



OUR VILLAGE



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FREE

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December 4, 2009

*Have a Happy
Holiday Season*
FROM THE STAFF OF
VILLAGE PUBLICATIONS

Pearl Harbor Ceremony

The City of Chicago will host, Chicago Remembers Pearl Harbor, at 11 a.m., Monday, December 7, 2009, at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. Chicago, IL 60611. The ceremony will take place at Navy Pier - Lakeview Terrace (east end of Navy Pier).

This year's date marks the 68th Anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Naval Installation at Pearl Harbor. The City of Chicago will honor all those who fought in the face of extraordinary odds that Sunday morning.

Admission is FREE. For more information, call 312.595.5282

Regardless of Snow, Winter Overnight Parking Ban Begins December 1st

See page 3 for more information

All Aboard! For The Winter Flower & Train Show at Lincoln Park Conservatory

Celebrate the holiday with the Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, at the Winter Flower and Train Show starting Saturday, December 12 and running through Sunday, January 10, 2009.

There will be several model trains on display, including an old-fashioned steam engine, freight train and trolley. Watch them wind their way through a miniature village set in a field of vibrant red, delicate white and soft pink poinsettias in the Show House of the Lincoln Park Conservatory. The village, comprised entirely of natural materials including willow, spruce and birch woods, features a variety of Chicago-style homes and famous buildings such as the neighborhood bungalow, Chicago Theatre and Chicago Water Tower Place.

The Winter Flower and Train Show is free and open to all ages. The Lincoln Park Conservatory is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lincoln Park Conservatory is located just five minutes north of downtown. From Lake Shore Drive, exit Fullerton Avenue and travel two blocks west. From I-94, exit Fullerton Avenue and travel two miles east. The Conservatory is located on the southeast corner of Fullerton and Stockton.

The Lincoln Park Conservatory, owned and operated by the Chicago Park District, was designed by nationally renowned architect of the Victorian era Joseph Lyman Silsbee in collaboration with architect M.E. Bell. The Conservatory was built in phases between 1890 and 1895, replacing a small greenhouse that dated from the 1870s and was designed both to showcase exotic plants and to grow the thousands of plants needed for use in the parks, which it still does today.

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

The Chicago Park District presents the fifth annual Polar Adventure Days from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr., on the Museum Campus. The program is admission free.

Polar Adventure Days offer families the opportunity to explore Northerly Island and come face-to-face with live animals, engage in winter activities, watch ice sculpture carvings, and create nature-inspired crafts.

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

- The first 500 visitors receive a complimentary Polar Adventure Day mug filled with hot chocolate. Limit one per person.
- Nadeau's Ice Sculpture transforms blocks of ice into magical creations on site.
- Various live animals will be on site to discover such as birds of prey.
- An arctic camping demo.
- Siberian huskies will be present and adventurers will talk about their Iditarod dog sled race experiences.
- Live entertainment including storytelling centered around winter tales.
- Arts and craft tables for making nature-inspired creations.
- Free snowshoe rental for exploration of the island (if there is snow).

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

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Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers December Health Events

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

A free **Healthy Aging Program** will be held Friday, December 11, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. This program for individuals aged 55 and older consists of social time, health topics and guest lectures. Registration is not required.

The **Arthritis Support Group** will meet Thursday, December 17, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. These free sessions aim to provide mutual support and education. Registration is not required.

"Living a Healthier Lifestyle" is a program to help heart patients and people concerned about cardiac health develop a healthy lifestyle. Sessions are part of the hospital's cardiopulmonary rehabilitation program. A cardiac stress test, lipid profile, risk factor analysis and diet counseling may be required to participate. To learn more, call the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation staff at 773-794-8420.

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

33rd Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot Results

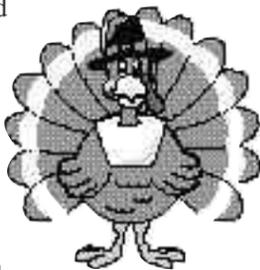
The 33rd Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot was held on Sunday, November 22nd, which turned out to be a beautiful sunny day. This year's race attracted over 1,600 runners, walkers and dashers, and numerous supporters and race fans.

The overall 5K winner was Emisael Favela with a time of 15:34. The first Village resident to cross the 5K finish line was David Elster with a time of 19:05.

The overall 10K male winner was Oscar Ramos with a time of 34:32. The first Village resident to cross the 10K finish line was Dimitri Dallas with a time of 42:51. For full results please visit www.my-chicagoathlete.com.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank all of our generous sponsors and helpful volunteers; this race would not run as smooth or be as successful without your support.

Next year's race will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2010. Mark your calendar now.



BEARS OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS ATTEND BEARS CAMP

Bears of Hope held Bears Camp for its volunteers at McCormick & Schmick's, Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie, on November 21. The event was organized by Bears of Hope, a Skokie based volunteer organization, that makes handcrafted fabric bears for sick and needy children and adults. They have no paid staff, just dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers came to Bears Camp to stuff bears, hand sew bear openings closed, and get bears ready for delivery to various social service organizations who give them to those in need of TLC. Volunteer, Mary Pollack remarked, "I love Bears Camp. It's a way to meet the other volunteers while getting a lot of bears ready for others." Throughout the year, the volunteers make bears at their convenience in their homes. They pick up materials and drop off completed bears at the organization's location in Skokie. "I work full time, so being able to do something so worthwhile for others fits perfectly with my lifestyle," expressed volunteer, Sheila Posner.

Bears of Hope founder, Carolyn Reiner, told the volunteers, "It's hard to believe 2010 begins our fourth year. The past 3 years has been an incredible journey and it's because of you. Thank you for what you do for Bears of Hope." Today, over 500 years are now bringing comfort and hope to those facing a difficult time in their life. Clergy and social service organizations are given bears to bring to children and adults facing difficult life situations.

When McCormick & Schmick's General Manager, Kevin Finegold, found out what Bears of Hope does for others, he said "I wanted McCormick and Schmick's to do something to help them." Besides hosting Bears Camp, providing lunch and presenting McCormick & Schmick's dining certificates to the volunteers, the restaurant also is helping Bears of Hope raise funds. Donate \$20 to Bears of Hope and get a McCormick & Schmick's \$20 dining certificate. Contributions can be sent to Bears of Hope, 8331 Kostner, Skokie, IL 60076. All donations are only used to purchase materials to make bears.

For more information, go to www.bearsofhope.com or contact bears@bearsofhope.com



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"[Being in the Navy has] made me more appreciative of my parents, for how they supported me and my two sisters, and now I feel I'm doing the same for my wife and son." J.C. Hunt, IV

A Salute to Chicagoans in Service

As a tribute to the men and women on active military duty overseas, Our Village is continuing our series about Chicagoans in service aboard the USS Nimitz.

What could be more exciting to those in service to our country than hearing from those they love, thousands of miles away? In addition to other important duties, Seaman J.C. Hunt, IV of Chicago is the man with the message – as Logistics Specialist, he works in the ship's post office, and he may well be the person shipmates are most eager to see! On active duty for a year and seven months, Hunt enlisted as a way to make his life and his family's better, to save money, and ultimately to finish school. Before his tour, he attended Austin Community Academy and Trinity International University where he played baseball for two years, ran track, wrestled, and played football. Clearly an athlete, Hunt also is a huge sports fan (Go Bears!) and one of the things he misses about civilian life is playing sports



Logistics Specialist Seaman JC Hunt

on a regular basis and catching the game on TV without satellite interruptions.

His service to his country has taught him the value of time and not to waste it. "Time goes by fast. I need to be careful and not let time pass me by."

Seaman Hunt wishes to send his best to family and friends back home. And J.C., we promise to give an extra cheer on your behalf during the next Bears game! Who knows? Maybe it'll help!

USS NIMITZ AT-A-GLANCE

The lead ship of America's largest class of aircraft carriers
 Crew of nearly 3,000 (when deployed, the airwing brings 2,000 more)
 Commanding officer, Captain Michael C. Manazir
 Commissioned May 3, 1975
 More than 23 stories high from keel to mast
 Area of flight deck = 4.5 acres
 One million tons of mail is processed each year and about 20,000 meals are prepared each day!
 Nimitz has a fully equipped dental facility staffed by five dentists.
 Four distilling units enable engineers to prepare 400,000 gallons of fresh water per day for use by the nuclear-powered propulsion plants, catapults, and crew
 Primary offensive weapon is the ability to launch and recover high performance jet aircraft from the flight deck. Can deploy aircraft on a range of missions, including patrols, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, and rescue missions.
 Aircraft used aboard the USS Nimitz include: F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, SH-60F/H Seahawk, C-2A Greyhound, E-2C Hawkeye 2000, and EA-6B Prowler.



Watch 190 North with Janet Davies and Mirabell Restaurant on Sunday, December 13, 10:35pm, Channel 7!



Jeffrey Heil, Janet Davies and Anita Heil

Janet Davies visited with the Heil family, owners of the Mirabell Restaurant and Lounge at 3454 W. Addison St., in Chicago, (773)463-1962, www.mirabellrestaurant.com

ATTENTION U.S. MILITARY VETERANS and ACTIVE DUTY PERSONAL

American Legion Edison Park Post #541 is having a meeting on Thursday Dec. 10th starting at 7:30 P.M. at the Edison Park Field House located at 6755 Northwest Hwy. (just west of Harlem Ave) Chicago. If you've been thinking about joining a veteran's organization, feel free to stop by and sit in at our meeting. Our post has a long and proud history going back to 1920. It includes a member (Thomas A. Pope) who was awarded the medal of honor for bravery in France on July 1918.

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

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN

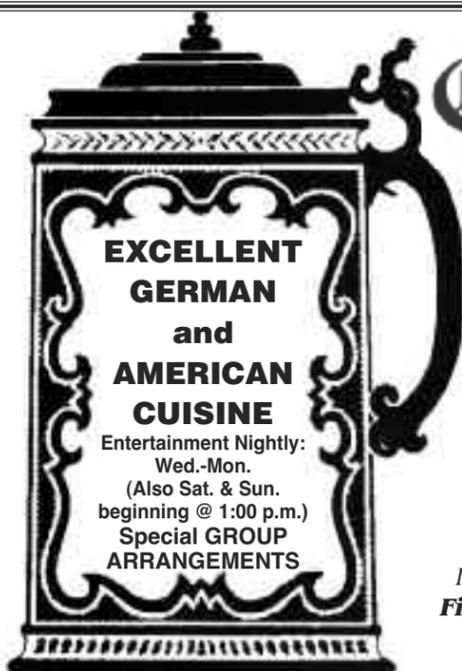
(Continued from page 1)

In order to ensure that the most critical roadways in Chicago are kept open to full capacity at all times, the City of Chicago instituted and vigorously enforces a Winter Overnight Parking Ban on 107 miles of vital arterial streets from 3AM to 7AM between December 1st and April 1st, regardless of snow.

A separate season parking ban exists for another 500 miles of main streets when there is a at least two inches of snow on the street, not matter the time of day or the calendar date. Both of these parking bans were implemented to prevent recurrences of 1967 and 1979 when Chicago came to a traffic stand still due to major snowstorms. Motorists who ignore this permanently posted seasonal tow zone face a \$150 towing fee (minimum) in addition to a \$50 ticket and an initial \$10 daily storage fee.

Whenever the arterial streets are deemed safe for travel during or after a snowfall, the city's salt trucks are dispatched to the secondary, residential streets for salting and plowing operations. This work continues until all city streets have been treated.

For more information please call 311.



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GREAT OUTDOORS

Community Rallies to Halt Clear Cutting and Burning of Urban Forests

Local community groups Trees for Life, Natural Forest Advocates and Urban Wildlife Coalition are calling for a ban on “restoration” practices including tree cutting, burning and herbiciding conducted by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) on sites including LaBagh Woods, Edgebrook Woods, Indian Road Woods, Bunker Hill, Miami Woods and St. Paul Woods.

Restoration is a land management philosophy that seeks to reshape natural areas into a state that restorationists believe existed before European settlement. Species that they believe were present prior to this are characterized as “native.” The remaining plants and animals are designated “invasive” and targeted for removal. On Northwest Side sites this amounts to cutting down existing forests to establish prairies and savannas, despite maps from the 1800s that show the area was forested.

Because restored sites are artificial landscapes, they perpetually require practices that are environmentally unsound to maintain them, including cutting healthy trees, use of herbicides, burning and wildlife culling.

In order to create prairie and savanna, FPDCC staff and volunteers systematically clear-cut forested areas, removing trees including basswood, poplar, maple, ash, aspen, dogwood, willow, black cherry, hawthorn and elm.

Herbicides such as Garlon 4 (commonly known as triclopyr) are applied to the stumps of the cut trees to prevent them from re-sprouting. Triclopyr is hazardous to humans and animals and is linked to breast cancer in humans and anemia in pets. It can contaminate groundwater and surface water and has a half-life (the time it takes for half the chemical to dissipate) of up to 96 days. Community groups have photographed multiple instances of herbicide misuse by FPDCC staff and volunteers, including spraying Garlon 4 into a channel of the Chicago River.

The piles of cut trees are burned as landscape waste in fires that have no ecological value and sterilize the soil beneath them. As a result, several acres of trees are often cleared and established wildlife habitat eliminated in a single day.

Large scale “controlled” or “prescribed” fires, which are being conducted now on these sites, are then used to keep vegetation in the cleared areas from regenerating. According to maps provided by FPDCC, significant portions of each site will be burned although they are primarily wet forests, which historically would have rarely burned naturally. “FPDCC mischaracterizes burning as a necessary process being reintroduced when instead they’re using fire as a tool of deforestation,” Urban Wildlife Coalition Director Bathsheba Birman says.

Besides the environmental impact, smoke from landscape fires create significant neighborhood pollution problems and contribute to regional air pollution, although the metropolitan Chicago area already fails to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act. Smoke emissions from these fires contain small particles from leaves and

wood and harmful chemicals known or suspected to be carcinogens. The Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) opposes landscape fires and likens the health risk from burning wood and leaves to burning a pile of cigarettes of the same size. According to RHAMC, young children, the elderly and those suffering from heart and lung disease are especially compromised.

In an urban setting, where natural areas are in close proximity to homes and businesses, there is also the threat of an out of control fire. On March 17, a fire set by restoration volunteers at FPDCC site Orland Grassland went out of control and the volunteers had no water. The fire burned more than 300 unintended acres and required 70 firefighters from 17 different companies to extinguish it.

Although documents obtained from FPDCC through the Freedom of Information Act show that FPDCC police were aware of the origin of the fire as early as 11 a.m., FPDCC spokesman Steve Mayberry continued to maintain to the media that the cause of the fire was undetermined until June. Two other fires on March 17 at FPDCC sites where restoration activities were being conducted, Swallow Cliff and Cranberry Slough, are still under investigation.

Multiple instances of unattended fires and inadequate safety precautions on FPDCC sites have been documented by community groups over a two-year period and were brought to the attention of FPDCC administration prior to the March 17 Orland Grassland fire. Yet FPDCC has continued to burn as recently as Nov. 10, when a four-acre fire was conducted at LaBagh Woods within a few hundred feet of homes without notifying residents.

“It’s not a case of if the next fire goes out of control, it’s when” says Nat-

ural Forest Advocates President Mary Lee Paoletti. “The problem with FPDCC is that they set fires they’re not equipped to put out. Neighboring municipalities are left with both the financial burden and the responsibility for extinguishing them without appropriate equipment or training for fighting these types of fires.”

Due to prior public outcry, restoration practices were prohibited on these sites through a 1996 moratorium put in place by Cook County Board President John Stroger. After President Stroger became incapacitated, those protections were lifted by interim president Bobbie Steele in 2006 and practices resumed, despite community opposition.

Community groups are calling for accountability and public input in land management decisions. A Freedom of Information Act request filed by Urban Wildlife Coalition for all scientific studies, including soil and vegetation surveys, used to determine land management objectives on 14 area sites yielded little pertinent information. “FPDCC is cutting and burning our last urban forests without an appropriate scientific basis or an assessment of the environmental impact. We encourage community members to call on the Cook County commissioners entrusted with the protection of our forests and the safety of our homes and families to bring this to an end,” Birman says.



Santa is Coming to Edison Park!

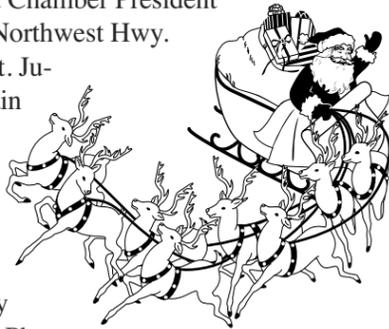
The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce presents Santa Express on Saturday, December 12th. Santa will be arriving from the North Pole on the 9:54 a.m. train. Walk with Santa through our business district and vote on which business has the best decorations. Join Alderman Doherty and Chamber President Jennifer Cortese at the corner of Oshkosh & Northwest Hwy.

for our annual tree dedication and lighting. St. Juliana Choir led by Margie Shields will entertain with Christmas Carroll’s and Rev. Stephen Kanonik of St. Juliana will offer a blessing. Following the tree lighting, everyone is invited back to the Edison Park Metra Station for cookies, hot chocolate and a goodie bag. This free event will have crafts, games, trolley rides, and visits with Santa. Black and White Photography will be charging \$5 for pictures with Santa.

Look for special one day only (December 12th) discounts and special offers at some of your favorite Edison Park businesses. The coupon page will be distributed through Kaage’s Newsstand this weekend and will also be available at the Edison Park Metra Station. Support Edison Park businesses this holiday season and help keep our neighborhood thriving! Santa will be heading back to the North Pole at 1:00 p.m.

The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce gratefully acknowledges our very generous members who have donated to this great community event, a tradition in Edison Park:

Ald. Brian Doherty, State Rep. Michael McAuliffe, Always Paving, A-Trendz, Caponies Express, Costco Wholesale, Coyne Financial (Patsy Martin), Edison Park Inn, Ek Auto, Emerald Isle, Mecca Supper Club, Nonno Pino, Parkway Bank and Unforgettable Edibles Catering.



Urban Wildlife Coalition:

Creating a Wildlife Winter Wonderland

Winter can be brutal for urban wildlife. Temperatures plummet and food and water sources become scarce. Attract them to your yard by providing them with creature comforts.

Leave the leaves – if you don’t mind your yard a bit untidy, wildlife use the fallen leaves for food and shelter.

Create your own wildlife sanctuary – a small brush pile, set in a corner away from your home is refuge for many birds, chipmunks, rabbits, and other ground-dwelling animals. Set larger logs and branches at the bottom of the pile. Add twigs with leaves and other vegetation toward the top. Be sure to keep nooks and crannies open for easy entrance and exit.

Re-invent decorating the Christmas tree. Craft your own edible (for wildlife) ornaments to hang from your outdoor tree or shrub. Kids love this activity! Gather fallen pine cones. Snugly tie string or tall grasses around a pine cones so they can hang. Coat pinecones with peanut butter (syrup and honey work, too) and roll in a pile of bird seed, dried berries, or unsalted black sunflower seeds. Hang from a tree or shrub branch. Your wildlife friends will thank you!

Break the ice. During the winter, water is a hot commodity for wildlife. Make it a practice to regularly pour warm water in your bird bath to melt the ice... or better, add a birdbath heater to your holiday wish list.

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

“A Theater Review”

The Christmas Schooner Theatre at the Center

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Critical Evaluation ** out of ******

“The Christmas Schooner,” is making its Indiana debut and it is a wonderful show for the holidays. The show has a cast of twenty performers and backing them up for this musical are seven musicians. The show runs about two hours and fifteen minutes with intermission. The show has seen more than one hundred productions in the United States that include twelve holiday seasons at the Baliwick Theatre. Porchlight had a production of the show last year and it has been performed in Bristol, England.

The show features fifteen songs and some of my favorites were “When I Look at You,” “Loving Sons,” “We All Have Songs” and “That’s America.” The book for the show is by multi-talented John Reeger, who is also an actor and singer, and the show has music and lyrics by Julie Shannon. The two very talented artists have put together another show “Let the Eagles Fly” – the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm workers – and they are now working on a new musical that is set in 19th century England.

Schooner has a strong cast that brings magic to their performances. Brandon Dahlquist as Peter Stossel and Cory Goodrich as Alma Stossel give strong performances as they tell the tale of the 19th century and bringing Christmas trees from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan across the icy waters of Lake Michigan to Chicago. Peter Kevolan in the role of Gustav Stossel, the grandfather from the old country, offers a strong performance. Daniel Coonley is Karl, the son of Peter and Alma, at the age of nine and Mitchell Rose has the role of Karl at fifteen.

Other members who are family friends and who sail on Molly Doone bringing the trees to Chicago are Ronato Keaton as Oskar, and Kevin Barthel as Rudy. Other sailors are Peter Durkin, Adrian Fontanilla, Michael Glazer, John Leen and Peter Vamvakas. Others in the cast include Audrey Billings, Amy Brody, Katrina Kuntz, Jennifer Buhrow and Kellie Cundiff.

Theatre at the Center has a winner on their hands to conclude their 2009 season. The show is being directed by Chuck Gessert. “The Christmas Schooner” runs through December 20th. For performance days and show times as well as reservations call 219-836-3255 or 800-511-1552. Tickets are \$36 and \$40. Opening their 2010 season will be the farce “Noises Off,” followed by “I Do, I Do,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” and ending the season with “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.”

Beethoven, As I Knew Him

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Critical Evaluation: ** out of ******

There is only one word that best describes Hershey Felder and that is to say he is a genius. A few years back when he was at the Royal George Theatre he gave Chicago audiences “George Gershwin Alone” and later “Monsieur Chopin” and both were major hits in Chicago for this actor, storyteller and one helluva pianist. He did his current show “Beethoven, As I Knew Him” last summer at Ravinia but for a limited number of performances. At that time I didn’t see this one-man show. Audiences are now having the opportunity through December 20th to see this new show and then for one week he will revive “George Gershwin Alone: and on new Year’s Eve “The Great American Song Book Sing-a-Long.”

The show offers Beethoven’s music that is well known and famous such as “The Moonlight Sonata,” and you’ll hear selections from “Beethoven’s Symphonies Number Five and Nine: as well as “The Pathetic Sonata,” the “Emperor Concerto” and “Grosse Fugue” to name a few. The man is magic at the piano. His shows are biographical and true of the composer and not made-up dramas.

Those attending “Beethoven, As I Knew Him” are in for a treat. I marvel over the mastercraft’s man. After the Chicago run he will concentrate on his next project “Nine Hours on Tenth,” that deals with President Lincoln’s last day. I’m sure with his musical talent he will in time develop projects featuring the music and lives of other great composers. ‘Beethoven, As I Knew Him: runs through December 20th. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 312-642-2000. Tickets are \$55 - \$60. A “Don’t Miss” show.



Miracle
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porchlight music theatre
chicago

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Will Severin, and John Vreeke

Story by
Valentine Davies

Screenplay by
George Seaton

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Bring the kids to see Santa!

November 20 through January 3
Fridays at 8:00pm, Saturdays at 2:30pm and 8:00pm Sundays at 2:30pm

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For tickets, CALL 773.327.5252
www.theatrebuildingchicago.org
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Groups of 15 or more call 847-634-5909

Internationally Acclaimed Tenors ROY CORNELIUS SMITH and LUIS ANTONIO GALVES to Perform at the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation

Internationally acclaimed tenors Roy Cornelius Smith and Luis Antonio Galvez, two longtime residents of Skokie scheduled to perform a holiday concert at the Skokie Theatre. Hear music from these international tenors’ native lands of North and South America as well as popular holiday songs of the season. These two tenors have not only performed throughout the U.S. but also in England, Italy, Germany and Austria including the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

DECEMBER 13, 2009 at 7:00PM

**Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, 7924 N. Lincoln Avenue,
Skokie 847-677-7761**

Tickets \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door! Discounts for groups of 10 or more.

American tenor Roy Cornelius Smith is fast becoming known for his voice of great natural beauty, his compelling dramatic interpretations, and his fine musicianship. He has already been heard on some of the world’s great operatic stages including the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Opera Berlin, Salzburger Festspiele, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Volksoper Wien, Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, and the New York City Opera. He has also appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice, Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Lima, Peru, Luis Antonio Gálvez, possessor of a dark, full-bodied lyric voice has become one of the most sought after tenors in the Chicago area and was recently invited to perform at the Vatican in Rome, Italy. Recent performances include concerts in Salisbury, England at the famous Salisbury Cathedral, soloist in the Peruvian Independence Day celebrations at the Daley Center and the title role in the world premier of Sredni Vashtar by Chicago composer Floyd Thompson at Ganz Hall (Roosevelt University) in Chicago as well as guest soloist with the Lincoln Early Music Festival in Lincoln, England, the Messenger in Verdi’s Aida with Opera Birmingham, and Mozart’s Missa Brevis in B-flat with Brooklyn New York’s Park Slope Singers. Mr. Gálvez has received the most distinguished award offered by the Association of Peruvian Institutions in the U.S. and Canada for his excellence and commitment to the Peruvian community as a valuable contributor to promoting cultural diversity. He is a graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and is a member of the voice faculty in the Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt and Sherwood Conservatory of Music at Columbia College.

For additional information on this concert, contact Al Curtis at the Skokie Theatre or visit www.skokietheatre.com.

Ravenswood Community Council Food Drive

November 23-December 30, During Business Hours At our office at 1756 W. Wilson Avenue. Just drop your donation in the box in the front vestibule.

RCC is sponsoring a food drive to benefit local food pantries and hungry folks around our neighborhood. During the month of December we will collect donations of non-perishable foods and present them to the pantries who will distribute them to their clients.

“Trio Contrasts” to Appear at DANK-Haus

The DANK-Haus in historic Lincoln Square will host Trio Contrasts, premiere German musicians, on Sunday December 20, 2009 at 3:00 pm. The afternoon’s program includes works from Ives, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Bartok and Brahms.

For further information and tickets contact DANK-Haus 773.561.9181 or dank@dankhaus.com. DANK-Haus German American Cultural Center, 4740 North Western Avenue.

Lincolnwood Holiday Craft Fair

A diverse selection of crafters and vendors from the North Shore will be on hand offering gifts and treasures for your shopping pleasure. Plenty of parking is available in the Lincolnwood Village Hall parking lot which is adjacent to the Community Center. There will also be a children’s Make n’ Take craft area, and a Holiday Fresh Greens Wreath Workshop (pre-registration is required).

Saturday, December 12th 9:00am – 3:00pm

Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue

Fee: \$2.00 Admission Children under 12 get in free if they bring a can of food to be donated to a local food depository.

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

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!

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.

Be Sure to Attend Liberty Bank’s Free Showing of “It’s a Wonderful Life” Benefitting the Park Ridge Community Fund

The holiday season is fast approaching, so mark your calendars to attend Liberty Bank for Savings’ showing of “It’s a Wonderful Life” on Sunday, Dec. 13. Families and individuals of all ages are invited to attend this joyous holiday event at the historic Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge. Admission is free but donations to the Park Ridge Community Fund (PRCF) are gratefully accepted.

The Pickwick Theatre is located at 5 S. Prospect Avenue, at the six-corner intersection with Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway. Holiday music and refreshments will start at 3 pm with the movie set to begin at 4 p.m.

Donations will be accepted on-site for the Park Ridge Community Fund. The PRCF will also hold a raffle for prizes to assist in raising additional funds for social service organizations that serve the Park Ridge community. “We are very pleased to be able to again present It’s a Wonderful Life for the 9th holiday season. We are sincerely grateful to our new sponsor-partner, Liberty Bank, for their most generous support of this annual campaign effort,” says Carol Delorin, PRCF Executive Director.

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.

St. Thecla Women’s Council

Holiday Craft and Gift Show

December 12, 2009
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Holiday Crafts, Gifts & Goodies



- Hourly Raffle •
- Snack Bar •



Admission 50¢
Devon & Oak Park Ave.
6725 W. Devon Ave. (773) 774-7391

Holiday Merriment at the Budlong Woods Library

Join us for an evening of FIDDLE AND SONG featuring musicians Barbara Silverman and Rick Veras

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 7:00 p.m.

This concert is made possible by generous funding from the sulzer family foundation and the friends of budlong woods Branch library.

Budlong Woods Branch, 5630 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659; 312-742-9590

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from
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VILLAGE**

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Helping Hands Campaign

RCC and the Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce are taking donations for State Representative John Fritchey's annual Helping Hands Campaign.

Items to donate include NEW hats, scarves, gloves and clothing, as well as toiletries. Items will be given to a local service agency for distribution to those in need. Please bring donations to our office (1756 W. Wilson) or Rep. Fritchey's office (2539 N. Southport Avenue).

St. Hyacinth Christmas Program

We wish all a very Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! St. Hyacinth Basilica School students are getting into the Christmas spirit as they get ready for the Christmas program. It will take place on December 18, 2009 at 1:30p.m. All grades will be performing Christmas songs, and our very own ballet and tap dancers will be dancing away on the stage to Christmas beats.

Notice for "Our Village" Staff and it's Many Readers

American Legion Edison Park Post #541 members would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. We want to thank the "Our Village" staff for publishing our notices and their support. We want to thank the readers of this great and informative publication for supporting us at our Edison Park Flea Market in August, not only for your purchases but also those people that brought donated items to be sold.

We also want to thank those that attended our various events at Monument Park. Your attendance was inspiring.

American Legion, Edison Park Post #541, Members

Roden Branch Library Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 19, 2009

11:00 am—1:00 pm

11:00 am—11:30 Holiday Story time

11:00 am—1:00 pm Drop-in craft for kids.

12:00 pm — 1:00 pm Aislinn Gagliardi, Harpist

Refreshments will be served. Chicago Public Library, Roden Branch, 6083 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60631, Phone: 312-744-1478



Mike's Barber Shop

accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys until December 23

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Alderman Stone Announces 50th Ward Toy Drive Campaign

November 23rd until December 18th Please drop off any toys you would like to donate to Alderman Stone's office, 6199 N. Lincoln Ave - 2nd floor (elevator available). Please help local families in need. Alderman Bernard L. Stone, (773) 764-5050

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE SEEKS DONATIONS OF TOYS FOR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

The Polish National Alliance (PNA) is sponsoring their annual drive of new toys, games and monetary donations for local needy children at Christmas.

There will be a collection box in the front lobby of the Polish National Alliance Home Office, located at 6100 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, both locations of the PNA Banks, 7840 N Milwaukee Ave. - Niles and 4800 S. Pulaski - Chicago and the Alliance Printers and Publishers Building - 5711 N. Milwaukee Avenue - Chicago, for the toy donations until Friday, December 11, 2009. Please, only unwrapped toys for boys and girls up to age 16. After the deadline, the donated toys for the children will be delivered to the Shriner's Hospital in Chicago, in time for Christmas.

The monetary donations will be collected from Vice President Paul C. Odrobina's Office, where the money will go to purchase additional toys and gifts for the children in the name of the donor.

For additional information, please call the Polish National Alliance at 1-773-286-0500 ext. 316. or visit the PNA Website at www.pna-znp.org

The Polish National Alliance is the largest Polish Fraternal Organization and founded in 1880.



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December 9 - 7:00 pm

Day School Christmas Programs:

December 16 - 6:00 & 7:30 pm
December 23 - 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

Thursday December 24
5:00 pm - Family Candlelight Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service - Holy Communion

11:00 pm Candlelight Service - Holy Communion

Christmas Day Worship Services:

Friday December 25
10:00 am - Service - Holy Communion

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Tuesday, December 8

7:00am, 8:30am,

5:30pm (Polish), 7:00pm

Liturgy of the Hours (Vespers)

Sunday, December 6, 4:00pm

Sunday, December 13, 4:00pm

Sunday, December 20, 4:00pm

Penance Services

Parish Penance Service

December 14, at 7:00pm

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Pet Howl-iday Tips

The following are some thoughts for my furry friends. Humans please skip to the bottom.

As mentioned before, the howl-idays are a very busy time for our humans. Either they are busy going too or hosting parties. This is a purrfect opportunity for us to maximize what we want most; love, attention, and treats! The following are some tips that I use on my own family to get the most out of this season.

Look your best! Humans love a clean pet; so make sure to get you're grooming appointment in now!

Tolerate the bandanna, bow, or outfit your human dresses you in. I don't know why they want to make us deer, but Humans find this adorable and will load on extra love because of it!

Constantly keep your tail waggin'. If you don't have one, the whole back end works even better!

Stare longingly and loving into the humans eyes. Humans will melt for the pound puppy look, so practice now!

Keep your paws off everything and don't be too pushy. You will gain more by being patient. I know this is difficult, but it is well worth it!

Try your hardest to keep the yapping and barking to a minimum. However, for attention humans do love some good yodeling or talking!

Perform any trick you know. Yes, giving Paw is beneath us, but the human like it and they always give a treat for it. Rolling over is humiliating, but again the humans love it and the harder they think the trick is, the better our reward!

Pose for the pictures; don't run. Humans love a good pet shot! Especially if we are in those stupid antler hats!

If you have friends in your home, work together. Eight paws are better than four!

For the humans, please remember us in this busy time. A little extra attention makes a happy and well-behaved pet. Also, remember our pet friends that don't have the human family we do. We get plenty, so please share. Donate to your local animal shelter or Pet loving organization it will make you feel so good! Happy Howlidays!

Love Bosley

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

LAW GOVERNING PETS

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

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

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

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

Santa is ready for the Howlidays, are YOU?



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Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

Part 1

by Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

The holidays are joyous and active times for people and their pets. Our pets partake in many of the seasonal festivities with us which makes the holidays that much more special. However, many of the decorations and objects we have around the household during the holidays may be dangerous to our pets. By taking a few precautions, we can make this wonderful time of year a safe one for our pets.

Holiday Food/Cooking

Food is a very important aspect of our holiday celebrations as many human waitlines can attest. Unfortunately, many of these foods can cause serious problems in our pets and as any veterinarian will tell you, this is the time of year that we see numerous gastrointestinal problems in pets.

Food Preparation - The preparation of food can be a problem, especially for pet birds. Birds have a very effective respiratory tract and coupled with their relatively small size are susceptible to toxic elements in the air. During cooking if food burns or smoke is produced, any birds nearby the kitchen could be at risk of fatal smoke inhalation. If non-stick cookware is used there is another risk for pet birds. Under normal cooking conditions, the cookware is safe but if polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) coated products (such as Teflon, Silverstone, and Supra) are overheated (over 530 degrees F), they can emit toxic fumes which are fatal to birds. PTFE coated drip pans achieve high temperatures under normal usage so they should not be used around birds at all. If your bird has been exposed to smoke or fumes get them to an area of good ventilation and seek veterinary care.

Holiday Food/Leftovers - Avoid the temptation to feed your pets leftovers from your holiday meals. Many of these foods are rich; especially those that are high in fat, and can often cause severe gastrointestinal disturbances in pets which could prove fatal. Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) is a very common disease of dogs and is frequently caused by the eating of table scraps. The pancreas plays a role in digestion of food but when an animal eats a rich or fatty meal, the pancreas is 'overstimulated' and the organ oversecreted enzymes leading to inflammation of the pancreas and surrounding tissues. Signs of pancreatitis include vomiting and abdominal pain, sometimes quite severe. The condition is very uncomfortable and sometimes can be fatal. If you notice these type of symptoms seek veterinary care.

Be cautious with any bones provided to your pet. Sharp bones, especially from chicken or turkey, may become lodged in the mouth or throat of your pet. If the bones move further into the digestive tract, there is a risk that the bones could perforate the stomach or intestines. This situation may require surgical removal and if they do not receive veterinary attention, they may die. Provide your pet with commercial chew toys to avoid any potential problems.

Be cautious with guacamole around pet birds. Most bird owners know that avocado is extremely toxic for birds and severe reactions can lead to death. However, some people forget that avocado is the key ingredient in guacamole. When you are having holiday parties and with all kinds of appetizers available, such as chips and dips, be careful if there is guacamole around with your pet birds present. They may decide to sample some of the dip, or an unknowing houseguest may innocently provide a taste of the dip to one of the birds with potentially tragic results.

Chocolate - Providing a piece of chocolate to a pet may seem like an act of kindness but there is a risk that this treat could have serious consequences. Chocolate may be fatal to your pet, especially dogs, because they are sensitive to theobromine, a compound in chocolate. It may cause vomiting, diarrhea, heart irregularities, muscle tremors, seizures and coma, sometimes with fatal results. Cats are rarely poisoned due to their more 'discriminating' habits. Keep those chocolate goodies out of the reach of your dog. If your dog accidentally eats some chocolate, seek veterinary care immediately.

The Christmas Tree

Decorations go up once a year and for a brief period of time. Your pets will be very interested in new and unusual objects scattered around the house believing that these are special 'toys' for their own use. Often these playthings end up lodged in the intestinal tract causing a blockage. Many dangers lurk on the Christmas tree. Overzealous dogs or cats have felled numerous wonderfully decorated trees. Support the tree securely with a sturdy stand and wires.

The Tree - There are several factors to consider with the tree. The trunk of a live tree is often coated with chemicals, such as fertilizer or insecticide. When the tree is placed in the stand and watered, the chemicals from the trunk contaminate the water. If your bird, dog or cat drinks it, they may become sick. The needles begin to fall out as the tree ages and dries. The needles are not poisonous but are very sharp, can puncture the skin and produce abscesses. If your pet tries to eat them, the needles can cut the tongue, lips and gums. If swallowed they are relatively undigestible and can actually pierce the lining of the stomach and intestines or cause a blockage.

The branches from artificial trees can be easily pulled out. The artificial needles can be sharp and are always non-digestible. If you pet chews on the branches, they might take in some of the needles. Just like the needles from the live tree, they can cause gastrointestinal problems such as bleeding and blockage.

Lights - The lights pose many dangers. They often get very hot after being on for a while and could burn your pet if they are touched. For some strange reason pets seem attracted to wires and like to chew on them. So keep a watch on your pets for this type of activity and check the lower strings of lights for evidence of chewing. You might want to 'pet proof' the tree by keeping objects, such as lights and ornaments, at heights that your pets cannot reach. If you want lights all over the tree, then string them on the lower branches, but place them away from the tip of the branches. The pets will have a more difficult time reaching them if they are placed on the inner portion of the branches.

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

CELEBRATE THE 2009 HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE PARKS

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

Holiday Flower Show Saturday, Nov. 28– Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., 773.638.1766 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesdays All ages, admission free

Celebrate the holidays at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Fir trees decorated in holiday lights hold court surrounded by bold splashes of color from hundreds of poinsettias. Other featured plants include ornamental peppers, plumbago and Jerusalem cherries.

Ice Skating Saturday, Nov. 28 – Sunday, Feb. 28, weather permitting Various locations and times; Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change. Contact the individual ice rinks, call 312-742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Bring your own skates, and ice skating at all outdoor Chicago Park District ice rinks is free. Skate rentals are \$5 at all outdoor rinks except for Daley Bicentennial, which has an additional \$1 surcharge. Concessions are available at select rinks. Please note there is an admission fee at McFetridge in California Park, an indoor rink that is open year round except August.

Chocolate House Making Workshop Friday, Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m. Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison St., 773-478-2889 All ages, child must be with adult \$20 per house, must register in advance

Parents and children get their creativity flowing as they create a holiday choco-

late house out of delicious ingredients.

Hot Cocoa with Mr. and Mrs. Claus Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Palmer Park, 201 E. 111th St., 312-747-6576 Ages 2-12 Admission \$5, photo with Santa \$2, with own camera \$1

Enjoy hot cocoa and a party with Santa.

Lunch with Santa Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Kilbourn Park, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave., 773-685-3351 Ages 2-10, child must be with adult Admission \$10 per person, pre-sale tickets only

This event includes food, entertainment, an art project, face painting, games and a picture with Santa.

Polar Adventure Days Saturday, Dec. 12, Jan. 23 & Feb. 20, 12 – 4 p.m. Northerly Island, 1400 S. Lynn White Dr., 312-742-PLAY All ages, admission free

Visitors will have the opportunity to come face-to-face with live animals, engage in winter activities, watch ice sculpture carvings, enjoy hot cocoa and create nature-inspired crafts. Don't forget to dress warm for this fifth annual event.

Do-It-Yourself Nutcracker Saturday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m. Indian Boundary Park and Cultural Center, 2500 W. Lunt Ave., 773-764-0338 All ages, admission free

This staging of the classic ballet uses audience members as the dancers.

Chocolate House Making Workshop Saturday, Dec. 12, 1-3 p.m. Shabbona Park, 6935 W. Addison St., 773-685-6205 All ages, child must be with adult \$20 per house

Parents and children get their creativity flowing as they create a holiday chocolate house out of delicious ingredients.

Holiday Festival Saturday, Dec. 12, 3-6 p.m. Brainerd Park, 1246 W. 92nd St., 312-747-6027 All ages, admission free (\$2 for photo with Santa)

This holiday party features entertainment, craft making, games and more.

City-Wide Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m. Jefferson (Thomas) Memorial Park, 4822 N. Long Ave., 773-685-3316 All ages, admission free

Enjoy a classical concert conducted by Chung Yoon Park.

Chocolate House Making Workshop Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 15-16, 7-9 p.m. Eugene Field Park, 5100 N. Ridgeway Ave., 773-478-9744 All ages, child must be with adult \$28 per house

Parents and children get their creativity flowing as they create a holiday chocolate house out of delicious ingredients.

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE 5TH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Executive Officers and Directors of the Polish National Alliance extends an invitation to Polonia and our neighbors to our fifth Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. We invite all our neighbors to join us for this annual tradition at the start of the Holiday Season.

The event will take place on Monday, December 7, 2009 starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Polish National Alliance, 6100 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. We ask all guests to gather in the lobby of the PNA starting at 6:45 p.m.

The PNA will display 18 Christmas Trees, Representing the seventeen Districts of the Polish National Alliance and one representing the Sauganash Neighborhood Community.

Please join us for this tradition.



*Mom always helped you with the big decisions.
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It's not easy finding the right situation for your mom as her health needs change. The answer is The Highlands of Evanston Assisted Living community at Westminster Place.

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

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

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

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A New Tax and Retirement Opportunity in 2010



Chester M. Przybylo

We all know the importance of saving for retirement. However, those earning above \$100,000 have had one retirement saving opportunity denied them: the Roth IRA. The Roth IRA, which became available to some people over a decade ago, is like a traditional IRA, only on steroids. While traditional IRA contributions are tax-deductible and withdrawals are considered taxable income, Roth IRA contributions are not tax-deductible and withdrawals are not considered taxable income.

There are two methods to get money into a Roth IRA: Contributing money to the Roth IRA or converting a regular IRA to a Roth IRA. The rules are different depending on which method is used. For contributions to a Roth IRA, there are income limitations (In 2009, the limit is \$120,000 single and \$176,000 married filing jointly.) In other words, if you have income over the limit, you cannot make a contribution to a Roth IRA for the year.

Prior to 2010, conversion from a regular IRA to a Roth IRA could not be done if you had over \$100,000 in income. However, beginning in 2010, there is no income limitation for converting from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. When you convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, you pay tax on any deferred income in the IRA and it then becomes a Roth IRA. Why should you care? A Roth IRA can be a great tool for retirement savings.

While you pay tax on the account when you convert from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, you normally never pay any tax on the growth. (You pay tax on the growth only if you withdraw from the Roth IRA before 5 years has passed since the date of conversion.)

While a traditional IRA grows tax-deferred, growth is eventually taxed when withdrawn. A Roth IRA grows tax-free. Gains within the Roth IRA will normally never be taxed.

Traditional IRAs and other retirement plans require you to take minimum distributions after age 70 1/2, based on your life expectancy. There are no required minimum distributions for a Roth IRA, even after you reach age 70 1/2. After your death, your beneficiaries will have to start taking distributions based on their life expectancies, just as with other retirement plans. However, with a Roth IRA your beneficiaries will withdraw that money income tax-free!

Roth IRAs can be particularly attractive for those with a taxable estate. The income tax paid when converting to a Roth IRA is no longer in the taxable estate. Essentially, you have saved any estate tax on that income tax. This allows you to pass on more money to those you care about.

There is one more reason to convert your regular IRA to a Roth IRA in 2010: You get to choose when you get taxed!

You can recognize all the taxable income on your 2010 tax return, or

You can choose to defer the tax and recognize half the taxable income on your 2011 return and half on your 2012 tax return.

The tax code lets you benefit from hindsight by allowing you to change your mind and "recharacterize" or undo the conversion from a regular IRA to a Roth IRA without penalty by October 15th of the following year. So, if you convert in early 2010, you would have more than 1 1/2 years to see if you would have been better off not converting and possibly change your mind.

A Roth IRA can be a great way to save for retirement. But, remember these assets are not controlled by your Will or Trust. These and other valuable assets in your estate are governed by beneficiary designations. A qualified estate and retirement planning attorney, who focuses their practice in that area, can help tailor an estate plan that coordinates the beneficiary designations and also maximizes the "stretch" or period of distribution.

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.



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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS



Wright Spring Schedule Available Online

The spring course schedule for Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., is now available online and registration is open for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 19.

The full spring schedule can be found at wright.ccc.edu. Printed copies are also available at Wright.

New students must register in person in Room A120. On-campus registration hours for the open-admissions two-year college are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays. On-campus registration is closed the week of Dec. 20.

Returning students can register online at my.ccc.edu or by phone at (312) 553-3450.

Wright tuition is just \$79 per credit hour for Chicago residents, so a typical three-hour course costs just \$237 plus fees and books. Financial aid is available. Attending the first two years of college at Wright can cut the cost of a four-year degree by thousands of dollars.

For further information on Wright's credit program, call (773) 841-8200.

St. Edward School Cookie Walk

The annual St. Edward Christmas Cookie Walk will be held in Buckley Hall on Sunday, December 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come pick up some home baked treats and browse the various gifts that are perfect for Christmas!

The student Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 16 in the school gym (Buckley Hall) at 7 p.m. The sounds of the junior and senior orchestra, together with the student singers and choir will put you in the Christmas spirit!

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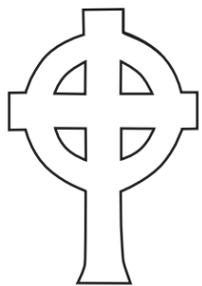
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7:00 p.m.

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Free Health and Wellness Series

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

December 16 at 9:30 a.m. - Clarita Santos from Blue Cross Blue Shield - Childhood Obesity and Flu Prevention

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

PAPPAS PRESENTS AN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE TO TEACHER OF THE YEAR KEVIN RUTTER



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her downtown Chicago office to Kevin Rutter, Illinois Teacher of the Year, for his outstanding work with students at Chicago's Carl Schurz High School, where he has been a teacher since 2000. Rutter was named the Illinois Teacher of the Year at a banquet in Peoria, where he beat out 150 other candidates statewide for the teaching honor.

All Alumni of St. Hyacinth

All Alumni of St. Hyacinth please contact us because we need your information! If you haven't done so already please email our Director of Development, Tatyana Rodriguez, at trodriguez@sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org, call us at 773-342-7550, or mail your information to 3640 W. Wolfram Chicago, IL 60618. All we need is: Name; Address; Phone number; email; year graduated; updates about yourself and what you are doing now (family, career, etc).

There will be an all school reunion June 2010. If you would like to know how the school is doing our first issue of the Alumni Newsletter will be out very shortly. Keep your eyes opened for it!

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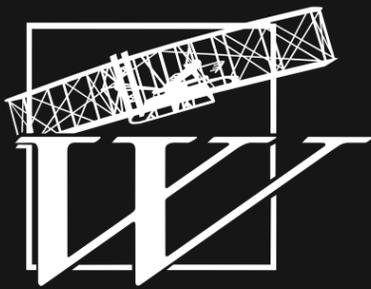
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