



OUR VILLAGE



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Volume XIII

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

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

Issue 19
November 6, 2009

***In Honor of Veterans' Day
November 11th
A Special Salute to
Our Veterans See Page 8 & 9***

11-DIGIT DIALING BEGINS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

New 872 Area Code Coming to City of Chicago

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and the City of Chicago reminds the residents of Chicago, presently served by area codes 312 and 773, of a third area code being introduced on Saturday November 7. The 872 area code will overlay the 773 and 312 area codes to supplement the telephone number supply and thus require 11-digit dialing in the City of Chicago.

For complete story see page 11



(above) UHC members, Northside Prep student volunteers and Ozinga staff pouring pervious concrete for handicapped accessible pathways. (right) CASE sponsor and Northside Prep science teacher Mike Coy touring garden with special education teacher Leva Gershgor and special education students

**Joy
Garden
See
Page 4**



A New Series – Page 12 RETIREMENT LIVING/ THE BABY BOOM GENERATION

Understanding and discussing options and the variety of choices available to America's Aging Baby Boomers.

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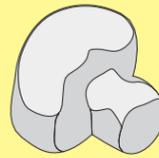
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33rd Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot

This annual event will take place on Sunday, November 22nd, and attracts approximately 1,850 participants. The Turkey Trot consists of a 5K & 10K run, a 5K walk, and a Drumstick Dash for children ages 10 and under. Runners and walkers race through the streets of Lincolnwood beginning and ending at the Village's largest park, Proesel Park. All participants receive a goodie bag filled with refreshments and other items as well as a long-sleeved T-shirt. Turkey trophies are awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age division. Turkeys are given to the overall male and female finishers in each race. The walk is non-competitive. This is a CARA (Chicago Area Runners Association) certified race and a portion of any proceeds will be donated to the; Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization, the City of Hope, and the Lincolnwood Scholarship Program. You can register online at www.lincolnwoodil.org, navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button, or get more information by visiting the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation office at 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., or calling (847) 677-9740.



WILD MUSHROOMS

See page 15: Credit Cards



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Haben Participates in Annual Meeting of Selected Independent Funeral Homes

John Haben was among the hundreds of funeral service professionals attending the 91st Annual Meeting of Selected Independent Funeral Homes in San Diego, California, October 7-10. Haben is President of Haben Funeral Home & Crematory in Skokie, a family-owned and operated firm serving the area since 1923.

"The meeting was held at the Hard Rock Hotel in the famous Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego which proved to be an exciting location," said Haben. "In addition, the meeting provided valuable opportunities to gather with my fellow members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes from across North America and around the world. We shared a variety of informative study sessions, discussed insights and shared new ideas which will help our local funeral home better serve the families of our community."

Meeting sessions focused on important issues concerning the funeral service profession, innovative service ideas, timely business advice and best practices. Among the many important topics discussed were: understanding bereavement, building a successful funeral service team, the myth of multitasking, best practices for family follow-up, best practices for cremation, a clinical perspective on grieving, serving unique groups in the community, and professional ideas and suggestions from New Zealand.

Founded in 1917 as National Selected Morticians, Selected Independent Funeral Homes (www.selectedfuneralhomes.org) is the world's oldest and largest association of independently owned funeral homes. Members of the association are expected to operate according to specific standards and best practices in order to provide the public with reliable, high-quality funeral services and funeral-related information.

"Our members pledge to uphold the Selected Independent Funeral Homes 'Code of Good Practice' and are committed to the important responsibility they have to the families and communities they serve," said Robert J. Paterkiewicz, executive director of Selected Independent Funeral Homes. "It's a tradition of trust that Haben Funeral Home & Crematory has been a part of with fifty-two years of membership".

Liberty Bank for Savings to Host Life Line Screenings

Friday, Dec. 4, Liberty Bank will host Life Line Screenings community preventive health screenings at its Norwood branch, 6210 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Pre-registration is required. Appointment times begin at 9 a.m. and fill quickly. Please call Life Line Screenings directly at 800.324.1851 for your appointment. Applicable charges apply.

As part of a repeat partnership with Liberty Bank and a service to the community, Life Line will offer ultrasound screenings for the prevention of stroke, vascular disease and osteoporosis. Screenings are non-invasive, completely painless and affordable. There is a charge for the screenings and reservations with Life Line are required.

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, celebrates its 111th anniversary in 2009. For more information call 773.489.4471 or visit www.libertybank.com.

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Our Lady of the Resurrection Offers November Health Programs

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

The **Diabetes Support Group** will meet Tuesday, November 3, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the second floor Community Education Room. These free sessions are tailored for adults who have Type 2 diabetes and focus on the emotional side of diabetes, allowing participants to share coping strategies, feelings and problems in living with diabetes. For further information about the Diabetes Support Group, call certified diabetes educator Kathy Byrne-Bellavia, R.N., at 773-794-8329.

A free lecture titled "**Headaches – The Medical Type**" will be given Thursday, November 5, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pain Management Clinic medical director/anesthesiologist Michael H. Rock, M.D., will discuss different types of headaches and treatment options, which may be of particular interest to individuals suffering from frequent or debilitating headaches. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

Cholesterol screenings will be offered Tuesday, November 10, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. A 12-hour fast is required for this blood draw that tests for total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL and LDL. Test results will be mailed. There is a \$15 fee. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

A free session titled "**Healthy Eating During the Holidays**" will be conducted Thursday, November 12, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. A registered dietitian will provide tips on how to enjoy holiday foods while eating healthy during the holidays. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

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

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European Market to Open November 7 in Lincoln Square

In March of 1972, two young immigrant brothers from a small farm village in Malopolskie, Poland, John and Gene Luszcz, opened a small neighborhood deli specializing in homemade smoked sausage and other Polish delicacies. Drawing upon their family's sausage-making recipes and smoking techniques, John & Gene's on West Roscoe Street, gained almost instant popularity and a loyal clientele catering to the largely Polish Chicago neighborhood anchored by St. Ladislaus church. For 8 successful years John and Gene personally served and greeted hungry customers providing a taste of "home" to the local community.

In 1980, in need of additional space, the store moved to nearby Belmont Avenue where it operates today as Gene's Sausage Shop & Deli. Gene's famous life-size sculpture of a cow which dominates the outdoor sign welcomes Gene's Sausage Shop customers to its 20,000 square feet of 40 types of smoked sausages, fresh meats, prepared foods and European imported specialties. The artisan handmade sausages are made fresh on-premise every day by traditional sausage-makers from Europe, and fresh meat is served up the old-fashion way, cut straight out of the meat cooler by trained butchers. Gene and his wife, Alice, have gained national media attention for their delicatessen and have been featured on the Frugal Gourmet Show, 190 North, Taste, Fox News and numerous publications.

2009 marks Gene's Sausage Shop's 37th Anniversary as well as the beginning of a new chapter in its history. A second full range European market is scheduled to open this Fall in Chicago's Lincoln Square area occupying the old space of Delicatessen Meyer, a 53 year German-American institution which closed in 2007.

Gene's Sausage Shop thanks their loyal customers and friends, and looks forward to keeping its European food tradition alive and thriving.

The Luszcz Family



Wolff's Flea Market Opens Indoor Market in Palatine



Wolff's Flea Market is proud to announce the opening of its new indoor flea market at 1775 N. Rand Road in Palatine, IL starting Saturday, November 21.

Brothers David and Donald Wolff have operated this well known family run Chicago area fixture for 18 years at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont. "Loyal customers and vendors have followed us to four other successful indoor markets as well, and we are very excited to launch our new Palatine home!" says David Wolff.

This new location will house 400 vendors offering merchandise from everyday brand new staple items to antiques, collectibles, sports memorabilia, coins, DVDs, CDs, tools, electronics, clothing, socks, accessories, jewelry, books, household items, home décor, garage sale items and so much more! Thrifty shoppers, young and old are sure to find something! "Wolff's Flea Market is a must see for any bargain hunter, collector or curious newcomer. New, name brand merchandise at discount prices abound. There is something for everyone and you won't be disappointed!" says Donald Wolff

"Today, more than ever, this type of business is a standard for current trends. The concept of 'Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose' comes to life as vendors find high quality "gently owned" merchandise and offer it at fair prices," says Sharon Wolff, wife of David and secret shopper herself. "Why should you always buy items brand new when you can save money and also keep items out of the landfill by purchasing quality second-hand items, in excellent condition?"

"Antique and collectible hunters never know what they will find as each day and new box peered into is like a whole new world, just waiting for you," says sister Eileen Wolff.

So, save money, save time with one-stop stopping, save the environment by repurposing your new finds and have fun day with your family at Wolff's Flea Market.

General Information: Open Saturdays and Sundays through March 2010. Hours are 8am to 4pm. Customer admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for seniors and children 6-12, Under 6 are free. Open for vendors at 6am. Please visit our website at www.wolffs.com or call us at 847-524-9590 for more information.

This Holiday Season, Don't Forget the Children



Mike's Barber Shop

accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys until December 23
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West Ridge Home & Business Expo

Wed. November 18, 2009, Boone Community School 1-5pm. Face to face marketing is the best way to grow your business database! Register today for your business to participate in this event. (773) 743-6022.

ALDERMAN STONE ANNOUNCES A FOOD DRIVE

Canned and dry goods are being collected at the 50th Ward office of Alderman Stone, 6199 N. Lincoln Avenue (2nd Floor), 773-764-5050, through November 23, 2009 for distribution before Thanksgiving. You may drop off your contributions in Alderman Stone's Lincoln Avenue office during regular business hours. Help someone have a happier Thanksgiving holiday!

KIWANIS CLUB OF RAVENSWOOD

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday 12 o'clock Noon at Hilltop Family Restaurant 2800 W. Foster (Northwest corner of Foster & California)

Nov. 12th - Regular Club Meeting at Hilltop Family Restaurant at 12:00pm. Our guest speaker is Les Kniskern of the Neighborhood Nutrition Centers "better nutrition for better community." Board of Directors Meeting following the Regular Meeting. *Note: Meetings now begin at 12:00 noon and not 12:15pm. It would be appreciated if you would arrive by 12:00 noon. Thank you!*

Our Kiwanis Club's I-I Districts Governor, Kevin McConnell, is making his official Governor's visit on Saturday, November 14th at 2:00 pm at the Logan Square Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, 3228 W. Palmer. No tickets are required. Cost is \$10.00 per person at the door.

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GREAT OUTDOORS

Local Environmental Groups Create Joy Garden Showcasing Green Initiatives and Outdoor Classroom for Special Education Students

Continued from page 1

A previously uncultivable 10,000 square-foot plot at Northside College Prep High School (5501 N. Kedzie Ave.) is being transformed into a multi-use garden through a partnership between Urban Wildlife Coalition (UWC), Urban Habitat Chicago (UHC) and the school's Community for Alternative Sources of Energy (CASE).

The garden's environmental initiatives include wildlife-friendly plantings, 35 tons of recycled materials and sustainable elements such as a storm-water management system and permeable pavement, which allows both air and water to penetrate its surface.

It will also function as an outdoor classroom for the adjacent special education department featuring handicapped accessible pervious concrete pathways, raised beds and wheelchair-height learning stations.

The project, which has a completion date of spring 2010, is known as Joy Garden. It was conceived by project coordinator and Northside graduate Brianna Birman and is named in honor of her deceased aunt, Samantha Joy Birman, who was profoundly disabled.

More than \$25,000 has been raised for Joy Garden through grants or in kind donations from Urban Habitat Chicago, Repkin Biosystems, Ozinga, Lowe's, Lurvey's, Green Cross and others.

"We're excited about the opportunity to partner with innovative green organizations to serve the needs of multiple communities in a single site," Birman says.

CASE is a student-run environmental awareness organization and was recently inducted into the Environmental Hall of Fame for accomplishments such as hosting the annual eco-fest Green Scene and procuring nearly \$1,000,000 in funding for installation of solar panels to heat the school's hot water.

UHC is dedicated to demonstrating the viability of sustainability in an urban environment, including green roof design and maintenance, coordinating building deconstruction and hosting a monthly lecture series.

UWC advocates for wildlife preservation, conducts Living with Your Wild Neighbors seminars promoting coexistence with wildlife and helps facilitate rehabilitation of injured and orphaned animals.

See attached for garden plans and overview. To view photos of the garden's progress visit urbanhabitatchicago.org. For more information or to schedule a tour of the garden contact Urban Wildlife Coalition at 773-545-8136.

Urban Wildlife Coalition: Fall Critter-Proofing Tips

A wild animal in your home can be distressing both for your family and for your uninvited houseguest. Here, an ounce of prevention clearly trumps a pound of cure. Avoid urban wildlife conflicts from the start by checking your home for potential entryways. With winter just around the corner, now is the perfect time for an inspection.

Allow several hours for a daytime, top-to-bottom assessment of your home.

Gather binoculars and a flashlight. Bring a camera if you'd like to document problem areas for professional service.

Attic

Check for current animal residents (track marks, droppings, holes, nesting materials).

Turn off lights – daylight shining through will indicate gaps or holes that should be filled.

Never seal a hole if you suspect an animal may be in your home. You'll block its escape route and trap it indoors.

Chimney

Shine flashlight up the chimney looking for animal indicators, especially on the damper and smoke shelf.

If you are positive no animals are present, install a rugged, animal-proof chimney cap.

Foundation

Check for possible entrances, with special attention to places where different building materials meet: window wells, exhaust vents, siding cracks, etc. Small openings can be filled with caulk, foam, or copper mesh. Larger openings should be repaired before the cold weather sets in.

Again, take precautions. Make sure your home is animal-free before sealing any gaps.

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

Virtual Illinois Tour Motivating Thousands to Get Active

Thousands of people in Illinois are finding a new motivation to be active through a free online program that offers participants support in developing healthier, more active lifestyles.

Walk Across Illinois is a free health initiative that creates opportunities for everyone to achieve their full potential for physical activity. Find out more at www.WalkAcrossIllinois.org.

THE MCCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK IN MILLENNIUM PARK OPENS FOR THE 9TH SEASON ON NOVEMBER 18

Kicking off Chicago's winter season, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park will open on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 and will remain open through Sunday, March 14, 2010, weather permitting. The rink, now in its ninth 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 this season are as follows:

Mondays – Thursdays: 12 pm – 8 pm

Fridays: 12 pm – 10 pm

Saturdays (through Jan. 2): 10 am – 10 pm

Saturdays (beginning Jan. 9): 10 am – 9 pm

Sundays: 10 am – 9 pm

Holiday Hours

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving): 10 am – 4 pm

Thursday, December 24: 10 am – 6 pm

Friday, December 25: 10 am – 4 pm

Thursday, December 31: 10 am – 8 pm

Friday, January 1: 12 pm – 10 pm

The ice rink is just one component of the 24.5-acre Millennium Park, which has welcomed more than sixteen million visitors since opening in July 2004. Among Millennium Park's other prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture.

For more information about events in Millennium Park during the winter months, including Caroling at Cloud Gate, visit www.millenniumpark.org, or call 312.742.1168.

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GREAT OUTDOORS

Nat'l Wildlife Federation: Wildlife Vampires!

Who's your favorite vampire? Do you swoon over Edward Cullen and Bill Compton, or are classic bloodsuckers like Count Dracula and Lestat de Lioncourt more your style? As fun as it is to obsess over and be scared by these fictional vampires, the real things are much more fascinating. Here is some blood-curdling information from National Wildlife Federation on living, breathing vampires that might just be stalking you.

Vampire Bats - Meet *Desmodus rotundus* and his cousins *Diphylla ecaudata* and *Diaemus youngi*, known respectively as the common, hairy-legged and white-winged vampire bats. Found only in the Americas, their collective range goes from Mexico down through Argentina. These bats feed exclusively on the blood of other animals. The common vampire bat typically goes for mammals, including domestic cows and horses, while the other two species prefer to feed upon birds—although the occasional human does make it on the menu. Thankfully, the bite of one of these bats won't turn you into a vampire, but the wounds can become infected.

Mosquitoes - For mosquitoes, it's the ladies who are the bloodsuckers. Both sexes feed on flower nectar as their main source of nutrients. Only when she's ready to reproduce does the female mosquito seek out a blood meal. She needs the added protein boost in order to lay her eggs and create a whole new generation of lady vampires.

Lampreys - These eel-like creatures are something right out of science fiction horror. Their disc-shaped mouths are filled with circles of razor-sharp teeth, which they use to bore into the flesh of their victims. They can remain attached for days or even weeks, all the while sucking in blood and body fluids. One species, the sea lamprey, has been introduced into the Great Lakes where it has become a problematic invasive exotic species. This lamprey can grow to almost 2 feet in length and the native lake fish it feeds upon often don't survive the draining.

Bed Bugs - The goodnight rhyme "nite nite, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite" takes on macabre twist when you learn that in the last few years, these little vampires are on the rise. Nearly eradicated in North America for 50 years, bed bugs are back with a blood-sucking vengeance, showing up everywhere from high-end hotels to college dorms to rural bedrooms. After their victims fall asleep, bed bugs emerge from their hiding places in cracks and crevices and insert their sucking mouthparts in a series of bites along the blood vessels, drinking as they go and leaving a series of red, itchy welts.

Oxpeckers and Vampire Finches - There are several bird species that form symbiotic relationships with larger animals. The larger animals tolerate the birds' presence on their bodies, leaving the birds free to feast upon ticks and other parasites that are lodged in the skin feeding upon the animals' blood. It's a win-win situation. But oxpeckers are birds that take it one step further. Not only do they feed upon parasitic invertebrates, they are happy to consume bits of flesh and blood of their host animals while they're at it. Vampire finches inhabit the Galapagos Islands and supplement their diet of seeds, insects and nectar with the blood of other birds, usually the blue-footed booby. They peck a hole in the flesh of the booby to get the larger bird's blood and strangely, the boobies hardly seem to notice.

Leeches - Few animals evoke the "icky-creepies" in people as much as worms do with their slimy squirminess and their faceless, legless bodies. When such a creature also feeds upon human blood, it only adds to the horror factor. Such is the case with leeches. These parasitic worms attach themselves to their host and bloat themselves on blood. While most leeches are external parasites, some species will swim into nasal cavities and stay there, feeding and growing. Capable of holding undigested blood in their stomachs, parasitic leeches can go months between feedings.

Candiru Catfish - There are several species of diminutive candiru catfish that inhabit South American rivers. Some seek out larger fish and use their spiny mouths to attach themselves to the gills of their victims, where they makes an incision with their teeth and drink their fill of fish blood. Some species actually burrow inside the bodies of their prey, leaving a wound that looks like a bullet hole. Once inside they suck blood from the internal organs. This is the fish that gained international fame recently when one swam up a man's penis, where it fed for several days before having to be surgically removed. Few things are more horrifying than even the thought of that!

Even scary wildlife isn't safe from habitat destruction, climate change, pollution and other human-caused problems. Read more about real life wildlife vampires and NWF at nwf.org/nationalwildlife.

Adapted from materials provided by USDA/Agricultural Research Service. Contact us at info@nwf.org, 1-800-822-9919, National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston VA, 20190. © 2008 National Wildlife Federation. All rights reserved.

Major Funding Supports Residents to Improve Safety, Health of Their Blocks

Thanks to major funding from The Kresge Foundation, the Active Transportation Alliance will be able to provide community-based programs in many of Chicago's underserved communities that will promote safe and active transportation.

The program, Active Living on the Block, educates and empowers residents to access resources and tools that improve the safety and health of their streets. These can range from sidewalk repair to street lighting to a crosswalk.

The three-year \$300,000 grant is the largest private contribution the Active Transportation Alliance has received in its history.

"We are extremely grateful to the Kresge Foundation for its commitment and support in improving the health of Chicago residents and their streets," said Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Active Transportation Alliance. "Amazing things can happen when communities make design changes based on their lived expertise. This grant will allow residents to better understand how to take back their blocks, make their streets safer, and enjoy their public space."

Active Living on the Block collaborates with community leaders from the Local Initiative Support Corporation's New Communities Program in neighborhoods like Logan Square, Garfield Park, North Lawndale and Little Village to make their streets safe and accessible for play, recreation, and active transportation like bicycling and walking. Active Trans uses community-based design to empower and energize neighborhoods that have fewer resources to network with urban planners to make the streets' design safer and more accessible for walking and biking.

Issues of safety in a given community can include gang violence, traffic safety or health concerns. Active Living on the Block gets residents to start talking about those issues and how they impact walking, biking and playing in their neighborhood.

The relationship between's health, safety, community empowerment and the built environment critical, and this program will inform advocates across the country about best practices for implementing community-based design.

The Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit, member-based advocacy organization that works to make bicycling, walking and public transit so safe, convenient and fun that we will achieve a significant shift from environmentally harmful, sedentary travel to clean, active travel. The organization builds a movement around active transportation, encourages physical activity, increases safety and builds a world-class transportation network. Formerly the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, the Active Transportation Alliance is North America's largest transportation advocacy organization, supported by more than 6,000 members, 1,000 volunteers and 35 full-time staff. For more information on the Active Transportation Alliance, visit www.activetrans.org or call 312.427.3325.

HELP FOR NEWORGANIC FARMERS

A Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring Program is again being sponsored in 2010 by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES).

This program helps new organic farmers make the transition to organic production with help from experienced farmer mentors. Applications are now being accepted for mentor farmers and those to be mentored (mentees).

All participants in the mentoring program will also be given admission to the 2010 Organic Farming Conference and Organic University where they can broaden their organic farming education and network with other producers. Both events are sponsored by MOSES and will be held in La Crosse, WI, February 25 - 27, 2010.

For more information contact Harriet Behar at the toll-free Farmer Transition Hotline, 888-551-4769 or by e-mail at harriet@mosesorganic.org.

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS



Life of Mexican Film Icon Explored at Wright

The life and comedy of an influential film star of Mexico will be explored at Wright College at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival.

The film star, Mario Moreno, who later became known as Cantinflas, began his life in the rough border city of Ciudad Juarez and eventually became an icon of Mexican cinema. His life, his famous gags and his influence on a new generation of comics and social satirists will be covered by Herbert Singenza, a founding member of Culture Clash, the most prominent Chicano/Latino performance troupe in the county.

The Chicago Humanities Festival is a month-long citywide celebration of intellectual curiosity. Various lectures, performances and exhibitions will be presented around the city under the theme, "Laughter."

Admission is \$5 in advance for adults and \$10 cash only at the door. Educators and students are admitted free with valid ID.

Tickets can be ordered by phone, (312) 494-9509 or via the Chicago Humanities Festival website, www.chfestival.org.

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

New Welles Park Play Lot

Alderman Gene Schuler (47), the Chicago Park District, and the Welles Park Advisory Council celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Welles Park Play Lot on Saturday, October 24, 2009. Members of the Lincoln Square community have worked collaboratively for the past three years to raise funds for the development of a new play lot in Welles Park.

"The new play lot is going to be an incredible asset to the families of the 47th Ward," states Alderman Schuler. "I'm really proud of the hard work of the Welles Park Advisory Council in raising the funds required to get this project started."

This project is a part of Alderman Schuler's goal to redevelop all of the play lots located in the 47th Ward. New play lots have already been completed at both Winnemac Park and Revere Park. With the help of local elected officials, Alderman Schuler is working to ensure that local families will have clean, safe, and well equipped play lots for their children to enjoy.

Welles Park is located at 2333 W. Sunnyside (at the intersection of Western and Sunnyside).

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Playtime at the Library. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. A friendly, social time for young children, ages 3 and under, and their caregivers. Toys and snacks are provided for the children.

Teen Acting Class. Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. through Nov. 16. Students in 6th grade and up can learn acting techniques, study characters and lines, and try out for parts. Please register in the Youth Services Department (847-677-5277 x234). Students in the class will perform in a "Fairytale Who Dunnit" play in November.

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My Future is Alive

By: Ciara Moore, 15, Wells High School, After School Matters

The following op-ed was written by Ciara Moore, a freshman at Wells High School. She is currently an After School Matters apprentice in the Elijah's House Urban Teen and Urban Girl Magazine program.

When most people think of violence what comes to mind is abuse, pain and hurt. I lost a friend earlier this year to violence, and, just recently, another. Three weeks ago, the world saw video of a Fenger High School student being brutally killed.

Violence in my world has been steadily on the rise, however there is still a lack of justice. The violence has not been stopped.

I am a Chicago teen in a public school. Does that mean I am involved in such violence or that my dreams have been destroyed by such acts? No—I am taking steps to avoid the violence. I am opting to instead get involved in programs where I can improve my community and myself.

The solution I choose to put a stop to violence is a program called After School Matters, which is a job-training program for teens that lets high school students explore various interests, working side-by-side with adult mentors in different types of activities, including science, sports, technology, performing and visual arts and creative and journalistic writing: my program of choice this fall. This initiative keeps students out of harm's way, introduces us to new learning concepts and opportunities, and gives us something constructive to do during the after school hours. And, we actually get paid for all the hard work we do in the program.

Working in this program has improved my writing skills, taught me how to conduct interviews and work with important software that journalists use. Some of my friends in other After School Matters programs are learning to express their feelings through poetry and teaching younger children how to play soccer.

Thursday, October 22 was national "Lights on After School Day," where cities nationwide recognized what after-school programming can do for teens like me. If more teens were involved in programs during after-school hours, there might be less violence in the city.

I don't have all the answers, but I know one way to keep children off the streets and out of harm's way is to provide them the opportunity to participate in a program like After School Matters, where they can gain job opportunities and valuable life skills to work toward a peaceful tomorrow.

Below is a poem I wrote to express my feelings about violence.

What would you do?

What would you do if you saw someone get shot...?

Would you call the cops or just ignore it.

What would you do if that was your child killed...?

Would you tell them or just forget about it.

What would you do if that was someone you knew...?

Go to the police and tell, or just not care.

What would you do if that was your little sister or brother lying there dead...?

Would you want someone to stand up then or just pretend like it never happened?

So much violence so much pain—imagine what the parents are feeling; I'm sure just the same.

It's time to stand up once and for all because all these killings need to stop now!!!

So what are you going to do?

Sit back and relax because it's not you or someone you knew?

Maybe, but what if it is you next time...?

How would you feel if someone did that to you...?

Don't shoot me; I wouldn't shoot you.

It's time to stand up now, so what are you going to do???

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

Emmett's H.O.P.E Playlot

A young boy's courage gives hope to friends and neighbors in Edison Park

Emmett Leyden is a young boy living with Epilepsy. The disorder came on full force at 2 ½, a critical time developmentally for any child. He was lucky enough to be placed in one of Chicago's finest pre-schools, Frederick Stock School in Edison Park. Parents, Erin & Patrick, were humbled by the first day of school when they entered the hallways that were lined with wheelchairs, and adaptive seating devices. They knew they were in good



(above) Donor - Alderman Brian Doherty 41st Ward (right) Principal Dr. Richard Smith and Margie Mosele, LSC President



hands. On October 17th the Leyden Family will be hosting a 'Playdate' with students, faculty and the surrounding community of Stock School to celebrate new equipment Emmett's H.O.P.E. brings to Stock School. Items

include a new swingset with ADA accessible swings as well as three sensory interactive panels to allow all children to play together. An official ribbon ceremony will take place honoring donors, Lexi Kazian Foundation, Alderman Brian Doherty, Ed Siemienas - Allstate, Mary O'Connor - Edison Park Turkey Trot, Gary's Finer Landscaping, A-1 Tree Service, Grand Street Gardens, Lurvey's Garden Center, Dairy Queen, Edison Park Inn, Bojono's Pizza & Catering. The event will host the ribbon ceremony as well as provide music, crafts, food and fun. It will be held at Frederick Stock School's Playground at 7507 W. Birchwood in Chicago.

Emmett was very sick when he started at Stock School. He suffered from seizures; at times he could barely pick his head up he was also on a strict diet. Principal Smith, and the amazing staff welcomed him immediately. I knew he was in good hands. Emmett has since graduated and is now attending full day kindergarten at Norwood Park School this fall. "I am extremely grateful for his progress academically and socially, not to mention he is now 2 years seizure free! That is why I put together the Frederick Stock Preschool Playground Improvement Project. Words can't express the gratitude and life-changing experience my family and I had while at Stock School we've learned so much from others - young and old" says Emmett's mom, Erin.

Husband & Wife Erin & Patrick Leyden and current parent of Stock School, Anne Marie Clancy of Chicago, Illinois founded the American Epilepsy Outreach Foundation after their youngest son, Emmett, was diagnosed with Doose Syndrome a rare form of epilepsy. Emmett Leyden has a severe form of the disorder and suffered up to 200 epileptic seizures a day.

Public facilities and individual businesses can order posters and brochures from AEOF that list the first-aid procedures for responding to someone experiencing a seizure and provide basic facts about epilepsy. Please contact tracy@epilepsyoutreach.org to order.

GUERIN PREP OPENS NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH 38 NOLAN SCHOLARS

Among the 620 students who started the school year at Guerin College Preparatory High School this year are 20 sophomores and 18 freshmen who have been named Nolan Scholars.

The sophomores are now in the second year of the program, which was introduced last school year to provide academically talented students a more challenging program.

This special four-year program gives gifted, motivated students an opportunity to pursue advanced courses of study, participate in enrichment and service experiences and receive special mentoring all aimed at preparing them to succeed at top tier colleges and universities. The program was named in honor of Sister Nancy Nolan, who was the president of Guerin Prep until February 2007.

Karin Calandriello, Guerin Prep English teacher, is the director of the program. She works with Tom Jaworski, who serves as the academic advisor just for these students, and a committee of faculty and administrators who offer guidance in the program's development.

Guerin High School is located at 8001 W. Belmont in River Grove. Contact them at (708) 453-6233 or guerinprep.org.

St. Hyacinth School News

Do you have extra cell phones lying around in your house you don't use? If so, why don't you donate them for a good cause! St. Hyacinth is collecting used cell phones to not only help the environment and countries that lack these resources, but to also help the school. For every cell phone we send in the school gets \$75! We appreciate all your contributions.

Please continue to turn in your box tops and Campbell soup labels either at the school office or in the church. We are also collecting Capri Sun juice pouches for the school. Another way to help out the school is by using two search engines called, "GoodSearch" and "iSearchiGive". Just put St. Hyacinth as the charity of choice, and every time you search using the search engines, money will be donated to the school. Every little bit helps!

Our website is continuously being updated with new information each day, so continue to take a look to see what happens at St. Hyacinth!: www.sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org. There are openings in our classes.

The Alumni Group is being formed, we need your information! Call us at 773-342-7550.

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SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

American Legion Edison Park Post #541 Observes Veterans Day

In observance of Veterans Day on Wednesday Nov. 11th there will be a ceremony at Monument Park located at Avondale and Oliphant Aves, Chicago starting at 10:30AM. This day has been set aside to honor U.S. Military Veterans of all branches of service.

We invite all to attend this tribute and thank those that have served and are currently serving THIS GREAT COUNTRY of ours.

For additional information contact Post Commander Gerald Skotzko at 773-693-3448 or Sr. Vice Commander Robert Fuggiti at 773-736-8738

NORWOOD CROSSING TO COMMEMORATE VETERANS DAY ON NOV. 9

The community is invited to join veterans, residents, their friends and families for a special Veterans Day Commemorative Program, on Mon., Nov. 9, at 2:30 p.m. The event will take place at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago. Parking is available on the street or in the parking lot behind the building (entrance off Avondale Avenue).

The program will include "Reflections of December 7, 1941," presented by Seaman 1st Class Jack Barry, a survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He will respond to prepared questions that will provide an examination of the event from his perspective and describe his role during and after the attack.

Other parts of the program will include: presentation of the Colors by Taft High School Navy Junior ROTC; pledge of allegiance led by Gerald Skotzko, commander of American Legion Edison Post 541, and Lucille Janssens, a former commander of American Legion Norwood Post 740; playing of the National Anthem performed by members of The Taft Symphonic Band; invocation by Chaplain Lt. Col. Paul Pfeiffer (Senior Army Reserve Ret.); recognition of veterans present; playing of Taps; and a concert of patriotic music performed by members of The Taft Symphonic Band.

Veterans will be recognized individually during the program. All active and non-active military personnel who are planning to attend the event are asked to provide upon arrival their name, rank, military unit, service branch, armed conflict (if any), where served, and dates of service. Refreshments will be served.

Norwood Crossing is a not-for-profit senior living community since 1996. Veterans planning to attend should RSVP to Stan Banash, director of public relations, at (773) 577-5324.

QUIGLEY HONORS LOCAL VETERANS' WORLD WAR II SERVICE

Representative Quigley joined 83 World War II veterans from Chicago at the World War II Memorial to commemorate and celebrate their service and dedication to their country.

The trip was made possible by Honor Flight Chicago, a non-profit organization that raises money to fly World War II veterans to the memorial. Since its inception in 2008, Honor Flight has given 775 veterans the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., free of charge.

"Our veterans bravely put themselves in harm's way for our country, and we must continue to recognize and thank them for everything they've done for each and every one of us," said Quigley. "Meeting with these men at the monument dedicated to their sacrifice was a humbling privilege and a testament to the work being done by Honor Flight."

Honor Veterans at Bohemian National Cemetery

Join Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery at 5255 N. Pulaski in Chicago on Friday, November 6. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the cemetery office to receive small flags and maps to find veteran's graves and place a flag in their honor to commemorate Veteran's Day on November 11th. All are welcome. Come by for a cup of coffee before you begin that morning. For more information, call 847-362-9036.

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SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

A Flight to Remember

In the last edition of *Our Village*, we showcased the inspiring work of The Honor Flight Network, an organization that sends veterans to Washington, D.C. for a one-day Honor Flight, so they may see memorials honoring their service and the service of their fallen comrades.

In this our Veteran's Day edition, we bring the story home with an interview with Mr. Bill Kinder, a Chicago resident who took his Honor Flight last month. From 1943-46, Mr. Kinder served on the front line in the European theater, part of the 79th Infantry. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and earned Europe's "Forte-Guerre" and Bronze Star. He is a Junior Vice-Commander of the Edison Park Foreign Legion. Here is an excerpt from our conversation:

Our Village: How did you first hear about the Honor Flight Network?

Bill Kinder: A friend of mine, a fellow WWII veteran, told me about it. I was very curious and wanted to find out more. I discovered that it began in 2005 in Ohio by a retired Air Force Captain. About a year or so ago, they started flights out of Chicago.

OV: How did you apply to go on the Honor Flight?

BK: It was really simple. I just called them up and they sent me an application. I filled it out and they notified me when I'd be taking the trip.

OV: Please tell us about your trip.

BK: Well, we met at the airport very early in the morning – 4 a.m. My tour was October 21. There were about 80 of us veterans on the flight, accompanied by volunteers, they call them "guardians," who travel with us and take care of all the logistics. I don't want to ruin the surprise, so maybe your readers want to skip this part if they are thinking about going. About an hour into the flight, they announced "Mail Call," and each of us received a thick envelope, some of us more than one, stuffed with letters from all these people: my envelope contained notes from my kids, grandkids, golf buddies, schools, Mayor Daley, and other dignitaries. It was such a surprise! And reading all these notes sure made the rest of the flight speedy by.

OV: What happened when you arrived in Washington, D.C.?

BK: Our plane was met by some 1,000 spectators; five fire departments with lights and sirens going, and a U.S. Navy Band. It was such a touching welcome.

OV: Sounds like an amazing trip and you hadn't even started the tour! Please tell us some of the highlights of Washington, D.C.

BK: We saw the WWII Memorial, the Korean and Vietnam Memorials, the Lincoln Memorial. I was speechless. We also toured Smithsonian museums, including the Air and Space Museum, where I saw a real German ME102. During my tour in Europe, one of those planes scraped us three times and a dogfight ensued. It was strange to see that plane again. It was also quite an experience to see the actual Anola Gay. Another highlight was being treated to lunch at the Officers' Club at Fort Meyers. Very, very nice!

OV: What was it like returning home after this very active, highly emotional day?

BK: Let me tell you, we had lots to think about on the flight home. But our return was no less dramatic than the rest of the day. Two thousand people met our flight back home in Chicago, including friends and family. There aren't words to express how honored we all felt, how proud, how fortunate.

OV: Words of advice to your fellow WWII vets?

BK: This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime chance, one you truly have to experience to appreciate. If you are able to go – do! Sign up now and go!

For more information about The Honor Flight Network, to download an application or to make a donation, visit www.honorflight.org. You may also call 937-521-2400.

McAuliffe joins Governor Quinn to Announce New Chicago Veterans Home Site

Over the years, the area known as the Read-Dunning property has gone through many different plans for future development. However, this year a plan for building a new Veterans home has become a reality. Governor Pat Quinn along with State Representative Michael McAuliffe (R-Chicago) will announce this site selection at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the property located at 4200 N. Oak Park Avenue, Chicago.

"There is a real need in Chicago to provide more services for our veterans, including another residential home for them. I am happy to finally to bring this plan to fruition. This veterans home is something that has been in the planning stages for years and I applaud all of the people who have contributed to this complex issue. The new home will help meet the needs of our veteran community," said McAuliffe.

For more information, contact Rep. McAuliffe at (773) 792-0749.

Remembering the Meaning of Veteran's Day

Red, white, and blue circulars announcing 50% off all mattresses. No school! The gas station's flag flying at half mast. For too many of us, these are our Veteran's Day associations. For those of us not directly impacted by the war in Iraq, for those without friends and family who have served, it is far too easy to forget the meaning of this important day.

Veteran's Day began as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I – optimistically coined "the war to end all wars." President Woodrow Wilson declared, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice..."

Though the War did not officially end until June 28, 1919, an informal armistice was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of the preceding year. For this reason, Veteran's Day falls on November 11. This was not always the case. Attempts were made to change the date so it would fall on Monday, making for convenient three-day weekends. Recognizing that this was not a holiday about a getaway to the Dells or shopping sprees at the mattress store, and realizing the significance of this important historic commemoration, President Gerald Ford responded to the American people and returned the holiday to November 11.

Most of us do not like war. But, we must separate those feelings from the gratitude we owe to those who have served. It is important that we take pause from our busy lives and imagine a day in the life of those in service – sleepless nights, grueling work, physical hardship, separation from loved ones, fear, and loss. It is important that we take a moment to thank the men and women who have made supreme sacrifices for our country. Come Wednesday, November 11, bake cookies for your local VFW; ask a veteran to share his or her remembrances of service; send a care package to our troops; gaze at the gas station's flag at half mast and remember exactly what that means.

Pathway Senior Living Free Program: In Honoring Our Veterans

Alan I. Gray from the American Association For Wartime Veterans will be discussing the Aid & Attendance Benefit. He will explain the V.A. benefits, eligibility rules, application process, and the benefits that you are entitled to. Wartime Veterans may qualify for up to \$1,644 monthly and Surviving Spouses may receive up to \$1,056.

This seminar will be held on Thursday November 19th, from 6:00 to 7:00p.m. at Victory Centre of Galewood 2370 N. Newcastle Ave. Chicago, IL. 60707. Space is limited please call today to reserve your space 773-385-5002 or E-Mail to sgudino@pathwaysl.com.

McAuliffe Honors Veterans at Monument Park, Norwood Crossing

State Representative Michael McAuliffe (R-Chicago) will honor the brave men and women who have served our country during the Veteran's Day annual event held at Monument Park in Chicago's Edison Park neighborhood.

"This is a very important day to pay homage to those who have dedicated their lives to protect our country. As the Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, it is a privilege to honor our troops on this day," said McAuliffe.

Residents are invited to attend the Veteran's Day event with American Legion Post 541 in Edison Park along with Boy Scout Troop 955 and Color Guards at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Monument Park, 6679 N. Avondale Avenue.

McAuliffe will also honor veterans at 2:30 p.m. Monday, November 9, at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N Nina Avenue, Chicago. Pearl Harbor survivor Jack Barry will speak and Taft High School's Navy ROTC and the Band and Buglers will help commemorate this occasion.

For more information, Rep. McAuliffe can be reached at his district office by calling (773) 792-0749.

"A Theatre Review"

"Hairspray"

Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, IL

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire is one of only two theatres that has the power to take major musicals and turn them into major hits. "Hairspray" is a high-energy production that has sensational dance numbers, a fantastic cast who can sing, dance and act and give audiences top-notch entertainment. The show is under the direction as well as the choreography of the dynamic Marc Robin, a man who is a workaholic.

The show has a cast of twenty-nine performers who are all top-drawer performers whether in the lead role, supporting roles or just the ensemble. The show is based on John Waters' movie but the musical has a book by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. The show offers audiences nineteen numbers that include "The Nicest Kids in Town," "I Can Hear the Bells," "Run and Tell That" and "I Know Where I've Been" to name a few. Marissa Perry is Tracy Turnblad, Ross Lehman is Edna Turnblad, Bernie Yvon has the role of Corny Collins, Billy Harrigan Tighe is Link Larkin, Cathering Lord is Prudy Pingleton. Standout performances are given by Heidi Kettenring as Penny Pingleton, Hollis Resnik as Velma Van tussle, Josh Breckenridge as Seaweed J. Stubbs, E. Faye Butler as the uproarious Motormouth Michelle and Johanna McKenzie Miller as Amber. In smaller roles and the ensemble are Matt Raftery, Max Quinlan, Gene Weygandt, Scott Calcagno and Laura Scheinbaum.

When "Hairspray" opened in New York, it ran for 2,642 performances and when one sees the show they will understand why. The show is set in 1962 Baltimore. Tracy is a heavysset teenager whose desire is to appear on the Corny Collins Dance television show and she will do anything to get that opportunity. She runs into opposition from the reigning winner, Amber, and her mother, Velma. When she encounters heartthrob and hunk Link Larkin it is fun to see what happens.

Lehman as Tracey's mother is a riot and perfectly cast for the show. My two super big favorites are Hollis as Velma and e. Faye Butler as Motormouth. Her second act song will knock your shoes off. It being such a feel good musical it is perfect for us to forget our country's problems for over two hours. "Hairspray" runs through December 6th. For performance days, show times and reservations call 847-634-0200 or go to www.marriotttheatre.com. Tickets are \$45. The theatre is wheelchair accessible and there is loads of free parking. --**Four Stars**--

DANCE CHICAGO CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

During its 14 years as the unparalleled Chicago dance festival, Dance Chicago has showcased an array of dance styles ranging from hip-hop, ballet and tap, to Latin, jazz and contemporary to suit every discerning taste. The company's 15th year program promises not only to continue offering audiences unmatched entertainment with unique programs and world premiers – but also afford them an opportunity to enjoy performances in a new, intimate setting.

Dance Chicago will kick off its 15th season with a new multi-venue performance format, including the Theater Building Chicago, located at 1225 West Belmont Avenue (www.theatrebuildingchicago.org). With performances scheduled from November 4th through the 15th, a preview of the company's innovative 15th anniversary programming follows.

New Moves: Described as brave and daring, New Moves features Chicago's newest, hottest choreographers and the city's best dancers. In a collaborative environment – the best of the best work together to create new and different dances for each of four scheduled performances – all of which are one-time-runs!

Extended View: Streets meets sweets with the award-winning Chicago choreographers' production of Extended View. This program's juxtaposition of urban and contemporary choreography promise to mesmerize audiences.

Jazz Cabaret: Best described as 'Broadway up close!' the Jazz Cabaret program is a cornucopia of visual delights featuring ballroom, contemporary jazz, burlesque, tap, hip-hop, ballet and other cabaret-style dances.

Dance Romance: As its namesake implies, Dance Romance features warm and sensual choreography, and is perfect for a date or special occasion. Showcasing the best partnering acts from around Chicago, this new program features modern, salsa, contemporary jazz, and ballroom dance.

Fringe Carnival: Chicago's finest cutting-edge performers will have their chance to shine during Dance Chicago's Fringe Carnival. Both humorous and unusual, improvisational dancers and one-of-a-kind companies will push the boundaries of dance and performance to the edge in this unique event.

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre: A must-see program for dance enthusiasts, the Cerqua Rivera Dance Theater will present its 2009 fall concert this year at Dance Chicago. Program highlights include signature works from Latin Fire and Jubilation, including "Corner Sketches - A Tribute to Miles Davis" and "The Trinity of Joann."

Choreographer's Showcase: A longstanding favorite of the Dance Chicago lineup – the Choreographer's Showcase promises artistic bravery and brilliance with its much-anticipated world-premier programming. Among the leading Dance Chicago choreographers leading this program's innovation will be The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation Dance Chicago 2009 Choreographer of the Year.

Tickets are on sale now and to save \$5 per ticket, buy your tickets (online, by phone or at the box offices) and be sure to mention or enter coupon code DC2009. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts.

For more information and scheduling on the Dance Chicago 2009 festival, including updated rosters and ticket ordering information, visit www.dancechicago.com.

DePaul University's New Directors Series Presents THE PILLOWMAN by Martin McDonagh

The Theatre School at DePaul University presents THE PILLOWMAN, written by Martin McDonagh and directed by Jenn BeVard, as the first installment of the 2009-2010 New Directors Series. The production opens Friday, November 6, and runs through Sunday, November 15, 2009, at the Greenhouse Theater Center. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. Previews are on November 4 and November 5 at 7:30 PM.

Admission is FREE but reservations are recommended. Call the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.

New Directors Series productions are directed in partial fulfillment of the Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing at The Theatre School. THE PILLOWMAN serves as Director Jenn BeVard's MFA thesis project, after three years of production practice and training in order to fulfill her degree requirements. To learn more about BeVard's past projects, The New Directors Series, or the MFA Directing curriculum, please visit <http://theatreschool.depaul.edu>.

The Greenhouse Theater Center is located at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., in Chicago. The theatre is accessible via public transportation, and street parking is available. For more information contact the Box Office at (312) 922-1999.



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Story by
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ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS COMES TO IAHC

Join the party with the dance fitness craze that's taking the world by storm!

A free Zumba® fitness class will be held Monday evening, November 9, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago. Instructors Diane Garvey and Regina Mundt, "The Party Starters," will lead the class. Zumba disguises the "work" from "working out" by combining amazing, irresistible Latin and international music with dynamic, yet simple dance exercise moves, using an intermittent cardiovascular training format. Zumba classes will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A six-week session begins Monday, November 16. The cost is \$48 for the six-week session, or \$10 per class to drop in. For more information, please contact Regina Mundt at 773-544-7314 or rgmundt@sbcglobal.net.

Special Olympics Illinois State Floor Hockey at Northeastern Illinois University

The Special Olympics Illinois 2009 State Floor Hockey Tournament will take place Saturday, November 14 at the Physical Education Complex at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. *Twenty-four teams will compete in 7 divisions, organized by ability level. There will also be athletes competing in Individual Skills Competition. Opening Ceremonies is at 9 a.m. with master of ceremonies Troy Murray, former defenseman for the Chicago Blackhawks and color analyst for Blackhawk Hockey on WGN Radio. Team play is from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and the public is invited. Gold Medal Sponsors are Illinois Knights of Columbus, Interior Investments and the Law Enforcement Torch Run; Bronze Sponsor is Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. For more information, visit the Special Olympics Illinois website at www.soill.org. Special Olympics is a year-round program of sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics began in Chicago with the first games in July, 1968 at Soldier Field which featured athletics (track and field) and aquatics competition along with a demonstration floor hockey game between athletes from the U.S. and Canada. Today, Special Olympics programs are in 180 countries

*Teams are from the city of Chicago, suburban Chicago and Ottawa, Illinois

Relive Chicago's Musical History in New Book

Local author captures Chicago music scene of the 1960s and 70s

Uncover two decades worth of stories from the Chicago music scene in the new photographic history book from Arcadia Publishing and local musician Dean Milano, *The Chicago Music Scene: 1960s and 1970s*.

During an incredibly vibrant period in urban and suburban music scenes across the country, Chicago was a major player throughout the '60s and '70s. It was a time when jazz, rock and roll, country and western, folk, blues, and R & B flowed through the streets of Chicagoland.

Much has been written about the national and international talent of that time, but not enough has been written about local hometown music history. This book focuses on the city of Chicago, along with its suburban club scene, and the homegrown performers who made the '60s and '70s one of the most electrifying and memorable periods in music history. Some of those players went all the way to the big time, while others made their mark and disappeared. They all made a difference in their own way, and for those who were there, it is a time they will never forget.

Author Dean Milano hopes the book will "give some recognition to a few forgotten artists who deserve to be heard again, and stir up some nice memories for those who were lucky enough to hear the music of that time."

Highlights of *The Chicago Music Scene: 1960s and 1970s*: Many of the images in the book are from private collections and have never been seen before.

Numerous musicians provided fascinating personal stories and bits of information not even their fans know! The book showcases a bevy of vintage images of bands and musicians before they made it big.

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or (888)-313-2665.

Village Cooking Corner

Pot Roast

How to make the "best" you ever had!

1. Start with a pot roast from "Jerry's Quality Meats."
2. Place meat in roasting pan.
3. Add your favorite vegetables, potatoes, carrots, brussel sprouts, etc.
4. Sprinkle one (1) packet of onion soup mix over meat and vegetables.
5. Take two (2) small cans or one (1) family sized can of Campbells tomato soup and mix with equal amount of water. Pour over meat and vegetables. For more gravy add a little more water.
6. Cover pan with foil or pan cover and roast at 350 degrees for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.*

*Smaller roasts (2 to 2 1/2 lbs.) take 2 1/2 hours - (3#) or larger. Take 3 hours.

Jerry's Quality Meats, 3706 W. Dempster, Skokie; 847-677-9360

11-DIGIT DIALING BEGINS

Continued from page 1

Beginning on November 7, 2009, all calls must be dialed 1+ Area Code + Telephone Number. Residents will no longer be able to dial seven digits to a local number inside their area code. Residents are reminded that their phone number(s) will not change. The only thing that will change is the way they dial the number. With the 872 area code, current customers will keep their existing phone numbers as well as their 312 or 773 area codes.

"For nearly 15 years, Illinois has led the nation in creative and effective methods in number conservation. Our number pooling efforts here have forestalled the need for the new 872 area code for nearly a decade," said Charles E. Box, Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission.

"Residents and businesses should prepare for 11-digit dialing by ensuring any equipment with automatic dialing features is programmed with all 11 digits to avoid any interruptions in communication," said Norma I. Reyes, Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection.

Modems, faxes, or phone equipment set on auto dial, will have to be re-programmed to dial 11 digits instead of seven digits. Residents may need to reprogram other equipment such as fax machines, dial-up modems, internet connections, multi-line key or PBX systems, or any equipment with automatic dialing features.

Consumers seeking additional telephone lines will, in most cases, continue to be able to obtain 312 and 773 telephone numbers, even after the 872 area code is in service.

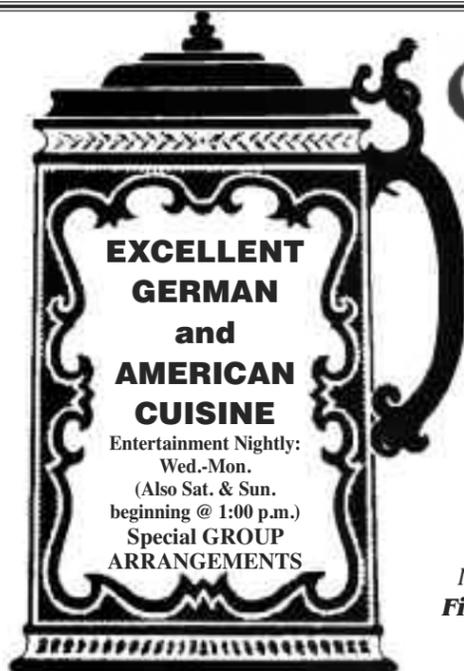
How an Overlay Area Code Works - With an overlay, an additional area code is added to the same geographic area as the existing area code, with all current phone customers retaining the original area code. New telephone customers for local phone service, cellular and paging services, and alarms, for example, assigned in the same area may receive telephone numbers in the new overlay area code.

The FCC requires that all telephone calls made in the overlay area be completed by dialing the full, 10-digit number (area code + seven digit number). This includes calls currently dialed with seven digits in the existing area code.

This requirement does not affect the cost of the call. A local call will remain a local call, and a toll call will remain a toll call, regardless of the number of digits that are dialed to complete it.

Area code overlays are in place in 21 states, including four in Illinois. (630/331, 847/224, 815/779 and now, 312/773/872).

For more information or questions residents should visit www.icc.illinois.gov.



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Finding your way through the Alphabet Soup: CCAC, SNF, CARF, CCRC -- what do they mean?

As you and your family explore your options for the future, several abbreviations might crop up: CCRC and CCAC/CARF, or IL and SNF. What do these terms mean, and how might they be important to you?

Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC)

CCRC stands for Continuing Care Retirement Community, a particular kind of option for residential living. Continuing care refers to a community where all levels of services and care are available to residents, usually all on the same campus.

CCRCs usually provide a written agreement or long-term contract between the resident (frequently lasting the term of the resident's lifetime) and the community, which offers a continuum of housing, services and health care.

In CCRC communities, potential residents choose an apartment or cottage as well as a level of services they need: independent living, assisted living, nursing care or specialized memory care. In many organizations, the different levels of care can be accessed directly by those living outside the retirement community.

In a CCRC, individuals who can live safely without assistance or supervi-

sion are sometimes called "independent residents" and may live in IL or Independent Living cottages or apartments. The services provided are primarily for convenience and lifestyle benefits. Many communities offer health screenings, wellness services, fitness centers, libraries, classes, and entertainment for the residents.

AL or Assisted Living is designed for individuals who need regular support, but do not need a nurse on a daily basis. Residents in these apartments may need reminders to take medication, or assistance with activities such as meals, laundry, bathing and getting dressed.

Some communities refer to residential healthcare services as SNF, which stands for Skilled Nursing Facility. Healthcare or nursing care provides the necessary services for those who need a nurse or certified nursing assistant on a daily basis. Individuals might have chronic conditions that require a skilled caregiver in a nursing care center. Some communities also offer specialized Alzheimer's or memory care facilities as part of their healthcare program.

CCAC and CARF for Accreditation

The Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC), acquired by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in 2003, is the nation's only accrediting body for continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) and other types of continuums of care.

Before CCAC was founded, consumers, financial rating agencies, and others had no clear way of determining whether a retirement community was financially stable, providing quality care, or worthy of their investment. In 1985, a group of visionaries created CCAC to help ensure that the nation's retirement communities fulfill their promises of quality, lifetime care to older persons.

In January 2003, CCAC merged with the commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a non-profit accreditation system founded in 1966 that touches more than 5.1 million individuals serviced in a wide range of human service organizations. Only 15% of the 2500 continuing care retirement communities nationwide are CARF-CCAC accredited.

Today, CARF accredits continuing care retirement communities and aging services networks that are part of home, community, or hospital-based systems; sites under a corporate organization; and other types of providers.

According to an article in the Chicago Tribune, "The Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC) accredits continuing care retirement communities. Their standards are fairly strict, so this is often a good test of the community's overall caliber."

As the nation's only accrediting body for non-profit and for-profit continuing care retirement communities, CARF helps promote and maintain quality and disclosure in the retirement industry. Essentially, an accredited organization lives up to its own mission, strives for excellence in its services, ensures that its programs and practices are innovative, and follows an appropriate and achievable plan for the future.

An organization seeking accreditation voluntarily puts itself through a rigorous peer review process. Members demonstrate to a team of surveyors during on-site surveys that they are committed to conforming to the accreditation conditions and 900 separate standards of CARF. Furthermore, an organization that earns CARF accreditation is commended in its quest for quality programs and services

Accreditation Is the Seal of Approval

Accreditation means that a consumer can be confident that the organization has made a commitment to continually enhance the quality of its services and programs, and to focus on the satisfaction of the persons served. These select organizations must be focused on assisting each resident in achieving his or her chosen goals and outcomes.

"More than a seal of approval, receiving accreditation means that an organization's programs and services have met resident-focused, state-of-the-art national standards of performance," said Peter Mulvey, President and CEO of Presbyterian Homes of Evanston, IL. "Older adults exploring retirement options should use this standard as a way to identify organizations that are successful in providing exceptional senior services."

An accredited community has met or exceeded all of the Commission's standards of excellence in the areas of governance and administration; financial resources; and resident life, health and wellness. In order to become accredited, an organization must involve its residents, Board of Directors, and staff in the process.

"The accreditation process is pretty tough, taking up to a year to complete.... Consumers can be sure an accredited community has undergone a rigorous internal and external review," said the story in the Chicago Tribune.

For more information about the accreditation process, please visit the CARF web site at www.carf.org/aging.

By Theresa P. Paulin, Presbyterian Homes, Evanston, Illinois; 847-866-1643

Chicago Area Public Libraries

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A Teen and Tween Poetry Slam Workshop with Champion Slam Coach Nicole Bruskewitz

Saturday, November 14 11:00 a.m.

Registration Recommended!

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Poetry Slam takes poetry from the page to the stage. Performance poetry is one way Chicago youth tell stories from their lives, communities and imaginations. Chicago Youth, ages 8-14 are invited to this City-Verse poetry performance workshop where they will:

- EXPERIENCE SLAM POETRY BY KIDS, FOR KIDS
- TEAM UP IN A POETRY RELAY
- CREATE AND PERFORM AN ORIGINAL POEM

Nicole Bruskewitz is the coach of Chicago bilingual youth poetry group Nuestra Mezcla, prize-winners at the 2009 Half-Pint Poetics competition. "Ms. B" loves words in many languages, but especially one word: INSPIRATION. Ms. B is a bilingual teacher in Chicago Public Schools. She finds her inspiration in the creative energy of her students as well as in street food stalls across the world, in between the pages of her favorite books, in conversation with strangers and in the colors of autumn leaves floating on Lake Michigan. Her hope: to help you find your INSPIRATION!

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Humanities Treasures. This free discussion group meets Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. at the Lincolnwood Library to explore current events and selected readings. Humanities Treasures is affiliated with the Oakton Community College Emeritus Program.

English as a Second Language Class. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free weekly class for adults who want to learn to speak English. Sponsored by Oakton Community College. Call (847) 635-1426

Literacy Class. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free weekly class for adults who want to improve reading, writing, and math skills. Sponsored by Oakton Community College. Call (847) 635-1426.

Knitting for Adults. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults can learn to knit or work on knitting projects. All skill levels welcome.

CLUBS

The Friends of Lincolnwood Library meet the third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

The Adult Stamp Club meets the fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

The Mac Users Club meets the second Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m.

Howliday Wishes

My furry friends, do you realize how close the Howliday Season is upon us? It was like yesterday that I was frolicking in the summer sun! Anyway, now comes the time when our noses and toes get cold. But, on the bright side so does that wonderful gift giving season! So, my friends now is the time to get your lists to Santa Paws so you get what you want. Also, don't forget to leave hints for those humans of yours! With the chaos of the Howlidays they sometimes need more than one gentle reminder!

My Howliday Wish Letter is as follows:



Dear Santa Paws,

I have been a very good pup this year. I have played nicely with all the other dogs that my human has cared for. I have not caused any intentional harm to any of the cats I am forced to live with. I have not ruined the new furniture, however I will confess that I do like to cuddle up in it even though I am not suppose too! I have listened to my human, even when I don't know what she is saying. I have been as good as I could be, at least most of the time! (that grabage incident was totally my brother Darwin's fault!) So, in being a good boy I would like the following.

A new how to understand your human book, because an updated version is sorely needed. More so then ever!

A new rawhide bone that is the size of me!

A turkey feast fit for a dog!

A new bed for the cats. That way the can stay off mine!

A new collar with winter colors so I can look great this season!

Sweater or jacket because I know that my human is going to force me into some colorful haircut and I want to be prepared!

Plenty of pawtience with my human and the crazy things she does to me at the howlidays.

Most importantly I want peace on Earth for all of God's Creatures. (to my furry friends, this is very important to add to your letter. Yes, I would like peace. But, let's face it. Until we dogs take over that is not going to happen. Trust me add this to your letter!)

Love & best Howliday Wishes,
Bosley

To my furry friends,
Please feel free to send all wonderful goodies for me to Canine Corral!

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



Anti-Cruelty Society

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

The Anti-Cruelty Society Magazine is now available online! In a continuous effort to improve our green practices, we are hosting The Anti-Cruelty Society magazine on our website.

To view our magazine, please go to www.anticruelty.org/site/epage/56287_576.htm.

If you would like to have the magazine emailed directly to you please send a note to padee@anticruelty.org.

H1N1 in Pets

by Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

I am constantly being asked about the risk of pets contracting swine flu (H1N1). Up to this point it had only been reported in swine, poultry and ferrets. I just received a report of a cat in Iowa recently developing the disease. The article below is a compilation of information gathered from different veterinary sources that I wanted to share with you. Although the risk is extremely small, and at this time, no cause for alarm, it is best to be proactive, so I have included some information on how to take precautions to prevent exposure to your pets. Check with your veterinarian if you have concerns about your pet possibly developing the disease. I will provide updates in future columns.

H1N1 Influenza Confirmed in Iowa Cat (courtesy AVMA and IDPH) (Protecting Pets from H1N1 Influenza)

A report released November 4, 2009 from the American Veterinary Medical Association reported that a cat in Iowa has tested positive for the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. Iowa state officials confirmed the report, marking the first time a cat has been diagnosed with this strain of influenza.

The 13-year-old indoor cat in Iowa was brought to the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, where it tested positive for the H1N1 virus.

"Two of the three members of the family that owns the pet had suffered from influenza-like illness before the cat became ill," said IDPH Public Health Veterinarian, Dr. Ann Garvey. "This is not completely unexpected, as other strains of influenza have been found in cats in the past." Both the cat and its owners have recovered from their illnesses.

The cat is believed to have caught the virus from someone in the household who was sick with H1N1. There are no indications that the cat passed the virus on to any other animals or people. Prior to this diagnosis, the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus had been found in humans, pigs, birds (poultry) and ferrets.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) are reminding pet owners that in addition to protecting their families, friends and neighbors from the spread of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, it is important to remember to protect family pets from the illness as well. People who are sick with H1N1 can spread the virus not only to humans, but to some animals. As some viruses can pass between people and animals, this is not an altogether unexpected event.

Pet owners should monitor their pets' health very closely, no matter what type of animal, and visit a veterinarian if there are any signs of illness. "Indoor pets that live in close proximity to someone who has been sick are at risk and it is wise to monitor their health to ensure they aren't showing signs of illness," said Dr. David Schmitt, State Veterinarian for Iowa.

People can keep their pets healthy by washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and minimizing contact with their pets while ill with influenza-like symptoms. If your pet exhibits signs of a respiratory illness, contact your veterinarian.

The AVMA is actively tracking all instances of H1N1 in animals and posting updates at www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/new_virus.

This article is a compilation of information provided by the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association), ISVMA (Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association) and the IDPH (Iowa Department of Public Health).

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

Santa is ready for the Howlidays, are YOU?



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Estate Planning in the Electronic Age



Chester M. Przybylo

In today's electronic age, it seems that things are changing at an ever increasing rate. Every time we turn around, there's a new technology and more and more information to keep in mind. With the electronic storage of sensitive financial and emotionally valuable information, a new concern people have is what to do with "electronic assets" after their death or disability. This article discusses four possible options for the transfer of these potentially valuable assets.

In today's electronic age, it seems that things are changing faster and faster. Every time we turn around, there's a new technology and more and more information to keep in mind and safeguard.

Now, increasingly people have "electronic assets," such as website domain names and accounts with Gmail, Facebook, Yahoo! Mail, YouTube, Amazon, Kodak Gallery, GoDaddy, LinkedIn, and Twitter, and many other websites that require an account and may store personal or financial data, such as credit card numbers. How do you handle the disposition of these electronic assets upon your death or disability? Of course, domain names are the owner's private property like any other asset. Typically, the contents of electronic accounts like email with Yahoo! or Google's "Gmail" are considered to be private property.

Why is this important? If you die or become incapacitated, you may want someone to delete credit card information and old email with personal data. You may want to have someone go into your email account in order to notify your friends and contacts. You may want your treasured photos, saved in online photo albums, preserved for your family members and loved ones, instead of deleted for inactivity.

There are several options on handling these electronic assets. First, you could dispose of them through your Will or Trust. However, passwords and internet presences tend to change frequently. Also, it may take some time to determine what you have and how it is to be handled. Furthermore, even though you have the legal right to transfer your Gmail account, for example, it is logistically rather difficult.

Second, you could keep a USB flash drive or other device with all of this information, together with account handling instructions. You could tell a trusted family member or responsible friend the location of the device and instructions. If this device has information which should be protected, you should keep it in a secure location. For example, you could tell the person you select that it is in your bottom desk drawer and give them the key. This would not be an ideal solution unless the person you select will have access to your residence.

Third, you could get an account with "LegacyLocker.com" or some similar company. With LegacyLocker, you can maintain information regarding your electronic assets, including account numbers and passwords. Upon your death or disability, they will release the information to the person(s) you designate. In order to keep your assets secure, they will independently verify your death or disability with people whom you had pre-selected. Once your designee has the password and account information, they can take control of the email or other assets in the account.

Fourth, you could do nothing. With that option, most email providers will simply delete all the email after a specified period of inactivity. Domain names expire after the period of registration. However, if these assets have substantial economic or emotional value, clearly this would not be the option to choose.

Other electronic assets, such as accounts with PayPal, eBay, iTunes, and ING DIRECT have real financial value. It is important that information concerning these accounts should not be left to anyone that is not legally obligated to do with them as you have directed, like the Trustee of your Trust. This also holds true for electronic access and passwords for financial assets held in traditional bank and financial accounts.

It seems things are changing now, more than ever. However, the law has not kept up with technological advances and there are many gray areas. Therefore, it is increasingly important to have an up-to-date, coordinated estate plan to handle all of your assets, including your electronic assets. Many things can change: Your plans, your assets, your family circumstances, the legal and tax environment, and, of course, your usernames and passwords.

An experienced estate planning attorney who focuses his or her practice in the area can help you develop a coordinated estate plan that includes your electronic assets.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY: GET YOUR BENEFIT VERIFICATION BEFORE THE CHILL SETS IN

By Andrew Salata Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

It's that time of year again – when people in many parts of the country feel a new chill in the air each morning, and put an extra quilt or blanket on the bed.

It's also the time of year when many states offer energy assistance to people who have low income and resources. Under the energy assistance program, your state may help with the cost of heating your home during the winter. But to get it, in most cases, you'll need to provide proof of your income. If you get Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can get proof of the amount of your benefit quickly and easily by going online. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

There are a number of reasons you may need written verification of your benefit amount, besides energy assistance programs. Perhaps you're ready to make a major purchase and you're trying to get a loan from a bank or financial institution. Or maybe you're applying for state benefits or moving into a new apartment or home.

Whatever your reason, Social Security makes it easy for you to get the written verification you need at www.socialsecurity.gov. Just look in the left column under "What you can do online," expand the "If you get benefits" section, and select the "Request a Proof of Income letter" link.

The letter can be used for any reason that someone requires proof of your income. In addition to offering proof of your income, the letter is an official document that verifies your Medicare coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. The letter does not include your Social Security number.

From the time that you complete the online request, it will take about 10 days for you to receive the proof of income letter in the mail. If you need one sooner, you'll want to call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office.

But for most people, simply requesting the proof of income online is the most convenient way to get what you need. Get your benefit verification by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.

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NTRRO TO HOST REPUBLICAN PRIMARY CANDIDATES FORUM

The Niles Township Regular Republican Organization (NTRRO) will join with the Evanston Township Regular Republican Organization, the Maine Township Regular Republican Organization, and Chicago's 46th, 48th and 50th Wards to host the "2010 Primary Candidates Forum" at the Oakton Park Community Center, 4601 W. Oakton Street, Skokie, on Sunday November 15th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Republican politicians including seven Illinois gubernatorial candidates, six senatorial candidates, and candidates running for lieutenant governor, Cook County Board president, secretary of state, controller, sheriff, and state representative will present brief speeches highlighting their qualifications and reasons for seeking political office. The forum will provide voters with a unique opportunity to hear and meet the candidates in person. The candidates will provide their campaign literature to forum attendees.

The Chicago 46th, 48th and 50th Wards include the Rogers Park, West Rogers Park, Edgewater, Andersonville, Uptown, Sheridan Park, Lakewood-Balmoral, and Lakeview neighborhoods. Easy access to the Oakton Park Community Center is available from these neighborhoods by taking the CTA's Red Line to Howard Street and then boarding the number 97 bus to the Center's front door. Ample free parking is available.

NTRRO Committeeman Joe Hedrick is proud of the diverse Republican ballot. According to Hedrick, "The 2010 Republican candidates accurately represent the communities we live in. We have female, Chinese, Korean, Hispanic, African-American and other ethnic candidates on our ballot. We encourage Independent and Democrat voters who are frustrated with the corruption and waste in Illinois government to come to the forum and hear the alternatives that the Republicans are offering in 2010."

For further information please write the NTRRO, 8010 Lowell Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076 or call Joe Hedrick at (847) 675-6745. For email inquiries: hedrico@juno.com.

McAuliffe Measure Passes House Requiring 3/5ths Majority to Override Veto by Cook County Board President

Continuing his fight to repeal the Cook County sales tax, State Representative Michael McAuliffe (R-Chicago) helped pass legislation making it easier for the Cook County Commissioners to reverse a veto by the board president.

Last month, McAuliffe filed legislation that would provide the Cook County Board of Commissioners to override the county board president's veto by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of its members or 11 of 17 commissioners. If approved by the General Assembly and the Governor, the legislation would take effect immediately. Currently, four-fifths of the commissioners are needed to approve an override.

Prior to this week's veto session, the bill was picked up by Democrat Mark Walker of Arlington Heights.

"This is politics. In the end, it doesn't matter who gets the bill passed, as long as the measure is good for Cook County taxpayers. I am very pleased the bill was approved because it is exactly what residents of my district are seeking - fair representation. Commissioners represent the people and families throughout the county are begging for a change in the status quo," said McAuliffe.

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

WILD MUSHROOMS

"Credit Cards and Large Banks"

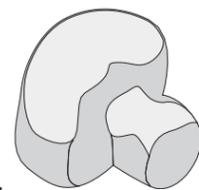
In our last issue we shared with you a story about an incident we experienced with a large banking institution. Since that writing we have received many similar stories from our readers about their banks and credit cards. IN every case, it was a large bank, taking it upon themselves to decide what was best for their customers through restrictions and disregard for those customers' individual situations or needs.

Without advance warning, or even notification, the banks cut off their customers' credit cards, raised the interest rates, and/or cut the amount of usable credit. There were other stories about money discrepancies that were not settled for months. One theme is repeatedly evident in all of these cases:

It appears that the big banks are treating their customers who fall within a certain age range or size of account differently and are arbitrarily judging the value of these people or businesses. The government is putting restrictions on credit card companies beginning in February of 2010, but this gives those large institutions until then to do damage to their unwanted base.

We are cutting off all of our cards until the new laws go into effect. Sooner or later large banks are going to need old, insignificant, useless people, like me, again.

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



From D. Namlig

New State Law Goes Into Effect to Protect Renters Impacted by Foreclosure

On October 29, a new state law goes into effect that will help maintain rental housing that has been foreclosed on and ensure adequate notice for renters who may need to secure new housing.

"In the past, renters in foreclosed properties often have not known that their building is in foreclosure—frequently only learning about the foreclosure when they are told to leave the property. Likewise, renters have often found themselves without any idea who owns the property, where they should be paying rent, or who to contact for repairs. As a result, renters have found themselves homeless or living in poor conditions," said Samantha Tuttle, Staff Attorney for the Sargent Shriver National Center of Poverty Law, which advocated for the bill in partnership with Housing Action Illinois.

The key provisions of the new law (Public Act 96-0111) are:

Guaranteed Notice of Foreclosure to Tenants

* Within 21 days of a foreclosure being completed, the new owner, most often the lender to the previous owner, must make a good faith effort to identify residents of the property; notify residents that they have acquired the property; inform residents that the property has been the subject of foreclosure; and provide contact information for resident concerns and repair requests.

A new owner who fails to comply with the new law may not collect any rent due from a known occupant, or terminate a known occupant's tenancy for non-payment of rent. However, after notice has been provided the new owner is entitled to all rent due and owing the new owner. In addition, renters cannot be held liable by the new owner for rent they previously paid to the previous owner.

Under the new law, similar provisions also apply to a receiver who is appointed to operate and manage the property during a foreclosure case.

Clarified Eviction Procedures

* Tenants will have a minimum of 30 days to move after the eviction hearing if the tenant is evicted under the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

Nationally, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, renters make up about 40% of the families facing the loss of their housing due to foreclosure and more than one in every five foreclosed properties is a rental property. In Chicago, according to the Woodstock Institute, 32% of 2008 residential foreclosure filings were on 2-6 unit properties (6,571 filings), marking a 36% increase from 2007.

The bill's lead sponsors were State Representative Will Burns (D-Chicago) and State Senator Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago). Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed HB 3863 into law on July 31.

Pathway Senior Living Food Drive

For the month of November Victory Centre of Galewood, part of Pathway Senior Living, LLC will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit Catholic Charities' food pantry. Due to current economic times, supporting our community is more important than ever. Please drop off donations during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., any day of the week, at Victory Centre of Galewood: 2370 N. Newcastle Ave. Chicago, IL. 60707. If you have any questions regarding specific items please call 773-385-5002 or please send an e-mail to snebel@pathwaysl.com.

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