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*We Honor
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
on the Anniversary of his
Birth, January 15*

(Observed on January 19, 2015)

The City of Chicago reminds residents and business owners to keep your sidewalk shoveled this winter: it's neighborly and it's the law. There is no holiday for shoveling.

WINTER, CHICAGO STYLE

HAS ARRIVED

BE CAREFUL - BE AWARE - HELP OTHERS

GRAMMY pros teach Norwood Park teens music biz!



Jamara Stringfellow of Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy and Mallory Coakley of Resurrection High School collaborate on Songwriting at Best Buy GRAMMY Camp – Weekend, powered by Chicago City of Learning.

Photo by Barry Brecheisen/WireImage for NARAS

(See story on page 5)

Mayor Emanuel, Chicago Park District Celebrate Opening of Maggie Daley Park

Skating ribbon, play garden, climbing features are now open to the public

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO Michael Kelly, members of the Daley family and community leaders today cut the ribbon on the highly anticipated Maggie Daley Park in the heart of downtown Chicago.

"Children from neighborhoods across the City were touched by Maggie Daley through After School Matters and her love of the City; through this park, Maggie's legacy will continue to touch the lives of children from every corner of Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "This new jewel on Chicago's lakefront is just the latest example of the investments we're making in parks, playgrounds and recreational spaces in neighborhoods across the City to create a richer quality of life for all of our residents."

Maggie Daley Park will contribute unique new types of open space and activities to the programmatic range of Grant Park as a whole. The 20 acre park boasts signature elements like rock-climbing sculptures, an ice-skating ribbon and a three-acre play garden.

"We are excited to bring such a unique experience to Chicago, as Maggie Daley Park is poised to become a new downtown destination for residents and visitors from near and far," said Superintendent Kelly. "Regardless of the season, this park provides an informal place for recreation and relaxation alongside a connective landscape that will broaden the appeal of Grant Park as a whole."

Nearly a quarter of a mile long and 20 feet wide, the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Skating Ribbon provides 27,500 square feet of ice surface, which is nearly twice the size of a traditional skating rink. The ice ribbon can hold up to 700 skaters at a time. In the summertime, the ribbon can be used by roller-skaters and scooters or by gallery exhibitions and special events. Admission to the skating rink is free, and skate rental will be free on opening day. Going forward, skate rental will cost \$12.

The Malkin-Sacks Rock Climbing Wall's maximum height is approximately 40 feet over a total surface area of 19,000 square feet. The wall is divided into different sections for beginners and advanced climbers, accommodating bouldering, lead-harnessed and top rope climbing. Between 25 and 100

climbers can use the climbing wall at a time.

The southeast section of the park is anchored by a three-acre Play Garden, the first of its kind in Chicago. In the spirit of Alice in Wonderland and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, play and plantings will have diverse opportunities for fun, adventure, exploration and learning for children of all ages. The Play Garden will create a one-of-a-kind play experience for children that captures their imagination, engages different senses in all seasons of the year and integrates the landscape with custom-designed play structures and sculptures. Up to 600 children can play in this feature at one time. The park also features the Blue Cross Blue Shield Great Lawn.

Maggie Daley Park is bordered by Columbus Drive, Randolph Street, Monroe Street and Lake Shore Drive. The \$60 million park was funded with \$40 million from the Chicago Park District and \$20 million in private donations.

In addition to the special features, the park will also include a variety of event spaces such as three large open lawn areas, a smaller lawn panel and café space. The park also will have picnic groves that can be used for smaller groups, such as birthday parties. The remaining areas of Maggie Daley Park, including portions of the play garden, expanded landscape, and climbing walls, will be open to the public in Spring 2015.

Patrons can now register for winter programs at the renovated Maggie Daley Fieldhouse <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/>. Winter programs begin January 5.

Under Mayor Emanuel's leadership, Chicago's park system has drastically expanded with the addition of nearly 1,000 acres of new park land, 27 new turf field, 17 new parks, 11 new community facilities, 150 refurbished playgrounds and more than \$500 million in capital investment from public and private sources. Earlier this year, the Park District won the 2014 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. This is the first time Chicago or any urban park district has received this prestigious award.

For more information, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312.742.PLAY, 312.747.2001 (TTY).



All Aboard The Stock School Polar Express

Stock School students, cozy in their pajamas and Santa hats, enjoy a viewing of The Polar Express.

(Read More on page 5)

Norwood Community Guide books will be distributed to the Norwood Park community door to door in January. (They will also be available for pick-up at many local businesses. See page 4 for some of them)



COMMUNITY GUIDE 2015

WELCOME



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Winter Safety Tips for Families from the Nonprofit FLASH

According to the National Weather Service, extreme cold and winter storms in 2013 resulted in 46 deaths and extensive disruptions for thousands of families. With another cold blast this week, the nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) offers 21 winter safety and power outage tips to keep families safe and warm.

Affordable Ways to Protect Your Home

For as little as \$1 per 6' of insulation, you can stop pipes from freezing during winter and even when the power goes out.

1. Insulate pipes exposed to the elements or cold drafts with insulating foam. For as little as \$1 per 6' of insulation, you can stop pipes from freezing and save energy.
2. Place an insulating dome or other covering on outdoor faucets and spigots to reduce the likelihood of the water in your pipes freezing, expanding and causing a costly leak.
3. Drip faucets to reduce the build-up of pressure in the pipes. Even if the pipes freeze, you have released the pressure from the water system reducing the likelihood of a rupture. If you are going out of town, and suspect that temperatures will drop or a power outage will occur, turn off the water to

your home and open all of the taps to drain the water system. This way you won't return to a frozen, soggy mess.

4. Check for air leaks around windows and doors using a lit incense stick. If the smoke is sucked out of an opening, seal the leak with caulk, spray foam or weather stripping.

Keep Your Family Safe & Warm

5. Keep a supply of flashlights, batteries and a battery-powered radio on hand. Do not use candles as they pose a fire hazard.
6. After the power goes out, make sure to turn off all lights but one, to alert you when power resumes.
7. Resist the temptation to call 911 for information during power outages. Instead use your battery-powered radio for information.
8. Keep your car fuel tank at least half full as gas stations rely on electricity to operate their pumps and may not have back-up power.
9. Keep extra cash on hand since an extended power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from ATMs or banks.
10. Be a snow angel. Volunteer to check on elderly neighbors, friends, or relatives who may need assistance during the outage.

11. Wear layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.

12. If you are using a gas heater or fireplace to stay warm, be sure the area is properly ventilated.

13. Arrange ahead of time with family, friends, or neighbors for a place to go if you have an extended outage. If you have nowhere to go, head to a designated public shelter. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345)

Food

14. Keep a supply of non-perishable foods, medicine, baby supplies, and pet food on hand, and have at least one gallon of water per person per day on hand.

15. Avoid opening the fridge or freezer. Food should be safe as long as the outage lasts no more than four hours.

Generators

16. Do not run a generator inside a home or garage. Use gas-powered generators only

in well-ventilated areas.

17. Follow manufacturer's instructions such as only connect individual appliances to portable generators.

18. Don't plug emergency generators into electric outlets or hook them directly to your home's electrical system as they can feed electricity back into the power lines, putting you and line workers in danger.

19. Consider purchasing and installing a permanent home generator with an automatic on switch.

When Power Returns

20. When power comes back on, it may come back with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage equipment such as computers and motors in appliances like the air conditioner, refrigerator, washer or furnace. Be sure to install a system of surge protection that consists of point-of-use devices and whole house surge protection.

21. When power is restored, wait a few minutes before turning on major appliances to help eliminate potential problems caused from sharp increases in demand.

For more information, tips and resources for winter safety visit the Great Winter Weather Party preparedness campaign.

Car Prep for Cold Weather Ahead

- Test your battery – Have it checked out, as your battery can lose power due to the drop in temperature. The last thing you want is to be stuck in freezing weather with a car that won't start!
- Check your tire pressure monthly – For every 10 degrees the temperature drops, your tires can lose about 1 pound per square inch (PSI) of pressure. Monitor your tire pressure more closely during the winter time.
- Replace all-season tires with winter tires – Temperatures lower than 45 degrees cause your all-season tires to stiffen and lose traction, but the latest generations of winter tires remain flexible in freezing temperatures, improving traction and available grip. Check your tire depth with the penny test to make sure you have enough tread to grip the road in ice and precipitation.
- Keep your car washed – Keep the exterior washed and waxed to protect your vehicle from the elements as the seasons change.

FEMA Winter Tips - Stay Safe During Bitterly Cold Temperatures and Dangerous Snow Conditions

Dangerously low temperatures and accumulating snow are in the forecast for much of the Midwest and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) wants individuals and families to be safe when faced with the hazards of cold temperatures and winter weather.

"Subfreezing temperatures and wind chills can be dangerous and even life-threatening for people who don't take the proper precautions," said Andrew Velasquez III, FEMA Regional Administrator. "It is important for everyone to monitor their local weather reports and take steps now to stay safe, whether traveling or at home, during times of extreme cold temperatures."

During cold weather, you should take the following precautions:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit your exposure to the cold;
- Dress in layers and keep dry;
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who are at risk and may need additional assistance;
- Know the symptoms of cold-related health issues such as frostbite and hypothermia and seek medical attention if health conditions are severe.
- Bring your pets indoors or ensure they have a warm shelter area with unfrozen water.
- Make sure your vehicle has an emergency kit that includes an ice scraper, blanket and flashlight – and keep the fuel tank above half full.
- If you are told to stay off the roads, stay home. If you must drive, don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule and stay on main roads.

You can find more information and tips on being ready for winter weather and extreme cold temperatures at <http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>.

Sickweather Alert:

Chicago Illnesses Going Around 1/6/15 – 1/13/15

Sickweather is observing peak flu activity this week in your area and is prepared to help Chicagoans navigate through the remaining flu season. This is the weekly forecast for your area:

Fever, Common Cold, and Flu are going around in Chicago. Reports of Flu are likely at peak levels for the season.

Here's the link to the Animated 5-Day Chicago Map: <http://sick.io/z3q2q>

Sickweather Forecast & Maps explained: Sickweather uses a patent-pending process to track and map reports of illness on Twitter and Facebook. The forecast represents the top trending illnesses reported in any given area. The maps show clusters of activity as represented by a heat map, or individual reports as represented by blue "SICK" map markers.

About Sickweather: Sickweather, a Baltimore-based company, provides online reports and a mobile app that scans social networks for indicators of illness, and maps real time data on more than 23 different symptoms and illnesses. Sickweather launched their beta website in November 2011, and now qualifies over 2 million reports of illness each month. In 2012, they were recognized among "100 Brilliant Companies" by Entrepreneur Magazine and featured on the Today Show and NBC Nightly News for successfully identifying the early start of the 2012 Flu Season 6 weeks before the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). For more information, please visit: <http://www.sickweather.com>

OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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State of Illinois 2015 Future City® Competition— Students Developing Concepts for Feeding Future Cities

As part of the 2015 National Future City® Competition, over 40 middle school teams from the local area will be competing with designing a city with its own food resources under the concept of “Feeding Future Cities.” This is the largest number of teams registered in the 22nd year of the Illinois competition. The State of Illinois Regional competition is currently preparing for the sixth, seventh and eighth graders to compete on Jan. 24, 2015. The Illinois regional committee is currently working with the teams, professionals who serve as team mentors to work with students, and judges for the upcoming competition. The public can attend the competition for free which will be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

During the Future City® Competition, students worked as a team to design a virtual city and solutions using SimCity™ software. Over the past four months, the students researched the defined city wide issue and write an essay with their findings and solutions. The team builds a tabletop scale model of their city using recycled materials with a budget no greater than \$100 and they write a brief narrative promoting their city. All teams have the same budget and have access to the software.

On Jan. 24, 2015, student teams will present their version of the future to a panel of judges at the Regional Competition held at the University of Illinois at Chicago. After the judging, awards will be presented in the afternoon. The public is invited to attend the competition and show for free.

“This is the 22nd year of conducting this regional competition. This year’s competition requires students to create a vision for the future regarding “Feeding Future Cities.” It is an interesting topic and more critical as the world’s population continues to grow,” said Future City® Competition Regional Coordinator Don Wittmer, P.E., Transportation Manager with HNTB.

The winning team from the Illinois region will receive a fully paid round-trip, travel and hotel accommodations, to compete in the National Finals held in Washington, DC on Feb. 22-28, 2015 during National Engineers Week. The four-day national competition will result in one team receiving the top national prize of a trip to U.S. Space Camp for one week stay in Huntsville, AL and \$7,500 for organization’s STEM(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program.

“The Regional Competition brings together innovative students from Chicago and throughout Illinois. We are always surprised by their creativity and excitement,” stated Matthew A. Miller, P.E. with HNTB. The top teams from the region share their transformative ideas at the Annual Chicago Engineers Benefit on Feb. 27, 2015.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support. Our Gold Sponsors are: American Society of Civil Engineers(ASCE) Illinois Section, ASCE-UIC Student Chapter, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Golden Square LLC, and HNTB. Our Silver sponsors are: CivCon Services, Perkins and Will, and the University of Illinois at Chicago, Inc. Our Bronze Sponsors are: American Concrete Institute-Illinois Chapter, Associated Steel Erectors, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Civil Tech, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates and Weldy/Lamont Associates, Ltd.

Begun in 1992, the Future City® Competition is part of the rich history of DiscoverE. For more information about Future City, visit www.futurecity.org. Information on the State of Illinois past winners can be found here.

If you have questions, contact Future City® Regional Coordinator Don Wittmer, P.E., HNTB at dwittmer@hntb.com, or Matthew Miller, P.E., HNTB, at mamiller@hntb.com.

Evanston’s Special Event Permit Applications Due Jan. 30

Groups and organizations that wish to hold special events in the City of Evanston in 2015 will need to submit a Special Event Permit Application by Friday, January 30, 2015.

A non-refundable \$150 application fee must be submitted along with the initial Event Permit Application for all non-City sponsored events.

Events are subject to final approval of the City’s Special Events Committee and, in some cases, the City Council.

Submit the application, along with a description of your proposed event, to the City of Evanston, Parks and Recreation and Community Services Department, c/o Special Events Committee, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 or fax to 847-448-8051.

For more information, call 847-866-2914 or visit www.cityofevanston.org/business/permits-licenses/special-event-permit-application/

Friends Of Ed Kelly Urge Renaming Of Green Briar Park

Group Asks Park District to Name Park After Former Superintendent

A group of friends and business associates of former Chicago Park District General Superintendent Ed Kelly is urging the Chicago Park District to change the name of Green Briar Park to Ed Kelly Park.

The group is led by publicist Bernie DiMeo who worked at the park district in the 1970’s before starting his own business. DiMeo said he first met Ed Kelly as a 10-year-old baseball player at Pottawatomie Park on the north side of Chicago. “He’s been a good friend and business associate for many years,” DiMeo said. “He’s very deserving of this honor.”

Kelly spent 11 of his 38 years with the park district at Green Briar Park. DiMeo is mailing petitions to a “substantial” number of people from Kelly’s rolodex and people can also sign an online petition at www.edkellypark.com.

“Medicare 101” will be Timely Talk at Norwood Crossing on Jan. 21

Mention Medicare to many elderly children and their parents and the response is often frustration and lack of understanding. The paperwork is cumbersome and results in as many questions as answers. If you’re one of the frustrated ones, be sure to attend the Timely Talk, “Medicare 101,” presented by elder law and estate planning attorney Mollie Whitehead with Michael H. Erde & Associates. The event will take place, at 2:00 p.m., on Jan. 21, at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago.

In her presentation, Whitehead will cover eligibility, the application process, planning strategies, interpreting billing, and what costs to pay. Whitehead graduated Magna Cum Laude from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, and received her doctorate from Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, DC.

A question and answer session, raffle and light refreshments will follow the talk. For more information or to RSVP, please call (773) 577-5323 or email info@norwoodcrossing.org.

Talk To A Lawyer For Free On Saturday, January 17TH

Attorneys with the Chicago Bar Association’s Call-A-Lawyer program will be taking calls on Saturday, January 17th, from 9 a.m. to noon at no cost. Call (312) 554-2001 to speak with an attorney about any legal question or issue.

Call-A-Lawyer events are held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The number to call is (312) 554-2001.

Annual Easter Ham Raffle. Sign Up NOW! Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce

Sign up now to raffle Easter Hams. Hams are \$20 each. Deadline is February 10th.

The raffle will take place between March 1st to March 18th. The Chamber will provide tickets, raffle buckets and contact the winners for you.

All business participants plus raffle entry forms will be listed in the TV Facts for free. Over 800 entries were received for the 2014 Ham raffle, 300 being TV Facts entries.

Contact the BCCC office at 773-647-1644



Local Author Stan “Tex” Banash To Discuss Roadside History Of Illinois At Norwood Park Senior Center Jan. 26

Chicago author Stan “Tex” Banash will discuss his third book, Roadside History of Illinois, at the Norwood Park Senior Center, 5801 N. Natoma, in Chicago, at 4:00 p.m., on January 26. A cowboy style dinner will follow the event, and a \$5.00 per person donation is requested. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and inscription following the talk.

If you are interested in learning about some lesser known facts related to Illinois history and be introduced to the places and events where history happened, this is a power-point presentation you won’t want to miss. Banash, who serves as director of public relations at Norwood Crossing, a long-term care retirement community in Norwood Park, will present a brief overview of the book, explain some of the state’s history from the Ice Age to the present, and point out a few of the significant incidents in the state’s seven regions that helped shape the state. The book takes readers along old U.S. highways, state roadways and county roads, leading to the people, places and events that contributed to the state’s development. It is the first book on Illinois history in more than 30 years and has been praised by former U.S. Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III and Wayne C. Temple, Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives.

Last May, the Illinois House of Representatives recognized the importance of the book to Illinois history by passing a House Resolution that congratulated the author on its publication.

Active in his local community, Banash is a six-term past president of a local chamber of commerce and chaired a local zoning advisory board for 19 years. He also operated his own home-based public relations firm for more than 30 years. The author graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and obtained a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Roosevelt University. His two earlier books were Best of Dee Brown’s West and Dee Brown’s Civil War Anthology. He also reviews books for a number of western publications, and is a member of Western Writers of America, the Society of Midland Authors, Illinois State Historical Society, Western History Association, and the Westerners—Chicago Corral, where he served as its sheriff for five years.

To RSVP or for more information, call (773) 775-6071 or email info@npseniorcenter.org.



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

Welcome to 2015! Make this year one to remember by opening your heart and home to an animal in need!

There are countless benefits, for both pets and humans, that come with adopting a four-legged friend. The unconditional love of an adopted cat or dog can have an amazing impact on the life of a person. Some of these benefits include: lowering blood pressure, helping with depression, easing loneliness, and simply giving you a reason to get up in the morning. Take it from us, there is nothing more comforting than a kitty asleep in your lap, or a dog snuggled up next to you! And look at it this way, a dog that loves to go on walks or runs can be just the incentive you need to help you become more active this year!

The best part? Knowing that you saved your new companion and gave them a second chance at life makes the bond you share that much more meaningful.

If you are not in the position to adopt at the moment, spread the word about the importance of adoption to those you know that may be ready to adopt. Or, consider donating to the Society so that we are able to better help many of Chicago's animals most in need.

If you are already enjoying life with an adopted friend from the Society, feel free to drop us an email with your success story at pr@anticruelty.org.

Happy New Year!

Humane Education After School Program

We are now accepting applications for the spring session of our After School Program, "Exploring the 'Link'."

The goal of "Exploring the 'Link'" is to help students gain insight into how violence and cruelty affect their community, themselves, and animals. Students receive service learning hours for participating. To learn more about the program and to apply, please visit our website.

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Mental Illness Family Classes in Des Plaines & Evanston

Do you have a family member with mental illness? The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban Chapter, will offer the Family-to-Family Education Program, a 12-week course for families of adult loved ones dealing with serious mental illness.

We have two winter-spring sessions, Des Plaines & Evanston. Classes start at the Frisbie Center, 52 E. Northwest Hwy, on Thursday evenings, Jan 22 – Apr 9, 6:30-9:00 pm, and, at the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, on Saturday mornings, Feb 21–May 9, 9-11:30 am.

Learn about the major mental illnesses, treatments and medications, services available, crisis preparation, communication, and coping strategies. Get ideas that help you take care of yourself and your family. This course is free of charge and is taught by trained family members who have cared for loved ones with mental illness. Call NAMI, 847-716-2252 to register.

NAMI CCNS, founded in 1991, is a not-for-profit organization of individuals, families, and professionals dedicated to helping individuals overcome mental illness and supporting their families. We provide information, educational programs, advocacy, support, and referrals.

The communities we serve include north and northwest Chicago, Deerfield, Des Plaines, Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Highland Park, Kenilworth, south Lake County, Lake Forest, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Mt. Prospect, Niles, Northbrook, Northfield, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights, Skokie, Wilmette, and Winnetka.

NORWOOD COMMUNITY GUIDE BOOKS

will be distributed to the Norwood Park community door to door in January. They will also be available to pick up at the following Norwood Park local businesses: Iron Horse Ale House, Dish Dine & Drink, Norwood Park Ace Hardware Norwood Crossing & Norwood Seniors Network, Dino's Pizza, Ron's Barber Shop, Presence Resurrection Medical Center, I.C. Church, Signature Bank, Cosmetic Auto, 41 Ward Alderman's Office, Harlem/Higgins Dunkin Donuts, Mathers More Than A Cafe, & The Danish Home & Norwood Park Train Station.

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

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

Elvis Karaoke Presented At Chicago Public Library

Public Invited To Perform Favorite Elvis Presley Hits Live

Last year, Chicago Public Library's Music Information Center (MIC) presented "Beats Karaoke," to mark the 50th anniversary of their first visit to the U.S. In 2015, the MIC invites the public to partake in the Library's first-ever Elvis Karaoke, to celebrate what would have been Elvis Presley's 80th birthday – Elvis was born January 8, 1935. All fans of the "King of Rock & Roll," young and old, are invited to come on stage and sing their favorite Elvis Presley song. The free event takes place on Friday, January 16 at 12:15 p.m., in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, Lower Level, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.

It doesn't matter if you're a bona fide Elvis impersonator, or just love Elvis' style of Rock & Roll, come out and have some fun! Participants can pick two of Elvis' songs from the available catalog provided by the MIC. What's your favorite? Select from such hits as All Shook Up, Are You Lonesome Tonight?, Blue Suede Shoes, Burning Love, Don't Be Cruel, Heartbreak Hotel, Hound Dog, It's Now or Never, Jailhouse Rock and lots more. The Library will provide the lyric sheet and the CD music track for each song.

To avoid multiple performances of the same song, the Music Information Center will offer selections on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required. Call the Library's Music Information Center at 312-747-4850. Registration closes at 5:00 pm, Thursday, January 15, 2015 or when all songs are selected, whichever comes first.

Since 1873, the Chicago Public Library (CPL) has encouraged lifelong learning by welcoming all people and offering equal access to information, entertainment and knowledge through innovative services and programs, as well as cutting-edge technology. Through its 80 locations, the Library provides free access to a rich collection of materials, both physical and digital, and presents the highest quality author discussions, exhibits and programs for children, teens and adults. CPL recently received the Social Innovator Award from Chicago Innovation Awards; won a National Medal for Library Services from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and was ranked number one in the U.S. and third in the world by an international study of major urban libraries conducted by the Heinrich Heine University Dusseldorf in Germany. For more information, please call (312) 747-4050 or visit chipublib.org.

Evanston's Applications Available for Publication Display Boxes on City Sidewalks

The City of Evanston is consolidating newspaper boxes on public sidewalks in order to provide a better walkable/accessible sidewalk area, reduce clutter, improve maintenance, and provide uniformity. Individual racks will be removed from sidewalks as multi-unit boxes are placed along the corridors. Publications cannot be placed in the new boxes without a City-issued permit.

The first seven installation areas were along Church Street (at Oak, Sherman, and Chicago Avenues) and Davis Street (at Chicago, Orrington, west of Benson, and Oak Avenues). All individual racks have been removed along these corridors. The new multi-compartment publication display boxes include display space for both coin-operated paid publications and free publications.

Multi-compartment boxes next will be installed in the Central Business District, Central Street and Main Street areas. During 2016, installations will take place in the Chicago/Dempster, South Blvd./CTA, Noyes Street, Howard Street, Dempster/Dodge, Foster/CTA, and Church/Dodge areas.

Permit applications are available online at cityofevanston.org/newsracks. There is no fee charged for a permit. If a space is available, the permit will be issued for the specific location(s). If a space is not available, the applicant will be informed and a permit will be issued when space becomes available.

For more information, please call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, residents can also dial 3-1-1 in Evanston.

1000+ Expected To Attend Destination: Chicago Maker Party January 24

Youth Challenged To Take Chicago City Of Learning's Winter Break Adventure Now

WHAT: Young Chicagoans 4-24 (and families) are invited to drop in on Destination: Chicago – Winter Break, a free festival of doing and making, on Saturday, January 24, between 11am and 4pm, at Jones College Prep. There, partygoers can sample programs offered by dozens of youth-serving organizations located citywide. This Maker Party will feature hands-on activities and workshops to fulfill many interests, including robotics, nature, fashion, art, music, architecture, science, digital media, coding and more!

Youth will be entered into a drawing for an iPad Mini and other prizes when they complete the Winter Break Adventure Challenge between now and January 19. It's all about exploring Chicago and making cool stuff! Visit ChicagoCityofLearning.org today!

Chicago City of Learning (CCOL) is a city-wide, year-round program that sees all of Chicago as a classroom – with endless opportunities to learn new skills, discover passions and build pathways to further education and careers. Digital badges offered through CCOL recognize learning across programs in the initiative – whether at a park, museum, library, or online course – giving learners a digital portfolio that communicates the skills they have developed. CCOL is led by the City of Chicago and Digital Youth Network at DePaul University, and it continues to be supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur

Foundation. It is sponsored by Best Buy, as well as Comcast.

WHEN: Saturday, January 24, 2015
11am – 4pm

WHERE: Jones College Prep
700 South State Street, Chicago, IL 60605
Parking is available on the street or in a lot across the street.
Harrison CTA station (Red line) is at 608 South State Street.
Buses 2, 6, 10, 29 and 146 stop at State & Balbo.

COST: FREE

CONTACT: <http://ChicagoCityofLearning.org>
ccol@mkcpr.com
312-822-0505

Local Entrepreneur to Open Children's Lighthouse Learning Center on Chicago's Northside Business Developer Signs Agreement to Open Brand's First Educational Childcare Center in the Chicagoland Area

Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers, widely recognized as a leading early-educational childcare provider in the United States, has signed a franchise agreement with Scott Waltenburg to open a new location on Chicago's Northside. Projected to open in the 2nd quarter of 2015, the new learning center will be located at 2600 W. Irving Park Rd. in Chicago's North Center neighborhood.

"There is no denying the demand for educational childcare here in Chicago. More than ever, parents are putting a high priority on placing their children in an engaging environment where fun and learning come together," said Waltenburg. "I can't wait for families in the community to experience the Children's Lighthouse difference."

Prior to signing an agreement with Children's Lighthouse, Waltenburg honed his entrepreneurial skills by founding Waltenburg Holdings, LLC, a Northbrook-based holding company. An investment in Pump it Up, a children's birthday party venue, piqued his interest in early childhood education.

The new center will offer classroom and group activity settings, including ample play area both inside and outside the facility, and will provide on-site meal services. Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers serves families with children from just six weeks old to six years old. In addition to childcare during traditional school hours, the new Northside Chicago center will provide before and after-school programs and summer camps for local elementary school students.

Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers are safe and secure environments that give parents peace of mind, including online video links to rooms, computerized building entry, security monitor-

ing and transportation to and from area elementary schools.

"In my opinion, Children's Lighthouse will fill a growing need in the community. We will be providing parents a place where they can feel confident that their kids are safe and secure," Waltenburg noted. "With children of my own, I know just how much this sense of security means."

Children's Lighthouse is on a rapid ascent to the top of the educational childcare industry, and franchise investors are taking notice. The wave of momentum that carried Children's Lighthouse through 2013 includes adding new schools in key U.S. markets that grew its footprint by nearly 70 percent.

Along with the forthcoming Chicago center, 20 new Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers are in development and/or construction, preparing to join the 40 that are already operating. Additional schools are planned for California, Florida, Kansas, North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia and Texas.

"We are growing into new communities with talented individuals like Scott who share our passion for community, nurturing care and education," said Pat Brown, president and co-founder of Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers. "We couldn't be happier about adding our first school in Chicago and doing so with an entrepreneur as gifted as Scott. With his qualifications, Children's Lighthouse has a bright future in the region."

Launched 17 years ago, Children's Lighthouse provides entrepreneurs with the opportunity to open in attractive metropolitan areas. Ownership in a Children's Lighthouse franchise includes a full suite of support services, including site selection, financing guidance, construction administration, and grand opening marketing best practices. Children's Lighthouse's initial and ongoing training and support is led by an experienced team of childcare veterans, providing the franchise owner invaluable insight and leadership for the entire life of the franchise.

About Children's Lighthouse

Established in Ft. Worth, Texas in 1995, Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers is the leading values-based educational childcare system in the United States. The company has approximately 250 employees at its company headquarters and eight company-owned centers. Currently, Children's Lighthouse has 40 centers in operation and 20 additional franchise locations in the pipeline. Children's Lighthouse has been named one of the "Best Places to Work" by the Dallas Business Journal, and has received the "Franchise 500" designation by Entrepreneur magazine due to its stability, financial strength, and growth. For more information about Children's Lighthouse Learning Centers, visit www.childrenslighthouse.com or childrenslighthousefranchise.com

Free "Money Smart" and "Affordable Care Act-Get Covered Illinois" Workshops Offered at Chicago Public Library in January

Chicago Public Library continues its free series of financial literacy programs designed to help people become more "money smart." Presented in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and its partners, Money Smart programs help participants understand the business of money, gain control of their finances and learn practical money skills for life.

Money Smart programs are held year round at library locations throughout the city. In addition, all Chicago Public Library locations offer books and online resources which allow participants to learn more about organizing their personal finances and financial planning.

Also in January, Chicago Public Library offers a free workshop providing information and assistance in registering for health care coverage under the Get Covered Illinois—Affordable Care Act (ACA).

For a listing of Money Smart programs and the Get Covered Illinois-ACA Workshop, please visit chipublic.org.

Time is On Your Side: Savings Tips for College Seniors and New Employees

At this workshop, find ways to manage your paycheck to successfully meet both short-term and long-term. Learn how to start saving, and the importance of starting early, especially for long-term goals like retirement. Presented by Money Smart Partner, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Tuesday, January 20 at 12 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center Video Theater, Lower Level, 400 S. State St. (312) 747-4300

Turning 65: Understand Original Medicare and Medicare Supplement Insurance

This educational presentation will cover eligibility, enrollment and benefits of Medicare Parts A and B and the standardized Medicare Supplement Plans available in Illinois. Attendees will benefit from this program if they will soon be eligible for Medicare, already on Medicare but losing their group benefits, a caregiver of a Medicare beneficiary and anyone who would like to learn more about the hospital and medical insurance benefits of Medicare and Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans. Presented by Money Smart Partner, Blue Cross, Blue Shield.

Thursday, January 22 at 2 p.m., Edgebrook Branch, 5331 W. Devon Ave., (312) 744-8313

Do You Know About the Skokie TeenLink Program?

The Skokie TeenLink program is a database collection of Skokie teens who are available to do outside yard work, including snow shoveling, which is provided to Skokie residents upon request. Many residents who request the TeenLink list are unable to do physical work themselves, unable to afford the cost of a professional contractor on a regular basis or only need assistance during one season. The TeenLink list provides contact information for Skokie teens including the name and address of the teen, days of availability, type of work they are willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents can receive the list by mail or email.

This program becomes very popular and sought after during the snow season. It's always best to receive the TeenLink list early in the year and contact the teen before needing assistance.

The resident is responsible for contacting the teen and for making financial and scheduling arrangements.

Do you know a Skokie resident who may benefit from the TeenLink list? Please contact the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257 for more information. Skokie teens can also complete an application to be added to the TeenLink program by contacting the Village Manager's Office or visiting www.skokie.org to download an application.

All Aboard The Stock School Polar Express

The Polar Express roared through Stock School Friday, December 12, 2014, to help ring in the holiday season for students and staff. Stock School's gym, usually full of preschool students working on gross motor activities, was transformed into a North Pole winter wonderland theater, complete with a movie screen, twinkling lights and a homemade train.

Children boarded the Polar Express at 10:00 and 1:30 by handing tickets to conductors who bore a striking resemblance to Stock School Administration. All riding the Polar Express were encouraged to wear pajamas and Santa hats to school to bring the story to life for students. After viewing parts of the movie to supplement the week-long close read of the book, The Polar Express, students and staff alike were able to end their day by ringing hand bells to mark the end of their ride on the Polar Express. Once the movie was completed, children were treated to hot cocoa and popcorn, and some even received classroom gifts covered in snow, delivered straight from the North Pole!

Premiere Best Buy Grammy Camp® Weekend Powered By Chicago City Of Learning Gives Dozens Of Local High School Students Introduction To Music Business

For 50 years, teens have been watching the annual GRAMMY Awards® show and dreaming of a career in music. On Saturday, for the first time ever, 34 female high school students were granted the privilege of working side-by-side with GRAMMY Foundation® professionals to develop industry skills and get a taste of the music business. Held on DePaul University's Loop Campus, Best Buy GRAMMY Camp® – Weekend, powered by Chicago City of Learning, gave students free, expert training in Songwriting, Electronic Music Production or Audio Engineering.

"You don't know how much this means to me," said 11th grader Sydney Evans. "Songwriting is my dream, and you guys are helping me achieve my goals!"

Approximately 50 other applicants were gleaned from high schools citywide, as well as after school programs, such as those offered by the Best Buy Teen Tech Center at Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy and other Chicago City of Learning partner organizations like YOUmedia, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, GlobalGirl Media, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and After School Matters.

Professional participants included: Greg "Stryke" Chin, recording artist, producer, author, music technologist, GRAMMY Foundation Board member, and electronic music production faculty member; Christopher Blood, department head of music production, co-chair of academic leadership committee at McNally Smith College of Music, and audio engineer faculty member; Anne Heaton, singer/songwriter, pianist and songwriting faculty member; and Christopher Sampson, vice dean, professor of songwriting, founding director of the popular music program at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, and songwriting faculty member.

Not only did participants learn about the music industry and jobs within it, but they also earned a digital badge, which shows the skills they achieved and is stored at ChicagoCityofLearning.org in portfolios that can be shared with teachers or prospective employers.

Dr. Nichole Pinkard, founder of the Digital Youth Network at DePaul University, which coordinates Chicago City of Learning (CCOL), thanked Best Buy and GRAMMY Foundation for their partnership. "This free opportunity puts young Chicagoans interested in the music business on a pathway toward their ideal career. That's what CCOL is all about."

While the GRAMMY Foundation influences the lives of young people by opening the windows of opportunity that music can provide for their futures, Best Buy's Teen Tech Centers are all about showing youth of today the wonders of technology. Chicago City of Learning (CCOL), of which Best Buy is the lead corporate sponsor, joins together learning opportunities for young people in a



Brittany Scroggins of Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy and Karla Bautista of Resurrection College Prep get real-world advice from singer, songwriter, violinist, recording artist and actor Anne Harris of GRAMMY Camp Foundation at the first ever Best Buy GRAMMY Camp - Weekend, powered by Chicago City of Learning.

Photo by Barry Brecheisen/WireImage for NARAS

way that allows them to think about, pursue, and develop their interests, leading to what they can ultimately become.

The participants of this camp will have the chance to apply for a full scholarship to the summer residential GRAMMY Camp program. Anyone interested in an immersive music industry summer experience is encouraged to apply to GRAMMY Camp at www.grammyintheschools.com before the March 31, 2015 deadline.



Skokie Idol Begins January 31

By Wayne Mell – Managing Director

It all starts January 31. MadKap Productions is holding its very first SKOKIE IDOL competition. With all of the considerable local talent we're surrounded by, we're sure it's going to be an exciting contest.

Contestants will compete in one of three divisions based on age: Grades 3-8, High School Students, and Adults. People with bring in their very best songs and can be accompanied by a karaoke tracks on a CD, the piano at the theatre, another musical instrument they bring in, or they may even sing a Capella.

On January 31, the top eight contestants in each division will be selected to return for weekly sing-offs.

Weekly sing-offs will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 on Saturday afternoons in February and March and will be open to the public. Each week, the audience will help the judges select the contestants in each category that move on to the next week.

The final round will be held Saturday evening, March 28, 2015, at 7:30 pm. The finals will consist of 3 songs to be sung by each contestant. Contestants will be encouraged to bring an accompanist with them for the finals. The winner of the finals from each category will win the GRAND PRIZE, and the prizes are outstanding.

First up, each of the grand prize winners will team up for an All-star solo concert at Wednesdays On The Green on July 8, 2105. They will also receive a professionally recorded CD of the concert, free voice lessons in preparation of the event, and a \$50 gift certificate to spend any way they want in the shops of Downtown Skokie. Prizes are provided by IMODS (Independent Merchants of Downtown Skokie) and the Top Note music academy.

The contest will be held at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave in Downtown Skokie. There is a \$35 registration fee, with a \$10 discount for residents of Skokie, Morton Grove, Niles and Lincolnwood.

Judges include MadKap Executive Director Wendy Kaplan, Myrna Petlicki from Chicago Cabaret Professionals, comedian Caryn Bark, Broadway, Our Way's Debbie Brodsky and local musicians and performers including Gary Powell, Carla Gordon, Ken Preuss, Jessica Lauren Fisher, Kevin Wood, Chelly McKanna, Charlene Brooks, Daryl Nitz, Lizzie Brodsky, and Top Note Music Academy's Teacher Dan Rosa.

For complete contest rules and registration, please visit SkokieTheatre.org or call the Skokie Idol Hotline at 847-677-7761 ext. 4



Local Artist Tests the Limits of Painting Haberman Exhibit Part of Broader Campaign to Revitalize Northwest Side Arts Scene

The work of painter and Northwest Side resident Jared Haberman will fill the walls of the Perkolorator coffeehouse January 5 through February 14. The exhibit will be presented in conjunction with the Northwest Arts Connection, a grassroots organization dedicated to highlighting the area's cultural opportunities and talents.

Haberman is best known for painting intense colors, on repurposed vintage windows. Other work incorporates ripped pieces of paper from newspaper comics, old prayer booklets, music sheets and even old phone books. Each piece challenges audiences to think beyond the norm and realize that practically anything can serve as a painter's canvas, including book pages, windows or plexiglass.

For Haberman, the unconventional use of materials was an early trademark. "I always carried a sketchbook on me and a Precision tipped black pen to sketch with," he said, reflecting on a childhood obsession. "I filled books and books full of sometimes the same drawing over and over again, front to back, both sides of the paper. I would frequently run out of paper and have to use the back of an old poster, or in my most recent ventures, phone book pages, and now, onto windows."

The Haberman exhibit will be one of many planned collaborations between the Northwest Arts Connection and Perkolorator, which opened last fall in the heart of Portage Park's Irving-Austin business district at 6032 W. Irving Park Road.

For more about Jared Haberman, visit <http://jaredhaberman.blogspot.com>.

For more information about the Northwest Arts Connection, contact Marlena Ascher. marlena-ascher@sbcglobal.net

Contact Perkolorator at (773) 853-2261 or visit them on Facebook.

Open Enrollment for the 2015-2016 School Year

Call for a tour today or plan to attend one of our Shadow Days/Open House dates!

Shadow Days are scheduled at both campuses on
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Wed., Feb. 25th; 5-7PM
Wed., March 18th; 5-7PM
Wed., April 15th; 5-7PM
Wed., May 13th; 5-7PM

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Sun., Jan. 25th; Noon-4PM
Tues., Feb. 24th; 5-7PM
Tues., March 17th; 5-7PM
Tues., April 14th; 5-7PM
Tues., May 12th; 5-7PM

Lutheran Unity West
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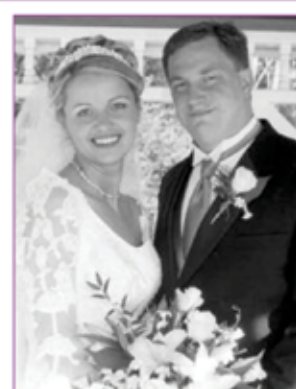
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Our new name reflects our commitment to the community and speaks to our “patient before profit” approach to providing award winning compassionate care.



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The Chicago Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: Your Local Legal Network

The Importance of Intellectual Property Protection

by Scott A. Andresen, Andresen & Associates, P.C. and Chair of The Chicago Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service Committee

While many small business owners wouldn't think of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on a new house and then leaving the front door unlocked while they are out of town, that is essentially what they do when it comes to their valuable intangible business assets. The names, logos, slogans, taglines, publications, artistic creations, etcetera of any business should all be protected to the greatest extent possible via federal trademark and/or copyright registrations. However, this important business necessity is often forgotten or ignored (or, more recently, put to the side because of financial limitations) and businesses often inadvertently leave their valuable intellectual property "unlocked" and open to use or theft by third parties by their failure to acquire adequate protection.

While the new house example in the previous paragraph is presented tongue-in-cheek, it serves to illustrate the importance of protecting the intellectual property associated with one's business. The statement is often made, "I was always told that I didn't need federal registrations in order to protect my intellectual property." While it is true that a trademark owner can establish some rights based on legitimate use in commerce, owning a federal trademark registration on the Principal Register of the United States Patent and Trademark Office provides several advantages, including: (1) constructive notice to the public of the registrant's claim of ownership of the mark; (2) a legal presumption of the registrant's ownership of the mark and the registrant's exclusive right to use the mark nationwide on or in connection with the goods and/or services listed in

the registration; (3) the ability to bring an action concerning the mark in federal court; (4) the use of the U.S. registration as a basis to obtain registration in foreign countries; and (5) the ability to file the U.S. registration with the U.S. Customs Service to prevent importation of infringing foreign goods. Similarly, federal copyright registrations (as opposed to common law or "poor man's" rights) provide for a number of benefits in addition to having one's rights a matter of public record—especially in the event of a third party infringement. In particular, registered copyrighted works may be eligible for statutory damages (e.g., plaintiffs who can show willful infringement may be entitled to damages up to \$150,000 per work) and attorney's fees in successful litigation—and I promise you that attorney's fees are a big deal in a federal litigation under even the best of circumstances.

Finally, it is important to remember that registered trademarks and copyrights are identifiable and quantifiable assets that increase the overall valuation (and potential revenue-generating opportunities) of a business.

About the Lawyer Referral Service: The Chicago Bar Association has been making referrals to local attorneys for more than 70 years. Our lawyers are screened and have an average of 20 years of experience. We can help YOU find the right lawyer! Call 312-554-2001 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) or visit www.chicagobar.org/LRS for referral to a private attorney in the Chicagoland area. Evening/weekend help available for criminal, domestic relations and personal injury matters.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board Swears In Three Commissioners



Pictured, left to right, Judge Thomas R. Allen, Commissioner Cynthia Santos and daughter Cristine.

Two returning commissioners were joined by a newly elected commissioner for the official swearing in ceremony and installation during the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Board of Commissioners' annual meeting held recently.

Commissioner Cynthia Santos was installed for her fourth six year term, and was sworn in by Circuit Court Judge of Cook County Thomas R. Allen. Commissioner Santos' daughter Cristine held the bible during the ceremony.

Commissioner Frank Avila was installed for his third term, and was sworn in for his third term by Circuit Court Judge of Cook County Edmund Ponce de Leon, and his wife of 49 years, Sherry, held the bible.

Commissioner Timothy Bradford was installed for his first term and was sworn in by Circuit Court Judge of Cook County Linzey D. Jones, and his wife Mary Ann, held the bible. "All of the Commissioners and staff are like family, and we welcome Commissioner Bradford into our family," said Acting President Barbara McGowan.

"The ABCs Of BDS" Workshop At Ezra-Habonim, The Niles Township Cong.

BDS - the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel - will be explored in a workshop "The ABCs of the BDS Movement," hosted by StandWithUs Chicago in conjunction with Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, Wed., January 21 at 7:30 p.m. The event will takeplace at the synagogue 4500 W. Dempster, Skokie.

It is free and open to the public

"This workshop is aimed at students, their families and friends," says Mike Horwitz, chair of the Israeli Social Action Committee of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Cong. "If BDS is not on acampus near you, you can expect its arrival soon. This is a global, extremist

campaign to poison the minds of future decision makers against Israel to marginalize and eventually eliminate the Jewish State. We believe an informed community is the best defense."

The workshop will address the following issues:

- .BDS goals - stated and unstated
 - .BDS history
 - .BDS fronts on campus and in academic associations
 - .BDS tactics including the misuse of human rights terminology and intimidation
 - .Tools and strategies to empower those who want to protect and support students
- For reservations and further information, please call the synagogue office at 847-675-4141.

Kiwanis Club Of Ravenswood

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

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 MEETING: We are pleased to announce that Nancy McCarty, the Executive Director of Storycatchers Theatre, will be our guest speaker. She will discuss the company's approach to helping young people prepare to make thoughtful life choices through the process of writing, producing and performing original musical theatre, inspired by personal stories. Storycatchers is a professional theatre company that works with teens and young adults in secure juvenile justice facilities and community settings. Working in a safe and creative environment, Teaching Artists guide participants through personal story writing, scene and song creation and ultimately the production of an original one-act musical. All presentations are free, reservations are required. You can learn more at: www.storycatchertheatre.org.

January Flower: Carnation. Birthstone: Garnet.

January Media Topic suggested by Kiwanis International: "It's never too cold to lend a helping hand." Well said!

Dr. Oz said: "Make time to give back! Research shows that volunteering can have widespread health benefits for people in their 60's and older, including improvement in their mental outlook, reducing stress, plus increasing longevity."

This is good advice ... and it's free!

Mayor Emanuel, Choose Chicago And Labor Leaders Announce \$105,000 Sponsorship For Pcma Convening Leaders Conference

Rahm Emanuel and Don Welsh, President and CEO of Choose Chicago today joined Chicago Federation of Labor president Jorge Ramirez and nine local Chicago unions representing the hospitality and building trades, to announce a sponsorship for \$105,000 for the upcoming PCMA Convening Leaders conference. Over the last few years, organized labor and the city of Chicago have come together to boost the meetings and convention industry by attracting new shows and restoring partnerships with shows that have left.

"Labor has been a partner in implementing the reforms that allow us to attract more conventions and tradeshow, and all of the resources that come with them, to Chicago," said Mayor Emanuel. "This sponsorship is critical to helping us achieve our goal of reaching 55 million visitors a year by the year 2020. And when we reach this goal, tourism and conventions here in Chicago will support thousands of working families in neighborhoods throughout the city."

"This sponsorship is just another example of what is possible when there is collaboration between labor and the city," said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor. "Sponsoring Convening Leaders is more than just a financial commitment from Labor. It shows that labor is committed to working with the Mayor and Choose Chicago to create a one-of-a-kind visitor experience that will bring more conventioners and tourists to our world-class city."

A significant portion of the \$105,000 sponsorship came from the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters through the trade show promotion fund, which was created following the implementation of reforms at McCormick Place. Additional sponsor unions include IA-TSE Local 2; IATSE Local 110; International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134; International Union of Operating Engineers Local 399; Pipefitters Local 597; Machinery Movers, Riggers & Machinery Erectors Local 136; United Steelworkers Local 17 Decorators Union; and UNITE HERE Local 1.

"The trade show promotion fund is really an example of forward thinking by labor leaders," added Ramirez. "This is the next generation of labor management relations."

"Chicago's meetings and convention industry is experiencing its greatest transformation yet," said Don Welsh, Choose Chicago President and CEO. "Hosting Convening Leaders after a twenty-year hiatus signifies the commitment from labor and the reforms and service improvements at McCormick Place are making a significant and positive impact. The more meetings and conventions we secure, the more jobs we create, which ultimately benefits labor and Chicago's economy overall."

After a two-decade hiatus, PCMA Convening Leaders, the meetings and convention industry's premier education and networking event, will return to Chicago January 11-14, 2015. More than 4,000 key influencers, including 2,000 meeting planners who each plan an average of 34 meetings per year will visit Chicago over these four days.

Trade shows and conventions are crucial drivers of Chicago's visitor industry. When Mayor Emanuel took office in 2011, the City of Chicago had approximately 40 million visitors a year. Three years later there are over 48 million visitors a year. In September 2014, Mayor Emanuel and Choose Chicago announced that that Chicago set multiple tourism records for the summer 2014 travel season and is on pace to achieve Mayor Emanuel's goal of 55 million visitors a year by the year 2020 and create 30,000 additional jobs.

Rep. D'Amico Sign & Drive Legislation Press Release

State Rep. John D'Amico, D-Chicago, is highlighting a new law that went into effect aimed at easing the burden on drivers stopped for minor traffic offenses.

"We need smart laws that hold drivers accountable, but also ones that recognize common sense realities," D'Amico said. "This legislation prevents motorists from being unnecessarily burdened while maintaining the safety of our roadways."

Senate Bill 2583 allows drivers to retain their licenses after being cited for minor traffic violations, including speeding, failure to wear seatbelts, driving without insurance, improper lane change and disobeying a traffic control device. By reinstating the 'Sign and Drive' law in Illinois, local law enforcement can focus on protecting the public instead of managing additional documents and drivers will no longer need to surrender necessary forms of identification.

"It is important to add that this reform does not change the laws or penalties currently in place for individuals who drive under the influence or are involved major traffic accidents," D'Amico added. "I will continue to advocate on behalf of common sense legislation that helps motorists and keep our roads safe."

For more information about this or other pieces of legislation, please contact D'Amico's full-time constituent services office at 773-736-0218.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In 2015 Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, will offer residents and visitors a full year of free programming at the Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park, Grant Park and in neighborhoods around the city! Click the link below to start planning your year with us!

Lake FX Summit + Expo is looking for programs and exhibitors

DCASE is accepting applications for summit programs and exhibitors for the inaugural Lake FX Summit + Expo, the region's largest FREE conference for artists, creative professionals and entrepreneurs. Building on the success of three popular past events - the Creative Chicago Expo, the Chicago Music Summit and the Chicago Film and Media Summit - the four-day Summit + Expo over April 16-19 will welcome thousands of artists and professionals engaged in creative industry businesses and organizations for keynotes by industry leaders, professional development panels and workshops, networking opportunities, music and film showcases, the Expo resource fair and a marketplace open to local artisans.

More information about the Summit and the Call for Participants at LakeFX-Chicago.org.

Bold performances return in 2015 with OnEdge, January 16-February 1

OnEdge, the experimental theater, dance and performance series that will have you on the edge of your seat, will feature local, national and international artists including Roger Guenveur Smith (Los Angeles), Richard Maxwell (New York), Michelle Boulé (New York), Eric Hoff & Jesse Morgan Young (Chicago), Daniel Barrow (Montreal), Kyle deCamp (New York) and Jane Beachy (Chicago). Venues include the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, Storefront Theater, DuSable Museum of African American History, Links Hall and Beauty Bar. The series also includes workshops with some of the guest artists.

OnEdge is FREE and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis 30 minutes before each performance. Reservations are suggested for certain performances. For a complete schedule, visit cityofchicago.org/dcse.

New exhibitions opening in January

Ian Weaver: Black Knights' Archive, Chapter One: Migration

Ian Weaver: Black Knights' Archive, Chapter One: Migration
January 24-April 19

The Black Knights' Archive is a fictional history of the Near West Side Chicago neighborhood known as "Black Bottom." Embodied in film, maps, a ship and various other made objects and ephemera, Weaver not only constructs a personal and communal history but also muses on the nature of nostalgia, collective memory and power.

Chicago Rooms, 2nd Floor North

More information at cityofchicago.org/dcse.

Alison Ruttan: when all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail
Alison Ruttan: when all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail Good Again

January 24-April 26

In this new installation situated in all three Michigan Avenue Galleries, Ruttan presents her earlier photographic and video project, based on Jane Goodall's disturbing study of Chimpanzee behavior along with a new series of ceramic maquettes based on photographic documentation of recent global conflict.

Michigan Avenue Galleries, 1st Floor

More information at cityofchicago.org/dcse.

Begin 2015 with Line Dancing, Salsa, Steppin' and more at Chicago Winter-Dance

Winter's version of the popular SummerDance series returns to the Chicago Cultural Center and multiple Chicago Park District locations, January 17-18 and January 24-25. Sessions begin with a free one-hour dance lesson followed by music and dancing featuring a diverse lineup of live DJs and musical talent providing the soundtrack. All skill levels are welcome.

Chicago WinterDance will make stops at four city locations: the Hamilton Park Cultural Center (513 W. 72nd St.) on Saturday, January 17; the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.) on Sunday, January 18; Austin Town Hall Park (5610 W. Lake St.) on Saturday, January 24 and the South Shore Cultural Center (7059 S. South Shore Dr.) on Sunday, January 25.

Visit cityofchicago.org/dcse for complete details!

Wired Fridays returns in 2015 with DJs spinning dance tunes at the Chicago Cultural Center

Wired Fridays presents electronic dance music and local world-famous DJs in a FREE mid-day dance party at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.). The series, which occurs on the first and third Friday of each month from noon to 1pm, features original Chicago House music along with various other EDM genres.

January 16, DJ Sassmouth, a resident of SmartBar and San Francisco's As You Like It. She launched her own label, God Particle, in early 2013, which focuses on loopy, groove-oriented house and techno tracks.

More information at cityofchicago.org/dcse.

Juicebox offers families performances that are kid tested and parent approved

Juicebox is tailor-made for toddlers but is engaging for the whole family with Chicago's best music, dance and theater in a kid-friendly setting. Performances take place every first and third Friday of the month at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.) and the following Saturday at the Garfield Park Conservatory (300 N. Central Park Ave.) beginning at 11am.

January 16 & 17, Keith Baumann and the Hard Times Bluegrass Band present a lively educational performance that combines musical performance, visual demonstration, audience participation and spoken word. Celebrate bluegrass music, one of the few truly American art forms and a critical force in the creation of Rock and Roll.

More information at cityofchicago.org/dcse.

City Of Chicago Partners With Intuit Quickbooks To Offer Free Quickbooks Online Subscriptions At Its Workshops

Small Business Center to Host Approximately 100 Free Small Business Workshops in 2015

The City of Chicago Small Business Center (SBC) has partnered with Intuit QuickBooks to help the City's small business owners. Throughout 2015, Intuit QuickBooks will provide free 1-year subscriptions of QuickBooks Online to eight participants who complete the SBC's Business Start-Up Certificate Program.

The Business Start-up Certificate Program is free and designed to teach business owners the essential elements of starting and growing a business. Entrepreneurs can earn the certificate by completing a curriculum of Business Education Workshops, which are held every Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning in Room 805 at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., Chicago. The workshops are free and open to the public.

A BACP representative will draw two names at random after each of the four QuickBooks Online workshops. The first workshop — Accounting in the Cloud: QuickBooks Online — is scheduled for January 9, 2015, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The workshop will be presented by Maribel Del Real, of the Del Real Tax Group, Inc. The SBC is tentatively scheduled to present QuickBooks Online workshops on April 24, July 10 and October 10.

At the workshops, attendees will learn how to keep their books in the cloud using QuickBooks Online, identify advantages of QuickBooks Online vs. QuickBooks Desktop, and list the important online features and benefits. Attendees will learn how to navigate the user interface, and about the sales and expense processes in QuickBooks Online.

"We host approximately a hundred free workshops annually," said Commissioner Maria Guerra Lapacek, of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection. "This partnership with Intuit QuickBooks is just another way we are supporting the City's small businesses."

Additional Requirements for Participation

The subscriptions will only be available to participants who complete BACP's Business Start-Up Certificate Program in November and December 2014 and throughout 2015. (Please note, the Jan. 9, 2015, drawing will include all 2014 Certificate Program completers.)

BACP will provide the winning names to Intuit. An Intuit representative will contact the winners with instructions and codes to access QuickBooks Online.

Workshop attendees can only earn one certificate.

Eligible participants can only win one subscription from BACP's Business Start-Up Certificate Program.

Participants who already have a QuickBooks Online subscription are not eligible to win.

The QuickBooks Online subscription can only be used for business purposes.

To register for a workshop or for more information, call (312) 744-2086 or email BACPoutreach@cityofchicago.org. Learn more about the Small Business Center programs and events by visiting www.cityofchicago.org/SBC.

Illinois Dept. of Revenue Tax Change Halves Taxes on Vehicle Leases

Thanks to a new Illinois law that takes effect Jan. 1, 2015, state taxes on vehicle leases will be reduced by as much as 50 percent, allowing consumers to get more car for less money. House Bill 2317, signed by Gov. Quinn in May 2014, alters the way taxes are collected on light-vehicle leases. Prior to Jan. 1, a leasing customer paid tax on the entire purchase price of the vehicle. After Jan. 1, customers intending to lease a new vehicle will pay taxes only on money due at lease inception and monthly lease payments. Because most vehicles have a residual value of 50 percent or more, this change reduces the taxes owed by new lessees by 50 percent or more.

Nationally, the number of new-vehicle owners that are leasing has grown to 26 percent — a figure that has doubled over the last five years. Illinois has lagged well behind at just 14 percent. Leasing rates in Chicago are among the lowest for any metro market in the United States. By comparison, New York metro has a lease rate of 50 percent and Cleveland, 48 percent. The change in the way vehicle leases are taxed in Illinois should make leasing a much more attractive option for new-car shoppers.

"The Chicago metro market has never had good lease penetration because of the way the state taxed vehicle leases," said Colin Wickstrom, Chicago Auto Trade Association (CATA) chairman. "With this change in the tax law customers will be able to afford more car than ever — perhaps lowering their monthly payments at the same time."

Prior to Jan. 1, a DuPage County resident leasing a \$27,000 vehicle for 36 months with no money down would expect to pay about \$1,890 in state taxes. After Jan. 1, that same customer would pay just \$945 in taxes — assuming the vehicle had a residual value of 50 percent. That's a savings of \$945, amounting to more than \$25 per month. The savings get even greater on 24-month leases or more expensive vehicles. For example, a DuPage County resident leasing a \$60,000 vehicle for 24 months with a 65-percent residual prior to Jan. 1 would pay \$4,200. After Jan. 1, that same customer would pay \$1,470 in taxes, saving \$2,730 in taxes over two years.

While many assume new vehicle leasing is reserved just for luxury brands, a list of the top 10 models leased in the United States renders that assertion false. According to Experian Information Solutions*, each of the top 10 lease vehicles has a starting M.S.R.P. below than \$25,000. In addition, compared to buying, leasing can lower the monthly payment by \$100 or more.

The Illinois new-car dealers accounted for \$28.4 billion in total retail sales in 2013 — 15 percent of the state's total.

"The CATA, along with the Illinois Auto Dealers Association, worked to show the Illinois Department of Revenue that changing the way the state collects tax on vehicle leases would not only be good for the consumer, but would result in more revenue for the state," said Dave Sloan, CATA president.

Starting on Jan. 1, the CATA will launch a million-dollar educational campaign branded "The Lease You Can Do: More Car, Less Money." The multifaceted print, broadcast and online effort is designed to help Chicago area buyers understand why vehicle leasing makes financial sense and how the leasing tax law changes will help them lower monthly payments or afford a more expensive vehicle.

For more information or to schedule interviews with Colin Wickstrom or Dave Sloan, please contact CATA Senior Director of Communications and Technology Mark Bilek at (630) 424-6082 or mbilek@drivechicago.com.

History of House Bill 2317: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HB&DocNum=2317&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=74097>

Posting of Public Act 98-0628: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=098-0628>

Complete Asset List is Essential



Chester M. Przybylo

A complete list of your assets is the essential starting point in making any decisions about those assets, whether financial portfolio decisions or estate planning decisions.

Without a complete list of your financial assets, a financial planner cannot know how to change your assets to achieve the proper asset allocation to meet your risk, return, and diversification objectives.

Without a complete list of all of your assets, your estate planning attorney cannot advise you with regard to taxation issues. Further, without beneficiary designation and titling information, the estate planning attorney cannot be sure your wishes will be carried out.

Even valuable personal property, such as jewelry, rare coins, etc., should be itemized by you. Ideally, such items should be photographed as well. This list can serve many purposes. If you have a fire, burglary, or other issues arise, this list and the accompanying photographs can help you file a claim with the insurance company.

Do not forget items in safe deposit boxes or other little-accessed areas. First, having a list of such assets will be helpful in the event that there is delay in finding a key. At least your family will know the contents and the urgency, if any, of gaining entry to the box. Also, while extremely unlikely, safe deposit boxes have had their contents looted or destroyed. For example, Singapore-based DBS Bank's Hong Kong branch recently destroyed 83 safe deposit boxes. Evidently, the bank was renovating the vault and some active boxes were accidentally removed and destroyed. The bank offered an unquestioned settlement of approximately \$20,000 per box. Anyone claiming more would have to provide an itemized list of the items in the box.

Of course, when choosing items to place in the safe deposit box, leave out items you may need in an emergency, such as originals of your property power of attorney, health care power of attorney, living will, and, in many states, your will.

A complete list of assets is essential for financial and estate planning. Any financial or estate plan is like a map that takes you from point A to point B. Unfortunately, if you don't know where point A is, it's impossible to give directions from there to point B. The more thorough your list of assets, the better advice professionals can give you.

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 45 years. To register for an upcoming seminar, call the 24 hour reservation hotline at 1-800-638-7878 or register online at www.PlanOurEstate.com.

Skokie and SWANCC Provide a Holiday Light Recycling Program

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), Elgin Recycling and the Village of Skokie are offering a free Holiday Light Recycling Program.

All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at the Skokie Public Works Department, 9050 Gross Point Road, Monday through Friday from December 1, 2014 through January 30, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program. Elgin Recycling is processing the material, www.elginrecycling.com.

Remember to remove holiday decora-

tions and lighting early in the New Year. In accordance with the Village of Skokie adopted 2008 National Electric Code section 590.3 (B), temporary electric power and lighting installations shall be permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days for holiday decorative lighting and similar purposes. Exterior holiday decorative lighting is a festive way to enjoy the holiday season. For more information, please contact the Property Standards Division at 847/933-8224.

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at 847/933-8427.

No More Errands; Stay Home And Relax For The New Year

By Andrew Salata, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Let's face it, the last thing you're going to want to do after the holiday season is another errand. You've spent the last several weeks shopping for the holidays. Now if you are planning to retire in the New Year, or maybe file for Medicare during the general enrollment period, you may be thinking that is another trip. And you thought after the holiday season you could take it easy. When it comes to taking care of Social Security business, it is easy. You'll find that www.socialsecurity.gov makes it easy to stay home and get that one last thing done. You can check off much of your Social Security business quickly and securely from your home using your computer or tablet (which you might have unwrapped early). At the Social Security website you can—

- Create a my Social Security account, which enables you to:
 - obtain an instant, personalized estimate of your future Social Security benefits;
 - verify the accuracy of your earnings record—your future benefit amounts are based on your earnings record, so it is important to make sure your earnings are recorded properly;
 - change your address and phone number, if you receive monthly Social Security benefits;
 - sign up for or change direct deposit of your Social Security benefits; and
 - obtain estimates of the Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid;
- Apply for retirement, disability, spouses, and Medicare benefits;

- Check the status of your benefit application;
- Use our benefit planners to help you better understand your Social Security options as you plan for your financial future;
- Request a replacement Medicare card; and
- Apply for Extra Help with your Medicare prescription drug plan costs.

Looking for more Social Security information? The website has everything you need to know about the Social Security program. Information is available on subjects ranging from how to get a Social Security number for a newborn to how to apply for veterans' benefits.

Keep in mind that the New Year brings planning for tax season, and your wait time may be longer if you call or visit a local Social Security office. If you need to reach us by phone, you can call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. We can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call during the week after Tuesday. We can provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day, and you can use our automated response system to report a new address or request a replacement Medicare card. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

Skip your trip to the Social Security office so you have time to stick to those New Year's resolutions. Stay warm and cozy, and get convenient service by going to www.socialsecurity.gov.

Cameras In Courtroom Pilot Program Begins Today In Cook County

Effective today, January 5, 2015, requests for extended media coverage may be filed for cases in the Criminal Division courtrooms at the George N. Leighton Criminal Court Building located at 2600 South California Avenue in Chicago.

Interested news media organizations shall send all camera requests to the media coordinator, Bob Graves, Illinois Photo Ed-

itor for the Associate Press, at: cookcountymedia@gmail.com.

Requests will be considered on a case by case basis by the judge assigned to the case.

For complete information on how the Extended Media Coverage Pilot Program works, including guidelines and restrictions, go to www.cookcountycourt.org, select "Media" and "Extended Media Coverage."

City of Chicago Offers Christmas Tree Recycling From January 3 – January 17

seasonal city program provides chicagoans with an easy and environmentally-friendly tree disposal service

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, along with the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) in partnership with the Chicago Park District, today announced that the City's annual Christmas tree recycling program will run from Saturday, January 3 through Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 23 locations citywide. Last year, Chicagoans recycled more than 10,000 trees.

"The City's Christmas tree recycling program is an easy and environmentally-friendly alternative for residents to dispose of their trees," said Mayor Emanuel. "Each year through the Christmas tree recycling program, we are able to divert thousands of Christmas trees away from landfills for reuse in our community."

Live Christmas trees can be dropped off inside tree corrals set up at any one of the 23 designated Chicago Park District locations. Ornaments, lights and tinsel must be removed before the tree is dropped off. The Christmas Tree recycling program is not able to accept wreaths or garlands. Trees should be removed from any bags when placing them in the tree recycling corrals.

"Recycling your Christmas tree is not the only way Chicagoans can be green this season," said DSS Commissioner Charles L. Williams. "Residents have many options for reducing their impact on our environment from recycling cardboard gift boxes in their Blue Carts to saving wrapping pa-

per and bows for next year."

Additionally, select recycling locations will have free mulch available for residents to pick-up beginning on Tuesday, January 6.

"We're excited to provide Chicagoans an opportunity to help protect the environment by recycling their live Christmas trees this holiday season and in return provide free mulch to our residents starting January 6, when available at select locations," said Michael P. Kelly, General Superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Park District.

Below is a list of Christmas tree recycling locations:

- Bessemer Park, 8930 S. Muskegon Ave.
- Clark Park, 3400 N. Rockwell St.
- Forestry Site*, 900 E. 103rd St.
- Garfield Park, 100 N. Central Park Ave.
- Grant Park, 900 S. Columbus Dr.
- Humboldt Park Boathouse, 1369 N. Sacramento Ave.
- Jackson Park, 6300 S. Cornell Ave.
- Kennedy Park, 2427 W. 113th St.
- Kelvyn Park, 4438 W. Wrightwood Ave.
- Lake Meadows Park, 3117 S. Rhodes Ave.
- Lincoln Park*, Cannon Dr. at Fullerton Ave. (Parking lot east of Cannon Dr.)
- Margate Park*, 4921 N. Marine Dr.
- Marquette Park, 6700 S. Kedzie Ave.
- McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing Rd.
- Mt. Greenwood Park*, 3721 W. 111th St.
- North Park Village*, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd.

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non-members \$20.00. For information: Steve Gal 847/673-4450

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About Those Super Bowl Parties Super Bowl Party Hosts Already Making Plans



According to treehugger.com more than 20 million Americans will attend a Super Bowl Party February 1st when Super Bowl XLIX will be played in Glendale, Arizona and the average preparation time starts 41 days in advance of Super Bowl Sunday. This means if you plan on hosting a party you better get moving.

According to the site the average party has 17 people which means Americans host more than 1.1 million Super Bowl

Parties. And boy do they eat. Super Bowl Sunday is the second largest day for U.S. food consumption after Thanksgiving Day.

Super Bowl parties tend to range from pizza and beer to extremely elaborate catered parties. Hosts and guest alike are always looking for something unique for their party. Bernie DiMeo, founder and owner of Hot Sports Grills, says that the Super Bowl season has eclipsed the fall tailgating season in sales at his company, which sells football shaped charcoal grills among other items.

"It used to be the beginning of the college football season was our biggest sales spike of the year," DiMeo said. "But the last two years December and January have been our largest sales months".

Although the football shaped charcoal grills were meant to be used outdoors DiMeo said Super Bowl party fans have found other uses for the grills including as a chafing dish, serving dish or just as a gift for the host and hostess.

Finally it is estimated that 40% of the party goers admit to not being football fans, just party fans.

Celebrate The New Year In Illinois With 10 Free Flowering Trees From The Arbor Day Foundation

Residents of Illinois can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2015.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive two Sargent crabapples, three American redbuds, two Washington hawthorns, and three white flowering dogwoods.

"These beautiful trees will give your home in Illinois lovely flowers with pink, yellow and white colors," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces, and they will provide food and habitat for songbirds."

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the

right time for planting, between February 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2015. Illinois residents can also join online at arborday.org/january.

Norwood Park Seniors Club

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

St. Thecla Seniors Meetings

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

Village Cooking Corner

Hungarian Chicken Paprikash

On Easter Sunday last year our family was gathered at my younger brother's house to celebrate and share a great meal and desserts. I was surprised when two of my nieces asked me for the recipe for Hungarian Chicken Paprikash. I assured them that I would give it to them. Sometime later I looked in three Hungarian cook books which I have in English, as well as in two more in German, and each one was different! It was very frustrating, and that is why I didn't give the recipe to the young ladies until Thanksgiving, along with a container of authentic "Szegec" Hungarian Paprika. Here is how I learned it from my mother:

Ingredients: Whole chicken, cut up; or chicken legs, or chicken tenders available at Aldi & other stores. Sweet Hungarian paprika (Szegec) or sharp if you so desire. Onion, garlic, sour cream, flour, water, and salt to taste.

Procedure: If you have a whole chicken, cut it up into pieces or use chicken legs, cut in half. Remove excess fatty skin, but leave on some of the less fatty skin. Anytime you use meat with bones in it, it will give you a more hearty flavor. Use a bit of olive or vegetable oil and brown the chicken on both sides, then set aside. Chop the onion & brown in same pan. When nicely browned, add the chopped garlic and paprika and stir constantly for about a min-

ute. Use about 1-1/2 tsp. paprika. I suggest you measure it & then record how it turned out. If you're not sure, use less rather than more because you can always add some. Add about one cup of water (or enough to cover the meat) and stir. You can always add more if needed. Add the chicken pieces and salt lightly. Cover the pot and simmer until the chicken is tender, turning the meat over at least once. To finish the dish, use about 2 tablespoons of sour cream, which you have taken out of refrigerator so that it is at room temperature, and stir in about the same amount of flour with only enough water so it is the consistency of gravy. Use your judgment, depending on how much gravy you need for the amount of chicken you have. When chicken is done, push pieces to one side & slowly add the sour cream mixture, stirring constantly. Keep the heat low and allow to thicken. Mix together with the chicken and keep stirring and then taste the sauce. Serve with homemade or bought spaetzle or pasta of your choice, cooked "al dente." Or, you can add peeled potatoes when the chicken is simmering. Test for doneness. Serve with a vegetable or salad of your choice. Good luck & enjoy!

Maria P. Bappert

P.S. There's an old German saying which goes like this: "Love goes through the stomach."

LIGHT OPERA WORKS Musical Theater Summer Workshop gives youth a chance to sing, dance and act this summer

Five separate one-week workshops will be offered in 2015, each based on a hit musical. Each workshop is Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, at the Light Opera Works rehearsal studio, 516 4th Street in Wilmette. On Saturday, students present a free public performance.

The workshop manager is Anya Plotkin, a member of the team that created the Summer Workshop in 2001. She works to create an environment where children have the unique opportunity

to develop confidence in a nurturing, non-threatening and fun atmosphere. The workshop director/choreographer is Caryn Ott Hillman. Musical director is Christopher Richard.

Workshop classes are held at the Light Opera Works rehearsal center, 516 4th Street in Wilmette. The fee is \$365 per student per workshop (\$1250 for SOUTH PACIFIC youth production). Register online at www.LightOperaWorks.com/summer.html or call (847) 920-5360.



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