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# OUR VILLAGE



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NEXT ISSUE  
JANUARY 7

Volume XIV

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P.O. Box 31391,  
Chicago, IL 60631

Issue 16  
December 17, 2010

*Have a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy and Prosperous New Year From Village Publications*



### The American's Creed



I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies. (Authorized Version)



accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys until December 23

**Mike's Barber Shop** 6680 Northwest Highway, Chicago  
**Los Magueyes Tapas Restaurant**  
3115 North Central, Chicago

**Aldermanic Office, 47th Ward** 4237 N Lincoln Ave.

For further information on locations in your area, please call 773-866-TOYS or visit Toys for Tots website at [www.ChicagolandTFT.org](http://www.ChicagolandTFT.org)

### POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE SEEKS DONATIONS OF TOYS FOR CHILDREN

Paul C. Odrobina, Vice President of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) announces that the PNA, Alliance Printers & Publishers and PNA Bank will be accepting donations of new toys and games or monetary donations for local needy children at Christmas. There will be collection boxes in the lobbies of the Polish National Alliance Home Office located at 6100 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, Alliance Printers & Publishers, located at 5711 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois and both PNA Bank Locations 7840 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois and 4800 S. Pulaski Avenue in Chicago, Illinois for the toy donations until Friday, December 10, 2010. After the deadline, the donated toys for the children will be delivered to local needy children in the Chicago area, in time for Christmas.

Monetary donations will be collected from Vice President Odrobina's Office, where the money will go to purchase additional toys and gifts for the children in the name of the donor. For additional information, please call the Polish National Alliance at 1-773-286-0500 ext. 316. or visit the PNA Website at [www.pna-znp.org](http://www.pna-znp.org).

### Help Evanston Families in Need this Season

Be a part of the annual holiday toy and food drive sponsored by Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl and local community organizations. Please bring new, unwrapped toys and/or non-perishable food items to the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Your donation will be collected in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Room 1100, through Dec. 20. Make the holiday season joyful for as many families as possible! For more info., 847/448-8138.

### Saint Hyacinth Basilica School Giving Tree Toy Drive for Children's Memorial Hospital

Saint Hyacinth Basilica School students are participating in The Giving Tree Toy Drive. Our families are donating and collecting from local businesses toys and monetary donations for over 40 children at Children's Memorial Hospital. We hope to bring joy to these children during this Christmas Season. We are asking for anyone who is in the season for giving this year, to please help us help others in need! Please contact the school at: 773-342-7550; email us at: [info@sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org](mailto:info@sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org); or drop off any gifts at: 3640 W. Wolfram St. Chicago, IL 60618.

## Your Child is Worth It



- Honors & gifted programs
- Learning Enrichment Center
- One-to-one computing in our fully wireless environment
- Nearly 100% college acceptance
- All athletes practice on our 22-acre campus
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**More info:**  
Valerie Reiss,  
Director of Admissions  
708.437.4732

**Entrance Exam**  
**Sat., Jan. 8**  
**8 am**  
Taking the exam at Guerin Prep is required to qualify for most of our scholarships.

[www.guerinprep.org](http://www.guerinprep.org) ■ 8001 W. Belmont ■ River Grove

## White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP FOR UNIQUE HANDMADE IMPORTS FROM POLAND

**"Join Us For The Holidays"**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**, Order early and take home our "Famous Homemade Specialties" to delight your family & friends (Call for a menu and to order)  
**CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**

OUR DELI IS OPEN FOR TAKE-OUT OF OUR SPECIALTIES!

**Have your holiday parties for any group size**

6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. • Niles, IL 60714 • (847) 647-0660

## Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers New Weight Loss Program

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center is pleased to offer a comprehensive medical weight loss program to help individuals suffering from obesity, an excess of body fat frequently resulting in significant impairment in health. Obesity is associated with many illnesses and is directly related to increased mortality and lower life expectancy.

The program includes four minimally invasive surgical solutions — laparoscopic gastric bypass, laparoscopic gastric band (Lap-Band®), single incision laparoscopic gastric band (Lap-Band) and laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy. These procedures, along with postoperative changes in diet and lifestyle, can help severely overweight people lose excess weight and improve their overall health. A comprehensive approach to weight loss and weight management is tailored for each individual with full support from a multidisciplinary team.

The program is under the direction of general surgeon Frederick Tiesenga, M.D., who has performed more than 400 bariatric surgery procedures. He is fellowship-trained in laparoscopic gastric bypass, and is an affiliate surgeon of the American Society of Bariatric Surgeons and a U.S. Surgical Proctor for Bariatric Surgery.

Starting in 2011, free informative sessions will be held the third Tuesday of each month, 6-8 p.m. To register for any of the sessions, please call 708-456-7874.

## High Ridge YMCA to Offer American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Course

What: The High Ridge YMCA will offer a Red Cross Lifeguard Training course that will certify students for three years.

To qualify for the course, participants must be 15 years old and be able to swim 300 yards continuously. Topics that will be covered include an overview of a lifeguard's duties, patron surveillance and rescue methods. Also, students will learn life-saving skills such as First Aid, how to check for head or neck injuries, how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) machine.

The cost of the class is \$225. For more information or to register for the class, please call the High Ridge YMCA at 773.262.8300.

Where/When: High Ridge YMCA, 2424 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago, IL, [www.highridgeymca.org](http://www.highridgeymca.org)

Dec. 27- 30, 2010

March 7- 11, 2011

April 18-May 1, 2011

May 13- 15, 2011

May 20- 22, 2011

## ATTENTION US MILITARY VETERANS

American Legion Edison Park Post #541 is having a meeting on Thursday January 13th starting at 7:30PM at the Edison Park Field House located at 6755 Northwest Hwy., Chicago (just west of Harlem).

A service officer from the Ninth District Council will be available to discuss current veteran's benefits. All veterans are welcome to attend.

For additional information please contact:

Post Commander Gerald Skotzko at 773-693-3448

Sr. Vice Commander Robert Fuggiti at 773-736-8738.

## Niles Township, Illinois to Launch New Prescription Drug Savings Program

In October, Niles Township and Financial Marketing Concepts Inc., (FMC) will launch a new prescription drug discount program at the Niles Township Administration Building, 5255 Main Street in Skokie.

Once launched, the new Coast2Coast Rx card will allow all township residents, regardless of income, age, or health status to participate in the program and save on the cost of their medications. This program has already saved cardholders an average of 45% in 2010 on the cost of prescription drugs. Even pets and family members living outside the township are able to take part in the program. The Rx card will be distributed free of charge and may be used at all pharmacy chains and most independent pharmacies in Niles Township and includes over 60,000 drugs.

"With healthcare costs on the rise, prescription drug discounts will help ease some of the financial burdens township families are facing at a time when they need it the most," said Township Supervisor Lee Tamraz. There are no eligibility requirements, so the Rx card is expected to have a sizeable impact on uninsured residents, residents facing high insurance deductibles and will allow savings for persons in need of prescriptions not covered by their current plans.

Providing savings for residents through the Rx program will come at no expense to the Township. Besides the discounts on prescriptions, the card also provides 50% to 80% discounts for lab and imaging tests, further helping residents save even more money on their healthcare costs for these services.

Edward Rahn, President of Financial Marketing Concepts, Inc., of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, the issuer of the Coast2Coast Rx free discount card, says "We are pleased to work with Niles Township to help individuals, their families and pets combat the rising cost of healthcare." Rahn added "We appreciate all that the Township and local pharmacies are doing to help those in need."

The Coast2Coast Rx card will be available for residents at most participating pharmacies, governmental offices, libraries and Township health facilities. Residents will also be able to print the Rx card, check their prescription prices and view the nearest participating locations at [www.coast2coastrx.com](http://www.coast2coastrx.com). At the website, click on the Print Free Card menu button and on the drop down list, click on township to get to the page to print the Niles Township Card.

## Construction Begins for the Yellow Line Oakton Street Station

Construction began this week on the CTA Yellow Line Oakton Street Station in Downtown Skokie. Construction of the "Kiss 'n Ride" facility is expected to be complete in late fall 2011, and the Chicago Transit Authority estimates some 1,200 boardings will occur at the stop each day.

The station will cost approximately \$20 million to construct, with the Village of Skokie funding \$6 million and an additional \$14 million coming from federal funds. The new station is adjacent to the Illinois Science + Technology Park (IS+TP) in Downtown Skokie. The new station is anticipated to increase the attractiveness of the IS+TP by directly connecting Downtown Skokie and Chicago.

"I am grateful to officials from CTA, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, Skokie's state and federal legislators, Commonwealth Edison, The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Forest City Enterprises and, of course, the Village staff who persevered with this project for many years," said Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen. "Their collective vision, hard work and dedication to this important public transportation initiative will benefit the region for decades to come."

## Electronics Recycling With Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce

Do you have old ink or toner cartridges that you need to get rid of? Old cell phones or digital cameras that don't work anymore? How about an mp3 player that just won't play?

Drop them off at our office:

5534 W Belmont

We've partnered with Think Recycle, a company that makes sure none of the items we collect ever goes into a landfill. They will also plant a tree for every 24 items we collect. Stop by with your old items and do the safe and responsible thing.

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and I always get my  
appointments quickly."



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expertise you need and  
the compassion you want.

Search online and find the  
doctor who is right for you at  
[olr.reshealth.org/doctor](http://olr.reshealth.org/doctor).

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Medical Center**

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distinguished and  
five-star rated for  
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## Free Downtown Evanston Holiday Parking

At the October 11th Evanston City Council meeting, the City Council approved free holiday parking in the City's three downtown self-park garages at Sherman Plaza, Maple Avenue and Church Street along with Lot 60 located at 1234 Chicago Avenue for the month of December.

The free holiday parking will start November 25th and go through the first weekend in January, ending Saturday, January 1st, 2011. Hours of free parking are weekdays after 5 p.m. to midnight and all day on Saturdays.

The free holiday parking is to encourage residents and visitors to patronize the downtown and the Dempster/Chicago business areas and to utilize the convenient parking in the garages to enjoy Evanston's shopping, fine dining, and entertainment during the holiday season. Remember, Sundays are already free in the parking garages

## Skokie Community Giving Program

Please consider participating in the Village of Skokie Human Services Division Community Giving Program designed to assist Skokie families with limited financial resources that might not otherwise be able to celebrate winter holidays with their children. Families receive gift certificates for area businesses which they use to purchase holiday food and to buy items specific to each child's needs and wants. Those interested in making a donation this year are asked to do so by December 10, 2010. In 2009, the Skokie community generously donated more than \$35,000 to this program.

Please make checks payable to the Village of Skokie (please put Community Giving Program on the memo line) and send it to the Human Services Division, 5120 Galitz, Skokie, IL 60077. For further information or to make a donation please contact the Human Services Division at 847/933-8208.

## Volunteers Wanted for City of Evanston Offshore Wind Farm Information Review Committee

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl is seeking volunteers to serve on a committee to review information submittals from companies interested in working with the City on a offshore wind farm in Lake Michigan. In addition to reviewing these submittals, the committee will make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on potential next steps on the project. Individuals need not have any specific experience in this area, just an interest in the subject.

The committee will be selected in early February and is expected to meet several times prior to presenting a report to the Mayor and City Council in Spring, 2011.

Letters of interest in serving on the committee should be sent to Mayor Tisdahl no later than Friday January 7, 2011 via email ([wind@cityofevanston.org](mailto:wind@cityofevanston.org)) or by mail to the Mayor at 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201. For further information about the committee or the wind farm project, please contact the City's Sustainable Programs Coordinator Catherine Hurley at [wind@cityofevanston.org](mailto:wind@cityofevanston.org) or 847-448-8069.

## Evanston Winter Workouts

Get in shape for the winter! The Fleetwood-Jourdain Center Fitness Room, at 1655 Foster St., is a bright, beautiful place to work out with everything you need to stay fit. Machines include: Tunturi exercycles, Precor Ergocycles, AeroStep Steppers, and a Trotter treadmill. Membership options for adults age 18 and older are one year for \$210, six months for \$100, and one month for \$35. The daily, non-member fee is \$10. The Fitness Room is open from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Call 847-448-8254 for more information.

Learn the original mixed martial art: Hapkido. Gain control and leverage through footwork and body positioning in this martial art that combines both long and close range fighting techniques. Students age 16 and older will employ dynamic kicking, hand strikes, pressure point strikes, joint locks and throws. Beginners are welcome. The class meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays from Dec. 8 to Jan. 26 at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave. The cost is \$93/resident and \$103/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8250.

## EMERGENCY CELL PHONE PROGRAM

Ravenswood Community Council's Emergency CELL phone (Community Emergency Life Line) Program provides free 911-enabled cell phones to seniors and victims of domestic abuse throughout Chicago.

Donated cell phones are always needed and can be dropped off at the RCC office (1756 W. Wilson).

These phones are used to only call 911 and are intended as a lifeline for seniors experiencing or witnessing an emergency situation. This generous program is sponsored by the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services.

To Receive a Cell Phone Seniors or victims of domestic abuse who would like to receive an emergency cell phone can contact RCC at (773) 784-0400.



## Evanston Ecology Center Accepting Holiday Lights for Recycling

Holiday lights can be dropped off for recycling at the Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., and Evanston's Main Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue.

The Holiday Light Recycling Program is offered by Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and its member communities. All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off, but garlands, live greens and wreaths are not accepted in this free program.

At the Ecology Center, lights can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. effective immediately through January 31. They also may be dropped off after-hours as long as they are contained in a paper or tied plastic bag.

The drop-off at the Main Library is available December 1 through January 31. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 9:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Throughout the year, the Ecology Center also accepts compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), cell phones, digital cameras, iPods, and inkjet cartridges for recycling. Batteries and computers are not accepted. For more info, please call 847-448-8256.

## BREAK A SWEAT, NOT THE BANK DURING ONE WEEK OF FREE ADMISSION TO CITYWIDE FITNESS CENTERS PROMOTION RUNS JAN. 2-9 AT 70 LOCATIONS

Kick off the New Year in great shape by working out for free from Jan. 2-9, 2011, at any of the Chicago Park District's 70 fitness centers located throughout the city.

"We encourage Chicagoans to take advantage of this special incentive," said Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO Timothy J. Mitchell. "Physical activity is one step toward leading a healthy lifestyle."

During the promotion from Jan. 2-9, patrons who extend the complimentary one-week period into a January-March 2011 winter-session membership will receive a complimentary Nike gift, while supplies last. Membership rates to the Chicago Park District's fitness centers are affordable and range from \$30-\$75 for three months, a fraction of the cost of commercial gyms.

The Chicago Park District currently operates 70 fitness centers featuring state-of-the-art equipment including: computerized treadmills, cross trainers, upright and recumbent bicycles, free weights and benches, cable cross-overs, multi-station weight machines and core-focused weight equipment. Accessible equipment for people with disabilities is available at 35 fitness centers. Hours of operation vary per location.

Many of the Chicago Park District's facilities also offer a variety of fitness classes at affordable rates such as circuit training, conditioning, kickboxing, Pilates, yoga and aerobics.

The Chicago Park District's Free Fitness Week 2011 is supported by Nike and Pepsi. For more information, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com) or call 312.742.PLAY, 312.747.2001 (TTY).

State Representative  
**Michael McAuliffe**, 20th District  
and  
Alderman **Brian Doherty**, 41st Ward

**Watch out for Neighborhood Children  
During the Holiday Season**



6650 N. Northwest Hwy  
Edison Park  
773/792-1991



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I believe in building relationships.  
I believe in my family.*

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# LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

## GUERIN PREP TO HOLD ENTRANCE EXAM JAN. 8

Any eighth-grade student interested in attending a Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Chicago should take the entrance exam being held at all Catholic high schools throughout the Archdiocese on Saturday, Jan. 8.

At Guerin College Preparatory High School, the entrance exam will begin at 8 a.m. Students are asked to arrive by 7:45 a.m. Students **MUST** bring their social security number, two no. 2 pencils, a calculator and the \$25 testing fee (cash or check made payable to Guerin Prep). After the test, students are invited to stay for a pizza party (free of charge) to meet their new classmates!

Parents are invited to attend a special informational meeting from 8 to 9 a.m. in the school cafeteria.

Thursday, Jan. 6 will be the last Shadow or Gator Day still available for eighth-grade students to find out what it is like to be a student at Guerin Prep before the exam. The eighth-grade students are accompanied by a current Guerin student and attend classes and other activities from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students can download an application for Gator for a Day from the school's Web site: [www.guerinprep.org](http://www.guerinprep.org) or contact Valerie Reiss, Director of Admissions, at 708-453-6233, ext. 4732 about any of these activities.

Admission to Guerin Prep is based on seventh- and eighth- grade state test scores, seventh- and eighth-grade report card grades, entrance exam results and recommendations from eighth-grade Math and/or English teachers.

Located in River Grove, Illinois, (northwest Chicago area), Guerin Prep is home to a one-one-wireless computing environment where every Guerin Prep student carries a laptop computer to class every day, maximizing preparation for college and career. Although the emphasis is on college preparation, Guerin Prep also seeks to teach students to lead a life guided by Christian values.

## Camps Enrich Your Child's Winter Break in Evanston

Whether it's sports, nature, games or art, there is a Winter Break Camp offered by the City of Evanston's Recreation Division that will stimulate the imagination and keep your child interested and active. This year, there are twelve camps to choose from, including everything from the Ecology Center's EcoFreeze Camp to Volleyball Camp to Media Arts Camp. New this year is LEGO Camp, where children ages 4 to 7 can build and create with the popular blocks.

With camp options that range from one week or two, and half-day or full-day, there is a camp to satisfy almost every interest and schedule. Specialty camps such as Ultimate Adventure Camp (nothing but field trips!) and single-sport camps such as Hoops Camp are also exciting options. Most camps begin Monday, Dec. 20, although some start Monday, Dec. 27. Times, age levels, and fees vary per camp. For more information, visit [www.cityofevanston.org/recreation](http://www.cityofevanston.org/recreation), view the Winter Recreation & Arts Activities Guide, or call 847-866-2900.

Send your young explorer to EcoFreeze Camp over Winter Break. Just one of the Recreation Division's many winter break camps (which can be found at [www.cityofevanston.org/recreation](http://www.cityofevanston.org/recreation)), EcoFreeze Camp will have your child (grades K-5) exploring the natural wonders of the world, including the Great Barrier Reef, Mt. Everest, and more. Camp is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 to Friday, Dec. 24 AND/OR Monday, Dec. 27 to Friday, Dec. 31. The cost is \$225/resident and \$235/nonresident per 5-day session. For more information, call 847-448-8260.

Send your young filmmaker to Media Camp over Winter Break. Just one of the Recreation Division's many winter break camps (which can be found at [www.cityofevanston.org/recreation](http://www.cityofevanston.org/recreation)), Media Camp will have your child (ages 6 to 13) writing, directing, filming, editing, and starring in his/her very own holiday special that can be posted on YouTube to show friends and family. Camp is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 to Thursday, Dec. 23. The single-day cost is \$65/resident and \$70/nonresident, while the four-day cost is \$225/resident and \$250/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8260.

## Two Honored for Decade of Board Service at The Youth Campus

Two area residents, Patricia Conard, MD, of Glenview, and Fred Duda of Park Ridge, were recently honored for their longtime volunteer service as members of The Youth Campus board of directors.

"Pat Conard and Fred Duda are examples of the true spirit of volunteerism – donating their time, energy and professional expertise in order help those less fortunate," said James J. Guidi, PsyD, chief executive officer of The Youth Campus.

The Park Ridge based non-for-profit organization, which serves abused and neglected children, presented each former board member with a commemorative gift to acknowledge their many contributions.

Dr. Conard, a pediatrician, joined The Youth Campus board in 2000 and served for nearly 10 years. She continues volunteering as a member of the organization's Services Committee, providing expert medical guidance.

Duda, an investment advisor with Christian Brothers Investment Services, was appointed to The Youth Campus board in 1999. Over the past 11 years he has served on various committees and held the offices of Board Chairman and, most recently, Board Secretary. Duda and his wife, Sheila, also co-own Tea Lula, a Park Ridge tea shop.

The Youth Campus, a nonreligious charitable organization, brings help and hope to more than 270 abused and neglected children annually. The historic 100-year-old Park Ridge center provides Residential Treatment for teenage girls who have suffered years of difficulties, giving them a chance to turn their lives around. Through its Chicago office, The Youth Campus also recruits and trains foster parents who provide substitute care for boys and girls of all ages. A third program, Caregiver Support, helps prevent child neglect by providing in-home nursing and other services for families with medically challenged children.



Fred Duda (left) of Park Ridge accepts a commemorative gift from James J. Guidi, PsyD, chief executive officer of The Youth Campus, on the occasion of Duda's retirement from the charity's board of directors after 11 years of service. Duda is an investment advisor with Christian Brothers Investment Services. He and his wife, Sheila, also co-own Tea Lula, a Park Ridge tea shop. The Youth Campus provides specialized help for abused and neglected children through programs located in Park Ridge and Chicago. Photo by Maureen Connelly

## Share the Gift of Learning

Many adults need help with basic English reading, writing, or speaking skills. Share the gift of learning!



A required three part training will be held in Skokie on Jan. 4 & 6 (6:15-10 pm), and on Feb. 5 (1:30-3:30 pm).

Call Oakton Community College at 847-635-1426 for an interview.



## ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

Provides local families a quality, faith-based education for children in 3 year-old preschool through eighth grade for nearly 100 years.

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Sunday, January 30th,  
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4343 West Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630 773/736-9133

# GREAT OUTDOORS

## Environmental Benefits of Professional Car Wash

Keeping your car clean has many significant financial and environmental benefits, especially when performed by a professional car wash.

Let's start with the financial rewards. Every day our cars are subjected to sun, salt from the sea, salt from snow trucks, grease and grime from the road, acid rain, smog, tree sap, dead bugs, and worst of all, the ever-acidic compound of bird poop bombs. We've all been riddled and splattered at one time or another.

These conditions eat away at a car's metal and chrome. They dull the paint. They corrode and cause rust. They attack your pride and joy day after day. You may not see it right away, but over time they will contribute to the decay of your car's exterior, ultimately diminishing its resale value.

By professionally washing your car at least twice a month, you help preserve one of your biggest investments. Another benefit? Saved time and convenience. Lugging everything in and out of your garage or house is exhausting compared to a quick trip to the nearest car wash.

Few people also realize that washing their cars at home pollutes the environment. Soap and road grime such as oils, tar, and dirt end up in storm sewers that flow into lakes, streams and rivers - the same water in which your children might swim, or where you fish or hunt.

Wastewater from professional car washes enter a sanitary sewer system. facilities designed to protect the environment. No polluted water from professional car washes will reach our waterways.

Though a parking lot car wash might sound like a good way to make money for your organization, many groups don't realize that dirty water from parking lot and driveway car washing enters the storm sewer system. Meant only for rainfall, storm sewer water flows directly into the closest creek, stream, or river

Water conservation is another benefit: professional car washes can use about half the amount of water it takes to do it yourself.

(See also [http://environment.about.com/od/greenlivingdesign/a/car\\_wash.htm](http://environment.about.com/od/greenlivingdesign/a/car_wash.htm))

For all these reasons, you can't beat a professional car wash. And oh what fun it is to take your kid through the wash from the inside of the car! Or just follow along by the window.

All sorts of interesting facts illuminating how we use and abuse our cars can be found at [www.carlove.org](http://www.carlove.org).

So treat your car the way you want it to treat you. Add having your car washed to your list of chores; go to the bank, pick up the dry cleaning, visit the grocery store, and get the car washed. There's just no excuse not to swing through one every two or three weeks. You'll protect your investment, save time, and minimize environmental impact inspiring the best feeling of all; unconditional love for an unconditional friend.

*Submitted by Fast Car Wash  
(See our ad on page 16)*

## Chicago Winter Parking Ban Now In Effect, 3AM to 7AM, Until April 1, 2011

Chicago's Winter Overnight Parking Ban for 107 miles of the city's most critical arterial streets resumed December 1 at 3AM. This seasonal ban in effect every year between December 1st and April 1st. and between the hours of 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. Yet in spite of permanent signage with posted calendar dates along the impacted streets, two related press conferences and heavy media coverage for the past two weeks warning of the resumption of the ban and the leafleting last weekend of vehicles parked along the ban route, some 215 vehicles still parked in violation of this seasonal ban and were ticketed, towed and impounded.

When motorists violate this ban and leave their cars parked on these routes they prevent the street from getting fully plowed and salted when it snows. This reduces the streets capacity during a storm to handle critical traffic. As heavy snow falls it gets pushed against these vehicles by passing plows causing a buildup that further restricts the street lanes. "These regulations are designed to keep our most critical routes up and running at all times so that emergency vehicles, buses and other vehicles can get to where they need to go," noted Streets & Sanitation Commissioner Thomas G. Byrne.

The permanent signage that marks the 107 miles of the Winter Overnight Parking Ban is often posted next to signs for the 2-inch snow parking ban which can be activated along 500 miles of arterial streets. Both posted restrictions mark Chicago's "Snow Route System," which was created as a result of response to massive snow storms, including the Great Blizzard of '67, which halted traffic citywide."

Ignoring the Winter Overnight Parking Ban can result in a \$150 towing fee (minimum), a \$50 ticket and a daily storage fee of \$10 that increases over time.

The other pertinent ban that can be activated during a heavy snow at any time of the year is the 2" Inch Snow Ban. This restriction is technically in effect all year round, but realistically only a factor in the winter months. The 2" Inch Snow Ban is not activated often, but motorists that violate it when it is active face ticketing and relocation to a nearby site. Motorists need to watch for and obey both restrictions.

## SIXTH ANNUAL POLAR ADVENTURE DAYS OFFER FAMILIES THREE DAYS OF WINTER FUN AT NORTHERLY ISLAND

The Chicago Park District presents the sixth annual Polar Adventure Days from 12 - 4 p.m. on two Saturdays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 26, at Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr., on the Museum Campus. The program is admission free.

Polar Adventure Days offer families the opportunity to explore Northerly Island and come face-to-face with live animals, engage in winter activities, watch ice sculpture carvings, and create nature-inspired crafts. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather as events take place both outdoors and inside the visitor center.

The following features and activities will be available at Polar Adventure Days:

- The first 500 visitors receive a complimentary Polar Adventure Day mug filled with hot chocolate while supplies last. Limit one per person
- Siberian huskies will be present and adventurers will talk about their Iditarod dog sled race experiences.
- Live entertainment from the Old Town School of Folk Music.
- Arts and craft tables for making nature-inspired creations.
- Free snowshoe rental for exploration of the island if there is enough snow.

Please call to confirm scheduled activities for Polar Adventure Days as activities are subject to change. For more information, call 312-742-PLAY (7529).

## THE McCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK IN MILLENNIUM PARK OPEN

### Michigan Avenue Ice Rink Offers Free Admission for Skating

Kicking off Chicago's winter season, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park opened and will remain open through Sunday, March 13, 2011, weather permitting. The rink, now in its tenth season and drawing more than 100,000 skaters annually, is free and open to the public. Skate rental is available for \$10. The ice rink is located on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Streets.

#### Regular hours for the season are as follows:

Mondays—Thursdays: 12 pm — 8 pm Fridays: 12 pm — 10 pm

Saturdays (through Dec.18): 10 am — 10 pm

Saturdays (beginning Jan. 8): 10 am — 9 pm Sundays: 10 am — 9 pm

#### Holiday Hours

Friday, December 24: 10 am — 6 pm Saturday, December 25: 10 am — 4 pm

Friday, December 31: 10 am — 8 pm Saturday, January 1: 12 pm — 10 pm

For more information about events in Millennium Park, including Caroling at Cloud Gate, visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org), or call 312.742.1168.

## Winter Preparedness - Effects of Winter Storms

Severe winter storms can cause widespread damage and disruption. Heavy snow often results in paralyzed transportation systems, automobile accidents due to slippery roads, and stranded vehicles. Glazing from ice storms topples utility lines and poles and makes travel virtually impossible. These conditions can be a threat to life.

### BEFORE A WINTER STORM OR EXTREME COLD

\* Know the terms related to winter storms and extreme cold.

\* Know the names of the counties in which you live, work and travel. County names are used to identify areas at risk.

#### \* Learn how to protect your family's health during the winter months:

Dress appropriately for the winter.

Learn the physical dangers to your body.

#### \* Gather emergency supplies for work and home:

Create a Family Disaster Kit. Be prepared for at least three days, if not more. Go to [www.AlertChicago.com](http://www.AlertChicago.com) for details. A few important items are listed below:

A battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio.

A battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries.

Foods that do not require cooking or refrigeration are best.

Extra medications and special items for babies, the disabled or elderly.

Extra water in clean containers.

Flashlights and extra batteries. Do not use candles.

A first-aid kit, non-prescription drugs and personal sanitary items.

#### \* Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply:

Insulate walls and attics.

Caulk and weatherize doors and windows.

Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic.

#### \* Take steps to prevent frozen water pipes:

Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing.

Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved).

Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.

Disconnect garden hoses.

#### \* Prepare for possible isolation in your home for several days:

Have emergency heating equipment (fireplaces, wood burning stoves or space heaters) Always ensure proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

NEVER use an outdoor grill to heat your home or to cook food indoors.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and know how to use them.

#### \* Prepare your vehicle for the winter:

Winterize your vehicle or have your vehicle serviced by a mechanic.

Check your wipers, tires, lights, and fluid levels regularly. Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly. Lubricate door and trunk locks.

Prepare a Winter Storm Survival Kit (Go Bag) and carry it in your vehicle.

## JANUARY CJE SENIORLIFE SUPPORT GROUPS AND PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

CJE SeniorLife offers support groups on a wide variety of topics of interest to seniors and their families. Fees vary according to the program and individual circumstances and some groups may be partially covered by Medicare and supplemental insurance. For information or to join a group, call CJE SeniorLife at 773/508-1000.

### **NEW! Scrabble Club**

For word lovers and game players of all levels. Learn the classic game of Scrabble or get tips to sharpen your skills, with instructor and tournament director Joe Cortese. Meets every Wednesday, 11 a.m., Bernard Horwich Building, 3003 W. Touhy Ave. Chicago.

There is no charge. For more information, call 773/508-1000.

Monthly meeting dates: January 5, 12, 19 and 26

### **Holocaust Survivors - Coffee and Conversation**

Meets every Monday and Thursdays throughout the month Sponsored by Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) and CJE SeniorLife Mondays from 1 to 2:30 p.m., at Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center,

9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Sponsored by JCFS and CJE SeniorLife.

Monthly meeting dates: January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

There is no charge. To register, call 847/568-5100.

Thursdays, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at JCFS Joy F. Knapp Center, 3145 W. Pratt Blvd., Chicago

Monthly meeting dates: January 6, 13, 20 and 27

There is no charge. For more information, call 847/568-5100

### **Living Life Through Loss: A Drop-In Bereavement Support Group**

Meets every Wednesday, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., at CJE SeniorLife, 3003 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago

Monthly meeting dates: January 5, 12, 19 and 26

Any adult over the age of 60 who has lost a loved one in the past three years is encouraged to attend. There is a \$5 fee for each session. For more information, call 773/508-1129. Sponsored by CJE SeniorLife and the Jewish Healing Network.

### **Making Connections: Seniors with Adult Children with Disabilities**

Meets first and third Tuesday of every month. Offers families an opportunity to connect, share experiences and learn about benefits and community resources. Sponsored by CJE's Linkages Program. Bernard Horwich Building, 3003 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago,

11 a.m. to noon. Those interested in attending must register in advance by calling 773/508-1694. Monthly meeting dates: January 4 and 18

### **Caregiving for Loved Ones with Dementia – Evanston**

This support group is for individuals who are involved in the care of a loved one with dementia. Participants will learn about dementia and caregiving; meet others who face similar challenges and share experiences; discover ways to relieve caregiver stress and burn-out. Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. to noon. Location: CJE's Adult Day Services, 1015 W. Howard St., Evanston

Please RSVP by calling Amy Zann, LCSW, at 773/508-1690.

Meeting dates: January 5 and 19

### **Community Senior Adults**

This group is now open to new members. Enjoy lunch, socialization and great entertainment on a weekly basis. Participants can purchase Kosher lunches at Lieberman's Noshery at an affordable price. Meets every Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation, 9700 Gross Point Road, Skokie.

Call Esther Craven at 773/508-1047. Monthly meeting dates: January 4, 11, 18 and 25

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## Skokie Offers an Online Payment Option

The Village of Skokie Finance Department offers convenient online payment options. Payment for water bills, parking tickets and miscellaneous invoices may be made online using debit, Discover, MasterCard and Visa cards. The Village does not charge a fee for this service.

The Village also offers Automatic Bank Payment for water bills. This program allows residents to pay water bills directly through a bank account. The Village does not charge a fee for this service.

To make a payment or to learn more about online payments and Automatic Bank Payment, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

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## Extended Hours at Evanston Civic Center for Vehicle Sticker Purchases

In an effort to provide an opportunity for residents to purchase their 2011 Evanston City Vehicle Sticker before or after our regularly scheduled business hours, staff members have volunteered to work adjusted schedules on each Monday effective December 6, 2010 through January 3, 2011. The Revenue Office will also be open on Saturday January 8, 2011. The following is a schedule of Revenue Office dates, hours of operation: Mondays December 6, 13, 20, 27 and January 3, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Changes in Illinois Pedestrian Laws

As of July 22, 2010 Illinois law changed regarding motorist obligations to pedestrians in crosswalks. The new law states that all drivers must come to a complete stop for pedestrians in crosswalk, regardless of whether or not there are traffic signals or stop signs present at the crosswalk.

Changes in the law require motorists and bicyclists to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks to ensure a safe environment for all using the roadways and sidewalks. Previous law required motorist to yield for pedestrians and stop when necessary.

Under the new law, Illinois drivers must come to a complete stop for pedestrians in any crosswalk that is marked, unmarked, signaled and unmarked.

A marked crosswalk has painted lines on the road that designate the location, such as the crosswalk at Oakton Street and Floral Avenue, by Village Hall. An unmarked crosswalk is present whenever a sidewalk leads into a street. A signaled crosswalk includes those at stop signs and traffic signals. An unmarked crosswalk does not have a stop sign or traffic signal. They are also referred to as mid-block crosswalks.

This law requires bicyclists to stop for pedestrians as they are required to follow all rules of the road.

For more information please contact the Skokie Police Department at 847/982-5916 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

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## LAKEVIEW EAST COMMUNITY UNITES TO OPPOSE WALMART IN HEART OF CHICAGO'S SMALL BUSINESS DISTRICT

The news of big box Walmart moving into one of Chicago's most densely populated northside small business districts is not sitting well with local residents and business organizations. A letter of intent to lease the 2840 N. Broadway 30,000 square foot space in the heart of Lakeview East is uniting residents and business organizations locally and across the City. The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce understands the negative impact Walmart will have for small business and neighbors are questioning the choice of location for this higher income residential community. "Studies show when a Walmart opens, commercial districts lose 25% of small businesses within the first year. Creating jobs comes with a price and the price to pay is loss of jobs and closures of small businesses. \* The economic impact of Walmart will ultimately negatively affect the fabric of our community, says Maureen Martino, Executive Director of the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce. We do not need a Walmart for groceries, the community was promised a full scale grocery store at 3030 N. Broadway planned development. It's been over five years of waiting for a grocery store and Walmart should not be a trade off."

Area residents, especially those who live in the immediate footprint of the proposed location are voicing their concerns to their local neighborhood organizations and city officials. Lakeview East resident Bruce Beal states "There are plenty of communities in Chicago where Walmart is needed and would be welcomed ...just not in ours."

The Chamber and residents have formed STOP THE LAKEVIEW/LINCOLN PARK WALMART Facebook page that will be one of the avenues through which the community will make it clear to Walmart and to the Aldermanic candidates of their fierce opposition.

A community meeting is set for Monday, December 13th, 7PM at the Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington hosted by the Southeast Lakeview Neighborhood organization.

\* The Impact of an Urban Wal-Mart Store on Area Business: An Evaluation of One Chicago Neighborhood's Experience" by Center for Urban Research and Learning Loyola University Chicago

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## EVANSTON RECREATION CALENDAR

Spice up your life with Salsa Dancing! Singles and couples age 17 and older are welcome to take this class, which teaches participants the major styles of salsa and specially-selected steps, turns, and combinations. Class meets from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays from Jan. 5 to Mar. 23 at Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St. The cost is \$90/resident and \$98/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8258.

Children ages 11 to 13 can find their inner artist by signing up for the Middle School Arts Program. Students will learn how to mix paint colors, to properly use acrylics, and to use different painting techniques to create work that draws upon their cultural creativity. This program meets from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. from Jan. 5 to Feb. 23 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St. The cost is \$50/resident and \$55/nonresident. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8254.

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## LEVY SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Brush up on your Spanish with a Conversational Spanish class. This class will improve your Spanish skills while giving you plenty of practice speaking with others. This is not a class for beginners. Conversational Spanish meets from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays from Jan. 6 to Feb. 24. The cost is \$50/Levy member and \$60/nonmember. For more information and to register, call 847-448-8250.

Stick with your New Years Resolutions and improve your physical health with an exercise class. Core and More is a floor class designed to strengthen the muscles surrounding the spine, including the obliques, abdominals, and lower back muscles. It meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; the cost is \$46/Levy member and \$50/nonmember.

# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

## Holiday Spectacular Christkindlmarket Chicago Celebrates 15 Years

Nestled in between Chicago's downtown sky scrapers, Daley Plaza is aglow with twinkling lights and filled with red and white striped huts during the holiday season. The Christkindlmarket Chicago returns to the heart of the Windy City for the fifteenth year starting on November 24 and is open daily until December 24, 2010.

Vendor tables shine with an abundance of one-of-a-kind treasures that are destined to become gifts for young and old, family and friends. Holiday ornaments of all shapes and sizes, Nutcrackers, cuckoo-clocks, beer steins, wooden and plush toys, jewelry, wood carvings and European chocolates are just a few of the items for sale from 50 vendors. While you admire the gifts and goodies, the smell of simmering sweets and savory treats wafts through the air. German delicacies, such as Bratwurst, potato pancakes, and Schnitzel are sizzling at all corners as the aroma of Stollen, Strudel, pretzels, and roasted nuts seize your senses. Visitors can quench their thirst with a refreshing imported German beer or warm up with a cup of Gluehwein (hot spiced wine) which is served in a red anniversary souvenir boot-mug.

Special events are scheduled throughout the duration of the Market. They will include singing, music, dancing and special appearances by the authentic Christkind from Nuremberg, Germany as well as the annual Children's Lantern Parade. Several walk-in cabins offer a warm place to shop for unique gifts, whereas the Lufthansa Festival Tent and the Timber House provide a place to relax, warm up, enjoy your goodies and meet with friends.

The market will be open daily from 11am to 8pm Sunday through Thursday, and from 11am to 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays. On Thursday November 25, and Friday December 24, the market's hours will be from 11am to 4pm. For further information please visit the official Christkindlmarket website at [www.christkindlmarket.com](http://www.christkindlmarket.com) or call us at (312) 494-2175.

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## EDISON PARK GIFT CERTIFICATE NOW AVAILABLE!

The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the launch of the Edison Park Gift Certificate! This gift certificate will make a great holiday gift for friends, family, co-workers, and teachers! The Edison Park Gift Certificate can be purchased online at [www.edisonpark.com](http://www.edisonpark.com) or at the Chamber office located in the Edison Park Train Station at 6730 N. Olmsted. The Edison Park Gift Certificate can be used at any of the participating chamber members. For a complete list of participating businesses, visit [www.edisonpark.com](http://www.edisonpark.com). For more information, contact the Chamber office at (773) 631-0063 or email [info@edisonpark.com](mailto:info@edisonpark.com).

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## Celebrate Kwanzaa Evanston-style

This year, you can celebrate two ways! At 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26, see local youth and adults perform in a "Kwanzaa vs. Christmas" themed play written by Gloria Bond Clunie at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St. At 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 27 at Fountain Square (Davis St. and Sherman Ave.), join friends and neighbors in lighting the Kinara, singing traditional songs, and reciting Kwanzaa principles. Admission to both events is free. For more information, call 847-448-8254.

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## Announcing the Evanston Children's Choir's Holiday Concert 2010!

Join Directors Gary Geiger and Kathryn Crabb with Pianist Evelyn Dias as they lead the ECC in our most popular concert of the year, celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in typical ECC style! Guest artist: Miah Logan of S.O.U.L. Creations

Sunday, December 19th, 4:00, Alice Millar Chapel,  
1870 Sheridan Rd., Evanston

Wheelchair accessible

This concert is FREE, but voluntary donations are graciously accepted at the door. This concert made possible, in part, by the City of Evanston, Cultural Arts Division. For more information, call (847) 733-0814 or visit [www.evanstonchildrenschoir.org](http://www.evanstonchildrenschoir.org)

## "My Favorite Christmas Story"

from Rev. Francis S. Rog, CR

Let me share with you, my greatest Christmas story. As often as I reflect on it... I have reason to ask myself... who, what and where?

Wally was nine years old and in the second grade, though he should have been in the fourth. He was big and clumsy, slow in movement and mind, but well liked by the other children in class, all of whom were smaller than he. At times the boys did have trouble hiding their irritation when the uncoordinated Wally would ask to play ball with them. He would stand by – not sulking, but HOPING – always a helpful boy, willing and smiling, the natural protector of any child he felt was being mistreated.

As Christmas time approached, plans were made for the annual school pageant. Children were being assigned their parts – angels, shepherds, wisemen, Mary, Joseph. Wally stood by EXPECTANTLY – then suddenly his joy knew no bounds, for he heard the teacher say, "Wally, I want you to be the innkeeper." (Not many lines to learn, she reasons – and his size would make his refusal of lodging to Joseph more forceful). Little did the teacher dream the lesson that such a tender hearted boy would teach to all who would attend that program!

Then came rehearsals – the cloaks and manger, beards, crowns, halos and a stage full of squeaky voices. Most caught up in the magic of the night was Wally. He would stand in the wings, watch the performance with fascination; his teacher had to make sure he did not wander onstage before this cue.

Finally came the long awaited night, and Wally stood holding a lantern by the door of the inn, watching as the children who portrayed Mary and Joseph came near him. "What do you want?" Wally asked with a brusque gesture. "We seek lodging." "Seek it elsewhere – the inn is filled."

"Sir, we have asked everywhere in vain. We have traveled far and are very weary." "There is no room in this inn for you." Wally looked properly stern.

"Please, innkeeper, this is my wife. She is heavy with child and needs a place to rest. Surely you must have some small corner for her. She's so tired."

Now, for the first time, the innkeeper relaxed his stiff stance and looked down at Mary. With that there was a LONG PAUSE – the audience became a bit tense: "No, begone!" the prompter whispered in the wings.

"No, begone!" Wally repeated automatically.

Joseph sadly placed his arms around Mary, and Mary laid her head upon her husband's shoulder, and the two of them started to move away. The innkeeper, however, did not return inside his inn. Wally stood there in the doorway, watching the forlorn couple. His mouth was open, his brow creased with concern, his eyes filling unmistakably with tears.

And suddenly this Christmas pageant became different from all others.

"Don't go, Joseph." Wally called out. "Bring Mary back." And Wally's face grew into a bright smile. "YOU CAN HAVE MY ROOM!"

A burst of laughter – then silence – then tears flowed freely as the message came through to the listeners. Wally, the boy considered "slow," had made room for Jesus. He could not turn Mary and Joseph away – God's only begotten Son would be welcomed by him! His tender heart had made room for the Savior.

Have you made room for Him, Who loved you so much to even die on the cross?

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## Celebrate the New Season at North Park Village Nature Center

WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL –  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 FROM 6 – 9 P.M.

The Chicago Park District's North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd., welcomes winter with a special annual event, the Winter Solstice Festival, which celebrates the change in season on Saturday, December 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free for all ages. No registration is necessary.

The Winter Solstice Festival is a delightful opportunity to explore the North Park Village Nature Preserve during the evening hours. The festival includes walks along the nature trails lit by luminaries, a visit with critters from Big Run Wolf Ranch, seasonal music and chestnuts roasted on an open fire. Guests can help create edible holiday ornaments for the animals that make the Nature Center their home.

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## Polish Carols by the Lira Ensemble

The Lira Ensemble of Chicago – highly praised for its performances of Polish music – brings concerts of beloved Polish carols to suburban Chicago churches this holiday season:

**Sunday, December 26, 2010 at 6:30pm**

St. Albert the Great Church, 5555 State Road in Burbank, Illinois

**Sunday, January 2, 2011 at 3:30pm**

St. John Brebeuf Church, 8307 North Harlem Avenue in Niles, Illinois

The concerts are after Christmas in keeping with Polish tradition. Poles sing carols well into January.

The Lira Singers female vocal ensemble and the Lira Symphony will perform some of the most beloved and most popular Polish holiday music, including ancient and traditional carols, carols from the Polish mountains, as well as a collection of carols arranged by Witold Lutoslawski, perhaps the most respected Polish composer of the 20th century. A few traditional American carols will complete the program.

Tickets for these concerts of Polish carols are very reasonably priced: \$35, \$30 and only \$10 for children to age 16. All seating is general admission on December 26th, while on January 2nd, all seating is reserved by section and pew only. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Lira Ensemble at 773-508-7040.



## Anti-Cruelty Society

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

## Care to Care? Join Our Community

The holidays are arriving and we are gearing up to find new homes for all of our animals. Our fiscal year just ended and again, in the last year we found homes for over 5,000 cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens! Take a look at our "Recent Adoptions" pets on our website at [www.anticruelty.org](http://www.anticruelty.org).

With winter arriving and the temperatures dropping, we are happy to report our facade renovation is also going very well. After 30 years of wear and tear on our building, our adoption rooms will no longer be leaking and our pets will stay warm and dry during this holiday season and beyond!

As always, thank you again for being a part of our community of caring.

Sincerely, Dr. Robyn

# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

## Tips for Safe Holiday Shopping

Whether shopping at a brick and mortar store or online to avoid the crowds, buyers should be alert for scammers and hackers.

Before leaving home to snag great holiday deals, the Better Business Bureau recommends shoppers look both online and in the newspaper for the best sale prices. It's vital for consumers to not only research what stores have the best deals but also to find out if these retailers are reputable. Go to [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) to obtain free Business Reviews on any store you are planning to shop at this holiday season. The BBB also recommends shoppers bring the ads to the store on Black Friday and to also become familiar with the store's return policies.

"Finding exceptional bargains and deals drives many consumers to stores and online retailers – however, both



have their own set of risks," said Steve J. Bernas, president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and Northern Illinois. "Taking steps to avoid the fraud in both situations will result in a much happier holiday experience for everyone-except, of course, for scammers and hackers."

Following are the top 10 online shopping tips for holiday shoppers to help fight deceitful online retailers, scammers and hackers during the season:

1. Protect your computer - A computer should always have the most recent updates installed for spam filters, anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a secure firewall.

2. Shop on trustworthy websites - Shoppers should start with the BBB to check on the seller's reputation and record for customer satisfaction at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org). Always

look for the BBB seal and other widely-recognized "trustmarks" on retailer websites and click on the seals to confirm that they are valid.

3. Protect your personal information - The BBB recommends taking the time to read the site's privacy policy and understand what personal information is being requested and how it will be used. If there isn't one posted, it should be taken as a red flag that personal information may be sold to others without permission.

4. Beware of deals that sound too good to be true - Offers on websites and in unsolicited e-mails can often sound too good to be true, especially extremely low prices on hard-to-get items. Consumers should always go with their instincts and not be afraid to pass up a "deal" that might cost them dearly in the end, and look up the company at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

5. Beware of phishing - Legitimate businesses do not send e-mails claiming problems with an order or an account to lure the "buyer" into revealing financial information. If a consumer receives such an e-mail, the BBB recommends picking up the phone and calling the contact number on the website where the purchase was made to confirm that there really is a problem with the transaction.

6. Confirm your online purchase is secure - Shoppers should always look in the address box for the "s" in <https://> and in the lower-right corner for the "lock" symbol before paying. If there are any doubts about a site, the BBB recommends right-clicking anywhere on the page and select "Properties." This will let you see the real URL (website address) and the dialog box will reveal if the site is not encrypted.

7. Pay with a credit card - It's best to use a credit card, because under federal law, the shopper can dispute the charges if he or she doesn't receive the item. Shoppers also have dispute rights if there are unauthorized charges on their credit card, and many card issuers have "zero liability" policies under which the card holder pays nothing if someone steals the credit card number and uses it. Never wire money and shop locally.

8. Keep documentation of your order - After completing the online order process, there may be a final confirmation page or the shopper might receive confirmation by e-mail. The BBB recommends saving a copy of the Web page and any e-mails for future reference and as a record of the purchase.

9. Check your credit card statements often - Don't wait for paper statements; the BBB recommends consumers check their credit card statements for suspicious activity by either calling credit card companies or by checking statements online.

10. Know your rights - Federal law requires that orders made by mail, phone or online be shipped by the date promised or, if no delivery time was stated, within 30 days. If the goods aren't shipped on time, the shopper can cancel and demand a refund. There is no general three-day cancellation right, but consumers do have the right to reject merchandise if it's defective or was misrepresented. Otherwise, it's the company's policies that determine if the shopper can cancel the purchase and receive a refund or credit.

For more advice on staying safe online this holiday season visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

### ST. THECLA CHURCH

6725 West Devon Avenue, Chicago (773) 792-3077

#### Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24**

8:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Mass

Children's Choir

**10:00 p.m. Mass in English**

in Polish – Carols begin at 9:30pm

**Traditional Midnight Mass-**

Carols begin at 9:30 p.m.

**12 Midnight (Pasterka) Mass in Polish**

Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 and

12:30 (Mass in Polish)

**Holy Family, Sunday, December 26**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 and

12:30 (Mass in Polish)

**Mary, Mother of God,**

**January 1, 2011**

(Not a Holy Day of obligation this year)

**Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve**

5:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass in

English and Polish

**Saturday, January 1st, New Year's Day**

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. Mass in Polish

**Epiphany, January 1 and 2**

Saturday Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00

and 12:30 (Mass in Polish)



### ST HYACINTH BASILICA PARISH

3636 W Wolfram, Chicago

(773) 342-3636

#### SACRED Concert

December 11, 2010 8:00 p.m.

Ticket Information: 773-571-6444 or

708-691-0665

St. Hyacinth Basilica – 773-342-3636

#### FREE – Sacred Concert – College Students

December 12, 2010 7:30 p.m.

(No tickets necessary)

12/19 – Sunday – 8:00 p.m.

12/20 – Monday – 8:30 a.m.

and 7:30 p.m.

12/21 – Tuesday – 8:30 a.m.

and 7:30 p.m.

12/22 – Wednesday – 8:30 a.m.

and 7:30 p.m.

12/24 & 12/25 and 1/1/11 –

The priests will NOT be available for  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

#### MASSES for the HOLYDAYS

12/24 – MASS is NOT scheduled

12/25 – Liturgy (English) – 7:30 a.m.;

10:45 a.m.; & 5:00 p.m.

12/25 – Liturgy (Polish) – 9:00 a.m.;

12:30 p.m.; & 6:30 p.m.

#### MASSES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

01/01/11 – Mass is NOT scheduled.

01/01/11 – Liturgy (English) – 7:30

a.m.; 10:45 a.m.; & 5:00 p.m.

01/01/10 – Liturgy (Polish) – 9:00

a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; & 6:30 p.m.

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# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

## Make a Lasting, Positive Impact This Holiday Season: Give Family and Friends Gifts from the Arbor Day Foundation

Celebrate the holiday season with friends and loved ones this year and give back to the earth at the same time with the help of the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation.

Send holiday greetings and plant a tree – all at the same time – by using the Foundation's Give-A-Tree Cards. Give-A-Tree Cards are unique in that every card plants a tree in one of our nation's forests in honor of the recipient. By sending Give-A-Tree Cards, you are helping to replant forests that have been devastated by wildfires, insects and disease. Give-A-Tree holiday cards come in 21 varieties, some of which are available in boxed sets of 5 or 10 cards.



This year, you can send Give-A-Tree Cards using your favorite picture with the Foundation's new photo cards. There are 20 holiday cards to choose from as well.

When you give the gift of Arbor Day Specialty Coffee, you're helping to preserve the earth's precious rain forests. Arbor Day Specialty Coffee is shade-grown, organic and Fair Trade Certified. It gets its delicious, rich taste from the shade of the rain forest, and is part of the Foundation's Rain Forest Rescue program. Each cup of Arbor Day Specialty Coffee helps preserve a portion of the rain forest.

The Foundation's Trees in Celebration program allows the giver to honor loved ones while at the same time making a positive impact on the environment. Trees in Celebration includes a certificate for the recipient, and for each dollar donated a tree is planted in a damaged forest.

Give special friends a membership to the Arbor Day Foundation, and they will also receive 10 free trees. A membership costs \$10, and includes many great benefits, including 10 free trees that will be shipped at the right time of year for planting.

"The holidays are a time for thinking about others, and as you do take a moment to think about what you can do to protect the beauty and splendor of the earth," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "We encourage everyone to give gifts that will have a lasting impact on the world for generations to come."

To purchase holiday gifts that give back to the earth, go to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## CELEBRATE A JIM HENSON-INSPIRED CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD AND HOLIDAYS OF LIGHT AT MSI

The Museum of Science and Industry's 69th annual Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light opens on Nov. 18, 2010. This year, the exhibit's Holly Jolly Holiday theme highlights the new temporary exhibit—Jim Henson's Fantastic World—an educational and hands-on display that explores the amazing career and imagination of the master puppeteer and creator of the Muppets, Jim Henson.

The Main Floor holds more than 50 12-foot trees beautifully decorated by volunteers from Chicago's ethnic communities representing their diverse culture and holiday traditions. This custom began for local families in 1942 as a United Nations Day salute to American allies during World War II, and in its first year, only a dozen trees lined the Museum's halls. Now the exhibit has grown into a forest of dazzling trees and homemade displays, created by dedicated volunteers.

The display also features the Museum's 45-foot Grand Tree—lighting the Rotunda with more than 30,000 red, pink and lime green lights and 1,000 puppet-inspired ornaments. Dozens of gifts wrapped in an amalgamation of colorful furs and fabrics sit beneath the tree while four large-scale photographs of the Muppets touring some of Chicago's favorite landmarks hang overhead.

Stroll through the tree-lined Museum halls and view the performances of various dance and choral groups on the Holiday Stage while enjoying intermittent falling "snow" every half hour. The exhibit runs through Jan. 9, 2011.

Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light are included in Museum general admission, as are all performances. An additional ticket is required for Jim Henson's Fantastic World. Go to [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org) for details and to purchase tickets.

General Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. Beginning Sunday, Nov. 21, the Museum's hours will be Monday through Sunday 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Museum is open every day except Dec. 25 and offers extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., on the following days in 2010: Nov. 19-21, 26-28; Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12; Dec. 18-24; Dec. 26-31. MSI offers the following remaining free day in 2010: Dec. 6.

(See page 9 for the Austrian Mixed Chorus performance time and date.)



**Grand Tree - The Museum's 45-foot Grand Tree is decorated with more than 30,000 lights and more than 1,000 ornaments. [J.B. Spector, Museum of Science and Industry]**

## CELEBRATE THE 2010 HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE PARKS

### Visits with Santa, Flower Shows & More Make the Season Bright

The Chicago Park District hosts numerous holiday events this winter such as breakfast with Santa, rollerskate with Santa, chocolate house making, flower shows, and much more. For the schedule of holiday events, click here, or call 312-742-PLAY.



Holiday highlights this winter include:

**Winter Flower and Train Show** Friday, Nov. 26– Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011; Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Dr., 312-742-7736; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, All ages, admission free

Several model trains, including an old-fashioned steam engine, freight train and trolley, wind their way through a miniature village set in a field of vibrant red, delicate white and soft pink poinsettias. The village, comprised entirely of natural materials including willow, spruce and birch woods, features a variety of Chicago-style homes and famous buildings such as the neighborhood bungalow, Chicago Theater and Chicago Water Tower Place.

**Ice Skating** Saturday, Nov. 27 – Sunday, Feb. 27, weather permitting. Various locations and times; Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change.

Contact the individual ice rinks, call 312-742-PLAY or visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

The Chicago Park District operates 10 ice rinks. Hours and skate rental prices vary. Please note there is an admission fee at The Rink at Wrigley and at McFetridge Sports Center in California Park, an indoor rink that is open year round except August. All other rinks offer free admission. Concessions are available at select rinks. Rink rental is also available for special events and parties; contact the rink manager.

**Chicago Sports Fest** Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 18-19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; McCormick Place, 2301 S. Martin Luther King Dr., 312-744-3315; All ages, admission free

The largest indoor playground returns to Chicago and gives youngsters a chance to move around no matter the weather outside. Wrestling, tumbling, table tennis and gymnastics join a roster of team sports such as volleyball, soccer and floor hockey to fill a million square feet with fun.

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# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

## Skokie Commission on Family Services Community Garden Initiative Provides Fresh Produce to the Niles Township Food Pantry

The Village of Skokie Human Services Division and the new Commission on Family Services have initiated their first project to benefit the Niles Township Food Pantry. Together, the Human Services Division and the Commission are committed to providing fresh vegetables to families in need. Over two thousand pounds of produce has been donated this summer through the generosity of municipal gardeners and farmers at the Skokie Farmers' Market.

The municipal gardeners maintain personal garden plots, where they grow their own vegetables. Multiple gardeners have joined this effort and provided donations of their harvest on a weekly basis. Also, four vendors from the Skokie Farmers' Market are participating in the effort. Gardeners and farmers were invited early in the season to share their surplus produce with the Niles Township Food Pantry.

The Commission on Family Services has made it convenient for gardeners and farmers to share their produce by offering collection dates and then delivering the donations directly to the food pantry.

The Niles Township Food Pantry serves thousands of Township residents each month and a large percentage of them are Skokie residents. The community garden project has helped to boost the amount of fresh vegetables available to food pantry patrons.

Residents who wish to contribute produce from their personal gardens or who would like more information should contact the Village of Skokie Human Services Division at 847/933-8208 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

## New InstaGreeter Outpost Opens on the Magnificent Mile

Free Guided Tours begin Friday, November 12 at 10 a.m.

The Chicago Office of Tourism's Chicago Greeter Program, a free visitor service led by friendly, knowledgeable volunteer Chicagoans. InstaGreeter is an offshoot of the popular Chicago Greeter program, offering on-the-spot walkabouts on a first-come, first-served basis to visitors and locals alike.

Just in time for the holidays, Chicago Greeter is teaming up with the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association to present free, informal, one-hour walking tours of the Mag Mile and the surrounding area. Get an "insider's orientation" to landmarks like the John Hancock Building and the former Playboy Mansion, historic hotels and cathedrals, and the best of holiday decorations and shopping.

Service launched Friday, November 12 at 10 a.m. Operates 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through February, excluding Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Last tour departs at 3 p.m.

Water Works Visitor Information Center, Historic Pumping Station 163 E. Pearson (at Michigan Avenue).

## Holiday Safety Tips Regarding Children and Food Safety

The holidays are an exciting time of year for children and families. To help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are just a few tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Skokie Fire and Police Departments regarding toy, food and visiting safety:

### Toy Safety

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- Keep batteries and magnets away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.
- Children under age eight can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.
- Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length.
- Parents should store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids' toys away from young children.

### Food Safety

- Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same.
- Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits.
- Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.
- Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it.
- Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.
- Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

### Happy Visiting

- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots and clean up immediately after a holiday party.
- Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or a baby-sitter are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222.
- Stick to your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

For more information or additional safety tips please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

## ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR WORLD'S HIGHEST SKATING RINK AT JOHN HANCOCK OBSERVATORY

John Hancock Observatory's Skating in the Sky, the world's highest and most anticipated skating rink, opens to the public on January 1, 2011. And, in direct response to the unprecedented level of demand, the famed Chicago landmark launched online advance ticket sales. The rink will be situated on the 94th floor overlooking The Magnificent Mile® and a bustling Lake Shore Drive.

The only way for people to secure the opportunity to skate 1,000 ft up in advance is online at [www.hancockobservatory.com](http://www.hancockobservatory.com). A 25-minute skating session is \$5, plus standard John Hancock Observatory admission fee. Skaters are welcome to bring their own skates or can rent them from the Observatory for just \$1. The rink will be open to the public from 9am-11pm every day from January 1, 2011 through the end of March and can also be booked for private events and parties.

*The Happiest of Holidays to  
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# “A Theater Review”

“Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”  
 Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane Road  
 Lincolnshire, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace has another major hit for the De-Santis-VanLente family with their current production of “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.”

The Theatre has also discovered a new director in Bill Jenkins and any theatre who has him direct one of their shows is very fortunate.

The show has a book by Lawrence Kasha and David Landay with lyrics and music by Johnny Mercer and Gene DePaul along with several new songs by Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn. The show is based on Stephen Vincent Benet’s, “The Sobbin’ Women”

The show has a large cast of twenty seven actors, singers and dancers. Tammy Mader has staged the dancing and Roberta Duchak is the music director. You will marvel at the top notch choreography staged by Ms. Mader.

If you saw the movie you’ll remember such songs as “Bless Your Beautiful Hide,” “Wonderful, Wonderful Day,” “Goin’ Courtin’” and “Sobbin’ Women.”

New musical numbers added to the show are “One Man,” “Love Never Goes Away,” “Where Were You,” and “We Gonna Make it Through the Winter” to name a few.

While the show runs two hours and twenty minutes the time flies by. It also is definitely a show for the family.

The show is set in 1850 in Oregon. Adam, played by Broadway actor Steve Blachard, is a strong actor who has a rich singing voice who lives with his six brothers in a log cabin. Being an outdoorsman he decides to venture into town looking for a bride.

Millie, played and sung beautifully by Abby Mueller, who is working in a restaurant where he meets her convinces her to marry him. She falls for him against what the townsfolk feel.

Millie doesn’t realize what is in store for her when she gets to Adam’s log cabin. She meets Adam’s six unkempt wild brothers. She learns she has to cook and clean house for them as well as teach them how to court young ladies as they all want to get married.

What happens as Millie sets out to tame them and teach them is a riot. She has her share of problems when they kidnap their intended and a snow/ice landslide keeps them trapped in the log cabin until the spring thaw.

The brothers are Richard Strimeras Benjamin, Jarret Ditch as Caleb, William Travis Taylor as Daniel, Chris Yonan as Ephraim, Brandon Springman as Frank and Zach Zube as Gideon.

Some of the girls are Amber Mak, Cara Salerno, Katie Huff and Hallie Cercone.

Expect laughs from Renee Matthews and Don Forston as Mr. and Mrs. Bixby. Their roles are small but perfect when on stage.

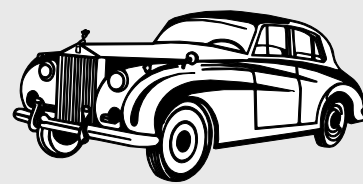
“Seven Brides” runs until December 19th. For performance days, show times and reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets range from \$31 to \$45. **- Four Stars -**

## A Celebration of Kwanzaa on Stage

Award-winning playwright Gloria Bond Clunie brings her talents back to Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center and Theatre this winter with the play, Merry Kwanzaa. The play was written in order to celebrate Kwanzaa and highlight the differences between Kwanzaa and Christmas. It features a multi-cultural and multi-generational cast of local youth and adults. The play will be performed at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. The performance is free, so don’t miss this exciting world premiere! For more information, call 847-448-8254.

## Career/Jobs Corner

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“Happiness is not a Destination;  
 It is a Method of Life.”  
 – Burton Hills

## Skokie TeenLink Program

The Village of Skokie offers the TeenLink program to unite Skokie residents who are in need of outside seasonal yard work, including snow shoveling, raking and lawn care, with Skokie teens who are available for hire to do the work.

The TeenLink program list provides contact information for Skokie teens available to do seasonal yard work. The list includes the name and address of the teen, days available, type of work they are willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents can receive the list by mail or email.

The resident is responsible for contacting the teen and for making financial and scheduling arrangements.

If you would like the TeenLink contact list please call the Village Manager’s Office at 847/933-8257. Skokie teens can also complete an application to be added to the TeenLink program by contacting the Village Manager’s Office or visiting [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) to download an application.

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Monday December 20, 2010

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Sunday Afternoons, 1-3pm, Jan 16 - Feb 20

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For more information visit our website at [www.openstudioproject.org](http://www.openstudioproject.org).

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\$50 for members and non-members. Monday, January 17th, 1:30-3:30pm

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December 15 at 1:30pm Tony Bernard's CHRISTMAS CROONERS

December 17 at 8:00pm Catherine O'Connell

December 18 at 8:00pm Ava Logan presents Girls Night Out

December 19 at 2:00pm Jimmy Niteclub does DOO WOP CHICAGO STYLE

December 19 at 7:00pm June's Got the Cash

December 25 at 7:00pm at 9:00pm KFAR Jewish Arts Center presents... JEWMON-

GOUS! featuring Sean Altman and special guest Cindy Kaplan

December 30 at 7:30pm Mambo Caliente: A Big Band Tribute to the Music of Tito Puente

December 31 at 8:00pm Tony Bernard presents "Rock 'n Roll is Here to Stay"

December 31 at 10:00pm Jack Miuccio in "Forever Frank: The Sounds of Sinatra"

### 2011 Weekday Afternoon Shows

JANUARY 12 at 1:30pm Jimmy Damon's MEMORIES OF RUSH STREET

JANUARY 19 at 1:30pm Mark Burnell's BROADWAY ALA JAZZ

JANUARY 17 at 1:30pm Rob Dorn's CRAZY 'BOUT BROADWAY

FEBRUARY 2 at 1:30pm Marcus Gentry's STAND BY ME (50's Doo Wop)

FEBRUARY 9 at 1:30pm Jimmy Niteclub's BOBBY DARIN & SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES

FEBRUARY 16 at 1:30pm Jack Miuccio's FOREVER FRANK (Sinatra)

FEBRUARY 23 at 1:30pm Tony Bernard's A TRIP DOWN THE VEGAS STRIP

## Opera Idol Returns to the Windy City

Opera Idol at the North Shore is one of the most innovative and fun events of the year for both aspiring Opera singers and audience members. As 2010 winds down, be sure to mark your calendars for a few upcoming and important dates. As in years' past, the event will take place at the North Shore Retirement Hotel, located at 1611 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, IL. If your dream is to join the ranks of Opera greats such as baritone Sherrill Milnes and soprano Maria Zouves, be sure to hand in your audition tape by January 15, 2011 to the North Shore Hotel. If selected, an Opera Idol representative will contact you by January 25, 2011 to compete in preliminary rounds on either February 8th, 16th or the 24th before an audience of North Shore residents and a panel of professional musicians. The final competition is slated for March 11, 2011 to crown the 2011 Opera Idol at the North Shore winner.

For further information or to attend this competition, please call the Opera Idol coordinator at the North Shore Retirement Hotel at 847.864.6400, ext. 622.

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## Kultur Küche Cooking Series

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## Silvesterball

Formal New Year's Eve ball - includes 2 entree buffet dinner, appetizers inc herring, desserts, late nite snack, champagne toast, coffee, balloon drop, bleigiessen, feuerzangenbowle, party favors and dancing all night. Also includes entry to madness in Ballroom

Dinner 7-9pm, DJ's Music Source begin 8pm

\$60 before Dec 15, 2010, \$80 after Dec 15, 2010

Reserve your tickets today!

## Polkaholics Blow Out

C.'mon out and celebrate at our annual NEW YEAR'S EVE blowout!

And the admission price is going to be a mere \$4.99 for the first 200 people (that's right - \$4.99 - save the penny to ride the CTA home!).

After that, the admission price will be \$9.99. As in years past, we will be raffling off a BRAND NEW EPIPHONE ELECTRIC GUITAR!!

Where else can you go on New Year's Eve, spend less than \$5 or \$10 at the door, get a chance to win a new guitar, and dance the polka all night long?

## SKOKIE ART GUILD

### Skokie Art Guild Live Model Figure Drawing Workshops

Figure Drawing Workshop Sessions resumed Sept. 9

and meet as follows:

Thursdays - 7:00 PM - 9:45 PM

Saturdays - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\* Devonshire Cultural Center,

4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, IL 60076

[www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org) Members: \$12.00 / Non-Members: \$20.00



## Neighborhoods Go Green! New Chicago Architecture Foundation Exhibition Opens

Neighborhoods Go Green! Scaling Up Sustainability opens Nov 19 at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 S Michigan. The exhibition is free and open daily from 9:30 to 5 pm daily through February 15, 2011.

Designed to bring attention to the need for sustainable neighborhoods, the exhibition includes suggestions to select a "smart" site as well as creating livable neighborhoods, all while reducing energy consumption. Examples of sustainable neighborhoods in the United States and Canada describe neighborhoods that have good public transportation, affordable housing, and places where people can walk and bike without having to drive a car.

"This exhibition demonstrates our commitment to sustainable growth," said Lynn Osmond, Chicago Architecture Foundation President and CEO. "It gets people thinking about what they can do to improve their communities and encourages future growth that is responsible."

The exhibition identifies the obstacles to creating sustainable communities and introduces the Chicago Challenge - a group of planners, architects, environmentalists, local governments and institutions hoping to transform the Chicago region into a global leader of green neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods Go Green! Scaling Up Sustainability focuses on the national standard for rating and certifying sustainable neighborhoods known as Leadership in Energy Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND). It was curated by the US Green Building Council and Farr Associates. Its opening coincides with the AAO and Greenbuild conferences, taking place in Chicago in November 2010.

Programs that coincide with the exhibition include The Promise of LEED Neighborhood Development Jan. 26 at 12:15. [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org) has additional programs.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Current exhibition is Chicago Model City with a large scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture and design. The Chicago Architecture Foundation pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions, and youth and adult education programs. For further information visit [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org) or call 312.922.3432 or become a facebook fan:

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# Local Arts and Entertainment

## YOUNG CHICAGO DANCERS SELECTED TO PERFORM WITH MOSCOW BALLET IN DEC. 18 GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER

Christmas will come early for 40 young ballet dancers from Chicago's SPACE (Southport Performing Arts Conservatory) this year as they have been selected to share the spotlight with members of the Moscow Ballet in the production of the Great Russian Nutcracker. The holiday classic is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sat., December 18, 2010, at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Tickets for the production start at \$27.50 and are available by calling the theater box office at 847-671-5100 or Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.nutcracker.com](http://www.nutcracker.com) or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

The critically acclaimed production of the Great Russian Nutcracker features exquisite dancing, sumptuous costumes and the breath-taking artistry of Moscow Ballet principal dancers Ekaterina Bortykova as Masha and Akzhol Mus-sokhanov as the Nutcracker Prince. The production is directed by Andrei Litvinov and is created to delight audiences of all ages.

The large-scale production features a number of important character roles which have been cast with 40 talented young dancers ages 6-14 from Chicago's SPACE under the direction of SPACE co-founder Altin Naska.

"The children who have been selected to perform in this production of the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker gain a once in a lifetime experience by working alongside award-winning Russian dancers," said Naska. "This opportunity provides these young dancers with the experience of participating in a professional production along with the opportunity to perform in front of thousands of people."

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 range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Gifted Program. SPACE's dance program includes instruction in ballet, tap, modern, jazz, ballroom, Latin and hip-hop.

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



## Open Studio Project – Give Back This Holiday

Here at Open Studio Project, we believe that everyone can make art and realize its benefits. This has certainly proved true for all of us here at the Studio, as well as the nearly 3,000 participants we served during 2010.

Working and learning at Open Studio Project, I've seen how art can change everything. My time in Connecting with the Creative Process provides a two hour break each week from the stresses of daily life. My fellow participants and I have used the Open Studio Process to evaluate personal, financial, and relationship concerns in the creative and safe space of the studio. One of the most comforting parts of the process for me is sharing our writing and artwork at the end of each class. This process of sharing, free from commentary and judgment, builds a network of support which I carry out into my life.

In 2010, we served more clients at OSP in more ways than ever before. In addition to tried and true favorites such as Connecting to the Creative Process and Art & Adventure for children, we added new programs geared toward both kids and adults. Create & Skate, a new OSP program for preteens, allows participants to design and paint one-of-a-kind skateboards, celebrating art in motion. Another new OSP group offers creative self-expression and support to LGBT teens, who face much higher risks for violence and suicide; these workshops enact our belief that, with art, it can get better. A new Open Studio Process Facilitator Training Program, which began this past summer, educates participants from across the country in OSP's methodology as well as deepens their personal practice, through a series of weekend intensives.

Although this year has been full of growth at OSP, we also face serious challenges in the year ahead. In these uncertain times, more and more people are turning to art as a means of personal growth. Because this has been a tough economic year for everyone, many more of our participants need full or partial scholarships. In fact, three out of four of our clients receive free or discounted services. To fulfill the needs of our clients and avoid having to cut programming, we are cutting costs and reducing staff hours. We are doing all we can, but we need your help!

In order to continue to provide the services necessary to our community, we need to raise \$29,000 dollars during this annual campaign. We depend heavily on your donations to provide outreach programs, scholarships, gallery shows, even paint and other supplies. Without your generous donations, we could not continue. As always, we are grateful for your support.

Anne Canter

To make a donation you may mail a check to: Open Studio Project, 903 Sherman Ave, Evanston, IL. 60202

## The Open Studio Process Training Program

Offers Personal Enrichment, CEUs, 1st Step to OSP Facilitator Certification Facilitated by Pat Allen, OSP co-founder, author of *Art is a Spiritual Path & Art is a Way of Knowing*

Karla Rindal, found object artist & OSP Facilitation Director

Erin Mooney, LCPC, ATR, mixed media artist & OSP Program Director

If you are solely interested in developing a deepened personal practice, you may choose to take only workshops 1 and 2. If you would like to be eligible for certification as an Open Studio Project Associate Facilitator, you must successfully complete Workshops 1 through 5.

Coming in Spring 2012: The Open Studio Process Business Practices

Have you dreamed of an Open Studio Project in your own community? Interested individuals who have completed their Associate Facilitator certification and wish to open a studio of their own will be eligible for this special series on the nuts and bolts of using OSP Process as a business tool.

Workshop Schedule

Dec. 3-5, 2010 Open Studio Process 2: Expanding Personal Practice

April 1-3, 2011 Open Studio Process 3: Facilitating Group Practice

Aug 5-7, 2011 Open Studio Process 4: Building Creative Community

Sep 30 - Oct 2, 2011 Open Studio Process 5: Adaptations for Diverse Groups & Spaces

Workshops meet: Friday, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Open Studio Project | 903 Sherman Ave | Evanston | IL | 60202 (847)-475-0390

For more information or to register visit our website [openstudioproject.org](http://openstudioproject.org)

## CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE 168 FILM PROJECT 2011 EDITION

### Speed Filmmaking at the Crossroads of Faith and Art

The 168 Film Project (168) announced the call for entries today for the 9th annual speed filmmaking contest. "168" is a worldwide competition, in which teams make a film based on randomly selected scriptures in 168 hours (one week). Films screen at the 168 Film Festival, April 1-2, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Entry fees (\$258-298) include free tickets, a guaranteed screening at world-class venues, including the Alex Theatre in Glendale, CA and a chance at over \$10,000 in cash and prizes.

Signup Deadlines are Jan 31, 2011 for International teams and February 6 for USA teams.

"This year's theme 'Second Chances' is something everyone immediately identifies with because everyone has 'blown it' in some way and we all look forward to a fresh start in life," said John David Ware, 168 Founder and President.

For the contest, 80-100 films will be made during the same week from any location, worldwide. All 2011 films will be based on foundational verses with the theme, "Second Chances."

Filmmakers get 11-days for writing and pre-production and then exactly 168 hours to shoot and edit a 10-11-minute film. Entrants are responsible for all arrangements regarding their team and budget.

An all-star jury led by veterans in the film industry screens the finalists. Past jury member David McFadzean, (Executive producer/Co-Creator of "Home Improvement" and Executive producer of "What Women Want") said, "In the time limit they've been given, the production values are very impressive, everything from the editing to the set design, all of it."

Probable 2011 jurors include Ralph Winter, producer ("X-MEN: Wolverine"), Brian Bird, writer/producer, ("Touched by an Angel"), Gary Hall, Sr. VP 20th Cent. Fox TV Post Production, Luke Schelhaas, writer/producer, ("Law and Order," "Off the Map"), Greg Michael, 2nd unit director ("G.I. Joe," "The Mummy Returns"), Leilani Downer, writer ("The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air") and Bill Marsilli, writer (Deja Vu with Denzel Washington).

"Best" Awards are given in 18 categories including Best Actor/Actress. Selected films will air worldwide.

Past sponsors include Sony, Arri, AJA Video, Roland, KinoFlo, Regent University and EIKI.

In the first eight years, the competition has produced nearly 500 films. An estimated 6,400 cast and crew, and 10,500 Festival Attendees have participated. 168 has become a launching pad for emerging filmmakers like Joshua Weigel, writer/director of "The Butterfly Circus."

Crucial 2011 dates include Verse Assignment, which marks the start of Pre-Production Week (11 days) for Int'l Teams on Jan. 31, in the USA (outside SoCal) on Feb. 6, and in Southern California on Feb. 7.

Production starts Feb. 11 for Int'l Teams, and Feb. 17 in the USA (outside SoCal). SoCal begins Feb. 18.

"Actors are very much a part of this equation, said Ware. "We give out-of-towners instructions on how to hold a casting and we facilitate casting for hundreds of actors here locally in L.A. It's great because instead of the typical three or four roles, there are potentially 100 roles that are cast under one roof in one day!"

The L.A. Casting is Sat, Feb. 12, 8am-7pm. Headshots are accepted electronically starting January 2011.

To speak with a 168-winning speed filmmaker or actor, or obtain B-roll footage and/or production stills of 168 filmmaking teams in action and clips from their films, contact Scotty Dugan at Dugan & Story PR at 435-901-1483, [scotty@duganstory.com](mailto:scotty@duganstory.com); 168 Film Project at 818-557-8507, [info@168project.com](mailto:info@168project.com), or visit <http://168project.com>.

# Decisions, Decisions, Decisions . . .



**Chester M. Przybylo**

When asked how people want their assets divided after they are gone, some people have definite opinions, while others are less certain. Not only do people differ in the level of their uncertainty concerning how to divvy up their assets, they even differ in what factors are important in making the decision.

In June 2007, *Money* magazine released a reader poll concerning various financial issues. The following percentages of respondents ranked each factor as very important:

- Dividing the estate equally among your children: 69%
- How responsible each child is about money: 37%
- How helpful each child has been to you: 29%
- How close you are to each child: 22%
- How much money each child has: 22%
- How many children of their own each child has: 19%
- How much you like each child's spouse: 10%
- 37% said it can be reasonable to disinherit a child.

Another item of indecision for many people is the choice of decision makers: Trustee, Personal Representative, Guardian, and Agents under powers of attorney. For each of these positions, it is important to name people whose decision-making ability you trust. You may be tempted to name all your children or siblings to avoid hurting anyone's feelings. However, naming a large number of people to serve together in the same role invites family disharmony and chaos. For example, if property in the Trust is to be sold and you have seven Trustees, many of whom may be out of town, it would be a logistical nightmare to route paperwork all around the country. Typically, things work more smoothly if you limit the number of people in any given role. Besides, having a job thrust upon them may be something many would just as soon avoid.

Regardless of what factors are important to you, a qualified estate planning attorney can help you achieve your goals. For example, if you are concerned about your child's ability to manage finances, the money can be left in a Trust which will prevent him or her from accessing the funds without the permission of a person whom you designate, the Trustee. If you do not like your child's spouse and are concerned he or she might divorce your child and take some of the inheritance you leave your child, you can leave your assets in a "Divorce Protection Trust." Such a Trust keeps the assets separate from marital assets. Therefore, it minimizes the risk of the assets ending up in the hands of the child's future ex-spouse.

A qualified estate planning attorney can help you achieve your goals while paving the way for your family's continued success and harmony after you are gone.

*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. Please visit our website at [www.PlanOurEstate.com](http://www.PlanOurEstate.com)*

## OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY: AN EVENTFUL YEAR

*By Andrew Salata, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist*

Social Security is the nation's most successful domestic program. It's easy to look back at what a difference it has made over the past 75 years. And 2010, our diamond anniversary year, has been full of accomplishments.

We launched an important new service in 2010: the online Medicare application. It allows people reaching age 65 who opt to delay receiving retirement benefits to apply for Medicare coverage from their computer in as little as 10 minutes. Also exciting is that we reunited the original cast of *The Patty Duke Show* to promote the new application. Reunite with the cast and go to the Medicare application at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly).

Speaking of Medicare, a "twist" in the law makes it easier for more people to qualify for Extra Help with their Medicare prescription drug plan costs because some things no longer count as income and resources. Chubby Checker, who made "The Twist" popular, helped make the announcement with a public service campaign. Learn more, and watch Chubby twist again, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp).

We took great strides this year to help speed up the disability process, helping people with the most severe disabilities get their benefits faster as well as reducing the number of people waiting for a hearing on their appeal. The agency continues to make the disability hearings backlog a top priority. Learn more at the Hearings and Appeals website: [www.socialsecurity.gov/appeals](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/appeals).

At Social Security, customer service satisfaction remains high. The agency took the three top spots for customer service in the American Customer Satisfaction Index. Social Security's online Retirement Estimator and benefit application remain in the top spots, and the Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs application placed third. We even beat Netflix in customer service satisfaction.

Social Security employees are satisfied too. Employees rate Social Security as one of the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government according to The Partnership for Public Service and American University's Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation. If you're thinking of joining the team, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/careers](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/careers).

This year, Social Security has shown that transparency is as important to us as it is to President Obama. In January, the agency made new data available to the general public, supporting the President's Transparency and Open Government initiative. In February, the agency launched an Open Government website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/open](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/open) and in April Social Security used that website to showcase the agency's Open Government Plan.

The 75th anniversary of Social Security has been an exciting year, and not only because we reflect back on a long history – but because we have many great things going on right now.

### Lincolnwood Parks and 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 (847) 677-9740.

### Norwood Park Seniors Club

at 5801 N Natoma Chicago meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month. We play pinochle and bingo, have parties on special occasions. Meetings start at 10:30 with coffee and a sweet roll. Call Joan at 773-774-7075.

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## Santa Paws

*A few years ago I told this story, it was a huge hit; however, it still surprises me that many of you think it is made up. Well, Humans its not! Us dogs have been helping Santa out for ages; we know who has been naughty and nice; so we better get something good for dinner tonight!*

Recently I have discovered that many of you don't know the story of Santa Paws, Santa Clause's dog. Everyone knows about his reindeer, so why not his canine friend? So, I am taking this opportunity to share Paws' story.

Once upon a paw, it was a cold and snowy Christmas Eve and Santa Clause was busy making his usual deliveries. As he stopped to check his list he heard a small cry. Santa went to investigate and discovered a tiny white ball of curly fur; it was a poodle puppy. Santa picked up the puppy and instantly saw the mischievous twinkle in the puppy's eyes. Not wanting to leave the poor creature, Santa took him along on his sleigh. Santa quickly discovered that there was something special about this puppy, the spirit and magic of Christmas seemed to be alive in this pup's eye. This pup should have been afraid and concerned, but instead sat upon Santa's sleigh as if he was meant to be there. Santa realized that this puppy was to remain by his side.

Santa often observed the bonds of people and their dogs, after all dogs are man's best friend. So, he decided to let him come home with him and Mrs. Clause. As the puppy, now name Paws because of his big feet, grew it was obvious to all that met him that he was special. He possessed the ability to make people smile and laugh, there was never a creature that he didn't like or who didn't like Paws. Paws seemed to carry that magic of Christmas with him throughout the year! With that magic came the ability to communicate freely with both animals and people.

As time passed, so did the demands for Santa. He was beginning to wonder how he could possibly keep track of all the good or bad children in the world. Seeing Santa's distress got Paws thinking, and then he came up with an idea. However, Paws was uncertain about how to approach Santa. You see, Paws was considered the happy-go-lucky clown of the North Pole and wasn't sure if his idea was even good enough to tell. Mrs. Clause noticed that Paws seemed concerned about something. Paws then told her that he might have an idea to help Santa, but wasn't sure how to tell him. Mrs. Clause then reminded Paws that everyone's ideas are important and should be shared, those ideas may not be used exactly but we can always build upon them. With new confidence Paws set out to find Santa.

Paws idea for helping Santa was very simple, he told Santa that they could get the other dogs of the world to help keep an eye on the children in their lives. Santa was thrilled with the new idea and added that we should also ask the cats, birds, snakes, hamsters, and all creatures that have children around to watch them and report back to Santa. Santa was very proud of Paws and put him in charge of communicating with all the pets in the world. Those pets started calling him Santa Paws, the Santa of the animal kingdom! These pets don't just work for Santa, but are rewarded on Christmas day along with the good children.

Santa Paws had helped Santa and to this day continues to be along side his favorite person and help communicate with all pets. So, on Christmas Eve when you here Santa's bells listen closely because you might here the howling of Santa Paws. Also, remember to reward your favorite pet because they have been keeping an eye on you all year and they report directly to Santa Paws! Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Howlidays!

Bosley

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



## Canada Geese

The leaves turn red and gold, the air chills, the days grow shorter. But for many Midwesterners, summer's last call is marked by the honking of Canada geese flying in V-formation overhead.

Yet, many of these geese no longer migrate. Many years ago, Canada geese were overhunted to the brink of extinction. A gaggle was found and bred in captivity in an effort to resuscitate the imperiled species. The progeny of these geese, along with others that find plentiful food and lodging, do not migrate, and endure our long, cold winters, instead. Canada geese are now enjoying a population rebound. Unfortunately, not all urban and suburban dwellers are celebrating; they may find these animals to be a nuisance. Here are a few facts about Canada geese, and tips to deter them humanely.

Canada geese mate for life. At times, a goose will neglect its own need for food and safety to remain with an ailing mate. It is not unusual for a Canada goose live 20 years or more.

Mating season is February-March; nesting season is mid-March to May.

These birds have strong family bonds. In fact, when conflicts do arise with humans, it is generally because the animals are trying to protect their young. Geese will try to use the same nesting site year after year.

All geese in a single clutch will hatch on approximately the same day!

Canada geese are attracted to short grasslands, so they flock to manicured lawns and golf courses. Want to deter geese? Leave grass at least four inches high; plant tall grasses along shorelines; and grow trees.

Some people propose killing Canada geese as a way to manage populations. We tried that once before and almost drove them to extinction. Moreover, aside from being an inhumane way to deal with what we may perceive as too many geese (Canada geese sure don't see it that way!), "management culls" are an ineffective quick-fix. Other geese will simply move into the vacated areas and, in fact, neighboring populations may multiply in response to diminished numbers.

*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.urbanwildlifecoalition.org](http://www.urbanwildlifecoalition.org). Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at [urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com](mailto:urbanwildlifecoalition@gmail.com).*

## THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY OFFERS TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR PET SAFE AND HEALTHY IN FRIGID WINTER WEATHER

With temperatures dipping into the single digits, we need to take the following precautions to ensure the safety and well being of our pets.

\* **Shelter, Food, and Water:** Cats should be kept inside at all times, year-round, to protect from the many life-threatening dangers always present outside. Dogs should also live inside. However, if your dog spends a lot of time outside, you are required by law to provide proper shelter. A proper doghouse must be windproof and watertight, with a floor raised off the ground, and just large enough so that the dog is completely comfortable in any position. Outdoor dogs also need bedding and additional fat in their diets during the winter to help build up natural insulation. Make sure your pet has plenty of fresh, clean water in a secure, non-tip dish at all times.

\* **Becoming Lost or Injured:** Snow and ice increase your pet's chances of becoming disoriented and lost if roaming the streets. Bad weather conditions make it extra difficult for cars to stop, increasing your animal's chance of getting hit. Keeping your pets indoors and walking your dog on a leash will prevent such tragedies.

\* **Ice, Salt, and Snow:** Jagged ice and sidewalk salt can injure or irritate your dog's foot pads. After you return home from a walk, check the foot pads and wipe off any salt or ice with a damp towel. Also dry your dog thoroughly whenever he or she comes in from the snow.

\* **Frostbite:** Even though pets have a fur coat, most cats and dogs cannot endure the cold of winter for more than 10 to 15 minutes. A pet left outdoors can get frostbite and even freeze to death. Signs of frostbite include skin that is pale and cool to the touch, with decreased sensation in the affected area. If you suspect frostbite, gently warm the area with warm, not hot, water and then take the animal to your veterinarian. After thawing, there may be pain or redness on the frostbitten area. Once an area has been frozen it can become cold and frostbitten again more easily.

\* **Anti-Freeze:** Animals are attracted to this substance by its sweet taste. It can be fatal if ingested, so keep all anti-freeze bottles out of your pet's reach. Also be sure to clean up any spills in your garage or driveway immediately. If your cat or dog should swallow anti-freeze or any poison-contact your veterinarian immediately.

\* **Car Engines:** In cold weather, cats allowed outdoors crawl beneath cars and climb up inside the engines seeking warmth and shelter. This can lead to injuries or death when the engines are started. To prevent this, keep your cat indoors. To protect stray cats, knock on your hood or sound the horn before starting the car.

\* **Grooming:** Animals tend to shed hair less during the cold months, but still require regular brushing. Cats generally do not need a bath-they clean themselves. Dogs should be bathed only if needed and no more than once a month. When bathing any animal, be sure to only use a shampoo that is specifically safe for a cat or dog and follow label directions completely.

\* **Holiday Hazards:** Mistletoe, Holly and Poinsettias are all poisonous to pets. Make sure your holiday tree is steady so it can't be knocked over. Protect your cat or dog from drinking stagnant Christmas tree water, eating candy, chocolate or potentially injurious ornaments, tinsel and trimming, or nibbling on the cords from decorations. Keep an eye on your pets to make sure they don't slip out the door as your visitors come and go. Do not give a cat or dog as a gift. Give a gift certificate for a pet adoption from a shelter and allow the recipient to select an animal.



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