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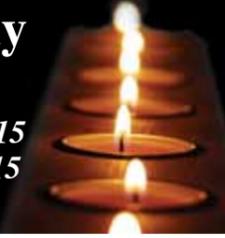
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P.O. Box 31391,
Chicago, IL 60631

Issue 7
April 8, 2015

Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah)

begins in the evening of *Thursday, April 16, 2015*
and ends in the evening of *Friday April 17, 2015*
(See Page 3 For Observance)



What Shall I Name My Boat? And Three Tips For Spring

(See Page 11 For Suggestions)



Three Sails

photo by Frank Styburski

Chicago's Citywide Clean & Green Volunteer Clean-Up

Saturday, April 18, 2015

(Go To Page 5 For Local Events)

Lake FX Summit & Expo April 16-19

The Lake FX Summit + Expo presented by Google is the region's largest FREE conference for artists, creative professionals and entrepreneurs. With topic tracks related to the music, film, fashion, culinary and arts industries, the inaugural event will present professional development opportunities, as well as an Expo resource fair and a marketplace open to local artisans. More info at lakefxchicago.us.



Arbor Day is April 24th

(See Page 5 For Details)



Celebrate EARTH DAY

Wednesday, April 22nd



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Stockapalooza 2015

May 1st, 2015

Howard Street Inn
6700 Howard St.
Niles, IL 60714

7 pm - 10 pm

Doors open at 6:45 pm

\$50 Per Ticket*

*Ticket price includes a 3 hour open bar and appetizers.

Stockapalooza is the annual Stock School fundraiser to support the school's music program, special events/activities, and technology needs. Stock School is a Chicago Public School, Early Childhood Center, located in Edison Park. Stock educates more than 275 children with and without special needs from the Northwest side of Chicago.

Approximately 50% of Stock School students have mild to severe/profound disabilities and receive special education support services including a full therapy staff, nursing, music and dog therapy programs.

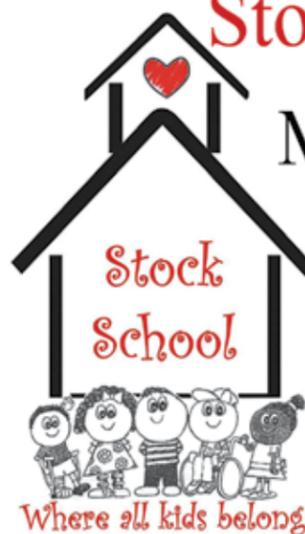
Participants of Stockapalooza can bid on the silent auction, join the 50/50 raffle, win classroom baskets and items donated by staff.

Join us for a fun night where you can support our school and mingle with families, friends and Stock School staff.

For more information or to purchase tickets please visit **Stockapalooza** at:

<http://stock15.auction-bid.org>

or contact Stock School at 773.534.1215



Where all kids belong



Community First Medical Center

April Health Events For Area Residents

Community First Medical Center, 5645 West Addison Street, Chicago, will offer the following health events in April.

A free grief support group for adults ages 18 and over who are dealing with the loss of a loved one will meet Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28; and May 5 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Enrollment is limited. Call 773-794-8386 to reserve your space.

A free caregiver support group for adults ages 18 and over who are caring for ill loved ones will meet Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29; and May 6 and 13 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call 773-794-8386 for information and/or to enroll. Space is limited.

A free Healthy Aging Program will be held Friday, April 10, in Centennial A on the 7th floor of the hospital from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This program is for individuals aged 55 and older and consists of social time, health topics and guests lectures. April is Alcohol Awareness Month and guest speaker Larry will discuss his road to sobriety. Registration is not required.

Free blood pressure screenings will be offered Wednesday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., in the hospital's main lobby. A health care professional will perform screenings and answer questions about blood pressure readings. Registration is not required.

There will be a thyroid screening, a blood draw for TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone), Thursday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. There is a \$10 fee. Neither fasting nor preparation are needed. Advanced registration required by calling, 773-794-8486. Results will be mailed.

Maryville Crisis Nursery will present a parenting session titled "Safety: Home Media, Community Safety Tips," Tuesday, April 21, at 6 p.m. A free dinner and childcare service will be provided. Registration is required by April 20, at 3 p.m., by calling 773-205-3637.

In honor of Alcohol Awareness Month, there will be a free lecture "Surviving through Alcoholism." Larry D. will tell his story from his darkest days to 33 years sobriety. Lecture will be held Wednesday, April 22 from 4-5 pm. In Conference room A. Registration required by calling 773-794-8486

The Arthritis Support Group will meet on Thursday, April 23, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This session is free. Registration is not required.

15th Annual Greater Chicago Epilepsy 5K

Over 3,000 people from across the Chicagoland area are expected to take part in the Fifteenth Annual Greater Chicago Epilepsy 5K (3.1 miles). Two events will be held in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. The first event will take place at Wheaton's Cantigny Park on Saturday, April 25, 2015, followed with the largest event at Montrose Harbor in Chicago on Saturday, May 9, 2015. The Montrose Harbor 5K will include a timed run option.



Both events will begin at 10:00 am, with participant check-in starting at 8:00 am. The advanced registration fee is \$25 for adult and teen walkers aged 13 and older, \$15 for children ages 5-12 and FREE to children under the age of 5. Advance runner registration is \$35, this option will only be available at Montrose Harbor. Participants may also register the day of the event. On-site registration will incur an additional \$10 fee. All participants will receive a free Greater Chicago Epilepsy 5K t-shirt and those that fundraise a minimum of \$100 will receive an EFGC drawstring bag. In addition to the 5K, the events will include family-friendly entertainment, activities and a variety of incentive prizes.

Participants may register for the Greater Chicago Epilepsy 5K online by visiting the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago's web site at www.epilepsy-chicago.org and clicking on the "Greater Chicago Epilepsy Walk" link. From there, individuals can register, build teams, and collect donations from their own fundraising page in just minutes. For more information, please contact the Foundation's Director of Special Events and Development, Gayle Deja-Schultz at (312) 939-8622 x209 or gdeja-schultz@epilepsy-chicago.org.

All proceeds of this event will go directly to support the work of the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, an Illinois not-for-profit organization, which serves 43 counties, and offers counseling, advocacy and educational services to people with epilepsy, their families, and the communities in which they live. The Epilepsy Foundation leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome challenges created by epilepsy. For more information regarding the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, please contact their Director of Communications and Awareness, Morgan Murphy at (312) 939-8622 x204 or mmurphy@epilepsy-chicago.org.

National Federation Of The Blind Of IL Spring Seminars

Glenn Moore, Secretary of the National Federation of the Blind of IL states that NFBI will be presenting three seminars for blind and visually impaired students, parents of blind children and Teachers of the Visually Impaired this April. The day-long seminars will feature technology, blind-adapted sports/fitness, developing independence, socialization, improving blindness skills, skills for college, and more.



The Teachers' Seminar is Friday April 17th, \$30, and for Teachers, CPDU's are available.

The Parent (\$30) and Student (\$15) Seminars are both Saturday, April 18th. All three will be at the Chicago Marriott-Midway Hotel 6520 S. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638

Call 708-594-5500 (there is a discounted NFBI rate available for those wishing to stay at the hotel).

Registration for the seminars is at our website: http://nfbofillinois.org/?page_id=598

Please feel free to share this with anyone who you feel may benefit from coming to our Seminars.

New Fitness Class at the Norwood Park Senior Center!

Exercise designed for you!

We want you to know about a continuing health and fitness program offered at the Norwood Park Senior Center. If you or a family member are 66 or older, has stiffness or pain in the lower back, hips, knees, ankles or feet, has arthritis and are someone who has not been exercising but wants to - the "Fit and Strong" program is just the ticket to feeling stronger and more agile.

"Fit and Strong," is an 8-week, 3 times per week, fitness and lifestyle program where you will learn about the benefits of physical activity, how to manage arthritis, how to exercise safely and how to develop and maintain a more active lifestyle. "Fit and Strong" starts on March 9th.

Norwood Park Senior Center, 5801 N. Natoma, Chicago, IL 60631
Phone: 773-775-6071, info@npseniorcenter.org Join Today!



Phone For Legal Advice At No Cost

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

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

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

Sickweather Alert:

Chicago Illnesses Going Around 3/31/15 – 4/7/15

This is the weekly forecast for your area:

Allergies, Cough, and Common Cold are going around in Chicago. Reports of Strep Throat are on the rise.

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

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 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 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>.

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OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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Contact Elizabeth at Elizabeth4301@aol.com
or 773-220-5741



“True Story Of Golda Meir” To Be Presented By Sisterhood Of Skokie Synagogue

“The True Story of Gold Meir” will be presented at a luncheon hosted by the Sisterhood of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 W. Dempster, Skokie, on Wednesday, April 22 at 11:30 a.m.

“This is part of our Celebrate Israel month,” says Evie Lowenthal, president of the Sisterhood. “We invite all women who are interested in learning about Golda to join us.”

The program will be presented by Joanne Stein, who specializes in writing and speaking about famous Jewish women.

Fee for the luncheon is \$18 for members and \$23 for non-members and at-the-door.

For further information and reservations, please call the office of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation at 847-675-4141.

Skokie Synagogue Presents Two-Part Program On Remembering The Holocaust - “Spotlight: Europe”

A two-part program to remember the Holocaust, entitled “Spotlight: Europe,” will be presented by Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation on Wednesday night, April 15 and Thursday morning, April 16. Both events honoring “Yom Ha Shoah (The Day of the Holocaust)” will be at the synagogue, 4500 W. Dempster, Skokie.

Both programs are free and open to the public.

Wednesday night, at 7:30 p.m., the Men’s Club will offer “Exit Berlin,” a program based on the book “Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany.” Featured speaker Charlotte Bonelli is the author of the book, as well as the Director of the American Jewish Committee Archives and Library, Greater New York City Area.

“Exit Berlin” is based on the AJC’s Luzie Hatch Collection, which contains more than 300 WWII-era letters. Ms. Bonelli has traveled widely to complete her research, including two investigative trips to Baden-Baden, Germany. She was recently interviewed by BBC Radio for its program Dear Adolf – Letters to the Fuhrer, which focused on American Jewish radio broadcasts during World War II.

On Thursday morning, at 11:00 a.m., a program entitled “The Resurgence of European Anti-Semitism” will be presented by special guest speaker Eric Fusfield. He is the Deputy Director of B’nai B’rith International Center for Human Rights and Public Policy and Director of Legislative Affairs for B’nai B’rith International.

Fusfield has testified before the U.S. Congress, the European Parliament, the Organizations for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of American States (OAS). He has met with numerous heads of government, foreign ministers, and ambassadors; has frequently been interviewed by television and radio programs and print publications; has spoken at many conferences and other public events. Before joining B’nai B’rith International, Mr. Fusfield worked on international relations for the American Jewish Committee. He received a BA from Columbia University and a JD from the American University’s Washington College of Law.

(This program will be held in lieu of Rabbi Jeffrey Weill’s “Beyond The Torah” class usually held at this time.)

For further information or for reservations, please call the office of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation at 847-675-4141.

Mirabell Restaurant’s Jeff Heil On TV!

As mentioned in our last issue, Brittney Payton was recently at Mirabell Restaurant & Lounge with owner Jeff Heil to tape a segment for her “Chicago’s Best” TV show. WGN has since announced: “Mirabell is being featured on our “Chicago’s Best Spicy” episode, and will air April 19th at 10PM on WGN.”

Ultimate Hawks Fan Experience

The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce will be selling tickets at \$100 each beginning April 3rd and ending April 17th.

The winner will receive the “Ultimate Hawks Fan” experience which includes:

Four (4) 100-Level Tickets to a 2015-2016 Chicago Blackhawks Home Games and Parking.
Four (4) Custom Blackhawks Jerseys.

Dinner Prior to the Game in the Ketel One Club at the United Center

Opportunity to Watch the Pre-Game Warm-Ups from the Zamboni Tunnel

Post-Game Locker Room Tour and Meet & Greet with Select Blackhawks Players

Tickets can be purchased online at www.edisonpark.com or by calling (773) 631-0063. All proceeds benefit the Chicago Blackhawks Playlot at Edison Park.

Community Members Encouraged To Apply For Evanston’s Community Ambassadors Program

Applications are now available for the first Evanston Community Ambassadors program. The program aims to educate participants about “all things Evanston,” allowing them to make a positive impact in the community.

Participants will receive training from the City and will then have the opportunity to become directly involved with the community by engaging with residents and visitors, and participating in projects that will make a difference in Evanston. Opportunities will include:

- Serving as a point of contact at public and community events on behalf of the City;
- Promoting Evanston as a great place to live, work and visit;
- Volunteering at local events, including festivals, tourism activities and programs;
- Assisting with managing projects based upon their strengths, skills, experience and availability.

The program is open to Evanston community members age 18 years and older, including residents, local business owners, and members of community organizations that serve residents.

Those interested in becoming an Ambassador should complete the application at cityofevanston.org/ambassador or call/text 847-448-4311 by Friday, April 17. Those selected for the inaugural class will attend two training sessions, which will take place Wednesdays, May 6 and 20, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Following the second session, each Ambassador will receive a certificate of completion.

To learn more about the program, visit cityofevanston.org/ambassador, email Jonathan Williams-Kinsel at jwilliamskinsel@cityofevanston.org, or call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, residents in Evanston may simply dial 3-1-1.

DePaul Demon Dancers



The 24-hour charity dance marathon “Demon Thon” is April 24 and 25 at DePaul University again this year. Aimee Ali and her Phi Mu fraternity will help raise money for Lurie’s Children’s Hospital and last year they raised over \$15,000! Aimee is a student at DePaul and she works in Tarpey’s Pharmacy at Cicero and Peterson.

Northwestern University Guild Program

Northwestern University Campus, Scott Hall, in the Guild Lounge
601 University Place, Evanston

All programs are held on Monday and begin at 1:30 pm (unless noted)
Tea, coffee and cookies are served after the program.

April 20 - History of Portraits

Richard Halstead, Art Seminar Committee, Portrait Artist, Teacher

Have you taken a class with Richard? A local well-known artist, he has been commissioned to paint the official portraits of governors. Check out his web site <http://halsteadportraits.com/portraitschool/> to find out more about him and his work. He does know portraits and will share his knowledge with us.



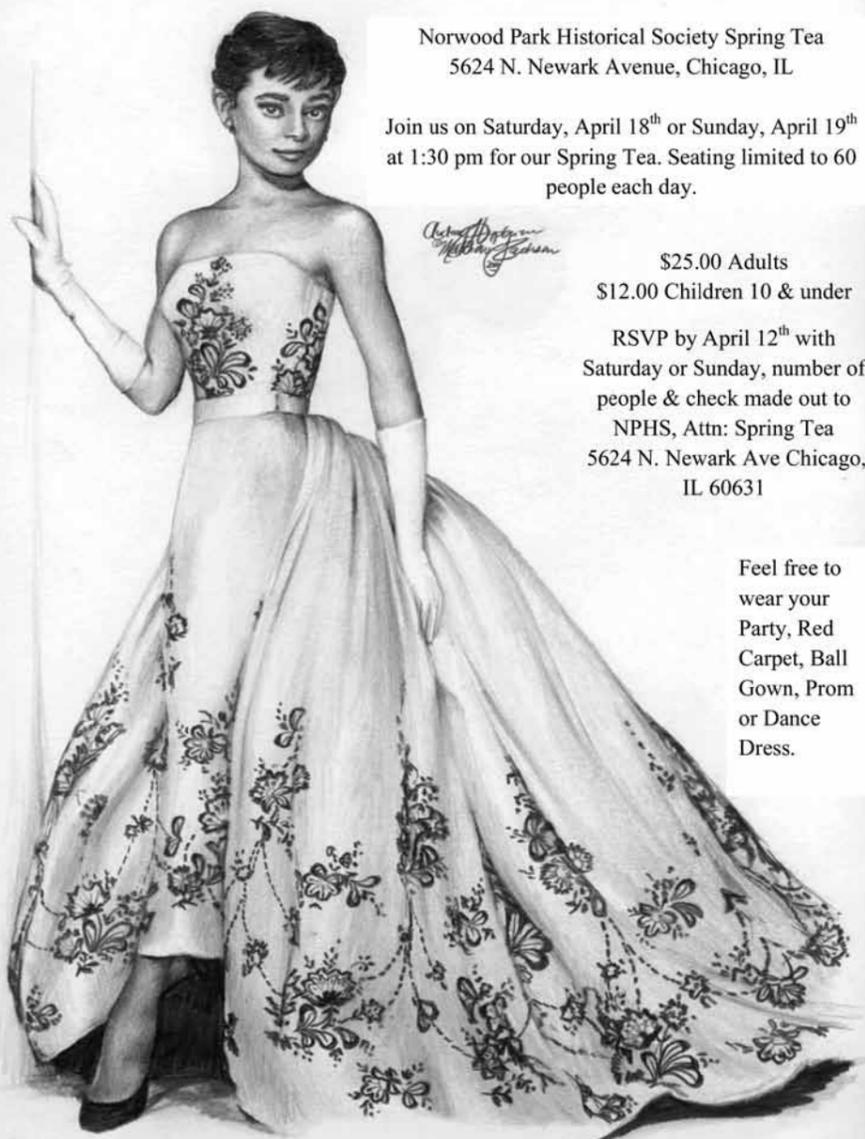
New DCASE Opportunities Newsletter

Do you know that DCASE is now sending a separate monthly email focused on opportunities, including grants, artist calls and professional development, for artists and creative professionals? If you would like to receive this mid-month newsletter, visit our website at <http://www.cityofchicago.org>.

Statement From Mayor Emanuel On Chicago’s James Beard Foundation Award Finalists

Congratulations to all of the James Beard finalists from Chicago that were announced today. It is thanks to our world-class chefs and restaurateurs that Chicago has become the new culinary capital of America, bringing jobs and visitors to neighborhoods throughout Chicago. Their dedication to their craft and to their city have helped to drive record tourism growth to Chicago and contributed greatly to the vibrancy of our neighborhoods. The fact that the nominees from Chicago include both well-known names and up-and-coming ones demonstrates that we are a city where the best of the next generation can come to experiment and excel. All of Chicago looks forward to hosting the James Beard Awards in May when our nominees will find themselves in the spotlight and Chicago’s thriving restaurant scene will be on the world stage.

From Debutantes Ball to the Red Carpet



Norwood Park Historical Society Spring Tea
5624 N. Newark Avenue, Chicago, IL

Join us on Saturday, April 18th or Sunday, April 19th
at 1:30 pm for our Spring Tea. Seating limited to 60
people each day.

\$25.00 Adults
\$12.00 Children 10 & under

RSVP by April 12th with
Saturday or Sunday, number of
people & check made out to
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Dress.

Mayor Emanuel Announces \$5 Million In Funding Available To Chicago Small Businesses

Expanded Small Business Opportunity Centers Program Will Allow More Neighborhood Small Business Owners Access Capital

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced new partnerships that will help small business owners in neighborhoods throughout Chicago access needed capital. Following a successful pilot, the Small Business Opportunity Center Program (formerly Capital Access Centers), which helps small business owners prepare for loans, will expand from three to eight centers across Chicago and \$5 million in funding is available for Chicago small businesses.

New partners Somercor 504, Inc., Goldman Sachs, and the Chicago Business Opportunity Fund have more than \$5 million available to lend to qualified small businesses. Both centers provide loans between \$50,000 and \$250,000 to small businesses – a loan size that more small businesses are having trouble securing. They will join the Latin American Chamber, Sunshine Gospel Ministries, and the Women's Business Development Center, along with the three pilot partners, Greater Englewood CDC, the Resurrection Project, and Chatham Business Association in counseling small businesses through the lending process and matching them to available sources of capital.

The announcement coincides with the Chicago Microlending Institute (CMI), recently awarding its 200th microloan. In 2012, Mayor Emanuel launched the Chicago Microlending Institute with \$1 million to help businesses access loans up to \$25,000. In 2014, the Mayor and the City Treasurer invested an additional \$1 million to provide critical loans that would help support roughly 300 new businesses by 2016 and ensure that the CMI program can be self-funding through 2016.

The CMI revolving loan fund now has loans totaling approximately \$2 million, which has supported close to 200 businesses and has helped create or save 817 jobs across the City of Chicago. A map of every loan is available on the Chicago Data portal at www.data.cityofchicago.org/Community-Economic-Development/Chicago-Microlending-Institute-CMI-Microloans/dpk-g-upyz.

The announcement was made at one of the new Centers with Sunshine Gospel Ministries in Woodlawn at Greenline Coffee. Twelve Chicago families invested \$150,000 to start the coffee shop that employs 10 staff, all of whom live in Woodlawn. This is an example of the type of

neighborhood-focused small business supported by microloans and with community investment.

Since Mayor Emanuel announced the Capital Access Center pilot program (now the Small Business Opportunity Center Program) in October 2014 to help prepare and connect small businesses to capital, over 60 businesses have been served, 15 of which were steered toward entrepreneurship programs or credit repair specialists. The partners also helped 13 businesses apply for loans - three have been approved and ten are currently pending approval.

Since 2011, Mayor Emanuel has instituted a number of reforms to help support small business growth and entrepreneurship in the City of Chicago. In April 2013, Mayor Emanuel launched the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection's Small Business Center (SBC), to provide a one-stop-shop for small businesses. The SBC has reduced overall wait times by fifty

percent and 25 percent of all customers are in and out of the Center within 15 minutes. Interested businesses can visit the City's Small Business Center online at www.cityofchicago.org/sbc.

And earlier this month, Mayor Emanuel announced an expansion of the Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy (CASE) program to encourage Chicago's leading institutions to support local small businesses growth in their neighborhoods. Over the last year, the small businesses that participated in the CASE program saw an average increase in revenue of \$804,000. CASE has the potential to drive up to \$80 million in additional revenue to neighborhood small businesses and create nearly 250 full-time and 125 part-time jobs annually. The expansion will increase the number of committed institutions from 11 to at least 20 and double the number of small businesses helped.

Jefferson Park Meeting

Keynote speakers for the April 29th meeting of the JPNA, Jefferson Park Neighborhood Assoc., will be Annie Zander, Executive Director of the Jefferson Pk. Chamber of Commerce talking about "Business in This Community," and Owen Brugh, 45th Ward Aldermanic Office, talking about how you can participate in the "Participatory Budget Ballot." Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the lower level of the Jefferson Park Congregational Church, 5320 W. Giddings, on the last Wednesday of the month. Meetings are free and open to the public with light refreshments. For more information, call 773-282-3879. And don't forget the fund raiser for Olive's Garden for the Hungry on April 11th at Rabbits on Foster and Elston.

Expand Your Network At This Multi-Chamber Event! Bring A Friend And/Or Business Associate!

Join us for lunch and a structured business to business networking event focusing on partnership development.

Be sure to bring at least 50 business cards with you. Registration includes lunch. Parking is free.

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Open Networking: 11:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Structured Networking: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lunch and Open Networking: 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Take advantage of EARLY BIRD PRICING!!

Register at North Side Networking Group

This event is sponsored by Rogers Park Business Alliance, Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Business Partners, and West Ridge Chamber of Commerce.

WestRidge

Chamber of Commerce

Certificate of Achievement of Excellence

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation was recently presented the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 39th consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). This award puts MWRD in the top two percent of governments receiving a consecutive award in this category.

MWRD Retirement Fund also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 21st consecutive year and

MWRD Retiree Health Care Trust for the 7th consecutive year.

Pictured is MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila (left) and Steven Gauthier, Director of Technical Services Center for the GFOA.



ICYMI: The Bond Buyer

Local government consolidation could improve state's credit rating

The following article appeared in The Bond Buyer:

Moody's Investors Service said it considers Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's appointment of a task force to look at local government consolidation and overhauling unfunded mandates to be a positive credit step.

Moody's in its weekly credit outlook March 26 noted that Illinois has the most local units of governments -- 6,963 - of any state.

"Any reduction in the number of distinct local governments that provide similar services would lower the overall costs supported by Illinois taxpayers," Moody's analysts wrote. "Further, the governor tasked the commission with reducing unfunded state mandates on local governments, potentially resulting in greater fiscal flexibility for the sector."

The existence of numerous local governments puts a significant burden on taxpayers who sometimes fund redundant core and administrative functions. Consolidation could reduce the number of administrators and support staff necessary to run the separate school districts.

In identifying ways to reduce unfunded state mandates, the task force could provide

governments with more expenditure and revenue-raising flexibility. However, as part of his fiscal 2016 budget, the governor is also proposing to reduce state aid to certain units of government with local government income distribution cut in half to about \$600 million.

While Moody's considers the proposal a positive step, it does not impact the state's A1 rating or its negative outlook.

Rauner pitched the idea earlier this year in announcing his "turnaround" agenda and in mid-March announced members of the task force. The group is being chaired by Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti.

"Illinois has an excessive number of local government units and the state severely limits local governments' ability to control their own costs," Rauner said in a statement announcing the group. "Consolidating local government and reducing the burden of unfunded mandates imposed by the state will reduce costs, increase efficiency and improve delivery of services."

Members include a mix of state lawmakers, representatives of local governments, local government advocacy groups, and education officials.

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Mayor Emanuel Announces Spring Clean And Green Day Of Service To Beautify Neighborhoods Across Chicago

Residents Can Help To Clean Their Communities On April 18

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) today announced the spring Clean and Green day of service will be held on Saturday, April 18 in neighborhoods throughout Chicago. This day of service allows residents to come together with City agencies in every neighborhood to help clean and beautify areas throughout their community.

"Chicagoans have a long history of service in their communities to revitalize and beautify their

neighborhoods, and clean neighborhoods are an essential component of a high quality of life for residents," said Mayor Emanuel. "While we work year-round to keep Chicago clean, we are also asking residents to amplify this work by pitching in to help with our spring cleaning efforts."

Through the day of service, the City will provide the necessary tools to enable community groups and neighbors to further improve their neighborhoods. This year, the day of service will include an emphasis on cleaning viaducts, which

are important neighborhood infrastructures. DSS and CDOT to work regularly to address sanitation issues, lighting issues and other structural concerns in viaducts all year long, and the City recently announced that 80 viaducts in neighborhoods across the city will receive much needed infrastructure improvements that will also benefit public safety for residents in those communities.

"Every year, the Department looks forward to continuing the over two decade long tradition of Clean and Green. The day of service a great opportunity for residents to come together for just a few hours to clean their communities and make an immediate difference in the vibrancy of their neighborhood," said DSS Commissioner Charles Williams.

On top of cleaning and improving viaducts, residents are encouraged to clean curb lanes, vacant lots, parkways and any other community areas that need a good cleaning.

Last week, DSS launched an early overnight street sweeping program to address litter and other debris that accumulated along curb lanes, center lanes and viaducts throughout the winter. The fleet of sweepers will work during the early morning hours to clean arterial streets citywide.

"CDOT is proud to partner with the Department of Streets and Sanitation and residents in neighborhoods across Chicago on the Clean and Green day of service," said CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld. "This is a great opportunity for the dedicated public servants at CDOT and DSS to work alongside the Chicagoans we serve every day to make our City a cleaner and more beautiful place."

To participate in the citywide Clean and Green, call 3-1-1 to register your community group or find a community group to team up with. The City will provide your community organization with brooms, rakes, shovels and bags to get the job done. For groups cleaning viaducts only, the City will provide white paint and painting tools. Community cleaning supplies can be picked up at your local Streets and Sanitation Refuse Division Office. All community groups must register their Clean and Green with 3-1-1 by Friday, April 10, 2015.

To learn more about Clean and Green, visit www.cityofchicago.org/dss or call 3-1-1.

Sponsors for this year's Clean and Green are Chicago Gateway Green and Keep Chicago Beautiful.

Celebrate Earth Day And Arbor Day By Joining The City's "Clean Up, Evanston!" Event April 25

Community members are invited to participate in the City's "Clean up, Evanston!" event in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Community groups and individuals of all ages can sign up to volunteer at any one of ten designated clean-up sites across the city by visiting volunteerevanston.org or calling/texting 847-448-4311. There is at least one clean-up location in each of Evanston's nine wards.

Volunteers are encouraged to register to meet at any of these locations at 9 a.m. on April 25:

- Robert Crown Park, Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St.
- Lakefront, Eliot Park, Dempster St. Beach House, 1251 Lake Shore Blvd.
- Ladd Arboretum, Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd.
- Kamen East Park, Kamen Field House, South Blvd. and Barton Ave.
- Lakefront, Burnham Shores, Dempster St. Beach House, 1251 Lake Shore Blvd.
- James Park, Dodge Ave. at Mulford St. (Fieldhouse)
- Mason Park, Church St. and Florence Ave.
- Lakefront, Centennial Park, Clark St. Beach House, 1811 Sheridan Rd.
- Lovelace Park (Fieldhouse), Gross Point. Rd. at Thayer St.
- Lakefront, Dawes Park, Greenwood St. Beach Restroom, 1401 Sheridan Rd.

Volunteers should look for a large "Clean up, Evanston!" sign as well as a City Public Works vehicle to pick up their green refuse bags and gloves at each of the clean-up sites.

This year's event is one of several clean-up events happening that day. Evanston Township High School (ETHS) is partnering with the Kiwanis Club of Evanston to hold their 6th annual Earth Day Clean Up event on April 25 as well. Student and community volunteers can meet at the Dodge Ave. entrance of ETHS starting at 9 a.m. and will focus primarily on areas in the City's 2nd and 5th wards. Interested community members can contact ETHS Community Service Coordinator Mary Collins at 847-424-7662 to sign up or just show up.

WestEnd businesses will also be holding their annual spring clean-up event and are encouraging residents in their area to join them on April 25 at 9 a.m. to walk through the neighborhood to pick up litter and then gather at IRMCO afterwards for refreshments. Interested residents should contact Jennifer Kalas at 224-420-4210 for more information.

In addition to the City's Community Clean-up event April 25, volunteers from civic organizations, social clubs, neighborhood associations, individual families, church groups, school groups, and employee groups are encouraged to participate in the City of Evanston Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department's year-round Adopt a Park program. The City is seeking volunteer groups to assist with litter pick-up, preservation, and maintenance of Evanston parks. To learn more, visit cityofevanston.org/adoptapark.

For more information about the Earth Day and Arbor Day events, visit cityofevanston.org/earthday, email sustainability@cityofevanston.org or call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, residents can simply dial 3-1-1 in Evanston.

Clean, Green Skokie!

Join the first Clean, Green Skokie! Program, an event that focuses on pride in the community and collaborating efforts for a good old fashioned neighborhood litter clean up from April 18 through April 25, 2015. One lucky group or individual who helps clean up Skokie will have a tree planted in their honor at the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park!

Beginning in early April, litter clean up kits can be picked up at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or picked up at the Public Works table at the Skokie Spring Greening event on April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Niles North High School.

Clean, Green Skokie! participants are automatically entered for a chance to have a tree planted in their honor at the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park. Want to increase your chances? Take a photo of your group cleaning, or posed by the filled bags of litter and recyclables, and tweet to #cleangreenskokie or post to your Facebook page with a tag to Shop Local Skokie. Any registered group that does this will receive five extra prize drawing entries!

Call the Village at 847-933-8210 or email info@skokie.org to register for Clean, Green Skokie! by telling us who will clean, what area will be cleaned and when the litter cleanup will occur.

Evanston Beach Tokens Available for Purchase Beginning April 1

Beginning Wednesday, April 1, Evanston season beach tokens will be available for purchase at the Morton Civic Center, located at 2100 Ridge Ave., and local recreation community centers: Robert Crown, Chandler-Newberger, Fleetwood-Jourdain, Levy Senior Center and Evanston Ecology Center. Tokens may be purchased on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Morton Civic Center and during office hours at the community centers. Cash, personal checks and credit cards are accepted.

Evanston's five public swimming beaches open for the season on Saturday, May 23, 2015.

A beach token, also known as a season pass, is valid from the time of purchase through Labor Day 2015. Tokens will be sold at a discounted rate of \$26 for Evanston and Skokie residents and \$42 for nonresidents until Friday, June 5. On Saturday, June 6, the price for a beach token will increase to \$34 for Evanston or Skokie residents and \$58 for nonresidents.

Community members interested in a daily pass can purchase at a beach entrance. A daily pass is \$6 for children age 1-11 years and \$8 for those 12 years and older. Admission for children under age 1 is free.

To ensure that everyone has access to Evanston's beautiful beaches, the Mayor's Super Summer Recreation Program includes free beach admission through a 10-punch pass for Evanston teens, age 13-18 years old. Beginning Tuesday, June 2, teens may pick up their pass at any of the community centers and the main Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave.

Additionally, Evanston residents that meet the income requirement are eligible to participate in beach token fee assistance and the free beach token program. To learn more about the fee assistance program, visit cityofevanston.org/recreationscholarship.

The City of Evanston and the Skokie Park District have a reciprocal arrangement that allows Skokie residents to buy season beach tokens at Evanston resident rates and allows Evanston residents to buy Skokie season pool passes at Skokie resident rates.

For more information about Evanston beaches, please visit cityofevanston.org/beaches or call/text 847-448-4311. For convenience, residents can simply dial 3-1-1 while in Evanston.

Please note that free beach days for Evanston residents will be held at Clark Street Beach on Mondays from July 6 through August 24, 2015.

Celebrate National Arbor Day by Planting Trees. Receive 10 Free Shade Trees by Joining the Arbor Day Foundation

National Arbor Day is Friday, April 24, this year, and the Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for anyone to celebrate the annual tree-planting holiday. Join the Foundation in April and receive 10 free shade trees.

By joining the Foundation in April, new members receive the following trees: red oak, sugar maple, weeping willow, baldcypress, thornless honeylocust, pin oak, river birch, tuliptree, silver maple, and red maple.

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

"These trees provide shade in the summer and vibrant colors throughout the fall," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Through the simple act of planting trees, one person can make a difference in helping to create a healthier and more beautiful planet for all of us to enjoy."

The trees will be shipped postpaid with enclosed planting instructions at the right time for planting in April or May. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE SHADE TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by April 30, 2015, or visit arborday.org/april.

6th Annual You Raise Me Up Concert to Benefit Special Olympics Illinois in Wheaton on Saturday, April 11

This year marks the 6th Annual You Raise Me Up Concert to benefit Special Olympics Illinois on Saturday, April 11 at College Church in Wheaton. This year's concert will feature the talents of The STARS of College Church, 'Til Sunset, Tyisha Brown and Beyond Glee. These sweet sounds will be interspersed with personal experiences from local Special Olympic Athletes.

Tyisha Brown hails from Chicago with a passion for singing. Tyisha, who has traveled both nationally and internationally for vocal performance, is a worship leader for Harvest Bible Chapel Naperville. She has had the pleasure of being featured on the recording completed in 2013 entitled "Greater Still" and is currently performing in the Chicagoland area while she finishes her first album.

Beyond Glee, a performance based, mixed adult community chorus, began performing together in September of 2012 and in just a few short years have gained a reputation as being one of the premier groups in the Chicagoland area. They will pull from their wide repertoire of songs for this event.

Returning for their sixth year are The STARS of College Church who will perform songs by Rascal Flatts and The Gray Havens in this year's concert.

'Til Sunset is a Chicago based alternative rock group formed by high school buddies, Rich Torkelson (Percussion), Dimitri Tianis (vocals, guitar), Zac Coleman (vocals, guitar), and Sam Waddick (Bass Guitar). Taking inspiration from blink-182, Weezer, Foo Fighters, and Sonic the Hedgehog, they have created their own brand of alternative music and will be a wonderful addition to round out You Raise Me Up.

Tickets are \$10 each (5 for \$40), and are available here. 100% of ticket revenue will benefit Special Olympics Illinois Far West Suburban/Area 2 serving athletes with intellectual disabilities in the suburbs in west DuPage, Kane and Kendall County. Please join Special Olympics Illinois for an afternoon of

beautiful music!

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for nearly 22,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 21,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org.

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Did He Or Didn't He? Only You Know For Sure

A college student goes to her professor's office. She is failing his class and wants a better grade. They talk about her work and suddenly she bursts into tears. He tries to comfort her and offers to give her an A if she will ...

A college professor is working along in his office. One of his students arrives unannounced. She didn't like the failing grade he gave her on her paper and wants him to change it. She doesn't understand anything he says in class and doesn't understand why she's failing when she does everything he asks her to do. He tries to explain the class material to her and tells her to come back ...

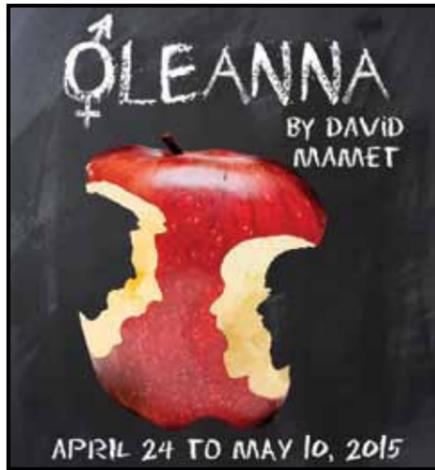
Which of these is the plot of David Mamet's Oleanna? That's for you to decide. You see this scene played out for you, and then witness the results as these two lives spiral out-of-control due to allegations of sexual harassment. Was he exploitative and abusive? Was she manipulative? Or is it all an innocent misunderstanding. In this play, we are confronted with both the effects of carelessness and the dangers of oversensitivity and being too politically correct. And in the end, you decide what really happened.

Oleanna stars Gerald Nevin as John, the old-school college professor. This is his first appearance on stage at Skokie Theatre, but is a familiar face at other theatres in the region. You may have seen him as Harry Roat in Wait until Dark or as Frederick Arnott in Enchanted April at the Citadel Theatre, Harrison Marlowe in Enter Laughing at the Attic Playhouse, Henry Saunders in Lend me a Tenor or George Hay in Moon Over Buffalo.

Ali Goodman plays Carol. Ali is also a newcomer to Skokie Theatre, but is no stranger to the Chicago theatre scene. You may recognize her from appearances in A Winter's Tale and understudying A Little Night Music at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; Haroun and the Sea of Stories with Northlight Theatre; Hedwig and the Angry Inch with Elemental Theatre Company; and Envoy with Echo Theatre Co.

Oleanna is directed by MakKap Productions Artistic Director Wayne Mell, who directed Crimes of the Heart last fall. In spite of an lengthy directing resume from local theatres, this is his first time working on a David Mamet script. The deep, real characters and the tense dramatic conflict that Mamet is known for are all present in this play, without the extreme language that he's also known for.

Performances run from April 24 to May 10. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm. Sundays at 2:00 pm, with a Wednesday matinee at 1:30 pm on April 29. Tickets are \$28 general admission, \$24 for seniors, and \$18 for students. Tickets are available by calling 847-677-7761 or online at SkokieTheatre.org.



Deli Man (The Movie)

"Smooth Jazz" radio DJ Rick O'Dell has very little free time, but he and his wife Lori made time in their busy schedules to see a great new movie about delicatessens. "Deli Man" describes itself as: "More than 160 years of tradition served up by the Jewish deli owners, operators and fanatics who are keeping hot pastrami hot - and a culinary must. Just don't tell your cardiologist." Yes, the legendary Manny's Cafeteria & Delicatessen in Chicago is included, and you'll also see cameos by Fyvush Finkel, Larry King & Jerry Stiller. Rick O'Dell says: "One of the most enjoyable movies I've seen in months. It'll leave you smiling--and very hungry." Visit www.delimanmovie.com for more details. Speaking of Rick & Lori, they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on April 14 - possibly at Manny's!



**Reminder - Deadline Extension
 2nd Annual Juried Art Fair!**

Join us! Art in the Village, Winnetka, IL
 Saturday, June 27th, 10am-6pm and Sunday, June 28th, 10am-5pm

Due to a number artists' requests, the deadline for Art in the Village has been extended to Monday, 3/9/15.

Find our application on Zapplication.com. If you would rather apply by mail, please print from the application PDF link on our website or contact our office and we can mail you a paper application. The jury will be meeting later in the week of 3/9.

Be a part of this early show and get the summer started in beautiful Winnetka! Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope you will join us at our show this summer! Thank you!

Questions? www.northshoreartleague.org or 847-446-2870.



Tom Perry Says "Smile & Say Cheese"

The local Potash families have been in the grocery business since 1950 and they now have their first cheesemonger. Art Potash, CEO of Potash Markets, recently hired cheese expert Tom Perry (pictured) of Albany Park. Tom says the most popular cheese is brie, but he doesn't have a favorite - he likes them all. Tom also says that cheese is much better when kept whole, as opposed to cutting it into pieces. (Similar to a steak being better than ground beef.) Tom suddenly became a "myth buster" when he said that the smelliest cheese is actually "fromage de cow" - not limburger.



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Irving-Austin Business Offers Artist's View Of Our World

Perkolator To Exhibit Pictures By Photographer Lucy Mueller

Northwest side neighbor, photographer Lucy Mueller will be on hand April 18 to meet fellow art lovers at Perkolator. Part of a six-week showcase of Mueller's work, the exhibit is the fourth in an ongoing series of events promoting the work of artists who live in the area. The reception will give patrons a chance to see intriguing images that often get lost amid the clutter of our busy times.

The images in the show reflect different themes that Mueller has focused on during her career. She is passionate about architecture and, "enjoys trekking around the city, being out in the ele-



ments, and photographing from unusual vantage points."

Work from her "Strange Travels" series is from her daily routine and adventures. "I enjoy discovering the unusual or ironic juxtapositions of life. I enjoy finding the individual human touches and quirks that make life interesting."

Other work in the show explores subjects found in nature and their relationship with man-made objects. "I find naturally-occurring photomontages or use Photoshop to combine images digitally to create a more fantastical view."

"Unrealized Dreams" explores the unfulfilled dreams of consumer culture. "Material items are often equated with success. Photographing these possessions, -although inanimate, encourage us to speculate about the owners' tastes and ambitions, and perhaps their backstories as well."



Mueller's enthusiasm for finding art in everyday places is an easy match for Perkolator, which has a commitment to community involvement. In addition to offering coffee, baked goods and conversation, the venue strives to be a comfortable spot where the value of art becomes accessible to the community.

Mueller's work is on display from April 1 through May 15, with a reception on April 18, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Perkolator is located at 6032 W. Irving Park Rd. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of photographs at the show will benefit Harmony House for Cats. The exhibit is a collaboration between Perkolator, and Northwest Arts Connection, (NAC).

For more about Lucy Mueller, visit <http://lucymuellerphotography.com/home.html>

For more about Perkolator, call (773) 853-2261 or visit them on Facebook@.

For more information about Northwest Arts Connection, (NAC), contact Marlena Ascher by email at marlenaascher@sbcglobal.net.



(See Page 10 for More)



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- Scottish Salmon- Served with Crème Garlic Sauce and Cucumber Salad
- Dill Poached Salmon- Served with Roasted Fennel, Cucumber Citrus Salad with Toasted Caraway and Crème French
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Exhibition On The History Of The Chicago Defender Newspaper On Display At Chicago Public Library

The history of the iconic Chicago Defender newspaper is displayed in an extensive new exhibition at Chicago Public Library. Journey to Empowerment reveals the Defender's 110 year history as a pioneering and premier hub of African American journalism and communications. Journey to Empowerment is currently on display in the Special Collection Exhibit Hall, 9th Floor, at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St. Journey to Empowerment was curated by Candace Hunter, Chicago Defender's arts and culture reporter. The exhibit runs through June 28, 2015, and can be seen daily during regular library hours.

The exhibition includes photographs, original art renderings and historical front pages which are perfect for students, history buffs, journalists and anyone interested in learning about the Chicago Defender. Some of the unique historical references spotlighted in this exhibit include the newspaper's founder Robert Sengstacke Abbott, the Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic, Emmett Till, and the elections of Mayor Harold Washington and President Barack Obama. Moreover, visitors get the chance to choose

a headline and write an article through the hands-on component included in this exhibit. Visitors are also encouraged to check out the Chicago Defender archive on the Library's website – articles, editorials and advertisements are all searchable (1910-1975 and 1999+).

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 chipublic.org.

Lutheran School Association Of Decatur Wins Illinois State High School Fishing Championship On Clinton Lake

The Lutheran School Association of Decatur team of James Brown and Travis Carter brought four bass to the scale Sunday weighing 17 pounds, 9 ounces, to win the 2015 Illinois State High School Fishing Championship on Clinton Lake. The win earned the team the title of state champions and qualified the team to compete in the High School Fishing Central Conference championship on Lake Carlyle in September.

Despite only bringing four bass to the scale, the duo weighed in a monster largemouth totaling 7 pounds, 8 ounces to win the Lew's Big Bass Award and give them the weight needed to win the event handily.

The top four teams on Clinton Lake that advanced to the Central Conference Championship were:
1st: Lutheran School Association of Decatur – James Brown and Travis Carter, four bass, 17-9
2nd: Illinois Student Angler Federation – Dailus Richardson and Trevor McKinney, four bass, 13-15
3rd: Illinois Student Angler Federation – Zachary Hingson and Jonathan Bialeschki, three bass, 9-15
4th: El Paso-Gridley High School – Jake Hoselton and Levi Umland, five bass, 9-11
Rounding out the top 10 teams were:

5th: Sandwich Community High School – Logan Beatty and Matt Reimer, two bass, 7-1
6th: Sandwich Community High School – Chris Thompson and Antonio Defily, three bass, 6-11
7th: Minooka Community High School – Jacob Doster and Kenneth Johnke, three bass, 6-7
8th: Sangamon Valley High School – Mason Hutchins and Nic Campbell, four bass, 5-1
9th: Minooka Community High School – Anthony Fazio and Grant Olsen, one bass, 4-7
10th: O'Fallon Township High School – Brooks Dalton and Josh Bourland, three bass, 9-8
Complete results can be found at HighSchoolFishing.org.

The 2015 Illinois State High School Fishing Championship was a two-person (team) event for students in grades 7-12. The top 10 percent from each TBF/FLW state championship field will advance to a High School Fishing conference championship along with the top three teams from each of the seven TBF/FLW High School Fishing Opens held this season. The top 10 percent of each conference championship field will then advance to the High School Fishing National Championship, coinciding with the TBF National Championship and an FLW Tour stop in the spring of 2016. The High School Fishing national champions will each receive a \$5,000 college scholarship to the school of their choice.

In addition to the High School Fishing National Championship, all High School Fishing anglers nationwide automatically qualify for the world's largest high school bass tournament, the 2015 High School Fishing World Finals, held on Pickwick Lake in Florence, Alabama, on July 8-11. At the 2014 World Finals more than \$40,000 in scholarships and prizes were awarded. Visit HighSchoolFishing.org for details.

ABOUT FLW

FLW is the industry's premier tournament-fishing organization, providing anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for millions in prize money nationwide in 2015 over the course of 240 tournaments across five tournament circuits, four of which provide an avenue to the sport's richest payday and most coveted championship trophy – the Forrest Wood Cup. FLW tournament fishing can be seen on the Emmy-nominated "FLW" television show and is broadcast to more than 564 million households worldwide, making it the most widely distributed weekly outdoors-sports television show in the world. For more information about FLW visit FLWFishing.com and look for FLW on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Mayor Emanuel, Chicago Park District Announce Summer Park Program Online Registration To Begin April 13

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Park District today announced that online registration for summer programming begins on Monday, April 13 with in-person registration to begin on Saturday, April 18. A variety of programs and summer day camp offerings will soon be available for the upcoming season, and programs are now available to be viewed online at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

"You can't beat summer in Chicago, and the Park District offers a wide variety of programming in every neighborhood that allows residents and families to meet new people, explore new places and learn new skills while staying active this season," said Mayor Emanuel. "Additionally, Park District summer day camps enable kids to have fun and explore the City

while helping them to learn and grow outside of the classroom."

Programs can now be viewed online. Registration kicks off Monday, April 13 at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com. Online registration takes place over two days and in two different zones:

- Parks located west of California Avenue will begin online registration on Monday, April 13 at 9 a.m.
- Parks located east of California Avenue will begin online registration on Tuesday, April 14 at 9 a.m.

In-person registration begins at local parks Saturday, April 18 or Monday, April 20 depending upon the park location. To check when a particular park is beginning online and in-person registration, check our website at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Evanston Maple Trees Produce Syrup, Lessons in Sustainability

As part of the Urban Sugar Bush Maple Tapping Project, a partnership between Northwestern University and the American Indian Center of Chicago, the City of Evanston issued permits to install taps on three Evanston parkway maple trees on the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Dobson St. The taps were installed on March 23 and since then more than two gallons of fresh sap has been collected, resulting in two cups of fresh, Evanston-grown maple syrup.

NU Associate Professor Susan Hespos and American Indian Center of Chicago Urban Ecology Coordinator Eli Suzukovich reached out to 8th Ward Evanston Ald. Ann Rainey for help with the project, as maple trees are few and far between on Northwestern University's campus. After putting them in contact with the City's Assistant Director of Forestry, Parks and Greenways Paul D'Agostino, three healthy maple trees were chosen for the process. The trees are expected to continue producing sap for another week or more as they begin to bloom.

Stockapalooza Tickets Now On Sale

Stockapalooza tickets are now available to purchase for the annual Stock School fundraiser. The Stock School PTO, Friends of Stock, is hosting the fundraiser on May 1st from 7-10 p.m. at the Howard Street Inn, 6700 Howard Street in Niles. Tickets are \$50 and include a 3 hour open bar and appetizers. To purchase tickets visit <http://stock15.auction-bid.org>. For more information about the Stock School PTO, visit our website at <http://friendsofstock.wix.com/stockpto> or follow us on at Twitter @friendsofstock.

About Stock School: Stock School, whose motto is "Where All Children Belong," serves children ages 3 to 5 years with a variety of educational programs and services for a diverse student population regardless of ability. At Stock School, students are provided an enriching educational program that maximizes learning potential, social adjustment, and independence of each child. The school also offers resources and support for each family with a variety of events targeted specifically for parents. For further inquiry about Stockapalooza please contact Fundraising Chair, Jill Dennewitz at 773-534-1215.

Niles Township Youth Coalition Hosts "Safety In Our School Community" On April 14

D219 Superintendent Dr. Nanciann Gatta will share the results of the most recent Social Norms Survey at the Niles Township Youth Coalition Town Hall Meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14 in the Student Commons at Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie. The Social Norms Survey measures the social and behavioral choices our students are making. Audience members can join in discussions led by Niles North and Niles West students and representatives from local social service agencies on various topics related to safety in our schools.

Join us for an Information Fair and refreshments following the meeting. For more information, please contact Rosamin Bhanpuri at (847) 626-3959 or rosbha@d219.org.

The Niles Township Youth Coalition is composed of local community agencies that serve Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie. Its purpose is to bring together the key social service agencies that support children and families in Niles Township, to help provide a safe and secure community.

Visit www.nilestownshipyouth.org.

Chicago Public Schools Launches Parent Universities New Initiative Represents Next Steps In Mayor Emanuel's Goal Of Doubling Number Of Parental Engagement Centers By 2019

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett joined First Lady Amy Rule, Dr. Jose Lopez, President of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Alderman Roberto Maldonado and CPS officials today to launch the Parent University program, which will provide parents and guardians of CPS students with facilities and resources to learn in the same schools attended by their children. The Parent University program is another effort by the Emanuel Administration to engage and support parents, building upon the 31 Parent Engagement Centers established since the Mayor took office. By 2019, CPS will double the number of these centers.

"Two of the most important doors that any child walks through for their education are the front door of their school and but also the front door of their home and so with this new effort we will help more parents support the success of their children," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "Parent Universities are another example of how we can work together to invest in the success of our children, while also making sure that their parents and the entire community have the resources necessary for a brighter future as well."

"We are inviting parents and community members to engage in the learning process while also providing students in Chicago Public Schools to have real-life exposure to what it means to be a life-long learner," said CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett. "The Parent Universities will allow the entire family, students and parents, to reap the benefits of CPS resources."

Each Parent University will be equipped with a computer lab, a parent resource room, an office area and an activity room and will begin with programs The Art of Digital Video, Tasteful Manners and Holy Goat Percussion from the Office of Family and Community Engagement.

The Office of Teaching and Learning has developed "parent friendly" presentations and resources to support core content areas. City Colleges is partnering with the Austin-Westside and Humboldt Park sites to provide GED and College Bridge programming.

Members of the Chicago Public Schools Parent University will receive digital badges for completing tasks such as attending a report card pick up, participating in a workshop, or volunteering at a school function. These badges have the potential to unlock additional opportunities for participants. The first badge participants can receive is the Parent Scholar badge. Participants receive this badge when they sign up for CPS Parent University. A parent or guardian can sign up at <https://chicagocityoflearning.org/parentuniversity>.

Parent Universities fulfill the five principals of Parent and Community Engagement. Principle one is to provide opportunities for parents and community to engage in the learning process. Principle two is to provide opportunities for parents and community to be active participants in the education of our students. Principle three is to design programs that encourage parents and community to pursue extended growth opportunities. Principle four is to create an environment for parents and community that provides access to needed services and resources. And the last principle develops systems for parents and community to have clear communication with the school district, providing access to system-wide initiatives and current practices.

The selected schools are:

Roberto Clemente Community High School, located at 1147 N. Western Ave, Chicago, IL 60622
Sir Miles Davis Magnet Elementary, located at 6730 S. Paulina St., Chicago, IL 60636
Spencer Technology Academy, located at 214 N. Laverne Ave., Chicago, IL 60644

The Spencer location is currently operating, and the Miles Davis location will open in April 2015.

The concept for the Parent Universities was born out of Strategic Pillar Three, Engaged and Empowered Families and Community. Their creation is based on the understanding that parents and community are an essential component in educating our children. The intent is to provide parents and community members with experiences that will provide them a new outlook on education and the learning process that will transfer into positive outcomes for CPS students.

CPS' partnerships with Comcast, Chicago City of Learning, DePaul University's Digital Youth Network, Microsoft and United Way will allow CPS to complete the task of 16 Parent Engagement Center refreshes by the end of the 2015 calendar year.

All virtual and in-person learning opportunities are absolutely free to all CPS parents and guardians.

Chicago Public Schools serves 396,000 students in 664 schools. It is the nation's third-largest school district.

Help us Donate Books to Local Schools

This week, we kicked off a book drive and we need your help!

Throughout the entire month of April, we're accepting donated new and used books for local elementary and middle schools. As I mention in the video, you can drop books off here at our district office, located at 449 E 35th Street, Monday through Friday between the hours of 10am and 4pm. You can also give us a call and we'll come pick them up.

As the legislature is on a two week Easter break, we want to keep you posted on things we're working on here in the district.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by our office at 449 E 35th St, give us a call at (773) 924-1755.

Sincerely,

Christian Mitchell, State Representative, 26th District

Edison Park Bridal Walk

Join us for the second annual Edison Park Bridal Walk on Sunday, April 19th from 10am-1pm. \$10 per person.

Tickets include a chance to win two roundtrip Charter Value Flight air seats from Chicago O'Hare to Cancun, courtesy of The Travel Gallery and Funjet Vacations.

For more information and to register visit www.EdisonPark.com.

Surge in Canine Flu Cases Demands Extra Precautions by Pet Owners

Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control (CCDARC) is cautioning dog owners that a recent increase in reported cases of canine infectious respiratory disease (CIRD) could last for several weeks before it subsides.

Dr. Donna Alexander, CCDARC administrator, said voluntary reporting to the Department of disease surveillance conducted by veterinarians has identified more than 1,000 cases of CIRD, or canine flu, unrelated to "kennel cough", as well as five fatalities. CIRD is distinguished from kennel cough by its severity, possible consequences and diagnostic confirmation.

The age of the animals presenting with CIRD symptoms vary, but more severe forms are being seen in dogs under 1 year of age and greater than 7, she said.

Symptoms include persistent and lingering cough, lethargic behavior, a poor appetite and a fever. If you observe or suspect your dog may be suffering from any or all of these symptoms, the animal should be seen by a veterinarian, Dr. Alexander said.

Additionally, she recommended that until incidents of the disease diminish, dog owners should avoid pet friendly areas such as dog parks, not allow their dogs to play with other dogs, avoid group dog training activities, and, if possible, not board their pets. Dogs can be contagious even if they are not showing any of the CIRD symptoms, Dr. Alexander said.

While CIRD is highly contagious for dogs, it is not contagious for humans or other household pets such as cats. However, the virus that causes CIRD can live on fabrics and hard surfaces and can be transmitted from person to dog if the person has come into contact with a dog carrying the virus. To avoid such transmission, Dr. Alexander recommends thorough hand-washing after touching or petting a dog.

A vaccine that counters CIRD is available and can be administered by a veterinarian. This vaccine is separate from the kennel cough vaccine.

Dyslexia: A Conference for Parents

Saturday April 18, 2015 9am -1pm

*Lindner Conference Center, 610 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard, IL
(just east of the Yorktown Shopping Mall)*

Finally, a conference for parents to understand and learn more about dyslexia! You will learn about new technologies available to help your child, how dyslexia affects the entire family and hear directly from teens how they have conquered their challenges. As well, we will teach you the ins/outs of the cognitive assessments! You will gain valuable insight into the world of dyslexia and have a chance to network with other parents as you share your journey!

On The Road To Literacy Conference Builds Bridges For Adult Education Learners

Over one quarter of Chicagoans lack the basic literacy skills that are necessary to function competitively and communicate effectively in society. Low literacy affects everything from high unemployment rates to violent crime and overcrowded prisons. Over the years, the On the Road to Literacy Conference has become a point of reference in surveying the achievements the literacy community has made and the challenges that lie ahead.

Held at the UIC's Center for Literacy on April 18th, the On the Road to Literacy Conference, sponsored by Literacy Volunteers of Illinois and UIC's Center for Literacy, will bring together many students, teachers, tutors and administrators from literacy programs across Chicago and Illinois to tackle the roots of low literacy. Dr. Alfred Tatum, Dean of the College of Education at UIC, will be the featured key speaker at this event. With over 20 workshops, the conference will explore strategies, techniques and materials for use by adult literacy tutors and program staff.

"This conference serves as an annual reminder that the work we are doing is critical to improving our society," said Dorothy Miaso, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Illinois.

The On the Road to Literacy Conference provides valuable training and resources for tutors and students, but it also acts as a forum for discussion between dozens of agencies and exposes more effective ways of achieving shared goals.

This is an important event for a community that makes up one of Chicago's greatest social services and educational resources. Anyone can register to attend, whether you are a tutor, a student, or simply interested in the critical work that we do and what else needs to be done.

Advanced registration is \$15 for students and \$20 for tutors and staff. At the door registration is \$17 for students and \$22 for tutors and staff.

Register at www.lvillinois.org under the link On The Road to Literacy.

Resurrection College Prep Senior Awarded Evans Scholarship



Resurrection College Prep High School senior Claire Travers '15 has been awarded a Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship to Marquette University by the Western Golf Association (WGA) Scholarship Committee. Claire is a graduate of St. Tarcissus School and is a golf caddie at Ridgemoor Country Club.

Claire Travers is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Resurrection Golf Team, for which she was honored as Most Valuable Player during her junior year. She is also a member of the Diakonia Service Honor Society and is an active member of Girl Scouts. Claire earned the Gold Award, the highest award any Girl Scout can receive, by undertaking a service project in which she collected and donated over 4,000 items in school supplies to the students in Moore, Oklahoma, who were devastated by an EF5 tornado.

Claire cites her family for their support, and said, "I have to give all the credit to my mom. She is always there for me." Claire also credits her teachers and fellow students for challenging her and for helping her whenever she needed it. "Resurrection gave me the confidence and foundation I have to go on in college," she said. Claire Travers plans to study Nursing at Marquette University.

Resurrection College Prep High School, located at 7500 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago, is the largest all girls Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school for young women on the north side of Chicago. Since its founding in 1922, Resurrection has graduated over 13,500 alumnae. For more information about Resurrection College Prep High School, call 773.775.6616 Ext 129 or visit www.reshs.org.

Scholarships Available To Chicago-Area Students For Japanese Immersion Program At Concordia Language Villages

Need-based scholarships are available to support students from the greater Chicago area interested in Japanese to participate in a one-, two- or four-week sleepaway camp program at Mori no Ike, the Japanese Language Village, during the summer of 2015. These scholarships are made possible by a generous gift from the OMRON Corporation.

To be eligible, students must be between the ages of 7-18, reside within 100 miles of Chicago and demonstrate financial need. For more information, contact Concordia Language Villages at (800) 222-4750, visit the website ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org/scholarships or email scholschp@cord.edu.

At Mori no Ike, participants learn Japanese in a traditional summer camp setting. Language instruction is tailored to learners of all ages and stages. Participants eat authentic Japanese cuisine and participate in cultural activities, such as the martial arts of aikido and kendo or creative activities such as origami (paper folding) or shodo (calligraphy). Mori no Ike is located near Dent, Minn.

Concordia Language Villages, a program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., has been a leader in immersion language and culture education for more than 50 years and offers one-, two- and four-week residential immersion summer camps in Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Swedish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Finnish, Norwegian, Russian, English and Portuguese. Sites are located throughout the northwoods of Minnesota. Programs annually attract nearly 11,000 participants from all 50 states and many countries.

April Events At Chicago Public Library

Sister Helen Prejean, J. Ivy And T.C. Boyle Author Discussions As Well As Money Smart Week And National Poetry Month Events Featured At Chicago Public Library In April

In April, Chicago Public Library will feature several noteworthy authors including Sister Helen Prejean, T.C. Boyle, J. Ivy, Mary Morris and Daniel P. Smith, as part of its monthly Authors @ the Library series and One Book, One Chicago program. Moreover, the discussions continue as the Library presents National Poetry Month and Money Smart Week events featuring additional guest authors, workshops and performances. Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs listed below will be held in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium (Lower Level) at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St. For more information visit chipublib.org or call (312) 747-4050.

Austin-Irving Branch Library

6100 W. Irving Park Road, 312-744-6222

Money Smart Week April 18th – 25th

Monday, April 20 2015 – 6:30pm

"Home Sweet Home: Money Saving Tips for Homebuyers and Homeowners"

This presentation by Kelly Malitz, senior mortgage loan officer for MB Financial Bank, is for home buyers, homeowners and investors. Attendees will learn about the current market, why now is a great time to buy or refinance, and down payment assistance.

Tuesday, April 21 2015 – 1:00pm

"The Less Stress Move: Taking the Mystery Out of Selling Your Home"

Dale Tippett, managing broker and senior real estate specialist, will address what you and your go-to-people need to know about selling your home without drama. This seminar is a must for long-timehomeowners, Baby Boomers and their parents

Thursday, April 23 2015 – 11:00am

"Turning 65: Understanding Medicare Parts A & B and Medicare Supplement Plans"

This educational presentation will cover eligibility, enrollment and the benefits of Medicare Parts A & B and the standardized medicare Supplemental Plans available in Illinois. This informational session will be given by Jeanet Reyes-Cordero, community relations specialist, for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

Friday, April 24 2015 – 2:00pm

"Reverse Mortgages"

Terri Brady, reverse mortgage consultant from Standard Bank and Trust Co., will give a seminar on recent changes and new program guidelines which have made reverse mortgages safer and more economical.

Evanston Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue Poetry Month Events for Children

April 1 - April 30, Main Children's Room, North Branch, and Chicago Ave./ Main St. Branch Bring your baby, toddler or preschooler to the Library to play our Spring Words Nursery Rhyme Game! Complete 10 of the rhymes posted and parents receive a keychain for holding all the nursery rhymes -- kids get a miniature notebook of their own. Singing rhymes is the single best way to prepare your child to be ready to learn to read. Enjoy this fun program with your child!

April 1 - April 30, Main Children's Room All Evanston Elementary and Middle School kids are invited to come to the Children's Room for a Poetry Scavenger Hunt. Get a game card and find poetry hidden around the Children's Room. Win a prize!

What's Your Reason to Start Your Estate Planning?



Chester M. Przybylo

People have many different reasons to do estate planning. Some people plan diligently and well in advance of any urgent need. Other people procrastinate and plan only when things are thrust upon them. What are you waiting for? Here are some of the top reasons which estate-planning attorneys say motivate their clients to plan or update their existing plan:

Vacations - People want to relax without worrying about "what ifs." But, you don't need to wait for a vacation to take this worry off your plate.

Weddings - When a couple is starting a new life together, they want to start off right and make sure each other are taken care of.

Divorce - Most people no longer wish to benefit their ex-spouse after a divorce.

Births and adoptions - A new child is a joyous occasion. People want to make sure there is a solid foundation for their new bundle of joy. Even if they already have a plan, they want to make sure that the plan is suitable now that their family has grown.

Funerals - The death of a close friend or relative can make people feel their own mortality. They realize that their own death will happen, sooner or later, and they would rather it happen on their own terms. Often, people see firsthand the anguish caused by poor planning and want to make sure they don't leave behind an emotional and financial mess.

Inheritances - When people inherit money, it often changes their estate plan. They consider how to divide the newfound wealth and what they want to leave as their legacy.

Health changes - A significant deterioration in health often makes a person's mortality more real. They want to make sure their loved ones are taken care of in case their health declines further. Of course, planning in advance would remove that worry and focus their energy on spending time with loved ones.

Law changes - Changes in the law can affect what would happen to the estate. New opportunities appear from time to time, while other opportunities disappear. The savvy update their plans periodically to take advantage of these opportunities while they can.

The bottom line is that people do estate planning in order to take care of their loved ones and to assure the legacy they envision. A qualified, estateplanning attorney who focuses his or her practice in that field can help you arrive at an estate plan that effectively accomplishes your unique goals. When you die, will your loved ones discover a plan in disarray.

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

Norwood Park Seniors Club

AARP DRIVER Safety Class On April 14 & 16

Are you up-to-date on changes to the "Rules of the Road" in Illinois or want to improve your defensive driving knowledge? If so, consider enrolling in the two half-day AARP Driver Safety Class, hosted by the Norwood Park Senior Center. The sessions are open to persons age 55 or older. Classes will be held on April 14 and April 16, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., at the Norwood Park Senior Center, 5801 N. Natoma Ave. in Chicago.

The sessions are informative, engaging and spirited. Many who have attended the classes remarked how much they learned about safe driving practices and changes to traffic laws. Completion of the course may qualify participants for a multi-year discount on their liability insurance, an aggregate savings that could exceed \$100. Cost of the class is \$20 per person (\$15 per person for AARP members). To register, please call the Center at (773) 775-6071 or email them at info@npseniorcenter.org.

The Norwood Park Senior Center is managed by Norwood Seniors Network, a community outreach program, in partnership with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Senior Services Area Agency on Aging and the Chicago Park District

Nursing Home Costs...

Will They Wipe Out Your Life Savings?

Call today to schedule a **free, 15-minute phone consultation with an attorney to discuss if you might qualify for Medicaid.**

Call 773-631-2525

Law Offices of Chester M. Przybylo and Associates
www.PlanOurEstate.com

Mather's—More Than a Café Serves Up a Smorgasbord of Extraordinary Experiences

From loosening up with a yoga class, to brushing up on their painting, to enjoying live music concerts—customers are embracing the wide range of programs and events at all Mather's—More Than a Café locations. A part of Norwood Park since 2001 and Portage Park since 2002, these innovative neighborhood places are increasingly popular. People of all ages can enjoy fresh, made-to-order food and are welcome to grab a quick bite or spend a morning over a 95¢ bottomless cup of coffee with access to free Wi-Fi. Additionally, those age 50 and better can sign up for any of the continuously offered programs and events, including computer tutorials, live music concerts, exercise classes, and informative lectures.

"We're a neighborhood place where you can get delicious food at a great price and explore all sorts of educational and wellness programs, as well as enjoy a variety of fun events," says Nina Kuzniak, director of Café operations. "There's something happening almost every minute that we're open."

Creating Ways to Age Well

All Mather's—More Than a Café locations, found at 3235 N. Central and 7134 W. Higgins in Chicago, plus a third in the Chatham neighborhood, are part of Mather LifeWays, a unique, non-denominational not-for-profit organization with the mission of enhancing the lives of older adults by creating Ways to Age WellSM.

"Our programs and events are all based on that mission," says Kuzniak. "I guess that's part of the "more than" in Mather's—More Than a Café. We try to give people the opportunity to learn something, try a new skill like watercolor painting or salsa dancing, or just get together and have fun right in their neighborhood."

There's no membership at Mather's—More Than a Café, though preregistration is required for all programs and classes. Prices and suggested donations range from free to around \$10, with an additional charge for programs that include meals, such as dinner theater or lunchtime concerts. "Both locations have some regular fun evening events," says Kuzniak. "At Mather's on Central Avenue, we stay open late on some Fridays and feature live concerts with a variety of music; at Mather's on Higgins Avenue we schedule some dinner theater events with special menus tied to live entertainment."

Stop in and Check It Out

Curious? Stop in at the nearest Mather's—More Than a Café and see for yourself. Mather's on Central Avenue is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Mather's on Higgins Avenue is open six days a week: Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Browse the schedule of events while you scope out everything the place offers, and try something from the day's menu. (Kuzniak says, "We like to tell our first-time customers that it all starts with a cup of coffee—from there, the possibilities are endless.") Or you can take the first step by visiting www.mathersmorethanacafe.com or calling (888) 600.2560



Passover Greeting 2015

Dear Friends,

As our family settles around our intimate Seder table with our guests, our goal is not just to eat the traditional foods and say the Hebrew word as dictated in the Haggadah but to incorporate them and their lessons into our lives.

Here are some of our favorite lessons we've learned over the years:

Matzah. It's flat. It's humble. It's solid. White bread is puffy and looks really nice, but it can blow away in the wind, and wouldn't last more than a day if it wasn't packed with preservatives. As big as it is, it has no substance. Sometimes we all need to act like a matzah, humbly doing what it takes and being a rock of support for our friends when they need us. And do you know something else? Matzah lasts, like the good friendships we all seek to create. So be a matzah friend.

Maror. Bitter herbs. We eat them to remember the suffering of our ancestors in Egypt. Most of us were never slaves, but the fact that someone else was or is enslaved is enough for us to taste bitterness. When you see someone in need, empathize and feel their pain.

Four cups of wine. We drink them to commemorate the four words G-d used to describe to Moses how he would soon redeem the Hebrews. Drinking these cups is our way of thanking Him for the miracles that he did—and continues to do.

The lesson I take from this is that we need to be profusive with our thanks. Don't just say "thank you" once. Do it again and again and make sure that your appreciation really shows.

The Four Questions. There was a time when people said, "children should be seen and not heard." Apparently this was not the case at Jewish tables. In fact the Bible itself builds the Seder proceedings around the children asked by the children. Curiosity is a good thing, and we need to foster it in our children. When a child asks a question, we need to listen attentively and try to answer it. And if we don't know the answer, look for it.

Timing is everything. Did you know that the Seder needs to start after nightfall? This is the time when our ancestors would eat the Paschal lamb, and this is the time when we hold our seders. Yes it's late and the kids be getting a bit droopy, but a good thing is worth waiting for!

Last but not least I want to wish each and every one of you a very happy Passover. By the time you will be reading this, the Seder will be the stuff of memories (and perhaps a stack of dirty dishes), but hopefully the moments shared, the lessons learned, the bonds formed and strengthened will keep you until next year when we get to re-experience the Seder magic all over again.

Rabbi Yochanan Posner
Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie.

Age Friendly Evanston! Progress Report & Conversation Set for April 18

Age Friendly Evanston! is hosting a meeting to update the community about Evanston's age friendliness and the potential future action plan to ensure the city is a good place to grow up and grow old! The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held on Sat., April 18, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Levy Center, Linden Room, 300 Dodge Ave. in Evanston.

There will be a discussion about transportation and livability in Evanston with City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz and other City staff, including Ylda Capriccioso, Assistant to the City Manager/Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator; Catherine Hurley, Sustainable Programs Coordinator; and Christina Ferraro, Assistant Director of Community Services.

Come meet the dozens of residents and professionals who have been working on this initiative. Topics will include:

- What does "Age Friendly" mean?
- Why is the City doing this?
- What has been done so far?
- What can the community look forward to?

A continental breakfast will be provided. Although everyone is welcome to attend and join the discussion, space is limited. Please reserve your space by calling 847-448-8251 or email aging@cityofevanston.org. If you would like transportation to this event, please indicate that when you reserve your space.

Let's create a greater awareness and a synergy about Age Friendly Evanston!

"Maintaining Your Car" Is The Timely Talk At Norwood Crossing On April 15

Thinking of taking a road trip this summer? Be sure your car is mechanically checked out and in working order to minimize any on-road breakdowns. To prepare yourself for discussions with the mechanic in your neighborhood or the service representative at your auto dealership, please attend the Timely Talk, "Maintaining Your Car," presented by Edison Park businessman, Steve Ek, owner of Ek Automotive. The talk will take place at 2 p.m., on Apr. 15, at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago.

Ek, who opened his own business in 1991, will provide a basic understanding of auto repair service, will identify questions to ask a mechanic when he presents an automotive problem, will point out answers to listen for before leaving your car in a shop, and will discuss your right to see and have replaced parts returned to you. The program is most interesting when questions are asked about individual situations, and Ek encourages this type of verbal exchange during his presentation. It is a learning process for everyone in the audience. Afterward, enjoy light refreshments and participate in a prize raffle.

For more information or to RSVP, please call (773) 577-5323 or email info@norwoodcrossing.org.

BoatUS: 2015 List of Top Ten Boat Names

Big and small, power or sail, there are many different kinds of boats and so many different kinds of boat owners. But the one thing they seem to agree on is how boating makes them feel, at least if your looking at a boat's name on the transom. "Serenity" has been named the #1 boat name for the second year in a row with the release of the 2015 list of Top Ten Boat Names from Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS). It is also the name's tenth appearance on the popular list of boat names issued annually since 1992 by the recreational boat advocacy, service and safety group. "Calm, peaceful and untroubled is what boating is all about for so many boaters," said BoatUS spokesman Scott Croft.

The BoatUS 2015 list of Top Ten Boat Names:

1. Serenity
2. Seas the Day
3. Andiamo (Italian for "let's go")
4. Aquaholic
5. Second Wind
6. Island Time
7. Happy Ours
8. Journey
9. Serendipity
10. Relentless

Croft says boaters frequently come to BoatUS to get ideas for a name by taking a peek at the Association's online list of over 8,000 boat names, then use the free and easy layout program to, "Start playing around with a boat

name to get an idea of what it will look like, picking letter styles and colors." Boaters can then choose to either order online or if they want some more creative help, may use the BoatUS Premium Boat Graphics service that offers the talents of a professional designer. An online photo gallery can also help boaters also narrow down a choice.

"Picking a boat name can be harder than naming one's own child," said Croft, who has had to name several of his boats through the years. "Boat names can reflect your lifestyle, your relationship to loved ones or what you do for a living. And that's only the beginning." For the record, Croft's first boat name was "Constitution" because, "We happened to name her on a July 4th weekend and I had only a limited choice of ugly hardware store letters." For his second boat name, Croft chose "Aiden R." after his only son and used the BoatUS graphics service. "Kids sometimes think it's pretty cool to have their name on a boat. It's also a real safe bet for parent to choose – but only if you have one child," he said with a smile.

The BoatUS Graphics service also offers easy video instructions on how to remove or add a graphic to a boat as well a 30-day "Oops Assurance Guarantee" that allows the buyer to receive replacement decals free of charge if the graphic was damaged during installation. For more, go to BoatUS.com/boatnames.

Three Boating Tips Just For Springtime

Across America at boat launch ramps, the familiar growl of boat motors waking up from their long winter nap heralds the start of the boating season. But what makes boating, fishing or sailing this time of year different from all others? When it comes to safety, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has three tips to answer that question:

1. The water is still cold. Darn cold. Even though the white stuff is gone and you're in a T-shirt and can feel the sun's warmth on your face, lurking beneath your boat's keel is water that could make breathing difficult or disable you in minutes after an accidental fall overboard. It's a good idea to wear a comfortable life jacket, and if solo, rig a self-boarding ladder that can be deployed while in the water.
2. Have backup plans. For a routine breakdown while underway, having an on water towing plan from BoatUS can help. However, most important is to leave a note, or "float plan," for friends or family members advising them of your expected return. That's because early in the season there are way-too-few boaters out there who could provide aid if something unexpected happened, and if no one knows where you are, you could be in a heap of trouble. A sample float plan can be found at: BoatUS.com/floatplan.
3. The number one reason why boats sink in the springtime is being in a hurry to get in the water. Check every engine hose and clamp. Remove leaves in scuppers and clear clogged cockpit drains. Check to see that freezing water didn't crack the sea strainer or seacock/valves. Go to BoatUS.com/springchecklist to get a copy of a Spring Fitting Out Safety Checklist.

"Vision Zero" Plan Recommended For Reducing Traffic Injuries, Fatalities Advocates Call For Independent Task Force To Assess Photo Enforcement And Other Safety Strategies

Saying that the victims of traffic crashes are being forgotten in the debate over traffic safety and red light cameras, transportation advocates today called on Chicago's elected leaders and candidates for elected office to support a comprehensive "Vision Zero" strategy to consistently reduce traffic injuries and eventually eliminate traffic fatalities.

In addition, they recommended creating an independent taskforce to assess progress toward the Vision Zero goal and examine which safety strategies work best to reduce traffic injuries and deaths, including evaluating the safety impact of individual red light camera locations.

"The real victims in this debate are being forgotten," said Ron Burke, executive director of the Active Transportation Alliance. "The real victims are the nearly 21,000 people significantly injured or killed in traffic crashes each year in Chicago."

One of those victims was 24-year-old Amanda "Mandy" Annis, who was killed in a traffic crash in Logan Square in 2008. Annis was riding her bicycle west on Armitage Avenue when she was hit and killed by a motorist who ran a red light.

Her boyfriend James Bausch, 27 at the time, was riding a bike to visit Annis and rode past the police activity before returning to the scene to learn his girlfriend was the victim. The same hour she was killed, he was picking up an engagement ring and had plans to propose to Annis. Annis was a teacher at Humboldt Community Christian School.

"Nobody should have to go through what Mandy's family and I went through in losing someone we loved to a preventable traffic crash," said Bausch. "We need to be doing more to enforce traffic laws and hold violators accountable to prevent tragedies like this from happening on our streets."

Vision Zero is an international traffic safety movement guided by the principle that no loss of life on our streets is acceptable. Traffic crashes are not mere "accidents," but preventable incidents that can be reduced and eliminated with systemic changes. Photo enforcement is one tool that's been used internationally and across the U.S. to advance Vision Zero goals, along with public awareness and education programs, policy changes, and improvements to traffic engineering and street design.

The findings of Chicago's Vision Zero task force could serve as the foundation for a detailed action plan on how Chicago will achieve progress towards Vision Zero over the next two years. In the past year, the cities of New York, San Francisco and Seattle have all committed to Vision Zero and published detailed action plans that aim to reduce and ultimately eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries, and several other cities are already working on similar plans. The Chicago Department of Transportation has adopted a goal of reaching zero traffic fatalities by 2022. In pursuit of that goal, CDOT has been implementing various strategies that would contribute to a comprehensive plan.

"Vision Zero is the right thing to do for kids and all of Chicago's pedestrians," said Dr. Kyran Quinlan, who specializes in pediatrics at Rush University Medical Center. "It is far easier and wiser to protect child pedestrians by making our streets safer. Once kids are hit and severely injured, the best medicine may not be enough to save their lives or make them whole again."

According to IDOT data, in 2012 there were more than 77,000 reported traffic crashes in

Redesigned RTA Website Makes it Easier to Find Best Route And Locate Regional Transit Information

Site Is Home To RTA Trip Planner And Overall Transit Information

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is announcing the launch of its newly redesigned website.

The new site provides a wide-range of resources, ranging from the RTA Trip Planner which received more than 5 million visits last year, to a variety of documents and studies that offer information about the transit region, the RTA and the CTA, Metra, Pace and ADA Paratransit. This information on the site continues to range from budget information to ridership numbers, but the new design and new palette of colors makes it easier and more pleasant, to use. In addition, rotating features on the home page highlights the accomplishments of the RTA. The site is designed to convert easily to many

formats, so riders can easily visit and use the site from a smart phone, tablet or desktop. Additionally, the site conforms to accessibility standards to ensure easy access for people with disabilities, including vision impaired individuals who use screen readers.

"Our online visitors will now experience a more vibrant and seamless view of how the RTA works as a whole with the service boards, municipalities and transit advocates," said Leanne Redden, RTA Executive Director. "We hope visitors will find this website easy to use, whether they come on line to plan a trip or examine the latest regional budget information."

The RTA website address is the same and can be viewed by visiting www.RTAChicago.org.

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.

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.

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.

From the Debutante's Ball to the Red Carpet Spring Tea Norwood Park Historical Society 5624 N. Newark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631

April 18th or April 19th at 1:30 pm

Make your reservation for either Saturday, April 18th or Sunday, April 19th for the Norwood Park Historical Societies Spring Tea by April 15. The Tea is being held at 5624 N. Newark Ave, Chicago at 1:30 pm. There will be Tea Sandwiches, Scones, Desserts and Hot Tea. This year's theme is "From the Debutante's Ball to the Red Carpet." You can come with your party, red carpet, ball gown, prom, or dance dress. Hats and gloves are optional

Send your date, number of people, and check for \$25 (adults) or \$12 (children 10 or younger) to NPHS, Attn: Spring Tea, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago IL 60631

The Norwood Park Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, owns and is headquartered in the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, the oldest surviving house in Chicago (1833). The Society works with the community to preserve its rich history and architectural integrity and to make the dreams and experiences of our predecessors come to life. Visits are available on Saturdays, from noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Chicago that caused significant injuries for nearly 21,000 people and killed 145 people. Because crashes and injuries are often unreported or misreported, the actual numbers are likely higher.

People riding bikes accounted for seven percent of traffic fatalities, people walking 34 percent, and people in cars 59 percent. For non-fatal injuries, about 80 percent were people in cars with the remaining 20 percent that were people biking and people walking. Many more people suffer minor injuries and life disruption.

Chicago advocates said they are worried the debate about red light cameras could lead to the loss of an important traffic safety tool. They said dangerous driving is rampant, and there aren't enough police officers to combat the problem and enforce traffic safety laws. Photo enforcement can bridge the gap, effectively multiplying the power of the police to enforce the law.

"Some of the criticism is justified and some is off base, but enforcing traffic laws, whether with cameras or police officers, prevents injuries and save lives when done properly," said Burke. "Rather than throw the baby out with the bath water, the city should convene an independent group to determine how to improve the program and which cameras should stay or go."

The Federal Highway Administration and other traffic safety experts support the use of red light cameras.

"Red light violations may seem trivial to violators, but the safety consequences are real," said traffic safety expert Richard Retting, who has led studies at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) that documented reductions in red light running that ranged from 40 to 96 percent after adding red light cameras. "The research is conclusive: red light cameras are effective at reducing crashes that result in serious injuries and fatalities."

"As a pediatric emergency medical physician, I've seen the devastating impact that traffic crashes have on children and their families," said Dr. Karen Sheehan, who serves as medical director of the Lurie Children's Injury Prevention and Research Center. "Research has shown that red light cameras decrease the more serious right angle crashes."

In 2013, more than 1,100 crashes caused by red light violations killed six people and caused significant injuries for more than 700 people.

Another one of those victims was James Longfield, who was riding his bike north on Elston Avenue in Chicago when he was struck by a cab driver running a red light. The driver approached the intersection from the east on Courtland, turning right on red without stopping and hit Longfield. Longfield suffered injuries and ultimately settled with the cab company to cover his medical expenses and bike damages, as well as additional compensation.

"We need increased enforcement of traffic laws on our streets to save lives and prevent serious injuries like mine, and traffic safety cameras are a big part of that," said Longfield.

Active Trans supports better enforcement of all traffic laws for all modes of travel. Whether driving, biking, or walking, everyone needs to be safe and respectful. Dangerous behaviors are unlikely to change without a comprehensive strategy that includes ticketing, public awareness and education programs, policy changes, and improvements to street design.

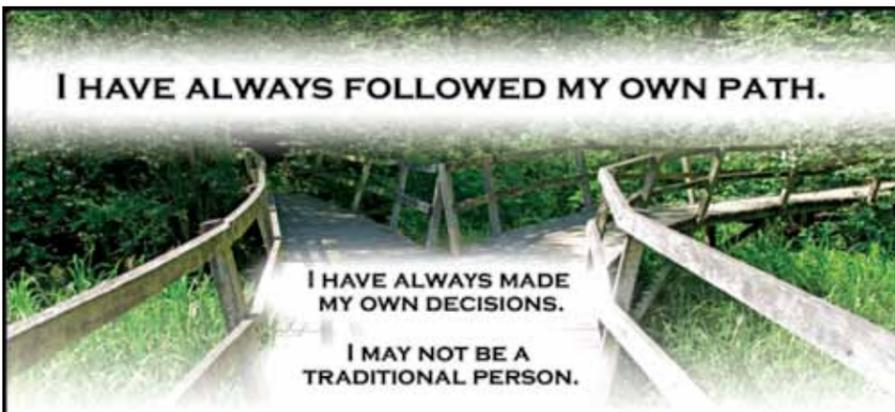
Active Trans is asking people to sign a petition in support of moving forward with Vision Zero goals throughout the region.

I HAVE ALWAYS FOLLOWED MY OWN PATH.

I HAVE ALWAYS MADE MY OWN DECISIONS.

I MAY NOT BE A TRADITIONAL PERSON.

BUT I STILL BELIEVE IN SOME TRADITIONS.



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Schedules & registration at www.reshs.org

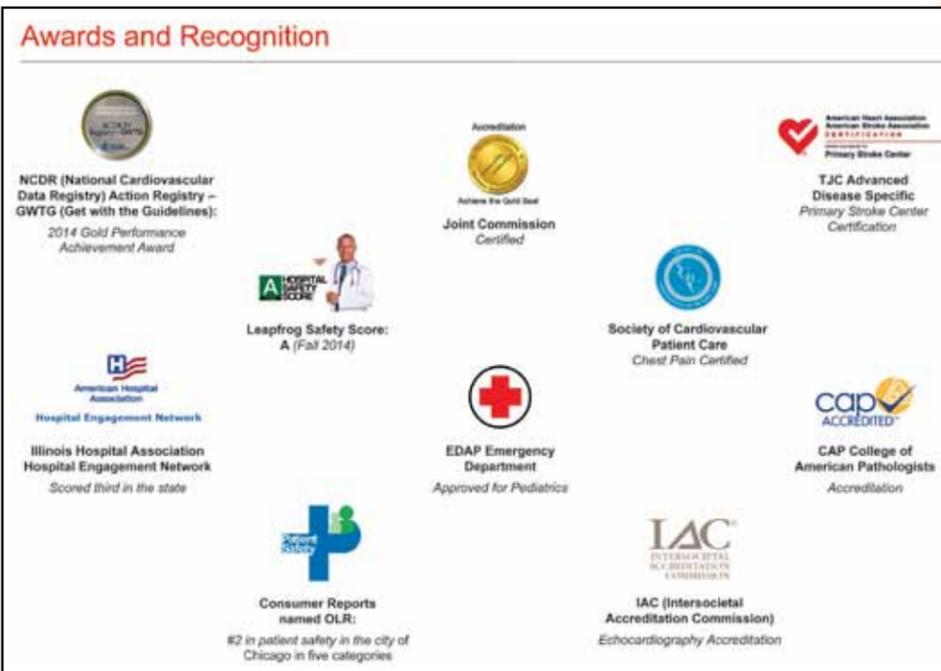
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