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OUR VILLAGE



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Chicago's 95th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Illuminates Daley Plaza Tuesday, December 2, Noon

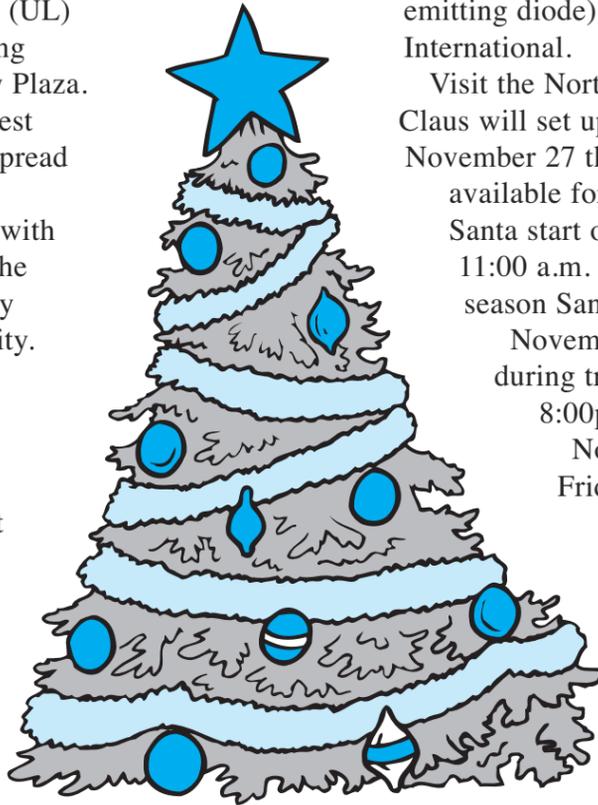
The City of Chicago and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) present Chicago's 95th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 2 at Noon on Daley Plaza. Helping Mayor Daley light the tree will be special guest actress Keri Russell, who has teamed up with UL to spread the word about home safety this holiday season. Bill Zwecker of the Chicago Sun Times and CBS 2 along with Warner Saunders of NBC 5 will serve as emcees for the program and ceremony featuring the sounds of holiday music performed by various choirs from around the city.

This year Mayor Daley is pleased to welcome Underwriters Laboratories as presenting sponsor. Underwriters Laboratories, the trusted source for product compliance, has safety in mind this holiday season. By seeing a UL Mark on any holiday product purchased, families can trust that those products have met UL's Safety Standards. Just look for the UL Mark and trust that those holiday lights, decorations and gifts can help you have a safe holiday season.

Actress Keri Russell is a familiar face to audiences worldwide having starred in such films as August Rush, Waitress and television's Felicity. Keri can be seen this December in Disney's Bedtime Stories alongside Courtney Cox and Adam Sandler. Keri is teaming up with UL to help share tips on safety at home this holiday season. For a list of safety tips visit www.safetyathome.com.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is a much anticipated family tradition. Festive holiday music and musical performances begin at 12:00 p.m. (noon) and the holiday season in Chicago officially commences at approximately 12:30 p.m. when the switch is flipped and the lights begin to sparkle on Daley Plaza. The Melodeers Chorus, the Apollo Chorus of Chicago and the Queen of Angels Elementary School Choir will provide holiday music to officially kick-off the season.

Since 1913, Chicago's Christmas tree has illuminated the holiday season. For 2008, Chicago's massive 85 foot tree is comprised of 113 balsam firs from Wisconsin and more than 200 lighted snowflakes, balls and spheres. This year Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is providing 9,000 red, green and white energy-saving LED (light-



emitting diode) light bulbs from Chicago based PolyBrite International.

Visit the North Pole without leaving Chicago! Santa Claus will set up shop on Daley Plaza every day starting November 27 through December 24. Mr. Claus will be available for pictures and taking wish lists. Visits with Santa start on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th at 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For the remainder of the season Santa's House hours are:

November 28, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (closed during tree lighting) reopening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m.

November 29 through December 23: Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

December 24 - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Please note Santa takes a break each day from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

Experience a traditional German Christmas at the 13th Annual Christkindlmarket, inspired by the famous Nuremberg Christmas market dating back to 1545. This outdoor market offers exquisite handmade gifts,

unique ornaments, rare European fabrics and textiles and the opportunity to devour German delicacies like brats, goulash, potato pancakes, cookies and Gluhwein (a warm spiced wine).

Christkindlmarket hours are:

Thanksgiving Day, November 27 - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 28 to December 23, Sundays - Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; December 24 - 11 am to 4 pm - only

The 95th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is presented by the City of Chicago and Underwriters Laboratories (UL). For more information on please call (312) 744-3315 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents.

32nd ANNUAL LINCOLNWOOD TURKEY TROT

This annual event will take place on Sunday, November 23rd, and attracts approximately 1,800 participants. The Turkey Trot consists of a 5K & 10K run, a 5K walk, and a Drumstick Dash for children ages 10 and under. Runners and walkers race through the streets of Lincolnwood beginning and ending at the Village's largest park, Proesel Park. All participants receive a goodie bag filled with refreshments and other items as well as a long-sleeved T-shirt. However, only those who are pre-registered are guaranteed a shirt. Turkey trophies are awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age division. Turkeys are given to the overall male and female finishers in each race and walkers all receive a participation award. The walk is non-competitive. A special award is also presented to the top male and female finishers from Lincolnwood. This is a CARA (Chicago Area Runners Association) registered family race and a portion of any proceeds will be given to the Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Niles Township Food Pantry. You can register online at www.lincolnwoodil.org, or get more information by visiting the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation office at 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., or calling (847) 677-9740.

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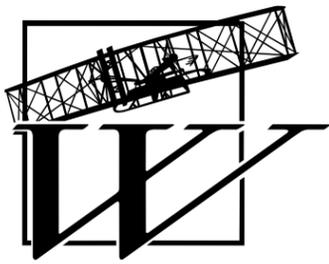
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Wright Earns State Environmental Award

Wilbur Wright College's Environmental Technology program has been honored by the state for its leadership in engaging the community and its students in sustainability projects.

Wright was the only Illinois institution of higher education awarded with the 2008 Illinois Governor's Pollution Prevention Award in the education category. The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center in Champaign runs this annual award program to recognize businesses and organizations that have helped the environment and the economy through programs that reduce pollutant levels and energy consumption.

Wright was recognized for its Building Energy Technologies Program, along with its on-campus renewable energy installations. Wright's accredited building program teaches energy efficient design and construction to boost employability in the construction, rehab and operation industries. As part of the program, Wright installed solar panels to provide electricity and hot water to part of the campus.

Also, the state recently chose Wright as a Sustainability Institute, which will help educate the community on environmentally friendly practices.

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

Wright Performs "Crimes of the Heart"

"Crimes of the Heart," the Pulitzer Prize winning comedy, will be presented by Stage Wright, the theater company of Wright College, from Nov. 12 through Nov. 23 at the College Events Theater, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave. in Chicago.

"Crimes of the Heart" examines the plight of three sisters from Mississippi in 1974. They reunite to rally around the youngest, who has been accused of attempted murder. Playwright Beth Henley leaves her audience not only with smiles, but also with truths to contemplate.

Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22. A matinee closing performance will be at 2 p.m. on Nov. 23. General Admission tickets are \$10; senior citizen, faculty and student discounts are available. Tickets for the preview shows to be staged at 2 p.m. Nov. 12 and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 are also available for \$3. Call (773) 481-8037 for tickets or more information. Group rates are available.

OLR Medical Center Receives Clinical Excellence Awards for Coronary Intervention, Stroke Care and Critical Care

For the second year in a row, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center ranks among the top ten percent of U.S. hospitals for coronary intervention, stroke care and critical care, according to the 11th annual HealthGrades® Hospital Quality in America Study. As a top ranking hospital in these clinical areas, the medical center received 2009 Clinical Excellence Awards for Coronary Interventions, Stroke Care and Critical Care from HealthGrades, the leading independent health care ratings company.

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center also is one of only 19 hospitals in Illinois and one of only 270 in the nation to have received the 2008 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.™ This distinction ranks the hospital in the top five percent of U.S. hospitals for overall clinical excellence.

Among its 2009 distinctions, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center also received five-star ratings, the highest level for patient outcomes, in eight clinical areas: coronary interventional procedures, hip fracture repair, gastrointestinal procedures and surgeries, and treatment of heart attack, stroke, sepsis, respiratory failure, diabetic acidosis and coma.

In this national study, HealthGrades independently rated nearly every hospital in the country for the quality of care for 27 procedures and diagnoses, ranging from angioplasty and stent procedures to treatment of heart attacks and strokes. Five-star rated hospitals had the most successful patient outcomes; three-star rated meant average outcomes; and one-star rated meant below average patient outcomes in terms of mortality or complication rates.

For the seventh year in a row, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center received five-star ratings for treatment of stroke and, for three years in a row, received the HealthGrades Stroke Care Excellence Award™. The hospital also ranked in the top five Illinois hospitals for overall critical care and in the top 10 Illinois hospitals for coronary interventional procedures.

"Our physicians, nurses, clinical and support staffs are dedicated to giving our patients the personalized medical care they deserve and this national study points to our success," said Ivette Estrada, executive vice president and chief executive officer, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center. "We are pleased to be named a top ranking hospital. These national distinctions mean that our patients are getting superior care equal to the best in the country right here in their neighborhood."

The new study analyzed more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2005 to 2007 at about 5,000 non-federal hospitals and found that if all hospitals performed at the level of five-star rated hospitals, 237,420 Medicare deaths potentially could have been prevented.

For more information about these national distinctions, visit olr.reshealth.org

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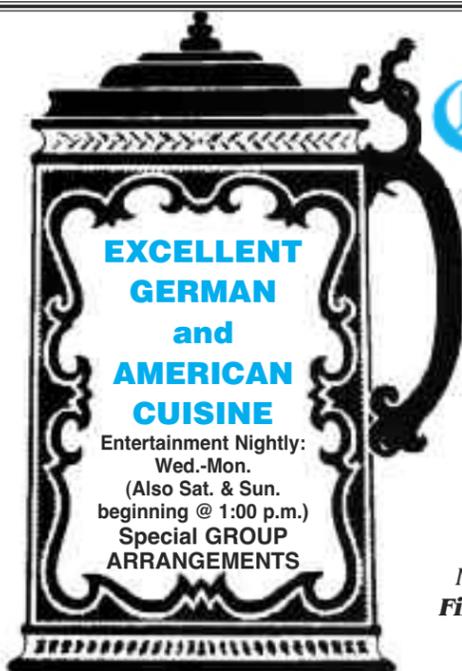
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Registration Opens Nov 3rd for Hustle Up the Hancock

General registration for Hustle Up the Hancock opens at 8AM on Monday, November 3rd. Participants can register on-line at www.lungchicago.org and is expected to sell out in under an hour. An estimated 4,000 climbers will participate in the event scheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2009 at the John Hancock Center with a post-climb expo at the nearby Hilton Suites Hotel. All proceeds benefit Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago's lung disease research, education and advocacy programs.

Hustle Up the Hancock, Chicago's world class stair climb, features a 1,000-foot vertical climb up 1,632 stairs to the 94th floor. A 52-floor climb of 816 stairs is also available.

Last year's event sold out in under an hour and left hundreds on the waiting list. Respiratory Health Association is also offering participants the opportunity to become Lung Health Champions which secures a spot and preferred start times when the individual promises to raise at least \$1,000 for lung disease research.

For more information about the 2009 Hustle Up the Hancock visit www.lungchicago.org or call (312) 243-2000.

Mr. Bike Turns Up Heat on Winter Bicycling

Chicago's own Mr. Bike will show area cyclists how to stay warm on their bikes in cold weather.

Mr. Bike and his icy slew of cycling savants will present "Winter Bicycling Tricks & Tips" on Sunday, Nov. 23 2008, 3 to 5 p.m., at UIC Student Center East, 750 South Halsted St., Illinois Room AB, Chicago (bike parking available), 312/413-5040. All ages welcome.

When December hits, bicyclists start disappearing from Chicago streets. Yet you'll still see bikers riding even into January. Would you call them nuts? Lance Armstrong wannabes? "Nope—just experienced," says Mr. Bike. For instance, seasoned Chicagoans often teach winter survival skills to transplants from warmer climates. Likewise, long-time "ice-bikers" can show their fair-weather friends how to resume cycling well before St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Bike and his troupe will show how to use your existing clothes for winter and early-spring cycling; give tips for shielding your machine from that notorious winter seasoning, salt; and even demonstrate bike handling with an indoor snowstorm. Plus a free raffle will offer prizes of valuable winter-cycling accessories. "If nothing else," says Mr. Bike, "come for the underwear modeling."

Dave Glowacz, a cycling instructor known to radio listeners throughout the continent as Mr. Bike (www.mrbike.com), created the popular paperback Urban Bikers' Tricks & Tips. Glowacz also authored Safe Bicycling in Chicago, the city's official cycling handbook, and serves as a bicycling instructor with the League of American Bicyclists, the nation's oldest bicycling advocacy organization.

Mr. Bike presents "Winter Bicycling Tricks & Tips" as one of Chicago's many Bike Winter events. For a complete Bike Winter schedule, go to www.bikewinter.org.

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation (www.biketraffic.org), the University of Illinois at Chicago's Office of Sustainability (www.uic.edu/sustainability), and Patagonia (www.patagonia.com) sponsor the event.

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink Opening Day Tentatively Postponed to November 19

Rink To Open One Week Later Due To Unseasonably Warm Weather

Due to unseasonably warm weather and the forecast for rain, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink is now tentatively scheduled to open for the season on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 (weather permitting). The rink, originally scheduled to open on November 12, will remain open through Sunday, March 15, 2009 (weather permitting).

Skating in Millennium Park is free and open to the public. Skate rental is available for \$10. The ice rink is located on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Streets.

The rink is open daily from 10am until 10pm. For the Thanksgiving holiday on November 27, and on Christmas Day, December 25, the rink will be open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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

Bike Town Bash – Dec. 6, 2008

When it's cold outside and your bike has icicles, party with the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation in a Wintergreen Wonderland. Bike Town Bash is the annual fundraising party that benefits the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's work to grow choices for safe walking, biking and transit in Chicagoland. There will be food, drinks, entertainment, a raffle, a recycled auction and more. All friends of active transportation are welcome to the 2008 Bike Town Bash, Dec. 6 at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 201 S. Ashland Ave. in Chicago. Tickets are \$25. www.biketraffic.org/bash.

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Celebrate your Holiday on Devon Avenue

This month, our diverse community will be celebrating a number of holidays. Eid, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah & Diwali all fall in the month of October this year. To help Devon Avenue appear festive for visitors and business owners, the West Ridge Chamber of Commerce and SSA #43 purchased holiday decorations that are now hanging along Devon Avenue from Kedzie to Damen. We hope these decorations will bring a little holiday cheer to you no matter which holiday you celebrate. Enjoy!

Chicago Waldorf School Holiday Fair to be held Saturday, December 6 9am-5pm

Chicago Waldorf School 1300 W. Loyola Avenue

Mark your calendars now for Chicago Waldorf School's 36th annual Holiday Fair. This popular event provides plenty of fun for the whole family including candle dipping, ornament making and even a special magical market for the children only. For the grown-ups there is a fabulous array of organic, natural and handcrafted gift items - many of which you will not find anywhere else - as well as free musical performances throughout the day. Live holiday greenery and the raffle ticket included in the \$1 admission price round out a day of festivities guaranteed to get you into the spirit of the season. This is sure to be a favorite holiday event for you and your family.

For additional information contact Tahira Klass at tklass@chicagowaldorf.org or 773-828-8451.

Wilson Yard Project Back Underway in Uptown

New Target store to anchor environmentally friendly, mixed-use North Side development project

Work on the \$150 million Wilson Yard development project has officially commenced in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood following final closing on all funding sources by the Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation (Holsten Corp.) The planned development will feature a new Target retail store, numerous smaller stores and restaurants, and affordable housing for families and seniors, all of which will be LEED certified.

"We're thrilled to be a part of the Wilson Yard development and look forward to serving the Uptown community for many years to come," said Target spokesperson Delia McLinden.

The Wilson Yard project site on Broadway between Montrose and Sunnyside sits at one of the most prominent locations in the Uptown neighborhood on Chicago's North Side, within the city's 46th Ward. Formerly home in part to a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) rail yard and repair shop for nearly a century, the CTA portion of the site was initially cleared for development in the late 1990s. Already home to a new ALDI supermarket that opened in May 2007, when completed the total project will include:

A new, 180,000 square-foot Target store on two levels and featuring an energy-saving green roof will anchor the retail portion of the project, with 25,000 square feet of additional retail and office space along Broadway. The project will also include two rental buildings with affordable units managed by the Holsten Management Company.

In keeping with Mayor Daley's ongoing commitment to make Chicago a showplace city for green technology, the Wilson Yard project will be certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The Wilson Yard project could not be better suited to the Uptown community," said Holsten Corp. President Peter Holsten. "With a top-level retailer like Target, badly needed housing and job training, an eye towards green technologies, this development makes everyone a winner."

Another Beautiful Way to Reduce Flooding in Rogers Park

A demonstration rain garden will be constructed at the United Church of Rogers Park at Morse and Ashland. It will be a spectacular addition to the heart of Rogers Park and will show how any property owner can create a garden that makes local flooding less likely.

On Saturday, November 1st, volunteers and the Center for Neighborhood Technology prepared the site on the church lawn and on Saturday, November 8th, they planted about 500 prairie wildflowers and grasses.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) worked with St. Margaret Mary Church and School to install a bioswale, two rain gardens and pervious concrete in October 2007. These green infrastructure features paid off in 2008 when, on September 13th and 14th, the largest storm on record hit Chicago. *In the words of Father James Barrett,*

"At St. Margaret Mary, we were very fortunate in that there was little rain damage... Since we put the water permeable concrete in the Activity Center parking lot and the bioswale in the church parking lot, there has been no water in either building... Thank you Ozinga Concrete Company and the Center for Neighborhood Technology. You saved us hours in clean up costs."

Or, in the words of facility manager Jack Kent,

"For the first time with a significant rain, let alone a record breaker like we had, we had no water in the school backing up whatsoever... The only difference was the bioswale and raingardens. And none in the activity center, so the (permeable) parking lot did its job. It worked."

"Margaret Mary is a great example of the community putting green infrastructure to work to capture raindrops where they fall, protect clean water, create beautiful urban spaces, and help prevent flooding," said Steve Wise, CNT's natural resources program manager. "Expanding Chicago's use of green infrastructure features like these needs to be a major part of the solution in limiting stormwater runoff and the flow of pollution to the lake, while coping with future rainstorms that climate scientists expect to be more frequent and more severe."

Since 1978, CNT has been a leader in promoting urban sustainability - the more effective use of existing resources and community assets to improve the health of natural systems and the wealth of people, today and in the future. CNT's Natural Resources program focuses on Green Infrastructure; a stormwater management approach that saves money, supports sustainability, and more efficiently uses limited financial and natural resources. By capturing raindrops where they fall, Green Infrastructure utilizes the absorbing and filtering abilities of plants, trees and soil to protect water quality, reduce polluted runoff, and recharge groundwater supplies while reconnecting people with their local environment.

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GREAT OUTDOORS

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT ICE SKATING RINKS OPEN NOVEMBER 28 FOR 2008-'09 SEASON

Skating Season Runs Through February 28

The Chicago Park District's ice skating rinks open for the 2008-09 season Friday, Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving. Skating season runs through Saturday, Feb. 28, weather permitting.

Locations offer skate rentals for various fees and concessions are available at most rinks. All rinks are outdoors with the exception of McFetridge in California Park which is open year round except August.

Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change. Contact the individual ice rinks or the Chicago Park District at 312-742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

McFetridge Sports Center, California Park, 3843 N. California Ave. 773-478-2609

Indoor rink open Wednesday and Friday, 3:30 - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 4:30 - 6 p.m. for all ages

Wednesday, 9:15 - 10:30 p.m. for adults

Friday, 9:15 - 10:45 p.m. for teens and adults

\$3 skate rental; admission is \$3 for children 17 and younger, \$4 for adults, and \$2 for seniors 60 and older. Food concessions are available.

Riis Park, 6100 W. Fullerton Ave., 312-746-5735

Wednesday - Sunday, 12:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Open Christmas and New Year's Day from 12-4 p.m.

\$5 skate rental; admission free.

No food concessions are available.

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

Wednesday - Friday, 3 - 5 p.m., 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., 3 - 5 p.m., 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The ice rink will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

\$3 skate rental; admission is \$3 for children 17 and younger, \$4 for adults, and \$2 for seniors 60 and older. No food concessions are available.

Urban Wildlife Coalition

Fall Tips for Deer Safety

Here on Chicago's northwest side, in the middle of one of our nation's largest cities, we have the privilege of occasional contact with native wildlife, including our region's white-tailed deer.

Because of development and other habitat destruction, deer venture out into areas more populated by humans than they otherwise would, sometimes by accident, sometimes in search of food.

During the late fall/early winter, a period called the "rut," bucks compete with one another to find a mate. You may notice males acting differently, perhaps more boldly than other times of year. White-tailed deer are gentle by nature; they tend to shun humans, preferring the safety of the woods. Here are a few tips to help ensure deer and human safety during this time of year.

Because it's mating season, deer are more focused on each other (males competing with one another and trying to pursue mates) than on you. That's why it's more important than ever to drive carefully and enjoy these gentle animals at a respectful distance.

Respect the fact that as gentle as they are, deer are not pets; they are wild creatures. Give them their space - do not approach them, taunt them, or stare them down.

Drive slowly (20 mph or less) in deer populated areas - especially on streets adjacent to forest preserves and other natural spaces.

While driving, scan the edges of the forest and allow extra braking space between you and other cars.

Your rush hour is their rush hour. Be particularly cautious during dawn and dusk.

Where you see one, you will likely see others following. Wait for all to cross before accelerating again.

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.

Park District Board Votes to Approved a Green Renovation for the Independence Park Bungalow

The Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners is expected to approve a contract with Bailey Edwards Design for the renovation of a bungalow in Independence Park, 3900 N. Hamlin. The Bungalow Renovation Project would incorporate green building initiatives and be utilized as a national model showing its use of cutting-edge green technology.

The scope of the Bungalow Renovation Project includes repair and restoration of the clay tile roof; restoration of the windows and doors; installation of new mechanical systems for energy efficiency and heating/cooling systems; upgrade electrical service / lighting, plumbing and architectural finishes meeting Chicago Historic Bungalow Initiative guidelines.

Upon completion of this renovation project, the Bungalow will provide universal access to the first floor, which would make it in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The Bungalow would also provide functional and versatile space for facility users and park staff, while utilizing leading-edge green technologies.

By incorporating these green building technologies into the renovation project, the Park District is aiming to achieve a three-star rating from the Chicago Green Homes Program, the highest-rating level. Chicago Green Homes Program encourages builders, homeowners and developers to use technologies, products and practices that provide greater energy efficiency; healthier indoor air; reduce maintenance, waste, pollution, and water usage; preserve natural resources; and improve durability. The project will demonstrate that green building practices can save money through reduced energy usage, water usage and better building practices.

The Bungalow Renovation Project has garnered the support of the City of Chicago's Department of Environment, Department of Housing, Alderman Margaret Laurino (39th Ward,) the Chicago Historic Bungalow Association, the Independence Park Advisory Council, the Independence Park Bungalow Renovation Project, Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association and other local organizations, businesses and residents. The Park District will partner with organizations like the U.S. Green Building Council to provide training on green building practices.

The Independence Park Bungalow was constructed in the early 1920s as a single family residence. In 1930 the Bungalow was converted into the "Women's Community Club Building of the Irving Park District." The Chicago Park District purchased and incorporated the Bungalow in 1936 into Independence Park.



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 and
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The Warming Center

For years our parishioners have been concerned about the increasing number of homeless (some alcoholics and drug addicts) that are seen throughout our streets. Although primarily they are seen on Central Park and Milwaukee Avenues, they are, more and more, seen on our side streets and alleys.

Many more individuals, within our families, are inflicted with a lesser degree of alcoholisms ... some as "weekend" or occasional party alcoholics. The end result is a disruption of the family harmony, intolerable home conditions, a breakup of marriage, a loss of one's job, the loss of health to a complete destruction of the individual. Many whom we see on the streets have a loss of self-respect and a loss of faith, a factor that affects freedom and responsibility.

Perhaps, you wondered how anyone could let herself/himself become so addicted. There are numerous reasons: companionship with others (peer pressure), the dissatisfaction of the circumstances of one's life (loss of a job, loss of one's prestige and profession, the inability to find satisfaction within the job. At the present time the great financial crunch, the foreclosures and/or other family calamities even death of a family member and lack of self-esteem add numbers to alcoholism. Such are the causes for psychological (mental), pathological disease or compulsive drinking. Whatever the "escape" from one's pain or to solve one's sociological life adjustment may insidiously enter one's life and behavior.

10 million Americans could be considered in the gravest state of alcoholism. More than 80 million others drink to excess frequently or at times. Alcoholics may be found in all classes of society. The "skid row" alcoholics may include professionals as well as low-educated persons.

This, perhaps, is an over-simplification to a problem that fills hundreds of pages of medical and psychological journals.

But a homily, nor this BULLETIN column, is meant to solve our sociological problems. Yet we have a MORAL OBLIGATION to respond to Christ's words: "I was hunger ... thirsty ... naked ... homeless ... sick ... imprisoned. YOU cared for me ... Whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters, YOU did to ME." (Mt. 25:35)

However, the phenomenon of our age in NIMBY (Not in my back yard) syndrome, by which we do NOTHING and fear that something evil might be done in trying to resolve our social problems. There are many parishes that have soup kitchens (St. Stanislaus Kostka for 25 year) and in such places it was deemed DANGEROUS by the people. Another movement P.A.D.S., in which gymnasium or other room in the parish is made available once a week as an overnight shelter for the HOMELESS.

* * *

I know that our pastor, Fr. Mike Osuch, C.R., has tackled many parish problems – including the repainting and refurbishing of the basilica interior ... obtaining the title of basilica. More recently he had the erection of the Pope John Paul II statue erected in our Memorial Garden ... the construction of the brass front doors of the basilica ... and the creation of the gold crowns for the icon of Our Lady of Czestachowa. Fr. Mike has pursued the neighborhood problem of alcoholism for several years – and finally, with the help of civic leaders, he allowed for a basement section of the former convent basement to be converted into the WARMING CENTER.

Please watch for further details of the WARMING CENTER to be presented in future articles.

* * *

Your moral support is needed through the purchase of Raffle / Lottery tickets ... perhaps you could get others to purchase a ticket or more.

* * *

"I was hungry ... thirsty ... naked ... HOMELESS ... sick ... imprisoned YOU cared for me.
 Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, YOU did to ME!" (Mt. 25:35)

A CHRISTMAN RAFFLE / LOTTERY

With an initial contribution from our civic officials, we were able to create a WARMING CENTER for the homeless of our area. Additional funds are necessary to complete this project. Our parish council deemed it necessary to have a Christmas Raffle / Lottery.

<p>Prizes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new Ford Focus 2. A round trip ticket to Poland 3. A round trip ticket to Poland 	<p>Contributors</p> <p>Golf Mill Ford in Niles AMTA (Travel Agency) Polamer</p>
---	---

Other prizes have been requested of our local merchants. YOU, too, might want to contribute an additional prize.

* * *

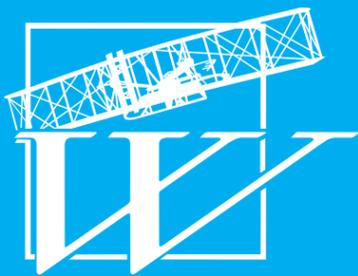
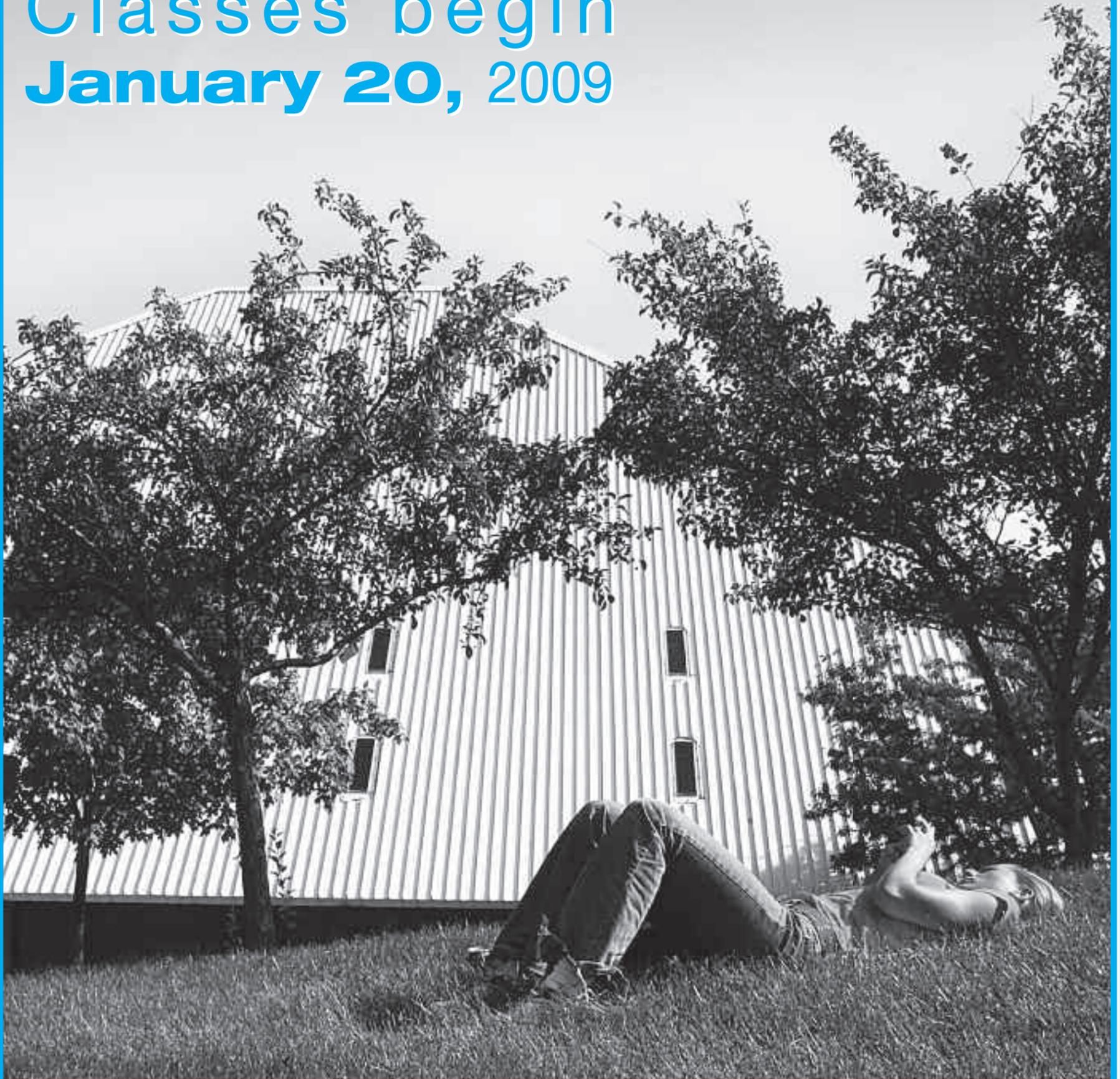
Tickets: \$30.00
 Sunday, December 14, 2008, 3:00 p.m. Limited tickets are available in the parish office and the sacristy (after any Mass).
 If not us WHO?
 If not here WHERE?
 If not now WHEN?
 If not God WHY?
 Dare the Dream!

The official "opening" of the warming center (Lawndale at George Streets) is scheduled for December 21, at 3:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Rev. Francis S. Rog, C.R. St. Hyacinth Parish Basilica,
 3636 W. Wolfram, Chicago; (773) 342-3636.*

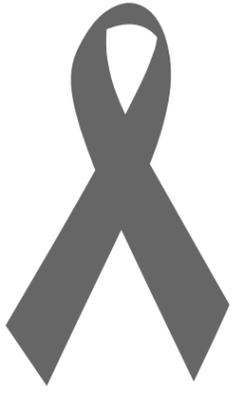
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HIV / STI Prevention Education Basic Certificate

This 24 credit hour program will increase program participants' knowledge and skills regarding HIV/STI prevention, counseling, assessment, and case management.

The objective of this program is to provide consistent up-to-date training to those individuals who are interested in this career track or to current workers who provide services and case management to individuals with HIV/AIDS or Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

FOR MORE INFORMATION... **Karl D. Kimpo**
HIV/STI Prevention Education
Program Coordinator
Phone: 773-481-8738 E-mail: kkimpo@ccc.edu

Computerized Numerical Control (CNC)

The CNC program uses computer software to design, program, set up and operate, as well as maintain the machines that produce industrial and precision metal parts. The program starts with basic blueprint reading and math applications; it then progresses to computer-aided design. Students enter the entry-level job market in positions such as Machine Shop Technician, Quality Control, CNC Operator, and CAD Operator.

Electric/Electronic Industrial Maintenance (EEIM)

This program prepares students for jobs in the areas of electricity and electronics with emphasis on wiring, motors, industrial controls, electronic instrumentation and programmable logic controllers. Students can obtain entry level positions as Electrical Technician, Electronic Technician, Electrician, Maintenance Mechanic, and Quality Control Technician. Those with at least 2 years of work experience can also use this program to prepare for the electrical licensing exam.

For more information on these training programs, please call Barbara Krzewinska at (773) 489-8975.

OTA Occupational Therapy Assistant

To meet the need for **occupational therapy assistants**, Wright College offers a two and a half year program of study that prepares graduates for entry-level employment and eligibility for nation certification and state licensure. The program highlights skills instruction in the classroom enhanced by hands-on learning experiences in health and wellness settings. Emphasis is on development of real-life problem solving skills needed for the occupational therapy assistant to enhance meaningful occupation in the lives of people. Students' expertise is cultivated through:

- Field observations and community involvement
- Fieldwork training experiences at a wide range of health care facilities and programs
- Participation in professional organizations and activities
- Individualized mentoring by faculty

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Train to become a Legal Assistant, Corporate Paralegal, Law Clerk or Real Estate Paralegal.

Help lawyers prepare for closings, hearings, trials, and corporate meetings.

Salaries range between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually.

Employment for paralegals and legal assistants is projected to grow much faster than average for all occupations through 2014.

(Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The paralegal associate degree program is open to both full-time and part-time students seeking to enter the job market immediately or to transfer to a four-year institution.

- Flexible scheduling options include day, evening and weekend classes
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Wright College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Illinois



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Registration begins

Arts Building Room A120

November 10 - December 12
except November 27 - 28 and December 5

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Friday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Registration resumes

Events Building Atrium

January 5 - 8

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday, January 9

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

2009
SPRING REGISTRATION
CLASSES BEGIN
JANUARY 20

Final Registration week

Events Building Atrium

January 12 - 16

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday, January 17

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Please call 773.481.8200 for more information, or visit our webpage at <http://wright.ccc.edu>

Continuing Education Registration Schedule

Register NOW!

Open Registration from now until the last class of the Spring semester
in the Arts Building room A120.

Adult Education Registration Schedule

Arts Building Room 205 (A205)

For more information, please call 773.481.8821

ESL

Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 23, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

GED

Friday, November 14, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, December 5, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, December 19, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center

1645 N. California Ave.
773.489.8989

Credit

Registration Hours:

Early Registration

Monday through Thursday, January 5-8, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ongoing Registration

Monday, January 12, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 15, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Late Registration

Tuesday, January 20, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Continuing Education

Open Registration from now until the last class of the
Spring semester.

COMPASS Testing for all programs on Mondays at
5:45pm and Wednesdays at 10:00am.

LPN

Registration Hours:

Early Registration

Monday through Thursday, December 1-4, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ongoing Registration

Monday through Thursday, December 8-11, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All new applicants for the next Practical Nursing Program starting in
January 2009 must first attend an orientation/information session.

Please call (773) 489-8915 for more information.

Adult Education

Registration Hours:

By Appointment Only: Please call (773) 489-8989 for more infor-
mation.

GED

Registration Closed; please call (773)489-8962 for information on late
registration

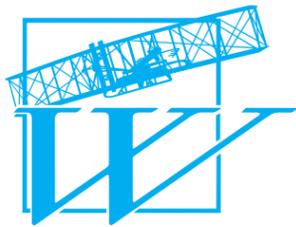
ESL

Appointment reservations for the following dates: Tuesday, December
2, 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, December 3, 9:00 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m.



Take time for you!

Center for Lifelong Learning



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Wright College Golden Age Club

For more Classes and information please call 773-481-8800

Chicago Area Public Libraries

EDGEBROOK BRANCH
5331 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, Illinois
(312) 744-8313

The Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago will host their annual Filipino American Heritage Month program at Chicago Public Library's Edgebrook Branch at 5331 W. Devon Avenue on Saturday, November 1st from 2 to 4 p.m. The general public is invited to attend the program and the reception that will. For more information please telephone the library at 312-744-8313.

The Adult/Teen Chess Club meets every Monday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Newcomers are always welcomed to play chess with coordinator Jim Brostos.

Understanding the National Register and Tax Freeze Programs will be hosted by the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association on Thursday, November 13th at 7 p.m. Mike Ward of the Illinois Housing Preservation Association will present information on these two important programs.

A member of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps will present the music and history of George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess on Saturday, November 15th at 1 p.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Toddler Story Time, an engaging program of stories, songs, rhymes and games for children ages 2-3, will meet at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, September 23rd through November 18th with Children's Librarian, Sandy. (No Story Time is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4th because of Election Day). Preschool Story Time, for children ages 3-5, will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays, September 25th through November 13th, with Children's Associate, Sharon. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver; no registration is required. For further information, please call 312-744-8313.

CALLING ALL TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Teen volunteers are needed and service learning hours are available for all teens between the ages of 15 and 18. To register as a teen volunteer, please call the library at 312-744-8313.

EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
4613 N Oketo, Harwood Heights, IL 60706
(708) 867-7828

The Adult Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, December 8 from 7-8:30 and Tuesday, December 9 from 2-3:30 pm. Attend either group to discuss Waltzing at the Piggly Wiggly by Rob Dalby.

Family Films. All films are on Mondays at 6:30 pm. Films are free. The Music Man with Robert Preston, Shirley Jones and Buddy Hackett. December 8. Christmas Story with Darren McGavin.

The Eisenhower Public Library provides service for all people in Norridge and Harwood Heights. Get your free library card today!

JEFFERSON PARK BRANCH
5363 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Illinois
(312) 744-1998

Wednesdays in November

Join our preschool and toddler story times. Toddlers (ages 18 months to 3 years) meet from 10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Preschoolers meet from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. for stories and crafts. No pre-registration is required. Contact the children's librarian for more information.

Wednesday, November 19, at 7 p.m. The Wednesday evening book discussion group will discuss Forty Signs of Rain by Kim Stanley Robinson. Call to reserve a copy.

Thursday, November 20, at 7 p.m. Learn about our neighborhood in this slide presentation on the history of Jefferson Park and Portage Park, by the Jefferson Park Historical Society.

LINCOLN BELMONT BRANCH
1659 W. Melrose St., Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 744-0166

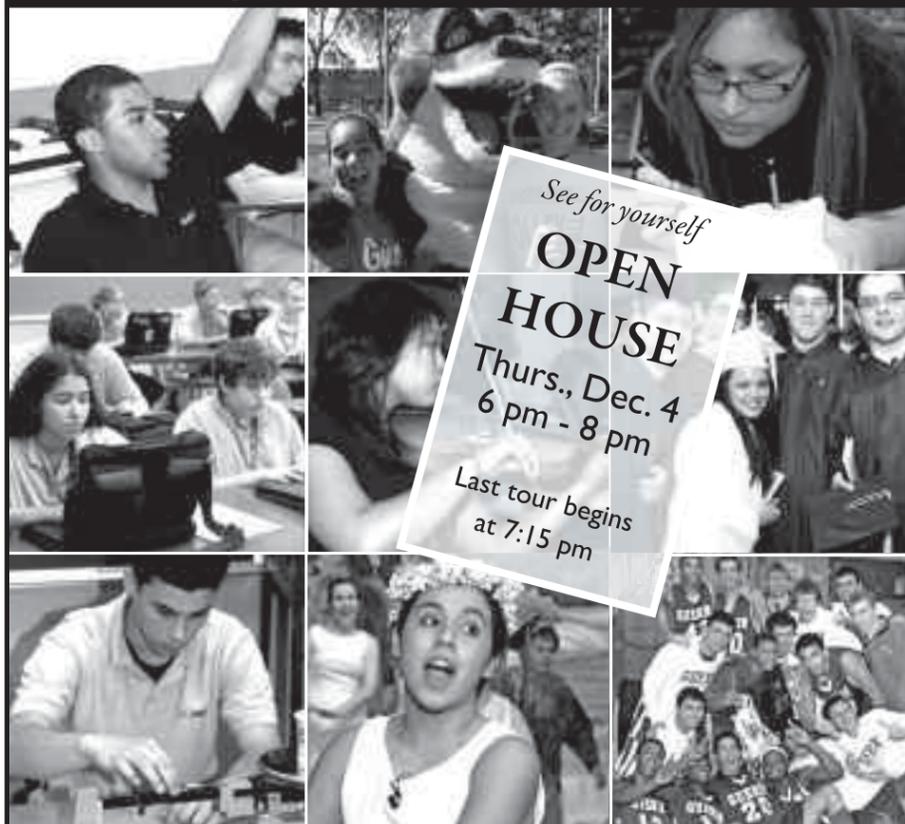
Tuesday Tales December 15, at 4:00 p.m. Once a month, on the third Tuesday after school, boys and girls ages 8-10, who are in grades 3 through 5, are invited to join us for activities, snacks and more based on a theme or selected book. Call for title info for Dec.

Saturday Stories December 20 at 10:30a.m. Join us for books, poems, songs and more, for families with children up to age 8.

Weekend Book Chat Saturday at 3:30 pm, December 20. Boys and girls ages 11-13, who are in grades 5 through 8, are invited to join us for discussion, activities and more based on this month's book. Love it? Hate it? Let us know what you think each month. Call for title info for Dec.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WEBSITE FIND IT, CHICAGO! Check out our new website @ chicagopubliclibrary.org Our extreme makeover includes a variety of benefits and services for all of our patrons, including: searchable catalogs for kids, Teens & adults; patron placed HOLD's and RENEWAL's; MyCPL (w/ added features to your account); Events Calendar; Online Resources and Downloadable Media; and more! Stay tuned for additional enhancements.

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"A Theatre Review"

"Million Dollar Quartet"

Goodman Owen Theatre and after October 21, Apollo Theatre on Lincoln Avenue

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

"Million Dollar Quartet" is a million dollar treat for Chicago audiences. This brand new musical captures the music and spirit of a legendary session between Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. The show is one of high energy that has a terrific cast and a lot of wonderful songs that makes the 100 minute running time go by so fast you'll be left yearning for more at the end of the evening. Rob Lyon is Carl Perkins, Lance Guest plays Johnny Cash, Levi Kreis is Jerry Lee Lewis and Eddie Clendinning plays Elvis. The musicians on stage are Chuck Zayas and Billy Shaffer. All the actors play various instruments.

The play takes place in a recording studio at Sun Records run by Sam Phillips. Chicago actor Brian McCaskill plays Phillips. The only other performer in the show is Kelly Lamont as Dyanne who is dating Elvis. Her rendition of "Fever" and looks will raise the temperature of all the men in the audience. It is her only solo number but she sings on some of the quartets backup musical numbers with them. You'll hear such songs as "Whole Lotta Shaking," "See You Later Alligator," "Great Balls of Fire," "Peace in the Valley" as well as 20 more as they sing songs associated with them.

Eric Shaeffer and Floyd Mutrix have co-directed the show that has a book by Mutrix and Colin Escott.

Quartet runs through October 21 at the Owen and opens at the Apollo Theatre on October 31 and runs through December 14. It should be extended and it is too bad a CD hasn't been made of it.

For performance days, show times and reservations call 312-443-3800. Tickets are \$20 and \$49 and it's a bargain.

"Mame"

**Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace Theatre
100 Drury Lane Rd.
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois**

By Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook, Illinois has opened with the classic "Mame." A musical that has a book by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee and the music for show is by composer Jerry Herman.

"Mame" is a show that seldom ever shows up in Chicago regional theatres and director William Osetek has assembled a terrific cast. The story is based on Auntie Mame by Patrick Dennis, who was the ward of Mame Dennis. "Mame" is one of my favorite musicals and I wasn't disappointed with this production.

"Mame" is being played by veteran actress Barbara Robertson who has been in "Wicked" at the Oriental - The Ford Center for performing arts.

Some who might remember "Auntie Mame" might feel that the musical has lost a lot of the plays biggest laughs to make room for Herman's catchy and spirit-lifting score but with songs like "Open a New Window," "Mame," "If He Walked Into My Life," "My Best Girl," "Agnes Gooche's Lament" and the hilarious "Bosom Buddies," who really cares?

The show ran for 1,508 performances in New York and starred Angela Lansbury. When it opened in London it starred Ginger Rogers.

Others in the cast are Alene Robertson as Vera Charles, the role Beatrice Arthur did in New York. Jeff Kuhl, Kelly Cronin, Marilynn Bogetich, Mary Robin Roth, David Korte Meir, Tammy Mader, Fred Stone, Michael Ehlers to name a few.

"Mame" runs through December 21. For performance days, times and reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets are \$28-\$33.

Chase Park Presents Shakespear's The Winter's Tale Dec. 5 - 20

**A Romance with song & dance: CLASSIC
THEATER, DIVERSE COMMUNITY**

Chase Park Theatre invites community members to their winter production of William Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale at Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland, for eight performances Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays December 7 and 14 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8, children, seniors actors, groups of 20 and students \$5, and general seating may be reserved by calling the box office at 312.742.4701 and purchased at Chase Park with exact change prior to the show.

The Winter's Tale, is directed by Karen Fort, Chase Park drama instructor. Fort has edited the play into a family-friendly two-hour version of this story with a seasonal theme, which ends in joyous reconciliation.

This production features David Williams as the jealous King Leontes, Jennifer Bentancort as graceful Queen Hermione, Paul A. Backer as loyal King Polixenies, Ellen Peace as the outraged Lady Paulina, Chase McCurdy as the wise counselor Camillo, Elise Newman as young Perdita, the shepherdess who doesn't know that she is really a princess, Jon Buffington as the rebellious and idealistic Prince Florizell, Sara Jo Buffington as midwife Emilia and the bawdy country wench Mopsa, Meghan Mackie as Lady Diana and Dorcas) Justin Burns as the boy Prince Mamillius, Omero Arreola as Lord Cleomenes, Rory Jobst as both Antigonus and the pickpocket Atoyclus; plus Tom McKay and Steven Simms as two shepherds, father and son.

Chase Park production will feature a set designed by Rachelle Kolecke, light design by Shaun Renfro, sound design by Keith Fort, carpentry by Joel Gross, stage management by Andrew Roberts, and characters outfitted in elaborate Renaissance designs by Diane Hamm.

Chase Park Theatre has been an active community-based theatre program for over thirty years. Their mission is to launch new talent, develop actors and designers into the next level of their careers, and provide a forum for experienced designers and performing arts workers who wish to contribute their knowledge and talent back to the roots of their industry. The Chase Park Theatre received the 2007 Award of Excellence in the Community Theatre Division from the Illinois Theater Association.

For information on Chicago Park District theatre programs visit our website at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

porchlight music theatre
Candide
Funny.
Irreverent Satire...Sophisticated Operetta.

Book by Hugh Wheeler
Lyrics by John Latouche, Richard Wilbur & Stephen Sondheim
Music by Leonard Bernstein / Based on the novel *Candide* by Voltaire

The Best of all Possible Worlds!

Part sophisticated operetta, part wacky screwball comedy with shades of Monty Python, this funny, irreverent satire is the perfect musical expression of Voltaire's tongue-in-cheek send-up of optimistic philosophies.

September 13 through November 2
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:45pm Sundays at 2:30pm

Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont Avenue
For tickets, CALL 773.327.5252
www.theatrebuildingchicago.com
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Also Ticketmaster 312-902-1500 and ticketmaster.com www.Porchlighttheatre.com



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November 12 – December 21

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Chicago Tribune

"Take your family -- kids, grandkids, whomever -- to see "Meet Me in St. Louis" at Drury Lane. Beautiful costumes, crisp choreography, and MEMORABLE songs like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "The Trolley Song" add to the enjoyment." – The Northwest Indiana Times

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Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

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 oversecreted enzymes leading to inflammation of the pancreas and surrounding tissues. Signs of pancreatitis include vomiting and abdominal pain, sometimes quite severe. The condition is very uncomfortable for the pet and sometimes can be fatal. If you notice these type of symptoms seek veterinary care.

Continued next issue...

by Peter S. Sakas, DVM

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

Howliday Wishes

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

My Howliday Wish Letter is as follows:

Dear Santa Paws,

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

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

A new rawhide bone that is the size of me!

A turkey feast fit for a dog!

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

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

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

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

Most importantly I want peace on Earth for all of God's Creatures.

(to my furry friends, this is very important to add to your letter. Yes, I would like peace. But, let's face it. Until we dogs take over that is not going to happen. Trust me add this to your letter!)

Love & best Howliday Wishes,

Bosley

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

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



Best of Friends Come to Shelter Together

In early September the Animal Care League received a request from another shelter to transfer in 2 dogs that had not been adopted in a fair amount of time. They hoped that a change of scenery would help Maggie and Scratch find a home more quickly.

This seemed like a fairly normal, straight forward request and so the arrangements were made to get our new guests to the shelter. When Maggie and Scratch arrived at the ACL, we all instantly fell for these two lovable canines. We knew they had lived together before being turned into the original shelter and we were told that they were very bonded to each other, so we decided to try and find them a new home together as well. Unfortunately this is proving to be more difficult than anticipated.

You see, our two "best friends" have several things going against them. First, they are both middle aged. Maggie is 8 years old and Scratch is 11 years old and all too often older pets do not get adopted as quickly as younger ones. Second, by trying to get them adopted together, we have limited the number of possible adopters as most families only want to adopt one pet. Because they are so fond of each other, however, we want to do everything we can to keep them in the same home before splitting them up. And third, their size differences are making it harder to find an adopter because, you see, Maggie is a Labrador Retriever and Scratch is a miniature Poodle. Families that like smaller dogs may not want to adopt the larger Maggie and families in the market for a larger breed dog may not want to adopt the smaller Scratch.

Even with all of this against them though, we feel it is in their best interest to keep trying to find them a home together at this time, but the day will come where we will need to separate them. They get out often, live in the same large kennel and spend time playing in the yard together, but life in a shelter is not the place for these wonderful animals. They have a tremendous amount of spirit and a lot of life left and so we want them to begin bringing joy to a new family as soon as possible.

Maggie and Scratch are doing fine and receive the best of care. We truly hope this article finds its way to someone ready to adopt two dogs, but it won't do either one of our friends any good if someone wants to adopt them that isn't ready for the responsibility of two pets. While I am sure they would love to be in a home rather than a shelter, it is best only if a family that really wants to add two dogs to their lives comes to adopt them. We will continue to give them all of the love and attention they deserve until that right family comes along.

The selfish side of me will hate to see them go to their new home, but it will warm my heart knowing a family gets to experience life with these "best friends". Sometimes it takes a little longer to find the right home, but one of these days the perfect match will walk through our doors.

Submitted by Tom Van Winkle, Animal Care League

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Planning Opportunities in a Down Market



Chester M. Przybylo

Economic times have been hard. Asset values are down. But, now may be the time to take action for a better future for you and your family.

Some tax and estate planning strategies are more effective now than ever before. Let's look at two examples to see how planning in a down economy may offer unique opportunities.

John and Mary Smith earn \$80,000 a year and have managed to sock away significant sums into their Individual

Retirement Accounts (IRAs). However, in a down stock market, their IRAs have dropped in value by 1/3 from \$300,000 to \$200,000. The Smiths can convert their IRAs to Roth IRAs. Upon conversion, they pay income tax on the balance-the lower current value-of their IRAs. Once converted, their now-Roth IRAs will continue to grow completely tax-free. When the assets in their account grow in value, they will still be completely tax-free. Even if the assets double, triple, or skyrocket in value, they will still be tax-free. Unlike with a traditional IRA, John and Mary will never be forced to take a distribution. If they choose to withdraw money, their entire withdrawal will be tax-free. John and Mary can take advantage of this strategy because in the year of conversion they earn under \$100,000 per year.

There are opportunities for wealthier families, as well. Through hard work and good fortune, Bob and Karen Jones built a business that would be subject to estate taxation upon their deaths. They have been thinking of implementing several estate planning strategies to diminish their taxable estate by transferring shares in the business for the benefit of their family. Now, with diminished asset values, they can get a larger portion of their business out of their taxable estate by gifting it to an irrevocable trust. Then, when the asset values increase in the future, the then-increased value will not be subject to estate taxation.

Whether your situation is closer to the Smiths or the Joneses, there are opportunities to take advantage of today's environment. A qualified estate planning attorney can help you implement these and other tax and estate planning strategies to achieve your goals.

Chester M. Przybylo is a member of the 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.

INVESTMENT IDEAS

'Tis the Season To Prepare Your Pocketbook

Soon enough, the ghosts and goblins lurking around department store shelves will be replaced by mistletoes, menorahs, and Christmas trees. Will you be ready? As the upcoming holiday season inches closer, it is important to prepare your pocketbook in order to avoid the financial strain that may come with extravagant gift giving.

In order to avoid Christmas-time credit card payments that extend well into the New Year, arm yourself with a holiday spending preparation plan.

Develop a budget and stick to it: Write a list of everyone on your gift list and determine how much you want to spend on each person. Don't forget to include costs for other expenses including cards, postage, gift-wrapping, holiday meals out, parties and travel. A list will not only prevent forgetfulness, but it will help you to stay on task to avoid impulsive buys.

Shop early and compare prices: There are great deals to be found throughout the year, so take advantage of big bargains in order to spread out your spending. This will prevent the bulk of your holiday purchases from being billed all at one time, which can be quite overwhelming. Taking advantage of special promotions and discounts can also save time during the season of packed parking lots and crowded boutiques.

Consider non-cash contributions: Your favorite charity will take various kinds of donations including clothes, canned goods, furniture and toys. If a cash donation will add to the stress of the season, don't forget to consider the value of these other items.

Establish a holiday savings account: In order to emerge from the holidays debt free, begin a holiday savings account as soon as you can. Even if you deposit as little as \$20 per month throughout the year, you will be pleased with your preparedness once you reach the holidays with some cents in your stocking. And, throughout the season, don't forget to continue adding to your holiday fund each week, even if it means passing on that morning latte for awhile.

Pay Off Credit Card Bills: With credit card interest rates reaching nearly 20 percent annually, you can't afford holiday spending sprees that will leave a balance on your account. It may be easier said than done in the midst of material must-haves, but remember, you don't want the Ghosts of Christmas to continue haunting you in July and August when your bills remain unpaid.

With any left-over cash, open an IRA: For those disciplined savers who have money leftover after the holidays, it is important to consider the benefits of regular IRA contributions. With the excess cash in the holiday savings account or cash gifts from relatives, almost anyone can open an IRA. Whether you pay taxes on the contribution when you put the money into your IRA or wait to pay taxes upon withdrawal, your excess cash from the holidays can grow tax-free until you reach the age of 70 1/2. Soon, you will realize that the value of compounding may mean a lot more to you someday than the sweaters you could have purchased with that money if you paid a visit to the after-Christmas sale.

Don't wait for the height of the holidays to think about a gift-buying action plan. Act now so you can spend the season of joy, not financial worry, with family and friends.

A.G. Edwards does not render legal, accounting or tax preparation advice. You should consult your tax and legal advisors for questions regarding your specific situation.

This article was provided by Vimal M. Prajapati, AAMS, Financial Consultant, A.G. Edwards, a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC. Member SIPC., 5215 Old Orchard Road Suite 960, Skokie, IL 60077, 847-967-8505

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THE JOY OF JEWELRY

Drusy, Drusy, Give Me Your Sparkle, Do



By Cynthia Sliwa

If you're the kind of person who loves a sprinkling of fairy lights twinkling as they shower down from fireworks, or finds the sparkle of freshly fallen snow or even the glitter of pavement appealingly pretty, you're bound to love drusy.

Drusy (pronounced DREW-zee) and sometimes misspelled druzy, is stone covered with thousands of tiny, sparkling crystals. The crystals come to light through the careful cutting of the stone. Among the gemstones of natural hues seen with drusy are malachite (green), chalcedony (soft blue or off-white), hematite (rainbow-infused gray), carnelian (red-orange) and cobalto calcite (pink). Black onyx drusy is color-enhanced quartz sparkling as if a sequined gown ready for a black tie event. Agates of all colors, natural or enhanced, can also be found with drusy inside or on top. While the color of some of the drusies may be enhanced (please do inquire if this is important to you), the shimmering texture of drusy is a natural phenomenon that cannot be duplicated.

Drusy was formed through the dynamic processes relating to the formation of the earth's crust millions of years ago. As molten rock was forced rapidly up to the surface, heat and pressure created cavities within the rock. Ground water laden with minerals moved through the rock, leaving mineral deposits within the cavities. As the rocks cooled, these minerals crystallized on top of or inside the rocks. Stone cutters cut the stones to expose and highlight this phenomenon.

You may also find drusy coated by jewelry designers with platinum, gold or titanium, which creates some interesting visual effects. In shopping for drusy, along with color, look for the size of the crystals, the absence of visual flaws and the completeness of coverage by the crystals of the underlying stone.

Drusy is naturally quite fragile, in that what you are seeing and touching literally is thousands of minute crystals. For that reason, drusy is best enjoyed set into earrings, brooches and pendants rather than rings or bracelets that can get knocked around.

Jewelry designers work with the unique characteristics of each drusy to highlight the beauty of the stone. Drusy is as individual and special as you are. Enjoy wearing drusy, and keep sparkling!

Cynthia Sliwa, AICI CIP, is an image consultant and jewelry designer.

Village Cooking Corner

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



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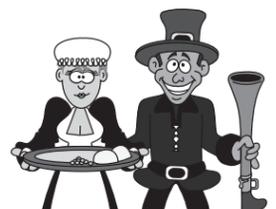


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