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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 26th thru February 1st (See Page 5 for More)



Early Spring? Find Out February 2nd Happy Groundhog's Day

(See Page 7 for History)

MAYOR'S GROCERY TASK FORCE LAYS OUT KEY PRIORITIES TO HELP REACTIVATE SHUTTERED DOMINICK'S STORES IN 2014

Continues to Support Efforts to Find New Operators for
Nine Vacant Stores and Ensure Food Access

The City of Chicago's grocery store task force has laid out key priorities as it seeks to support efforts to re-occupy nine grocery locations that remain vacant due to the late December closing of 15 Dominick's food stores across the city, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced today.

"The task force's number one priority is to get these buildings filled as quickly as possible with grocers or other businesses that nearby residents can continue to depend upon for daily needs, services, and jobs," Mayor Emanuel said.

The task force was formed by Mayor Emanuel after Dominick's parent company, Safeway Inc., revealed in November that it was pulling out of the Chicago-area market by the end of 2013. Since then, Mariano's Fresh Market announced that it would take over three Chicago locations, Jewel-Osco announced plans for two locations, and Cermak Fresh Market reportedly acquired one location, leaving nine stores unaccounted for.

The 20-member task force is led by Deputy Mayor Steve Koch with support from Alds. Pat O'Connor (40th), Joe Moore (49th), and Leslie Hairston (5th).

Having convened its first meeting of the new year, the task force is focusing its efforts on five of the remaining nine store locations that, to date, have no firm plans for redevelopment. The stores are located in the South Shore, West Ridge, Norwood Park, Lincoln Square, and Near North Side communities. While the situation remains fluid, the task force has prioritized these five stores even as it monitors the ongoing efforts with the other three stores.

While each location has re-use potential for a grocery-related business, industry experts have identified specific issues that could limit their viability or deter a potential operator from investing in the sites.

In response, the task force is engaging grocery store chains and independent operators with information about public resources that would facilitate their lease or acquisition of the properties. It is also working to ensure Safeway considers these issues and community needs as the company considers private offers for each location.

"We're currently targeting about a dozen local and national grocers, each of which has the capacity to expand into one or more of these locations," said task force member Andrew J. Mooney, commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development. "We're making sure they recognize the buying power that's represented, what public resources are available, and how their investment would cater to the needs of area customers."

While Jewel and Mariano's have re-hired workers from the closed stores, the task force continues to monitor employment assistance being made available to former Dominick's employees in conjunction with their union representatives and the Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership, which has provided a series of rapid response employment workshops.

The Chicago North Side Dominick's locations are:

6623 N DAMEN AVE, Chicago, 60645, Ward 50 1763 W HOWARD ST, Chicago, 60626, Ward 49
6312 N NAGLE AVE, Chicago, 60646, Ward 41 5233 N LINCOLN AVE, Chicago, 60625, Ward 40
6009 N BROADWAY, Chicago, 60660, Ward 48 5201 N SHERIDAN RD, Chicago, 60640, Ward 48

MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES POTHOLE TRACKER THAT ALLOWS RESIDENTS TO TRACK PROGRESS ON POTHOLE REPAIRS

New Site Provides 7 Days of Pothole Repair Information

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced the City's new "Pothole Tracker", which allows Chicagoans to monitor a week's worth of pothole patching activity by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT).

"The City of Chicago is filling thousands of potholes every day in response to resident requests for service," Mayor Emanuel said. "This new website tool allows residents to track the patching work in their neighborhoods and across Chicago."

Pothole Tracker, powered by the City's Open Data Portal at www.cityofchicago.org/potholetracker, gives Chicagoans a snapshot of the potholes that CDOT crews have filled during the past seven days.

On the Pothole Tracker site, each blue dot is a location where a resident has reported a pothole and CDOT crews have subsequently been busy repairing roadways. An information box on each dot provides the service request number, the date of the completed work and the total number of potholes repaired on each block.

Since the start of the new year, CDOT crews have patched more than 50,000 potholes in streets in alleys across Chicago, using 1,000 tons of asphalt patching material. In 2013, CDOT repaired more than 625,000 potholes. Developers interested in viewing the open dataset can visit here.



Mayor Rahm Emanuel uses his smartphone to demonstrate the new Pothole Tracker during a stop to thank CDOT crews filling potholes on North Marine Drive.

Here's Our New Playlot Coming Soon to Monument Park!



Thank you to all the residents who took the time to vote for our new playlot. The voting results were close and in the end, Option 2 was the winning design for Monument Park. A special thanks to Alderman Mary O'Connor, Friends of the Park, and the Chicago Park District for their efforts in renovating Monument Park.

This design has been submitted to the Chicago Park District. We will receive notice in 4-6 weeks for an approximate groundbreaking date. An email blast will be sent to the community with more information including the date for our Community Volunteer Fibar Day. Thanks again for your support.

The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce

Chicago Brauhaus

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Presence Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center Offers February Health Programs

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

A free Healthy Aging Program will be held Friday, February 14, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This program for individuals aged 55 and older consists of social time, health topics and guest lectures. Beth Zoeller, possibilities coach from Mather Life-Ways, will discuss the six dimensions of wellness. Registration is not required.

The Diabetes Support Group will meet Tuesday, February 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This free support group aims to provide mutual support and education. For more information, call 773.794.8329.

Cardiac check-ups will be offered at HeartFest on Saturday, February 8, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For \$30, participants will receive an electrocardiogram interpreted by a board-certified cardiologist, cholesterol and blood glucose screenings (12-hour fasting recommended), and blood pressure screening. Participants can consult with a registered pharmacist about medications and receive free health care information. Refreshments will be provided. Advance registration is required by calling 877.737.4636.

A free lecture titled Congestive Heart Failure will be given Tuesday, February 25, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mary Schlitter, R.N., cardiac care advocate, will discuss the signs, symptoms and treatments for congestive heart failure. Refreshments will be served. Advance registration is required by calling 877.737.4636.

Free blood pressure screenings will be offered Thursday, February 27, 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.

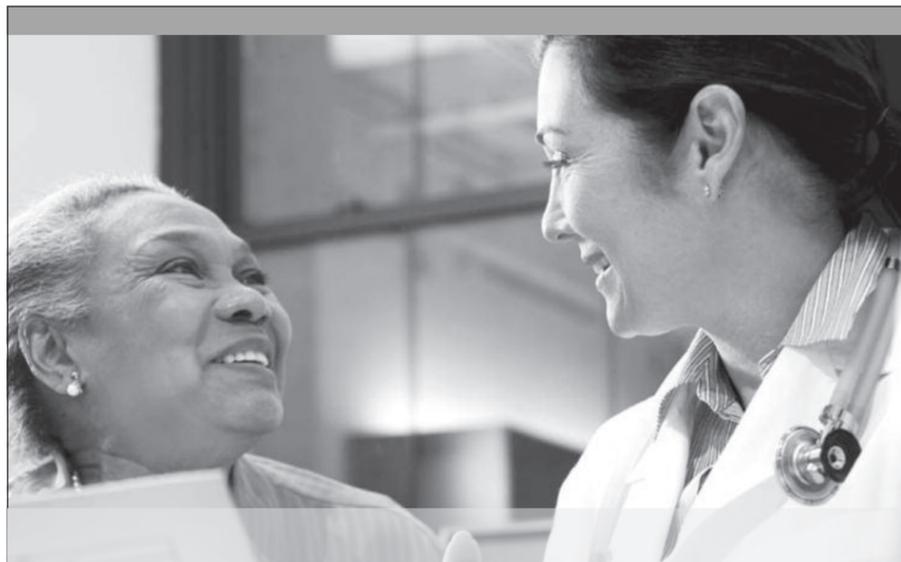
The Arthritis Support Group will meet Thursday, February 27, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the seventh floor Centennial Conference Center. These free sessions aim to provide mutual support and education. Registration is not required.

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

ChildServ Invites Adults In Chicagoland To Learn About Fostering

ChildServ invites caring adults in Chicago and its suburbs to make a new year's resolution to learn how they can brighten a child's future through fostering. More information is available at www.childserv.org, by calling 773-867-7323, or by attending an information session. The next session is January 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Harold Washington Professional Building, 5401 S. Wentworth 2N, Chicago. Call 773-867-7323 for more information or to RSVP.

ChildServ's mission is to help Chicagoland's at-risk children and their families build, achieve and sustain better lives. Founded in 1894, ChildServ brings about change that helps children to build, achieve and sustain better lives. ChildServ reaches 3,100 children and families each year through foster care and adoption, group homes, child care, early childhood education and parenting support enhanced by healthy lifestyle information and college / career readiness support. The agency focuses on providing in-depth, community-based programs to underserved children, their families, foster parents and other caregivers in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties.



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COMMON SENSE

The cost of Social Security has come under attack by some. COST?

When checks are sent out to the recipients for their EARNED benefits, that money is quickly reinvested into the economy for housing, food, medical expenses, utilities and a myriad of other necessity items.

Social Security helps to stabilize the economy. Of the monies spent, taxes are a portion. Many of these are hidden taxes which we all pay on a day-to-day basis.

These expenditures and taxes are then, in turn, re-circulated into the economy as a whole to help fund the everyday lives of millions as well as businesses, government programs, private organizations, etc., all too numerous to even calculate.

The question that should be asked in the United States should be, "Why is it that the most prosperous Country in the world can't take care of its children, seniors and veterans?" What is the cost of caring for our citizens?

The price we pay is minimal compared to the cost of letting down our fellow Americans. -

Derf Namlig

Do You Have a Family Member with Mental Illness?

Class starting Feb 15

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban Chapter, will offer the Family-to-Family Education Program, a 12-week course for families of adult loved ones dealing with serious mental illness. Classes start in Evanston on Saturday mornings, Feb 15 – May 3, from 9:00 – 11:30 am at the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.

This course is free of charge and is taught by family members who have first-hand experience. Families learn about the major mental illnesses - symptoms, medications, side effects, services available, communication, and coping strategies. Class members also gain understanding and support from each other. Call NAMI, 847-716-2252 to register.

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

The next meeting of the JPNA, Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, will be January 29, Wed., at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park, 5320 W. Giddings, Chicago. This meeting will be an Open Forum for all community members. Anyone can bring any issue, problematic or laudatory, to this meeting to be heard. All meetings are open to the public, free with light refreshments. Since the meetings are in the church which works with food banks, canned food donations are accepted. For more information call 773-282-3879.

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL ON THE COURT GRANTING SIX-MONTH EXTENSION FOR GUN SALES IN CHICAGO

"I am pleased the court granted our request for a six-month delay to allow time to adopt a municipal ordinance regulating firearm sales in Chicago. Our goal is to create the strictest regulations that protect our residents and also comply with the court order without undermining the progress we have made in reducing violent crime throughout our city. We owe nothing less to the children, families and residents of Chicago than to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and straw purchasers."

Northtown Garden Society February Meeting Reminder

The February NGS meeting will be held at Warren Park, 6601 N. Western, on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. NGS members, Eileen Kushida and Linda Winke, will be showing slides of their visits to Gardens of England, New Zealand and Morocco. Now is the time that we start dreaming about our gardens and what could offer more encouragement in our current weather than looking at lovely green gardens in bloom. There will be a \$5.00 fee for non-NGS members. www.northtowngardensociety.org

OUR VILLAGE & STREET LEVEL

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Evanston Special Event Permit Applications Due Feb. 3

Groups and organizations that wish to hold special events in the City of Evanston will need to submit a Special Event Permit Application by Monday, February 3, 2014.

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

At a minimum, the first page of the application must be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department by February 3 to allow sufficient time for City staff to evaluate the request. Events are subject to final approval of the City's Special Events Committee and, in some cases, the City Council.

2014 Special Events Permit Policy, Instructions and Application

For more information, please visit our webpage or call 847-866-2914.

Entrants still needed for national and local scholarships for high school seniors and high school graduates to The Illinois Institute of Art- Chicago and the Schaumburg and Tinley Park campuses.

The Art Institutes system of schools is on track to award over \$70 million in tuition scholarships nationally, and The Illinois Institute of Art- Chicago and the Schaumburg and Tinley Park campuses are each scheduled to award a significant amount locally, but entrants are still needed! Deadline for entry in the tuition scholarship competitions are coming to a close really soon and we need your help to get the word out. High school seniors and high school graduates are encouraged to visit www.aischolarship.com to learn more about the tuition scholarships below.

Creativity is the Key: The tuition scholarship competitions are more than *just* an essay:

• **Deadline:** January 23, 2014: If you have a flare for firing up creative dishes, enter The Art Institutes Best Teen Chef Competition and Culinary Scholarship Competition, or The Chopped Competition (in partnership with the Food Network). Finalists take part in a cook-off at Art Institutes schools around the country!

• **Deadline:** January 30, 2014: If you have an eye for design, enter The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition which requires entrants to design a poster with the theme "You Can Create Tomorrow."

• **Deadline:** February 6, 2014: If you envision yourself rocking the runway or running a retail operation, enter The Art Institutes Passion for Fashion Competition which requires entrants to either submit sketches of a summer wear garment design OR create a future trend board.

For more information and official rules: www.aischolarship.com. If further assistance is needed, entrants can call Margaret Heinzerth, Erin Baker, Jack O'Leary, or Shawn McDonnell at The Illinois Institute of Art- Chicago at 1-(800) 325-3450, or Amy Schweitzer at The Illinois Institute of Art- Schaumburg at 1(800)314-3540, or Joshua Milostan at 1(877)342-3298 at Tinley Park.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE TO REGULATE E-CIGARETTES AS TOBACCO PRODUCTS

City of Chicago Action Begins National Conversation on Critical Public Health Issue

City Council today approved an ordinance that will regulate electronic cigarettes as "tobacco products" in the City of Chicago pending further regulations from the Food and Drug Administration. The new policy bans the distribution and sale of e-cigarettes to minors and moves e-cigarettes from in front of the counter to behind the counter in stores where they are sold, making it more difficult for youth to access. The ordinance also prohibits the use of e-cigarettes in restaurants, sports venues, and everywhere else cigarettes are banned and requires e-cigarette dealers to be licensed. Since the Mayor announced that he was joining with City Council members and community groups to support this ordinance, New York City and Los Angeles have taken up similar proposals.

MAYOR EMANUEL AND CPS CEO BYRD-BENNETT ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF TWO ANNEXES TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING AT TWO NEIGHBORHOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Mayor and CPS have Addressed Overcrowding at 33 Neighborhood Schools across the City

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett announced both Hale and Edison Park Elementary Schools opened new annexes after winter break to alleviate overcrowding at schools that were ranked as the 14th and 16th most overcrowded, non-charter schools.

"Investing in local schools to alleviate overcrowding across our City is part of our strategy to ensure every child in Chicago is 100 percent college ready and 100 percent college bound," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said. "For our students to live up to their full potential, we as adults must live up to our full responsibilities to them, which is why we are continuing to invest in what works, reforming what doesn't and bringing our schools into the 21st century."

"Lack of space makes the work of being a principal a continual exercise in lose-lose dilemmas – do they choose having a library or lunchroom; an auditorium or an algebra class?" CEO Byrd-Bennett said. "We didn't settle for time constraints on our children's education, which is why we fought for and won a full school day, so we shouldn't settle for space constraints either."

The Mayor also attended a ribbon cutting at Edison Park Elementary School, which had a utilization rate of 157 percent and was built to accommodate 300 students and currently has 469 students. The new annex will allow the school to accommodate 570 students including all current students in the school building and the planned growth in attendance. The school was previously a regional gifted school but due to neighborhood demand, CPS moved the gifted program and started a neighborhood school at the building.

The new two-story annex includes 14 classrooms, one science lab, one resource room, an administrative room, a library and a gymnasium. The project cost almost \$14 million out of CPS capital construction funds.

A new annex for Wildwood in Edgebrook: The new annex at Wildwood School will address overcrowding at this high performing magnet school with an IB program, which is currently operating at 175 percent capacity.

CITY OF CHICAGO TO BEGIN ENFORCING NEW PARKING LAW THURSDAY

The City of Chicago will begin enforcing a new Illinois law narrowing the use of disability parking placards starting Thursday. The law allows free metered parking only for drivers who receive placards based on their doctor's attesting that they meet certain criteria as defined in the law.

While the new state law took effect January 1st, Mayor Rahm Emanuel offered a 15-day grace period to allow motorists to become aware of the new law. Beginning Thursday, anyone ticketed for violating the new law in the Central Business District (CBD) will receive a \$65 fine. Violations in areas outside the CBD will be \$50.

The new Secretary of State-issued yellow and gray placards will allow qualified drivers to park for free at a meter. Blue placards will still be issued and will entitle people to park in parking lots, but they will not be permitted to park for free in metered spots.

According to previous state law, cars with any type of disabled placard were allowed to park at a meter for free for an unlimited period of time. To qualify for a new yellow and gray placard, drivers must have their doctor attest that they cannot do one of the following:

- Feed parking meters "due to the lack of fine motor control of both hands."
- Feed meters because they need to use a wheelchair.
- Reach above their heads "to a height of 42 inches above the ground."
- Walk more than 20 feet due to an orthopedic, neurological, cardiovascular or lung condition."

Mayor Emanuel, who supported the legislation sponsored by Illinois State Rep. Karen May, has continued to look into ways to improve the metered parking program for those with disabled parking placards and licenses, while cracking down on those who abuse the program.

For more information about placards for motorists with disabilities, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

NORWOOD PARK SENIOR CENTER TO HOST AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS ON FEBRUARY 4 & 6

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-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 Feb. 4 and Feb. 6, 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. 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 \$14 per person (\$12 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 local not-for-profit home care agency, in partnership with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Senior Services Area Agency on Aging and the Chicago Park District.

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Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs

Don't miss FREE exhibitions this winter/spring throughout the Chicago Cultural Center

The Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.), known and loved by many as the "People's Palace," will host four exhibitions this winter and spring with an emphasis on Chicago artists and history - and the entire building will serve as a canvas.

When *Jan Tichy: aroundcenter* opens on **February 1**, the artist's work will not be limited to just the traditional exhibition space in the Chicago Rooms on the second floor. Tichy builds on the already prominent artistry of the landmark Chicago Cultural Center with displays that merge its historic features with his gift of light and photography as he invites the public to reconsider the building.

It's been more than 60 years since the Mecca Flats building stood at 34th and State Street, yet it remains a prominent story in both architectural and sociological discussions. *Mecca Flat Blues*, which opens **February 15** in the Sidney R. Yates Gallery on the fourth floor, is an exhibition that clearly demonstrates the two distinct identities of that building.

And opening **February 22** in the Exhibit Hall on the fourth floor is *Thirty-Five Years of Public Art*, which includes a selection of artwork from libraries, police stations and other public buildings.

Currently on display in the Landmark Chicago Gallery on the first floor is *Wright Before the "Lloyd"*, which highlights a different side of Frank Lloyd Wright: work created when the noted architect called himself Frank L. Wright. Those who missed "Wright's Roots" when presented at Expo 72 in 2012 will see many elements from that exhibit.

For details and hours, visit chicagoculturalcenter.org.

Wired Fridays continues in 2014 with midday DJ dance parties

Wired Fridays This winter, the popular midday DJ dance series will continue to showcase House Music and Juke/Footwork, both of which originated in Chicago. DJs will spin their tunes featuring House Music on the first Friday of the month and Juke/Footwork on the third Friday of the month at noon to 1pm in Randolph Square on the first floor of the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.).

For more information, visit cityofchicago.org/dcbase.

Juicebox Family Series Returns In February

Juicebox will return in February, offering some of Chicago's best music, dance and theater in a kid-friendly setting. The FREE series of cutting-edge performances is geared at toddlers but is engaging for the whole family. Kids can sit on the floor, walk around, meet the artists and sometimes even play with the instruments and puppets.

Juicebox takes place at 11am in Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington St.) on the first and third Friday of each month and at the Garfield Park Conservatory (300 N. Central Park Ave.) on the first and third Saturday of each month. For a schedule of upcoming performances, visit cityofchicago.org/dcbase.

DANK-HAUS GERMAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

4740 North Western Avenue, 5th floor, Chicago, IL 60625
773.561.9181 www.dankhaus.com

Celebrate a full day of German superstars on 1 Feb

Begin at 5 am, that's correct, 5 am, with the **1 Feb Trinationale Premiere of Bertolt Brecht's Der Jasager/Der Neinsager**. In the world's first ever tri-national premiere, Japan, Germany, and the United States are staging the same short play using their own theater-language. The three theater spaces will be joined via livestream connection, so that each audience around the globe will first see the play performed in their native language, immediately followed by two live screenings in foreign languages.

Round out the day with:

From Song to Stage - Transforming Schubert Lieder into Musical Drama

1 Feb is Franz Schubert's birthday and VOX 3 Collective offers another program celebrating the wonderful melodies written by the father of the Lied. In a rare twist, members show parallels and contrasts between the art song and the operatic output he left behind. Hear seldom-performed arias and scenes from Schubert's operas alongside more familiar tunes.

Do Deutsch this Spring

Register now

Achieve your personal and professional goals. German is a heritage language as well as a leading business advantage. Our instructors are experienced professionals and native speakers ready to guide you through Der Die Das and beyond. Classes begin Jan. 22. Tuition \$300 per semester, books available on site. 6 Levels from Beginner to Advanced

Germany's Karneval Kickoff - Weiberfastnacht!

The Rheinischer Verein Prinzengarde presents Weiberfastnacht, Women's Mardi Gras.

The event is the kickoff party for the German Karneval season and the women are in charge. Ladies will enjoy dancing under the disco ball and generally having a blast while shirtless men in bow ties serve them.

Everyone is encouraged to come in costume - men are especially encouraged to don a dress and wig. Those men that dare to wear a tie will have it cut off by scissor wielding ladies but do not fret: tradition says a kiss is due as compensation. The Opening Ceremonies for Sochi 2014 will be on the big screens - perhaps a "Games" themed costume?

Refreshments available, especially krapfen - the traditional sugar doughnut of the Karneval season. German small bites with Flemish sour ale and vanilla ice cream. Hirter Mochel and raspberry Lambec - think Chocolate Raspberry cake!

You don't have to be German to enjoy this night of debauchery! The event is Friday February 7, 2014. Doors open 7:11 pm. Entrance \$5.00. Parties of 5 may reserve at brownpapertickets.com.



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CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT CALLING LOCAL FILMMAKERS TO SUBMIT WORK FOR PUBLIC SCREENING AND CASH PRIZE

Selected Submissions to be Screened as Part of Movies in the Parks Series This Summer

Calling all filmmakers: the Chicago Park District is accepting submissions of films for Chicago On Screen through Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. Chicago On Screen is the Chicago Park District's new initiative to enhance offerings of the annual Movies in the Parks series by featuring a selection of locally produced independent features, documentaries and shorts that focus on Chicago.

All submissions will be evaluated by a selection panel that will choose between 6-10 features and shorts to be presented as part of the popular summer series. If schedules allow, selected films will be presented in the neighborhoods in which they were filmed or have specific significance. In addition, selected filmmakers will be awarded up to \$500.

"The Movies in the Parks series is part of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks initiative that features cultural activities in the parks from local artists," said General Superintendent and CEO Michael Kelly. "Similarly, Chicago On Screen will showcase our local film talent right in the neighborhoods that inspired them."

Films submitted must be the original work of the person submitting and must have been produced in the past three years. Films must have a demonstrable and significant connection to Chicago or its neighborhoods and communities. Click here for the entry form and additional details.

The Chicago Park District's 14th annual Movies in the Parks series will feature screenings of current and classic movies in citywide parks this summer as part of the Night Out in the Parks initiative. Thanks to large audiences and positive feedback during its inaugural year, the 2014 encore season will feature 1,000 events - up from 750 in 2013 - bringing entertainment and cultural experiences to Chicago's neighborhoods. Full schedules to be announced in late spring.

For information on the Chicago Park District, call 312-742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

RES FEST 2014 & BIG MONEY RAFFLE

Resurrection College Prep High School invites neighbors, alumnae and community members to Res Fest 2014 on the evening of Saturday, February 15, 2014. All adults in the community are invited to enjoy this 21 and older fundraising event in support of Resurrection College Prep High School. The event will be held from 6 pm to midnight and guests are welcome to drop in anytime.

The evening will feature the music of The Mix, the world's most versatile party band, as well as food, beer & wine, silent auctions, raffles and games to help chase away the winter cold. Advance registrations are \$20 per person and admission at the door will be \$25. Reserved VIP tables of 10 are available for \$350. Res Fest food/drink/game tickets are available for \$1 each or our advance sale special of 60 tickets are available for \$50. Advance registrations, VIP tables and Res Fest tickets are available at www.reshs.org or cmarchetti@reshs.org or 773.775.6616 Ext 112. Proceeds from Res Fest will benefit the students of Resurrection College Prep High School.

Res Fest will also feature the Big Money Raffle drawing - only 500 tickets will be sold and the grand prize is \$20,000. Big Money Raffle tickets are \$100 each and may be purchased by individuals or a group of family or friends. If less than 500 tickets are sold the drawing will become a Split the Pot Raffle with the first prize winning 40% of the pot. The winner need not be present to win. The Big Money Raffle ticket purchase form can be found at www.reshs.org or contact Carol Marchetti at cmarchetti@reshs.org or 773.775.6616 Ext 112. Proceeds of the Big Money Raffle benefit the Sister Mary Monica Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance to Resurrection College Prep High School students.

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

Lincolnwood Featuring New Artist

The artwork of Len Upin is featured at the Village Art Gallery located in Village Hall until February 28. Upin's exhibit called "Me and Some Other People" features large, cropped, and close up personal portraits.

Len Upin is an artist and art teacher. Upin taught at William Fremd High School in Palatine for 23 and a half years serving as Department Chairman during the last four and a half years of his tenure. Upon retirement, Upin returned to the art studio and teaches small groups at his home. He also teaches drawing and ceramics at Positive Art Strokes Art School in Palatine.

Public reception for the exhibit will be held on Tuesday, January 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Village Hall Art Gallery located outside Council Chambers in Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue.

For more information, please contact Amanda Williams, Management Analyst at (847) 745-4716.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2014

Sunday, January 26, 2014 to Saturday, February 1, 2014

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2014 is January 26 to February 1. Schools typically observe this week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and other community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our Nation.

The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2014 and for several years to come is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Make Up Entrance Exam Testing Date Offered At RES

Resurrection College Prep High School is offering an Entrance Exam for eighth grade girls who were unable to attend the exam at Resurrection on January 11, 2014. The Entrance Exam will be given on Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 8 am until approximately noon.

Pre-registration is necessary for the January 25 testing date. Please contact Debbie Gillespie at dgillespie@reshs.org or 773.775.6616 Ext 129 to pre-register or if you have any questions regarding the test. On the morning of the Entrance Exam, students should arrive by 7:45 am and enter through the Main Entrance at 7500 West Talcott Avenue. Please bring number 2 pencils and a \$25 testing fee (cash or check made payable to Resurrection College Prep High School).

Eighth grade girls and their families who have not had the opportunity to visit at Resurrection are welcome to contact Debbie Gillespie at dgillespie@reshs.org or 773.775.6616 Ext 129 to learn more about Resurrection. Seventh grade girls are invited to a special Group Shadow Day on Friday, February 14, 2014. Registration required and is available on the Resurrection website at www.reshs.org or by contacting Debbie Gillespie.

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

Annual Easter Ham Raffle. Sign Up NOW!

Sign up now to raffle Easter Hams. Hams are \$20 each. Deadline is February 10th. The raffle will take place between April 1st to April 14th. The Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce will provide tickets, raffle buckets and contact the winners for you.

All business participants plus raffle entry forms will be listed in the TV Facts for free. Over 450 entries were received for the 2013 Thanksgiving raffle, 300 being TV Facts entries. Contact us at 773-647-1644 or reid@belmontcentral.org

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January 31st - 8:00 p.m.:

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Everyone Needs a Periodic Estate Plan Checkup



Chester M. Przybylo

Even the healthiest person needs a periodic medical checkup. Similarly, even the best estate plan needs periodic review. Even if you are in peak health today, a few years later some things may have changed that require a revisiting of your treatment plan. Maybe your blood pressure needs medication.

Maybe you have high cholesterol, which is capable of being controlled with adjustments to diet or medication. Like your health, your estate plan needs a periodic checkup. Here are some factors which might lead to a change in your estate plan.

Changes in the Law

In health, the laws of physics and chemistry do not change. However, changes in the law, both small and large, may have a large impact on your estate plan. For example, tax laws change frequently and your plan may need to be revised to minimize your tax liability. Non-tax laws also change periodically, opening the doors to new opportunities that were not available when your estate plan was drafted.

Changes in Your Life

Just as with your health, circumstances change. Maybe you had changes in your family circumstances, like marriage, divorce, or the birth of children or grandchildren. Perhaps someone in your family has had health or financial changes that should be reflected in your plan.

Changes in Desires

Even if there are no changes in the law or your life, sometimes we simply change our minds. As we age, hopefully we gain wisdom and experience. Sometimes that leads us to change our estate plan. For example, if a close friend of yours goes through a messy divorce, you may be more inclined to leave assets for your children in a trust that provides protection in the (hopefully unlikely) event of their divorce.

If you already have an estate plan in place, be sure to schedule an appointment with your estate planning attorney for a periodic review. There may be new factors and laws to consider of which you are unaware. And, just as with your health, if you notice important changes in circumstances, you should be sure to schedule that review sooner, rather than later.

If you are just starting out and do not have an estate plan, or you have moved to a new state, be sure to find a qualified estate planning attorney, who focuses his or her practice in estate planning.

Chester M. Przybylo has been elected to the Board of Governors of the prestigious American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and has been engaged in the practice of law for the last 40 years. To register for an upcoming seminar, call the 24 hour reservation hotline at 1-800-638-7878 or register online at www.PlanOurEstate.com.

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.

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RESOLVE TO CREATE A BETTER RETIREMENT FINANCIAL PLAN IN 2014

By Andrew Salata, Social Security Public Affairs

Another New Year is just around the corner, offering a new opportunity to improve your life in any number of ways with a wise New Year's resolution or two. (No doubt, for most of us the possibilities are endless.) But one good idea for many might be creating (or updating) a long-term financial plan.

According to a 2013 survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, "the percentage of workers confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement is essentially unchanged from the record lows observed in 2011." Only 13 percent are very confident of being able to afford a comfortable retirement, while 28 percent are not at all confident.

If you are among those with lower financial confidence and you haven't started to save for retirement already, now is the time to begin — no matter what your age. If retirement is near, you'll want to jump into the fast lane right away. If you're younger and retirement seems a lifetime away, it's still in your best interest to begin saving now, as compound interest will work to your advantage. Experts agree that saving when you're young will make a world of difference when the time comes to draw on your retirement savings.

Don't take our word for it. You can check out the numbers yourself. A great place to start figuring out how much you will need for retirement is to learn how much you could expect from Social Security. You can do that in minutes with Social Security's online Retirement Estimator.

The Retirement Estimator offers an instant and personalized estimate of your future Social Security retirement benefits based on your earnings record. Try it out at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

We encourage saving for retirement, but there are reasons to save for every stage of life. A great place to go for help is www.mymoney.gov. MyMoney.gov is the government's website dedicated to teaching Americans the basics about financial education. Whether you are planning to buy a home, balancing your checkbook, or investing in your 401(k) plan, the resources on www.mymoney.gov can help you.

Another excellent resource is the Ballpark E\$timator at www.choosetosave.org/ballpark. This online tool takes complicated issues, like projected Social Security benefits and earnings assumptions on savings, and turns them into language and numbers that are easy to understand.

So turn over a new financial page in your life with the start of a new year, and get started at www.socialsecurity.gov.

THREE-PART CLASS ON AGING WITH RABBI MICHAEL SCHORIN AT EZRA-HABONIM, THE NILES TOWNSHIP JEWISH CONGREGATION

A three-part class "Aging to Saging," featuring Rabbi Michael Schorin of the Council for Jewish Elderly, will begin at Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 W. Dempster, Skokie, on Tuesday, February 4 at 4:45 in the afternoon.

The class will continue on February 11 and conclude on February 18.

Rabbi Schorin is a CJE Senior Life Chaplain who is Board Certified as well as a Board Member of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

The classes he will teach will take an in-depth look at the Jewish view of aging, how people can create meaning in their lives as they age, and what it might mean to be an "elder" among one's families and communities.

Rabbi Schorin will lead participants through provocative Jewish passages of study while asking each person to look deeply into his or her lives and consider feelings about the aging process.

Rabbi Jeffrey Weill, spiritual leader of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, will be a participant in the series of classes, as well.

Fee for the three classes is \$18 for members of the synagogue and \$20 for non-members.

For reservations or for further information, contact Bill Gerber at 847-675-4141.

"IDENTITY THEFT" PROGRAM AT EZRA-HABONIM, THE NILES TOWNSHIP JEWISH CONGREGATION

A free program, "Identity Theft," will be presented by the Sisterhood and Men's Club of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 W. Dempster, Skokie, Thursday, February 6, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Featured speaker will be David Richmond who is with Legal Shield. The firm, a national organization, offers identity theft plans to families in the United States and Canada.

Richmond will discuss credit card theft, phone safety, protecting one's bank account, travel and passport theft and much more.

For further information and reservations, please contact Bill Gerber at 847-675-4141.

Norwood Park Seniors Club

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

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Keeping Your Car Clean

Keeping your car clean has many significant financial and environmental benefits, especially when performed by a professional car wash.

Let's start with the financial rewards. Every day our cars are subjected to sun, salt from the sea, salt from snow trucks, grease and grime from the road, acid rain, smog, tree sap, dead bugs, and worst of all, the ever-acidic compound of bird poop bombs. We've all been riddled and splattered at one time or another.

These conditions eat away at a car's metal and chrome. They dull the paint. They corrode and cause rust. They attack your pride and joy day after day. You may not see it right away, but over time they will contribute to the decay of your car's exterior, ultimately diminishing its resale value.

By professionally washing your car at least twice a month, you help preserve one of your biggest investments.

Another benefit? Saved time and convenience. Lugging everything in and out of your garage or house is exhausting compared to a quick trip to the nearest car wash.

Few people also realize that washing their cars at home pollutes the environment. Soap and road grime such as oils, tar, and dirt end up in storm sewers that flow into lakes, streams and rivers - the same water in which your children might swim, or where you fish or hunt.

Wastewater from professional car washes enter a sanitary sewer system, facilities designed to protect the environment. No polluted water from professional car washes will reach our waterways.

Though a parking lot car wash might sound like a good way to make money for your organization, many groups don't realize that dirty water from parking lot and driveway car washing enters the storm sewer system. Meant only for rain-fall, storm sewer water flows directly into the closest creek, stream, or river

Water conservation is another benefit: professional car washes can use about half the amount of water it takes to do it yourself.

(See also http://environment.about.com/od/greenliving/design/a/car_wash.htm)

For all these reasons, you can't beat a professional car wash. And oh what fun it is to take your kid through the wash from the inside of the car! Or just follow along by the window.

All sorts of interesting facts illuminating how we use and abuse our cars can be found at www.carlove.org.

So treat your car the way you want it to treat you. Add having your car washed to your list of chores; go to the bank, pick up the dry cleaning, visit the grocery store, and get the car washed. There's just no excuse not to swing through one every two or three weeks. You'll protect your investment, save time, and minimize environmental impact inspiring the best feeling of all; unconditional love for an unconditional friend.

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3 Generations After Brecht – 3 International Directors – 3 Countries And 1 Play

THE IDEA

In the world's first ever tri-national premiere, Japan, Germany, and the United States are staging the same short play by Bertolt Brecht - Der Jasager/ Der Neinsager, He Said Yes/ He Said No - using their own theater-language. The opening of the three shows will be on the same day, February 1, 2014, for the International Brecht Festival in Augsburg, Germany. The three theater spaces will be joined via livestream connection, so that each audience around the globe will first see the play performed in their native language, immediately followed by two live screenings in foreign languages. The immediate comparative view on different stagings will allow a new form of expertise and experience. It will also be possible for audience members to watch all 3 performances online by purchasing tickets at brechthigh3.com.

To accommodate this schedule, each country will have two performances at unconventional times and one 8pm performance.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Performance 1: Sat. Feb. 1 - 5AM, 1PM, & 8PM

HE SAID YES/ HE SAID NO

Bertolt Brecht adapted Der Jasager & Der Neinsager, or He Said Yes & He Said No, from a 15th-century Noh play entitled TANIKO (THE VALLEY HURLING) by Zenchiku. This fable tells the story of a young boy who, when his mother becomes deathly ill, sets out in search of a cure with the teacher from his village. Partway through a treacherous mountain trek, exhausted and near death, the boy asks his teacher if they may turn back. Unfortunately for the boy there exists an ancient custom that any traveller too weak to reach the mountain's summit must be hurled into the valley below, as a sacrifice. The original Noh play has only one ending; the boy submits to the age-old tradition and is thrown off the mountain. Brecht's adaptation, however, has 2 endings, meant to be performed side-by-side. In He Said Yes, the young boy submits to the tradition, but in He Said No, the boy refuses, causing his teacher and the accompanying travellers to carry him safely back home. Brecht wrote these plays as a part of his Lehrst

CHICAGO EVENT

The Chicago performances on Saturday, February 1 will take place in the Dank Haus German American Cultural Center, 4740 N. Western Ave. To accompany these performances, The Island Theatre Company will be scheduling additional performances, events, and activities in the Marunde Ballroom, from 5AM to MIDNIGHT. The Island will exhibit performers and artists of every discipline to represent the United States on this international platform. Performances will be scheduled around Der Jasager/ Der Neinsager, along with themed activities and interactive booths all day long.

BRECHT FESTIVAL

The Brecht Festival is an annual event in Augsburg, Bavaria, Brecht's hometown. Between January 31st and February 10th, 2014 the city will invite artists, actors, musicians, researchers, and politicians to discuss Brecht in order to emphasize different point of views on his work and life.

Snow Tips From the Snow & Ice Management Association

Safe Walking in Snow and Ice and in Days Following a Significant Snowfall When Melting and Refreezing Occur

Falls account for more than 1M injuries in the U.S. annually. The most common type of walking accident is the slip and fall. For example the type of fall that happens when you fall walking on a sidewalk, parking lot or street not clear of snow or ice.

"The most dangerous part of a snow storm may be the day or days following the snow when sunny skies and higher temperatures during the day melt the snow, and lower temperatures at night refreeze the melted snow, creating a cycle that could continue for days, creating a hazardous condition for walking and driving," said Martin B. Tirado, CAE, Executive Director of the Milwaukee-based Snow & Ice Management Association (SIMA).

SIMA, the North American nonprofit organization representing the snow removal industry, has these tips on safe winter walking.

TIP #1: Wear proper footwear. Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads. Avoid a smooth sole and opt for a heavy treaded shoe with a flat bottom.

TIP #2: Be careful when you shift your weight. When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall. The same theory applies if you are carrying something such as grocery bags or a child--the imbalance can cause you to slip and fall.

TIP #3: Plan ahead. While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, be aware of your surroundings. Instead of just looking down, pause and look up occasionally to see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Occasionally scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.

TIP #4: Conditions nice for ice. Watch for areas where melting and refreezing may persist for weeks. These areas may include parking lot drainage areas, roof gutters, piles of snow where melting and refreezing can continue for weeks. Also posing threats are areas where snow melts from overhangs and then refreezes, where melted water may pool between parking spaces or buildings, or walkways with trees dripping water on sidewalks.

TIP #5: Anticipate black ice. Watch for thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice). Often ice will appear in the morning, in shady spots or where the sun shines during the day and melted snow refreezes at night.

TIP #6: Walk even slower on stairs. When walking up or down outdoor steps or stairways, be sure to grip handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.

TIP #7: Avoid taking shortcuts. Shortcuts are a good idea if you are in a hurry, but may be a bad idea if there is snow and ice on the ground. A shortcut path may be treacherous because it is likely to be located where snow and ice removal is not possible.

TIP #8: Enter a building carefully. When you get to your destination such as school, work, shopping center, etc., be sure to look at the floor as you enter the building. The floor may be wet with melted snow and ice.

Following these tips will help ensure that you survive the snow and ice season safely. For more snow and ice removal tips, visit SIMA.

National Wildlife Federation

The Real Reason for Groundhog Day

Punxsutawney Phil, America's most famous weather forecaster, will have love, not weather, on his mind when he emerges from his hole on February 2. Researchers tracked 32 groundhogs for more than four years and concluded that the real reason for the early February appearance is a version of the dating game, groundhog style.

Male groundhogs wake up after three months of hibernation to check out the available pool of ladies within their territory. They select a female with whom they spend the night, and this sleepover acts as a first date, allowing the groundhogs time to get to know each other before the official start of mating season the following month. During these meet and greet sessions, contact is confined to rubbing noses - there's no going "all the way."

After scoping out two or three females, the male groundhog returns to his burrow to sleep again until March, dreaming of the hotties he has just met. When he awakes and revisits each of the females, the earlier slumber parties allow the woodchucks to skip the small talk and get right down to the business of breeding.

Climate Change

Here's a round-up of recent news on how climate change is affecting wildlife: (Go to nwf.org for articles.)

Has Punxsutawney Phil been predicting climate change?

Are the seasons shifting? The highest summer and lowest winter temperatures have been happening an average of two days earlier.

Antarctica is warming faster than previously thought.

Deep sea life is being impacted by climate change.

Climate change forces tropical insects to higher elevations.

Forests are in decline as temperatures rise.

Climate change effects are irreversible according to new study.

David Mizejewski, Naturalist

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

Groundhog's Day at Evanston Ecology Center

Celebrate Groundhog's Day at the Ecology Center! Have the groundhogs been active underground? Are they cozying up with friends or hibernating all alone? Why does his shadow matter? We'll have activities, snacks and games to help us understand the mysteries of groundhogs. Guess if we'll have six more weeks of winter or an early spring! January 31st from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. • 2024 McCormick Blvd. \$10 admission per person. Preregister here for classes www.cityofevanston.org



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