



OUR VILLAGE



FREE

FREE

Volume XIII

P.O. Box 31391,
Chicago, IL 60631

www.OurVillageChicago.com

Phone: 847/675-6127
Fax: 847/679-8851

Issue 12
July 17, 2009

Help Plan the Future of Milwaukee Avenue!

Participate in the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor Development Initiative. The Corridor Development Initiative is a way to test your vision for development, learn how development works, and help Ald. Colón and community leaders understand the type of buildings you want to see on Milwaukee Avenue.

How can we preserve old buildings while developing new ones?

Workshop I: Gathering Information

Wednesday, July 22, 6:30-8:00 pm
Logandale School, 3212 W. George Street
What kind of buildings would you like to see on Milwaukee? Share your ideas!

Workshop II: Development Opportunities - Block Exercise

Wednesday, August 5, 6:30-8:30 pm
Logandale School, 3212 W. George Street
Play with blocks! Work with developers and architects to create the type of buildings you would like to see on Milwaukee Avenue in an interactive building block exercise.

What kind of building height do I want along Milwaukee Avenue?

How do I feel about local affordable housing options?

Workshop III: Developer Discussion

Wednesday, August 26, 6:30-8:00 pm
Logandale School, 3212 W. George Street
How do your development proposals stack up? Developers will give their professional opinion on the buildings you "built" at the block exercise.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Moira at 312-863-6026 or modonovan@metroplanning.org.



Metropolitan Planning Council

Chicago Outdoor Film Festival

Be a part of history in the making!

On Tuesday, July 21, at the Chicago Outdoor Film Festival on Butler Field in Grant Park, we're breaking a record.

Join us for that evening's presentation of the Marx Brothers classic "Duck Soup" and we'll give you a Groucho nose and glasses as we attempt to enter the Guinness Book of World Records for "the most people wearing Groucho Marx glasses."

Be sure to sign in to receive your glasses. We must wear them for a total of 10 minutes and pose for video and photo, at approximately 8:15pm.

Bring your friends, bring your family and join us and our partners, The Goodman Theatre, for this unique experience. It's history in the making and you don't even need to say the secret word!

For this season's complete line up of films and more information on the Chicago Outdoor Film Festival, visit www.ChicagoOutdoorFilmFestival.us

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival

A unique arts festival that features over 150 artists in over 25 venues. The festival is also a community festival with music, vendors, and family activities.

Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2, Noon-11pm each day
Check the website for complete schedule and hours for each venue.

Logan Square | Chicago Along Milwaukee Avenue between California and Ridgeway.

Free trolley Connecting each area of the festival.

Free Event! For information: Email ArtForMAAF@gmail.com, call 773-365-3535 or visit <http://www.milwaukeeavenueartsfestival.org/Art/tabid/687/Default.aspx> (website includes details about each exhibition as well as information about the entire festival).

CHICAGO CRITERIUM

It's like the Kentucky Derby, but with a twist! Spend a day at the races to cheering on cycling's elite in Grant Park on Chicago's beautiful lakefront for the city's premier cycling event, the Chicago Criterium on Sunday, July 26, 2009. Fast paced racing will begin at 7:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

Best described as NASCAR racing with bikes, the all-day event features 10 professional and amateur criterium bike races on a closed circuit loop, approximately 1.1 mile in length with the start/finish line at Buckingham Fountain. Spectators are captivated with the fast paced straight-aways, tight 90-degree turns and the occasional pile up! The event will feature a Kids Big Wheel Race, Goose Island Beer Garden, Sports Expo and much more. Visit www.chicagocriterium.us for more details.



Independent Transportation Network Hosted 1st Annual Walk for Rides



On June 20th, 2009, ITNChicago, the Independent Transportation Network hosted its first annual Walk for Rides at Kosciuszko Park. Northwest side residents, ITNChicago board members, and staff gathered at this beautiful neighborhood park to enjoy fellowship and learn more about this innovative transportation service for seniors. All participants enjoyed the non competitive walk around the park led by board members Dorothy Ferguson and Phyllis Wade. After the walk, participants enjoyed refreshments donated by Eli's Cheesecake, American Metro Bank and Tony's Finer Foods, and won raffle prizes donated by Mather Life Café, Walgreens, and Bakers Square Restaurant & Pie. ITNChicago looks forward to Walk for Rides in 2010.

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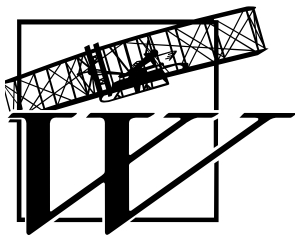
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Dates set for Wright Placement Test

New students interested in starting at Wilbur Wright College during the fall semester can take the first step in attending Wright by sitting for one of the free placement tests offered during July and August.

The tests will be offered every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. and every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. through Aug 12 in Room L131 of the college, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave. Tests will also be offered at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, July 11 and Aug. 8. All test takers will be accepted at Wright; the test simply determines placement in classes for new students.

After getting the test results, new students meet with Wright advisers who help select the best schedule to match a student's needs. Registration is under way for the fall semester, which begins Aug. 24.

Students are encouraged to attend the new student orientation session held before most placement tests. The test usually takes two-and-a-half to three hours to complete. Testing is on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must have a photo ID in order to test. A testing study guide is available in L131 or at www.act.org/compass by clicking on "Sample questions."

Wright tuition is only \$79 per credit hour for Chicago residents and \$259 per hour for suburban residents. Financial aid is available. For more testing information, call the admissions office at (773) 481-8450.

Variety of Summer Camps at Wright

Children's camps ranging from educational to recreational to musical will be offered at Wright College to keep children, especially teens, busy during summer vacation.

Campers can learn the basics of hip-hop dance and then learn professionally choreographed routines, culminating in a show on the last day of Hip Hop Dance Camp. For ages 10-16, it will be held the week of July 27 with a fee of \$175.

Spanish Camp will explore Spanish culture through movies, discussion and hands-on activities such as ethnic snacks made by the students. A two-day session for 5- to 7-year-olds will be held Aug. 13-14 for \$45. A three-day session for 8- to 10-year-olds will be held Aug. 10-12 for \$75.

Broadway Hits Camp, which runs from Aug. 3-7 for ages 10-16, will teach songs from selected Broadway musicals such as "High School Musical," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and "Grease." Campers will also perform the songs with choreography on the last day of camp.

For a complete continuing education summer schedule or to register for the camps, visit the Continuing Education Department in Room A139. A summer schedule can also be found online at wright.ccc.edu. For more information, call (773) 481-8059.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Awards Nurses



(From left): Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center honored several nurses for their exceptional accomplishments. Mary Hillard, R.N., Vice President of Patient Care Services, presented the hospital's Nursing Clinical Excellence Award to Arlene Caselli, R.N., for excellence in nursing care. Katherine Pratola, L.P.N., received the Mission Effectiveness Award for superior performance in meeting the mission, core values and strategic goals of Resurrection Health Care. Linda Ramirez, R.N., received the Nursing Leadership Award that recognizes excellence in mentorship and leadership.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Honors Employees

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center honored several employees with awards that recognized service excellence, leadership qualities and selfless compassion.

Salme Drunga and Mila Rolle, R.N., received the Caring Heart Leader Awards for demonstrating leadership qualities.

Drunga was nominated by staff who appreciate her inclusiveness, open door policy and guidance.

Rolle was nominated by staff who recognize Rolle's developing patient care-centered teams, developing nursing educational programs, and implementing new ways to enhance quality care and patient satisfaction.

Schiralli received the Humanitarian Award for promoting human welfare. She donated one of her kidneys to a stranger and because of her compatibility as a donor, a rare procedure was made possible whereby, in total, three living donors were matched with three kidney recipients.



Salme Drunga



Mila Rolle



Lisa Schiralli

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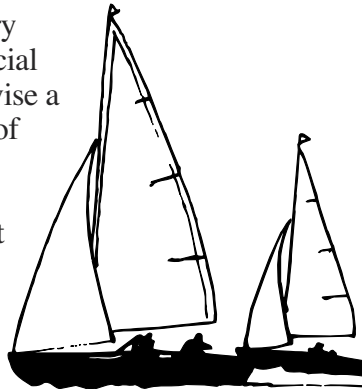
GREAT OUTDOORS

Legends of the Lake 51st Venetian Night Celebration

by Tracy Seglin

Buona sera, Chicago! More than a half century ago, Mayor Richard J. Daley challenged his special events chief and Chicago area yacht clubs to devise a boating bonanza, a floating fiesta, a celebration of our gorgeous Lake Michigan and lakefront.

Named for the Italian city's legendary Christmas boat parades, Chicago's first Venetian Night was held at Diversey Harbor in August 1958, with 200 lighted boats. Over the years, the festival has evolved, at times a several-night extravaganza, replete with beauty pageant and corresponding State Street parade.



This year, Venetian Night takes place Saturday, July 25. The 2009 theme is "Hollywood on the Lake." More than 30 boats decked out with elaborate light displays plan to participate. Led by King Neptune, the parade launches at 8:15 p.m. at the Shedd Aquarium and hugs the shoreline, ending at the Chicago Yacht Club. A feast for eyes and ears, the program features pre-parade music by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a fireworks display choreographed to tunes by radio station WXRT (93.1) at 9 p.m.

More than 675,000 are expected to attend, many getting to the lakefront 12 hours early for prime viewing. Leave the car at home, pack a picnic, and take public transportation for a hassle-free, fun-filled Venetian Night.

Urban Wildlife Coalition Robins Round 2

Q: My family and I were so happy to watch as robins made a nest, laid eggs, and hatched chicks in my backyard early this spring. When they had left the nest I thought about using it as an educational tool for my children, but chose to leave it where it was. I was surprised (and relieved) when I found "our" robins had laid more eggs, which have now hatched with a new nest full of babies. How many times a year do robins lay eggs and do they usually re-use their nests?

-- Erin, an Our Village reader in Sauganash Woods.

A: American robins generally lay two clutches of eggs per year, the first in late April or early May; the second in June or even as late as July. It is not uncommon for robins to even hatch a third clutch! Most often, a clutch will contain three or four eggs; sometimes as few as two or as many as six. Chicks hatch in approximately two weeks. They remain in the nest for another two weeks. Robins often re-use their own nests, as well as other those belonging to other birds. You made the right decision to keep the robin nest intact. Aside from being kind to our fine, feathered friends, according to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, in many cases, it is actually illegal to remove or move active nests.

Urban Wildlife Coalition is a community-based organization founded to help preserve our treasured urban wildlife. For more information about urban animals and tips for living in harmony with them, visit www.urban-wildlifecoalition.org. Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at urban-wildlifecoalition@gmail.com.

LOCAL GROUP LAUNCHES RACING SITE

Want to understand the difference between the Chicago Criterium and Le Tour de France? Confused about categories, drafting, and attacks? Learn the basics and get some racing tips from the Active Transportation Alliance's new racing site, www.activetrans.org/racing. Active Trans has partnered with local racing team XXX Racing-AthletiCo to introduce bicycle racing and its culture to those curious about the sport, as well as showcase local racers' contributions to the cycling community at large.

The new site features information about mountain, track and road racing - with cyclocross to come soon - plus a calendar of racing events and blog entries about local racing news. "Chicagoland has a lot of great teams and races available throughout the year," said Randy Warren, who writes the Coach's Corner blog for the site. "This new site will get more people involved in local racing whether they're enjoying the show or are one wheel back from the front at the final sprint." Warren is on the Active Trans staff and also the coach of XXX Racing-AthletiCo. Go to www.activetrans.org/racing

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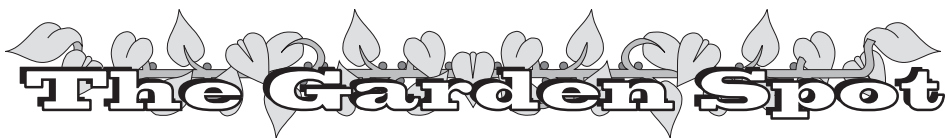
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Snowballs in July?

By: Nick Urhausen, Urhausen Greenhouses

The popular perennial flowering shrub, known as the Hydrangea, begins blooming at the start of July. The blooms are either shaped like a large snowball, technically known as a mophead, or like a cone. White is the most popular color. This is why hydrangea flowers are sometimes called "snowballs"... they are white in color and shaped like a ball. However, there are some blue, pink, and red varieties available now which will survive our cold Chicagoland winters.

There are a few reasons why white is the most popular color. First, most of the old fashion varieties that are hardy in Chicago only came in white. Second, the new colorful hydrangeas often require an acidic soil, something we don't have in Chicago because our soil is quite alkaline. In some of the newer varieties like "Endless Summer" and "All Summer Beauty" acid in the soil changes the color of the flower from pink to blue. In the Chicagoland area, one must add sulfur to the soil to make it more acidic to produce more vibrant colors. These varieties seem to do best in the southeastern part of America where the soil is naturally more acidic.

Hydrangeas can be divided into three size categories. First there are the 3' tall varieties. This size is the most popular. Second, there are the tall varieties that can easily grow to 6'. Third, there are the climbing hydrangeas which they say will grow to 75' tall. Personally, the climbing hydrangeas make a nice climbing plant, but I have never seen one anywhere near to 75' tall.

Hydrangeas prefer growing conditions which range from full sun to part shade. If the plant is in too much shade, then it will not bloom. In my experience, hydrangeas need at least half a day of sun to really bloom well. People might argue with me, but that has been my experience. Some even promote hydrangeas as shade plants and I just do not agree.

The flowers of hydrangeas can be picked in bloom and put in a vase with water. The flower heads can also be picked and allowed to dry out, and then used in dried flower arrangements. When fall approaches, some people leave the dried flower heads on the plant for interest in the garden during winter.

If you want to grow a hydrangea your best chance for success will be to grow one of the old fashion white varieties. I recommend the variety "Annabelle." This is a white, mophead or snowball type flowering variety which grows about 3' tall and 4' wide. "Annabelle" is very hardy during cold Chicagoland winters, and is very easy to grow. Unless you really want to exert a lot of time and effort growing a hydrangea, I do not recommend any of the newer blue and pink varieties. From talking to many gardeners, I have not heard many success stories. So, give yourself the best chance for success by growing an "Annabelle" hydrangea.

Urhausen Greenhouses, Inc. is located at 6973 N. East Prairie Road in Lincolnwood. Phone: 847-675-1573, fax: 847-675-0661

Roll Out Summer Fun with the 9th Annual Movies in the Parks

Chicago Park District's Neighborhood Screenings Run thru Sept. 1

The Chicago Park District kicks off the 9th annual Movies in the Parks with screenings of current and classic movies in more than 130 citywide parks from June 12 – Sept. 1. Admission is free, and movies begin at dusk.

Several of the selections include screenings of Iron Man, Kung Fu Panda, and Madagascar 2: Escape 2 Africa. Many screenings feature closed captions.

The Chicago Park District's Movies in the Park series provides community residents with free, outdoor film entertainment in the safe environment of neighborhood parks across the city. The Park District encourages Chicagoans to grab a picnic basket and a blanket to enjoy the Movies in the Parks program this summer.

For additional details, visit your local park, call 312-742-PLAY or log on to www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Neighborhood Farmers' Markets

Norwood Park

Chicago's Farmers Markets bring more than 70 vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers to over 20 neighborhoods throughout the City of Chicago.

Dates: May 30: Jun 27: Jul 25: Aug 29 Hours: 8 am - 12 pm

Location: Century 21 McMullen Parking Lot, 6400 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL 60631 Admission: FREE

Website: For additional information please visit, www.norwoodpark.org

Logan Square

Chicago's Farmers Markets bring more than 70 vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers to over 20 neighborhoods throughout the City of Chicago.

Dates: Weekly: Every Sunday

From: Jun 7, 2009 to Oct 25, 2009 Hours: Sundays, 10 am - 3 pm

Location: Logan Square, 3107 W. Logan Blvd., Chicago, IL 60647 Admission: FREE

Website: For additional information please visit, www.logansquarefarmersmarket.org

Independence Park

Chicago's Farmers Markets bring more than 70 vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers to over 20 neighborhoods throughout the City of Chicago.

Dates: Jun 14: Jun 28: Jul 12: Jul 26: Aug 9; Aug 23: Sep 13: Sep 27: Oct 11 Hours: 9 am - 1 pm

Location: South side of Irving Park btwn. Springfield and Hamlin, W. Irving Park Rd. & Springfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 Admission: FREE

Website: For additional information please visit, www.independence-park.com

Lincoln Square

Chicago's Farmers Markets bring more than 70 vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers to over 20 neighborhoods throughout the City of Chicago.

Dates: Every Tuesday From: Jun 9, 2009 to Oct 27, 2009

Hours: 7 am - 2 pm

Location: City Parking Lot adjacent to Brown Line Station, 4700 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60625 Admission: FREE

Website: For additional information please visit, www.chicagofarmersmarkets.us

Lincolnwood

Lincolnwood's 3rd Annual Farmers Market will run every Thursday through August 20th, between the hours of 8 am – 1 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 4707 W. Pratt Avenue. This location was chosen because of its visibility from Pratt Avenue, accessibility of parking, and neighborhood location. The goal of the Lincolnwood Farmers Market is to offer an event that brings residents and the business community together, while offering the opportunity for individuals living and working in Lincolnwood to buy fresh produce and natural products. Our vendors will set up displays that may include fruits, vegetables, bread, pastries, cheese, flowers, honey, and more.

Thursdays, June 4 – August 20 8:00am – 1:00pm

St. John's Lutheran Church 4707 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, IL

FREE – Open to the Public For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

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The Park District Welcomes the Newest Residents to Lincoln Park: 98 Purple Martin Nestlings!

Lincoln Park is buzzing with 98 new editions to its park; purple martin nestlings! Born at Bill Jarvis Bird and Butterfly Nature Sanctuary, 3932 N. Recreation Dr., the 98 nestlings are from 2 - 10 days old and come from three different purple martin houses within the same area of Lincoln Park.

“The Chicago Park District is excited to welcome the 98 purple martin nestlings to Chicago,” said Timothy J. Mitchell Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO. “As part of our commitment to nature and wildlife, we launched a purple martin conservation program in the spring of 2002 by installing 18 purple martin houses in Chicago’s parks. We are happy to see this program soar with success, thanks in large part to the dedicated volunteer landlords.”

Purple martins are the largest member of the swallow family and the only species of martin in North America. Historically, purple martins nested in natural cavities such as excavated woodpecker holes, crevices in scraggly rock faces, or cavities of old trees. Unfortunately, little suitable purple martin habitat remains in the eastern U. S. As a result these birds have come to nest almost exclusively in colonies of human-made nest boxes such as houses and gourds.

Through the program, volunteer purple martin “landlords” help monitor the health and productivity of each purple martin colony by visiting the house on a weekly basis and recording data about the colony such as:

- the arrival of purple martins in the spring,
- nest-building activities of the colony,
- number of eggs laid,
- number of young that leave the nest.

Volunteers also check for nest-site competitors and nest parasites and assist with end-of-the season cleaning and closing of the houses.

To learn more about the purple martin program, please contact the Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator at 312-742-4072.

Chicagoland Businesses Win Gold in the 2009 Bike Commuter Challenge

Chicagoland businesses dominated the 2009 Bike Commuter Challenge, where companies around the region compete for the title of greenest and healthiest.

Employees from 322 businesses, schools and organizations went helmet-to-helmet during Bike to Work Week, June 13-19, to have the highest percentage of employees bike to work at least once.

“Green is the new gold in the Bike Commuter Challenge,” said Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Active Transportation Alliance, which organizes the annual Challenge. “Our region’s health, environment and traffic congestion win when businesses encourage employees to bike to work.”

Repeating their wins from 2008 are the Chicago Department of Transportation, The Field Museum, Moody Bible Institute, Northwestern University Library, SRAM, Center for Neighborhood Technology, and the City of Chicago Department of Environment.

First time winners include U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin’s office and the Oak Park Regional Housing Center.

Winners were honored at the award luncheon July 10 at Maggiano’s in Chicago. Winners in each category received prizes and all participants were entered in a raffle for more prizes.

For complete Bike Commuter Challenge results, see www.activetrans.org/commuterchallenge.

Get Ready for a Rockin’ Time At St. Paul Lutheran’s Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School

Amazing Bible Adventures, cool crafts, great games, awesome music and snacks you can sink your teeth into! Grab your friends so everyone can rock this dock!

Join us at St. Paul Lutheran Church 5650 N. Canfield Rd., Chicago

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For more information or to register contact us at 708-867-5044 or online at www.stpaulcanfield.org



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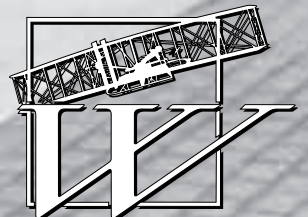
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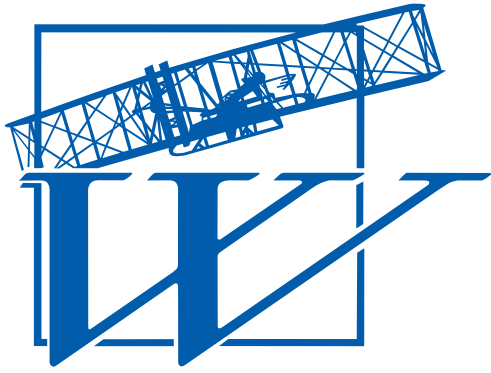
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Wright Here, Wright Now

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4300 N. Narragansett Ave.

Arts Building Room 120 (A120)

Monday - Thursday

9:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Friday

9:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Register **NOW** through August 22
(except July 30-31)
for Fall 2009 Credit Courses!

Events Building Atrium

August 10-22

Monday - Thursday

9:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please call 773.481.8200 for more information
email us at wn_e-advising@ccc.edu,
or visit our webpage at <http://wright.ccc.edu>

Returning Students can register for
Fall classes **NOW** through
August 22 using **My.CCC.edu**
(Except July 30 - August 1)

Continuing Education Registration Schedule

Main Campus

Arts Building Room 139 (A139)

Register August 4 through December
for Fall 2009 Continuing Education Classes

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Adult Education Registration Schedule

Arts Building Room A205

For more information, please call 773.481.8821

ESL

Sunday, July 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, July 31, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 01, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 09, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

GED

Friday, July 17, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 25, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, July 31, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 22, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

Registration Schedule

Fall 2009

Credit

Ongoing Registration

Registration Hours:

August 17: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

August 18: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

August 19: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

August 20: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Adult Education

By appointment only;
please pick up your appointment
card at HPVEC:

GED

July 21
8:30a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

ESL

August 13
8:30 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.,
4:30 p.m., & 6:00 p.m.

LPN

Nursing registration is
for returning students only.

All new applicants for the next Practical Nursing Program
starting in January 2010 must first attend
an orientation/information session.
Please call (773) 489-8915 for more information.

Humboldt Park

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773.489.8989

Continuing Education – Open Registration from now until the last class of the fall semester.

COMPASS Testing schedule is every Tuesday 10:45 a.m. and Wednesday 5:45 p.m.

"A Theatre Review"

"Graceland"

Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway, Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Profiles Theatre Company is known for its strong plays and tough acting of its cast and "Graceland" is one hell of a show.

Whoever thought that a cemetery would make for a good play? Well Ellen Fairey has found the answer as its playwright. The play deals with four stories.

"Graceland" is located on Clark Street and Irving Park within walking distance of Wrigley Field. Across the street from Graceland is Wudner's Cemetery, another old but established cemetery owned by a Lutheran church.

The show is set in August on a weekend. Like many shows it deals with a dysfunctional family who are Sarah played by Brenda Barrie, her brother Sam played by Eric Burgher who we find at their father's gravesite. The father was estranged from the family and ended his life by committing suicide.

We see how loneliness can be felt even being around people in a large city. We find Sarah is single and while she hails from a middle class family is still searching to be young and loved. Her brother Sam doesn't have much of a job as a delivery man who doesn't overreact to the highs and lows of life. We find that the father has been sleeping with Sam's ex-girlfriend Anna played by Somer Benson.

When they leave the cemetery they go to the local bar that was their dad's favorite to get more information on their father and they end up getting drunk.

Joe the father is being played by Darrell W. Cox one of Chicago's finest no-equity actors. At the father's apartment that Sarah has returned to she runs into a young boy she met at the cemetery who turns out to be Joe's son Miles played by Jackson Challinor. Coming from a broken home we see how lonely he has been as he loves to be open with strangers and being open in his conversation with them.

Anna, the ex-girlfriend of Sam, played by Benson does a beautiful job with her acting. The show is a drama but offers comical moments and runs 75 minutes. The production is being directed by Matthew Miller.

The play can affect many lives as you'll see if you view it. The show is in a small shoe-box theatre with limited seating. "Graceland" runs through August 16. For performance schedule, show times and reservations call 773-549-1815. Tickets are \$25-\$30.

"A Tribute to the Black Crooners" (Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow)

Black Ensemble Theatre, 4520 N. Bacon St., Chicago

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Jackie Taylor's Black Ensemble Theatre is concluding their 2008-2009 season with a new hit with the world premier of "A Tribute to the Black Crooners" (Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow). This season was heralded as their season of men.

Black ensemble has a five play season that includes "The Message is in Music," "The Nicholas Brothers," "Nothing But the Blues," "Al in Love is Fair-A Tribute to the Love Songs" and one to be announced at a later date.

Black Crooners has a book by Rueben Echoles and Dawn Bless and is being directed by Echoles and founder and artistic director Jackie Taylor. The show has a cast of 11. The show features the music and songs made famous by Willie Nelson, Louis Armstrong, John Legend, Luther Vandross, Billy Eckstein, Johnny Mathis, Roy Hamilton, Nat King Cole and the list goes on.

As with all their productions, the singing and dancing will have you rocking in your seat. It's a fast 2 hours and 10 minutes.

The book for the show may not be as strong as with some of BET other shows that Ms. Taylor has written and directed but it still makes the time go by fast.

The leads in the show are Trinity P. Murdock, Daniel Barnes, Magellan Watts, Michael T. Bartlett, Jr., Donald Manuel, Rashawn Thompson and Melanie McCulloch.

The story deals with the Stevens family and the club they own, the famous Stephen's Club that has been the home of some of the greatest black artists for over 60 years. The club is celebrating its anniversary as the older and younger generations present a show honoring Black Crooners of yesterday, today and tomorrow - that the family has owned from one generation to another.

The club is to be closed as the city wants to make the space into a mall. But in the end someone saves the day. The show ends with a stirring and powerful rendition of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Crooner runs through August 16 and could be extended, but don't wait, reserve your tickets now. For show schedule, show times and reservations call 773-769-4451. Tickets are \$45. -Three Stars-



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What Do Estate Planning and Shoes Have in Common?



Chester M. Przybylo

Surprisingly, estate planning and footwear share many similarities. Let's see how:

Like estate plans, shoes protect you from unexpected obstacles in your path. Like a great pair of shoes, a good estate plan prepares you for any contingency.

When choosing shoes, you need to consider the whole wardrobe. When designing an estate plan, you must consider all assets, even those which will not be governed by the Will or Trust, such as retirement plans and joint tenancy property.

In order to stay in style, your shoes must be updated periodically. Estate plans, too, must be updated periodically. Changes in circumstances and laws necessitate revisiting your plan periodically.

Most importantly, a good fit is essential with a pair of shoes and with an estate plan. A poor-fitting pair of shoes, even if attractive, can leave you and your feet miserable. Likewise, an estate plan that does not fit your current situation will not achieve your goals.

Obviously, choosing an estate plan that is right for you is a bit more complicated than choosing a pair of shoes. A basic estate plan consists of a well thought out, integrated plan which should include the following documents:

Trust. This holds title to your property and avoids probate and public scrutiny of your affairs. It can be extremely flexible and provide direction for your assets and heirs for years to come.

Will. At death, this can transfer any remaining assets to your Trust.

Financial Power of Attorney. This appoints a trusted person to make financial decisions if you are unable to make them for yourself.

Health Care Power of Attorney. This appoints a trusted person to make health care decisions for you when you are unable to make them for yourself.

HIPAA Power. This designates those individuals who are allowed access to your protected health information. Without this important power, a health care provider like a hospital may refuse to provide any information to your family, including whether you are even in their care.

An experienced attorney who focuses in estate planning can help you craft a plan that is tailored to your unique needs. For finding a good pair of shoes—you're on your own.

Chester M. Przybylo has been elected to the Board of Governors of the prestigious 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.

ASK THE ASSESSOR

Q. My property is located in Chicago. When will it be reassessed, and how is the assessed value calculated? I live in suburban Cook County and received a notice this year from the Assessor's Office. My property is not due to be reassessed next until 2010, so why did I receive this notice?

A. Normally, properties are reassessed and receive notices every three years. But the situation we face in the real estate market today is extraordinary, and the downturn has had a pronounced impact on home values. After analysis of market sales and foreclosure data, we determined that suburban homeowners should not have to wait until their properties are reassessed for the downturn to be reflected in their assessments. Therefore, all suburban homeowners will receive lower assessments this year.

This first-ever downward market adjustment will be calculated by township, with reductions expected to range from 4% to 15%. Each residential property in a township will receive the same percentage reduction, but different townships will receive different-sized reductions based on the local market.

If you have any questions regarding your assessment please visit my Web site at www.cookcountyassessor.com or contact my office at 312-443-7550.

My office is required to reassess one-third of the properties located in Cook County each year. The assessments alternate between the north suburbs, the south suburbs and the City of Chicago.

Properties located in the City of Chicago will be reassessed this year, and valuation notices for the eight city townships will be mailed at different times throughout the year. Any changes in value as a result of the 2009 reassessment will be reflected in the second-installment tax bills of 2010.

My office uses a mass-appraisal method to value homes. In conducting the assessment, we look at sales of comparable properties in your neighborhood, land, location, building square footage and construction type. This year, we are also giving special weight to the impact of foreclosures on your neighborhood.

If you have any questions regarding your assessment please visit my Web site at www.cookcountyassessor.com or contact my office at 312-443-7550.

St. Paul Lutheran School

St. Paul Lutheran School, 5650 N. Canfield Ave. in Chicago, educating children for over 100 years on Chicago's Northwest side is currently accepting new student enrollment for PreK 3 year old- Eighth Grade. St. Paul Lutheran is pleased to offer new families enrolling for the first time in a full, five day per week program in grades Kindergarten through 3rd Grade a Tuition Discount of 50% Off Savings for the 2009-2010 school year's tuition if enrolled before September 1, 2009.

St. Paul offers Christ centered values, caring certified teachers, comprehensive curriculum including Spanish Kindergarten-8th Grade, art, music, physical education, library, computers in the classrooms as well as a mobile computer lab of laptops.

Additional highlights include: a Full-time Special Education Resource Teacher; Full Day Pre-K 3 and 4 year old program available; flexible half-day and full-day Kindergarten; many extra-curricular and service opportunities; before and after school care from 7:00am to 6:00pm; on-site hot lunch program; multiple child discounts; and tuition assistance available. For more information, view www.stpaulwildcats.org and contact Debbie Townsend, School Principal at 708-867-5044 with questions and or to schedule a visit.

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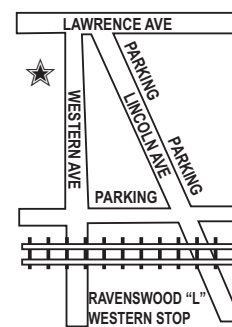
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YES WE DELIVER!



Say NO To Bugs!

By Bosley

OK Furry Friends, please raise your paws and speak after me. "I (your name) a good and loving dog do solemnly swear to help my humans understand the importance of flea prevention and will kill all fleas I come across."

I know we don't really need the oath, we dogs are taught the hazardous of fleas at a young age. However, some of our humans just don't seem to get it. How would they feel if something were crawling around in their fur? Or something sucking their blood and causing them to scratch like crazy? Plus, it is gross! Don't get me wrong I love to roll in the dirt and swim in the lake, what self-respecting pooch doesn't? But, there is something about biting bugs in my fur that grosses me out!

So, what is a poor pup to do? I suggest biting your human on the rear. Just kidding, maybe! I asked my human to help make the following list:

Fleas are more prevalent now than in the spring. The buggers are looking for a warm place, so we find them more on us.

Talk with your Vet or Groomer about flea prevention and or treatment.

There are very effective treatments available from your Vet or at pet stores.

NOT all products are created equal. Some products don't work as well as others and some not at all. So buyer beware and follow the advice of your Vet and Groomer.

Flea baths are only a temporary fix to a flea problem and its prevention time is limited.

The topical flea treatments work the best in my opinion.

Any dog can get fleas! You can get them in your own backyard!

Any dog can get fleas! Finding yourself with fleas is not the end of the world and it doesn't mean that you are dirty. Fleas follow a life cycle and they need our blood to survive. They are clever little buggers that can find their way to any pooch. It is no one's fault when you get fleas, well except your human that didn't have you on a prevention treatment.

Fleas are treatable quickly. Please convince your human to get you the help you deserve!

So, now your job is to give this list repeatedly to your human. Because WE CAN WIN THE WAR ON FLEAS, but we need the cooperation of our human. If your human choose not to listen, then I suggest cuddling up in their bed. Maybe the fleas will bite them too! Go ahead I am giving you permission. Until next time play hard and be as good as you can!

Bosley

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

Vaccinations in Dogs & Cats

Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

Introduction-We are going to discuss a topic of utmost importance to all dog and cat owners—vaccinations. However, we are going to cover it in great detail to help you understand why certain schedules are followed, why certain products are used, and in the process cover some basic immunology.

You have all heard of someone being "immune" to something. In basic terms humans and animals possess a very intricate system of defense against disease termed the immune system. It reacts against disease organisms to destroy or inactivate them so that it cannot lead to the development of disease. In discussing vaccines we will be particularly interested in the part of the system that produces antibodies (termed humoral immunity).

Antibodies-What are antibodies? Antibodies are products of the body's defense developed in response to an invading protein (disease organism) in the body, termed an antigen. The body recognizes this invading organism as being foreign and reacts to destroy it with the appropriate antibodies. Antibodies are very specific and each type reacts to only one particular antigen. The body does not possess antibodies that react to everything, rather these antibodies have to be developed through exposure to a disease, vaccination, immunoglobulin (antibody) injection, or through the colostrum (first milk) during nursing. Let us discuss the different ways to develop immunity.

Passive (artificial) Immunity-This type of immunity is so named because specific antibodies are provided to humans and animals, usually through injections, to provide immediate protection against disease. It is called passive immunity because the antibodies are from an outside source, not actually produced by the animal itself and the protection is only temporary. For a familiar example of this look to the immunoglobulin (antibody) injection a person gets when there is a potential exposure to hepatitis. Instead of having a person develop their own antibodies through the actual development of this serious disease, these injected antibodies are specific for the disease and destroy the organism before it can cause sickness.

The disadvantage to passive immunity is that it is short-lived and the antibodies provided rapidly deteriorate as they were not actually produced by the body so there is no mechanism to maintain them. The protection provided by passive immunity is also lower than that generated by vaccination, and if used may reduce the ability to respond to vaccination adequately while the passive immunity persists. Passive immunity is rarely used in veterinary medicine currently.

Maternal Immunity-Why the long discussion of passive immunity if it is rarely used in veterinary medicine? Well, it is actually one of the most important aspects of immunity for breeders because it is how babies obtain the antibodies to protect themselves until they begin their vaccination series. Where do they obtain these antibodies? Through the first milk produced by the mother, termed the colostrum. If the mother has been properly maintained with vaccinations (NEVER vaccinate a pregnant animal) the colostrum will be rich in antibodies for the puppy/kitten.

Newborns do have the ability to respond to disease organisms at birth, but their response is slower and inferior to that of older animals. Normally, protection against infection these early weeks is provided by the passive immunity transferred by the antibodies from the mother through the colostrum. The amount of antibodies provided is almost equal to that of the mother but this level gradually declines over time until it is completely gone by 12-15 weeks of age. We will get into the significance of this later when we discuss the vaccination schedules.

Continued next issue

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CANINE CRUELTY Five-State Dog Fighting Ring Busted

A year-long investigation by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies has resulted in the arrests of approximately 30 people across five states in what officials are calling the largest dog fighting operation ever seen in the U.S.

In addition to the arrests, about 350 dogs—mostly pit bull terriers—were seized during early-morning raids yesterday in Missouri, Texas, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma and will be cared for by local humane societies. Those arrested for their involvement face felony charges that carry maximum sentences of five years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000.

The FBI played a significant role in the multi-agency investigation that in the Eastern District of Missouri resulted in the arrests of five men and the seizure of more than 150 dogs at a variety of dog fighting locations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General headed the investigation, and our St. Louis office was involved from start to finish. "This was a criminal enterprise," said one of our agents there. "It involved illegal drugs given to the dogs and also money laundering from wagering that took place at the dog fights."

According to the indictments, the defendants acquired, bred, and trained pit bull dogs for the purpose of fighting. The defendants denied the dogs ade-

quate medical treatment as a result of injuries suffered after the fights, and they "routinely" destroyed dogs—sometimes by electrocution—that became severely injured after fighting.

In Kansas City, Missouri, defendants allegedly constructed fighting pits for the dog fights, were timekeepers and referees during the fights, and placed wagers on the outcomes. The fights were often so violent and bloody that some of the defendants were designated as "sponge men"—they provided sponges to the dogs' handlers to wipe blood from their dogs or to cool them down during the fight.

After a set of fights last April, the indictment says, one of the defendants used a .22-caliber rifle to shoot and kill two dogs who fought but didn't perform up to his expectations. The dogs were shot in the head twice, then placed in plastic containers outside the garage where the fights had taken place.

Thanks to a 2007 federal law championed by animal welfare organizations, dog fighting is banned throughout the country and is a felony in all 50 states.

"Dog fighting is an illegal and despicable practice," our agent in St. Louis said. "We are very pleased with the outcome of the investigation and the way our law enforcement partners worked together."

Chicago Area Public Libraries

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Computer classes for July: How Do I Get Online? Tuesday, July 21, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Search Engines Thursday, July 23, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Twitter, Tuesday, July 28, 2:30-3:30 p.m. These classes hold 12 each. They're free, but you must register!

Classic Films continue at Eisenhower: Double Indemnity with Fred McMurray and Barbara Stanwyck; Thursday, July 30, 1-3:45 p.m. Special Event – All Day Hitchcock Film Festival Thursday, July 23, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. See as many or as few films as you want. The line-up is; 9:30 a.m. The 39 Steps; 11:30 a.m. Notorious; 2:00 p.m. Rear Window; 4:30 p.m. North by Northwest; 7:00 p.m. Discussion with Ralph J Amelio. Free popcorn at all movies!

Preparing for the Job Interview. Lori Howard will help you go into your interviews fully prepared! Come either Friday, July 17 from 1-3 p.m. or Tuesday July 21 from 6-8 p.m. This is a free, but you need to register.

Origami for Adults. Make the ever-popular crane and other simple origami shapes. Saturday, July 25, 1-3 p.m. No charge, but please register.

Old Time Radio Days Presented in conjunction with Central Baptist Village. Relive the glory days of radio with fully acted radio plays. Wednesday, July 22, 10:00-11:00 a.m. (This program takes place at Eisenhower Library.) Register either at the Library or at Central Baptist Village.

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Lincoln's Ten Critical Tasks of Leadership

Beyond his cultural status as a legend, an icon, a myth and a martyr, President Abraham Lincoln was a hands-on leader in a time of crisis. Join philosopher Al Gini as he unpacks some of the beliefs, values, and action plans that influenced Lincoln's extraordinary brand of leadership.

Al Gini is a Professor of Business Ethics and Chair of the Department of Management in the School of Business Administration at Loyola University. Besides lecturing to community and professional organizations, he can be regularly heard on National Public Radio's Chicago affiliate, WBEZ-FM. His books include: My Job My Self: Work and the Creation of the Modern Individual; The Importance of Being Lazy: In Praise of Play, Leisure, and Vacations; Why It's Hard to Be Good; and The Seven Deadly Sins Sampler.

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 7:00 p.m. This program is made possible by generous support from the Sulzer Family Foundation.

EDGEBROOK BRANCH
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(312) 744-8313

ADULT PROGRAMS Edgebrook resident, Nicholas J. De Leonardis, a member of the North Eastern Sherlockians book discussion group in Highwood, will facilitate the first meeting of the Edgebrook Sherlockians on Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m. Participants will discuss the short story, "The Final Problem," and watch a short film. Mr. De Leonardis welcomes all newcomers and hopes to meet at the library six times per year. Each meeting will highlight one of Arthur Conan Doyle's 56 short stories.

MEET MR. LINCOLN, by Fritz Klein. Welcome Abraham Lincoln himself in this engaging, interactive presentation by one of our nation's foremost Lincoln actors. For ages 5 & up. Thursday, July 23, 2:00-2:45 p.m.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN SONG. Be amazed and entertained by award-winning folksinger Chris Vallillo in this fun musical program on the life of Abraham Lincoln. For all ages. Monday, July 27, 6:00-6:45 p.m.

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Monday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. Lincoln's favorites: Arabian Nights and Aesop's Fables. Hear new and familiar tales as we explore stories from The Arabian Nights and Aesop's Fables. Ages 5 and up.

Tuesday, July 21, at 6 p.m. The Lincoln Long and Short Family Reading Club will read The Secret of the Painted House by Marion Dane Bauer. Ages 6 to 9 and parents. Call to reserve a copy.

Monday, July 27, at 11 a.m. Abraham Lincoln in Song. Award-winning folk singer Chris Vallillo performs music about Abraham Lincoln and his times. Ages 5 and up.

Tuesday, July 28, at 11 a.m. Who was Mary Todd Lincoln? Join storyteller Lynn Rymarz as she steps back in time to portray Mary Todd Lincoln. Ages 5 and up.

Unpaid Taxes on About 32,000 Cook County Properties Going to Auction "Last Chance" to Pay Delinquent Property Taxes before Tax Sale, Pappas Warns

Owners who have not paid property taxes for tax year 2007 have one day to pay before their delinquent taxes are offered at auction during the Annual Tax Sale, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

"This is your last chance to pay before your taxes can be bought, forcing you to redeem at high penalty costs to keep your property," Pappas said.

Unpaid taxes for tax year 2007 – issued in 2008 – on some 32,000 homes and other real property across Cook County will be offered at the Tax Sale, to be conducted as an electronic auction over four business days beginning Thursday, July 16, and ending Tuesday, July 21.

Taxes purchased by tax buyers will have to be redeemed – paid back to the tax buyer – with penalties and interest to stop the buyer from possibly asking a court for the deed to the property, Pappas said.

Delinquencies for tax year 2007 must be paid by certified check, cashier's check, money order or cash at the Treasurer's Office, Room 112, Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark Street, Chicago.

Pappas said property owners can review their unpaid taxes at cook-countytreasurer.com or by calling 312.443.5100. Those checking by web or phone should have their Property Index Number at hand, Pappas said.



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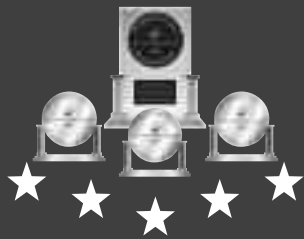


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