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Christmas Around The World And Holidays Of Light

Experience the Museum of Science and Industry's beloved annual holiday tradition, now in its 74th year. From the beginning in 1942—a single tree decorated as a salute of solidarity to the Allies in World War II—Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light has grown into a brilliant extravaganza of decoration and display.

This year's colorful theme is inspired by the Museum's temporary exhibit—Robot Revolution, supported by Google.org with additional major support from The Boeing Company.

This celebration runs through January 3, 2016 and is included in Museum Entry, along with all performances. An additional ticket is required for Robot Revolution, also open through January 3. Go to msichicago.org for details and to purchase tickets.



Happy Hanukkah



(Turn To Page 8 For The History)



Norwood Crossing Resident Lucille Janssens Receives American Legion Jacket From Edison Park Post 541

Norwood Crossing resident Lucille Janssens (seated, center), a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, was presented with a special American Legion jacket at Norwood Crossing's Veterans Day Commemorative Program, on Nov. 11. Making the presentation at the long-term care retirement community, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago, were members of American Legion Edison Park Post 541 (from left): John Kovacik III, Dennis Ash, Henry Nowak, Post Commander Walter Galiga, Tom Benson, Chaplain Paul Pfeffer, Robert Fugiti, Robert Yahn, Russell McManus, and Stan Banash. Janssens, who recently returned from an Honor Flight Chicago to Washington, DC, received the jacket for her many years of service to the American Legion, including serving as commander of the Legion's 9th District. She was formerly a resident of Chicago's Edison Park community.



The American's Creed



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

Honor Flight Chicago – “Operation Locate a Hero” - 2016 Season Planning Underway

Honor Flight Chicago (HFC), part of the National Honor Flight Network, was founded to recognize our Veterans – most specifically our WWII Veterans with a day of Honor, Remembrance, and Celebration from a proud and grateful Nation. HFC is currently working on the 2016 season flight schedule - with projected monthly flights from Chicago Midway to Washington, DC to visit their WWII Memorial. The trip is provided at (no) cost to the Veteran.

There are approximately (21,000) WWII Veterans remaining in the Chicago area – which HFC is requesting assistance from the public to help locate these WWII Heroes.

For more information please contact Jac Charlier at jac.charlier@gmail.com or visit (www.honorflightchicago.org)

Honor Flight Chicago is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the mission of flying our World War II veterans to Washington DC to see the WWII Memorial built in their honor.

Resurrection College Prep High School



Breakfast with Santa

Alumnae Association
Saturday, December 12, 2015
9:00 am to 11:30 am
(Breakfast is served from 9-10:30 am)

All are welcome to enjoy breakfast, photos with Santa, a theatre production by Resurrection drama students, Christmas arts and crafts, face painting and a special gift for each child.

\$10 per child in advance
\$22 per child at the door
\$6 per adult

Reservations are encouraged to secure a space.
Purchase advance tickets at www.reshs.org
or Call to order tickets at 773.775.6626 Ext 140.

Saturday, Dec. 12th * 12pm-6:30pm & Sunday, Dec. 13th * 12pm-4:00pm

Winter FEST

Norwood Park Chamber
Gladstone Park Chamber

6088 N. Northwest Hwy Chicago, IL 60631 * Norwood Park Train Station

Photoshoot with Santa, food, sleigh rides, holiday crafts, tree lighting ceremony, spiced wine & beer, live Christmas choir, marshmallow roasting & businesses open late to shop!



Community First Medical Center Dec. Health Events For Area Residents

Community First Medical Center, 5645 West Addison Street, Chicago, will offer the following health events in December. Call our toll free number, 1-844-236-CFMC, (1-844-236-2362) to register for an event.

A cholesterol screening will be held on Wednesday, December 9, from 7:00-9:00 a.m. A 12-hour fast is required for this blood draw that will test for total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL and LDL. Test results will be mailed. Advance registration is required by calling 1-844-236-CFMC, (1-844-236-2362). There is a \$10 fee payable in cash or check at the screening.

Free blood pressure screenings will be offered Friday, December 11, from 9:00-10:00 a.m., in the hospital's main lobby. A health care professional will perform screenings and answer questions about blood pressure readings. Registration is not required.

A free Healthy Aging Program will be held Friday, December 11, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. This program is for individuals aged 55 and older and consists of social time, health topics and guests lectures. Come for fun and games for the annual Holiday party. Registration is not required.

The Arthritis Support Group will meet Thursday, December 17, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. This session is free. Registration is not required.

Helping Hurting Hearts 3

If you are a parent like us who has a child (of any age), who is terminally ill and need support; we are here for you! Please join us on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm-8:00pm at the generous Niles Library; 6960 Oakton Street; Niles IL 60714. The Library has given us the 3rd floor meeting room for the months of December, January, and February. We will meet on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of these months at 7:00pm-8:00pm. These meetings are free!

Please call Susan with any questions at 312-388-0543, or email me at helpinghurtinghearts3@gmail.com Thank you!



Window Display Competition

The Chamber is challenging businesses to create spectacular holiday window displays in its Second Annual Window Display Competition.

The competition is open to retailers throughout the Belmont-Central area!

The Christmas Window Display Competition will begin on December 1st, and winners will be chosen and recognized the week of December 21st.

Please contact the chamber to nominate your, or another business' window display at (773) 647-1644.



Kiwanis Of Ravenswood

The Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood meets at Noon every 2nd & 4th Thursday (with some exceptions) at the Hilltop Restaurant, NW corner of California & Foster Avenues, Chicago. Plenty of FREE PARKING is available in the lot west of the restaurant, on the north side. To confirm the meeting dates please call Maria Bappert at 773-728-8127. Thank you.

ONGOING SERVICE PROJECTS OF OUR CLUB ARE:

- *Aluminum pull tabs;
- *Plastic bagel bags, old towels and any "decent rags" for our four-legged friends;
- *Plastic shopping bags for the Women's Ministry at Luther Memorial Church who weave mats for homeless people;

*Outdated prescription eyeglasses; and last, but not least,

*Box Tops for Education for the Queen of Angels School.

December 10 – Regular Meeting followed by a Board of Directors' Meeting. Please note that this will be the only meeting our Club will have in December due to the Holidays.

What better way of traveling along life's dusty roads,

Than in the hand that once was small that beckons to us all.

This precious Babe is Jesus, and if you do not know,

He is the Christmas wonder – heaven's greatest show.

—David L. Fink.



How to Book a Free AFSP IL Speaker

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Illinois Chapter speakers are available to speak for free thanks to the generosity of our walkers, donors, and volunteers. To request a free AFSP Illinois volunteer speaker at your company, organization, club, religious center, meeting or other group complete the simple form at www.AFSPILSpeaker.org. For free AFSP materials and resources thanks to the generosity of Walkers like you go to www.AFSPMaterials.org. To donate to support AFSP go to www.Chicagowalk.org.

If you are in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at:

1-800-273-TALK • 1-800-273-8255

Happy Holidays From All Of Us To All Of You!



Join Our Community!

**Call our toll free number
to find a physician or register
for an event.**

**1-844-236-CFMC
(1-844-236-2362) toll free**



Community First Medical Center

5645 W. Addison Street | Chicago IL 60634
1-773-282-7000 | www.cfmedicalcenter.com

We're Hiring! Go To Our Website www.cfmedicalcenter.com for Career Opportunities

Niles Township Officials Award Student Scholarships

Members of the Niles Township Government board of directors presented academic scholarships to six students at a recent Township Board meeting.

The 2015 academic scholarship recipients are Steve Couchell, Brian Stranz, Myah Aharoni, Minhaj Haji, Abraham Bourdeau and Michael Vance. These students from Niles West and Niles North will receive tuition assistance at Oakton Community College in Skokie.

Niles Township Supervisor Marilyn Glazer said, "Helping students with dreams obtain a quality education will make our community stronger. These young people are receiving our assistance so they can realize their goals of

having successful careers in fields they are passionate about."

Students that wish to apply for 2016 scholarship funds must be residents of Niles Township and seniors at a public school within district 219. An application can be obtained at the Township office located at 5255 Main Street in Skokie.

Since 1850, Niles Township Government has been dedicated to improving life for its residents. Niles Township is located in the northeast corner of Cook County. With a population of over 105,000, the Township includes the Villages of Skokie, Lincolnwood and Golf, and sections of Morton Grove, Niles and Glenview.



*Back Row, L-R, Scott Bagnall, Assessor, Trustees Donald Gelfund, Tony Lundin, Mark Collins, Attorney Van Schwab, Abraham Bourdeau
Center L-R, Clerk Charles Levy, Trustee Janice Cichowlas, Michael Vance, Supervisor Marilyn Glazer
Front, L-R, Steve Couchell, Brian Stranz, Myah Aharoni, Minhaj Haji*

Volunteers Wanted: Help Us Launch Our New Wellness Programming!

Do you have a passion for staying mentally, spiritually and physically fit? Do you know that sharing your passion by volunteering also improves personal wellness? norVOLution, Norwood Life Society's volunteer program has launched NorWell, a new series of initiatives, and is seeking individuals who want to enhance the lives of seniors through a variety of wellness sessions. There are opportunities for volunteers to facilitate short sessions for the mind, body and soul, including computer-based brain training, yoga, stretching and movement activities, aromatherapy, meditation and reflection, logic and brain games, cultural immersion, trivia, poetry, short story discussions, and much more. Volunteer facilitators are asked to share only one or two hours per week.

"The purpose of the initiatives is to raise the whole person wellness of residents, while enriching the lives of senior volunteers through delivery of impactful volunteerism," said Kate Roche, Director of norVOLution. NorWell programming will take place in one of Norwood Crossing's most attractive and lively areas and home to the Brain Fitness lab, Healthy Harvest Café, the Library, and Meditation Room, all at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago.

Aside from personal satisfaction, volunteer facilitators also receive a 25 percent discount on purchases at the Norwood Life Society Thrift Shop, free lunch in the employee lounge on the day of volunteering and one year membership in the Norwood Seniors Network.

"This is a great way to give back," said Roche. "Share the passion inside you with others who are eager to absorb your enthusiasm and learn new interests."

For more information, call Lupe Arceo de Carpintero, Wellness Program Lead, who is overseeing the program, at (773) 577-5334. To volunteer, call Kate Roche, norVOLution director, at (773) 577-5329.

Illinois Secretary of State Suspends License Plate Renewal Reminders

The Illinois Secretary of State's office has suspended the mailing of vehicle registration renewal reminder notices as a cost-cutting measure.

Vehicle owners are encouraged to be mindful of their vehicle registration status. Motorists can sign up to receive reminder notices electronically by email at www.ilsos.gov/greenmail. To receive your license plates renewal by e-mail, enter your Registration ID and PIN located on your current registration card. If you do not have a renewal notice or a current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number.

Businesses Are Responsible For Removing Snow & Ice From Sidewalks

Many people rely on walking and transit as their primary mode of transportation. Without a wide, clear path through snow and ice, travel is especially difficult for people with disabilities, seniors, and children to walk safely.

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (4-4-310 & 10-8-180), property owners and occupants are responsible for keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

For more information on sidewalk snow removal guidance for residents and businesses, visit: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdot/supp_info/sidewalk_snow_removal.html.

Additionally, the City's Snow Plow Tracker (<http://clearstreets.org/>) will be available during major snow events. During snow storms, the City's snow plows are constantly tracked, so you, your business and your customers know when the streets around your business have been cleared.

Please note the Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce has retained a contractor to remove snow on sidewalks after 2 inches has fallen in Special Service #2 (Belmont Avenue from Long west to Austin, and Central Avenue from Henderson south to George).

For more information, please contact the BCCC office at 773-647-1644.

Working for the Common Good

By: Jack Macholl

There is an old African proverb that said, "It takes a village to raise a child." It also takes a village to help community members in need make ends meet and enjoy holidays like Thanksgiving in a dignified fashion.

Over the past few weeks, dozens of volunteers, staff, and elected officials at Niles Township in Skokie Illinois have been quietly working to provide food support to residents that may not have enough means to celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Most people in America don't think twice about meals. We live in a country of plenty, and the grocery store is a mind-boggling array of choices. But even here in the twenty first century, we see many people, particularly our elderly constituents that must choose between food and medicine. We also witness single parents and the working poor trying hard to feed their families from month-to-month.

Township government is often a well-kept secret, but is in fact a vital lifeline to fundamental human services that help at-risk people get along. In the past two days, the Niles Township Food Pantry managed by Tony Araque (a young man with skills beyond his years), led an effort to provide Thanksgiving meals to over 1,000 families in our service area. Local volunteers young and old showed up, rolled up their sleeves and alongside Township employees provided a streamlined, quality service that will bring families together and provide comfort to those living alone or "on the margins."

When you boil it down, it does indeed take a village to work for the common good. In the last 48-hours we saw that spirit of the cooperation and hope in-action. No frills, no fanfare, just people helping one another out.

To learn more about the Niles Township Food Pantry or to contribute to the Food Pantry Foundation, please visit: www.nilestownshipgov.com.



Mike's Barber Shop
is accepting donations of new,
unwrapped toys until December 23

773-775-2771 • 6680 Northwest Highway, Chicago

Toys for Tots Dropoff

The Toys for Tots drive is underway, sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. RCC is one of several area dropoff locations for Toys for Tots so please drop any donations off to our office at 1756 W. Wilson. The office is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. RCC will be collecting toys until Friday, Dec. 16. For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org.

Lincolnwood Toys for Tots

The Lincolnwood Police Department and U.S. Marine Corps are sponsoring the "Toys for Tots" Holiday Program. Please help make the holiday a season to remember for those less fortunate by donating new, unwrapped toys for distribution to children in need. Toys can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Lincolnwood Police Department or Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave.
- Republic Bank, 4433 W. Touhy Ave.
- Liberty Bank for Savings, 6666 N. Lincoln Ave.
- Lincolnwood Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.

The Toys for Tots program will run from November 1 through December 14. If you have any questions please call the Lincolnwood Police Department at (847)673-2167.

Mariyana Spyropoulos Thanks For Clean Water

Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos, President of the Board at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, states that “we should be thankful for water, our most precious resource.”

Spyropoulos added “to us at the MWRD, protecting, managing and improving our area’s water quality is a daily responsibility we relish. While we pledge to continue our commitment to clean, safe, reliable and affordable water from our precious front yard in Lake Michigan, we acknowledge that this luxury is no guarantee throughout the world and even here locally without continued investment. Please join us in considering the value of water by imagining what it would be like to have a day without water.”



Better Business Bureau Warning: Beware Of Fraudulent Dear Santa Websites

More than 60 domain names are registered in the name of Santa Claus, offering children a wide range of opportunities to email St. Nick. Sadly, some of the websites aren’t always so trustworthy and can potentially be a dangerous way to share personal information. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is advising parents to do their homework before letting their child write to Santa this holiday season.

Letters to Santa may seem innocent and fun, but it is very important for adults to carefully review websites to determine who is seeking information, how it will be used and whether it will be shared with third parties.

“Writing Santa is a favorite tradition for many families,” said Steve J. Bernas, president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and northern Illinois. “Unfortunately, some of these Santa sites do not have the best intentions, and will misuse information handed over by children.”

All websites directed to children - or websites designed with a special children’s section - should have a privacy policy that explains the site’s information collection practices. The privacy policy should include the name of the company and the company’s complete contact information.

It should also state whether the company shares information with third parties, including advertisers, and whether the company publicly discloses the information or retains the information for any future purpose.

The BBB offers the following ‘Dear Santa’ site review tips: Check to see what they are seeking. Websites directed at children should not ask a child to disclose more information than is reasonably necessary to participate in the activity.

Limit the personal information children share online and omit physical addresses. In many cases, there really shouldn’t be a need to share this information. Instead, provide just a first name and email address.

Check websites for unwelcome content. Some sites are geared toward adults and may contain language or advertising adults may not want children to see. Check the links. Since hyperlinks can allow children to move seamlessly from one site to another, investigate the hyperlinks to assure children don’t access inappropriate content.

For more business information you can trust, visit www.bbb.org

Niles Township Holiday Food And Toy Collection Drives Underway

Residents and business owners in Niles Township are encouraged to share holiday season joy by making a donation to the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation at 5255 Main Street in Skokie. The Township established the foundation to extend the work of its food pantry operation. Marilyn D. Glazer, Supervisor of Niles Township said, “We want to make certain everyone in the Township can enjoy holiday meals. Demand for supplemental food support is rising, and the help of generous donors permits us to serve more community members.” The food pantry will be distributing holiday foods in November and again in December.

Niles Township is also collecting new, unwrapped toys for distribution to the children of food pantry clients. The ages of children receiving the gifts range from 0-17.

Toy donations can be dropped off at the Township office from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Donors wishing to contribute funds for toy purchases can do so by checks made payable to the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation at 5255 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois 60077.

Since 1850, Niles Township Government has been dedicated to improving life for its residents. Niles Township is located in the northeast corner of Cook County. With a population of over 105,000 the Township includes the villages of Skokie, Lincolnwood and Golf, and sections of Morton Grove, Niles and Glenview.

OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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‘Tis The Season For Free Holiday Parking In Downtown Evanston!

To encourage community members and visitors to shop in Evanston this holiday season, the City of Evanston will offer free evening and weekend parking in downtown self-park garages starting Thursday, November 26, 2015 through Saturday, January 2, 2016.

Free holiday parking will be provided in the Sherman Plaza, Maple Avenue, and Church Street parking garages on weekdays between 5 p.m. and midnight and all day on Saturdays. City Lot #60, located at 1234 Chicago Ave., will provide free 2-hour parking after 5 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Please note that it is always free to park in Evanston garages and lots on Sundays.

In addition, on Friday, November 20, the City will offer free parking at the three main downtown Evanston parking garages for Downtown Evanston’s Holiday Tree Lighting.

For a map and listing of parking facilities, visit cityofevanston.org/parking/lots-garages. To learn more about shops and restaurants located in downtown Evanston, visit downtownevanston.org.

Chicago Park District Seeks Made-In-Chicago Films for Free Local Screenings

The Chicago Park District invites local filmmakers to submit Chicago-focused films for the third installment of the Chicago Onscreen Local Film Showcase in 2016. Filmmakers of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to submit short and feature-length narrative films, documentaries and animated works for consideration. Submission information can be found at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/movies and film submittals will be accepted through December 31, 2015.

All submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by a selection panel comprised of Chicago Park District programming staff and members of the Chicago filmmaking community. Selected filmmakers will be awarded an honorarium of up to \$500 to support their continued work in Chicago.

The Chicago Onscreen Local Film Showcase brings local films to local parks as part of the Chicago Park District’s popular Movies in the Parks program. Selected films are shown, free of charge, in outdoor screenings in the city and neighborhoods that inspired them. These local film screenings enhance and diversify the offerings of the Movies in the Parks program and offer patrons a chance to experience the work of some of Chicago’s talented creative professionals living and working right here in the city.

In its first two years, the Chicago Onscreen Local Film Showcase brought 32 films to almost 1,000 Chicagoans in 13 screening events. The 2016 Showcase will conclude the summer Movies in the Parks season with a week-long festival of Chicago films around the city. A full schedule will be announced in late spring 2016.

Movies in the Parks and the Chicago Onscreen Local Film Showcase are presented as part of the Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks program with the support of Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Arts programming in neighborhoods across the city advances the goals of the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Cultural Plan.

Edison Park Post 541 of the American Legion



Edison Park Post 541 of the American Legion will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the Edison Park Field House, 6755 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60631. The meeting will start at 7:30 P.M. and is open to all Veterans who served in any branch of the United States military services during the armed conflicts listed below.

We are also forming a Sons of the American Legion Squadron. The requirement for becoming a member is:

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion and such males descendants of veterans who died in service during WWI - WWII - Korean War - the Vietnam War - Lebanon Grenada - Panama and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article 1 of the National Constitution of the The American Legion or who died subsequent to their Honorable Discharge from such Service shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion.

Visit our website at <http://amerlegion541.wix.com/americanlegion541>

Phone For Legal Advice At No Cost

The Chicago Bar Association (CBA) Lawyer Referral Service hosts Call-A-Lawyer on the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteer attorneys will give free legal advice over the phone to Chicagoland residents who call (312) 554-2001.

Attorneys will be available to answer general questions on a variety of legal issues including (but not limited to) bankruptcy, domestic relations, immigration, personal injury and Social Security. Callers can explain their situations to attorneys who will suggest self-help strategies to resolve their legal issues. If callers need further legal services, they will be advised to see their attorney or to contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service.

The CBA Lawyer Referral Service is one of few bar associations in the country to meet the American Bar Association Standards for lawyer referral and approved to use its logo and slogan, “The Right Call for the Right Lawyer™.” For referral to an experienced attorney, the public can contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service at 312-554-2001 during business hours or through the Web site at www.chicagobar.org.



The Holiday Season of Giving and Receiving is Here



Spectacular Christkindlmarket Chicago celebrates 20th Anniversary

Christkindlmarket Oakbrook returning for 2nd year

Spectacular Christkindlmarket Chicago Celebrates 20th Anniversary

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Christkindlmarket Chicago returns to downtown Chicago on November 20th, 2015 and invites all visitors to enjoy one of the most enchanting atmospheres in Chicago during the holiday season. Recognized as one of the top holiday markets in the U.S. by Travel + Leisure magazine, Christkindlmarket Chicago transforms Daley Plaza into a magical picturesque European Christmas village filled with candy cane striped wooden huts and twinkling lights that harkens back to the traditional holiday market in Nuremberg, Germany.

Since 1996 German American Services, Inc., a subsidiary of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, has hosted one of the largest traditional Christmas markets outside of Europe. More than 65% of the vendors travel from Germany to Chicago each year to share their fine wares and holiday traditions. With free admission, the Christkindlmarket Chicago attracts over an estimated million visitors each year from around the Chicagoland area, nation, and the world. The Christkindlmarket Chicago is host to nearly 60 vendors boasting one-of-a-kind offerings that are destined to become treasured gifts for loved ones of all ages. The traditional wooden huts are filled with a wonderland of fine gifts including handmade holiday ornaments, nutcrackers, cuckoo-clocks, beer steins, wooden toys, jewelry, wood carvings, and European sweets and treats. The market also has various heated walk-in cabins that offer a cozy place to take time and shop for unique gifts. The Grand Timber House and Festival Tent provide visitors a place to warm up, sit down, and enjoy delicious food and drinks such as specialty sausages, potato pancakes, schnitzel, Stollen, and pretzels. Guests can also quench their thirst with a refreshing imported German beer or warm up with a cup of Glühwein (hot spiced wine), which is served in the popular collectable souvenir mug.

Throughout the 35-day event, the Christkindlmarket hosts live entertainment and performances including school groups, professional singers, dance groups and much more. On weekends, the roaming Alpine Brass band with its festive German holiday music is sure to stir and awaken the spirit of the season in all. Special events include appearances by the Christkind (the namesake and symbol of the market) the annual Children's Lantern Parade, Theatre day and much more! One of the most popular events is the daily Advent Calendar. Starting December 1st, one lucky visitor each day gets to help us count-down until Christmas Eve and win a gift from one of the market's special vendors.

The popular "Kinder Club" boasts fun activities geared towards the youngest visitors. Children and the young-at-heart can go on a scavenger hunt to explore the market, interact with the vendors, and learn more about German holiday traditions. Collect an ornamental paper crown and the Christkindlmarket Passport activity book, which includes coloring pages, riddles and much more.

The Christkindlmarket Chicago 2015 is the perfect destination to get into the spirit of the holiday season, whether through an evening out with family and friends or a get-together with co-workers. The market offers the chance to plan holiday gatherings with reserved tables and food and beverage packages ranging from individual family tables up to 100 guests. Whether enjoying a "Stammtisch", which means small get-together with friends, or a full tent reception, the Christkindlmarket is the perfect place to celebrate the season.

For more information, please contact us and visit the official website at www.christkindlmarket.com.

Chicago Christkindlmarket Location: On Daley Plaza in the Chicago Loop (on Washington, between Dearborn and Clark street)

Dates & Times of the Christkindlmarket Chicago

Friday, November 20 – Wednesday, December 23

- Sundays - Thursdays 11am – 8pm

- Fridays & Saturdays 11am – 9pm

Christmas Eve 11am - 4pm

Christkindlmarket Oakbrook returning for 2nd year

Beginning November 27th, for the second year in a row, the Christkindlmarket team is thrilled to be hosting its suburban market at Oakbrook Center Shopping Center, one of the largest malls in the United States. The market, located on the Village Green in the heart of this stunning outdoor mall, is the perfect location to celebrate all the joy and tradition of the season, meet the Christkind, feast on fine German foods and drinks, and enjoy the wondrous sights and sounds of the vendors and entertainers. Nestled among the shops of Oakbrook Center, the Christkindlmarket Oakbrook provides fine German vendors displaying authentic hand crafted ornaments, nutcrackers, wood carvings, delicious food, sweets and treats all in the traditional wooden huts of a quaint German village. Guests can also step out of the cold and enjoy imported German beer, or warm up with a mug of Glühwein (hot spiced wine) in the warming tent. Featuring 22 vendors from Germany, Europe and around the world, the Oakbrook market guests will experience the same magic of the original market in Chicago.

For more information, please contact us and visit the official website at www.christkindlmarket.com.

Fine Arts Performances at Resurrection

Join in the festivities as the Fine Arts Department of Resurrection College Prep High School presents a variety of showcase performances and concerts to share the holiday spirit. The community is welcome to attend these fine arts events, all of which will be held at Resurrection College Prep High School, 7500 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago.

The Holiday Drama Showcase will be on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 7 pm in the Little Theatre and will feature Resurrection drama students.

Tickets will be available at the door for all performances. Tickets for the dance showcase are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. There is no charge for tickets for the music festival concert. The cost to attend the drama showcase is \$1 per person or a donation of two cans of food. Questions may be directed to 773.775.6616 Ext 110 on school days between 8 am and 3 pm or visit www.reshs.org.

Resurrection College Prep High School, located at 7500 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago, is the largest all girls' Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school for young women on the north side of Chicago. Since its founding in 1922, Resurrection has graduated over 14,000 alumnae. For more information about Resurrection College Prep High School, call 773.775.6616 Ext 129 or visit www.reshs.org.

Millennium Park's McCormick Tribune Ice Rink

Kicking off Chicago's winter season, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park's McCormick Tribune Ice Rink Millennium Park opened on Friday, November 13, 2015 and will remain open through March 6, 2016, weather permitting. For the last 14 years, the rink has drawn more than 100,000 skaters annually and is free and open to the public. The rink, located on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Streets, will still offer skate rental for only \$12.



Daily ice resurfacing schedule is available by calling 312.742.5224.

Regular Hours for the season are as follows:

Mondays-Thursdays, 12 Noon – 8pm

Fridays, 12 Noon – 10pm (ice skating lesson at 11am)

Saturdays (Nov. 14-Jan. 2), 10am – 10pm (ice skating lesson at 9am)

Saturdays (Jan. 9-March 5), 10am – 9pm (ice skating lesson at 9am)

Sunday, 10am – 9pm (ice skating lesson at 9am)

Location: Millennium Park, McCormick Tribune Ice Rink
201 E. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601



Norwood Park's Shop Local

Spend \$100 in a local Norwood park store, send the chamber a picture of your receipt and get entered into a raffle to win up to \$50 on a gift card to spend locally.

Visit www.norwoodpark.org for details.

Christkindlmarket Chicago AND at Oakbrook Center!



Daley Plaza; 50 W Washington Street
Open Daily Nov. 20 - Dec. 24

Oakbrook Center; Oak Brook, IL
Thursday through Sunday Nov. 27 - Dec. 24



The Holiday Season of Giving and Receiving is Here



Holiday Music is in the Air! Caroling at Cloud Gate Begins Friday, Nov. 27

Bundle up and get ready to belt out some holiday classics at these festive events that are part concert, part sing-along as local Chicago choral groups lead hundreds of celebrants in song. Santa Claus will join the crowd beforehand, and after the music, head a few steps away to take a spin on the McCormick Tribune ice rink.

Dates: November 27, December 4, 11 & 18, 2015

Hours: Santa 5-6pm ; Caroling 6-7pm

Note: Performance may be shortened in cases of extreme cold weather.

Location:

Millennium Park, Cloud Gate aka "The Bean"

N. Michigan Ave. & E. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60602



Chicago Park District 2015-16 Chicago Blackhawks Hockey Clinics

The Chicago Blackhawks are giving kids the opportunity to participate in a FREE Learn to Play ice hockey clinic! Use of skates and equipment will be provided at no cost. Some prior ice skating experience is required. All participants will receive a jersey to keep.

For more information or to register for this activity, please visit chicagoblackhawks.formstack.com/forms/cpd_clinic_selection.

RIIS PARK

6100 W. Fullerton Ave., 312-746-5735 (rink)

January 9, 2016: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (ages 5-8); 12-1 p.m. (ages 9-12)

WARREN PARK

6601 N. Western Ave., 773-761-8663

January 20, 2016: 4-5 p.m. (ages 5-8); 5-6 p.m. (ages 9-12)

January 23, 2016: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (ages 5-8); 12-1 p.m. (ages 9-12)

Norwood Park's Winterfest Dec. 12 & 13th

We hope you and your family will be joining us on December 12 & December 13th to our new event, Winterfest! This event will have Santa, carolers, sleigh rides, spiced wine & beer for adults, and some holiday crafters! Come by, sip some hot cocoa, take a sleigh ride through the neighborhood, watch the tree lighting and get your picture taken with Santa!

A fun-filled holiday event for both children and adults!

Hope to see you there!

SCHEDULE:

Santa Pictures will be from 12pm-5pm Saturday; and 12pm to 3:30pm Sunday

5:30pm will be the Tree Lighting Ceremony

Crafters will be there both days.

Sleigh ride times are soon to come!

Some businesses will be open late to shop.

Celebrate The Start Of The Winter Season At North Park Village Nature Center

The Chicago Park District's North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd., welcomes winter with a special annual event, the Winter Solstice Festival, which celebrates the change in season on Saturday, December 12 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free for all ages. No registration is necessary.

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

For a list of great nature-inspired events and programs at North Park Village Nature Center, go to www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or contact (312) 744-5472 or TTY/TDD (312) 744-3586.

How did it get so late so soon? Its night before its afternoon. December is here before its June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?

—Dr. Seuss

Oh, how the year moves so quickly. Before we seem to notice, it's December, the close of another year. With our minds on the impending Christmas Season gatherings, we rush around in preparation for special occasions with family, friends and even fellow workers and associates. There seems to be something ironic about wanting to spend time



with everyone we know and not having the time to make it all happen. With all of that, December is a very special time of the year.

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

—Dr. Seuss



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HomeComfort.net

6881 N Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL 60714

• Visit our NEW Showroom!

"The Nutcracker on Ice" Celebrates 41 Years Of Holiday Merriment December 11-13

The Nutcracker on Ice, Robert Crown Community Center's beloved winter ice show, will celebrate its 41st year entertaining families with four performances this holiday season.

Two matinees and two evening performances of the special holiday show, performed by Robert Crown Center ice skating school students and competitive figure skaters, will be held the weekend of December 11-13, 2015. Show times are Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 12 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 13 at 2:30 p.m.

To celebrate the show's 41st anniversary, every 41st person who attends a performance will receive a free pass to a public skate session at Robert Crown Center.

The Nutcracker on Ice features hundreds of skaters of all ages telling the familiar tale of Clara and her musical holiday adventures. Exquisite costumes, Tchaikovsky's familiar music, and exciting special effects bring the characters to life, making this the perfect family show to spread the holiday spirit.

Tickets are \$9 for general seating and \$10 for reserved seating. Group discounts are available. General and reserved tickets may be purchased in advance at Robert Crown Center or at the door, as well as by phone with a major credit card at 847-448-8258. General seating tickets also are available online at www.cityofevanston.org/crown.

Robert Crown Community Center and Ice Complex is located at 1701 Main St., Evanston. For more information, please call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, you may call 311 directly while in Evanston.



EXCELLENT GERMAN and AMERICAN CUISINE
Entertainment Nightly: Wed.-Mon. (Also Sat. & Sun. beginning @ 1:00 p.m.)
SPECIAL GROUP ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE

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LUNCH AND DINNER SPECIALTIES:

■ Wiener Schnitzel	■ Bratwurst
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■ Roast Veal Shank	■ Homemade Soups
■ Sauerbraten	■ Homemade Apple Strudel
■ Pork Shanks	■ Fresh Fish of the Day
■ Roast Duckling	

Visit our website at www.chicagobrauhaus.com

Open 'till 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day





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Music & Dancing
Fine Food & Drinks
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Waiting Or Preparing For Christmas

by Rev. Francis S. Rog, C.R.

Catholics – and most Christians – begin the season of Advent (four weeks before Christmas). At the same time most people are WAITING for Christmas from Black Friday: see the great number of newspaper pages filled with pre-Christmas sales – sales for anything and everything. Some stores were opened from midnight or 3 a.m. ... and people were WAITING.

This followed with cyber Monday sales.

Is this the season to SHOP for CHRISTMAS?

Some wait to see the Nativity scene erected in the church or at its front lawn ... the Christ in the stable ... in the straw ... in a feeding trough. But this is a reminder of that first Christmas Day ... yet Christ is present with us today!

How did Christmas Day become a day to exchange presents? Perhaps the custom of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus ... December 6th) and his generosity brought about the hanging of a “Christmas” sock and the children WAITING with joy for a sock full of candies and other “goodies.” (Some might remember that some parents jokingly threatened: “If you didn’t behave your sock might be filled with coal.”)

But to PREPARE for Christmas is not the purchase of presents ... but rather a realization of how we as individuals COMPROMISED this Christ in us! How we have HALF-HEARTEDLY seen Christ in the “least of our brothers and sisters.”

Remember the words of Sacred Scripture: “I was hungry ... thirsty ... naked ... homeless ... sick ... in prison ... and you cared for me.” “What you did to the least of my brothers and sisters you did to me.”

Advent – PREPARING for Christ’s coming – is a time to remove the obstacles that keep us from being ENTHUSIASTIC in our faith, from being SELF-CENTERED ... omitting our love for others of family and neighbors.

Advent is a good time to consider how MATERIALISTIC we are – tying ourselves to possessions (more and bigger).

While we might “give up” candy, movies and the Internet, smoking, alcohol, not eating to loss weight, vulgarity, we might add St. Paul’s admonition regarding immorality ... impurity ... enmity ... jealousy ... hostility ... greed ... laziness ... thoughtlessness ... compromise faith and love.

And perhaps for many of us ... the life of being “TOO BUSY.”

But that leaves us empty – unless we consider the positive Pauline words: generosity ... zeal ... courage ... gentleness ... support to the suffering ... the sick ... the poor ... the lonely ... the rejected ... even the confused ... and the proud.

Simply the courage to burn and be thoroughly spent in love as we consider God’s gift to us: He touched you and me that we might touch others ... even when it hurts ... to enter the place of another’s pains ... to share in others’ brokenness ... confusion ... fear ... anguish.

Gods’ gift to each of us is to Heal ... TO BRING peace ... AND IN humility TO ACCEPT God’s gift of our lives and talents, as we can reach out to others.

We bring HOPE through our talents ... time ... treasure. And so we are not better when someone is not grateful ... not jealous that someone is better off ... not to revenge a wrong ... not to feel undue disappointment.

Our gift of welcome: not only to our own relatives ... but to consider the needy ... the loveless ... the marginalized.

Our gift of availability ... to the elderly ... to the young ... to walk with someone who physically, mentally, or spiritually needs you.

Our gift of listening ... with compassion ... respect ... in a sense to suffer with another.

Our gift of fidelity ... understanding ... tolerance ... forgiveness.

Advent is a fresh turning to Christ ... not waiting to see the nativity crib ... but to see Christ in the downtrodden.

So to have a richer fullness of our Christian existence ... an exuberant joy in what we believe.

Let Christ be in you and me ... it will be a MERRIER Christmas.

SKOKIE THEATRE
 NOTHING COMPARES TO THE THRILL OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
 7924 Lincoln Ave, Downtown Skokie
 SkokieTheatre.org 847-677-7761

Christmas Or Chanukah ... There’s Entertainment For Everyone

By Wayne Mell, Artistic Director

December is a busy time, and everyone has a different way to celebrate the winter months. But one thing we all have in common is the love of live entertainment. Many families make it a holiday tradition to gather at the theatre for music and stories.

At Skokie Theatre, we have plenty of holiday entertainment to share with your friends and family, regardless of which holidays you choose to honor.

Cathy Glickman brings her one-woman cabaret on Dec 17 in “Life of the Party: Interrupted”. Through story and song, she tells her auto-biographical story of how she gave up the microscope for the microphone midway through life. Tickets are \$22.

On Dec 18, celebrate Frank Sinatra’s 100th birthday with “It Was a Very Good Year”. Daryl Nitz Entertainment brings famed pianist Johnny Rodgers and a collection of Chicago cabaret talent to pay tribute to the chairman of the board. Tickets are \$28.

New York cabaret star Michelle Monet bring her tribute to Barbra Streisand on Dec 26. “In She, Streisand and Me, Monet” Michelle transforms herself into Streisand and shares some of Barbra’s chart topping hits such as “People,” “Don’t Rain on My Parade,” “The Way We Were,” “Hello Dolly,” “Happy Days are here again”, “Memories” from Cats, “Papa can you hear me” from the movie Yentl, a Stephen Sondheim medley and more. Joining her are local stars Jeff Dean, Debra Criche Mell, and 2015 Skokie Idol runner-up Katie Sommers. Tickets are only \$25.

But the Eve’s belong to Skokie Girl Caryn Bark. On Christmas Eve, she debuts her new show “The Jewish Mother’s Guide to Everything.” Filled with stories and jokes about ... well, everything, told with the wit and humor that is the unique style of the Funny Old Broads ringleader. And just to prove it, the Funny Old Broads themselves return on New Year’s Eve for their annual celebration.

Looking for a last minute gift idea? Call our box office and order a gift certificate. Give the gift of laughter and music to your loved ones. Don’t wait until the last minute to get your tickets to these exciting and diverse events. Call our box office at 847-677-7761 or order online at SkokieTheatre.org.



Lira Ensemble Polish And American Carols, December 13 In Chicago

Special note for parents and grandparents -- ALL children to age 16 are admitted FREE as a holiday gift from LIRA!

This is an excellent opportunity to pass on your Polish heritage without cost!

The Lira Ensemble invites you to a concert of Polish & American Carols

3:00 pm, December 13, 2015

St. Mary of the Angels Church, 1850 N. Hermitage, Chicago

General admission tickets -- \$35.00

Tickets are available from the Lira office, at (773) 508-7040.

Or, buy your tickets at the door, if you don’t mind the crowd.

Holiday Special! All children to age 16 admitted free!

HERSHEY FELDER PRESENTS
THREE GLORIOUS VOICES...ONE GREAT STORY!
 NATHAN GUNN, MARC KUDISCH, MARK DELAVAN
 with Timothy Splain on the piano

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Directed by David Dower

A MUSICAL PLAY ABOUT MEN... AND WHERE THEIR VOICES COME FROM.

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THE APOLLO CHORUS OF CHICAGO presents

HANDEL'S Messiah
 A HOLIDAY TRADITION SINCE 1879

Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 pm
 Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance
 205 East Randolph Drive, Chicago

Stephen Alltop
 Music Director and Conductor

David Bachmann
 Associate Conductor

Order Tickets Today!
 312-334-7777
 www.harristheaterchicago.org

Ticket prices from \$30 to \$60
 Student discounts and group rates available



Illuminate the World

The eight days of Chanukah begins Sunday night December 6 and ends Sunday night December 13.



Excerpt of a letter from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the victory – more than 2100 years ago – of a militarily weak but spiritually strong Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness.

The miraculous victory – culminating with the dedication of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and the rekindling of the Menorah which had been desecrated and extinguished by the enemy – has been celebrated annually ever since during these eight days of Chanukah, especially by lighting the Chanukah menorah, also as a symbol and message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness.

It is a timely and reassuring message, for the forces of darkness are ever present. Moreover, the danger does not come exclusively from outside; it often lurks close to home, in the form of insidious erosion of time-honored values and principles that are at the foundation of any decent human society. Needless to say, darkness is not chased away by brooms and sticks, but by illumination. Our sages said, “A little light expels a lot of darkness.”

The Chanukah lights remind us in a most obvious way that illumination begins at home, within oneself and one’s family, by increasing and intensifying the light of Torah and Mitzvos in the everyday experience, even as the Chanukah lights are kindled in growing numbers from day to day. But though it begins at home, it does not stop there, such is the nature of light that when one kindles the Chanukah lights are expressly meant to illuminate the “outside,” symbolically alluding to the duty to bring light also to those who, for one reason or another, still walk in darkness.

What is true of the individual is true of a nation, especially this great United States, united under G-d, and generously blessed by G-d with material as well as spiritual riches. It is surely the duty and privilege of this Nation to promote all the forces of light both at home and abroad, and in a steadily growing measure.

Let us pray that the message of the Chanukah lights will illuminate the everyday life of everyone personally, and of the society at large, for a brighter life in every respect, both materially and spiritually.

More information about Chanukah and our Chanukah events can be found at our website www.SkokieChabad.org and www.SkokieChabad.org/Chanukah.

Jewish Organization Hosts Hanukkah Party At Misericordia Home

Maot Chitim, a Jewish charitable organization, will host a post-holiday Hanukkah party at Misericordia Home, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, Thursday, December 17, starting at 6:00 p.m. Misericordia is home to more than 600 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

“Our board members will serve dinner to about 60 people, Jewish residents of Misericordia and their parents” says Joellyn Oliff, Executive Director of Maot Chitim. “The food will come from Hungarian Kosher Supermarket in Skokie.”

Arie Zamparra, Director of Academic Services at the Ida Crown Jewish Academy, will tell the story of the miracle of Hanukkah - also known as the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem.

“We will light the Hanukkah menorah and sing holiday songs,” adds Oliff. “Hanukkah, which concludes Monday night, December 14, will be over by the time we celebrate at Misericordia - but it’s always good to celebrate a holiday, even though a few days late.”

Founded in 1921, Misericordia is operated by the Sisters of Mercy under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Misericordia offers a community of care that maximizes potential for persons with mild to profound developmental disabilities, many of whom are also physically challenged. By serving society’s most vulnerable citizens, Misericordia also serves the families who want the best for them, yet cannot provide it at home.

Maot Chitim, housed at 7366 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, is more than 100 years old.

“We believe we are delivering Jewish continuity,” Oliff adds. “Because of us, Jewish community members will be able to have a traditional kosher meal and celebrate this fun and happy holiday, full of light and music. Our one purpose is to help others.” For further information about Maot Chitim, please call 847-675-3224.

happy hanukkah Jewish Art Calendar 2016 Available



Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie is once again publishing the Skokie Jewish Art Calendar 2016 for the Jewish New Year. The Jewish Art Calendar includes detailed information on upcoming holidays, educational messages, Shabbat and Holiday candle-lighting times, traditional Jewish recipes, and popular thematic artwork by famed artists including Yoram Lukav, Michael Muchnik, Baruch Nachshon, Chenoah Lieberman and Zalman Kleinman. To receive your free copy, call 847-677-1770 or contact us via the website, www.SkokieChabad.org.



WE DID IT!

I am so proud to announce that we have been successful in meeting our goal of raising over **\$10,000** for the **ALYN Hospital Wheels of Love** charity bike ride.

I would like to thank you for your generous and continued support of this wonderful cause.

G-d bless you all,
Aryeh

Achievements



10k Fundraiser
I raised **\$11,056**

PERSONAL PROGRESS:

100% of Goal

We aren't done yet. There is still time to donate.

Click here http://www.wolusa.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1001533&pg=personal&fr_id=1060 to join our cause and help us attain a higher goal.

Cozy Up to Flavor!

Enjoy this seasonal dish at Mather's—More Than a Café, your neighborhood place for freshly prepared breakfast, lunch, and more.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mathersmorethanacafe.

COUPON



\$3 Custom Combo Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Soup

Choose your cheese—or try our Go Greek: mozzarella and a bit of feta with garlic-lemon-oregano butter. Served with a bowl of homemade soup. Soup options vary daily.

Regular price \$4.19. Limit one coupon per customer. Offer not valid with other discounts. Dine in only. **Expires Wednesday, December 30, 2015.**

2015-11-VILLAGE

NORWOOD PARK
7134 W. Higgins Avenue
Chicago | (773) 774.4804

Menu available:

Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m.–6:45 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.–1:45 p.m.

PORTAGE PARK
3235 N. Central Avenue
Chicago | (773) 205.3300

Menu available:

Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

www.mathersmorethanacafe.com



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Tips for Safe Holiday Shopping

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

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

"Finding exceptional bargains and deals drives many consumers to stores and online retailers – however, both have their own set of risks," said Steve J. Bernas, president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and Northern Illinois. "Taking steps to avoid the fraud in both situations will result in a much happier holiday experience for everyone-except, of course, for scammers and hackers."

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

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

2. Shop on trustworthy websites - Shoppers should start with the BBB to check on the seller's reputation and record for customer satisfaction at www.bbb.org. Always look for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more advice on staying safe online this holiday season visit www.bbb.org

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

Holiday Safety Tips Regarding Children and Food Safety

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

Toy Safety

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

Food Safety

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

Happy Visiting

- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots and clean up immediately after a holiday party.
 - Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or babysitters are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222.
 - Maintaining your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.
- For more information or additional safety tips please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 or visit www.skokie.org.

What A Boater Wants For Christmas Skip The Two Front Teeth

Most of us already have our two front teeth, but what a boater in the family may be missing for the holidays is a gift that makes their boating better. Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has gift ideas that will have your favorite boater thanking you all year long.

For just \$72 for a freshwater boater or \$158 for a saltwater boater, you can give the gift of BoatUS annual membership with an Unlimited on water towing plan that provides service to any boat that is owned, borrowed or rented. Your boater will get 24/7 dispatch and never have to pay out of pocket for a tow home or soft ungrounding. Included is a subscription to BoatUS Magazine as well as exclusive fuel, transient slip and repair discounts, and savings on boating gear at West Marine stores.

Looking to spend less? For a stocking stuffer that offers big benefits to a boater who trailers their boat from lake to lake, consider gifting a BoatUS annual membership with Unlimited roadside Trailer Assist for just \$38 that provides 100 miles of free on road towing for both a disabled boat trailer and its tow vehicle to a safe location or repair shop. Lockout, flat tire, battery jump and fuel drop-off services are included in this low price.

Gift memberships can be found at BoatUS.com/gifts or by calling 1-800-395-2628. To see more on the types of towing services offered, go to BoatUS.com/towing.



Skip the two front teeth. An annual BoatUS membership with Unlimited on water towing makes a great holiday gift.

Support The 2015 Community Giving Program

Please consider participating in the 2015 Skokie Community Giving Program that helps Skokie families struggling with limited financial resources celebrate the winter holidays. Families receive gift cards for area businesses which they use to purchase food, household necessities and to buy items specific to each family member's needs and wants. Last year nearly 200 families, representing approximately 550 individuals, received gift cards through the program.

Those interested in making a donation this year are asked to do so by Friday, December 4, 2015. Please make checks payable to the Village of Skokie, and add Skokie Community Giving Program on the memo line. Send donations to Human Services Division, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60077. For further information, please contact the Human Services Division at 847-933-8208.

Holiday Safety Tips

- Leave various lights on throughout your home.
- Ask your neighbors to watch your house if you are going to be gone for long periods of time.
- Don't use shortcuts through alleys, take well lit and traveled areas.
- If you carry a purse, keep it close to your body with the clasp nearest you.
- If possible, use a small purse or wallet which may be carried inside your pocket.
- Never allow yourself to be distracted when opening your purse.
- Wallets and checkbooks should be carried in an inside pocket.
- Cash should be carried in a front pants pocket.
- Take only the cash and credit cards you will be using.
- Do not display large amounts of cash.
- Never leave your purse in your shopping cart unattended.
- Transfer all valuables to the trunk of your auto.
- Never leave anything in plain view in your auto.
- Park as close to your destination as possible.
- Close and lock all of your windows and doors.
- Never carry your keys in your purse. If you are the victim of a purse snatching, the offenders have your identification with your address on it, along with your keys. Keep your keys in your pocket.
- Do not put your purse on hooks or handles in public restrooms.
- When returning to your home or auto, have your keys in your hand ready to open the door. Use your panic or alarm button.

Submitted by State Representative Michael P. McAuliffe

Editor's Note: By error, in our last edition, we misprinted the title on this very timely article. Because we didn't want our readers to miss it, we are sharing it with you again for this Holiday Season.

A Time for Thanks and Giving

It's that time of year when we start thinking about the holidays and the season begins with Thanksgiving. As a country we have been blessed in so many ways. While not everyone is without want, compared to the rest of the world we have much. Do you remember the famous Norman Rockwell painting "Freedom From Want", or as it is generally called, "Thanksgiving"? It pictures what appears to be a multi-generational family gathered happily around the Thanksgiving table as the roast turkey is presented by the proud host and hostess. One might assume that the table is groaning with food. But on closer inspection the table holds celery, a bowl of fruit, pickles, cranberry sauce and a covered casserole. By today's standards, that might seem sparse. But it was wartime in 1943 when this painting served as a magazine cover and people were happy to share whatever they had and to enjoy family and friends. When we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving perhaps we can have the same feeling of gratitude for what we have, and more importantly all the people in our lives.



Chester M. Przybylo

If you are hosting Thanksgiving dinner, it might be a good time to think about friends or family members who have lost a spouse recently. One of the saddest conversations I had a few years ago was with a recent widow who came to see me about her husband's estate. During the course of our meeting she broke down in tears and told me that after years of inviting friends over for Thanksgiving no one had thought to invite her to their celebrations. Perhaps her friends felt it was too soon after her loss to be invited to a festive celebration, but a simple invite would have made the widow's Thanksgiving less bleak.

Is there a lonely, elderly neighbor or a newcomer to the area who might be alone on Thanksgiving? Perhaps a simple invite will change what could be a sad holiday into one that will be remembered with fondness. A few years ago our daughter moved to do cancer research at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. She hadn't been in the area for very long and my wife and I had visions of her having Thanksgiving dinner alone at the local Boston Market. As it turned out her co-workers included her in their plans and she ended up attending three celebrations, including one at a Chinese church. She had a wonderful day and my wife and I were so grateful for their thoughtfulness.

The Thanksgiving Weekend is a time when many families have family members who have travelled long distances to be together for the weekend. I've suggested to some of my clients that sometime during the weekend (not while enjoying your turkey dinner) they may want to tell their family about estate plans that they have made. It doesn't have to be dramatic, just a factual conversation about where they keep their trust or will, who their attorney is, and maybe some of the basics of their plan. It can actually come as a relief to the younger generation that their parents or other relatives have been thoughtful enough to complete the task of planning their estates.

Happy Holidays from Chester M. Przybylo and his Staff.

Chester M. Przybylo is a founding member of the prestigious American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, a nationally acclaimed organization whose members are dedicated to the highest standards of estate planning and elder law. His Chicago-based firm, Chester M. Przybylo and Associates, has served its clients for over 45 years. Visit the firm website for helpful information on estate planning: www.PlanOurEstate.com, or call 773-631-7100 for an appointment.

Norwood Park Seniors Club

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

Evanston/Skokie Valley Metropolitan Family Services - Giving Hope And Opportunity To Families

With your help last year Metropolitan served more than 53,000 individuals and families in the Chicago area, helping them become more self-sufficient and strengthening family bonds. Learn more about our organization by visiting our website, metrofamily.org.

Keeping Your Home Safe For Your Pets During The Holidays

by Peter S. Sakas, DVM

Niles Animal Hospital and Bird Medical Center, 7278 N. Milwaukee, Niles

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 waistlines 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 oversecretes 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 for the pet and sometimes can be fatal. If you notice these type of symptoms seek veterinary care.

Continued next issue...

Ways To Give

We always have a variety of ways for you to support us. Here are couple of ideas for this holiday season:



'Tis the season of giving! In place of giving a pet for a gift this holiday season, give a gift certificate to The Anti-Cruelty Society that can be used for many things, including adopting a pet, training classes or our retail store. We have all of the things that a pet owner needs: toys, food, crates, poop bags, leashes, litter boxes, scratching posts and fashionable attire to show your support.

Honor the people on your gift list with a donation to support our work. It's a great way to show your commitment to our community of caring, helping pets and educating people, and a wonderful way to honor the animals or animal lovers in your life! We will even send a card for you!

Check out our holiday store to see our ornaments and holiday cards that we have available to purchase for yourself or for others. Proceeds from each product go directly to the Society.

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

St. Thecla Seniors Meetings

St. Thecla Seniors located at 6725 W. Devon meet at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Queen of Peace room. There is a short meeting followed by sweet rolls and coffee. Bingo and cards are played. We have parties!!! Please join us as you may like us! For information, please call Joanie at 312/608-4092.

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May the peace and joy of the holiday season lift your spirit.

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VILLAGE COOKING CORNER

Walnut Cake "Karithopita"

1/2 cup butter	2 cups of sugar	1 tbs. lemon juice
1 tsp. soda	2 cups chopped walnuts	1 1/2 cups dry bread crumbs
1 cup sugar	1 cups of water	1 tbs. orange juice
2 tbs. cognac	1 tsp. cinnamon	1 1/2 cups flour
5 eggs	2 tbs. cognac	1 cinnamon stick
Syrup:	1/4 tsp. ground cloves	3 tsp. baking powder
1 cup milk		

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter and flour a 13 x 9 baking pan. In a bowl combine the walnuts, cinnamon, cloves, breadcrumbs, flour, and baking powder. In a small glass, dilute the soda with the cognac. In a large bowl of a mixer, cream the butter with the sugar and then add the eggs. Mix in the soda with cognac, and add the milk and the walnut mixture, beating until well combined. Spread into the prepared baking pan. Bake for 45-60 minutes, or until the center is firm. Prepare the syrup by mixing all the ingredients together in a medium sauce pan. Bring it to a boil and pour it over the baked cake. Let the cake cool completely before serving.

by Eleni Andritsakis

Kugel

8oz. of egg noodles	1/4 lb. butter	1 tsp. salt
1 cup milk	1 large cream cheese	4 eggs
1/2 cup sugar		
1 large can crushed pineapple		

Boil & drain noodles. Rinse in cold water. Soften cream cheese & add eggs one at a time. Mix salt, sugar & milk. Melt butter. Mix noodles with mixture. Add drained pineapple. Put in 13 x 9 pan. Add topping.

Topping:
3/4 cup crushed corn flakes 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon 1/4 cup sugar
Mix together, spread on top. Bake at 375 for 1 1/2 hours.

From The Kitchens of Chris

Wassail of Old England

3 qt. apple cider	1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg	1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. whole cloves	2 tbsp. honey or brown sugar	1 stick of cinnamon
1 bottle brandy	Apple Slices	Lemon Peel

Simmer the cider and spices for a few minutes. Then warm the brandy slightly. Pour 24 jiggers of brandy in the bowl and set ablaze. Then pour the cider and spices into the bowl. Float the apple slices and lemon peel on top.

From The Kitchens of K. Roberts

Italian Sorbeto Punch

2 cans frozen cranberry juice
1 can frozen orange juice
16 ounces ginger ale
16 ounces lemon lime soda
6 scoops rainbow sorbeto (sherbert ice cream)
1 whole orange
1 can sliced pineapple
Mix all liquids together and stir thoroughly, add 6 scoops rainbow sorbeto and let float, top with sliced oranges and pineapples for garnish.
*for alcoholic punch, add gin or vodka to your liking.

Submitted by Vines Italian Restaurant, Harwood Heights

Appetizer

Make a list now of all your social obligations for the upcoming Holidays. Save this recipe in your "Appetizers" folder so you can serve it to your guests while they are sipping on their cocktail or glass of wine to prevent them from starving, just in case dinner is late.

Ingredients: 2 eggs, beaten, 2 pkgs. frozen chopped spinach, drained
1/2 stick melted butter, cooled, 1 cup milk
1/2 lb. grated Monterey Jack cheese, 1 cup flour, 1 tsp. salt
1 capful lemon juice and several dashes garlic powder or garlic salt

Preparation: Mix all ingredients and spread in a greased 12" x 17" pan. Or, spray with Pam to prevent sticking. Bake for 25 minutes in a 350 degree oven or until lightly browned on top. Cut in squares while warm and serve. Leftovers are good to eat for breakfast, lunch or as snacks..

* May be found in any Greek or Italian market
Suggestion: leftovers, if any, makes a great sandwich the next day. Serves 4.

From my "Appetizers" file – Submitted by Maria P. Bappert

Apricot Bar Cookies

A number of years ago, our family received a big plate of these bar cookies from a good friend, Fran. I asked her if she would share the recipe with me, and she agreed. The Apricot Bar Cookies are absolutely yummy and easy to make. Add them to your "Cookies" file folder.

Ingredients: 1 cup butter, 2 cups sifted flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup chopped walnuts, 2 egg yolks and 1 – 12 oz. jar apricot preserves.

Method: Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add yolks, blend well. Then add the flour and nuts and mix until blended. Grease and flour a 9 x 13" pan. Spread half of the mixture with fingers into the pan (flour on your hands helps). Spread the preserves to 1/4" from the edges, then cover with the remaining flour mixture. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes. Cut into small squares while warm. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar if desired.

Submitted by Maria P. Bappert



Watch the Food Network's upcoming episodes of Coast-To-Coast Chow featuring Harry Kempf, owner, operator and chef of the Chicago Brauhaus.

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