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“Where Life Happens”

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Happy Thanksgiving from the Staff of Village Publications



Evanston Public Meeting on Sheridan Road Project

Evanston community members are invited to a public meeting to discuss proposed improvements of the Sheridan Road phase 1 study from South Blvd. to Isabella Street that is being done by TranSystems (Consultants).

The event is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 in the Parasol Room of the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.

For more information, contact the Evanston Department of Transportation, (847) 866-2922.

Confirmed Pertussis Outbreak in Evanston

City of Evanston Health and Human Services officials declared an official outbreak of Pertussis yesterday. Five cases have been confirmed in Evanston, and two cases have yet to be confirmed.

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is a highly infectious disease that is easily transmitted through coughing and sneezing.

Symptoms may appear five to 10 days following exposure, but can last up to 21 days. Usually the infection begins with cold-like symptoms followed by a very pronounced cough that can last for many weeks.

In children the cough is often associated with a distinctive "whooping" sound that may progress to vomiting. A fever is not commonly experienced with the pertussis infection.

Although most people recover completely from pertussis, complications from the disease can be severe in high risk groups, especially infants under one year and children who have not been fully immunized against the disease.

Physicians in Evanston and Skokie are being asked to be aware of the current outbreak status and test any patients who present with even mild symptoms.

For more information on pertussis, contact Margaret Mathias in the City of Evanston Health and Human Services Department, (847) 866-2962.

Village of Skokie Flu Shot Program

The Skokie Health Department offers flu shots to Skokie residents by appointment through December 2008.

Any resident age 50 or older is eligible to obtain a flu shot with no out-of-pocket expense. Adult residents age 19 - 49 would have to have a chronic illness and provide a doctor's note. This note must state the person's chronic illness and that a flu shot is medically indicated. Children that live in Skokie and are ages 4-18 may receive flu shots without a doctor's note. Proof of residency is required in the form of a valid driver's license, state I.D., voter's registration, current utility bill, or current lease or property deed.

Residents covered by Medicare Part B are asked to bring their card with them to the clinic. This is necessary for the Health Department to receive reimbursement from Medicare.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

32nd ANNUAL LINCOLNWOOD TURKEY TROT

This annual event will take place on Sunday, November 23rd, and attracts approximately 1,800 participants. The Turkey Trot consists of a 5K & 10K run, a 5K walk, and a Drumstick Dash for children ages 10 and under. Runners and walkers race through the streets of Lincolnwood beginning and ending at the Village's largest park, Proesel Park. All participants receive a goodie bag filled with refreshments and other items as well as a long-sleeved T-shirt. However, only those who are pre-registered are guaranteed a shirt. Turkey trophies are awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age division. Turkeys are given to the overall male and female finishers in each race and walkers all receive a participation award. The walk is non-competitive. A special award is also presented to the top male and female finishers from Lincolnwood. This is a CARA (Chicago Area Runners Association) registered family race and a portion of any proceeds will be given to the Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Niles Township Food Pantry. You can register online at www.lincolnwoodil.org, or get more information by visiting the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation office at 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., or calling (847) 677-9740.

Village of Skokie Public Arts Advisory Committee Call For Professional Artists

The Village of Skokie Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) is seeking submissions from artists to be included in a database of pre-qualified artists, from which the Village may draw for public art projects and Commissions during the fiscal years 2009 and 2010, a period that runs through April 30, 2010.

Candidates will be identified in a number of media, including but not limited to sculpture, murals and mosaics. Artists can submit work in more than one medium.

Artists who wish to be considered for upcoming public art projects must complete an Artist Application Form, available at the Village's website, www.skokie.org. Each pre-qualified artist will be invited to submit a proposal when a project opens in their category.

To complete an Artist Application Form, please visit www.skokie.org.

Village of Skokie Launches Advisory AM Radio Station

To improve communication and enhance the safety of those living, working and visiting in Skokie, the Village of Skokie has installed an AM advisory radio station. The frequency of the station is 1660 AM on the AM dial. New AM radios in cars and other radios will be able to receive this frequency. Even though the power of the station is ten watts or less, the signal should be received throughout the Skokie area.

The primary use of this station is to inform the public of emergency conditions in the area and how to respond to them. An emergency could consist of severe weather to hazardous material spills, alternate-side parking when there are two or more inches of snow on the ground or any other condition that could affect the well-being of the public in the Skokie area.

This non-commercial radio station is monitored by the Village, and in non-emergency situations, the station will broadcast emergency preparedness and Village of Skokie information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For further information about the Village's advisory radio station, please contact the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8210 or visit www.skokie.org.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center To Open April 19

Holocaust survivors, IHMEC leadership announce grand opening date and activities; tour facility

More than sixty years after World War II ended, local survivors of the Holocaust joined together in front of the new Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center (IHMEC) along with the organization's leadership to announce the building's opening date of April 19, 2009.

The world-class, 65,000 square foot facility, designed by award-winning architect Stanley Tigerman, will be the largest center in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and teaching current generations about their role in combating intolerance and genocide in today's world. The Center will also likely be the last major Holocaust museum built in collaboration with survivors.

"After many years of dedication and perseverance, I am thrilled to say that the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is near completion. This building is a testament to Holocaust survivors who settled in Illinois and their understanding that we must teach future generations the lessons of the Holocaust," said J.B. Pritzker, campaign chair for IHMEC and managing partner, The Pritzker Group. "We look forward to opening our doors on April 19."

The grand opening weekend will begin with an Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on Friday, April 17 and will culminate with a public ceremony on Sunday, April 19 to officially dedicate the IHMEC. Following the ceremony, guests will be given timed-ticket tours through the Museum. To showcase its thoughtful, provocative education center, the IHMEC will host a symposium entitled, The Role and Responsibility of Media in Covering Genocide on Monday, April 20. On Tuesday, April 21, an event will be held at the Center in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Looking beyond the atrocities that took place in Nazi Germany during World War II, the IHMEC takes a global perspective and explores genocide throughout the world and throughout history. Through its series of programs and traveling exhibits, the Museum will use the lessons of the Holocaust to raise awareness and inspire action around the many other human rights atrocities that have occurred or are ongoing throughout the world. Issues related to Darfur and other modern genocides will be carefully integrated into IHMEC curricula for both teachers and their students. International human rights figures will be brought to Illinois via the Center's Voices of Conscience lecture series. And, IHMEC's Legacy of Absence Gallery will be home to a permanent collection of visual artwork by distinguished contemporary artists from around the world that reflect on historical violence.

More on the Holocaust Museum in the Next Issue

Laparoscopic Surgeon at Saint Francis Hospital Publishes Unique New Textbook on Minimally Invasive Surgery

First Book of Its Kind Shows Actual Surgeries and Procedures on DVDs

Saint Francis Hospital today announced that world-renown laparoscopic surgeon Constantine Frantzides, MD, PhD, F.A.C.S., the Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship program at Saint Francis Hospital, Professor of surgery at Northwestern University, and Director of the Chicago Institute of Minimally Invasive Surgery, has published a ground-breaking new book that will teach other surgeons how to perform minimally invasive surgery.

The textbook, called "Atlas of Minimally Invasive Surgery" includes DVDs of 30 live laparoscopic surgeries and more than 395 figures to teach surgeons advanced laparoscopic proven techniques and procedures. No other book has ever been published before to include narrated DVDs with actual laparoscopic surgeries.

The book is co-authored by Frantzides and Mark A. Carlson, both recognized experts on minimally invasive surgery. The book is published by Elsevier - Saunders, a worldwide leading publisher of medical textbooks. The book describes step by step the performance of a broad spectrum of laparoscopic procedures including gastric bypass, gastric banding, hernia repairs, colorectal, hepatobiliary, pancreatic, gastrointestinal, and solid organ surgery.

Frantzides and one of his bariatric patients at Saint Francis Hospital were featured on the CBS Early Morning show last spring. He is a charter member of the United States Laparoscopic Founders' Society and was the first to introduce and perform twelve different laparoscopic techniques.

Frantzides has been the recipient of several awards and honors, as well as grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and from the surgical industry. Because of his academic activities in laparoscopic surgery, as well as his surgical skills, he was given the "Achievement award for advanced laparoscopic surgery" by the American Society of General Surgery. Dr. Frantzides has been named "Top Surgeon" by the Consumers' research Council of America for two consecutive years (2007; 2008). See complete curriculum vitae for Dr. Frantzides at www.laparoscopicexperts.com

Frantzides is also credited with inventing two surgical instruments used in laparoscopic surgery. He has traveled internationally to perform and teach laparoscopic operations. During the last 16 years he has organized 31 laparoscopic courses through which 331 surgeons were trained in laparoscopic surgery; he has made more than 200 contributions to medical literature and has published 2 books on laparoscopic surgery.

Saint Francis Hospital and Dr. Frantzides frequently hold information sessions about laparoscopic bariatric surgery, called "A Gentle Surgical Approach to Obesity." Sessions will be held October 18 and December 6 of this year. Call 1-877-RES-INFO for more information about the seminars. Registration is highly recommended, as space is limited. Saint Francis Hospital offers ample, free parking.

Saint Francis Hospital is a Level I Trauma Center in Evanston, IL and is home to the North Shore's first and only accredited Chest Pain Center.

Saint Francis Hospital is a part of Resurrection Health Care, a family of health care services providing advanced medical care and exceptional customer service with compassion and hope. Our hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities, home health services, behavioral health programs and other services are conveniently located in many Chicagoland neighborhoods. Resurrection Health Care is a not-for-profit Catholic organization sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection.

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Oakton Offers Off-Site Fitness Classes

Enroll in fitness classes offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College. The following courses meet at the Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove.

Gentle Moves (PED B01-32) is designed for individuals whose health is compromised by Type II diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, or being overweight. Students will perform gentle movements to help improve their quality of life. Five-week course meets 7:15 – 8:10 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, starting Dec. 1. Course fee is \$57.

Spin and Tone (PED E03) offers a great cardio workout on a stationary bike, followed by exercise to tone major muscle groups. Course is modified to accommodate students of all fitness levels. A three-week course meets 7:30 – 8:20 p.m., Monday, starting Dec. 1, and another three-week course meets 7:30 – 8:20 a.m., Saturday, starting Dec. 6. Course fee is \$39.

Pilates (PED E04-02) is a method of exercise designed to stretch, strengthen, and balance the body. Benefits include improved lung capacity, circulation, and coordination. Three-week course meets 7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, starting Dec. 2. Course fee is \$39.

Tai Chi for Arthritis (PED C05) uses gentle activities to improve joint flexibility and muscle strength. Two three-week sections of this course are available: 1:45 – 2:30 p.m., Monday, starting Dec. 1, and 10 – 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, starting Dec. 3. Course fee is \$39.

Other available fitness classes include: Gentle Yoga (PED S13-04), Exercise for Seniors (PED E53-04), and Zumba (PED S84-02).

For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, including registration and fee information, visit www.oakton.edu/all, or call 847-982-9888, press 3.

Oakton Emeritus Offers Yoga Class

Deepen your relaxation, breathing, and stretching techniques by enrolling in a class offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton Community College.

Yoga in the Middle (PED S11-62) is open to students of all practice levels. Instructor is certified by the Himalayan Institute. Six-week course meets 10 – 11 a.m., Wednesday, starting Dec. 3, at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. Course fee is \$72.

For more information about the Emeritus Program, including costs of featured lectures, call 847-635-1414 or 847-982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes, course fees, seminars, and events, visit www.oakton.edu/emeritus.

Village of Skokie Nicotine Addiction Seminar

The Village of Skokie Health Department will host a nicotine addiction seminar on November 19, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m. The seminar is held at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street. This seminar is free of charge.

The nicotine addiction seminar is a condensed version of the six-session Stop Smoking Clinic that is being offered in January. It offers tips for quitting smoking that may be all that is necessary for those who are ready to quit. For others it is an introduction that convinces them to sign up for the more comprehensive program.

For more information please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

The Skokie Health Department Nutrition Clinic and Lecture

The Village of Skokie Health Department offers a free monthly nutrition clinic for Skokie residents. The session includes height, weight, blood pressure, diabetes screening, hematocrit (testing for anemia) and cholesterol screening. A one-on-one meeting with a licensed dietician follows the physical. Advance registration is required. The next date for the nutrition clinic is Thursday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Health Department also offers a monthly nutrition lecture that is free and open to the public. The next nutrition lecture is entitled "The Dynamic Duo: Habits and Exercise" and is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, at 2 p.m. All nutrition clinics and lectures are held at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street.

To make an appointment or for more information contact the Health Department at 847/933-8252. Visit www.skokie.org to keep in the know about Skokie.

Village of Skokie

Assist-A-Family Program

The Village of Skokie's annual Assist-A-Family program collects financial donations and gift certificates for Skokie families in need each holiday season. The Human Services Division interviews each family that applies for the program and families are encouraged to return for additional counseling. Only the very neediest Skokie families and children are selected as program participants.

The Assist-A-Family program provides gift certificates for area businesses to purchase holiday food and to buy gifts and necessity items specific to each child served by the program.

In the past, the Skokie community has been very generous. If you would like to provide gift certificates or donate financially to this important community program, please contact the Skokie Human Services Division by at 847/933-8208.

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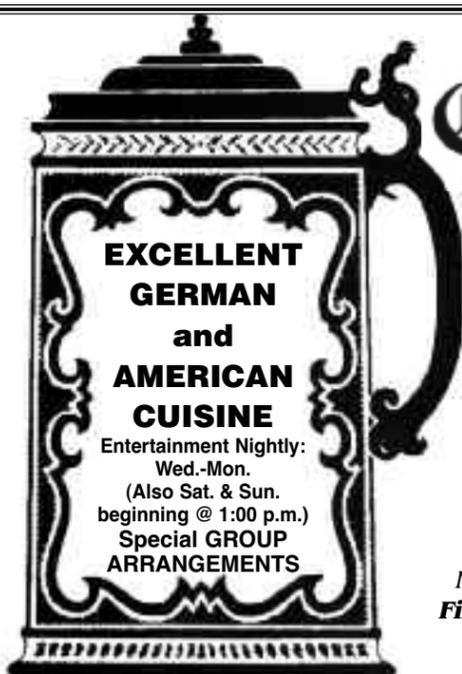
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G R E A T O U T D O O R S

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT ICE SKATING RINKS OPEN NOVEMBER 28 FOR 2008-'09 SEASON Skating Season Runs Through February 28

The Chicago Park District's ice skating rinks open for the 2008-09 season Friday, Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving. Skating season runs through Saturday, Feb. 28, weather permitting.

Locations offer skate rentals for various fees and concessions are available at most rinks. All rinks are outdoors with the exception of McFetridge in California Park which is open year round except August.

Please note that schedules and fees are subject to change. Contact the individual ice rinks or the Chicago Park District at 312-742-PLAY or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

*McFetridge Sports Center, California Park, 3843 N. California Ave.
773-478-2609*

Indoor rink open Wednesday and Friday, 3:30 - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 4:30 - 6 p.m. for all ages

Wednesday, 9:15 - 10:30 p.m. for adults

Friday, 9:15 - 10:45 p.m. for teens and adults

\$3 skate rental; admission is \$3 for children 17 and younger, \$4 for adults, and \$2 for seniors 60 and older. Food concessions are available.

Riis Park, 6100 W. Fullerton Ave., 312-746-5735

Wednesday – Sunday, 12:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Open Christmas and New Year's Day from 12-4 p.m.

\$5 skate rental; admission free.

No food concessions are available.

Warren Park, 6601 N. Western Ave., 773-761-8663

Wednesday – Friday, 3 – 5 p.m., 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., 3 – 5 p.m., 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The ice rink will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

\$3 skate rental; admission is \$3 for children 17 and younger, \$4 for adults, and \$2 for seniors 60 and older. No food concessions are available.

Urban Wildlife Coalition Fall Tips for Deer Safety

Here on Chicago's northwest side, in the middle of one of our nation's largest cities, we have the privilege of occasional contact with native wildlife, including our region's white-tailed deer.

Because of development and other habitat destruction, deer venture out into areas more populated by humans than they otherwise would, sometimes by accident, sometimes in search of food.

During the late fall/early winter, a period called the "rut," bucks compete with one another to find a mate. You may notice males acting differently, perhaps more boldly than other times of year. White-tailed deer are gentle by nature; they tend to shun humans, preferring the safety of the woods. Here are a few tips to help ensure deer and human safety during this time of year.

Because it's mating season, deer are more focused on each other (males competing with one another and trying to pursue mates) than on you. That's why it's more important than ever to drive carefully and enjoy these gentle animals at a respectful distance.

Respect the fact that as gentle as they are, deer are not pets; they are wild creatures. Give them their space – do not approach them, taunt them, or stare them down.

Drive slowly (20 mph or less) in deer populated areas – especially on streets adjacent to forest preserves and other natural spaces.

While driving, scan the edges of the forest and allow extra braking space between you and other cars.

Your rush hour is their rush hour. Be particularly cautious during dawn and dusk.

Where you see one, you will likely see others following. Wait for all to cross before accelerating again.

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

Fall Beautiful Fall - Time To Prepare For Winter

By: Nick Urhausen, Urhausen Greenhouses

The chill of the first cool nights of fall serves as a warning that the growing season is coming to an end. By all means, enjoy your flowers for as long as the weather permits. We can even stubbornly try to protect and cover animals from the onset of cooler temperatures. However, hard frosts will eventually take their toll. At this time I strongly urge gardeners to clean up all dead flowers and vegetable plants. This is the first step towards having a great garden next year.

Then I would suggest adding a two to three inch layer of an organic material to the soil. If you have a compost pile, this would be a good time to work in this material.

Another option is to work the leaves from your yard into the soil. Adding these materials will have several benefits. First, the organic matter will have a chance to further decompose during the long, wet fall and winter. As the organic material naturally breaks down, this will add nutrients to the soil for next years plants.

Second, really digging and working up the soil in the fall aerates and loosens it and prevents the ground from becoming too hard. This is very important because a loose soil allows plants to develop healthy roots systems.

None of this work is very glamorous, however conditioning and preparing soil is one of the most important keys to having success as a gardener. Next spring your flower and vegetable plants will benefit from growing in a nutrient rich, loose soil.

Urhausen Greenhouses, Inc. is located at 6973 N. East Prairie Road in Lincolnwood. Phone: 847-675-1573, www.urhausengreenhouses.com

Evanston: Do You Need Yard Work, Snow Removal Assistance?

The Evanston Commission on Aging pairs seniors and individuals with disabilities with volunteers who are willing to rake leaves and do yard work this fall or shovel snow this winter.

If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours during the fall or winter or would like to receive assistance with yard work and snow removal, contact the Commission on Aging, (847) 866-2919.

Firewood Sale Begins Nov. 8

The City of Evanston's annual firewood sale begins Saturday, Nov. 8. While firewood supplies last, sale hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at 2310 Oakton St. (between the former Recycling Center and the Animal Shelter).

Prices remain the same as last year. The cost is \$20 per 1/8 face cord; \$30 per 1/4 face cord; \$50 per 1/2 face cord; or \$90 per full face cord. Payment by personal check is preferred although payment can also be made by cash. Credit cards are not accepted, and delivery is not available. Once supplies are depleted, the Saturday sales will be discontinued for the year.

Free woodchips are also available at the base of the hill in adjacent James Park. Residents can take as many woodchips as they would like. For more information, call 847-866-2912.



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Evanston Public Library

1703 Orrington Ave.
847-448-8610 www.epl.org

Preschool Storytime meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Barbara Friedberg Storytelling Room at the Main Library. For children ages 3-5 years old and parent or caregiver. Drop-in; no registration required. Ticket distribution begins at 10:00. Preferred seating is given to Evanston children who are 3, 4 or 5 years of age and their families or caregivers. Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue in downtown Evanston. For more information, call the Main Children's Room at 847-448-8610

The Evanston Public Library offers **Career Counseling** on the second Monday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. The next session is Monday, November 10. Patrons can schedule a free half-hour consultation with a professional career counselor by calling the Main Library's Reference Desk at 847-448-8630 to reserve a time-slot. Individual career counseling sessions take place in the Small Meeting Room on the ground floor near the Information Desk.

Friday Films Definitely, Maybe (112 min. PG rated) will definitely be shown on Friday, November 21 at 3:00PM in the community room at the Main Library. Will Hayes, in the midst of a divorce, tells his young daughter Maya the story of his relationships with three different women. Maya is left to determine which one is her mother. And this forces will to face his past actions and present predicament.

Holiday Used Book Sale Set for December 5-7

Gently used books, tapes and videos will be available in all categories for adults and children, including fiction, non-fiction, mystery, history, gardening, and much more. The sale will feature a wide selection of books in "as new" condition, perfect for gift giving. The Book Sale Room is on the 3rd floor at the Main Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue in downtown Evanston. For more information call 847-448-8600. Sale hours will be Friday, December 5 from 10 am to 6 pm (No preview), Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, December 7 from noon to 6 pm. Mark your calendars now for holiday shopping.

Teen Nights scheduled

Teens ages 13 through 18 are invited to attend Teen Nights in The Loft at the Evanston Public Library (EPL) 1703 Orrington Ave. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events, which will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19. As well as games and activities, teens will be offered snacks and free bus rides home.

New Drop-In Gym for Home-Schooled Students

A new open/drop-in gym program for home-schooled students is being offered at the Chandler-Newberger Center, 1028 Central St. The gym is open noon to 2 p.m. every Thursday through March. This new program is designed for children of all ages. One side of the gym will have climbing blocks and play equipment for younger children. The other side will have equipment for older children to play basketball, soccer, floor hockey and dodgeball. Parents must stay and supervise their children as no staff will be on duty in the gym. The cost is \$6 per day per Evanston families and \$8 per day for nonresident families. This fee covers all children within a family and is not per child. A reduced fee 10-count punch card will also be offered. For more details, call 847-448-8252.

THE GROCER'S SON (2008, 96 min. France)

Two heinous crimes have left a suburban town reeling. As the local community enfolds itself in a shroud of secrecy, the police remain desperate for witnesses. Graham McGahan, a young police constable with a chronic hearing problem, is stationed at a police caravan near the crime scene. Living on the periphery of the investigation, McGahan crosses paths with the various people affected by the tragedies and gradually unravels a nightmare of guilt and suspicion that will involve him more than he could have imagined. Monday, November 17, 7 pm. Main Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue in Evanston. Free. Call 847-448-8600 for info.

Lyric Opera Lecture

Members of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps present informative lectures on the 2008-09 Lyric Opera season at both Main and North Branch Libraries. Pick up a complete schedule at any Library branch. For more information call Reader's Services at 847-448-8620.

The November lecture discusses Porgy & Bess, by George Gershwin. Rochelle Klapman lectures at noon on Tuesday, November 18 at North Branch, 2026 Central Street. Kip Kelley lectures on Saturday, November 22 at 2 p.m. at Main, 1703 Orrington Avenue. Drop in.

North Branch Book Group

Join other readers to talk about November's selection, Five Quarters of the Orange by Joanne Harris. The stimulating discussion of Harris's book that provides the back story for her later bestseller Chocolat will be held at 7:00PM on Thursday, November 20 at the North Branch Library, 2026 Central Street. Call 847-866-033 for more information.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets the third Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30 pm. New members are welcome! Help plan and lead great programs in the Loft. There will be pizza! If you are in grades 8-12, come join us and shape the future of the award-winning Loft. Meet in the Large Community Room on the first floor. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 18.

St. Peter Catholic School, Skokie Happenings

In October, St. Peter received a \$500 grant from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program to enhance the school's technology program. The grant will be used to purchase technology software which will enable teachers to communicate with parents about their children's grades.

A Smart Board, recently purchased by the St. Peter Parent Teacher Organization, is the latest in technology for St. Peter's classrooms. This 5 foot by 5 foot computer screen is connected to the Internet. It can be used by teachers and students as a computer, overhead projector, or dry erase board.

Throughout the year, on a monthly basis, St. Peter students collect canned goods which are then provided to those in need at our sharing parish in Chicago, St. Columbanus. This month, the Student Council is enhancing the program by organizing a Thanksgiving canned food drive which will provide assistance to an even greater number of needy families.

During November, in observance of Veterans Day, children from all grades are writing letters to disabled veterans in appreciation for their service to our country. The letters will be delivered to Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the Chicago area.

On November 5, forty of St. Peter's students in grades 6-8 sang in Wilmette at Loyola Academy's Choral Festival. Eight other schools participated in what was an outstanding day of choral music.



Submitted by Greg Franks, St. Peter School Board Member.

**PLANNING YOUR NEXT COTILLION,
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"A Theatre Review"

"Million Dollar Quartet"

Goodman Owen Theatre and after October 21,
Apollo Theatre on Lincoln Avenue

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

"Million Dollar Quartet" is a million dollar treat for Chicago audiences. This brand new musical captures the music and spirit of a legendary session between Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. The show is one of high energy that has a terrific cast and a lot of wonderful songs that makes the 100 minute running time go by so fast you'll be left yearning for more at the end of the evening. Rob Lyon is Carl Perkins, Lance Guest plays Johnny Cash, Levi Kreis is Jerry Lee Lewis and Eddie Clendinning plays Elvis. The musicians on stage are Chuck Zayas and Billy Shaffer. All the actors play various instruments.

The play takes place in a recording studio at Sun Records run by Sam Phillips. Chicago actor Brian McCaskill plays Phillips. The only other performer in the show is Kelly Lamont as Dyanne who is dating Elvis. Her rendition of "Fever" and looks will raise the temperature of all the men in the audience. It is her only solo number but she sings on some of the quartets backup musical numbers with them. You'll hear such songs as "Whole Lotta Shaking," "See You Later Alligator," "Great Balls of Fire," "Peace in the Valley" as well as 20 more as they sing songs associated with them.

Eric Shaeffer and Floyd Mutrix have co-directed the show that has a book by Mutrix and Colin Escott.

Quartet runs through October 21 at the Owen and opens at the Apollo Theatre on October 31 and runs through December 14. It should be extended and it is too bad a CD hasn't been made of it.

For performance days, show times and reservations call 312-443-3800. Tickets are \$20 and \$49 and it's a bargain.

"Mame"

Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace Theatre
100 Drury Lane Rd.
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

By Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook, Illinois has opened with the classic "Mame." A musical that has a book by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee and the music for show is by composer Jerry Herman.

"Mame" is a show that seldom ever shows up in Chicago regional theatres and director William Osetek has assembled a terrific cast. The story is based on Auntie Mame by Patrick Dennis, who was the ward of Mame Dennis. "Mame" is one of my favorite musicals and I wasn't disappointed with this production.

"Mame" is being played by veteran actress Barbara Robertson who has been in "Wicked" at the Oriental - The Ford Center for performing arts.

Some who might remember "Auntie Mame" might feel that the musical has lost a lot of the plays biggest laughs to make room for Herman's catchy and spirit-lifting score but with songs like "Open a New Window," "Mame," "If He Walked Into My Life," "My Best Girl," "Agnes Gooche's Lament" and the hilarious "Bosum Buddies," who really cares?

The show ran for 1,508 performances in New York and starred Angela Lansbury. When it opened in London it starred Ginger Rogers.

Others in the cast are Alene Robertson as Vera Charles, the role Beatrice Arthur did in New York. Jeff Kuhl, Kelly Cronin, Marilyn Bogetich, Mary Robin Roth, David Korte Meir, Tammy Mader, Fred Stone, Michael Ehlers to name a few.

"Mame" runs through December 21. For performance days, times and reservations call 630-530-0111. Tickets are \$28-\$33.

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Candide

Funny.
Irreverent Satire... Sophisticated Operetta.

Book by Hugh Wheeler
Lyrics by John Latouche, Richard Wilbur & Stephen Sondheim
Music by Leonard Bernstein / Based on the novel *Candide* by Voltaire

The Best of all Possible Worlds!

Part sophisticated operetta, part wacky screwball comedy with shades of Monty Python, this funny, irreverent satire is the perfect musical expression of Voltaire's tongue-in-cheek send-up of optimistic philosophies.

September 13 through November 2
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:45pm Sundays at 2:30pm

Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont Avenue
For tickets, CALL 773.327.5252
www.theatrebuildingchicago.com
Groups 15+ call Group Theater Tix at 312-423-6612
Also Ticketmaster 312-902-1500 and ticketmaster.com www.Porchlighttheatre.com



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November 12 – December 21

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Chicago Tribune

"Take your family -- kids, grandkids, whomever -- to see "Meet Me in St. Louis" at Drury Lane. Beautiful costumes, crisp choreography, and MEMORABLE songs like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "The Trolley Song" add to the enjoyment." – The Northwest Indiana Times

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Ticket prices do not include service fees

Buy tickets online at www.skokietheatre.org

FILM

November 21-23: Polish Film Festival in America The world's most extensive program of Polish cinema. All tickets CASH AT DOOR ONLY. NO RESERVATIONS \$13 each for feature films, \$11 student & seniors. \$10 each for documentaries, \$8 student & seniors

FRI. 11/21

6:30pm. Katyn - feature (nominated for Academy Award)
 8:30 pm. Chronicle of the Gettho Uprising According to Marek Edelman (documentary feature)

SAT. 11/22

6:00 pm. Death o Zygelbojm (documentary feature)
 7:00 pm. The Purim Miracle (feature)
 8:30 pm. Deborah (feature)

SUN. 11/23

3:00 pm. The Sendler's List (documentary)
 4:00 pm. Photoamateur (documentary feature)
 5:00 pm. Far from a Window (feature)
 7:00 pm. Austeria (feature)

POP/JAZZ/FOLK

November 14th: Doug Lofstrom and the New Quartet, 8pm - \$15/\$20
 Five piece chamber group playing classical, jazz and world music.

November 15th: Bounding Main, 7:30pm - \$15/\$20

A show filled with spirit, humor and harmony; their arrangements of traditional nautical music

November 16th: Kimber Leigh Nussbaum, 2pm - \$15/\$20

The amazing vocalist of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band in Concert

November 16th: Sons of the Never Wrong, 7pm - \$20/\$25

Chicago's top folk group returns for a night of fun

November 28th-29th: Jim Post In Concert, 8pm - \$20/\$25

Chicago's beloved folk artist in his only Chicago appearance with special guest Randy Sabien

December 6th-7th: "Love Stinks", 8pm & 2pm - \$15/\$20

The wonderful talent of Charlene Brooks in her great musical show

December 5th: Milt Trenier Holiday Concert, 8pm - \$15/\$20

A Show Business Icon looks back on his 70 plus year career

December 12th: Holiday For Swing, 8pm - \$15/\$20

The Bob Acri Octet welcomes the holiday season in the big band way

December 13th & 14th: Guitars of Spain, 8pm - \$15/\$20/\$25

Unique combination of sounds and grooves including Flamenco dance

December 19th: "I'll be home for Christmas", 8pm - \$20/\$25

The lovely Pinups bring back your favorite favorite holiday memories

STAGE

December 20th-21st: LATE NIGHT CATECHISM, 8pm & 2pm - \$30

You don't have to be a Catholic school alum to enjoy this show

December 27th-28th: LATE NIGHT CATECHISM, 8pm & 2pm - \$30

The Nuns are watching your every move

December 31st: New Year's Eve at 8pm LATE NIGHT CATECHISM

- \$50 Champagne and Chocolates after the show.

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Skokie Art Guild Members \$10: non-members \$15. For information call:

Richard Wilberg 847-677-3461

Skokie Art Guild Fall Exhibit

Now Showing at Skokie Library 5215 Oakton St. through November 22
 Enjoy 35 artists' original works: Paintings, Sculpture and other media

Steve Gal - Bank of Lincolnwood, 4433 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood

Ellen M. Greene - Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie

Guess Who's Coming to the Skokie Theatre?

The Skokie Theatre is privileged to host the POLISH FILM FESTIVAL in America the weekend of November 21-23. The films will be a combination of documentaries and new releases. Please check our website for times and titles.

If you love great folk music, you'll want to see Chicago folk icon, Jim Post, in concert on November 28-29. A rare Chicago appearance by this master songwriter.

On December 13 (8pm) and 14 (2pm) the GUITARS OF SPAIN combines great latin music and flamenco dancing for a wonderful Program of family entertainment.

LATE NIGHT CATECHISM brings a Chicago tradition to our theatre and you can expect big laughs. In fact, why not join us New Year's Eve and toast the New Year with Sister.

Check out our schedule including the return of HIZZONER in February. Get your tickets early for this one.

WWW.SKOKIETHEATRE.ORG

Submitted by Al Curtis for the Skokie Theatre

Sculpture Exhibition Debuts Nov. 20 at Evanston Art Gallery

"Between," featuring clay sculpture by artist Corinne D. Peterson, opens Thursday, Nov. 20, at Evanston's Noyes Cultural Arts Center Gallery. An artist reception, free and open to the public, will be held 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, in the gallery. "Between" will remain on display through Jan. 12.

The Noyes Art Gallery is at 927 Noyes St., Evanston; admission is always free. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. The building is accessible, and group tours are available. For information, call 847-448-8260.

Nominations Sought for Evanston 2008 Mayor's Award for the Arts

Nominations are once again being accepted for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. Each year, awards are given to an Evanston arts organization and an Evanston individual who have contributed to the community through excellence in the arts. Individuals eligible for nomination include Evanston artists, arts volunteers and arts educators.

Nomination forms are available at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., and the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., as well as online at www.cityofevanston.org/arts. Completed nomination forms must be submitted no later than Friday, Dec. 5. There is no limit to the number of nominations that may be submitted. However, past award winners are not eligible, and self-nominations or nominations by family members are not allowed.

Awards will be presented by Mayor Lorraine H. Morton at the Annual State of the City Address hosted by the Evanston Chamber of Commerce in early 2009. For more information, call 847-448-8260.

Robin Hood and Maid Marian Opens Nov. 21

The Sheriff of Nottingham may be up to his dirty deeds, but Robin Hood and Little John are determined to save the day for the common folk. The Evanston Children's Theatre presents this exciting adventure tale straight from the Sherwood Forest. Will Robin Hood stop the sheriff?

Can Maid Marian and Robin Hood find happiness? Performances of this family show will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21; 3 & 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave. Tickets for Robin Hood and Maid Marian are \$8 and are available at the door. For more information, call 847-448-8250.

Visit Street Level's online edition

WWW.OURVILLAGECHICAGO.COM

for past and present editions of this

publication as well as our

Chicago paper, Our Village.

Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

The holidays are joyous and active times for people and their pets. Our pets partake in many of the seasonal festivities with us which makes the holidays that much more special. However, many of the decorations and objects we have around the household during the holidays may be dangerous to our pets. By taking a few precautions, we can make this wonderful time of year a safe one for our pets.

Holiday Food/Cooking

Food is a very important aspect of our holiday celebrations as many human waistlines can attest. Unfortunately, many of these foods can cause serious problems in our pets and as any veterinarian will tell you, this is the time of year that we see numerous gastrointestinal problems in pets.

Food Preparation -The preparation of food can be a problem, especially for pet birds. Birds have a very effective respiratory tract and coupled with their relatively small size are susceptible to toxic elements in the air. During cooking if food burns or smoke is produced, any birds nearby the kitchen could be at risk of fatal smoke inhalation. If non-stick cookware is used there is another risk for pet birds. Under normal cooking conditions, the cookware is safe but if polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) coated products (such as Teflon, Silverstone, and Supra) are overheated (over 530 degrees F), they can emit toxic fumes which are fatal to birds. PTFE coated drip pans achieve high temperatures under normal usage so they should not be used around birds at all. If your bird has been exposed to smoke or fumes get them to an area of good ventilation and seek veterinary care.

Holiday Food/Leftovers -Avoid the temptation to feed your pets leftovers from your holiday meals. Many of these foods are rich; especially those that are high in fat, and can often cause severe gastrointestinal disturbances in pets which could prove fatal. Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) is a very common disease of dogs and is frequently caused by the eating of table scraps. The pancreas plays a role in digestion of food but when an animal eats a rich or fatty meal, the pancreas is 'overstimulated' and the organ oversecretes enzymes leading to inflammation of the pancreas and surrounding tissues. Signs of pancreatitis include vomiting and abdominal pain, sometimes quite severe. The condition is very uncomfortable for the pet and sometimes can be fatal. If you notice these type of symptoms seek veterinary care.

Continued next issue...

by Peter S. Sakas, DVM

Niles Animal Hospital and Bird Medical Center, 7278 N. Milwaukee, Niles

Howliday Wishes

My furry friends, do you realize how close the Howliday Season is upon us? It was like yesterday that I was frolicking in the summer sun! Anyway, now comes the time when our noses and toes get cold. But, on the bright side so does that wonderful gift giving season! So, my friends now is the time to get your lists to Santa Paws so you get what you want. Also, don't forget to leave hints for those humans of yours! With the chaos of the Howlidays they sometimes need more than one gentle reminder!

My Howliday Wish Letter is as follows:

Dear Santa Paws,

I have been a very good pup this year. I have played nicely with all the other dogs that my human has cared for. I have not caused any intentional harm to any of the cats I am forced to live with. I have not ruined the new furniture, however I will confess that I do like to cuddle up in it even though I am not suppose too! I have listened to my human, even when I don't know what she is saying. I have been as good as I could be, at least most of the time! (that grabage incident was totally my brother Darwin's fault!) So, in being a good boy I would like the following.

A new how to understand your human book, because an updated version is sorely needed. More so then ever!

A new rawhide bone that is the size of me!

A turkey feast fit for a dog!

A new bed for the cats. That way the can stay off mine!

A new collar with winter colors so I can look great this season!

Sweater or jacket because I know that my human is going to force me into some colorful haircut and I want to be prepared!

Plenty of pawtience with my human and the crazy things she does to me at the howlidays.

Most importantly I want peace on Earth for all of God's Creatures.

(to my furry friends, this is very important to add to your letter. Yes, I would like peace. But, let's face it. Until we dogs take over that is not going to happen. Trust me add this to your letter!)

Love & best Howliday Wishes,

Bosley

To my furry friends, Please feel free to send all wonderful goodies for me to Canine Corral!

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



Best of Friends Come to Shelter Together

In early September the Animal Care League received a request from another shelter to transfer in 2 dogs that had not been adopted in a fair amount of time. They hoped that a change of scenery would help Maggie and Scratch find a home more quickly.

This seemed like a fairly normal, straight forward request and so the arrangements were made to get our new guests to the shelter. When Maggie and Scratch arrived at the ACL, we all instantly fell for these two lovable canines. We knew they had lived together before being turned into the original shelter and we were told that they were very bonded to each other, so we decided to try and find them a new home together as well. Unfortunately this is proving to be more difficult than anticipated.

You see, our two "best friends" have several things going against them. First, they are both middle aged. Maggie is 8 years old and Scratch is 11 years old and all too often older pets do not get adopted as quickly as younger ones. Second, by trying to get them adopted together, we have limited the number of possible adopters as most families only want to adopt one pet. Because they are so fond of each other, however, we want to do everything we can to keep them in the same home before splitting them up. And third, their size differences are making it harder to find an adopter because, you see, Maggie is a Labrador Retriever and Scratch is a miniature Poodle. Families that like smaller dogs may not want to adopt the larger Maggie and families in the market for a larger breed dog may not want to adopt the smaller Scratch.

Even with all of this against them though, we feel it is in their best interest to keep trying to find them a home together at this time, but the day will come where we will need to separate them. They get out often, live in the same large kennel and spend time playing in the yard together, but life in a shelter is not the place for these wonderful animals. They have a tremendous amount of spirit and a lot of life left and so we want them to begin bringing joy to a new family as soon as possible.

Maggie and Scratch are doing fine and receive the best of care. We truly hope this article finds its way to someone ready to adopt two dogs, but it won't do either one of our friends any good if someone wants to adopt them that isn't ready for the responsibility of two pets. While I am sure they would love to be in a home rather than a shelter, it is best only if a family that really wants to add two dogs to their lives comes to adopt them. We will continue to give them all of the love and attention they deserve until that right family comes along.

The selfish side of me will hate to see them go to their new home, but it will warm my heart knowing a family gets to experience life with these "best friends". Sometimes it takes a little longer to find the right home, but one of these days the perfect match will walk through our doors.

Submitted by Tom Van Winkle, Animal Care League

Our Move has been postponed!

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Evanston Yard Waste Season Ends December 4

The City's weekly yard waste pickup continues on your regular refuse/recycling collection day through Thursday, Dec. 4.

To ensure compliance with state laws, yard waste must be collected separately from the rest of the household waste, and residents are required to use any of these three options for disposal of yard waste:

1. Place yard waste in paper yard waste bags, such as 30 gallon Kraft Paper Lawn Waste Bags, available in packages at local stores. Plastic bags will not be collected.

2. Compost and mulch to recycle the earth's nutrients. For further information, call the Ecology Center, (847) 448-8256.

3. Fill City of Evanston 90-gallon Yard Waste Carts, available for purchase. These reusable carts do not require the use of bags. Brush must be tied in bundles and no longer than four feet in length and four inches in diameter. To order a Yard Waste Cart, complete the form on the City's web site, www.cityofevanston.org, and return it with your payment to the City Collector. Carts cost \$82.50. The City will perform minor repairs to yard waste carts at no charge.

Raking or blowing yard waste or leaves into the streets is illegal. Violators will be fined.

Don't forget, the use of backpack-mounted or handheld gasoline-powered leaf blower machines is permitted for fall and spring cleanups, from October 1 through December 14, and from March 31 and May 14. The use of these machines is banned between May 15 and September 30 and also between December 15 and March 30.

Violations can result in a \$75 ticket. Call the Evanston Police Department for more information or to report violations, (847) 866-5005.

Today's small engines emit high levels of carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless and poisonous gas. They also emit hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides pollutants that contribute to the formation of ozone.

Evanston Vehicle Stickers on Sale

Vehicle stickers and residential parking permits for 2009 are on sale in the City Collector's Office and Parking Systems, located in Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.

Vehicle stickers can also be purchased online through the City's web site, www.cityofevanston.org, for residents who'd rather remain in the comfort of their own homes and not wait in line.

The online service, provided by Credentials Order Processing Services, Inc., (COPSI), accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express cards and charges a \$3 convenience fee for each sticker ordered.

Community members who also need residential parking permits cannot take advantage of the online service.

Residents with vehicles, motorcycles, trucks and trailers registered to Evanston addresses and with the Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles will soon receive sticker notifications through the mail. Vehicle sticker purchases can also be made through the mail.

The 2009 vehicle stickers must be purchased and displayed by January 12, 2009. City of Evanston ordinance requires all vehicles registered to Evanston addresses to properly display valid City vehicle stickers.

Regular business hours for the Collector's Office and Parking Systems are Mondays through Fridays from 8:30am to 5pm. The Collector's Office will be open extended hours for sticker purchases: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6.

Both the Collector's Office and Parking Services are open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009; and till 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Jan. 5 through 9, 2009.

A penalty of an additional 50 percent of the original fee will be added to all applications received after January 12. (A passenger car vehicle sticker will cost \$120 rather than \$75.)

Senior citizens ages 65 and older are eligible for a 50 percent discount on the purchase of 2009 vehicle stickers if income level qualifications are met.

The income levels are singles filing single tax returns, \$30,000 or less; married with joint tax returns, \$50,000 or less. Copies of 2007 tax returns or other verifications of income should be brought in to qualify.

Seniors can apply for discount cards Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Commission on Aging office, Room G600 in the Civic Center.

In addition, seniors may also apply for discount cards from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6, 2008, also on Jan. 10, 2009. Vehicle stickers may be purchased on these days, as well as during the week, through the City Collector's Office.

Seniors who obtained discount cards in 2006 or 2007 may use them to purchase their 2009 stickers at any time.

For more information on the senior discount, contact the Commission on Aging, (847) 866-2919.

Evanston Latex Paint Program Changes

The City of Evanston will no longer collect latex paint at the Recycling Center, 2222 Oakton Street.

Collections will now take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Visitor's Parking lot across the street from the Municipal Service Center, 2020 Asbury Ave.

Collection will be staffed by City of Evanston employees. Residents should not leave paint outside of the designated collection times.

Collection is open to City of Evanston and Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) member residents only. Proof of residency will be required at drop-off.

Only latex paint that is clearly labeled will be accepted. Oil-based paint or unlabeled paint will be refused.

For more information, call Streets & Sanitation at (847)866-2940.

Village of Skokie Immigration Information Workshop Series

The Village of Skokie offers a monthly Immigrant Information Series focusing on issues that are important to immigrant residents. All workshops are held at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.

The workshops are free of charge and are conducted in the English language. People who do not speak English are encouraged to attend and bring an interpreter/translator. Children's activities are available for children ages five and up. Light refreshments will be served.

Additional upcoming workshops include:

December 1, 2008: Getting Around: Buses, Trains, and Automobiles

January 5, 2009: Village of Skokie's Health Department Personal Health Services

February 2, 2009: Health and Wellness - Rush North Shore Medical Center

For a complete description of each session or to register, please e-mail info@skokie.org or call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8257.

This Immigrant Information Workshop Series is sponsored by the Village of Skokie and funded by a grant from The Chicago Community Trust/Immigrant Integration Initiative. For 93 years, The Chicago Community Trust has connected the generosity of donors with the needs of the community by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. With assets of \$1.8 billion, the Trust made a record-breaking \$114 million in grants in 2007. From strengthening community schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust works to enhance our region.

Village Hall Thanksgiving Holiday Refuse/Recycling Collection

Following is the Thanksgiving week holiday refuse and recycling collection schedule:

Refuse: Monday and Tuesday collections unchanged and will attempt to make second collection on Wednesday (the day before Thanksgiving).

Recycling: Monday, Tuesday and Friday collections unchanged, Thursday collections on Wednesday (the day before Thanksgiving).



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Ask for Walter

Planning Opportunities in a Down Market



Chester M. Przybylo

Economic times have been hard. Asset values are down. But, now may be the time to take action for a better future for you and your family.

Some tax and estate planning strategies are more effective now than ever before. Let's look at two examples to see how planning in a down economy may offer unique opportunities.

John and Mary Smith earn \$80,000 a year and have managed to sock away significant sums into their Individual

Retirement Accounts (IRAs). However, in a down stock market, their IRAs have dropped in value by 1/3 from \$300,000 to \$200,000. The Smiths can convert their IRAs to Roth IRAs. Upon conversion, they pay income tax on the balance-the lower current value-of their IRAs. Once converted, their now-Roth IRAs will continue to grow completely tax-free. When the assets in their account grow in value, they will still be completely tax-free. Even if the assets double, triple, or skyrocket in value, they will still be tax-free. Unlike with a traditional IRA, John and Mary will never be forced to take a distribution. If they choose to withdraw money, their entire withdrawal will be tax-free. John and Mary can take advantage of this strategy because in the year of conversion they earn under \$100,000 per year.

There are opportunities for wealthier families, as well. Through hard work and good fortune, Bob and Karen Jones built a business that would be subject to estate taxation upon their deaths. They have been thinking of implementing several estate planning strategies to diminish their taxable estate by transferring shares in the business for the benefit of their family. Now, with diminished asset values, they can get a larger portion of their business out of their taxable estate by gifting it to an irrevocable trust. Then, when the asset values increase in the future, the then-increased value will not be subject to estate taxation.

Whether your situation is closer to the Smiths or the Joneses, there are opportunities to take advantage of today's environment. A qualified estate planning attorney can help you implement these and other tax and estate planning strategies to achieve your goals.

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

INVESTMENT IDEAS

'Tis the Season To Prepare Your Pocketbook

Soon enough, the ghosts and goblins lurking around department store shelves will be replaced by mistletoes, menorahs, and Christmas trees. Will you be ready? As the upcoming holiday season inches closer, it is important to prepare your pocketbook in order to avoid the financial strain that may come with extravagant gift giving.

In order to avoid Christmas-time credit card payments that extend well into the New Year, arm yourself with a holiday spending preparation plan.

Develop a budget and stick to it: Write a list of everyone on your gift list and determine how much you want to spend on each person. Don't forget to include costs for other expenses including cards, postage, gift-wrapping, holiday meals out, parties and travel. A list will not only prevent forgetfulness, but it will help you to stay on task to avoid impulsive buys.

Shop early and compare prices: There are great deals to be found throughout the year, so take advantage of big bargains in order to spread out your spending. This will prevent the bulk of your holiday purchases from being billed all at one time, which can be quite overwhelming. Taking advantage of special promotions and discounts can also save time during the season of packed parking lots and crowded boutiques.

Consider non-cash contributions: Your favorite charity will take various kinds of donations including clothes, canned goods, furniture and toys. If a cash donation will add to the stress of the season, don't forget to consider the value of these other items.

Establish a holiday savings account: In order to emerge from the holidays debt free, begin a holiday savings account as soon as you can. Even if you deposit as little as \$20 per month throughout the year, you will be pleased with your preparedness once you reach the holidays with some cents in your stocking. And, throughout the season, don't forget to continue adding to your holiday fund each week, even if it means passing on that morning latte for awhile.

Pay Off Credit Card Bills: With credit card interest rates reaching nearly 20 percent annually, you can't afford holiday spending sprees that will leave a balance on your account. It may be easier said than done in the midst of material must-haves, but remember, you don't want the Ghosts of Christmas to continue haunting you in July and August when your bills remain unpaid.

With any left-over cash, open an IRA: For those disciplined savers who have money leftover after the holidays, it is important to consider the benefits of regular IRA contributions. With the excess cash in the holiday savings account or cash gifts from relatives, almost anyone can open an IRA. Whether you pay taxes on the contribution when you put the money into your IRA or wait to pay taxes upon withdrawal, your excess cash from the holidays can grow tax-free until you reach the age of 70 1/2. Soon, you will realize that the value of compounding may mean a lot more to you someday than the sweaters you could have purchased with that money if you paid a visit to the after-Christmas sale.

Don't wait for the height of the holidays to think about a gift-buying action plan. Act now so you can spend the season of joy, not financial worry, with family and friends.

A.G. Edwards does not render legal, accounting or tax preparation advice. You should consult your tax and legal advisors for questions regarding your specific situation.

This article was provided by Vimal M. Prajapati, AAMS, Financial Consultant, A.G. Edwards, a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC. Member SIPC., 5215 Old Orchard Road Suite 960, Skokie, IL 60077, 847-967-8505

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THE JOY OF JEWELRY

Drusy, Drusy, Give Me Your Sparkle, Do



By Cynthia Sliwa

If you're the kind of person who loves a sprinkling of fairy lights twinkling as they shower down from fireworks, or finds the sparkle of freshly fallen snow or even the glitter of pavement appealingly pretty, you're bound to love drusy.

Drusy (pronounced DREW-zee) and sometimes misspelled druzy, is stone covered with thousands of tiny, sparkling crystals. The crystals come to light through the careful cutting of the stone. Among the gemstones of natural hues seen with drusy are malachite (green), chalcedony (soft blue or off-white), hematite (rainbow-infused gray), carnelian (red-orange) and cobalto calcite (pink). Black onyx drusy is color-enhanced quartz sparkling as if a sequined gown ready for a black tie event. Agates of all colors, natural or enhanced, can also be found with drusy inside or on top. While the color of some of the drusies may be enhanced (please do inquire if this is important to you), the shimmering texture of drusy is a natural phenomenon that cannot be duplicated.

Drusy was formed through the dynamic processes relating to the formation of the earth's crust millions of years ago. As molten rock was forced rapidly up to the surface, heat and pressure created cavities within the rock. Ground water laden with minerals moved through the rock, leaving mineral deposits within the cavities. As the rocks cooled, these minerals crystallized on top of or inside the rocks. Stone cutters cut the stones to expose and highlight this phenomenon.

You may also find drusy coated by jewelry designers with platinum, gold or titanium, which creates some interesting visual effects. In shopping for drusy, along with color, look for the size of the crystals, the absence of visual flaws and the completeness of coverage by the crystals of the underlying stone.

Drusy is naturally quite fragile, in that what you are seeing and touching literally is thousands of minute crystals. For that reason, drusy is best enjoyed set into earrings, brooches and pendants rather than rings or bracelets that can get knocked around.

Jewelry designers work with the unique characteristics of each drusy to highlight the beauty of the stone. Drusy is as individual and special as you are. Enjoy wearing drusy, and keep sparkling!

Cynthia Sliwa, AICI CIP, is an image consultant and jewelry designer.

Village Cooking Corner

Kugel

- 8oz. of egg noodles
- 1/4 lb. butter
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 large cream cheese
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 large can crushed pineapple

Boil & drain noodles. Rinse in cold water. Soften cream cheese & add eggs one at a time. Mix salt, sugar & milk. Melt butter. Mix noodles with mixture. Add drained pineapple. Put in 13 x 9 pan. Add topping.

Topping:

- 3/4 cup crushed corn flakes
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 cup sugar

Mix together, spread on top. Bake at 375 for 1 1/2 hours.

From The Kitchens of Chris

CTA Announces Brief Closure of Service for the Skokie Swift Yellow Line in November

The CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) has announced that the Skokie Swift Yellow Line is scheduled to be closed from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 16 and Sunday, November 23. The closures are necessary to perform maintenance which will ensure that trains continue to operate safely along the Yellow Line.

The CTA offers regular weekend service which runs from 6:10 a.m. to 11:15 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. On November 16 and 23, the #97 bus will replace rail service between the Skokie and Howard Street stations during the closure period.

For more information contact the CTA at 1-888-YOURCTA or visit www.transitchicago.com.

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