



# OUR VILLAGE



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**Happy Thanksgiving  
from the  
Staff of  
Village Publications**



## Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa House November 25

The City of Chicago and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) are proud to present the official start of the holiday season at the 96th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Wednesday, November 25! The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is a highly-anticipated event drawing people of all ages to the heart of Chicago's downtown "Loop." Musical performances and festive holiday music begin at 4:00 p.m. and the holiday season officially commences at 4:30 p.m., when the switch is flipped and the lights begin to dazzle in Daley Plaza.

Jolly Old St. Nick will again grace the plaza with his holiday cheer in his Midwest satellite workshop on Daley Plaza! Visits with Santa Claus start on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and with special hours on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Regular hours will begin on Friday, November 27 and continue every Friday, Saturday and Sunday only through December 20 from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Please note Santa takes a break each day from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.). Santa will be available for photos so don't forget your personal cameras.

For more information visit [www.explorechicago.org/specialevents](http://www.explorechicago.org/specialevents)

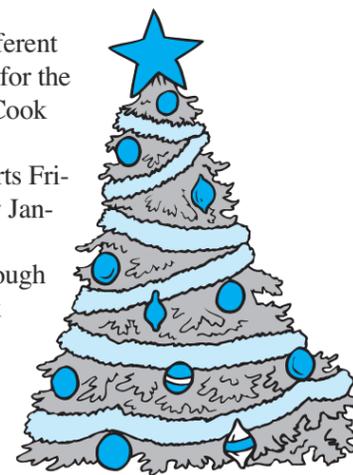
## View Over 90 Holiday Trees and Enjoy a Colorful Display of Traditional Decorations from Around the World

More than 90 Christmas trees, decorated by different ethnic groups of Cook County, will be on display for the public to see this holiday season in the Office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

Viewing of the colorful holiday tree display starts Friday, November 20, 2009, and runs through Friday January 8, 2010. The public is welcome to view the traditional decorated Christmas trees Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Room 112 of the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL.

Along with the 90 plus Christmas trees is a menorah from the Jewish celebration of Chanukah, a Kinara from the African American celebration of Kwanzaa, a Prayer Thali from the Hindu Faith and a Ramadan Mubarak from Islam. For information about the holiday tree display, phone 312.603.5529 or 312.603.6237

Groups are welcome.



## 33RD LINCOLNWOOD ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

This annual event will take place on Sunday, November 22nd, and attracts approximately 1,850 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. 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. The walk is non-competitive. This is a CARA (Chicago Area Runners Association) certified race and a portion of any proceeds will be donated to the; Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization, the City of Hope, and the Lincolnwood Scholarship Program. You can register online at [www.lincolnwoodil.org](http://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.



Online registration is available by logging onto [www.lincolnwoodil.org](http://www.lincolnwoodil.org) and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

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## New Quality Study: Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Ranks Among Top 10 Percent in Critical, Pulmonary and GI Care

### Hospital receives highest 5-star ratings in 8 clinical areas

Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center ranked among the top 10 percent of U.S. hospitals for critical care, pulmonary care and gastrointestinal care, according to the 12th annual HealthGrades® Hospital Quality in America Study, released in October.

For the third consecutive year, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center received the HealthGrades Critical Care Excellence Award™, one of three hospitals in Chicago to receive this award. And for the first time, the hospital received the Pulmonary Care Excellence Award, one of 31 hospitals in Illinois and 10 in Chicago to be recognized for pulmonary care excellence. The hospital also received the Gastrointestinal Care Excellence Award and is one of four hospitals in Chicago to receive this award. HealthGrades annually recognizes hospitals with specialty excellence awards, given to those that perform in the top 10 percent in the nation in 15 specialty categories.

Among other distinctions, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center received five-star ratings, the highest level, in eight clinical areas: heart attack, heart failure, hip fracture repair, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (lung disease), gastrointestinal surgeries and procedures, gastrointestinal bleed, sepsis, and respiratory failure.

In the new study, HealthGrades, a health care ratings company, independently rated the quality of care for 28 procedures and diagnoses at nearly every hospital in the country – ranging from heart attack treatment to hip fracture repair. A five-star rating indicated the hospital had below-average mortality or complication rates for these procedures.

“Our physicians, nurses and staff are dedicated to giving our patients the personalized medical care they deserve,” said Ivette Estrada, executive vice president and chief executive officer, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center. “This new study points to our clinical excellence and we are pleased to be ranked once again among the nation’s top hospitals. 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/caring](http://olr.reshealth.org/caring).

## Kids Did A Good Deed With Bears of Hope



Children creating fabric designs to be used to make Bears of Hope for kids needing TLC.

On November 7th, 2009, Bears of Hope, a Skokie-based volunteer organization, that makes huggable handcrafted fabric bears for sick and needy children and adults presented a “Community Children’s Craft Program” sponsored by First American Bank, Skokie. Children between the ages of 5 - 15 came to the bank and using their artistic imagination designed unprinted fabric with fabric paint markers. Volunteers from Bears of Hope will be able to make twenty bears from the designs the children created at the Craft Program. The bears will be given to the Skokie Fire Department for Skokie Firefighters to give to children suffering trauma from fire disasters. Bears of Hope founder, Carolyn Reiner, said “The children’s designs are awesome. They will make wonderful huggable bears for children needing TLC”. The Bears of Hope’s Community Children Craft Program gives children an opportunity to understand what it means to “give back” and help kids needing TLC while having a fun-filled creative experience. The organization has presented this program as a Mitzvah Project, children’s group project, and for birthday celebrations.

Students at Orchard Academy prepared the fabric the children used at the Craft Program. Orchard Academy prepares students ages 17-22 with cognitive, emotional, and/or learning disabilities to transition into adult living and earn their high school diploma. By volunteering to help Bears of Hope with various tasks in making bears, the students develop work and life skills.

Civic and social service organizations are given bears to bring to individuals they serve. There is no charge to the organization or recipient for the bears. Bears of Hope relies on volunteers and donations. All financial gifts received are used to purchase materials to make bears. They have no paid staff. From their modest beginning in 2007 when only 50 bears were made, over 500 bears are now bringing hugs and comfort to sick and needy children and adults.

For more information, contact Bears of Hope 847-673-4098 or [Bears@bearsofhope.com](mailto:Bears@bearsofhope.com). Contributions can be mailed to Bears of Hope, 8331 N. Kostner, Skokie, IL 60076.

## Liberty Bank for Savings to Host Life Line Screenings

Friday, Dec. 4, Liberty Bank will host Life Line Screenings community preventive health screenings at its Norwood branch, 6210 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Pre-registration is required. Appointment times begin at 9 a.m. and fill quickly. Please call Life Line Screenings directly at 800.324.1851 for your appointment. Applicable charges apply.

As part of a repeat partnership with Liberty Bank and a service to the community, Life Line will offer ultrasound screenings for the prevention of stroke, vascular disease and osteoporosis. Screenings are non-invasive, completely painless and affordable. There is a charge for the screenings and reservations with Life Line are required.

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, celebrates its 111th anniversary in 2009. For more information call 773.489.4471 or visit [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

## ALDERMAN STONE ANNOUNCES A FOOD DRIVE

Canned and dry goods are being collected at the 50th Ward office of Alderman Stone, 6199 N. Lincoln Avenue (2nd Floor), 773-764-5050, through November 23, 2009 for distribution before Thanksgiving. You may drop off your contributions in Alderman Stone's Lincoln Avenue office during regular business hours. Help someone have a happier Thanksgiving holiday!

## Pathway Senior Living Food Drive

For the month of November Victory Centre of Galewood, part of Pathway Senior Living, LLC will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit Catholic Charities’ food pantry. Due to current economic times, supporting our community is more important than ever. Please drop off donations during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., any day of the week, at Victory Centre of Galewood: 2370 N. Newcastle Ave. Chicago, IL. 60707. If you have any questions regarding specific items please call 773-385-5002 or please send an e-mail to [snebel@pathwaysl.com](mailto:snebel@pathwaysl.com).

## ATTENTION U.S. MILITARY VETERANS and ACTIVE DUTY PERSONAL

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

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

## Doherty Nominated for Senate Seat

41st Ward Alderman Brian G. Doherty filed as a candidate for the 10th Senatorial District on Monday, November 2, 2009. This seat is being vacated by Senator James DeLeo, D- 10th District.

Doherty said he wants to broaden his horizons for the benefit of the community. "I believe that the state, being under one-party control, has put itself in shambles," he said. "There is political infighting, and you basically have dominant one-party rule with no checks and balances." Doherty went on to say that he wants to fight any proposed income tax hikes, cut any ineffectual social programs and increase capital spending for area public schools.

Alderman Doherty believes that our community suffers from the abuse of T.I.F. (Tax Increment Financing) funds which drain resources from our area. "These T.I.F. funds have become private piggy banks for certain areas while our community suffers from school overcrowding," says Doherty. "7 of the top 10 Chicago Public Elementary Schools are located in the 41st Ward yet we continue to suffer overcrowding because we do not qualify for Tax Increment Financing. This abuse must be stopped."

Doherty feels that one party control has led to the state being over \$10 billion in debt, not to mention the billions owed to the pension funds. "The Democrats', who control the Governorship, both Houses of the Legislature and every constitutional office, answer is to raise taxes or borrow more money. Enough of their political infighting and spending," Doherty said.

"The state is in desperate need of checks and balances to straighten the budget out. The Democrats have proven that they cannot or will not do it on their own," Doherty stated. Alderman Doherty has been the lone Republican on the Chicago City Council for the past 19 years. He says he has the best record on taxes, is a fiscal conservative and has proven he is independent and can work both sides of the aisle for the benefit of his constituents and for the state of Illinois. "People are tired of the constant political infighting, ongoing corruption and rising taxes and debt. I plan on running a clean, issue-oriented campaign and appreciate this opportunity," Doherty concluded.



Brian G. Doherty

## In honor of Veterans' Day and to pay tribute to our Active Duty Service Men and Women

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offers them a 25% discount on any of our services to all Active Duty Service People and their Spouses. Simply present your Service ID at the time of the appointment.

(Good through the end of November, 2009)



## Lincolnwood Holiday Craft Fair

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

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

Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue

Fee: \$2.00 Admission

Children under 12 get in free if they bring a can of food to be donated to a local food depository.

Online registration is available by logging onto [www.lincolnwoodil.org](http://www.lincolnwoodil.org) and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

## NORWOOD PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

**Tour seven magnificent homes — brilliantly decorated for the holidays — at this annual fund-raiser**

The Norwood Park Historical Society will hold its 26th annual Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Six private homes, plus the landmark Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, will be on the tour. Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door.

The tour begins at the Norwood Park Field House, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., Chicago. Guests may walk through the neighborhood to enjoy the homes, or may take the free shuttle bus from house to house. Children under 12 years old are not allowed; infants may be carried.

The Norwood Park Historical Society has offered this unique look into private neighborhood homes as a way to celebrate the holidays and to raise funds to support the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House. Each house is beautifully decorated for the holidays, and a brief history of the home is offered for attendees.

Tickets may be purchased by visiting [www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org) or by mailing a check and postage-paid envelope to: Attn: Holiday House Tour, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago IL 60631

This fund-raiser is held in conjunction with Victoria's Craft Boutique, December 3, 4, 5, and 6, which is located at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Admission to the boutique is \$1.

The Norwood Park Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, resides in the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest home. We invite you to join our efforts to preserve our community's rich history and architectural integrity and to make the dreams and experiences of our predecessors come to life. Visit us on Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

## Be Sure to Attend Liberty Bank's Free Showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" Benefitting the Park Ridge Community Fund

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

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

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

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, celebrates its 111th anniversary in 2009. For more information call 773-489-4471 or visit [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

*St. Thecla Women's Council*  
**Holiday Craft and Gift Show**  
**December 12, 2009**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Holiday Crafts, Gifts & Goodies**  
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[www.wolffs.com](http://www.wolffs.com)

## Pet Howl-iday Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love Bosley

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



## What is a "No Kill" Shelter?

by: Tom Van Winkle, Animal Care League

The world of animal welfare is an interesting business. There are so many animal lovers out there who are willing to go to great lengths to aid an animal in need, yet I have never seen an industry with so much in-fighting. We are all working towards the same ultimate goal, yet there is a tremendous amount of mistrust, much of which stems from the often-used term "no kill".

On the surface, it seems there should be no disagreement on what "no kill" means. Taken literally, it can be, and often is, interpreted as describing a shelter which never puts an animal to sleep, regardless of the situation. In reality though, the term "no kill" refers to a shelter that does not euthanize adoptable animals. The person given credit for inventing the "no kill" movement is Rich Avanzino, who was working at the San Francisco SPCA at the time. Mr. Avanzino witnessed a large number of friendly animals being euthanized because of resource constraints at a local shelter and he wanted to start a movement where animals were not put to sleep simply because a shelter ran out of space. Mr. Avanzino did not mean that animals would never be euthanized, but instead that this terribly sad event would be reserved for only those situations where adoption was not an option. The two most widely seen reasons for euthanasia under the "no kill" movement are to end the suffering of a sick or injured animal and to prevent an animal with an unacceptable or unmanageable level of aggression from being placed in a home, where it would pose too great a risk to the adoptive family. By allowing "no kill" to mean that no animal is ever put to sleep, we not only stray from the term's original, intended definition, but we also set an unreachable goal. In doing this, we hold ourselves to a standard that we cannot, and should not, attain. This may sound cold hearted, but hear me out.

First, there are some animals whose injuries or illnesses are such that no doctor could return them to a comfortable state of being. Keeping an animal alive, but unable to move without pain, is an inhumane act. This fact alone means that shelters should never be absolute "no kill" facilities. In doing so, we would become purveyors of the very thing we fight against every day: the inhumane treatment of animals.

Secondly, while it is nice to think that there is a home for every animal, the truth is that people do not, and should not, adopt highly aggressive animals. I champion the notion that, often times, it is not the animal's nature that makes them aggressive, but an owner who "trained" the animal either intentionally or through abuse or neglect. Still, the fact remains that there are some animals that, regardless of how they became that way, have the potential to be very dangerous. We must remember that we are not just talking about adopter safety, but also that of their extended family, friends, neighbors, mail carriers, other animals...in short, anyone who comes into contact with the adoptive individual/family in any way is put at risk when an aggressive animal is adopted out into the community. There are no 100% guarantees, of course, but most people expect that shelters won't knowingly send an aggressive animal into their neighborhood. While it is very sad to euthanize an animal that was made aggressive by a human, shelters must consider the safety of the adopters and the public when arranging an adoption. And if, in light of this, we accept the fact that there are some animals that are too aggressive to be adopted, then what are that animal's current options? There are not enough sanctuaries to house them all, so the only other choice is to lock them in a kennel for the rest of their lives. We should consider that this kind of solitary confinement is exactly what we do to our most hardened human criminals. By practicing a strict never-euthanize policy, shelters are subjecting these animals to a life devoid of human or other animal contact, which is incredibly inhumane for social animals like dogs and cats.

Lastly, we must realize that simply not euthanizing an animal does not mean a shelter is "no kill". Shelters have two choices - they can accept all animals that come to them or they can only take in animals when they have room in the shelter. Neither situation is right or wrong, it is just plain fact. If a shelter is an open facility, meaning they accept all animals, then they run the risk of running out of space and having to euthanize for lack of room, thus they can't be termed "no kill". If a shelter is limited intake, meaning they only accept animals when there is room, yet there is a shelter in their area that has to euthanize for space, then they too cannot call themselves "no kill". I say this because when a limited intake shelter turns an animal away, that animal often times goes to the open facility down the street, where it may eventually be euthanized for space. Simply turning away from the issue does not give a shelter the right to call itself "no kill". Once a community reaches the point where no shelter has to euthanize for space, then a limited intake facility could truly call itself "no kill", as defined by Rich Avanzino. This is very rare, but I agree with Mr. Avanzino in that it is a goal worth working towards.

The Animal Care League has always practiced the ideals of the no kill movement in that we never euthanize an animal for lack of time or space. This means we can't accept every animal that is brought to us, but those that are adoptable stay with us until we find them a new home. Nonetheless, in 2005 we stopped calling ourselves "no kill" because of the misunderstanding of the meaning of this term and because it has become very divisive in the animal welfare world. Open shelters are not the bad guys and should not be looked down upon simply because they can't call themselves no kill. As evidenced by my example above, none of us can truly call ourselves no kill until we ALL can call ourselves no kill, thus we must work together. Even though the ACL adheres to the no kill policies, we choose not to use a term that creates bad feelings among shelters, and instead, use the term "limited intake".

Does this mean you will never again see the Animal Care League referred to as a "no kill" shelter? Probably not. We have many supporters who still call us "no kill" because we have consistently practiced the ideals of the movement. And that's okay. The main point I want people to consider is not which turn of phrase their favorite shelter employs, whether it be "no kill", "limited intake" or "open", but why shelters exist in the first place. Homeless animals are caused by societies, not shelters. Shelters work every day to do their best to help manage the onslaught of homeless creatures, and I would ask everyone to focus more attention on "what can we all do together to end animal homelessness in our community" and not worry so much about who is and is not calling themselves "no kill". Because, much as the borders between countries are invisible from the sky, so too are the dividing lines between shelters when viewed from atop the pinnacle of our loftiest goals. When there are so few homeless animals that every shelter has their 'vacancy' sign aglow, then, and only then, will any of us truly have achieved the "no kill" ideal.

## Law Governing Pets

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

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

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

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

## Santa is ready for the Howlidays, are YOU?



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- DO-IT-YOURSELF DOG WASH

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"It's not just about you anymore, it's about a team and trying to complete the missions at hand." Airman Edward Witherspoon III

## A Salute to Chicagoans in Service

As a tribute to the men and women on active military duty overseas, the next several editions of Our Village will feature stories about Chicagoans in service aboard the USS Nimitz.

Airman Edward Witherspoon enlisted in the Navy to see the world and move his life forward. He has been on active duty for 13 months. A native Chicagoan, a Bears and Sox fan with two brothers and five sisters, Witherspoon graduated from Hyde Park Career Academy and attended Stillman College. He's a talented athlete, too, who enjoys football, wrestling, and baseball.

As an Aviation Boatswain's Mate aboard the lead ship of America's greatest class of aircraft carriers, his day-to-day duties include directing the aircraft between the hangar bay and flight deck. With launches and recoveries less than a minute apart, his job is of the utmost importance. If the plane isn't moved quickly, the next one cannot land.

This is his first tour, but Witherspoon sees himself as part of a team, always looking out for others and willing to give his all for his fellow shipmates. He explains, "I did not believe I would stop being an individual until I joined the Nimitz crew. My outlook has changed drastically. After joining I started helping my community more by giving back and I thought about the next person and not just myself. I believe the military makes you a better person." Asked what he misses most about civilian life – aside from family and friends, of course, Witherspoon quickly replies: "my car!" Family and friends miss him very much, but appreciate the important work he is doing on behalf of his country. Airman Witherspoon is a highly-skilled serviceman with a tenacious sense of duty and teamwork – we can all sleep a little easier knowing he has our back.



Airman  
Edward Witherspoon

### USS NIMITZ AT-A-GLANCE

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



In the fall of 1947, Diane Hendricks crafted a homemade doll and asked her husband Bill, a United States Marine Corps Reservist, to deliver the doll to an organization that provided toys for needy children. No such agency existed, so Major Bill Hendricks and a group of Los Angeles based Reservists started one. Toys for Tots was born.

Because Hendricks was also the director of public relations for Warner Brothers Studio, he leveraged his connections to assemble an impressive roster of celebrities who helped generate enthusiasm about the program. In 1949, Walt Disney crafted the Toys for Tots logo still in use today.

So successful was Hendricks' launch that the U.S. Marine Corps adopted the program and expanded it nationwide. Each community around the country with a Marine Reserve Center would collect toys and distribute them at Christmastime to underprivileged children.

In the early years, both new and used toys were collected and distributed, but in the late 70s and early 80s, that directive began to change. Reservists were focusing their time and efforts on combat skills and less time was available to refurbish used toys. Concurrently, public awareness about health and safety raised concerns about distributing used toys. Perhaps most important, the message Marines wanted to send to needy children was that they were worthy individuals, that they could transform their lives – delivering second-hand toys to them seemed to diminish that message and so in 1980, the program began accepting only new, still-packaged toys.

In its 60 plus years, the Toys for Tots program has delivered more than 400 million toys to 188 million children. The Toys for Tots Foundation has supplemented local toy collections with more than 81 million toys. Last year, local campaigns were conducted in 657 communities in all 50 United States, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Here in Chicagoland, toys are collected each October to mid-December by the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines.

The now-famous Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade first roared through town in 1978 with six participants and a van half-filled with toys. Last year, despite bone-chilling nine degree temperatures and snow, some 500 bikers rode 20 miles and delivered nearly 3,500 toys! The 2009 parade takes place December 6. It begins at dawn at Dan Ryan Woods (83rd and Western) and finishes at Lane Tech High School (Addison and Western)

The Marine Corps Reserve Training Center is located at 3034 W. Foster Avenue in Chicago. Drop-off centers are located throughout the city and suburbs. For more information, visit <http://chicagotoysfortots.org> or contact Gunnery Sergeant Michael Michalski at 773-539-6464, Ext. 311 or e-mail [Michael.j.michalski@usmc.mil](mailto:Michael.j.michalski@usmc.mil)

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- Mashed Potatoes • Sweet Potatoes
- Homemade Stuffing
- Pierogi (Choice of Kraut or Potato/Cheese)
- Dark & Light Turkey with Gravy
- Asst. Polish Sausage w/ Kraut • Baked Smoked Ham
- Pumpkin Pie & Asst. Polish Pastries

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# GREAT OUTDOORS

## Nat'l Wildlife Federation: Woolly Bear Season

A telltale sign of autumn is the appearance of woolly bear caterpillars moving across backyards, sidewalks and roads. These fat, furry caterpillars are looking for safe places to spend the winter. They spend the cold months dormant under decaying logs and fallen leaves, and in this state can survive temperatures well below freezing. Come spring, they'll create cocoons and pupate, eventually emerging as Isabella tiger moths (*Pyrrharctia isabella*).

These cute black and reddish-brown caterpillars are famed for being able to predict the oncoming winter. According to folklore, the wider the caterpillar's brown band, the less severe winter will be. A smaller brown band means you're in store for a very harsh winter. But is it true? According to the Farmer's Almanac, there just might be some validity to the story.

*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.*

## Millennium Park's Holiday Tradition Returns! CAROLING AT CLOUD GATE

Featuring Sing-Alongs with Chicago Choral Groups

Friday Evenings from November 27 through December 18, 2009 at 6 PM

Celebrate the holidays in Millennium Park, when Caroling at Cloud Gate returns on Friday evenings each week throughout the holiday season. Chicagoans and visitors alike are invited to Cloud Gate to hear the beautiful voices of different Chicago choral groups, including the Apollo Chorus of Chicago, the Chicago Children's Choir, the Old Town School of Folk Music and the Wooten Choral Ensemble and participate in a holiday sing-along.

Caroling at Cloud Gate runs Friday evenings from November 27 through December 18, 2009. The singing will begin at 6pm and run approximately 50 minutes. Admission is free. Caroling at Cloud Gate is supported by the Comer Foundation, with complimentary coffee and hot chocolate courtesy of Caribou Coffee. After the holiday sing-along, everyone is encouraged to skate at Millennium Park's McCormick Tribune Ice Rink, one of the most popular winter destinations in the city.

"Now in its fourth year, Caroling at Cloud Gate has truly become a cherished winter tradition in Chicago. Each week, we have hundreds of singers gathering in the Park, creating a magical holiday scene in the center of the city," said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

For more information on Millennium Park or on Caroling at Cloud Gate visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org) or call 312.742.1168. The complete Caroling at Cloud Gate schedule is:

### Friday, November 27 Apollo Chorus of Chicago

When the Apollo Chorus of Chicago sings, great choral works come alive!

Founded in 1872 after the Great Chicago Fire, this powerful 150-voice chorus is one of the city's most exciting and talked-about musical organizations. Each season Apollo thrills audiences with beautiful music old and new, winning praise for its performances – especially for Handel's Messiah. The Apollo Chorus performs a wide range of masterworks for chorus and orchestra and is under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Stephen Alltop.

### Friday, December 4 Chicago Children's Choir

The Chicago Children's Choir is a multiracial, multicultural choral music education organization dedicated to shaping the future by making a difference in the lives of children and youth through musical excellence. Today, The Chicago Children's Choir serves more than 3,000 young singers and is America's largest, most comprehensive organization devoted to the musical education of children. By developing musical skills and performing in public, the children acquire poise, increased self-esteem, and an understanding that discipline and hard work bring rewards.

## Urban Wildlife Coalition: Fall Tips for Deer Safety

Here on Chicago's northwest side, in the middle of a booming metropolis, we are lucky to occasionally still see large mammals (besides humans, that is!), native wildlife like our region's white-tailed deer.

Deer habitat and food sources are systematically being destroyed by us, and so they 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. If you pay attention, 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.

Enjoy our wildlife neighbors at a respectful distance, approximately 15 feet or more.

On nature hikes, keep dogs on a leash and remind children not to chase wildlife.

Many animals may interpret a direct eye-to-eye gaze as aggression. Avoid the stare-down.

During the rut, you may notice bucks with thick necks making more noise than usual in the woods. They are searching for a mate, and to accomplish this task, must intimidate other bucks and establish territory. If you see or hear bucks fighting, simply walk away slowly.

During the fall/winter season, bucks may be in hot pursuit of a mate, and this may involve quick chases. If you hear or see deer in a chase, there's no need for panic, simply stop where you are. Deer will see you and avoid you.

Always, but especially during the rut, drive slowly in deer populated areas (especially on streets adjacent to forest preserves and other natural spaces) – 20 mph or less. 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 hours.

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

## THE MCCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK IN MILLENNIUM PARK OPENS FOR THE 9TH SEASON ON NOVEMBER 18

Kicking off Chicago's winter season, the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink in Millennium Park will open on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 and will remain open through Sunday, March 14, 2010, weather permitting. The rink, now in its ninth season and drawing more than 100,000 skaters annually, 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.



### Regular hours for this season are as follows:

Mondays—Thursdays: 12 pm — 8 pm

Fridays: 12 pm — 10 pm

Saturdays (through Jan. 2): 10 am — 10 pm

Saturdays (beginning Jan. 9): 10 am — 9 pm

Sundays: 10 am — 9 pm

### Holiday Hours

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving): 10 am — 4 pm

Thursday, December 24: 10 am — 6 pm

Friday, December 25: 10 am — 4 pm

Thursday, December 31: 10 am — 8 pm

Friday, January 1: 12 pm — 10 pm

The ice rink is just one component of the 24.5-acre Millennium Park, which has welcomed more than sixteen 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](http://www.millenniumpark.org), or call 312.742.1168.

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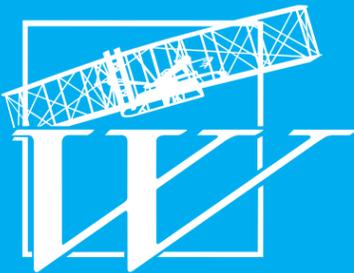
Live Music,  
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Billiards Upstairs

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**Register NOW!**

*Get Ready at Wright!*  
Classes begin **January 19, 2010**



**Wilbur Wright College**

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

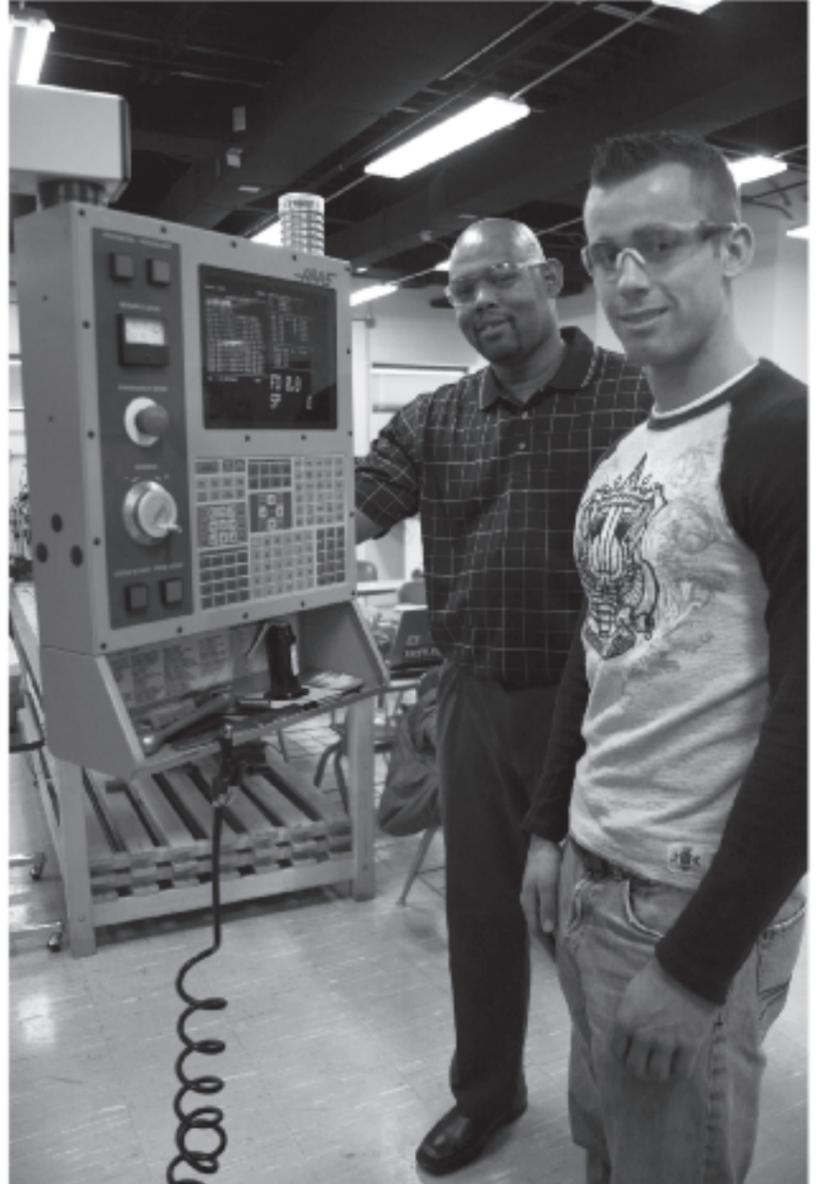
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## Electric/Electronic Industrial Maintenance (EEIM)

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.



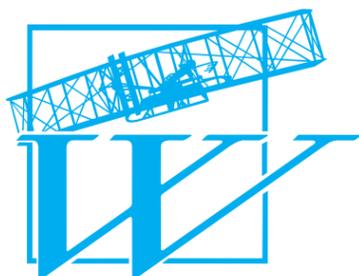
## Computerized Numerical Control (CNC)

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.

## 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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# register NOW!

my.ccc.edu

## Registration begins

Arts Building Room A120

November 18 - January 16

except November 26-27

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## New Student Registration

Arts Building Room A120

December 14-16

Monday - Tuesday

9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Final Registration week

Events Building Atrium

January 4 - 8

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

January 11 - 16

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

# spring 2010

## classes begin January 19

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 A139.

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and on Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## Adult Education Registration Schedule

Arts Building Room 205 (A205)

For more information, please call 773.481.8821

### ESL

Friday, November 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

### GED

Friday, November 6, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 4, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, December 11, 2009 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 4-7, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

##### Ongoing Registration

Monday through Thursday

January 11 - 14, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

##### Late Registration

Tuesday through Thursday

January 19 - 21, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### LPN

#### Registration Hours:

##### Early Registration

Monday through Thursday

November 30 - December 3, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

##### Ongoing Registration

Monday through Thursday, December 7 - 10, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All new applicants for the next Practical Nursing Program starting in January 2010 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 information.

##### GED

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

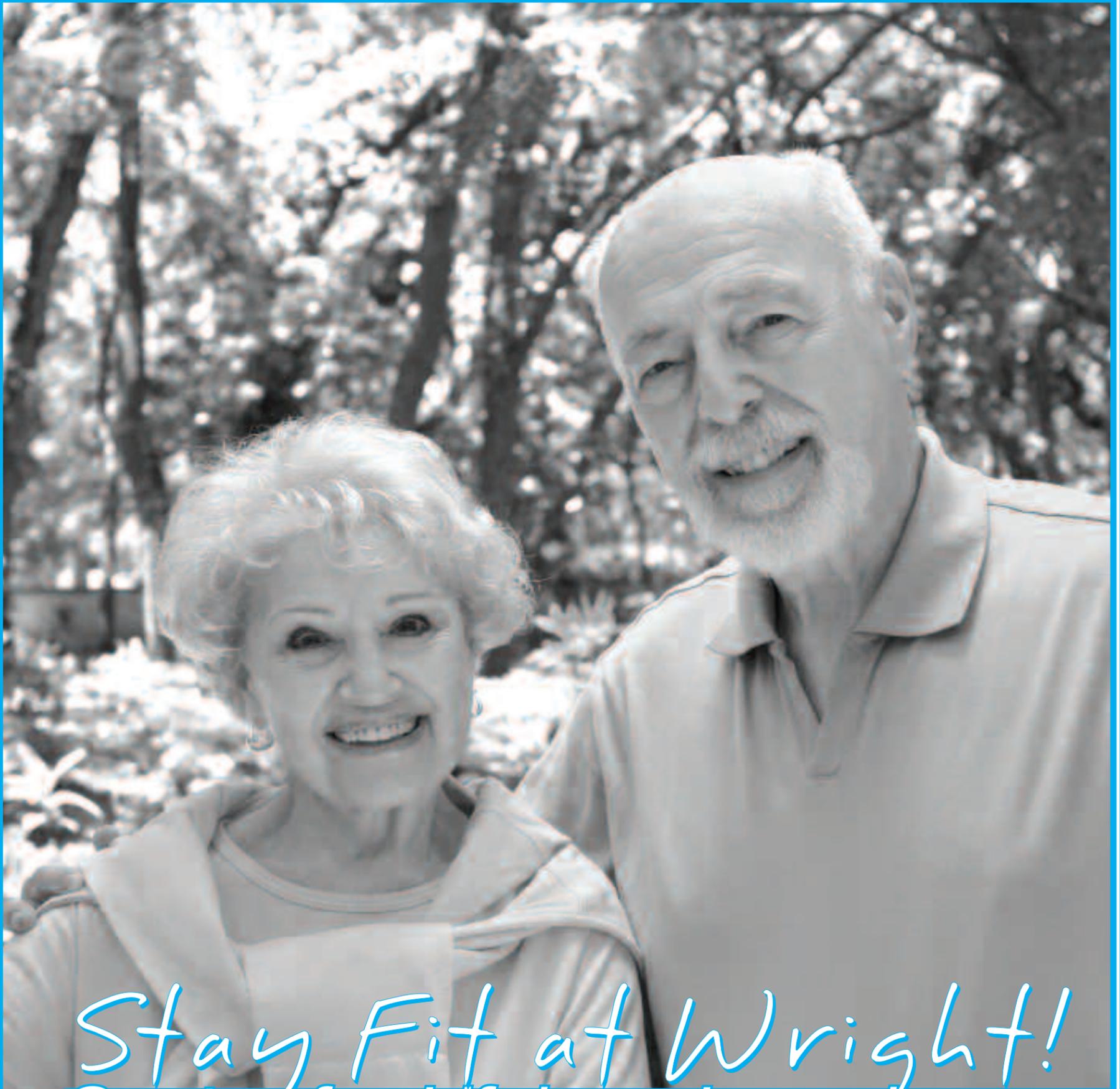
##### ESL

Appointment reservations for the following dates: Friday, December 4, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (ESL AM program), and Saturday, December 5, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (ESL PM and Saturday programs)

## Continuing Education

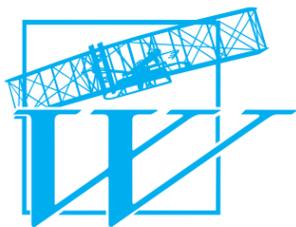
Open Registration from now until the last class of the Spring semester.

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



# Stay Fit at Wright!

## Center for Lifelong Learning



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DreamBoard Magic  
Emotional Resilience*

*Senior Fun! Easy Tap & Soft Shoe Dancing*

*Senior Morning Workout(chair exercises)*

*Wine & Cooking Series  
Tuscan Cuisine  
Festive CheeseBoards  
Greek Mezedes*

*Salsa and Ballroom Dancing*

*Wright College Golden Age Club*

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

# Does an Older Family Member Need Help?

You accept that your parents or family friends are getting older, but you may wonder how to provide the best care for them, in your unique situation. As the holidays draw closer, the time may be right to pay particular attention to your older relatives and how they're managing everyday tasks and responsibilities. You may want to consider whether changes need to be made to keep your family members thriving and safe.

## Noticing Changes in Your Family Members

When you see your family only on holidays and special occasions, it may be harder (or much easier) to detect potential problems. And if your parents are still living together, keep in mind that they may compensate for each other's weaknesses, making it easy to miss the changes during brief visits.

In earlier stages, memory loss issues may not be present all the time. Some days or times of day may be better than others.

When it comes to mental changes — Alzheimer's or other forms of memory loss — there are certain signals to look for:

- Problems with managing finances, talking, menu planning, food preparation, sleeping, managing medications
- An overall unkempt appearance and disregard for personal cleanliness
- Changes in appetite and food preferences (e.g., excessive interest in sweets)
- Faulty reasoning skills (e.g., they may believe they must enter sweepstakes, or contribute excessively to a cause)
- Stacks of mail and unpaid bills lying around
- Forgetfulness or loss of short-term memory
- Depression

Experts suggest you seek help, but not jump to conclusions. If several of these things are happening with your family member, go with them to talk to their doctor. A medical evaluation may reveal that a medical condition or medications are causing the unusual behavior.

Stress, depression, nutritional deficiencies, Parkinson's disease and other illnesses may also cause memory loss. You may wish to explore this issue further by reading *The Complete Eldercare Planner*, by Joy Loverde. Updated and Revised, 2009, published by Random House.

## Seeking Help From Local and Online Resources

If you see some worrisome changes in your parents' behaviors, involve other siblings or family in the discussion. While it may seem like the weight of the world is on your shoulders, you don't have to be alone.

There are a wealth of resources available, both online and from local social service and governmental organizations. You might seek advice about senior services and concerns from the Cook County Suburban Area Agency on Aging

at 800-699-9043 or see their website at [www.suburban-age.org](http://www.suburban-age.org).

You can reach the Chicago Department on Aging at 312-744-4016 to ask for printed materials or advice. Go online to [egov.cityofchicago.org](http://egov.cityofchicago.org) and click through "residents" and then "health and human services" to find the list of their services for seniors.

Additionally, a number of not-for-profit organizations have services for older adults. You might check with local faith communities who sponsor retirement housing and other services - two of the largest are Catholic Charities and the Jewish Federation of Chicago. You can reach Catholic Charities at 847-782-4000 or see their list of senior-oriented services at [www.catholiccharities.net/services](http://www.catholiccharities.net/services).

The Jewish United Fund and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago offer a directory of their services, including a printed "Guide to Jewish Living," at [www.juf.org/guide/default.aspx](http://www.juf.org/guide/default.aspx). Their phone number is 312-357-4848.

Other not-for-profit organizations have been helping families find the answers they need for generations. One locally based website shares ideas and answers to questions about caring for older adults. You can visit [www.SeniorCareAnswerTeam.org](http://www.SeniorCareAnswerTeam.org) to get answers to such questions as:

Does Mom or Dad need help?

What Do These Senior-Care Terms Mean?

What Are Our Options for Care?

What Can We Afford?

How Do I Start the Conversation with my Family?

The site offers helpful internet links to nationally recognized organizations and downloads of materials on senior-care topics.

By Theresa P. Paulin, Presbyterian Homes, Evanston, Illinois;  
847-866-1643

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## Join the Lincolnwood Social Club (55+)

Are you tired of staying home? Would you like to do fun and exciting things? Do you want to make a few new friends? Then why not join the Lincolnwood Social Club 55+. You do not have to be a resident of Lincolnwood to join. We go to exciting places every week in addition to the numerous special events held at our Community Center. Give us a call and find out what we are all about, our number is (847) 677-9740. This is one phone call you won't be sorry that you made.



*Mom always helped you with the big decisions.  
Here's your chance to return the favor.*

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

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

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

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

## THE HIGHLANDS OF EVANSTON AT WESTMINSTER PLACE

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# LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

## Moscow Ballet to Feature 40 Young Dancers from SPACE in December 13 Performance of the Great Russian Nutcracker

Visions of sugar-plum fairies will dance through the dreams of 40 young dancers from the Chicagoland area this holiday season as they share the spotlight with esteemed members of the Moscow Ballet to perform the Great Russian Nutcracker. The holiday classic, which features young dancers from SPACE (Southport Performing Arts Conservatory), is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2009, at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Tickets for the production are \$25.50 - \$85.50 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000.

Praised for exquisite dancing and sumptuous costumes, the Great Russian Nutcracker features Moscow Ballet principal artists Ekaterina Bortykova and Akzhol Mussakhanov and is directed by Anatoli Emelianov. Set against Valentin Fedorov's hand-painted backdrops, the Great Russian Nutcracker delights audiences young and old with a visual tapestry rich in detail and whimsy.

The large-scale production features a number of important character roles which have been cast with 40 young dancers ages 6-14 from Chicago's SPACE performing arts conservatory under the direction of SPACE co-founder Altin Naska. Tryouts for these roles were held in late August.

"The opportunity for these talented young dancers to share the spotlight with such world renowned ballet dancers from the Moscow Ballet is tremendous," said Naska, an internationally known award-winning choreographer, dancer and master teacher who has performed as a soloist throughout Europe. "These children have dedicated themselves to the art and artistry of dance and are eagerly anticipating performing this beloved ballet in front of 4,000 audience members at the Rosemont Theatre."

Chicago's SPACE is a European-style performing arts conservatory that provides instruction in music and dance. Founded in 2005, SPACE has fueled the artistic dreams and aspirations of hundreds of artists from ages pre-school through adult. SPACE provides personalized instruction for all levels of artistic ability and offers a large range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Gifted Program. SPACE's dance program includes instruction in ballet, tap, modern, jazz, ballroom, Latin and hip-hop.

Dedicated to expanding the beauty and love of the performing arts to students in the Chicago area, SPACE's Community Engagement Program is available to all public and private schools from Pre-k through high school. SPACE's specially designed Community Engagement Program meets the Illinois Board of Education's performing arts standards. SPACE has two Chicago locations and is located at 1439 W. Wellington Ave., 773-880-1701, and at 3433 W. Peterson Ave., 773-463-1220. For more information about SPACE, please call either office numbers or visit the website at [www.southportarts.com](http://www.southportarts.com)

## After School Matters, Bank of America Partner to Celebrate Arts with Area Teens

Bank of America announced a new program with Chicago's After School Matters to showcase the creative spirit of Chicago's young artists on the iconic mural space adjacent to the Kennedy Expressway. The wall, which will showcase teens' art in early 2010, currently displays a placeholder to give the public a "teaser" about what is to come when the final wall is unveiled.

Bank of America, in conjunction with After School Matters, has commissioned teen artists from the After School Matters' visual arts programs to interpret the theme "Arts in Chicagoland" into a mural design for the wall. The project kicked off with a creative briefing session, managed by Bank of America and its advertising agency BBDO, about the goal of the mural - to demonstrate the positive impact of arts and culture in Chicago. Students have been working on their entries and will submit them for review. Later this week, a selection committee--including prominent members of Chicago's art community, After School Matters and Bank of America--will choose up to three student designs to adorn the three walls of the building, spanning 8,600 square feet. Approximately 400,000 people daily pass by the wall, located near North Ashland and West Armitage Avenues in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood.

"After School Matters teens are grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and enthusiastic about showcasing their creativity and inspiration," said Chicago's First Lady and After School Matters Founder and Chair Maggie Daley. "Not only will the mural echo the teens' pride in their hometown, but it will stand as a testament to the potential and promise of young people who are given a safe and structured environment to discover and develop their talents."

After School Matters is a nonprofit organization that offers an array of high quality, out-of-school time opportunities for Chicago teens. After School Matters offers 25,000 hands-on, project-based program opportunities at 57 campus sites and more than 100 community-based organizations throughout the city, introducing teens to rewarding careers and helping them develop marketable job skills. In addition to visual arts programs, After School Matters offers programming in such areas as science, sports, technology and communications.

"Bank of America is proud to partner with After School Matters on this unique program that celebrates arts in Chicagoland," said Tim Maloney, Illinois and Chicago Market President, Bank of America. "We have worked together for over 10 years and our ongoing support of After School Matters confirms the Bank's commitment to building healthy communities through arts and the betterment of Chicago's youth population."

Project updates, including photos of all project entries, announcements of the commissioned designs and mural progress photos will be available at [www.afterschoolmatters.org/mural](http://www.afterschoolmatters.org/mural), and also disseminated via Twitter, at @afterschoolmatters.

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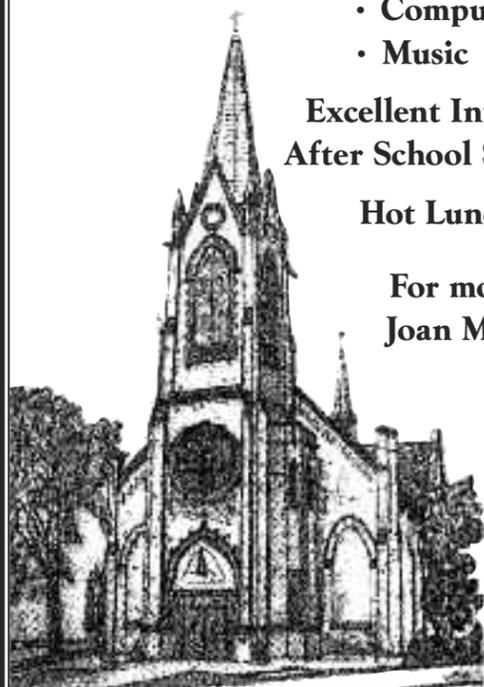
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# LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

## CELEBRATE THE 2009 HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE PARKS

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

**Holiday Flower Show** Saturday, Nov. 28– Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010. Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., 773.638.1766.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesdays; All ages, admission free

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

**Ice Skating** Saturday, Nov. 28 – Sunday, Feb. 28, weather permitting. Various locations and times; Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change. Click here for locations. Contact the individual ice rinks, call 312-742-PLAY or visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

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

## St. Paul Lutheran School Top Medals Won at Science Olympics

St. Paul Lutheran School, 5650. N. Canfield Ave., had forty-six of its students participate in Science Olympics at Concordia University, River Forest on Saturday, November 7th. This was Concordia University's 12th Annual Science Competition with 14 schools and over 250 students from 4th-8th grades participating in the events.

The St. Paul Lutheran students led by Betty Gyllstrom, the upper grade Science and seventh grade teacher, prepared for the Science Olympics by practicing for seven weeks along with help from other dedicated St. Paul teachers, school parents and alumni students.

The Science Olympics events require students to apply their knowledge of science in challenging and creative ways. The events bring science to life for the students along with exposing them to practicing scientists.

St. Paul Lutheran had teams of students participating in all of the eight science events and winning an outstanding number of medals at this one-day competition. The following teams were awarded top medals for their academic performances: Andrew Dobria (Gold medal) and Kelly Raye and Deanna Stone (Silver medal) for Map Mania event, Taylor Maretta and Laura Talley (Gold Medal), Mitchell O'Connell and Richard Marrero (Silver medal), Nick Salomonson and Will Clarke (Bronze medal) for Egg Drop event, Matthew Dilfer and Joey Sienkiewicz (Bronze medal) for Aero Twist event, Brandon McCallister and Emily Johnson (Bronze medal) for Starry, Starry Night event, Erin Behland and Brandon McCallister (Silver medal) and Audrey Tamulewicz and Monica Toledo (Bronze medal) for Mystery Powders. St. Paul Lutheran is a Christian elementary school open to all (Prek 3 year olds through 8th grade) offering academic excellence and small class sizes. For more information or to schedule a personal tour, contact Debbie Townsend, School Principal, at 708-867-5044 [www.stpaulwildcats.org](http://www.stpaulwildcats.org).

## Go Back to School at St. Hyacinth Basilica School

Community/ Education Supporters Alderman Ariel E. Reboyras and KPMG Accounting Firm, See First Hand How Their Support of St. Hyacinth Basilica School, one of 93 Inner-city Catholic Schools, is Creating a Brighter Future for some of the 25,000 children in Catholic Schools.



Volunteers visit with students in their classrooms as they read brand new books, which were purchased by KPMG Accounting Firm.

St. Hyacinth Basilica School hosted Lend a Shoulder Day, an event led by Big Shoulders Fund, which provides \$10-12 million annually to inner-city Catholic schools. The series of citywide events brought together Fund supporters and donors with the children of the schools they serve. St. Hyacinth Basilica School students in participation with KPMG Accounting Firm spent the morning reading books which were donated by the firm. We also had the honor to be visited by the Honorable Alderman from the 30th Ward, Ariel E. Reboyras. This event was school-wide from Pre-K to Eighth grade. All 27 volunteers and Alderman Reboyras spoke to the students on the importance of reading and its' impacts. Our upper grades also learned from the volunteers about what to expect once they enter high school, and what the world has in store for them.

Designed to demonstrate volunteerism in action, Lend a Shoulder Day highlights the many needs of the city's Catholic schools, and celebrates all that Big Shoulders Fund supporters do to provide solutions for the Chicago Catholic school system.

St. Hyacinth Basilica School has been serving the Avondale-Logan Square community for more than 100 years. Big Shoulders Fund provides support to the Catholic schools in the neediest areas of inner-city Chicago, including St. Hyacinth Basilica School, and ensures that every child has access to a faith-based, value-centered education, regardless of religious affiliation. More than 25,000 of the city's children attend Catholic schools supported by Big Shoulders Fund, which has raised more than \$172 million to date.

St. Hyacinth Basilica School 3640 W. Wolfram St. Chicago, IL 60618 (773)-342-7550

## St. Edward School News

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

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

### Top Performers in Academic Events!

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl team who represented St. Edward at Notre Dame High School for Boys in October. Our team won first place over six other schools from far north side and 17 teams overall! Congratulations to team members Killian White, Ryan Greene, Anna Gianni, Caroline Asplund, Luis Rentas, Daniel Paredas, Patrick Alicante, and Michael Prostran.

The team of Killian White, Anna Gianni, Caroline Asplund, Michael Prostran, Ryan Green and Patrick Alicante competed at St. Ignatius High School along with 22 schools. We are very proud to say that St. Edward took first place at the event!

Kudos also goes to our 8th grade girls math team who took first place at Notre Dame High School for Girls on Saturday, October 24. This team included Caroline Asplund, Selena D'Agostino, Dana Carrao, Anna Gianni, Jacqueline Stasinis, Sophia Lamperis, and Jamie Wright. Individual trophies were also awarded to Anna Gianni who won sixth place and Sophia Lamperis who took fourth place.

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## Health and Wellness Series

Hosted by Academy of St. Priscilla at Divine Savior, 7750 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge, IL

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

December 2 at 10:30 a.m. - Sharon O'Malley from Our Lady of the Resurrection – Flu Prevention

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

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# Pet Planning – Not Just for the Rich and Eccentric



**Chester M. Przybylo**

When people think of someone setting up a Trust for their pet, they might imagine Leona Helmsley's pet Maltese named Trouble drinking Perrier from a crystal bowl in a lavish Manhattan penthouse. However, you don't have to be rich and eccentric to set up a Pet Trust to care for your beloved pet(s). Pet Trusts are most commonly set up by caring individuals who just want to make sure that their non-human family member is taken care of in the event of their own death or disability. This article discusses the 3 easy steps necessary to set up a Pet Trust for your furry

and feathered family members. Remember, without you planning for them in advance, they may face the same awful fate that awaits so many other orphaned pets. You will sleep better knowing that they will continue purring or wagging their tail even if you're no longer able to care for them.

Setting up a Pet Trust is as easy as 1-2-3 when you go to a qualified estate planning attorney who has experience with setting up such trusts. First, you need to decide who would be willing and able to provide the love and attention your pet deserves. Who will get your dog's tail wagging or get your cat purring? You should name this person as your pet's caretaker.

Next, you need to consider how much money should be set aside for your pet's future care. While Helmsley left \$12 million to her dog, Trouble, your pet probably does not need to pay \$100,000 a year for security and \$8,000 a year for grooming! In order to calculate your pet's needs, simply estimate the annual expenses for your pet's food, grooming, medical care, and other needs and multiply that by your pet's likely remaining lifespan. You may want to include some money as a reward to the caretaker for taking on the responsibility of providing the love and attention necessary to provide a happy home for your orphaned pet.

Finally, you need to consider who will manage and distribute the money you have set aside for your pet's care. This person is the Trustee of the Pet Trust. The Trustee could be the same person who is providing the care for your pet, it could be another trusted friend or family member or it could be a professional Trustee or charity involved with caring for pets.

You plan for your human family, leaving them money and painstakingly considering Guardians, Trustees, and Executors. Your furry and feathered family members deserve consideration, too! Remember, without you planning for them in advance, they may face the same awful fate that awaits so many other orphaned pets. Contact an estate planning attorney who focuses in this area today to set up a Pet Trust for your special friend. You will sleep better knowing that they will continue purring or wagging their tail even if you're no longer able to care for them.

*Chester M. Przybylo has been elected to the Board of Governors of the prestigious American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and has been engaged in the practice of law for the last 40 years. For more information or to attend an upcoming seminar, call (773) 631-2525.*

*Happy Holiday Season to  
All of Our Friends and Neighbors*

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# Social Security: Retirement Questions and Answers

By Andrew Salata Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Planning for retirement brings many questions: from when and how to file, to what happens to health insurance. Let's go through some questions: To apply for retirement benefits, you can complete your application online from the comfort of your own home or office. There are no paper forms to sign, and usually no additional documents are required. In fact, what used to take an hour or more can be done online in as little as 15 minutes.

Not ready to retire? Regardless of your age or how far away retirement may seem, it's never too early to begin planning. Take a look at your financial future by visiting our helpful Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator). The online tool uses your earnings record along with information that you key in to give you a quick estimate of your future benefits.

**Question:** Will my benefits increase if I wait and retire after my full retirement age?

**Answer:** Yes. You can increase your Social Security benefit in two ways: Your benefit will be increased by a certain percentage if you delay retirement. We will add these increases automatically from the time you reach full retirement age until you start taking benefits or reach age 70; and

If you work, each additional year you work adds another year of earnings to your Social Security record. Higher lifetime earnings may result in higher benefits when you do retire.

For more information, read *When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html). You also can use our Retirement Estimator to find out your estimated future benefits.

**Question:** I have children at home and I plan to retire soon. Will my children be eligible for monthly Social Security payments after I retire?

**Answer:** They will get monthly Social Security payments if they are: Unmarried and under age 18 (age 19 if still in high school); or Age 18 or over, and became severely disabled before age 22 and continue to be disabled.

This applies to either biological and adopted children as well as dependent stepchildren or grandchildren. For more information read our online publication, *Benefits for Children*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085.html).

## MEDICARE

**Question:** Who is eligible for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs?

**Answer:** People who currently have Medicare coverage can get extra help if they have limited income and resources. The extra help can save them money. It pays part of the monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription copayments under the new Medicare prescription drug program. The extra help is estimated to be worth an average of \$3,900 per year. You can help someone qualify and apply at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp).

**Question:** What are the income and resource requirements for the extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs?

**Answer:** If your annual income is under \$16,245 for an individual (or \$21,855 if you are married and living with your spouse), you may qualify for the extra help. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help. To get the extra help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs, your total resources generally must be limited to \$12,510 (or \$25,010 if you are married and living with your spouse). To learn more about the extra help, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp). You also may call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).



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December 9 - 7:00 pm

### Day School Christmas Programs:

December 16 - 6:00 & 7:30 pm

December 23 - 7:00 pm

Visitors Welcome

# "A Theatre Review"

*"Young Frankenstein"*

*Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois*

*Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt*

Broadway in Chicago has brought Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" to Chicago and they can look to have a hit on their hands.

Brooks has plenty of shtick in the musical version but if you are looking for another "Producers" you'll be disappointed. Brooks over the years is a successful comedian as well as screenwriter, playwright and songwriter. We understand he wants to turn "Blazing Saddles" into a major Broadway Musical next. It probably won't be ready until late 2010 or mid 2011.

If you like the comedy of Mel Brooks you'll have a great time seeing this show.

Forget the negative reviews in New York papers. One Chicago critic saw it in New York and didn't care for it but gave the Road Show a passing grade. The other liked it when they saw it in New York and went a bit overboard with her review and my comments are in between the two. I'd go back and see it again.

I thought the cast for the road company was excellent and two of the stars, Roger Bart as Frederick Frankenstein and Shuler Hensley play the monster as they did on Broadway.

Other first rate performances are Cory English as Igor, Brad Oscar as Inspector Kemp and Hermit, Beth Curry as Elizabeth, Anne Horak as Inga and Joanna Glushk as Frau Blucher.

I found some of the music impressive – namely, "Please Don't Touch Me," "Together Again," "He Was My Boyfriend" and "Listen to Your Heart."

The show is an expensive one with a cast of twenty-six performers and runs two hours and thirty-five minutes.

Susan Stroman's direction and choreography are perfect, especially the dancing.

The book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan has a few slow sluggish moments but on the whole it won't put you to sleep.

New Yorkers may have been charged \$450 for a ticket but at \$95 Chicago is getting a bargain.

Bart as the grandson of Victor Frankenstein is top-drawer talent. Shuler Hensley as the monster gives the audience a tour de force performance, especially in "Putting on the Ritz" number. "Young Frankenstein" runs through December 13th. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 800-775-2000. Tickets are \$30-\$95. **-Three Stars-**

## Village Cooking Corner

### No Bake Pumpkin Pudding

1/2 c plus 2T cold water  
1 pkg. (1 oz.) instant vanilla pudding  
1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin  
1/2 t ground cinnamon  
1/2 t pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 t grated orange peel

In blender, pour water, pudding, etc. Blend low speed until smooth. Refrigerate several hours before serving.

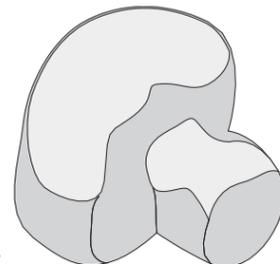
Make 2 - 1 cup servings

From the kitchens of Frances Dodick

## WILD MUSHROOMS

### Credit Cards

Possibly, it's only us, but it seems that on the whole, credit card interest rates are rising rapidly. It has very little to do with the cardholder but with the push by the card companies (banks of course) to inflict the damages prior to the government's closing in to restrict the imposing of exorbitant fees and rates. These restrictions will take place within the next couple of months. Identity theft is on the rise and we only hope that the banks will be as concerned with our security as with their profits.



D. Namlig

We want to hear from you at [mushroom@ourvillagechicago.com](mailto:mushroom@ourvillagechicago.com). We hope that Wild Mushrooms will be a regular feature in this paper, an opportunity for readers to voice legitimate concerns about injustices they experience as consumers and as citizens. P.O. Box 31391, Chicago IL 60631. Contact information will be held in confidence.



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