 cups chocolate chips and 1/2 cup butter. Stir occasionally until melted and smooth. Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla.

In a separate bowl, beat egg yolks with 1/4 cup sugar until thick and pale using an electric mixer, at least 3 minutes. Stir into the melted chocolate and set it back over the pan of simmering water. Whisk constantly until thick, 3 to 4 minutes. Pour into the cooled crust and smooth the top.

Heat the heavy cream in a small saucepan. When warm, stir in the remaining chocolate chips until melted. Remove from the heat and stir in the brandy. Pour over the truffle filling. Refrigerate for several hours to set before serving. Garnish with fresh berries.

Stuffed Dumplings

2 cups rice
4 cups warm water
1 teaspoon salt
Soak the rice overnight, then drain. Pat it dry with paper towels and puree to a smooth dough in a food processor.

8 oz. ground lamb or chicken
1/2 cup grated onion
3/4" piece of fresh ginger, grated
2-3 cloves of garlic
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1/2 teaspoon turmeric
1/2 teaspoon salt
black pepper to taste

Scoop up 1 tablespoon of rice dough and pat into a round. Place 1 teaspoon of filling in the center and pinch the edges shut. The dumplings can be poached in soup for 20 minutes or deep-fried until golden brown. A vegetarian filling of cheese and spinach can also be used.

Submitted by Becky Heydemann



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Twilight Tales

By Becky Heydemann

It's Spring at Twilight Tales and fun things are shooting up all over.

First on the Schedule is next Monday's Theme Open mic night. **April 21** is the day the planet takes revenge on the whole human race for the way it's been mistreated. A toxic-watse sundae, anyone?

Our Founder, Tina Jens, now teaches at Colombia college. On **April 28th** her students will be reading from the works they produced this semester. Should be good stuff.

May 5th is the standard First Monday Open Mic-anything goes, but if it's poetry you need it to be less than 10 minutes long. Prose gets 20!

On **May 12th** there will be a Party honoring Robert Weinberg's Lifetime achievement Award from the World Horror Wirters Conventin, which was held two weeks ago in Salt Lake City. Two days after the con ended a "perfectly reasonable" man addressed the SLC city council about the need for a disaster preparedness plan. The disaster in mind-the inevitable zombie attack. Coincedence? I don't think so...

Robert Wienberg has been a vital part of the bussiness of publishing horror fiction for decades, as an author and editor of anthologies, as a developer of new authors and in other ways too numerous to mention. Come on out and help us celebrate the well deserved recognition of all of his hard work.

May 19 Theme Open Mic- Twilight Tales Song Book, every song sets off a memory or a story in your head - tell us the story the song told you.

If you've noticed we're having LOTS of open mic nights it's true. We need to get your story out and in front of a live-but very nice-audience. We want to hear what you've written.

We've also addes a few new things to the website-go take a look.

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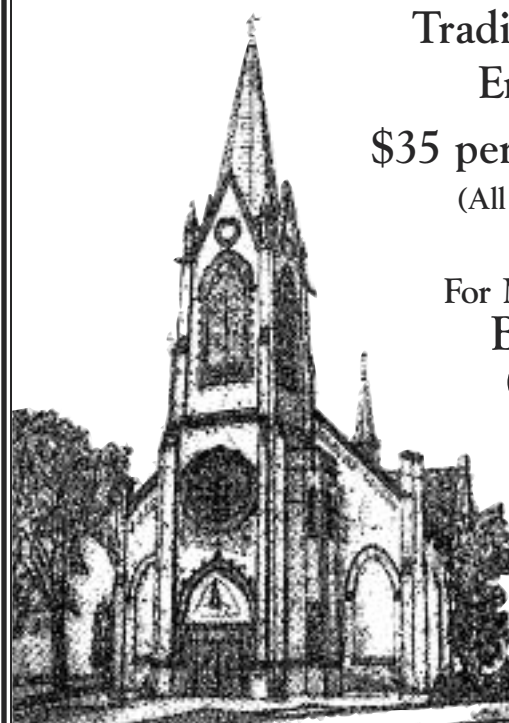
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