



FREE

OUR VILLAGE



FREE

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Issue 7
May 1, 2009

CHICAGO'S DOWNTOWN FARMSTAND TO HIGHLIGHT DIFFERENT ETHNIC COMMUNITY EACH MONTH THROUGH 'LOCAL FLAVORS' PROGRAM

Chicago's Downtown Farmstand, recently open in Chicago's Loop, has developed a new program within its offerings called Local Flavors. Local Flavors highlights a different ethnic community of Chicago each month with an emphasis on partnering with a neighborhood ethnic grocery store or market to sell a range of locally produced items at the Farmstand. Additional programming for Local Flavors will take advantage of lunchtime demonstrations already taking place each Wednesday and Friday from 12 – 2 p.m at the Farmstand.

Throughout March, specialty items from the Middle East Bakery and Grocery, located at 1512 W. Foster, have been available to customers. Beginning April 1, Eastern European favorites prepared by Delightful Pastries, located at 5927 W. Lawrence, will be featured.

Chicago's Downtown Farmstand will offer a sneak preview of April's Local Flavors offerings during its weekly lunch break demo and tasting on Friday, March 27 from 12 – 2 p.m. with Delightful Pastries, a Polish bakery located at 5927 W. Lawrence on the Northwest Side. Proprietors Dobra Bielinski and her mother Stasia Hawyrszczuk have been cooking up Polish baked goods and other Eastern European favorites here since 1998.

In the months ahead, other Local Flavors to be featured will highlight Chicago's African-American, Asian, Greek, Italian, Latino, and South Asian communities, winding up with ethnic holiday favorites from around the world in December.

The operating hours for the Farmstand are from 11am – 7pm Tuesday through Friday, and 11am – 4pm on Saturday. For more information about Chicago's Downtown Farmstand, please visit www.chicagofarmstand.com



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A.J. Geslicki

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To access this new exciting venue, go to our website at www.ourvillagechicago.com and click on **VILLAGE IVY**.

Thank you,
The Editor



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OLR Medical Center Offers May Health Programs

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

The **Diabetes Support Group** will meet Tuesday, May 5, 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 "**Advances in Total Joint Replacement**" will be given Wednesday, May 6, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center A. Orthopedic surgeon Joseph D'Silva, M.D., will discuss the latest advances in knee and hip replacement surgery, including risks, benefits, recovery time, who is a candidate for surgery and how the surgery is performed. A question and answer session will be included. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

A free **Healthy Aging Program** will be held Friday, May 8, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center A. This program for seniors aged 55 and older consists of social time, health topics and voluntary armchair exercises. 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 Street.

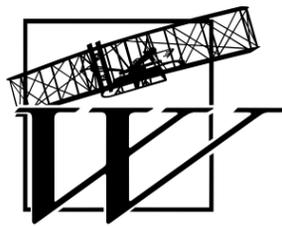
West Side Mentally Retarded Children's Aid Holding a Pancake Breakfast

The breakfast of the year is almost here! West Side Mentally Retarded Children's Aid/Austin Special will be holding their 43rd Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the Austin Special Developmental Training Center, 5414 W. Diversey Avenue in Chicago.

From 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. guests will enjoy a wonderful breakfast complete with sausage, juice, coffee and, most certainly, pancakes. Guests are welcome to join in the fun and festivities surrounding them by playing the various raffles available or browsing at the arts & crafts and bakery sales.

Tickets for the breakfast cost \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under the age of 12 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. All proceeds benefit WSMRCA/AS programs and services provide to the developmentally disabled. For more information or to order your tickets in advance, please contact Susan Bouzide at 773-282-9992.

West Side Mentally Retarded Children's Aid/Austin Special is a nationally accredited, non-profit social service agency that provides vocational, residential and transportation services to the developmentally disabled in the City of Chicago.



Variety of Summer Camps at Wright

Summer camps ranging from educational to recreational to musical will be offered at Wright College to keep children busy during summer vacation.

Third- through fifth-graders can keep from losing educational ground over the summer by attending the one-week Reading, Writing and Math Clinic the week of June 22. The cost is \$85.

In Computer Camp, students will learn programs such as Illustrator, Flash and Dreamweaver. They will also learn animation and web design. For ages 9 to 15; fee is \$110.

Several dance camps will be offered including hip-hop, jazz, tap and ballet in June and July for ages 4 through 10. Dance camp fees start at \$25.

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

Spanish Camp will explore Spanish culture through movies, discussion and hands-on activities such as ethnic snacks made by the students. The Broadway Hits Camp will teach songs from selected Broadway musicals such as "High School Musical," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" and "Grease." These campers will also perform the songs with choreography on the last day of camp.

Chess players of all skill levels are welcome at Chess Camp the week of July 20 for ages 6 to 16. Taught by Renaissance Knights, the class will improve academic, intellectual and social skills. Fee is \$250.

For more information on any of these camps visit our website wright.ccc.edu or call 481-8800.

ASSESSOR RELEASES TAX DATA TO MENTAL HEALTH GROUP

Leaders of the Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers met with representatives of County Assessor James Houlihan and Cook County Clerk David Orr April 22 and obtained the tax information the group has sought since June 2008. They will use the data to estimate the amount of funding that will be available to proceed with plans to expand services at the North River Mental Health Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd..

There is no question that citizens have a right to this data--Judge Ellis Reid settled that point in 1997 in the case of Institute for Community Empowerment v. County of Cook, 95 CH 7918. "We're just delighted that our county officials recognize their responsibilities to work with local residents and provide the public data so crucial to neighborhood programs," said Rosemary Tirio, a group spokesman. "This is especially true when the fate of the mentally ill in our communities is hanging in the balance."

Voters in the nine-ward area served by the NRMHC overwhelmingly approved a referendum on the Nov. 4 ballot that will raise property taxes by .004 percent for the purpose of improving and expanding services for all residents of the area. The group's efforts had to be redirected to keeping the center open when Board of Health Commissioner Terry Mason announced in January that North River and four South Side mental health centers were being closed due to a budget shortfall of \$1.2 million.

Picketing, letters and phone calls protesting the closing of the North River facility soon gained a reprieve for the North River Center, which serves 450 severely mentally ill area residents. Last week, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced that investigation by his office at the urging of the NRMHC revealed that the state, which is primarily responsible for the care of the severely mentally ill, had not been properly billed for services performed at the centers. The budget shortfall had been miscalculated and all the centers will remain in service until further notice.

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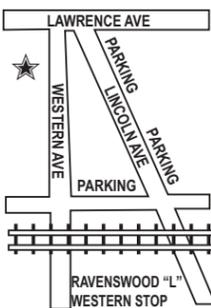
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41st Ward Zoning Advisory Board

The 41st Ward Zoning Advisory Board will not meet at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at Olympia Park Fieldhouse, 6566 N. Avondale Avenue in Chicago.

Old Business:

The Alderman's office has been notified that the project at 6770 Northwest Highway will not be brought before the ZAB for the May meeting. Representatives for the project originally requested consideration of a zoning change from B3-1 to B2-3 and then, following the April meeting, planned to re-evaluate the economic feasibility of the project under the zoning classification of B2-2.

New Business: None

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alderman Brian G. Doherty's office at 773-792-1991.

Liberty Bank for Savings to Offer Free Gardening Class

On Wednesday, May 6 at 10 a.m. at Liberty's Norwood Branch, 6210 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, join master gardener Laury Lewis for a Shade Gardening class. There is no charge. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Marketing Department at 773-489-4471 or visiting Liberty's Resource Center on their Web site at www.libertybank.com.



Those who attend this popular class will learn various, helpful techniques on shade-gardening and about new and underutilized plants for 2009. Great tips for planting in containers, if you live in a condo or have limited yard space, will also be presented to the class.

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.

Liberty Bank for Savings to Offer Computer Class for Senior Citizens

Part of an ongoing series, a free, two-day class for seniors on purchasing a home computer will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 5 and Wednesday, May 6 at Wright College, 4300 N. Naragansett, Chicago.



Students who attend the class will learn how to purchase a home computer. Those who attend will partake in hands-on research and will receive tips on how to make the right choice to suit their computing needs. Completing the Bank's Feb. 4 and 5 Internet class is required as a prerequisite.

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, celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2008. To make a reservation for an event or for more information on times, cost or location, call Susan Andrews at 773-489-4458 or visit www.libertybank.com.

28th Annual



St. Pascal School is looking for volunteers to work on committees listed below and/or to volunteer to help at the 28th Annual St. Pascal Carnival June 3-7, 2009. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Kelly Villanti at 773-427-1768 or submit an on-line inquiry at www.stpascalschool.com by following the Carnival link.

- Carnival Committees
- Entertainment
- Gaming
- Publicity
- Food
- Set Up/Clean Up
- Volunteers
- Administrative
- Alternate Games

Foster Harlem Property Owners Association

The Foster Harlem Property Owners Association's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 7th, 7:00pm at St. Monica's Beyenka Hall, 5101 N Mont Clare. The Association will host John Bills from the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management & Communications who will give a presentation and answer questions regarding the stoplight cameras posted at many intersections in our area. Also Caterina Mar from State Farm Insurance will discuss insurance issues.

SHAKESPEARE COMPANY REPLACES PREVIOUS PRODUCTION AS PART OF THEATER ON THE LAKE LINEUP

The Improvised Shakespeare Company replaces the previously announced production of Woody Guthrie's American Song by Blindfaith Theatre Company as part of the Chicago Park District's 57th annual Theater on the Lake season. The Improvised Shakespeare Company runs Wednesday - Sunday, July 1 - 5, at the theater at Fullerton Avenue and Lake Michigan.

The Improvised Shakespeare Co. creates a fully improvised play in Elizabethan style each evening. One audience suggestion creates the title for the play that is then written in front of the audience. Each of the players has brushed up on his "thee's" and "thou's" to create an off-the-cuff comedy using the language and themes of Shakespeare. Each play is completely improvised, making each performance entirely new.

The Theater on the Lake season features reprisals of eight artistically diverse Chicago theater companies June 17 - Aug. 9, 2009. The season includes Collaboration Theater Company (June 17-21), Redmoon Theater (June 24-28), The Improvised Shakespeare Company (July 1-5), Theo Ubique Theater Company (July 8-12), Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (July 15-19), Barrel of Monkeys (July 22-26), The Artistic Home (July 29 - Aug. 2), and Eclipse Theatre Company (Aug. 5-9). Click here for the updated press release with descriptions.

The Chicago Park District's Theater on the Lake is located at Fullerton Avenue and Lake Shore Drive in a historic building that offers breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. The schedule for all performances June 17 - Aug. 9 is Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Single tickets are \$17.50 and a season subscription to all eight plays is available at a discounted price of \$110. All individual tickets go on sale June 9, 2009 at 2 p.m. at the Theater on the Lake box office or via phone at (312) 742-7994. For more information about the Chicago Park District, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.



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Urban Wildlife Coalition

Nesting Materials

It is nest-building season. Help give our feathered friends a hand with recycled materials from your home. Natural materials are always best, but any of these items will work. Place them in a potato or onion sack (or any other mesh bag) and hang the bag from a tree or bush branch. Watch as birds use as nesting materials. Dryer lint, Pet fur or human hair, Leftover yarn or string (less than six-inches in length for easy weaving), Feathers, Raffia or other dried grasses, Unused Easter basket "grass", Small twigs and dried leaves

A drink and a bath are always refreshing after a long day of nest-building. Don't forget to keep your birdbath refilled with clean water.

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

LOOK HIGH TO THE SKY THIS SPRING DURING THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT'S BIRDING WORKSHOPS

Look high to the sky this spring with the Chicago Park District's Birding Workshops during the bi-annual bird migratory passage through Chicago.

Designated as an "Important Bird Area" by the National Audubon Society, the Chicago Park District's lakefront and North Park Village Nature Center are the perfect locations to see a variety of birds. Such designation is given to nature areas that are vital to birds and biodiversity. Participants may possibly catch a glimpse of Hooded Merganser, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Yellow-Belly Sap Sucker, and American Kestrel!

"This birding workshop caters to a wide-range of nature enthusiasts," said Peggy Stewart, Manager of Environmental Programs. "Children and adults can learn the basics of birding and learn about the various types of migratory birds that visit during migratory season."

Birding Workshops are offered throughout the season as part of the Chicago Park District's Nature Oasis program at various Park District locations or at North Park Village Nature Center. We invite you to join us at one of the following programs:

Spring Migration Bird Walks Saturdays; 8 - 10 am, May 2, 9, 16, 25, 30; North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. 18 & up, Free

Join Chicago Audubon Society and look for yellow Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings and other colorful migratory birds as they return to the Nature Center. Bring binoculars or check out a pair of ours.

Home Tweet Home Saturday, May 9; 9 am - noon, Jackson Park (Wooded Island), Science Dr. & Lake Shore Dr., behind the Museum of Science & Industry. All ages, Free. This is a free event and no registration is required.

Get a bird's eye view as participants can watch birds migrate home for the spring. Learn all about birds, go bird watching and make a bird craft to take home.

For more information about Nature Oasis programs, please call 312.742.5039. The Nature Oasis program helps Chicagoans experience and enjoy the wonder of nature right here in the city. It strives to cultivate environmental awareness and appreciation by offering a wide range of nature-based programs throughout the seasons, in locations across the city.

The North Park Village Nature Center provides urban citizens with an opportunity to interact with wildlife, plants, and other natural resources through environmental education and access to natural landscapes. For more information about programs and events offered at the Nature Center go to www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312.744.5472.

Legends of the Lake

by Tracy Seglin

As demonstrated by the recent Crestwood contamination scandal, it's not always clear what is in our drinking water. For more than 20 years, the southern suburb allegedly supplemented its Lake Michigan supply with water from a polluted well without telling residents.

As this issue of Our Village goes to press, state officials are working to make sure that water quality is up to standards and that communication to citizens is improved.

Currently, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, municipalities must publish annual consumer confidence reports that reveal what is in their water. One proposal under consideration is to make it a felony to falsify these reports or to mislead the public about their water quality. Moreover, in response to Crestwood, many towns that purchase water from other locales now must test it before it gets pumped to residents.

What about Chicago's drinking water? If you live in the city, here's an abridged step-by-step process for how your water is treated (from the City of Chicago Department of Water Management's website):

Lake Michigan water enters an intake crib at 20-30 feet deep.

The water enters the purification plant's intake basin through a tunnel beneath the lake bed.

Filtered through eight screens to catch debris.

Goes through a preliminary chemical treatment*

Flows through mixing basins to begin flocculation process. Flocculation is when small particles in the water are combined or coagulated into larger ones that settle out of the water as sediment.

The flocculated water goes to settling bins and is then filtered through fine sand and gravel.

Transported to "clearwells" for a final chemical application *

Flows into the distribution system

* Chemicals applied in treatment include: chlorine (disinfectant), aluminum sulfate or alum and polymer (coagulation and settling), blended polyphosphate (coats pipes and prevents lead leaching), activated carbon (removes unwanted tastes/odors), fluoride (fights cavities).

Sounds pretty comprehensive. Yet, an April 2008 Chicago Tribune¹ investigative report found trace quantities of drugs and chemicals, including anti-seizure medication, acetaminophen, caffeine, and nicotine in our drinking water supply. The levels were not judged to be unsafe, but it makes you stop to consider just what you are drinking with your water.

What steps can you take to keep your own water safer?

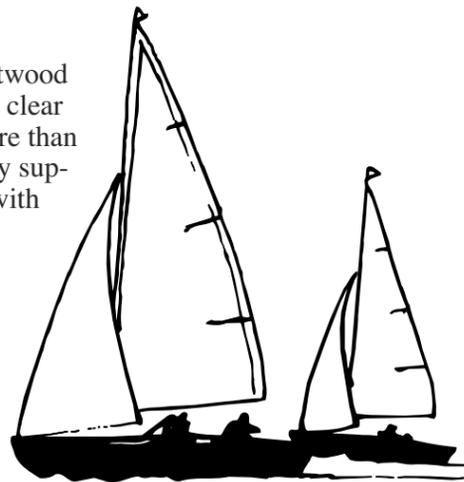
Purchase a water filter for your tap, refrigerator, or dispenser. Visit +heartspring.net/water_filters_guide.html for a description of filter types and functions.

An array of home water tests is available at hardware and drug stores and online. Some examples are the First-Alert, Watersafe All-in-One, PurTest, SenSafe Water Quality kit. These kits test for many chemicals and pollutants, but not all.

Have your water tested by a state-certified laboratory. Call 800-426-4791 or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/labs for one in our area.

Request a Consumer Confidence Report. More information at www.epa.state.il.us/water/compliance/drinking-water/consumer-confidence-report.html#ccr2 and an online drinking water watch at <http://163.191.83.31/dww/index.jsp>

1. What's in Your Water, Chicago Tribune, April 17, 2008 by Michael Hawthorne and Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz



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MORE THAN 60 OF CHICAGO'S FINEST ITALIAN RESTAURANTS SIGN A PROTEST PETITION AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATORY SANCTIONS LEVELED AT ITALIAN MINERAL WATER

Many of the most famous names in Italian dining in Chicago including Spiaggia, The Italian Village, Coco Pazzo, Rosebud, Bice, and Phil Stefani's 437 Rush have signed an Italian American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest led petition to United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Ronald Kirk, requesting that the discriminatory sanctions against Italian Mineral Water scheduled to go into effect on April 23, 2009 be suspended.

The sanctions which comprise a 100% import duty on Italian mineral water and effectively doubles its price are being taken by the United States Trade Representative in the framework of the pending United States-European Union dispute on hormone beef at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The United States Trade Representative modified the list of European products subject to import duties which are authorized by the WTO up to a value of \$117 million.

This revision (called Carousel) involves 35 European items from 26 European Countries (out of 27) and it is aimed to put pressure on Europe to restart negotiations on U.S. hormone beef which the European Union currently prohibits. It is discriminatory because it singles out mineral water from Italy alone, while other European mineral waters remain sanction free.

According to Italian American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest President Robert Allegrini, the proposed import duty is wrong on many levels. "First of all it harms the bilateral relations between the U.S. and Italy which is a steadfast ally and friend of America. It damages that relationship by disproportionately penalizing Italy by making it pay 37% of the total European export being hit by the so called Carousel revision, leaving the remaining share to be divided among the other 25 countries," stated Allegrini. He went on to note, "Furthermore, it damages the economy of both Italy and the U.S. at a time when neither country can afford more economic pain. Restaurants will no longer be able to afford to carry Italian mineral water because they won't be able to sell it at the prices they will have to charge."

Italian Village owner Alfredo Capitanini concurred stating that the imposition of the mineral water duty would "deprive restaurateurs which are already facing a difficult environment from a source of revenue that many patrons of Italian restaurants order on a regular basis." Tony Priolo, owner of Piccolo Sogno, went on to note the American consumer is the unfortunate victim of this trade dispute. "These sanctions will artificially limit free choice which is a shame because Americans love Italian mineral water and consider it to be an expression of Italian culture."

Italy currently produces 12% of the world's mineral water, 40% of which is exported to the United States. In 2008 this amounted to \$85 million in exports to the U.S. The petition was sent to the office Ambassador Kirk on Monday, April 21th.

The Italian American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest is a 102 year old Chicago based organization dedicated to promoting, facilitating and protecting trade relations between the United States in Italy.

Italian American Chamber of Commerce Midwest 500 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 506, Chicago, IL 60611; Phone: (312) 553-9137; Fax: (312) 553-9142; Web: www.italianchamber.us; Email: info@italianchamber.us

Now It's Friendship Presbyterian Church, Not Norwood Park-St. Andrew

In one of the latest developments in the merger of the Presbyterian Church of Norwood Park and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Oriole Park, the combined congregation announced its new name before Easter services: Friendship Presbyterian Church.

The name was selected after three rounds of voting in as many months, and is expected to be legally approved by the Presbytery of Chicago in about two weeks, according to church Elder Ralph Intagliata.

Many challenges remain for the newborn church body, and chief among them is to install a new Interim Pastor by July 1. Yet a milestone service awaits at St. Andrew on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, at 10:30 a.m., when members of the Friendship Presbyterian Church will sign their charter and the pastors will commission those choosing another church home with Christ's blessings. All are cordially invited to this historic service. For further information, contact the church office at pcnpooffice@sbcglobal.net or call (773) 631-3333 or (773) 631-8262.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TO REPRESENT CHICAGO AT NATIONAL POETRY SLAM IN NEW YORK CITY

On April 20th, poetry has a new face; it's young, original and slammin! Part of a national production, Chicago's own Carla Murillo, age 12 and Oscar Vargas, age 11, will perform their original poetry on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange at the Third Annual National Poetry Slam!

Hosted by America SCORES, the event gathers students aged 9-12 from across the country to celebrate the power of spoken word and give voice to these young, budding poets on a range of social issues from gangs and violence to global warming.

Chosen from among 6000 student poets from across the country, Carla and Oscar will be representing Castellanos in Little Village and Washington Irving in North Lawndale and heading to the Big Apple on April 18th. "This opportunity highlights Carla and Oscar as leaders in their school communities," says Amy Mummery, Chicago Education Director. "Participation in a national event reinforces their belief in their own abilities and allows them a chance to create friendships with student poets from other cities."

For more information, please visit www.americaSCORES.org

State Representative

Michael McAuliffe, 20th District
and

Alderman **Brian Doherty**, 41st Ward

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Each year, devoted offspring often find themselves baffled over selecting the right Mother's Day gift that conveys love and appreciation, along with a flair of creativity. More often than not, the choice comes down to either a beautiful, fragrant bouquet of flowers delivered right to her doorstep or dinner at her favorite restaurant. But now, there's another option that's sure to delight. Edible Arrangements, the pioneer and leader in hand-sculpted, fresh fruit arrangements, has created a variety of stunning Mother's Day gifts that offer all the beauty and color of a floral bouquet, but are over-brimming with ripe and succulent fruit within in a dazzling arrangement.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 83 million mothers in the United States today. The National Retail Federation estimates that Americans will spend more than \$15 billion this year honoring their mothers on May 10th. Dining out is expected to be the number one expense, with flowers following behind in a close second.

TIME FOR A FRESHER IDEA?

"While studies have shown flowers offer joy to the recipient, the feeling is fleeting due to a flower's limited duration," said Steve Thomas, vice president of marketing for Edible Arrangements. "To truly hit the mark, we have created a variety of Mothers Day displays that serve more than one delight -- the joy of a floral arrangement, the healthy, better-for-you aspect, and the opportunity to share her gift with the ones she loves the most. Each centerpiece is hand-crafted to order, using fresh fruit selected at the peak of ripeness."

Edible Arrangements offers several delicious and beautiful fruit arrangements especially for Mother's Day. Made to order from the highest-quality fruit, these edible sculptures are designed to delight recipients and make gift-givers proud:

Blooming Daisies® arrangement. This keepsake container is filled with an assortment of strawberries, pineapple, cantaloupe, and grapes to the point of near overflowing. Available in two sizes, the Blooming Daisies arrangement is available starting at \$58.

Ordering is as quick and simple as purchasing flowers. Edible Arrangements assortments are available at over 870 locations in the United States. Call 847-425-1886 or online at ediblearrangements.com.

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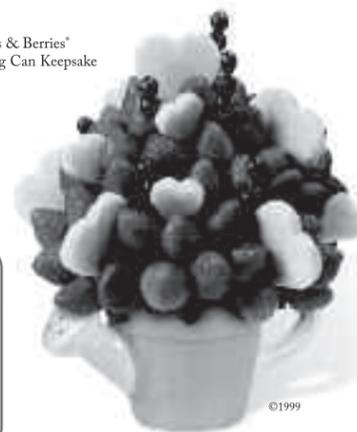
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The New Generation of Urhausens Carry On Family's 87-Year Tradition

Nick and Gerard Urhausen are of the newest generation of this well-known family that have been the providers of garden plants and flowers to the Chicagoland area since 1922.

When Gerard & Nick's grandfather and his brother started their life's work decades ago, the Lincolnwood property they continue to occupy was pure prairie land with no trees and only a scattering of houses - most of them summer residences. What is now Lincolnwood was all "Country." Vegetables were the mainstay of the greenhouse back then, with all the members of the Urhausen clan chipping in to help during this seasonally busy business. In fact, even today, this is still a total commitment by the entire family. "It seems like you can never work hard enough," Nick and Gerard comment. "Even in the off-season we're making ready for the next year. Because we grow everything ourselves, we offer more colors and varieties including hard to find blooms like zinnias and cosmos. We are really growers more than we are your typical plant and flower providers. As a result of that we are not merchants or marketeers. Our experience and training is as greenhouse growers."

For years now, people from far and wide have been making the "outing or excursion" as it was in the early days, to only a quick trip on any of the major roadways today to feast on the "conservatory" atmosphere of Urhausen's Greenhouse, where they can stroll among the living world of beauty the Urhausens provide. And then to be able to take some of that beauty home with them and enjoy their choices for months afterwards is the ultimate treat.

Gerard and Nick add, "We appreciate all of our customers and the support they have given us through the years and always try to make their experience with us an enjoyable one. Our patrons love to be able to shop in a place where their future plants are actually growing."

We at Our Village thank the Urhausen family for all the service and beauty they have shared with us through these many years and are pleased to announce they will be doing an article for us on a regular basis in which they will continue to share their expertise with us.

Urhausen Greenhouses is located at 6973 N. East Prairie Road in Lincolnwood. Their phone number 847-675-1573. www.urhausengreenhouses.com

German-American Children's Chorus

The German-American Children's Chorus, together with the German-American Singers of Chicago, are pleased to announce their annual Mother's Day Concert and Dance to be celebrated on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, Illinois

This choral presentation will feature songs both in German and English. The admission price is \$9.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door for adults; children under 14 are admitted free. The ticket price also includes admission to the dance immediately following the concert. Food and beverages will be available at a moderate price. Wolfgang and Gody from the Chicago Brauhaus will provide the musical entertainment.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.dakinderchor.org

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Sat: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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Mother's Day



The second Sunday in May is the day set aside to honor our Mothers in America.

Mother's Day started in England many years ago. When begun it was called Mothering Sunday. Many other countries have a similar day to pay tribute to Mothers. Mother's Day was started in America in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe in Boston.

Although Mother's Day is celebrated every year on one specific day, our Mother's should be recognized each day for the devotion and sacrifice they give to us throughout their entire lives.

We may not always agree with her but her decisions are always made with her best intentions to do what is best for us. Her love is unconditional, and, in most cases, she is our best friend.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers.

- The Editor

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Lincolnwood Social Club (55+) Movie & Lunch, now showing "Australia"

"In northern Australia at the beginning of World War II, an English aristocrat inherits a cattle station the size of Maryland. When English cattle barons plot to take her land, she reluctantly joins forces with a rough-hewn stockman to drive 2,000 head of cattle across hundreds of miles of the country's most unforgiving land, only to still face the bombing of Darwin, Australia, by the Japanese forces that had attacked Pearl Harbor only months earlier."

Lou Malanti's will be served to those who register for the lunch.

Friday, May 8, 2009, 11:30am – Lunch; Noon – Movie

Location: Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, IL

\$11 Club Member * Movie & Lunch / \$4 Movie Only

\$14 Non-Members * Movie & Lunch / \$6 Movie Only

Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

Lincolnwood Social Club (55+) Mix N' Mingle

Come to our monthly gathering and catch up with all your friends! This will be a cozy atmosphere and just a time to relax and socialize. Laptops and Wii will be available for use and we will also be celebrating our May Birthdays! Coffee and refreshments will be served. Don't miss a special musical performance by a musician that has people talking! Enjoy your regular mix n mingle around Robin on piano and keyboard playing pop and jazz standards music. Robin sounds like a one man orchestra, and is a great performer due to his 30 years of experience as a musician. Robin comes to us on behalf of several recommendations from other senior centers. Enjoy!

Friday, May 15, 2009, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, IL

Fee: \$10 Club Member, \$12.50 Non-Members

Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

Lincolnwood Social Club (55+) 2 Day AARP Driver's Safety Course

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older that has helped millions of drivers remain safe on today's roads. AARP has offered the course in the classroom for 25 years and now offers the same course online. It is designed to help you:

* Tune up your driving skills and update your knowledge of the rules of the road.

* Learn about normal age-related physical changes, and how to adjust your driving to allow for these changes.

** Please eat before class. There will be no food provided and no lunch break.

Date: Monday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 20, Noon to 4:00pm both days

Location: Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL

Fee: \$12 Members, \$14 Non-Members

** Bring a check made out to AARP, for the appropriate amount, to the first class. Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740

Chicago Area Public Libraries

BUDLONG WOODS BRANCH
5630 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659
312-742-9590

Spring Book Sale on May 7, 8, and 9.

Book sale hours are Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Donations of gently used books, videos, DVDs, music CDs, and audio books are encouraged. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and all proceeds benefit the collections, programs, and services of the Budlong Woods Branch Library. The library is located at 5630 N. Lincoln Avenue. For further information, please contact the library at 312-742-9590.

JEFFERSON PARK BRANCH
5363 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL 60630
(312) 744.1998

The Chicago Public Library's Jefferson Park Branch, 5363 W. Lawrence Ave., presents the following free programs in May 2009. To reserve a book discussion title, register for a program, or for general information, please call (312) 744-1998.

The Chicago Public Library will be closed on Wednesday, May 6, for All Staff Institute Day, and on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month with a performance of traditional Khmer music by the Cambodian Association of Illinois. A brief presentation on Cambodian culture and heritage will also be presented.

Tuesday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The Chicago Public Schools will conduct their ChildFind developmental screening program. No appointment required.

Tuesday, May 5, at 6 p.m.

Mysteries for Kids. Join us for a celebration of beginning chapter book mysteries, through book talks, quizzes, activities and crafts. We'll read Ron Roy's A to Z mysteries, Gertrude Chandler Warner's Boxcar Children series, David Adler's Cam Jansen mysteries, James Preller's Jigsaw Jones series, and others. For ages 6 to 8, or grades 1 to 3.

Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

Join our pre-teen book discussion group as they read Cool Stuff 2.0 and How It Works by Chris Woodford. Ages 11-14. Call to reserve a copy.

Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Professional handyman Rich Escallier will present a program on "walls, holes and pictures". This is the second in a three-part basic home repair and fix-it series.

Wednesday, May 13, at 2 p.m.

The Wednesday afternoon book discussion group will feature Something Borrowed, Something Black by Loren Estleman. Call to reserve a copy.

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Scams, Swindles, and Fraud, Oh my!



Chester M. Przybylo

With more and more financial swindles making the news, it is not unreasonable to be worried about where you are investing. But scams are not limited to the investment field. There are plenty of scams to go around, even in estate planning. Seeking the counsel of a qualified estate-planning attorney can help ensure you will not be the victim of an estate planning scam. This article explains what to look for in a qualified estate-planning attorney.

More and more often, it seems that financial swindles are front-page news. Even seemingly savvy investors have been swindled out of their life savings. One swindle,

involving Bernie Madoff and his investment company, recently ended in a guilty plea to numerous counts of fraud. Investors discovered that \$65 billion in their investment accounts held by Madoff simply did not exist.

The investors that fell prey to the Madoff ponzi-scheme had been very happy. Their investments always performed wonderfully and went higher and higher, as if by magic. There is an old adage that if something seems too good to be true, it usually is. Well, the Madoff case is just one example of the accuracy of the old adage.

Of course, scams are not limited to the investment field. There are plenty of scams to go around, even in a seemingly staid field like estate planning. Some people promise the moon, at a cost that is amazingly low. Some individuals and companies selling estate-planning services are really trying to sell you annuities or other insurance products. Some people are paralegals or unlicensed or novice planners, with little knowledge or experience. This lack of knowledge and experience could cost your estate tens of thousands of dollars or more.

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Don't get taken. Seek the counsel of a qualified estate-planning attorney:

Qualified: Does the person have the experience necessary to handle the complexities of your unique situation? Even the most complex situation may appear simple on the surface. Only a qualified estate-planning attorney has the experience necessary to spot all the issues involved.

Estate planning: Do they focus in estate planning? If you needed brain surgery, you would go to a brain surgeon. Estate planning is a complex field involving a nexus of several substantive areas of law. Only an estate-planning attorney has the knowledge, experience, and judgment necessary to design a plan to meet your unique needs.

Attorney: Are they licensed to practice law in your state? Only a licensed attorney has the legal knowledge you need to navigate this complicated legal field.

Someone who is unlicensed or unqualified may be cheaper, but unexpected problems may arise. Your family may discover, perhaps only after you are gone, that your estate plan is vague or ineffective to accomplish your goals. Your life savings might not go to the people you intended. Worse, an improperly drafted estate plan could result in your family members paying gift taxes, estate taxes, generation-skipping transfer taxes, and even income taxes that could have been avoided or reduced with proper planning. Even worse yet, a poorly drafted plan could result in family discord and years of litigation. In essence, your family may discover that what you have is really an estate scam rather than an estate plan.

A qualified estate-planning attorney can help you put a plan in place that will minimize the chance of discord and will ensure that your wishes are carried out.

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.

Help Your Company get Green and Healthy

Chicagoland companies looking to increase bike commuting at their offices now have a solution – Bike Commuting Ambassadors. Bike Commuting Ambassadors go to businesses' or organizations' offices and present on how to safely and effortlessly commute by bike – from purchasing the right gear to looking fresh.

The non-profit Active Transportation Alliance is providing the Bike Commuting Ambassadors for hire to encourage more people to experience the joy and ease of biking to work. All a company needs to do is make a call and it will be on its way to being green and healthy.

"Bike commuting is the answer for companies, whether they are focused on the bottom-line or concerned about employee health and happiness," said Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Active Transportation Alliance, whose staff comprises the Bike Commuting Ambassadors.

The Bike Commuting Ambassadors also give companies a leg-up in the annual Bike Commuter Challenge, a competition between Chicagoland organizations to have the highest percentage of employees bike to work during Bike to Work Week, June 13-19, 2009. Employees who are curious about commuting by bike often find the Bike Commuting Ambassador's presentation just what they need to hit the road.

"There's no question more people want to bike," Sadowsky said. "We are the bridge between desire and feeling the breeze in their bike wheels."

Organizations and businesses can schedule a Bike Commuting Ambassador by calling 312.427.3325 or e-mailing commute@activetrans.org. Cost is \$50 and goes toward the Active Transportation Alliance's work to improve biking, walking and transit in the region.

For more information on the Bike Commuter Challenge, visit www.activetrans.org/commuterchallenge.

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.

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"A Theatre Review"

"The Tempest"
Steppenwolf Theatre
1650 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, Illinois

"Twelfth Night"
Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier
800 E. Grand Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

As Chicago is approaching the end of the 2008-2009 season and Chicago Theatres are sending out season renewals for the 2009-2010 season we are having the opportunity of viewing two Shakespeare productions.

Steppenwolf Theatre has chosen "The Tempest" that is being directed by Tina Landau and featuring a strong cast that includes Frank Galati as Prospero, K. Todd Freeman as Caliban, Yassen Peyankov as Stephano, Tim Hopper as Trinculo, John Michael Hill as Ariel, Craig Spidle as Alonso, Stephan Louis Grush as Ferdinand, James Vincent Meredith as Antonio, Alan Wilder as Sebastian and Alana Arenas as Miranda.

"The Tempest" is considered Shakespeare's final play and for this show it features interracial casting and features some elements of gymnastics.

The show offers comic performances by the actors playing Caliban, Stephano and Frinculo and opens with a ship wreck. Galati as Prospero is a strong actor and well worth your efforts to see this show. Prospero is exiled to an enchanted island where he achieves the powers of magic. With the help of Ariel he desires revenge by a mighty storm to trap his enemies on the island.

My one problem with the production was projection. Actors today don't know how to be heard unless body microphones make them audible to the audience who pay to hear what is being said.

Veteran actress Lois Smith as Gonzalo is solid in her role. At the play's end all the shipwrecked characters are free in this two and half hour adventure.

"The Tempest" runs through May 31. for performance days, show times and reservations call 312-335-1650. Tickets are \$20.00 to \$70.00.

Skokie Theatre Offers Free Tickets to Armed Forces, Veterans and Families

Tickets will be distributed through organizations like the Cook County Veterans Assistance Commission, VA hospitals and veterans groups in the Chicagoland area. We welcome your help in directing us to any related organization you feel would benefit from this program. We want to offer tickets for our weekday programming and selected weekend shows. Please check our website www.skokietheatre.org to learn more about our shows.

A donation in any amount will help us make this program a reality. Please direct your donations to: Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, 7924 N Lincoln, Skokie, IL. 60077

Over the years I've seen many productions of Shakespeare performed by the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre from the Red Lion on Lincoln Ave. to the Ruth Page Auditorium to its current home on Navy Pier.

Whoever directs her productions whether it be Barbara Gaines the theatre's artistic director or the theatre hires directors from Canada or England, her shows rarely disappoint.

The current show directed by Josie Rourke doesn't disappoint and the theatre has assembled a strong cast that includes Karen Aldridge as Olivia, Larry Yando as Malvolio who is Olivia's steward and I can vouch that you'll be rolling in the aisles with her first rate comic performance.

The show is performed not only onstage but in a pool that requires 7,000 gallons of water.

We find that Viola played by Michelle Beck and Sebastian played by Peterson Townsend are twins who get separated by a shipwreck. They manage to get washed ashore each believing the other is dead.

Orsino played by Mark L. Montgomery is the Duke of Illyria is in love with Olivia but even with Viola disguised as a boy she falls in love with the Duke.

The show has several comic characters such as Sir Toby Belch played by Scott Jaeck, Sir Andrew Aguecheek played by Dan Kenney and Ross Lehman as a Vaudevillian jester.

Chris Sullivan is the sea captain who falls for Sebastian Olivia who is played by Karen Aldridge who shows her talent with a comedy performance after playing Lady MacBeth in Shakespeare's tragedy production of "MacBeth."

This is one of Shakespeare's better comedies that run two hours and 40 minutes. "Twelfth Night" runs through June 7. For performance schedule, show times and reservations call 312-595-5600. Tickets are \$54.00 to \$70.00.

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We R What We Eat!?

By Bosley

Hello my furry friends, I hope that everyone is doing well! Any itching and scratching out there? Been licking those paws raw? How about ear infections? Raise your paw if it is happening to you right now! Unfortunately, many of you are suffering from the effects of allergies. I stress I am not a Veterinarian, but I have noticed a trend and have done some research that I think is important. So, I want to share my new knowledge with my friends.

Spending my days in my Human's Dog Spa, I see too many friends suffering from allergies. I believe allergies can be caused by 1) Genetics which we can't do much about 2) The Environment, well not much we can do there either unless we move to another state, which actually not a bad idea because I am sick of this cold. Opps got on the wrong subject, anyway 3) you're Dog Food, which we CAN do something about. Yes, your hearing is correct I said the Dog Food. We are what we eat, and when we don't eat healthy things in our body go weird, i.e. allergies or irritations on our skin, ears, and eyes occur.

Did you know that we dogs have wolves as ancestors? Our wolf cousins hunt and kill their food making them carnivorous. Therefore, we are too! Thankfully we don't have to kill our food because this Poodle thinks that is gross! The majority of our diet needs to be a meat protein. Many of the new dog food commercials are showing all the vegetables that are great for us, well really are they? If we our carnivores then we really don't need the veggies in large quantities. I know that I am just a Poodle, but that makes sense to me!

Here is the hard part; you have to educate your Human on dog food. Not all dog foods are created equally, and just because they advertise that it is great for us, doesn't mean that it is. I will help you in my next few articles educate ourselves. Our Humans want the best for us, but sometimes don't have the knowledge to do so. So, we are now taking matters into our own paws and educating them! Keep your ear pricked to hear what I have discovered. In the meantime, read the ingredients of your current bag of dog food, what are the first 5 ingredients? You may be surprised!

Stop licking those paws! Bosley

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



Pet Smarts...



"I'll tell ya' nowadays, even my dog has become thrifty and economical. Why just the other day I dropped a penny and he picked up the s(cent)"

thatonesfunny@gmail.com
A.J.G.

Recognizing Illness in Pet Birds

Continued from last issue

Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

Grit is a controversial subject. It should only be used sparingly as it is not continually required for the replenishment of the gizzard. However, for the purposes of our discussion, sick birds, especially those with gastrointestinal upsets, tend to overeat grit. This could lead to impaction/blockage. Very often it is believed that a sick bird is eating, when in fact it is consuming only grit. Thus excessive consumption of grit could be indicative of a problem.

The best means of determining whether or not a bird is eating enough and that food is passing through normally is to check the droppings daily. In an upcoming section we will discuss this in detail.

Water Consumption- Birds may not appear to drink a large amount of water but they do require an adequate fresh, clean source, changed daily. Birds that begin to drink excessive amounts of water may be suffering from a metabolic disorder (such as diabetes), kidney disease or a digestive tract disturbance. You should have a feel for daily water intake. You do not need to determine the exact amount consumed as some will be lost due to evaporation, for example. Rather you would notice that the water cup is half as full as it normally has been and also that the droppings have become more watery.

Evaluation of the Droppings - Droppings are an excellent indicator of a birds condition. Changes in the appearance of the droppings or their number may be early signs of an abnormality. First and foremost develop a feel for what is normal for your birds. Check the cage papers daily. The number of droppings per day should be fairly consistent, a reduction in number indicates reduced food intake (or passage of food material) and should alert you to a potential disease condition. For example, a healthy budgie should have more than 30-40 droppings per day. Also the appearance of the droppings should be roughly similar. Droppings will change depending upon the variety of food consumed, but if the bird has not had any unusual dietary changes and the droppings appear significantly different, a problem may be developing.

We recommend the cage bottoms be lined with paper so that the droppings can be observed easily on a daily basis and the cage papers discarded daily. If wood shavings or corn cobs are used, although convenient, the character and number of droppings cannot be easily determined. Also if these materials are used in cages they are not changed as often, which could increase the possibility of elevated bacterial populations in the cage bottom. Therefore if you do use wood shavings or cob you must make special efforts to check the droppings daily as well as perform frequent cleanings.

A normal dropping consists of three basic parts; a formed fecal portion, an off white urate portion, and a liquid urine portion. The fecal portion is usually green in seed eating birds as seed imparts no color to the droppings so the green bile color predominates. However if the bird would eat foods other than seed the color of the fecal portion would change. For example, a bird eating pellets would have brownish droppings, a bird fed strawberries would have reddish droppings. The consistency of the droppings will vary with the variety of bird and its diet. A bird that eats fruit, vegetables and other succulent foods will have more watery droppings. Pelleted diets, in addition to causing brownish droppings, may also lead to increased water intake and hence more watery droppings with a less formed fecal portion and increased urine.

Droppings that have suddenly changed consistency and color could indicate disease. The amount of fecal portion should be checked. If the bird is not eating, there may be a scant fecal element or a dropping that is mainly urine with a small amount of bile. It is normal for a bird to "urinate" when it will pass only liquid urine and urate crystals with no fecal matter. However, this is an occasional occurrence and if it predominates a problem exists. Remember that although a reduction in the number of droppings or amount of fecal portion indicates reduced food intake, it may also indicate interference with normal passage of fecal matter, such as with vomiting.

Continued next issue

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

Evanston Dog Beach Opens May 1

Evanston's dog beach, located north of the Church Street boat launch facility, opens for the 2009 season on Friday, May 1, and will remain open through Oct. 31. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. All dogs using the beach must have a pass. The fee for a 2009 dog beach pass is \$50 per dog owned by an Evanston resident and \$100 per dog owned by a nonresident. Applications for dog beach passes as well as dog beach rules and regulations are available at the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., or on the City's Web site at www.cityofevanston.org. Before obtaining a dog beach pass, owners must show written proof that their dogs are current on their vaccinations and have been examined within the past year for any communicable diseases. In addition, dogs must be currently licensed in Evanston or the city where the dog lives. For more information, call 847-866-2900.



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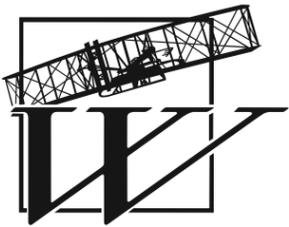
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