



OUR VILLAGE



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Volume XIII

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Issue 23
January 15, 2010

OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT
TO THE PEOPLE OF HAITI,
THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FRIENDS.

YOUR LOCAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP, GOVERNMENT OFFICES
OR COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE READY TO ASSIST YOU
IN MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIEF.

Texting While Driving in Illinois Now Banned

Thanks to your support and phone calls, we saw the Illinois Legislature pass a ban on texting while driving in 2009. As of Jan. 1, 2010, that legislation is law. Active Trans was there every step of the way pushing for this important law that limits distracted driving. Find out more about this and other 2009 victories at <http://www.activetrans.org/2009-legislative-agenda>.

Early Voting Starts at Wright

Early voting for the spring primaries is available at Wilbur Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., through Jan. 28.

Wright's early voting site is in the college's Science Building, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, including Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 18. Those who don't vote early must vote at their designated polling places on Feb. 2.

State law requires early voters to display valid identification before receiving a ballot. Valid forms of ID include a current driver's license, state-issued ID or another government-issued ID with a photograph.

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

Snow Days Chicago

Snow Days Chicago is a free three-day winter festival on Michigan Avenue in Grant Park featuring a national snow sculpting competition, dog sled demonstrations, a snowboard rail jam and kids activities! Bring the whole family and watch as the city is transformed into a winter wonderland, showcasing over 27 beautiful and unique sculptures made entirely out of snow!

What's Happening at Snow Days?

- Snow Sculpting Selected Teams
- High School Snow Sculpting Exhibition
- Activities Igloo
- Dogsled Racing & Weight Pulling Demonstrations
- Snowboard Rail Jam

Dates: Jan 29, 2010 - Jan 31, 2010

Hours: Friday, January 29: 4pm - 8pm

Saturday, January 30 & Sunday, January 31: 11am-8pm

Snow Sculpting will take place Wednesday, January 27-Saturday, January 30 at 3pm. Cast your vote for the "People's Choice Award" on Saturday from 11am-4pm and see who wins at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday at 6pm at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 3rd Floor Waldorf Room (open to the public).

For any last minute major changes to event including cancellation due to unsafe weather conditions, please call 3-1-1 for the most up-to-date information.

Location: Grant Park, S. Balbo & Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60603

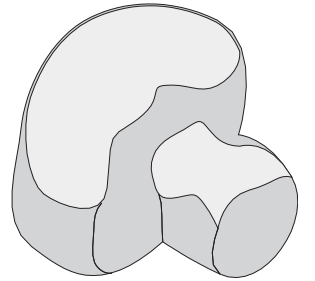
Admission: FREE



WILD MUSHROOMS

Mushrooms grow best when kept in the dark and fed bull dung. Today, it is often the case that service providers, elected officials, and businesses use this same methodology when dealing with customers and constituents. Unless we speak out and demand fair treatment, honesty, and transparency, this practice will continue and worsen. We are informed and active taxpayers, not wild mushrooms, and as such, it is our responsibility to hold to a higher standard those we have elected to represent us – after all, they are “public servants” first – and the businesses to which we choose to give our hard-earned money. Might does not equal right.

We want to hear from you at mushroom@ourvillagechicago.com. We hope that Wild Mushrooms will be a regular feature in this paper, an opportunity for readers to voice legitimate concerns about injustices they experience as consumers and as citizens.



SEE OUR NEW SECTION
“SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS”
ON PAGES 8 & 9

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DANK-Haus Announces 2010 Board of Directors

DANK Haus German American Cultural Center is pleased to announce the results of its 2010 election for the Board of Directors.

DANK Haus German American Cultural Center members elected Adalbert Bielski, Yvonne Frazier, Erich Freiberger and Dan Reichart each to a 3 year term on the Board of Directors. They will a their role beginning January 1, 2010. They join Susan Barton Heinen, James Dombrowski, Dagmar Freiberger, Josef Matuschka, Susanne Mickey, Sarah Miller, Scott Will and Angelique Wisler.

Adalbert Bielski has served one year as a Director previously. A graduate of Loyola University and a military veteran, Adalbert has a long standing interest in German traditions and a keen interest in keeping DANK Chicago and the local German clubs vibrant and growing for another generation.

Yvonne Frazier joins after 6 years of volunteer service, including the 2008 By-Laws Meeting and 3 years as administrator of Adult German classes. She also is a Head Volunteer at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Lincoln Square.

Erich Freiberger has served one year as a Director previously and has been Building Committee Chair for 3 years. He has performed in the German American band Paloma since he was 14 years old.

Dan Reichart joins the Board while completing his Masters in Tax Planning. Dan has served in highly visible roles at DANK events the last several years ensuring guest participation and satisfaction. Dan is eager to oversee DANK Haus future prosperity and prominence.

The 2010 Board of Directors elected the Executive Committee as follows;

Dagmar Freiberger, President
Susan Barton Heinen, 1st Vice President
Sarah Miller, 2nd Vice President
Angelique Wisler, Treasurer
Yvonne Frazier, Secretary

Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday at the Hilltop Family Restaurant, 2800 W. Foster (Northwest corner of Foster & California)

January 28th at 12:00pm.

Guest speaker: Illinois State Representative Gregory Harris.

For further information on programs and memberships, contact Dr. Ronald A. Heiderman at (773) 561-0455.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers January Health Programs

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, 5645 W. Addison St., Chicago, will offer the following health events in January.

A free lecture titled "Facts About Postpartum Depression" will be given Monday, January 25, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If left untreated, postpartum depression can last for months or years and possibly pose risks for new mothers and their babies. Join Sharon O'Malley, R.N., a registered nurse certified in inpatient obstetrics, who will define postpartum depression and discuss risk factors, signs, symptoms and treatment options. A question-and-answer session will follow. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

Free blood pressure screenings will be offered Monday, January 25, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the second floor Community Education Room. A health care professional will perform screenings and answer questions about blood pressure readings. Registration is not required.

The Arthritis Support Group will meet Thursday, January 28, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. These free sessions aim to provide mutual support and education. Registration is not required.

The Diabetes Support Group will meet Tuesday, February 2, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the second floor Community Education Room. These free sessions are tailored for adults who have Type 2 diabetes and focus on the emotional side of diabetes, allowing participants to share coping strategies, feelings and problems in living with diabetes. For further information about the Diabetes Support Group, call 773-794-8329.

Free parking is available in the hospital's parking facility on Addison Street.

2010 Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce and Ravenswood Community Council Business Luncheon Meeting

The Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce and Ravenswood Community Council are presenting a business luncheon meeting on Thursday, January 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Peppermill Restaurant, 1742 W. Wilson Avenue (corner of Wilson and Hermitage).

The guest speaker will be 47th Ward Alderman Gene Schulter, talking about the "State of the 47th Ward in 2010". Cost is \$15 for RCC and chamber members and non-members will be charged \$25.

Join your neighbors in the Ravenswood community and enjoy lunch, networking and hear about the projects and issues that will impact the Ravenswood community in the coming year.

RSVP your attendance to RCC at 773-784-0400 or the chamber at 773-561-5225, or email info@ravenswoodcommunity.org or ravenswoodchamber@msn.com by January 19th as space is limited.

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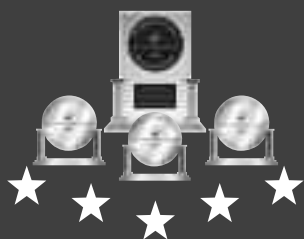
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CITY OF CHICAGO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Throughout these tough times in the economic global recession, the City of Chicago is offering some relief with its Property Tax Relief Program, recently proposed by Mayor Richard M. Daley and passed by City Council.

The program is meant to provide relief between \$25 and \$200 to City homeowners hit hardest by increases to their 2008 property tax bill for their primary residence.

Ald. Bernard Stone's 50th Ward Office has announced that real estate taxpayers with a minimum \$50.00 Real Estate Tax Bill, and a household income of \$0 to \$200,000 may be eligible for a Tax Relief Grant, if their taxes have been raised over \$50.00. Applications are now available at the Alderman's Lincoln Avenue office. Please stop by and pick one up! 6199 N Lincoln Avenue Lincoln Village Shopping Center - 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60659; phone: (773) 764-5050 fax: (773) 583-7823.

For more information or to fill out an application at webapps.cityofchicago.org/PropertyTaxReliefWeb/

DANK-Haus hosts Children's Mardi Gras event – KinderFasching!

The DANK-Haus in historic Lincoln Square will present KinderFasching, a winter celebration of the 5th season of the year - Carnival season!

Everyone is encouraged to come in costume - we'll have free face painting, a parade lead by the Prince & Princess, balloon artists, treats, performances by the Paloma band and the Amazonen Dance Corps.

It's a great way to spend a snowy afternoon and let the kids have a ball.

Refreshments available, especially krapfen - a traditional sugar doughnut prepared on site by our Culture Kitchen. Krapfen are 2 for \$1

You don't have to be German to enjoy this day of silliness!

The event is Saturday February 6, 2010 from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Children under 13 are Free. Guests 14 and over are \$4.

All events take place at the Historic DANK-Haus at 4740 N. Western Avenue in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood.

Phone: 773.561.9181 Website: www.dankhaus.com



Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation First Friday for the Family

A partnership between the Lincolnwood Town Center and Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department is bringing you A TASTE OF RECREATION. Sample what it's like to take a Zumba class, learn a new dance step, make a paper airplane, paint a picture, spend a morning at day camp and more. Join us for our inaugural, FIRST FRIDAY, on February 5th from 6 - 6:45pm in the Lincolnwood Town Center Food Court. The featured activity will be "Dance Like A Star" - Latin and Ballroom Dance with Tina Mangos. This activity is free and appropriate for the whole family!

Friday * February 5 6:00 - 6:45pm

Lincolnwood Town Center Mall, Food Court 3333 West Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood

Fee: FREE

Online registration is available by logging onto www.lincolnwoodil.org and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

Stage Wright to Hold Spring Musical Auditions

Open auditions for Stage Wright's spring musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, and Tuesday, Jan. 26, in the Events Building Theater of Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave.

Both actors and musicians are needed. Participants are encouraged to be enrolled students at Wright College. Show dates are April 15-25.

The script calls for five men and four women. Musicians are needed for the synthesizer, cello and percussion. There also is a need for players of reed instruments - alto saxophone, clarinet, flute and oboe.

The Tony Award-winning musical The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, is written by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn. The plot involves six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves. Together they learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

For additional information, call the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at (773) 481-8863.

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Your Party Place – Community Center Available for Rent

The Lincolnwood Community Center is part of the Parks and Recreation Department of the Village of Lincolnwood. We serve the community's recreational needs by offering various programs in our facility. However, when we're not serving the recreational needs of the community, we would like to make our Community Center available for rent to, businesses, individuals and families of Lincolnwood as well as those living nearby.

It is important for us to serve the public's recreational needs, but it's also important to assist families in attaining an affordable space to hold all types of functions, from birthday parties, bat/bar mitzvah parties, family reunions/celebrations, annual holiday parties, wedding engagements, retirement parties, to classroom enrichment programs and more.

We can fulfill almost every need of the community with our list of amenities including: round or rectangular tables, banquet chairs, kitchen, TV, podium, coffee pot, tablecloths and more. If you have a specific need that was not mentioned in our amenities list, talk to our staff to see if other arrangements can be made.

Availability is based upon seasonal Parks & Recreation Department programs and previously scheduled rentals. Stop by our facility, located at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue in Lincolnwood, for a tour of the building, to inquire about availability, or to pick up a renter information packet detailing prices, policies and procedures. Or you can contact the Parks and Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740 for more information.



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Saturdays 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie

Live Models/no instructor

Fees per session: Sag Members \$12; non-members \$20.

For information call: Richard Wilberg 847-677-3461

or Skokieartguild.org



CALL FOR ARTISTS:

Skokie Art Guild's 49th Annual Art Fair. July 10-11, 2010. Fine Art. Held downtown Skokie on the Village Green, 5211 Oakton (next to the Library). Prizes and Awards! **APPLY NOW!** For information/application: skokieart@aol.com www.skokieartguild.org 847-677-8163.

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GREAT OUTDOORS

KILBOURN PARK ORGANIC GREENHOUSE WINTER ORGANIC GARDEN SERIES

Discover the wonderful world of nature! Spark your curiosity and explore the fun & educational offerings at Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., the Chicago Park District's only park with a teaching organic greenhouse. The 2010 winter series is designed for adults 18 & over in mind. Register for winter programs in-person at the park.

Organic Vegetable Gardening Part II

Anna Viertel, Urban Farmer at Near North Montessori School

Saturday, January 23, 10-Noon Fee: \$20

Now that you have learned to build a strong foundation for your sustainable garden, it's time to discuss maximizing the productivity of your garden. In this class, Anna Viertel will discuss design and planting techniques to help reduce pests and disease while simultaneously encouraging a healthy, high yield garden both above and below the ground. Topics will include companion planting, crop rotation, soil maintenance, season extension, and permaculture.

Bicyclists Warm Up With Winter Biking Celebration Jan. 20

What: Bicyclists around the region will celebrate biking winter on the annual Winter Bike to Work Day. The Active Transportation Alliance will host a celebration outside of its office where bicyclists can warm up with free coffee and tea from Caribou and delicious Eli's Cheesecake.

The day marks the coldest day in Chicago history – Jan. 20, 1985, when the official temperature at O'Hare International Airport was negative 27 degrees with 36 mph wind gusts, producing wind chills as low as 93 degrees below zero.

Where: Active Transportation Alliance headquarters (9 W. Hubbard St, Chicago)

When: Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6:30-9 a.m.

Make it Easier to Walk in a Winter Wonderland

Snow sure is beautiful, but it is more than a pain when it isn't shoveled. Shoveling the snow isn't just the neighborly thing to do – in many places (including Chicago) it's the law! We are asking you to spread the word in your neighborhood about shoveling the sidewalk. Download and distribute fliers that thank and remind neighbors and local businesses about the importance of clear sidewalks. Find them on our website at www.activetrans.org/shovel.

Feed the Birds: Construction and Conservation in One Afternoon Session

On Saturday, Jan. 23, from 2-4 p.m., the Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick, will be sponsoring a class for anyone 7 years or older accompanied by an adult, which will include all the materials needed to build your own bird-feeder.

This is a wonderful way to learn about nature, and the center will even provide you with enough seed to get you started. The fee is \$25 per feeder for either residents or nonresidents of Evanston. For more information or to preregister, call 847/448-8256.

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Youth, Teens to Learn from the Pros at Horner Park Pro Scout Baseball Clinic Coaches, Scouts Teach Fundamentals at Annual Event

Come work out with the pros at Horner Park's 3rd Annual Pro-Scout Baseball Clinic on Saturday, January 16 and Sunday, January 17 at Horner Park, 2741 W. Montrose Ave., in Chicago.

The baseball scouts will join coaches from local high schools to teach clinics covering hitting, catching, pitching, infield and outfield techniques and drills for players ages 8-15. Following each clinic, parents and students will have an opportunity to ask any of the coaches' questions. Each child will receive a clinic t-shirt and a chance to win Wilson Sporting equipment. All participants are asked to bring their own glove and bat.

Register online @ www.hornerpark.org or in-person on Sundays from 1-4pm. Checks should be made payable to Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC). Registration continues until the clinics are filled. Register for both days and receive a discount. Limited spots available, so early registration is suggested.

Saturday, January 16, 2010 Strictly Hitting, Bunting & Conditioning 9:30am-12:30pm ages: 8-15, fee \$30 1:30-4:30pm ages: 8-15, fee \$30

Strictly Pitching & Conditioning 10 am-12:30pm ages: 8-15, fee \$25 2-4:30pm ages: 8-15, fee \$25

Sunday, January 17, 2010 Pitching, Hitting, Catching, Infield, and Outfield Techniques 10am-2pm ages: 8-15, fee \$45

The clinic will feature - Al Hergesheimer - Pitched 12 years in the Major Leagues that included the Chicago Cubs. For the past 10 years Al has been the top scout for the Detroit Tigers. Al is currently the International Scouting Director to the Nippon Fighters in Sapporo, Japan.

For further information about this clinic call Horner Park supervisor Tom McManamon at 773.478.3499.

The clinic is co-sponsored by the Horner Park Advisory Council and Wilson Sporting Goods.

Urban Wildlife Coalition: In Praise of the Pigeon

Q: Why don't pigeons go south for the winter like other birds? – Matthew, age 7, Edison Park resident

A: Most pigeons (the urban dwellers you see are rock pigeons) have acclimated to their environment and do not need to migrate to warmer locales come winter. Originally, they were rock and cliff dwellers who have adapted remarkably well to cities – a viaduct or building ledge is really just a concrete cliff to them!

Many people regard pigeons as "feathered rats," but they are gentle birds that are tough and smart enough to survive pollution, traffic, freezing temperatures, and human attempts to get rid of them. A few interesting facts about pigeons:

Built-in GPS. Pigeons can sense Earth's geomagnetic field, enabling them to find their way back home across vast distances. They also have incredibly sensitive hearing and can see polarized light in the sky.

Omnivores. They'll eat just about anything to survive, but prefer seeds and grains.

Pigeons lay eggs throughout the year (even in the winter) and hatch about four, five, even 10 broods per year!

They've been used as reliable messengers since the 5th century BC. In fact, they've received honors from French and British governments for facilitating war-time communication.

Pigeons were likely to have been the first species ever domesticated.

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.urbanwildlife-coalition.org. Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at urbanwildlife-coalition@gmail.com.



Ecology Center Great Backyard Bird Count

Your backyard is filled with nature's splendor! Join the Ecology Center from Feb. 13-16 in a joint project of the Cornell Ornithology and Audubon Society in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Inspire the bird watcher in you while helping the environment at the same time. Drop by the center between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. sometime between Feb. 12-16, at 2024 McCormick for a brief training on what to look for and how to record your information. For more details, call 847-448-8256.

Give Aging Parents the Gift of a Better, Affordable Lifestyle

This is the time of year when many adult children get together with their parents to celebrate the holidays. While spending quality time together, you may notice changes in one or both of your parents. Little things like weight loss, a lack of attention to appearance or a noticeable change in personality may worry you. It's difficult to see that the people who have always helped you may now need your help.

Some people are hesitant to look into retirement community living. In addition to the inherent desire to preserve the status quo, they think it's only for sick people or that it will cost too much money.

This just isn't the case with Supportive Living, a little-known housing option for seniors in Illinois. Supportive Living communities provide quality accommodations, assistance as needed and robust activity and social calendars—all at an affordable rate with financial assistance available to those who qualify.

In these communities seniors can live independently in their own apartments with their own familiar furniture, artwork and personal belongings. They are free to go shopping, visiting or travel as they please. They can opt for a little assistance with cleaning and restaurant-style dining or more help, if needed, with things like medication assistance and personal grooming.

Change is difficult at any age, but we've all learned through life experiences like going away to college, getting married or switching careers that change is often for the best. So, when your parents are showing signs that living alone in their existing home may be too much work and upkeep for them, particularly if you are concerned about finances, consider looking into Supportive Living. Start by visiting www.slfillinois.com. Then tour a Supportive Living community near you and meet the people who live there to help you determine if it could be a good fit for your parents. It could be the best gift you give them this holiday season.

Rhonda Aumann, Executive Director,

Victory Centre of Galewood in Chicago 773-385-5002

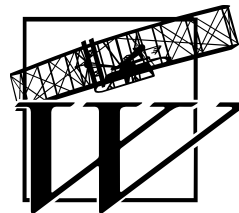
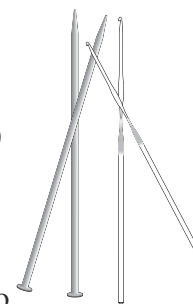
Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Join the Lincolnwood Social Club (55+)

Are you tired of staying home? Would you like to do fun and exciting things? Do you want to make a few new friends? Then why not join the Lincolnwood Social Club 55+. You do not have to be a resident of Lincolnwood to join. We go to exciting places every week in addition to the numerous special events held at our Community Center. Give us a call and find out what we are all about, our number is (847) 677-9740. This is one phone call you won't be sorry that you made.

Come Knit With Us at the Eisenhower Public Library

Come knit with us Sunday, January 17 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. We'll provide the patterns and yarn if you bring the needles (size 10) and time! If you prefer to knit at home or if it just isn't long enough, drop off your work at the Library any time in the month of January and we'll send it along to one of three charities: Knit a Square, 8" x 8", to be sent to the Soweto Comfort Club and made into blankets for orphans in and around Johannesburg. It is estimated that there are 11.6 million orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1.4 million of whom live in South Africa. The Comfort Club will join the squares and distribute the blankets to AIDS orphans and other abandoned children. The Snuggles Project was founded in 1996 to provide security blankets for shelter animals. Each Snuggle provides warmth and comfort to an animal waiting to be adopted. Knit Your Bit for a World War II veteran. Knit a simple, cozy scarf to be donated by the National World War II Museum to a veteran in a Veterans Center somewhere in the United States.

EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY
4613 N. Oketo Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL 60706
(708) 867-7828



Registration Open for 2010 Senior Discounts at Wright

Senior citizens are entitled to a discount on Wilbur Wright College classes and admittance to social events when they join the Golden Age Club at the college, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave.

Seniors who join the club, which costs \$99, can choose four courses to attend from a menu of dozen courses for the spring 2010 semester, which begins in January. Many of these classes would cost more than \$50 individually. Golden Age Club membership also entitles seniors to a 50% discount on any additional classes.

The list of courses included in the spring 2010 program is long. It includes Senior Morning Workout, Introduction to Brian Gym, Retirement Planning Today, Spanish for Seniors, Film Discussion Series, Floral Design, Care of Houseplants, Body Wisdom, Aqua-Cardio Water Exercise, Muscle Up and Beginning Adult Swim and Intro to Microcomputers.

The social events will be informal gatherings featuring lectures, music and refreshments. Dates are to be announced. Wright launched this special program because research has shown the physical and mental health benefits to senior citizens of staying active.

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



*Mom always helped you with the big decisions.
Here's your chance to return the favor.*

It's not easy finding the right situation for your mom as her health needs change. The answer is The Highlands of Evanston Assisted Living community at Westminster Place.

Our experienced staff is specially trained to provide your mother with the attention and care she deserves. Registered nurses administer medication, while resident assistants check on her, help with dressing, and keep her safe 24 hours a day.

We also give your mom, dad or Aunt Betty every opportunity to enjoy life to the fullest. We encourage residents to have new experiences, plus continue doing the things they love.

Because at Presbyterian Homes and The Highlands of Evanston Assisted Living community, caring is more than just a word – it's a different language. To reserve a time for lunch and a visit, call Carol Tatarowicz at 847-866-1615.

THE HIGHLANDS OF EVANSTON AT WESTMINSTER PLACE

3131 Simpson (Golf Road) • Evanston, Illinois 60201 • 847-866-1615 • www.presbyterianhomes.org



Bosley Bad Bones

Happy New Year My furry friends! I hope that everyone has recovered from the craziness of the Howlidays! Was Santa Paws good to everyone? If not, maybe you should work on begin a better pooch this year; just a friendly suggestion!

Barking about being better, I have a bone to pick with my Human. Last year my pack and I were on our best behavior, we truly put up with a lot from he!. With her new business venture she put us last. Being the understanding pooch that I am, I know why; she tells us how she is making a better life for us; but enough already!

I was participating in agility classes and love it. I miss the class and my furry friends! I have been good and pawtient so we should go back, right? So, I have a plan in mind! Since being good isn't working, here comes Bosley Bad Bones! I am going to show her; so I have devised a plan! What drives my human mad is stealing food from the counters. She has worked hard teaching us that the counters are off limits. So, this will show her! I will wait and steal something good!

Wait a minute! She is packing the agility bag! What is going on I wonder? Then she tells, "Well, guys next week we are finally going back to class!" Woof! Woof! I am so excited and now I don't have to be bad! However, I will keep that idea just in case because you never know when your Human needs a lesson!

Bosley Bad Bones (my alter ego)

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



Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

Part 3

by Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

Holiday Decorations/Packages

Many people place decorations throughout the house including lights, evergreen branches, holiday knickknacks and other assorted objects to provide a festive environment. We have discussed some of these dangers previously. Lit candles can burn a curious pet or could be knocked over and start a fire. Centerpieces of dangling streamers and feather fronds are enticing to the curious pet. If chewed and swallowed, these materials can cause an intestinal blockage. Icicles and tinsel draped on a mantle are as dangerous as tinsel on a tree. Monitor your pets and watch out for any evidence of chewing on these objects.

Wrapped presents can pose a hazard to pets. They are attracted to the decorative bows, ribbons and other frills placed on the packages. If your pet would chew and swallow these materials, there is a risk of intestinal blockage. Food packages wrapped as gifts and left under a tree can entice a hungry animal. With their keen sense of smell they can sniff these out and decide to have a feast. Exercise caution with these types of presents around pets, especially dogs.

Poisonous Plants

Many homes are decorated each year during the holiday season with poinsettias and mistletoe. These plants do represent the season; unfortunately they are toxic for our pets and represent a problem for curious dogs, cats and birds. Poinsettias produce a milky sap that is irritating to the skin and eyes on contact and to the gastrointestinal tract if eaten. It may cause irritation and blistering of the mucous membranes of the mouth and stomach. Intake of large amounts of mistletoe may cause nausea, vomiting and gastroenteritis. Make sure that these plants are kept out of the reach of your pets. If you do catch you pet eating a poinsettia or a few loose mistletoe berries, seek veterinary care immediately.

Relieve Pet Stress During the Holidays

The holidays are stressful times for all of us. The commotion in decorating, purchasing gifts and entertaining can be overwhelming to many people. Our homes can be filled with people, especially young children. Many pets, even if not aggressive or territorial, are stressed by the increased numbers of strangers 'intruding' in their domain. The high activity level of children can be a new and stressful experience for many pets unaccustomed to this behavior. Birds can become especially upset during the holidays, particularly the larger varieties of birds. Routine is very important to birds and if that routine changes, they can become frustrated and engage in abnormal behavior. These types of behavior include, aggressiveness, screaming, biting or development of vices such as the picking off or chewing of their own feathers in frustration, which if allowed to continue can become a habit.

If possible, try to provide your pets with a consistent level of interaction with you so they do not feel left out. This is especially important with parrots. Try not to let the pandemonium of the holidays lead to stress in your pets. If you feel that your pets are uncomfortable around new people, it may be best to separate them from the holiday activity. Provide your pets with an area where they can be alone. Cats may enjoy an intricate 'kitty condo' set up or even a cardboard box or paper bags in which to hide. For pet birds that are nervous, you might have to place the cage in a quiet room or, if that is impossible, partially or completely cover the cage so that the bird has the ability to 'hide.' Make sure that your young guests understand that they must let the animals rest when they are put in their area of 'refuge.'

I hope that this discussion will assist you in keeping your home safe for your pets during the holidays. During all the activity, we must not forget the welfare of our pets and our responsibility to keep them free of danger. If you practice the proper preventative measures, the holiday season for your pet will be as happy as it is for you and your family.

Niles Animal Hospital & Bird Medical Center. 7278 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles



Anti-Cruelty Society

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

What is Your New Year's resolution?

Perhaps your holiday consisted of too many sweets, overindulging, or more. We've got the cure! Join our Chicago Marathon and half marathon teams! To find out how, email events@anticruelty.org.

Looking for a great way to give back to your community? Donate or volunteer! Prepare animals to meet their forever families, facilitate life-long bonds, and network with other animal-loving friends along the way. Contact our Volunteer Department at (312)644-8338 ext. 313 or email volunteer@anticruelty.org.

Or how about taking up a new hobby? Attend Paint Your Pet! Our annual pet portrait painting party will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2010, 6:30p.m. - 9:30p.m. at Catalyst Ranch in Chicago. Several well-known artists will be on hand to give you tips and pointers and help you learn what it takes to become a pro! For more information email events@anticruelty.org.

Whatever your resolution may be, make a difference - Join our community of caring today!

Law Governing Pets

The boulevards, parkways and parks in our area are lovely places to walk - until, OOPS, you find your foot in canine fecal matter - dog poop, for short. There is nothing you can do. It is there in the ridges and contours of your shoe.

For everyone who has muttered, "There should be a law," the news is good. There is a law! Ordinance 7-12-420 of the City Code states, "No person shall appear with a pet upon the public ways or within public places or upon the property of another, absent that person's consent, without some means for the removal of excrement; nor shall any person fail to remove any excrement deposited by such pet." There is a penalty for violating the ordinance: "Any person found to have been in violation of this section shall be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense."

In addition to their status as a public nuisance, pet owners violating the law can be classified as public health hazards. Rotting fecal matter spreads disease, feeds rodents, and attracts insects.

The responsibility of pet ownership includes a responsibility to the pet's neighbors. Bag the dog waste, tie it up, and dispose of it with your garbage. It's the law!

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Edison Park Community Council \$3,000 Scholarship Announced

The Edison Park Community Council is proud to present its 2010 Scholarship Award. The scholarship is \$3,000 to be awarded to an Edison Park resident attending college or trade school starting in the fall 2010. Eligibility requirements and instructions for application are described below.

Eligibility: Applicant must be 21 years of age or younger, a high school graduate and beginning their first year of college or trade school in the fall of 2010

Applicant must be an Edison Park resident at the time of application

Applicant may not be the child of a current director or officer of the Edison Park Community Council or Edison Park Chamber of Commerce

Applicant must submit a completed application packet to the Edison Park Community Council on or before Friday, February 5th, 2010.

Selection Criteria: Applicants will be judged on a 500-word essay, on a topic that will be provided, by a panel of judges comprised of officers and directors of the Edison Park Community Council.

Application Instructions: A completed application packet must be submitted to the Edison Park Community Council on or before Friday, February 5th, 2010. The application should include the following:

A completed application form

A copy of applicant's drivers' license or other identification as verification of the applicant's residency

A personal reference (see form) from one Edison Park resident (not a family member)

A copy of the letter from the college, university or trade school indicating the applicant's acceptance into a program of study beginning in fall 2010 (If not available at application, a copy must be provided prior to disbursement of funds)

500 word essay (topic to be provided – see form)

Mail or hand deliver completed application packet to: April Smith, Edison Park Community Council College Scholarship, 6730 N. Olmsted, Chicago, IL 60631

Additional Information: Application packets are available online at www.edisonpark.com by clicking on the Edison Park Community Council link. Please call (773) 631-0063 for more information.

Dank-Haus Presents: German Cinema Now

Your favorite contemporary films with English subtitles will be at 7 pm on the 4th Friday of every month in 2010. January - Downfall; February - Aquirre: Wrath of God; March - Knockin on Heaven's Door

As always - free admission, free popcorn, refreshments available

All events take place at the Historic DANK-Haus at 4740 N. Western Avenue in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood.

Phone: 773.561.9181 Website: www.dankhaus.com



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FULL BASEMENT, CENTRAL AIR

LOOKING FOR RENTERS IN NORWOOD AND JEFFERSON PARK

Village Cooking Corner

With the Superbowl right around the corner, here's a great dish to serve while watching the game.

Big Point Spread (Football dip)

by Unknown Football Fan

2- 8oz. packages Philadelphia cream cheese (softened)
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup Kraft grated Parmesan cheese
1 2 1/2 oz. package smoked sliced beef (chopped well)
2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
1 teaspoon horseradish
Chopped nuts.



Combine cream cheese and mayonnaise, mixing until well-blended. Stir in cheese, beef, onion and horseradish. Chill. Shape into football-shape, roll in nuts. Garnish with pimento strips. (3 cups)

Serve with Rye Crisp, Garlic Rounds, or celery sticks.

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Swing & Smooth Dance Workshop

Foxtrot and swing for any occasion. Begin with the foundation of these dances in the first segment and progress to more advanced moves. Beginners, stay for the second segment and use that time to practice and get additional help. The most-practical of the social dances, you'll dance to big band and contemporary music, from Frank Sinatra and Motown. Then you can join us two weeks later for our Social Dance Night. For more information, contact www.TinaMangos-Dance.com.

Wednesday * February 3 7:30 – 9:15pm Ages: 16+

Lincolnwood Community Center * 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue

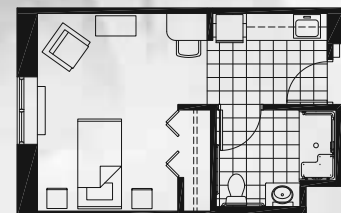
\$12 Lincolnwood Resident; \$15 Non-Resident

Online registration is available by logging onto www.lincolnwoodil.org and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

St. Hyacinth Basilica School Students Win Patriot's Pen Awards



St. Hyacinth Basilica School is proud to have two of their upper grade students win Honorable mention for The Patriot's Pen Awards. Students from around the Chicago area schools competed in an essay contest, which they prepared for months and worked along with the 2nd District VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. Members of the organization recognized all of the students' hard work and said,

"We gratefully acknowledge the contestants for their participation in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Contests. They are a group of young Americans with whom it has been our pleasure to work with these past few months."

On January 10, 2010 the Second District Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary presented two Patriot's Pen District and Post Awards of Honorable Mention to two of our St. Hyacinth Basilica School students. Congratulations to Emily Barreto, 6th Grade, and Zachary E.R. Utterback, 7th Grade, who were recognized for their Patriot's Pen Youth essay on, "When is the right time to honor our military heroes?" The awards were held at Messiah Lutheran Church Hall, 6201 W. Patterson. The 2nd District Youth Chairmen, Clare and Bob Drzewiecki gave the awards to our students.

SPACE (Southport Performing Arts Conservatory) ANNOUNCES 2010 WINTER MUSIC AND DANCE CLASSES

Variety of Music, Dance and Movement classes in two convenient Chicago locations appeal to a wide-range of abilities and interests

SPACE (Southport Performing Arts Conservatory) has released the schedule for their Winter II 2010 music, dance and movement classes. The 8-week Winter II session which begins January 4, 2010 and continues through February 27, 2010, provides a wide-range of performing art classes designed for toddlers through adult.

Chicago's SPACE is a European-style performing arts conservatory that provides instruction in music and dance. Founded in 2005, SPACE has fueled the artistic dreams and aspirations of hundreds of artists from ages pre-school through adult. SPACE provides personalized instruction for all levels of artistic ability and offers a large range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Gifted Program.

Dedicated to expanding the beauty and love of the performing arts to students in the Chicago area, SPACE's Community Engagement Program is available to all public and private schools from Pre-k through high school. SPACE's specially designed Community Engagement Program meets the Illinois Board of Education's performing arts standards.

SPACE has two Chicago locations at 1439 W. Wellington Ave., 773-880-1701, and at 3433 W. Peterson Ave., 773-463-1220. For more information about SPACE, please call either office numbers or visit the website at www.southportarts.com

Young Chicago Critics Movie Camp Now Accepting Applications!

Session 1: June 23-July 2 (Ages 11-14 & 7-10) Session 2: July 7-16 (Ages 11-14)

Does Your Child LOVE Movies?

Don't miss out on the ONLY summer camp where kids 7 to 14 learn to critique, write and create films just like the pros!

Facets' Young Chicago Critics gives kids a foundation in the technique, grammar and process of film production. Using innovative team teaching approaches, teachers, filmmakers and critics involve kids in what it takes to create a film.

YCC Application Deadline: April 30

Now in its 9th year, Young Chicago Critics gives kids who LOVE movies a chance to understand filmmaking from behind the scenes. Instruction includes:

- The basics of filmmaking techniques, including camera angles, shots, lighting, sound recording, acting style, screenwriting and film vocabulary.
- A foundation in film criticism including written and on-camera reviews.
- Dozens of hands-on activities, including creating a movie.

Developed by Facets Multi-Media, a leading, national, non-profit film organization, Young Chicago Critics opens up the world of film to creative youngsters, giving them the essential tools for self-expression. Young Chicago Critics work with kid-friendly filmmakers, critics and teachers, and play an active role in every part of the camp. Go to <http://www.cicff.org/> for more information.



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- Close-knit school/Parish community



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and see first-hand how special St. Edward is!
Sunday, January 31st,
10:45 am - 12:45 pm

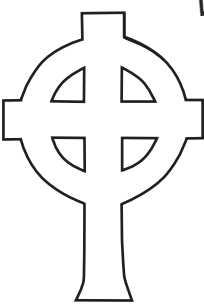


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- Active family participation!

2010-2011 REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 1!

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7750 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge, IL 60706

www.stpriscillaacademy.org - (708)452-0323 f: (708) 452-0494



Free Health and Wellness Series

The Academy St. Priscilla at Divine Savior is hosting Free fitness and health information programs. The programs will be held in our school hall on Wednesday mornings.

January 20 at 9:30 a.m. - Dr. Park, Pediatric Dentist

Please call the office to reserve your spot or for more information about the upcoming programs, at (708) 452-0323

THE ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER EVENTS

"ANNE FRANK: ON THE AIR" THEATRE PRODUCTION

What: The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will host the theatre production of "Anne Frank: On The Air," a radio-style presentation of Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank. This production, by GreatWorks Theatre Company, portrays a group of 1940s radio actors performing a new script, not realizing the story they're dramatizing is actually true. "Anne Frank: On The Air" is recommended for students in grades 6 and up.

When: Sunday, January 17, 1:30 p.m.

Who: Students in Grades 6 and up

Tickets: Museum members and students: \$15 / Non-members: \$20. Museum admission included. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED -- Call 847.967.4889 or visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org

Where: Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Goodman Auditorium, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie

CHILDREN'S EVENT: DIARY WORKSHOP

What: The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center will host a diary-writing workshop for families with children ages 8 to 11. The workshop will honor the legacy of Anne Frank and Zlata Filipović, two young girls who captured tragic events in history by writing in their diaries. Similar to Anne Frank, Zlata cataloged the horrors of war in Sarajevo in her diary from 1991 to 1993. Both Frank and Filipović's journals give the world insight into living with war from the eyes of an innocent adolescent. Workshop attendees will learn the stories of Frank and Filipović while creating their own personal diary to take home. This workshop is geared toward families and children ages 8 to 11, and is limited to 30 participants.

When: Sunday, January 24, 11:00 a.m.

Who: Children ages 8 to 11 years old, accompanied by an adult

Tickets: Museum admission, plus materials fee. Museum members: \$5 / Non-members: \$7 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED -- Call 847.967.4889 or visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org

Where: Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie

LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Daddy/Daughter Dance

We have a magical night planned that includes dinner, dancing and fun! Please join us for our annual Daddy Daughter Dance at Monastero's Ristorante where we will start the evening off with a buffet dinner including kid-friendly items such as chicken tenders, french fries and pizza squares. Of course we will also have plenty of healthy options too including salad, mixed vegetables and pasta. Dancing and DJ-led games will start immediately following dinner. New for this year is the addition of a hugely popular photo booth, ready to capture all of your 2010 Daddy Daughter Dance memories of the evening! Come dressed in your finest party-wear and dance, dance, dance the night away! Please register by January 22. (Min 25 Couples / Max 120 Couples)

Friday * February 5 6:00 – 9:00pm Ages: Grades K – 6th

Monastero's Ristorante, 3935 W. Devon Ave.,

Lincolnwood Resident: \$55 per couple * \$15 each additional daughter Non-Resident: \$69 per couple * \$20 each additional daughter

Online registration is available by logging onto www.lincolnwoodil.org and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button. For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

St. Peter Catholic School News

On January 28 at 7:00 PM, St. Peter School will host the annual Knights of Columbus Spelling B in the auditorium. Students from St. Peter, St. Joan of Arc and St. Lambert will participate.

On January 31 at 11:30 AM, St. Peter School will host an Open House to begin Catholic Schools Week. Anyone interested in attending St. Peter School is cordially invited. An Education and Book Fair will take place concurrently in the auditorium.

Please mark your calendars for March 13 which is the date for the St. Peter Silent Auction. We will have a special raffle and we encourage all families and friends to support this important fundraising event. For more information please call 1-847-673-0918.

St. Peter Catholic School is located at 8140 Niles Center Road, Skokie, IL.

St. Paul Lutheran School News

Students at St. Paul Lutheran, 5650 N. Canfield Ave. Chicago, were busy helping others in need by collecting pennies in November and December to buy pies for St. Cyprian Food Pantry. The Chicago Uptown Ministry Food Pantry also received a donation of more than 400 lbs. of food provided by St. Paul Church and School families. St. Paul's Student Council organized a collection to purchase Christmas gifts for children in need in the community. Student Council members bought gifts and on December 15th helped distribute the Christmas gifts to families and individuals at St. Cyprians. The PTL is hosting a Family Fitness Night on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30pm in the school gymnasium. All are welcome to attend this free event featuring a fun family workout and healthy snacks. More details at www.stpaulwildcats.org or call the school office at 708-867-5044.

St. Paul Lutheran School, 5650 N. Canfield Ave. Chicago, is hosting an Open House for prospective students PreKindergarten 3 year old – Eighth Grade and their families on Sunday, January 31st from 1-4pm. Teachers from each class will be on hand to provide information and answer questions along with parents and students giving tours of the facility. Refreshments will be served. For 107 years, St. Paul has been providing children with a quality Christian education in a nurturing environment. St. Paul Lutheran offers small class sizes, a comprehensive curriculum including Spanish (K -8th grade), art, music, physical education, library, computers in the classrooms as well as a mobile computer lab of laptops. Additional highlights include: Full-day and Half-day preschool program and Kindergarten options, a full-time Special Education Resource teacher; 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 or contact Debbie Townsend, School Principal at 708-867-5044 with questions or to schedule a visit.

ADULT GERMAN CLASSES SPRING 2010
WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
SATURDAYS 9:00 AM TO NOON

REGISTRATION

JANUARY 20 AND JANUARY 27 6:00-8:00 PM

\$290 per semester for non-members

Books an additional \$85 used for multiple semesters

That works out to approx \$20 per week!

Wednesdays

Saturdays

18 weeks beginning January 27

18 weeks beginning January 30

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

9:00 am to noon

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The MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland

Are you a new mother? Looking for support and friendship? Are the kids driving you crazy and you need to get out of the house? Then the MOMS Club is the answer. MOMS (Moms offering Moms support) Club of Northern Chicagoland is a local chapter of the International MOMS Club, a non-profit support group designed for the at-home-Mother and their children. MOMS Club has over 2,000 chapters and more than 100,000 members worldwide. The Northern Chicagoland chapter incorporates all of Northwest Chicago (including Edgebrook, Sauganash, Jefferson Park, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Oriole Park, etc), Skokie, Niles, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Park Ridge, Des Plaines, Glenview, Norridge and Harwood Heights.

The goal of MOMS Club is to provide a supportive environment for the at-home mother. Often staying home is quite a change for a mother with young children, especially if coming from a professional career. It can be a very isolating experience. MOMS club helps connect and build friendships for mothers and their children with other mothers and children who are in a similar stage in life.

MOMS Club is a very active organization. Every week there are 3-4 activities that moms can choose to attend with their children. Such activities include playgroups, park dates, museum and zoo trips, seasonal holiday parties, service projects, etc. Also, every month the club has a member meeting where childcare is provided so members can listen to a guest speaker (such as chef demonstrating cooking tips for picky eaters) or take part in an activity (such as a relaxation expert providing free massages). Additionally, there is a monthly Moms Night Out where moms meet (without their children) for an evening of fun and friendship (usually at a local restaurant).

The MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland will be holding its Winter Open House for current members and any moms interested in joining on Friday, January 22nd, 9:00am-11:00am at the Park Ridge Library. Bring your kids, meet current members. This is a perfect way to see if MOMS Club is for you! For more information, visit our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago> or email chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

The Academy of St. Priscilla

The Academy of St. Priscilla has established quite a distinctive educational opportunity during its short existence. This Primary School of Excellence offers a differentiated learning program that caters to the individual student. There are dually certified teachers in both classrooms along with experienced aides that allow for a low student to teacher ratio. All staff members have been trained to teach and effectively use the Rowland Reading Program. This is a unique opportunity that has been bestowed upon us by the Rowland Reading Foundation along with a select group of additional schools within the Archdiocese.

The school year has been very busy and exciting. In addition to using the new reading program, the students are busy using the new Smartboards in each classroom, going on educational field trips, celebrating special events with their families and most importantly, learning about their faith and community. The bonus of being at Divine Savior is that we are centrally located. The children have taken walking field trips to the Eisenhower Library, The Norwood Park Fire Dept and the Norridge Village Office. There is also an amazing outdoor space for recess, gym and exceptional learning experiences as well.

We hope to continue to grow. Our Open house is Jan. 31 from 11am-1pm in which we will begin taking registration for new families. The support we have felt from not only our current families, but from Divine Savior and local businesses, has already been quite overwhelming and generous. We continue to try and raise funds to help with school essentials. On April 30, 2010, we will be hosting a gala event to toast to our new year! This event is open to all. If you would like to support our efforts further, please call Jennifer Hodge @708-452-0323 or visit our new website www.stpriscillaacademy.org.
By: Tanya Boyle, Pre-School Teacher



ST. PAUL SCHOOL

Faith, Tradition *and* Academic Excellence



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Living Trusts Enhance Privacy Protection



One of our primal fears is the fear of not having privacy and the protections which privacy provides. Today, anyone can find a great deal of information about you by doing simple online searches. This article discusses the privacy advantages of having a Revocable Living Trust, there are more than you may know. A qualified, estate-planning attorney can help you create a trust to protect your privacy and provide peace of mind both during life and after your death.

Chester M. Przybylo A common recurring nightmare is finding yourself in a public place without any clothing. This nightmare cuts to the heart of one of our primal fears: the fear of not having privacy and the protections which privacy provides.

Today, nosy neighbors, or those with more malicious intentions, can find a great deal of information about you by doing simple online searches. If you value your privacy, you probably have an unlisted telephone number. But, did you know that someone may be able to find where you live simply by knowing your name, even if you have an unlisted telephone number? If you own your home, a search of county property records typically will reveal a list of the properties owned by you. If you're not Donald Trump, it would be fairly simple to determine which property is your residence.

For many of us, this only leads to minor annoyances like junk mail. However, for law enforcement officers, security officers, educators, politicians, local personalities, doctors and others, it could lead to embarrassment or even a compromise of your family's safety. Imagine a mentally disturbed criminal knowing where the arresting officer's family lives. That's a scary thought! You can imagine your own nightmare scenario.

But, you can reduce the possibility of that nightmare becoming a reality by enhancing your privacy with a Revocable Living Trust. If the Trust owns your home and other property, it is the name of the Trust and Trustee which appears in the property records, not your name. If you could have a friend serve as Trustee, then a search for your name would not locate any property owned by the Trust.

A Trust has additional privacy advantages at your death. Property held in your individual name must go through "probate" at your death. Probate is a public process in which the nature and extent of your assets are a matter of public record. With probate, the names of your beneficiaries are a matter of public record. Since a Trust does not die, no probate is necessary. A Trust is private, even at your death. With a Trust, the nosy neighbor will not be able to find out your very personal wishes nor what you owned at your death. Nor will these unscrupulous characters, who might seek to take advantage of your family when they are at their most vulnerable.

A qualified, estate-planning attorney who focuses in this field can help you create a Trust to protect your privacy and provide peace of mind both during life and after your death.

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.

Social Security: RETIREMENT ESTIMATOR EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE

By Andrew Salata Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Improvements to one of the most popular online services in government — the Retirement Estimator, located at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator — allow more people than ever before to get a personalized and instant estimate of future Social Security retirement benefits.

Since its launch last year, the Retirement Estimator has provided more than four million personalized estimates, and is one of the most highly rated online services in government.

The most recent customer satisfaction numbers are at an all-time high. The latest report from the American Customer Satisfaction Index for E-Government ranks the Retirement Estimator as the top service at 91 percent. It is followed closely by Social Security's online retirement application, with a 90 percent customer satisfaction rating and the Medicare Extra Help application, with an 87 percent rating. These three Social Security services are the top three online services in government.

You may be wondering: if the Retirement Estimator is the most popular online service in government, what can be done to improve it?

One major improvement is that more people will be able to use it. Previously, people who had not yet filed for monthly Social Security benefits but who were already enrolled in Medicare were not able to take advantage of the service. Now they can. So if you have Medicare coverage but have delayed filing for your Social Security benefits and you would like to get an estimate of your future benefits, just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Other improvements are coming soon. Next year, the Retirement Estimator will be the first online service available in Spanish.

Would you like to get an immediate and personalized estimate of your retirement benefits right now? Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. To get an estimate, you'll need to enter your first and last name, date and place of birth, Social Security number, and mother's maiden name. If the information matches Social Security's records, the Retirement Estimator combines this information with the information that Social Security has on record, including your yearly earnings, to provide a quick and reliable online benefit estimate.

While you're checking out the most popular online service in government, try out some of our other online services and information as well. You can find it all at www.socialsecurity.gov

CJE SENIORLIFE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ROBINEAU RESIDENCE IN SKOKIE

Are you currently living alone but looking for a new residence with a built-in family-like atmosphere, complete with socialization, regular activities, cultural outings and three meals daily? CJE SeniorLife is now accepting applications for Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Nestled in a residential community, and composed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building, Robineau offers a unique form of retirement living in a warm, friendly setting.

Robineau is designed to serve seniors, 62-years and older, who may need a helping hand. Four private bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, are arranged in suites, and residents share an attractive living room and kitchen, allowing them to gather, pursue special interests or entertain friends. Residents participate in regular programs of their choosing, activities and group outings. Two hot meals and a continental breakfast are served daily. Staff is available on-site, 24 hours a day, in case of emergency. Additional supportive services are available through CJE.

Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. Scholarships are available. For more information, an application and a tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at 847/675-8580.

CJE SeniorLife is an innovative provider of community-based and residential programs, and services for older adults throughout the Chicago area. Over the past 38 years, CJE's wide range of services has grown to include assisted living, counseling and care management, long-term skilled nursing, Alzheimer's care, home health, wellness programs and much more. CJE is a partner in serving the community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation. For more information about CJE services, call 773/508-1000 or visit www.cje.net.

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“A Theater Review”

“American Buffalo”
Steppenwolf Theatre
1650 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

For the holidays and well into 2010 The Steppenwolf Theatre has dusted off David Mamet’s “American Buffalo.” The last time I saw it the Raven Theatre staged it, as did Circle Theatre.

Amy Morton is directing this revival and she has assembled a stellar cast that includes Francis Guinan, Patrick Andrews and Pulitzer prize-winning playwright Tracy Letts in this three-character play. All prove to be very strong in their roles.

The play runs one hour and forty minutes with intermission. Francis Guinan has the role of Don who owns the junk shop where this play takes place. Patrick Andrews has the role of Bob, who is a young man that Don has picked up off the streets and who he is grooming for a life of crime. Tracey Letts plays Teach who is Don’s lowlife friend. If you have seen Letts on the stage in other plays you won’t recognize him in this character role.

If you’re offended by street language come prepared, as you will get your share of it.

Don and Teach plan to heist an American Buffalo nickel that has great value. Teach is mean, nasty and an angry man who has several arguments with Don throughout the one hour and forty minutes.

The junk shop in the Lincoln Park area is in a basement and when Teach throws one of his temper tantrums the junk flies all over the place. There is a little blood when Teach gets mad at Bob and hit him on the side of his face.

If you want to see three powerful performances and like Mamet this will be a show you don’t want to miss.

“American Buffalo” runs through February 7th. For performance days, show times and reservations call 312-335-1650. Ticket prices are \$20 to \$77.

-Four Stars-

“My Fair Lady”
Marriott Theatre
10 Marriott Drive
Lincolnshire, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

I have a very strong thing to say about Marriott Theatre’s production of “My Fair Lady” and that is, you have another major hit on your hands as you have a winner.

What a cast with Kevin Gudahl as Henry Higgins, Heidi Kettinger as Eliza Doolittle, David Lively as Colonel Pickering, Ann Whitney as Mrs. Higgins, Don Forston as Alfred Doolittle and Catherine Lord as Mrs. Pearce.

One of the highlights and bright spots is Max Quinlan as Freddy Eynsford-Hill. His one solo number “On the Street Where You Live” is performed to perfection. He is a Jeff winner for “Light in the Piazza” and he is emerging as one of Chicago’s bright new leading men in talent. I only hope that he remains and works in Chicago Theatre for many years.

The show requires a cast of eighteen and the orchestra has nine musicians of Michael Mahler. Dominic Missimi has done a superb job with his cast and direction of the show. Matt Raftery has done an excellent job with the choreography.

A strong ensemble that features Glory Kissel, George Keating, Nick Sandys, Christian Libonati and Chicago favorite Roger Mueller.

“My Fair Lady” is a classic musical based on George Bernard Shaw’s “Pygmalion.” It is a musical that gets dusted off and has been revived in regional theatre countless times. It opened in New York in 1956 and ran 2,717 performances and in London ran 2,281 performances when it opened in 1958. Since then Broadway has had revivals in 1976-1981 & 1993. It has won numerous awards.

The show has a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe. Marriott has costumes by Nancy Missimi.

The show offers a number of musical numbers you’ll remember such as “With a Little Bit of Luck,” “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “Rain in Spain,” “I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face” and “Get Me to the Church on Time.” Eleven other numbers are in this show that runs two and a half hours with intermission.

Higgins makes a bet with Pickering he can make a lady out of street urchin Eliza and introduce her to his mother’s society of friends.

At Ascot Freddy becomes enamored with Eliza and while she likes Freddy she really falls for Higgins even though he is very demanding and a hot-headed bachelor. Gudahl, Kettinger, Lively and Forston are strong actors and singers and are exceptional in their roles.

“My Fair Lady” runs through February 14th. For performance days, show times and reservations call 847-634-0200. Ticket prices are \$45.00. The Theatre offers free parking and is wheelchair accessible. There is a \$5 off ticket for students and seniors.

-Four Stars-

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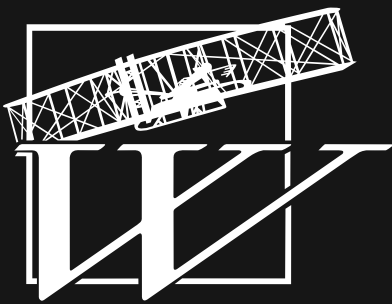
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