



FREE

# OUR VILLAGE



FREE

Volume XIII

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Issue 2

February 20, 2009

## CHICAGO CELEBRATES ITS 172nd BIRTHDAY

The City of Chicago will celebrate its birthday with a special event hosted at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street on March 4. The celebration is open to the public and begins at 10am, please join the fun. Invited guests include those who share the same birthday, March 4, as well as city officials and other special guests. Birthday celebrants will receive an honorary certificate signed by the Mayor



Visit [www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents](http://www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents) or phone: 312-744-3315

## CITY UNVEILS NEW TOURISM WEBSITE - EXPLORE CHICAGO!

Explore Chicago features information on Chicago events, attractions, tours, travel information and much more. For more information on Explore Chicago, including help planning trips, weekend activities or a night on the town. More events can also be found on [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org)



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

### March 8, 2:00 a.m.

## FBI: Don't be Fooled by Work-at-Home Scams

The FBI and the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) continue to receive numerous complaints from individuals who have fallen victim to work-at-home scams and remind consumers to be vigilant when seeking employment online.

These work-at-home schemes are designed by criminals to gain the trust of job seekers in order to take advantage of working relationships to further illegal activity. Most victims do not even realize they are engaging in criminal behavior until it is too late.

In many of the reported scams, victims are often hired to "process payments," "transfer funds," or "reship products." However, these scams exploit unwitting employees by having them cash fraudulent checks, transfer illegally obtained funds for the criminals, or receive stolen merchandise and ship it to the criminals.

Other scams entice victims to sign up to be a "mystery shopper," receiving fraudulent checks with instructions to cash the checks and wire the funds to "test" a company's services. Victims are told they will be compensated with a portion of the merchandise or funds.

Job scams also often provide criminals the opportunity to commit identity theft when victims provide their personal information, sometimes even bank account information, to their potential "employer." The criminal/employer can then use the victim's information to open credit cards, post online auctions, register websites, etc., in the victim's name to commit additional crimes.

"Don't get duped by these criminals offering easy money. Remain skeptical of unsolicited job offers that sound too good to be true and report any scams you might encounter," said Richard Kolko, FBI National Press Office.



## Fat Tuesday Crazy Hat Night Mardi Gras Party

with  
**Russ Phillips**  
and His  
**"Windy City Jazz Ensemble"**

Featuring  
Vocalist  
**Jeannie Lambert**

**Tuesday, February 24th — 8:00 P.M.**

Special Guests:  
S.T. Prinz Bobby  
and  
I.L. Prinzessin  
Sylvia

### Special Mardi Gras Menu

Catfish — BBQ Ribs  
Jambalaya — Gumbo  
Red Beans and Rice  
Black-Eyed Peas  
Bread Pudding  
... and much more

Prizes for Best Costumes or Crazy Hats

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# Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers March Health Programs

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

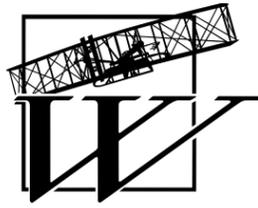
The **Diabetes Support Group** will meet Tuesday, March 3, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the second floor Community Education Room. These free sessions are tailored for adults who have Type 2 diabetes and focus on the emotional side of diabetes, allowing participants to share coping strategies, feelings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

One in two women and one in four men over age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture. Are you at risk? Join Physical Therapist Carrie Stalec, DPT, for the free program **"How Strong Are Your Bones?"** to be held Wednesday, March 11, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center A. Stalec will discuss osteoporosis signs and symptoms, risk factors, screenings and treatment. She will demonstrate exercises to help strengthen bones and deter disease onset. Wear comfortable clothing to participate. Come with questions. Advance registration is required by calling 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

A free **Healthy Aging Program** will be held Friday, March 13, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center A. This program for seniors aged 55 and older consists of social time, health topics and voluntary armchair exercises. Registration is not required.

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

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



## Free Income-Tax Preparation Available at Wright

Free income-tax assistance is available at Wilbur Wright College until this year's filing deadline to help local families and individuals maximize their tax refunds.

Trained volunteers from Ladder Up (formerly known as the Tax Assistance Program) will be at Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays through April 4. Spanish and Polish translators will be available.

This free tax-filing service is available to families who earned up to \$45,000 in 2008 and to individuals who earned up to \$20,000 that year.

Ladder Up can also help filers submit their tax return electronically for free and obtain a tax refund in about two weeks, avoiding high-interest tax anticipation loans that slash refunds.

Ladder Up volunteers help tax filers obtain all the deductions and tax credits they qualify for, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can mean hundreds or thousands of dollars in a tax refund. Ladder Up works with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley in the Mayor's EITC Initiative to help families claim the money to which they are entitled.

Tax filers should bring their tax documents, such as W-2s and 1099s, and identification, such as Social Security cards and ITINs for all family members. The service is confidential.

Ladder Up is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that recruits and trains more than 1,800 professionals from the area's top accounting, law and financial service firms to provide free tax preparation, financial aid form and banking services.

For more information about additional locations and program requirements, please visit [www.taxassistance.org](http://www.taxassistance.org) or contact TAP at (312) 466-0771. Prospective clients can call the TAP hotline at (312) 409-1555.

## Free Reading/ESL/GED Classes for Adults

Do you need help with your speaking or reading and writing skills in English? Come and learn with a small group. Classes are offered mornings, afternoons, and evenings & on Saturday mornings in Evanston, Skokie and nearby locations. Call 847-635-1426 for a list of ESL, Literacy, or GED classes in Spanish or English offered by Oakton Community College.

## New Property Tax Bills Are Due March 3, Pappas Says

A due date of March 3, 2009, is on tax bills being mailed to Cook County property owners, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

The bills are for the first installment of tax year 2008 on some 1.8 million homes and other parcels of real estate in Cook County, the nation's second-largest county.

Pappas said payment can be made:

- Electronically, from a checking or savings account at [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com).
- In person, at more than 330 Chase Banks, including 68 at Dominick's stores.
- In person, by direct debit at 220 participating community banks.
- By return mail, postmarked no later than March 3, 2009.

For on-line payment, owners should have their 14-digit Property Index Number available. For other forms of payment, owners should write the PIN on all checks, returning the payment coupon by mail and having the bill with the payment coupon when making payment at banks.

Owners can call 312.443.5100, enter the PIN and get the bill amount in English, Polish or Spanish.

## St. Patrick's Day Party & Casino Night at St. Peter's Parish, March 14, 7 pm to Midnight

Featuring: Live Music by Velvet Green, Casino Night Entertainment & Prizes, Silent Auction & Raffles, Assorted Appetizers, Corned Beef, Cabbage & Chicken Dinner, Cash Bar ... Fun for Everyone

At St. Peter School Auditorium & Gym, 8140 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Call to register (847) 673-0398. Cost is \$35.00 per person (Must be 21 years old) All proceeds to benefit St. Peter School.

State Representative  
**Michael McAuliffe**, 20th District  
 and  
 Alderman **Brian Doherty**, 41st Ward

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## ATTENTION U S MILITARY VETERANS and ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL

American Legion Edison Park Post #541 is having a meeting in Thursday March 12th starting at 7:30 PM. Location is Edison Park Field House located at 6755 Northwest Hwy. (just west of Harlem Ave.) Chicago. We are seeking new members. If you've been thinking about joining a veteran's organization, stop in and visit our meeting. You might find that our post might be for you.

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

## Alderman Doherty Introduces Ordinance Regarding Dedicated, Unimproved Alleys in 41st Ward

41st Ward Alderman Brian Doherty introduced legislation at the February 11, 2009 Chicago City Council meeting regarding dedicated, unimproved alleys located in the 41st Ward. These alleys have been plotted but have never been improved to the City's specifications. Throughout the years, many homeowners have encroached on these areas with fences, sheds and gardens. Many of the alleys are overgrown with trees and bushes.

Consequently, many disputes have resulted between neighbors when the issue of a homeowner's right to access their garages from the alley (alley ingress/ egress) has arisen. The law is not clear on this issue, and many of these disputes have ended up in court. This is costly and time consuming for all parties involved.

In an effort to resolve this problem, Alderman Doherty introduced legislation that would vacate these alleys, and allow the adjoining property owners the option to purchase the alley property at a very nominal fee (perhaps as low as \$1). "I have been dealing with this issue for many years," states Doherty, "and while I realize that the administrative costs and paperwork involved may be cumbersome, in the long run I believe this would be beneficial to all parties involved."

## 41st Ward Zoning Advisory Board

The 41st Ward Zoning Advisory Board will meet at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at Olympia Park Fieldhouse, 6566 N. Avondale Avenue in Chicago. There will be four items on the Agenda.

### Old Business:

1. To consider a request by developer Jim Ronan, for a review of the restrictive covenant attached to the property at 5911 Northwest Highway, Chicago, to increase the number of townhouse units.
2. To consider a request for a zoning change in the current Plan Unit Development from M1-1 to B3-1 for the property at 6060 Northwest Highway, Chicago, to eliminate condominium units and retain only retail.

### New Business:

1. To hear an update on the project related to the property at 8201 W. Higgins Avenue, Chicago.
2. To consider a request for a zoning change from B3-1 to B2-3 for the property at 6770 Northwest Highway, Chicago, for construction of eight residential condominiums units plus commercial space on the lower level.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ald. Brian G. Doherty's Office at (773) 792-1991.

## Victory Centre of Galewood Invites Public to Mardi Gras Party

Pathway Senior Living, a premier owner, operator, manager and developer of independent and supportive living communities for seniors, is hosting Mardi Gras Celebrations at ten of its Chicago-area supportive living communities. These Mardi Gras Open Houses will be held on "Fat Tuesday," February 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. and will feature entertainment, festive food and community tours. Area seniors should RSVP early to the community nearest them as space is limited.

This is an easy and fun way for those considering supportive living for themselves or a loved one to check out the community, meet the people who live and work there, and learn more about its amenities, services and pricing and sample the lifestyle. The communities will be decorated in Mardi Gras colors—purple, gold and green—and serving Cajun-inspired appetizers and traditional desserts like king cakes and punchkies.

In partnership with various not-for-profit partners, Pathway Senior Living creates and operates vibrant, healthy, residential communities and supportive programs for seniors. Victory Centre of Galewood, 2370 North Newcastle Avenue. For more information please call 773-385-5002 or visit [www.pathwayseniorliving.com](http://www.pathwayseniorliving.com).

## St. Paul Lutheran Open House and Mission Fair

St. Paul Lutheran School and Church, 5650 N. Canfield Ave., Chicago (between Higgins and Bryn Mawr Ave.), will be holding an open house for prospective students for PreKindergarten 3 year olds – Eighth Grade and their families from 1-4 pm on Sunday, March 1st. Teachers from each class will be on hand to provide information and answer your questions along with parents giving tours of the facility. A Mission Fair will be held in the school gymnasium sharing past mission trips and future mission opportunities in Mexico, China, Alaska and Minnesota for all to experience. Refreshments will be served and all are warmly welcome. St. Paul offers exceptional teachers, an exciting, comprehensive curriculum including Spanish Kindergarten-8th grade, art, music, physical education, library, computers in the classrooms as well as a mobile computer lab of laptops. Additional highlights include: a Full-time Special Education Resource teacher; flexible half-day and full-day kindergarten; many extra-curricular and service opportunities; before and after school care from 7:00am to 6:00pm; on-site hot lunch program; multiple child discounts; and tuition assistance available. For more information, view [www.stpaulwildcats.org](http://www.stpaulwildcats.org) or contact Michael Heinze, School Principal at 708-867-5044 with questions and or to schedule a visit.

## Couple's Movie Night

St. Paul Lutheran School and Church, 5650 N. Canfield Ave. Chicago, will be hosting a Couple's Movie Night on March 14th at 7:30pm in the school gymnasium. Couple's Movie Night will be a chance for all married couples—newlywed to veteran—to enjoy an evening out together for a positive and encouraging movie. The March movie will feature "FIREPROOF," an action packed love story to inspire married couples and transform relationships. There will be free on-site childcare, refreshments, and an opportunity to share thoughts about the movie. This free event is open to the entire community. For more information call the school and church office at (708) 867-5044.

## HERE'S ONE EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

### SATURDAY NIGHT — MARCH 7

Guerin Prep High School  
8001 W. Belmont  
River Grove

2nd annual **THE**

# wig event

Details and tickets: [www.gpbigevent.com](http://www.gpbigevent.com)



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# GREAT OUTDOORS

## National Wildlife Federation Grey Wolves Removed from Endangered Species Act

On January 14, the Department of the Interior announced that it was removing Montana and Idaho gray wolves from the Endangered Species list while the Wyoming gray wolves would remain on the list.

The National Wildlife Federation opposes this decision, because while humans may acknowledge state lines, the Northern Rocky Mountain population of gray wolves does not. Wolves in Montana and Idaho need the same treatment as wolves in Wyoming.

## Help a Wildlife-Friendly Stimulus Package Become Law

Currently, the Senate is considering whether to cut important funding for wildlife from their version of the economic stimulus bill.

Your actions helped ensure that the U.S. House passed green economic recovery legislation last week, but now we need to make sure the U.S. Senate passes equally strong legislation.

Take Action : Send a message to your Senators

Already Sent a Message? Tell your friends

Go the Extra Mile: Make the call

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

## BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will present the following classes in the coming months in the Chicago area: Boating Skills and Seamanship, a 7 – 9 lesson class intended for primarily beginning and experienced power boaters, GPS for Mariners, a 2 hour course intended as a basic introduction to navigating with GPS (Global Positioning System), and Weekend Navigator, a comprehensive course of 12 hours (6 sessions) intended for both the novice and experienced powerboat and sailboat operator.

The following classes are offered at REI Sports, 1466 N. Halstead. For more information and online registration see [www.teamcoastguard.us](http://www.teamcoastguard.us).

**Boating Skills and Seamanship** Sundays February 22 to April 4, 2-5 pm  
7 weeks [Bscript@aol.com](mailto:Bscript@aol.com) 773-545-0497 \$60

**GPS for Mariners** Wednesdays March 25, April 15, May 20, 7-9 pm One session class [Bscript@aol.com](mailto:Bscript@aol.com) 773-545-0497 \$20

The following class will be offered at North Park Village, 5801 N. Pulaski (at Ardmore) in the Administration building. For online registration or more information, visit [www.teamcoastguard.com](http://www.teamcoastguard.com).

**Weekend Navigator** Mondays March 2 to April 6, 6-8 pm 6 weeks  
[Bscript@aol.com](mailto:Bscript@aol.com) 773-545-0497 \$75

If you do not see classes in your area, please visit the Ninth District web site at [www.9thwestern.com](http://www.9thwestern.com), and go to the Boating Education pages.

## Legends of the Lake

by Tracy Seglin

The sky is crisp blue. It is 19 degrees with a bracing 10- mile-per-hour wind whipping from the west. The beach sand is slushy and the lake is crusted with ice. Perfect day for ... a swim?!

Milwaukeeans Gustav Marx, Frank Sutter, and Jim Brazell may not have been the first to brave the frigid waters of a mid-winter Lake Michigan, but in 1916, newspaper reporters captured the moment and the “polar bears” became famous. So much for Midwestern sensibility.

The tradition lives on. Today, daredevils with cold hands and warm hearts, strip down to their skivvies, and chill for charity.

Polar plunges have become successful fundraisers for philanthropic organizations. More than 40 Special Olympics Polar Plunges take place around the country each year, raising \$10 million. Here in Chicago, the ninth annual icebreaker happens March 1 at North Avenue Beach.

Want to try some winter wading? Dipping tips:

Lake Michigan rarely freezes completely. In fact, generally, ice only covers half the lake’s surface.

Early March lake temperatures at North Avenue Beach should be in the thermal low- to mid-30s (August averages are in the mid-70s)

The human body cools 25 times faster in cold water than in air.

Taking the plunge? Wear water shoes or sneakers for rocks, ice, and the frozen beach. Avoid changing into clothes with buttons or zippers – frozen fingers don’t work so well.



## Urban Wildlife Coalition

### Spring Home Critter-Proofing Tips

As spring approaches, many urban animals like raccoons, rats, and squirrels are house shopping, trying to find a cozy place to raise a family. A wild animal in your home can be distressing, even for the most ardent animal lovers. Take preventive measures now to avoid more difficult removal later.

Top-to-Bottom Inventory and Troubleshooting – allow several hours in the daytime for this assessment

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

#### Attic

Is anyone home? See if animals are currently living there. (track marks, droppings, holes, nesting materials).

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

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

#### Chimney

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

Certain no animals are present? Install a rugged, animal-proof chimney cap.

#### Foundation

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

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

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



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*For a Life Worth Celebrating<sup>SM</sup>*

# 28th Annual



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

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

## SKOKIE ART GUILD

### 2009 Members' Spring Exhibit "NATURE'S PALETTE"

Saturday, March 7 through Saturday, May 2  
 OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, March 13, 7-9 PM  
 Emely Oakes Nature Center, 4650 Brummel Street, Skokie  
 Celebrate nature with an evening of original Art and the Artists.  
 Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

## CALL FOR ARTISTS:

Skokie Art Guild's 48th Annual Art Fair. July 11/12, 2009. Fine Art. Prizes and Awards. \$150.00 Booth Fee. 75 Exhibitors. Held on the beautiful Village Green, downtown Skokie, IL., 5211 W. Oakton. APPLY NOW! Contact: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) Tel. 847-677-8163

### Skokie Art Guild Artists'

#### Individual Exhibits Showing Feb. thru April.

#### Hope Salmanoff - Oil Paintings

Bank of Lincolnwood, 4433 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood

#### Claire L. Hirsch - Sculptures

Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie

### FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOPS

THURSDAYS -7:00 PM - 9:45 PM, SATURDAYS 10:00 AM- 1:00PM

Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie

Live Models/No Instructor. Fees per session:

Skokie Art Guild Members \$12: non-members \$20. For information call:

Richard Wilberg 847-677-3461

## Active Transportation Alliance Call for Entries for Art Exhibition

The National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago is looking for an artist to do a piece on deaths caused by bike accidents in Chicago as part of its Dia de los Muertos exhibition. The 23rd annual Dia de los Muertos exhibition will be held from Sept. 25 to Dec. 13, 2009. The working theme of the exhibition is Camino a casa, Coming Home on the Day of the Dead. The ofrenda must be based on the Mexicano tradition, but can be contemporary in its nature.

Entries must be received by Feb. 27, 2009, at 5 p.m. For more guidelines and information, contact: Gabriel Villa, 2-D US artists; Jose Luis Gutierrez, 3-D US artists; Vanessa Sanchez, 3-D Chicago artists.

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## Call for Artists for Evanston Festivals

The City of Evanston is seeking artists for its two summer arts festivals, the Ethnic Arts Festival, July 18-19, and the Lakeshore Arts Festival, Aug. 1-2. Set against the scenic backdrop of Evanston's lakefront, both festivals are held in Dawes Park, Church St. and Sheridan Road.

The Ethnic Arts Festival is a juried festival open to all ethnic, folk and fine artists whose work expresses the heritage of a national, regional, tribal or language group. Exhibitor fees are \$240 and the nonrefundable jury fee is \$35. The deadline for submitting applications is Monday, April 6.

Always held the first weekend in August, the Lakeshore Arts Festival continues to earn its reputation as one of the North Shore's premiere fine arts summer festivals. Also a juried event, it is open to all fine visual artists and crafters. Exhibitor fees are \$310 and the nonrefundable jury fee is \$35. Applications for the Lakeshore Arts Festival must be received by Friday, March 6.

Artist applications for both festivals are now available online at [www.cityofevanston.org/arts](http://www.cityofevanston.org/arts). For more details, call 847-448-8260. The Ethnic Arts Festival and Lakeshore Arts Festival are produced by the City of Evanston's Cultural Arts Division and are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



*"Amongst all the activists of the Right, Feiglin is the most serious and deepest of all."*

Ha'ir, Tel Aviv

## Please Welcome: Moshe Feiglin

Prominent Leader in the Likud Party

Get behind the scenes insights into Israeli politics, the elections, and coalition negotiations, and what they mean to you.

Please join us for a town hall style event with internationally known Jewish leader and speaker Moshe Feiglin. Moshe emphasizes strengthening Jewish identity as a key to resolving Israel's conflicts. Moshe will give a "behind the scenes" view of Israeli politics and the latest elections and coalition negotiations. After his brief talk, he will spend the evening answering your questions about Israel and its leadership issues that concern and affect all of us. Moshe has held events of this type all across Israel and North America and has captivated and excited his audiences with his sharp insights and his bright vision for Israel's future. We hope to bring that same excitement right to the heart of the Jewish Community of Chicagoland area.

**Date:** Monday, March 16th

**Time:** 8:00PM

**Location:** KINS Congregation

2800 W North Shore Ave., Chicago IL 60645

For more information, contact Shlomo Vile 847-401-6640

Email: [chicago@jewishisrael.org](mailto:chicago@jewishisrael.org)

Website: [www.jewishisrael.org](http://www.jewishisrael.org)

## Liberty Bank Awarded for Exceptional Performance by BauerFinancial

BauerFinancial has, once again, awarded Liberty Bank for Savings a 5-Star Superior Rating. This marks the 82nd consecutive quarter in which the bank has demonstrated the epitome of financial safety and security. Therefore, the bank has achieved the institution's Exceptional Performance Award.

The Sustained Superiority Status that the award designates puts Liberty Bank in the top 10 percent of all the nation's banks. Liberty's capital adequacy, asset quality and stability continue to draw the recognition of BauerFinancial.

BauerFinancial, Inc. analyzes and reports on the financial condition of the nation's banking industry. Each bank is required to file a detailed financial report with federal regulators four times a year. BauerFinancial then obtains this public data and subjects it to analysis. It is then compared with historical data for consistency. Upon completion of the analysis, a star-rating is assigned based on a scale of zero to five stars. Institutions do not pay or lobby for ratings, and all are subject to them.

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2008.

For more information, call Susan Andrews at 773-489-4458 or visit [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

## Lazer Tag @ Lazer Zone (Teen Trip)

There is no school on Monday, March 2nd. What are you doing? Come with us for an afternoon of laser tag. This trip includes two games of laser tag at Lazer Zone in Glenview and pizza at the Community Center afterwards. What are you waiting for? Please register by February 23rd. (Min 15 / Max 35)

Ages: Grades 6 - 8

Date: Monday, March 2, 11:15am - 4:00pm

Location: Bus leaves from the Lincolnwood Community Center 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, IL

Fee: Resident: \$60 Non-Resident: \$81 Pre-Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

## Lincolnwood Social Club (55+) Mix N' Mingle

Come to our monthly gathering and catch up with all your friends! This will be a cozy atmosphere and just a time to relax and socialize. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Date: Friday, March 6, Noon - 1:30pm

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

Fee: \$2 Club Member \$3 Non-Members Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

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Ages: Active Adults

Date: Friday, March 6, 10:00 - 11:00am

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

Fee: Resident: \$21 Non-Resident: \$27 Pre-Registration is required, for more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

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# "A Theatre Review"

## "Miss Saigon"

**Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace Theatre**  
100 Drury Lane Road  
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace Theatre is receiving a production of "Miss Saigon" and I found this production to be a winner thanks to Kyle DeSantis, Drew DeSantis and William Osetek.

The show gets some top notch direction by Rachel Rockwell and the same holds true for the show's choreography by Stacey Flaster and the musical direction of Roberta Duchak. Ms. Rockwell has assembled a terrific cast of 29 who are excellent actors and singers. The show is a modern adaptation of the Puccini opera Madam Butterfly.

Joseph Anthony Foronda has a role of the Engineer, a role he is very familiar with having played the role in two national touring companies as well as when the Marriott Lincolnshire staged it. He is a strong actor and singer and it shows in his performance.

The story opens in April of 1975 in Saigon in Vietnam. Kim played by Melinda Chua Smith is a 17-year-old war orphan. She flees an invading army and takes refuge in a sleazy dance hall that is owned by the engineer. She sells herself to American soldiers who hang out in the bar.

When she meets Chris played by Kevin Vortmann she has an affair and they fall in love but Chris is forced to return to the United States unaware that Kim is about to bear him a child.

Chris spends over a year searching for Kim and is unable to find out what has happened to her. He finally marries Ellen played by Melissa Dye but she has no idea about Kim.

A war buddy John played by John Sanders tells Chris he has found Kim and he and his wife fly to Bangkok. Ellen meets Kim and she tells Kim they want to take the child back to the United States but it is not possible to take her. Kim wants a better life for her son and decides she has nothing more to live for but is glad Ellen and Chris will take the child to America as the show ends.

"Miss Saigon" runs through March 8. For performance days, show times and reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets range from \$29 to \$35.

## "Xanadu"

**Drury Lane Theatre at the Water Tower Place**  
175 East Chestnut St.  
Chicago, IL

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The hit Broadway musical "Xanadu" has skated into Chicago and is being staged at the intimate Drury Lane Theatre on Chestnut Street.

The Helen Hayes Theatre in New York may seat more than the Drury Lane does but this show fits in a theatre that seats under 700.

If you have the winter blues and the economic depression is getting to you, then this is the show to see as it is a good time musical. The show opened in 2007 and just recently closed in New York.

While the movie was a flop, this stage version is a large improvement. It has a book by Douglas Carter Beane and a score by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar of the Electric Light Orchestra.

If you're not into roller disco or you didn't enjoy "Jersey Boys" and "Mamma Mia" this won't be your cup of tea. As a critic you have to judge this with an open mind.

The show has an engaging cast with the attractive Elizabeth Stanley as Kira and the handsome Max Von Essen as Sonny. Larry Marshall is fantastic as Danny as is Sharon Wilkins and Joanna Glushak as the evil muses and the daughters of Zeus

The show is fast paced at 90 minutes and musical numbers include "Magic," "Evil Woman," "Xanadu" and "Whenever You're Away From Me" along with 10 other numbers.

The daughters of "Zeus" known as the Muses have come to California but its up to the favored Chio to assume human form and inspire Sonny who is an artist to open a roller disco. When the two meet they fall in love. When they meet Danny who is the owner of a run down theatre and who bank rolls Sonny's disco dreams, has a very chilly heart.

Chio rides on Pegasus to Mt. Olympus. The show offers audiences seats on stage and the show is campy but has a cult following.

After the tour I'm sure you'll find it works in regional theatres. It is not in the same class as South Pacific or Sound of Music but it is most entertaining and worth seeing and has a cast of 13. Kristofer L. Stock is a specialty skater in the show. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 312-902-1400. Tickets are \$25 - \$87.50.

## Bohemian Theatre Ensemble presents *Playing with Fire (after Frankenstein)*

by Barbara Field Directed by Peter Marston Sullivan

BoHo continues its 5th season by exploring a literary classic from a different perspective. As a company, BoHo strives to illuminate the classics of years past and make them accessible to today's audiences. Through the intimacy of its writing, Barbara Fields' *Playing with Fire (after Frankenstein)* fulfills this goal by bringing back to life the tragic tale of one of literature's most notorious creatures in a most unique way. And, as usual, the talented cast is able to bring the complexities of this piece to life deftly.

Join us as we present this fascinating and soul-searching piece of art. The questions brought to the fore are ones all of us examine throughout our lives and must sometimes be willing to let go ...unanswered.

*Playing with Fire (after Frankenstein)* allows BoHo to continue to push its creative and artistic boundaries while bringing another outstanding piece to the BoHo Theatre @ Heartland Studio space.

### AT A GLANCE:

Where: BoHo Theatre, 7016 N. Glenwood

When: Preview: Friday, March 6, 2009 at 8:00

Opening: Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 8:00

Running: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8:00; Sundays at 2:00

Closing: Saturday, April 11, 2009

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## After School Homework Help!

Northtown's Teacher in the Library provides free homework help for elementary, middle and high school students! The Teacher in the Library is available Monday through Thursday from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. No registration is required.

## Homework Break

Wednesday, March 11 & 25 at 4:00 PM

Take a homework break at the Northtown Branch and listen to folk- and fairytales at 4:00 PM. Homework Break is designed for school-age children. No registration is necessary.

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**Classic Film Series: Take Two.** Join film expert Ralph Amelio. Watch classic, important films, then join in a discussion of merits of the films. This month's film will be *Shadow of a Doubt* with Teresa Wright and Joseph Cotton on Thursday, February 26th. After this, films will be shown every other Thursday. All films begin at 1 p.m. Films are free.

## STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL EFFORT BY NORWOOD CROSSING TO SAVE THE PARSONAGE RECEIVES MUCH INTEREST BUT NO COMMITMENT



**Water is sprayed on the more than 100-year old Parsonage Victorian House, 6049 N. Northcott Ave. to reduce dust during demolition. Several days earlier, the Chicago Fire Department conducted simulated fire training exercises in the building.**

Despite a massive statewide and national attempt to find an interested party to re-locate and preserve the Queen Anne style parsonage at 6049 N. Northcott Ave. in Chicago, Norwood Crossing has not been able to find a buyer who would purchase the home for \$1. The search for a prospective buyer began in May of 2006.

"We have left no stone unturned in our attempt to find someone to save this 1890s home," said Marcia Mahood, retiring Norwood Life Society CEO. "Since Larry Garland was unable to move the home onto his lot in Norwood Park, there have been no takers. In order to comply with our demolition permit, we could not wait any longer and had to take the home down to prepare for our next phase of construction.

Mahood said that Stan Banash, Norwood Crossing public relations director, has put two articles in local papers, contacted more than 35 universities and colleges in Illinois, over 30 local museums and historical societies statewide, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Illinois State Genealogical Society, and more than 50 daily newspapers and television stations.

Mahood and Banash have received more than 100 phone inquiries since the home was featured in the nationally-distributed January-February 2009 issue of *This Old House* magazine. Calls came from Vermont, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Arkansas, California, Missouri, and Ohio.

"One realtor inmate even wrote to us from the Massachusetts Correctional Facility," said Mahood, "but our most serious inquiry came from a lady in Libertyville. After contacting companies that move houses, she could not find a way to move the building because of its size."

A story on the house also appeared in the January 16, 2009 issue of the *Chicago Tribune* and Mahood was interviewed shortly thereafter for a piece that appeared on WYCC-TV Channel 20 and Channel 6 in Evanston.

The Victorian home has a long association with the Norwood Park community. It was built circa 1890 for the Earl Howell Reed, Sr. family who lived there into the early 1930s. In 1945, it was acquired from a second owner by Our Savior Lutheran Church and was used as a parsonage for some of the church's pastors. It later had other occupants and remained vacant for a time prior to being sold along with Our Savior Lutheran School to Norwood Crossing (formerly Norwood Park Home) in 2001.

Norwood Crossing, a long-term care retirement community that offers assisted living and nursing care, is currently constructing a new Assisted Living Building. The parsonage is being torn down to make room for the planned construction of 139 independent senior living apartment homes. When completed, the Norwood Crossing campus will be transformed into a Continuing Care Retirement Community. It will offer state-of-the-art dining features, a pub, a swimming pool, innovative fitness and art programs, and an exciting lifestyle that is expected to serve older adults well into the 21st century.

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# Your Team is on Your Side



Chester M. Przybylo

Estate Planning is like a team sport. Your team should be made of qualified professionals, which you have selected. This article examines your team members and describes the role they should play in achieving your goals. Working with your team, you will be able to build a game plan to get you to the finish line.

Estate Planning is like a team sport. In these turbulent economic times, sometimes it may seem like you are going it all alone. However, you'll find that bringing together a team of qualified professionals will bring you peace of mind as you work towards your goals.

Before doing anything else, you must first select the members of your team to help you achieve your goals. This team consists of the following professionals, depending on your goals:

**A Qualified Estate Planning Attorney.** An estate planning attorney who focuses their practice in the area of estate planning is critical to helping guide you through the intricacies of the area. Whether you are just starting out in life or you are in your golden years, an estate planning attorney can help you make sure your assets are left to your heirs in the manner you desire.

**A Financial Planner.** A good financial planner is important to make sure you are on track to achieve your retirement and other financial goals.

**An Accountant.** A good accountant can help you navigate income tax issues and, if you have a business, can make sure the business adheres to accounting standards.

**An Insurance Agent.** An insurance agent can help you select the right coverage for your needs to shift risks you cannot afford to bear yourself. Life insurance can be particularly useful in estate planning.

Your estate planning attorney can work with you to identify your goals. Once you have identified those goals, your estate planning attorney, working with the rest of your team, can build a game plan to get you to the finish line.

The hardest part is defeating inertia and picking up the phone. Once you take the first step, your estate planning attorney will help guide you through the process and may be able to make recommendations on selecting the rest of your team, if you haven't yet done so.

Now is a great time to get started. The combination of low asset values and low interest rates makes for unprecedented opportunities in your estate planning. Your team is waiting for you to call the first play.

*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.*

# Senior Tax Tips

Mistakes on your tax return can be costly, both in time and money. Review this list of the 12 most common mistakes before filing your return and double check to make sure you avoid them.

**Math Mistakes** – Double check all the figures on your return; have someone else check it over; and use a calculator.

**Incorrect or Illegible Address** – Incorrect address can delay processing of your return, or cause IRS correspondence to go to the wrong address

**Incorrect Filing Status or Checking Multiple Filing Status Boxes** – You could lose out on valuable deductions if you make a mistake here.

**Not Using the Correct Tax Table or the Correct Column in the table** – Double Check yourself

**Incorrect or Missing Social Security Number**

**Incorrect Number in Direct Deposit bank account number** – this can cause your money to float between financial institutions and be a nightmare to straighten out.

**Incomplete or Missing Documentation** – Attach all the appropriate forms (W-2s, 1099s, etc.) Failure to do so may prompt the IRS to make its own adjustments

**Not Enclosing a Check** – If you owe money, make sure to include the check with the return and put your social security number on the check!

**Failure to Take Tax Credits and Deductions** – Check with a tax professional to make sure you're getting all the credits and deductions you're entitled to. Every year, the IRS collects millions of dollars in overpaid taxes due to this mistake.

**Failure to Make copies of your return and your supporting documents.** If you end up doing battle with IRS, these will be critical.

**Unreported Income** – The IRS will go after you for this quicker than anything. Don't risk it.

**Failure to Sign and Date** – Believe it or not, this is one of the most common mistakes. From the IRS's perspective, if you haven't signed your return, you haven't filed.

Aryeh Goldbloom, President

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# Best Friends/Companion Pets

## FINALLY

By Bosley

After months and months of anticipation and waiting; and dealing with my confused Human; I finally was able to see our new finished place of business. Wow, is it big there is lots of room for us to play! I will confess to you my friends that I was a little intimidated. New places can be sometimes scary and overwhelming. I was a little hesitant at first because the place is big, and I don't know what my Human has in mind. You never know what to expect with those Humans, so I was a little apprehensive!

My Human finally seems much happier now that she is back to work! Don't get me wrong, as far as Human's go she is still nuts, but in a much different way then before. I think like me, she missed our furry friends and was pawisitively eager to see everyone! Now that she has, thank pawness, she is doing a lot better and so am I.

She has been explaining to everyone that the new space will offer some new stuff for us pups! Something called Doggie Day Care made my ears perk, at first I thought it was something bad. Turns out it is basically like a camp where us pups get together and play! Well that sounds like a good idea to me, with my Human's craziness of late my fellow housemates and I have not been getting the social activities we normally do. So, what is better the going to work with my Human, and seeing my friends to play!

I know that new places can be scary, but sometimes it turns out, you will have more fun then you ever expected! So, come out and see the new place. My Human has mentioned hosting an open house when the weather gets a little warmer (hopefully soon)! So, keep your paw tuned to my articles for updates. It is really good to get to see everyone again!

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



## Rabies: A Discussion for Kids

by Peter S. Sakas DVM

### What is Rabies?

Rabies is a disease that affects wild animals, domestic animals (like pets and livestock), and humans. It is caused by a virus. Only mammals (warm-blooded animals with fur) can get rabies.

The word "rabies" comes from a Latin word that means "to rage." Rabies got its name because animals with rabies sometimes act as if they are angry. Rabies attacks the brain and spinal cord. It kills you if not prevented. The best way to prevent rabies is to make sure your pets get their rabies shots and to avoid contact with wild or stray animals.

### History of Rabies

People have known about rabies for a long time, as animal cases were reported in early Babylonian, Greek, and Roman records. Rabies was likely brought to the Americas when settlers first came from Europe, bringing rabid animals with them.

A 9-year-old boy was the first person to have received an effective shot for rabies. In 1885, Louis Pasteur thought that if he injected a weak form of virus from one rabid animal into another, the second animal might be able to fight off the disease. He tried this hypothesis out on the boy, he survived and lived a long life. That was how people starting giving shots for rabies.

After this success, other rabies vaccines were made. In the 1950s, people who had been bitten by a rabid animal got 23 shots along the abdomen. Today, the shots are more effective and less painful. They consist of a series of 6 shots given in the arm over a 1 month period. One shot is given around the bite and the rest are given in the arm.

### How Do You Get Rabies?

You get rabies from the saliva of a rabid animal, usually from a bite. The rabies virus is spread through saliva. It is not spread through contact with urine, feces, or blood of an infected animal. You cannot get rabies by petting an animal. You may get rabies from a scratch if the animal, such as a cat, was licking its paw before it scratched you. (Remember that the rabies virus is found in the saliva of an animal).

### What Does The Virus Do?

The targets of the rabies virus are nerve cells. The rabies virus infects the body usually through a bite from a rabid animal. Once inside the body, the virus travels along the peripheral nerves (the nerves that run throughout the body). Its main target is the central nervous system, which is made up of the brain and spinal cord.

Viruses cause disease by attacking the cells of the host They enter the host cell. Once inside, the virus makes more viruses. The host cell may die. The virus leaves the host cell and moves on to other host cells where the process starts again.

### What Kinds Of Animals Get Rabies?

Only warm-blooded animals can get rabies. You cannot get rabies from birds, even though they are warm-blooded. Snakes and fish cannot have rabies because they are cold-blooded. In the United States, rabies is much more common in wild animals than in pets like cats or dogs. This is because most people who take good care of their pets make sure that their pets get the rabies vaccinations.

In the United States today, about 93 of every 100 reported cases of rabies are in wild animals. Most of the cases are found in raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. Racoon are the most common wild animal with rabies today. Cats had the largest number of reported rabies cases in pets.

*Continued next issue*

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## The Anti-Cruelty Society Events 110th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, March 7, 2009 starting at noon, at The Anti-Cruelty Society, 510 N. LaSalle

Stop by for give-aways and other goodies or to visit your favorite furry friend, free of charge. Denise Zak, pet intuitive, will be available for pet readings and there will be food and fun activities going on all day long beginning at noon in celebration of our 110 years of service.

## The Chicagoland Family Pet Expo

March 20, 21 & 22, 2009, Friday - 11am to 6pm, Saturday - 9am to 6pm, Sunday - 9am to 5pm at the Arlington Park Racecourse, 2200 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60006

The Anti-Cruelty Society will be one of the many booths present and will have sale items from our boutique as well as give-aways for participants. About the expo: The Chicagoland Family Pet Expo is a pet lovers paradise. You can shop for your favorite pet at more than 300 exhibit booths of pet-related products & services. Enjoy entertaining shows and competitions, plus get "up close and personal" with hundreds of pets of all kinds.

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# City of Chicago Helps Irving Park YMCA Develop "Fit Fast Food Program" to Assist With Youth Nutrition, Exercise, Health, and Well-being Program

The Irving Park YMCA announced an exciting pilot program to help battle the ongoing issue of childhood obesity in America. The Irving Park YMCA received a \$30,000 grant from the City of Chicago to help combat childhood obesity through exercise, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle decision making.

The focus of the program is to give participants the tools to live healthier and more active lives. During this eight week program participants will be given the opportunity to work-out with a group personal trainer, keep a food diary and take part in bi-monthly field trips to actual restaurants where they will be coached to make better and healthier food choices.

"This is an exciting time for us. Thanks to the city, we're now able to truly address this issue with more than just talk. This program provides us with real solutions to a national issue that we've been trying to address for years," said Lara Pacelt, sr. program director at the Irving Park YMCA.

Participants are between the ages of six and 11 years. The program will include a cardio, strength, stretching, and nutrition portions. Children will work with a trainer four days a week, Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Participants will keep a food journal and will be taken on a field trip to a fast food restaurant every two weeks where they will be coached to make better eating choices based on menu research. The program is currently at capacity however the Y will renew enrollment starting Feb. 9. To sign up participants should contact Lara Pacelt at 773-326-2606. The program runs for eight weeks with the option to sign up for the subsequent sessions.

"Not only will this grant assist our members who are already conscious about their health, but it allows us to open our doors to the general public and really help make Chicago a little healthier. And the best part about it is that, thanks to the City of Chicago, it is open to the public and absolutely free for everyone. We can't wait to get going and make 2009 truly a year for change," said Pacelt.

More information about the Fit Fast Food program can be obtained by contacting the Irving Park YMCA located at 4251 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-777-7500 or emailing Pacelt at Lara\_Pacelt@ymcachgo.org.

*The Irving Park YMCA is an affiliate of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. Through its 65 locations and more than 100 extension sites, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago helps children learn and grow, teaches young people to lead, brings families closer, and encourages individual health and well-being. The fourth largest non-profit in Chicago and one of the largest human services organizations in the nation, YMCA programs impact hundreds of thousands of lives annually, helping to strengthen neighborhoods and respond to community needs across Chicagoland. To learn more, visit [www.ymcachgo.org](http://www.ymcachgo.org).*



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## Lenten Menu Ideas

### *Salmon Patties*

1 can red or pink Salmon cleaned and deboned  
 Put in bowl and mash.  
 Add 1 small onion, chopped fine.

Beat in one egg, about 1T ketchup (more if you like the tomato taste)  
 Add bread crumbs so that it will hold together in patties. Coat with bread crumbs and fry in hot oil, only until lightly browned on both sides.

You may add a little Worcestershire sauce if you like.

From the Kitchens of Rose Suter

### *Oriental Spinach Soup*

1T Soy Sauce  
 1/8 tsp. Ginger  
 Spinach  
 Scallions  
 Chicken Noodle Soup (1 can)

Chop Spinach. Add chicken noodle soup. 1 can of water, soy sauce and ginger and heat. Top with thinly sliced scallions.

From the Kitchens of Rose Suter

**Send your favorite Lenten recipes to us so we may share them with our readers.**

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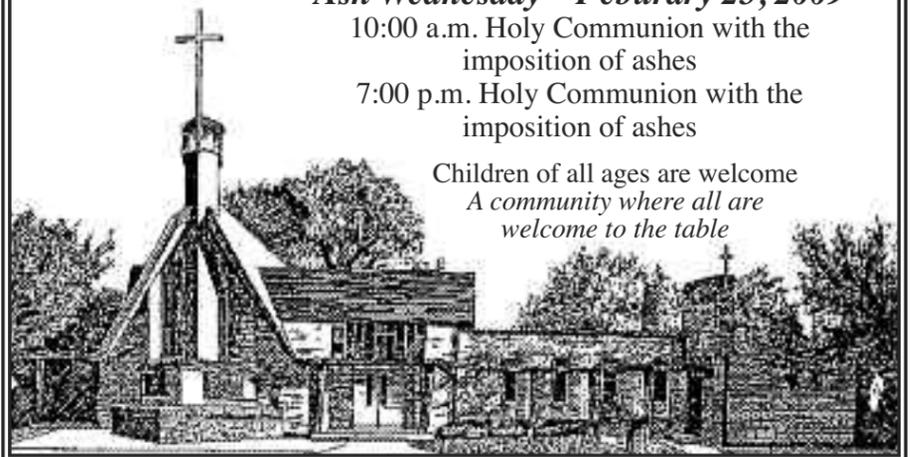
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