

FREE



STREET LEVEL

FREE



“Where Life Happens”

Volume II P.O. Box 31391,
Chicago, IL 60631

www.OurVillageChicago.com

Phone: 847/675-6127

Issue 6

Fax: 847/679-8851 December 19, 2008

Letter from George Van Dusen, Mayor of the Village of Skokie

Dear Friends:

As the new year dawns, the elected officials and I wish each one of you a most happy and healthy holiday season. The new year promises to be full of challenges and activity.

Although the economy has taken a dramatic downturn recently, the Village of Skokie is proceeding with its construction program. Next year we will bid and construct the new downtown Skokie Swift Station, located just north of Oakton Street and just west of Skokie Blvd. adjacent to the Illinois Science & Technology Park. The \$17 million project, for which the Village has received generous federal, state and RTA funding, is nearing completion of the architecture design phase, and the Village's Appearance Commission recently approved the exterior design. The new downtown station will make an important contribution to the future development of the Illinois Science & Technology Park, which currently has approximately 800 on-site jobs at more than 10 different nanotechnology and biotechnology firms.

The Village, also, is working on plans for a new Police Station on Niles Center Road just north of Touhy Avenue. Construction of the \$30 million project is expected to be bid this winter with construction slated to begin in 2009 and to open the following year. This new station will allow our police to continue to serve our community as one of the nation's best law enforcement agencies.

The reconfiguration of the Golf Road and Skokie Blvd. intersection, also, is scheduled for 2009.

In daunting economic times like these, public bodies are uniquely situated to engage in construction projects that stimulate jobs stability and growth. The Village's elected officials appreciate the tremendous effort and hard work of the Village departments to bring these important construction projects to fruition. The support of our citizens is always essential to these projects as is your continued interest and input.

Skokie's elected officials wish all of our residents an enjoyable, happy and healthy holiday season and new year! We look forward to continuing to work with you on making Skokie one of the most livable communities in the United States.



Mayor
George Van Dusen

FREE HOLIDAY PARKING IN DOWNTOWN EVANSTON GARAGES

At its December 8th meeting, the Evanston City Council approved free holiday parking in the City's three downtown self-park garages at Sherman Plaza, Maple Avenue and Church Street from Saturday, December 13 through Saturday, January 3. The free parking will be offered weekdays after 5 p.m. to midnight and all day on Saturdays. Parking on Sundays is already free in the downtown garages.

These additional free parking hours are to encourage people to patronize the downtown business area and utilize the convenient parking in the garages for shopping, fine dining, and entertainment during the holiday season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CITY OF EVANSTON

Evanston Christmas Tree Recycling Begins Dec. 29

Starting Monday, Dec. 29, Evanston residents can place their Christmas trees on the parkways in front of residences for recycling. For five consecutive weeks, tree pickups will take place on the same day as a resident's normal garbage and recycling collections. Recycling will continue through the week of Jan. 26. After that week, trees will no longer be recycled. Trees intended for recycling must be placed on parkways; they will not be picked up from alleys or private property. Do not place trees in plastic bags, and remember to remove all lights and decorations. For more information, call 847-866-2912.

SEASON'S GREETINGS



*From the Staff of
Village Publications*

St. Peter Catholic Church

CHRISTMAS EVE - Wednesday December 24

5:00 p.m. - Mass in Chapel

7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Mass in Church

10:00 p.m. - Mass in Church

CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday December 25

7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. - Mass in Church

10:30 a.m. & 12:00 Noon - Mass in Chapel

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Wednesday, December 31

5:00 p.m. - Mass in Chapel

Solemnity of Mary - Thursday January 1

New Year's Day - Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. - Mass in Church

10:30 a.m. & 12:00 Noon - Mass in Chapel

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS) in Church**

Saturday, December 20 3:00-4:00 p.m.

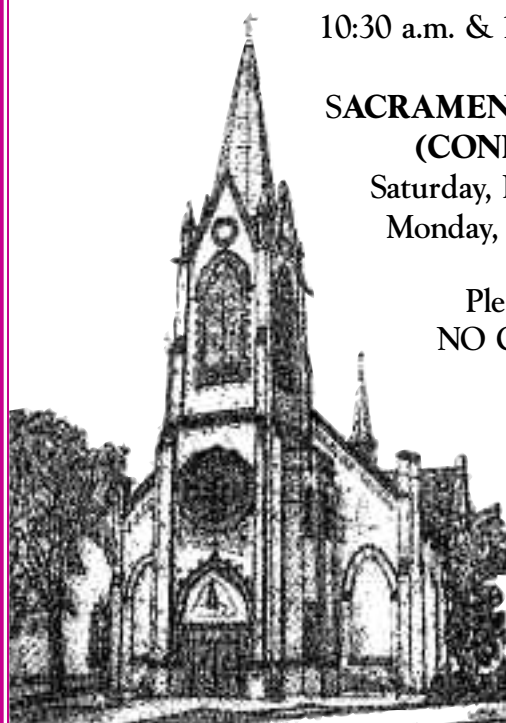
Monday, December 22 7:00-8:00p.m.

Please note: There will be
NO Confessions on December 24

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

(847) 673-0918

8140 Niles Center Road,
Skokie, IL, 60077



Skokie Mayor and Board of Trustee Meetings January 2009

All Village Board of Trustee meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie. An agenda is posted on the on Village web site, www.skokie.org, each Friday before the meeting. The document can be viewed online, or downloaded for further reading.

January 5 January 20 (Tuesday due to Major Holiday)

Skokie Village Hall Holiday Hours

The Village of Skokie offices will be closed Thursday, December 25, 2008 and Thursday, January 1, 2009 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Following is the holiday refuse and recycling collection schedule:

Thursday, December 25, 2008 Christmas Holiday Refuse and Recycling: Monday, Tuesday and Friday collections unchanged, Thursday collections on Wednesday (Christmas Eve).

Thursday, January 1, 2009 New Years Day Refuse and Recycling: Monday, Tuesday and Friday collections are unchanged, Thursday collection take place on Wednesday (New Year's Eve).

Skokie TeenLink Program

The Village of Skokie offers the TeenLink program that unites Skokie residents who are in need of outside seasonal yard work, including snow shoveling, with teens who are available for hire to do the work.

The TeenLink program list provides contact information for Skokie teens available to do seasonal yard work. The list includes the name and address of the teen, days available, type of work they are willing to do and their expected rate of pay. Residents can receive the list by mail or email.

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

If you would like the TeenLink contact list please call the Village Manager's Office at 847/933-8210. Skokie teens can also complete an application to be added to the TeenLink program by contacting the Village Manager's Office or visiting www.skokie.org to download an application.

Village of Skokie Pet Licenses

Pet licenses are available at Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie.

All dogs and cats in Skokie residences must be licensed by the Village of Skokie. To obtain a pet license, a current rabies immunization certificate must be presented for each animal along with a license application form. The cost for the animal license depends on whether or not the animal has been spayed/neutered.

License applications accompanied by a veterinarian's statement attesting to the animal being spayed/neutered cost \$6. Without a veterinarian's statement, the cost is \$12. The Finance Department will not call veterinarians for verbal confirmation so please bring all documents at the time of purchase.

Pet licenses can be purchased at Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from May 1 through October 31. For more information, please call 847/933-8423.



Skokie Offers Easy Water Bill Payment Options

The Village of Skokie offers two easy methods to pay water bills. The first method is a free automatic withdrawal from a checking account. The form for this program is available online at www.skokie.org and the Finance Department at Village Hall, located at 5127 Oakton Street.

The Village also offers online payment for water bills. A convenience fee is added to the payment amount. Payments may be made with a Discover or MasterCard. To make an online payment, click on Living in Skokie from the front page of www.skokie.org to the Illinois E-Pay system.

For more information on water billing and payment schedules, contact the Village Finance Department at 847/933-8418.



PLUS DENTAL

Sukyong Chang, D.D.S.
(773) 777-8686

- Teeth Whitening
- Gum Treatment
- Child Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Endodontics
- Implant Services
- Extractions
- Crowns
- Bridges
- Dentures

-Exams
-X-Rays
-Simple Cleaning
(excluding gum disease conditions.)
\$50⁰⁰



Most Insurances Accepted **Se Habla Español**

4801 W. Peterson, Ste 309 (Edens' Plaza Bldg.) Chicago

Have a heart-to-heart with your neighbor.

NEED CARDIAC CARE?

Then talk to your *neighbors* at Saint Francis Hospital in Evanston.

.....

We have more than 500 internists, cardiologists, primary care physicians and OB/GYNs who are ready to care for you and your family.

To make an appointment with one of our exceptional physicians, call
1-877-RES-INFO (1-877-737-4636).

Saint Francis Hospital
sfh.reshealth.org





**Resurrection
Health Care®**
For All of You, All of Your Life

Tired of Riding the Stock Market Roller Coaster?

Coast into Retirement with a Liberty IRA!

- Risk-free!
- Guaranteed interest rate for the term of investment
- Safe & sound way to protect your retirement plan
- FDIC insured up to \$250,000
- Tax benefits**





*Individual Retirement Account
**Tax benefits will vary by individual

2392 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago 773.384.4000

7111 W. Foster Ave. Chicago 773.792.2211

6210 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago 773.763.4360

6666 N. Lincoln Ave. Lincolnwood 847.674.1300

1018 W. Touhy Ave. Park Ridge 847.825.0693

Liberty Bank
for savings
Trust & Integrity Since 1898
www.libertybank.com

Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Introduces Zumba® Fitness Party!

Community Center adds new cardiovascular fitness class

The Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department is infusing party fun into fitness this January with the launch of Zumba®.

Zumba disguises the “work” from “working out” by combining amazing, irresistible Latin and international music with dynamic, yet simple dance exercise moves, using an intermittent training format.

While Zumba embraces all the fundamental principles of fitness, the key to Zumba’s success is how the music and movement motivate the body to efficiently burn calories, effectively tone all muscle groups, incorporate full range of motion, and improve the cardiovascular system. Fun and music are the two special motivational ingredients. Utilizing the natural beat, tempo, and music transitions, the Zumba dances seamlessly flow from one toning, strengthening, or cardio move into the next. Participants are constantly engaged and entertained with the variety of rhythms including salsa, merengue, samba, belly dancing, cumbia, flamenco, reggaeton, and more! Zumba breaks away from the typical aerobic class format and uses the passion of the music as it was meant to be experienced. Even those who believe they have “two left feet” are successful in a Zumba class because of the natural flow of the simple steps that radiate though the body in synch with the music.

Zumba is recognized by the world’s leading fitness educators, including the Aerobic and Fitness Association of America, the American Council on Exercise, and CanFitPro, a Canadian national fitness accreditation organization. With sanctioned training programs in countries like China, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Venezuela, Zumba is taking the world by storm. Everyone is invited, from kids to seniors, women and men.

A free Zumba demonstration class will be held at the Lincolnwood Community Center on Tuesday, January 6 at 10 a.m. Registration is currently underway. For more information, please contact the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department at (847) 677-9740.

St. Peter School News

The “Children’s Corner” was a huge success. This event allows our school children to purchase reasonably priced Christmas gifts for their families and friends at school and even get them wrapped. Thanks are in order to Cynthia Berry for all of her hard work on this endeavor and also to Mary Rita Guthrie, Pauline Giliana and to all the parents who worked at the “Corner” and wrapped the gifts. The success of the “Children’s Corner” is due to ongoing efforts throughout the year and they are deeply appreciated by all.

St. Peter’s Silent Auction will take place on March 14, 2009 and we need everyone’s help to make it a success. If you see any really great items at a \$50 value that you would be willing to donate to the auction, please bring them to the school at any time. There are a lot of sales during and after the holidays and we kindly ask for everyone’s assistance. Let’s make this the best Silent Auction ever.

The Labels for Education program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for St. Peter Catholic School, and it’s even better this year. Campbell’s has make it easier for St. Peter to reach our collection goals with over 150 products now worth 5 points. Also, the new collection process makes it even easier to redeem merchandise. Please visit labelsforeducation.com for more details or contact St. Peter’s at our Web site (www.stpeter-skokie.net).

St. Peter Catholic School of Skokie is proud to announce the first quarter Honor Roll:

Eighth Grade: Sarah Hynes, Sara Cuadra, Alwin De Gala, Severin DuSell, Kyong Yoo, Sam Valdez

Seventh Grade: Janelle Limson, Greg Bloden, Nathaniel Lee, Teresa Vargas, Matt Aguilar, Aary Boone, Nicole Cooper, Sean Furman, Yasmine Gililana, Nathalia Godoy, Ian Guthrie, Katherine Herman, Micah Ventura.

Sixth Grade: Mary Sim, Aliana Alanguilan, Troy D’Souza, Teresa Franks, Miguel Joaquín, Nathaniel Mekonen, Natasha Siddiqui, Adrian Vargas, Kevin Cooper, Hailey Delaney, Mitch Delaney, Gerard Jumanan, Christopher Millán.

Fifth Grade: Ethan Dawson, Michael Makdah, Kimberly Reglos, Minjae Lee, Ray Lemaine, Michaela Linehan, Julia Morrison, Katie O’Haire, Kyle Roxas, Franzel Siron

Fourth Grade: Ysabel Gonzaga, Amanda Lee, Allen Mekonen, Nathan Valencia, Aly Bedrio, Junica Cruz, Kai Cushing, Madison Lampert, Samantha Lazar, Raciell Millán, Kara Pomer

Evanston Community Kwanzaa Celebration Set for Dec. 29

Celebrate Kwanzaa with family, friends and neighbors at Evanston’s annual Kwanzaa program. The free community-wide event starts at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston.

Designed for all ages, this year’s family event blends music, arts and crafts, and the spoken word. During the program, the history of Kwanzaa will be explained and symbolic candles lit. The evening culminates with an offering of Soul Food and conversation. For more information, call 847-448-8254.



MEMBERS OF EVANSTON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL 742 DELIVER CHRISTMAS TOYS TO DOZENS OF LOCAL CHILDREN

Evanston Fire Department’s Squad 21 doubles as Santa’s Sleigh. On duty and off duty firefighters along with other members of Local 742 combine forces with Santa to deliver Christmas Toys to dozens of local children at Family Focus 2010 Dewey Evanston, IL 60201.

Evanston Firefighters and Staff donate their own money, shop for the toys, wrap them, and deliver them to Family Focus.

Evanston Firefighters Association Local 742 with the support of the Evanston Fire Department Administration have been providing holiday cheer to local children and families for 6 plus years in the form of Thanksgiving Dinners and two separate children’s Christmas parties.

Evanston Fire Department / Local 742 Holiday Party for the Salvation Army After-School Program

On duty and off duty firefighters along with other members of the Department combine forces to host a holiday party for the Salvation Army’s After-School Program. The party will take place at Evanston Fire Station #2 located at 702 Madison from 1:30PM to 3:30PM.

The event will include food, gifts and a station tour for the children in the After-School Program.

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:
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.

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Christmas Tree Care

Just because we do not sell any Christmas trees or poinsettias at Urhausen Greenhouses, as we are already growing our annuals and perennials for next spring and summer, we still receive and answer many questions about Christmas trees. As with everything in horticulture and floriculture, freshness is of the utmost importance. How “fresh” the tree which you purchase will determine how well it will look and how long it will last.

What does one mean by “fresh?” The freshness of a Christmas tree is determined by the length of time since the tree was cut and your purchase. When you purchase your tree it should look healthy and green, and few dead or brown needles should be visible. The needles should not be stiff and hard, but rather flexible and soft. It is a red flag if the needles fall off as you touch them.

Once a fresh Christmas tree is procured, keeping it fresh will depend on how much care the tree receives. Upon purchase, a fresh cut about one inch above the old base on the bottom of the tree should be made. Then the tree should be placed in a bucket of water. Make sure it is a rather large bucket as a tree may absorb almost a gallon of water the first day. Make sure you monitor the water level several times on that first day. At this time of the year you may read or hear about all kinds of additives to place in the water to preserve freshness. Most horticultural experts advocate the use of pure tap water and disavow the benefits of the so called additives.

The key to the freshness of your tree is to keep it watered and not let it dry out. The added benefit of doing this is that a well watered tree will not be a fire hazard. Use common sense when locating your tree. Don’t place it near a source of heat, like a fireplace, stove, or a hot air duct. These measures promote safety and preserve freshness.

The information in this article is correct, however as a fellow consumer of Christmas trees it is becoming more and more difficult to find a fresh tree. Many years I have purchased a tree and followed all these guidelines only to be met with frustration. One sign that you have a stale tree is when the tree will not absorb any water after you place it in the bucket of water. Another is when the needles drop only a few days after the tree is placed inside your home. So, I guess it is important to ask the merchants selling trees when the trees were cut.



From all of us at Urhausen Greenhouses we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

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

Christmas Around the World

(excerpts taken from the World Book, 1999 Edition)

Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. No one knows the exact date of Christ’s birth, but most Christians observe Christmas on December 25. On this day, many go to church, where they take part in special religious services. During the Christmas season, they also exchange gifts and decorate their homes with holly, mistletoe, and Christmas trees. The word Christmas comes from Cristes maesse, an early English phrase that means Mass of Christ.

The word Xmas is sometimes used instead of Christmas. This tradition began in the early Christian church. In Greek, X is the first letter of Christ’s name. It was frequently used as a holy symbol.

Many people attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. Churches are decorated with evergreen branches, red poinsettias, and scenes of the Nativity. Churchgoers listen to readings from the Bible and join in singing Christmas carols.

Christmas is the happiest and busiest time of the year for millions of Christians throughout the world. People of different countries celebrate the holiday in various ways, depending on national and local customs.

In the United States and Canada, people decorate their homes with Christmas trees, wreaths, and ornaments. City streets sparkle with colored lights, and the sound of bells and Christmas carols fills the air.

A traditional Christmas dinner includes stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and a variety of other dishes. Some families have ham or roast goose instead of turkey. Favorite desserts include mince pie or pumpkin pie, plum pudding, and fruitcake. Eggnog is a popular Christmas beverage in many homes.

In some parts of the United States and Canada, various ethnic groups observe Christmas customs of their ancestors. For example, Spanish traditions are popular in the Southwestern United States. Many families in the province of Quebec follow French customs. Some black Americans combine Christmas with Kwanzaa, an Afro-American holiday. Kwanzaa lasts seven days, from December 26 through January 1. Each day, families light a candle symbolizing one of seven principles, including creativity, faith, and unity.

continued on next page...

Urban Wildlife Coalition Winter Wildlife Wonderland

Though the weather outside is frightful, and much of our urban wildlife has high-tailed it for warmer climes, hardy creatures are still abundant. Here are a few tips for attracting winter wildlife to your backyard:

Plant a winter cover crop like winter wheat. It will enrich the soil and provide food for birds, rabbits, and squirrels.

Shrubs and taller evergreens provide shelter and food for urban wildlife.

Help animals break the ice. When winter water supplies freeze up, animals can use your help staying hydrated. Chop ice in birdfeeders and puddles. Better yet, invest in a heated birdbath.

If you use a birdfeeder, be sure to refill it regularly.

Position birdhouses and feeders away from cold north winds. Consider placing them in a sunny spot or near a natural windbreak like bushes or trees.

Cover window wells so visiting animals do not get stuck (skunks are notoriously poor climbers).

Be kind to your pets this winter, too. Most traditional ice-melters hurt animal paws. De-ice your sidewalk with pet-friendly salt available at many hardware stores or just use sand. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

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.

WANTED TO BUY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Holiday Items• Old Costume Jewelry• Old “Pretty” Things (Purses, Hats, etc.) The Antique and Resale Shoppe Inc. 7214 N. Harlem Chicago, IL 60631 (773) 631-1151 Mon - Sat. 10:30 am - 4:30 pm • FREE APPRAISALS •	DISCOUNT CIGARETTES <i>Happy Holidays to Our Friends & Neighbors</i> All kinds of pipes Hookah Cell Phone Accessories 4019 Oakton St. Skokie, IL 60076 847-674-4160 cell 773-699-7247
---	---

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

continued from previous page...

The cultural celebrations of Christmas are as varied as the groups themselves. The following is a sampling of those traditions.

In the British Isles. On Christmas Eve, children hang up stockings for Father Christmas, the British version of Santa Claus, to fill with presents. On the afternoon of Christmas Day, most British families watch their monarch give a special Christmas message on television. In England, dinner on Christmas Day features roast turkey and dessert of mince pie and plum pudding.

Visitors sing carols in return for a drink from the wassail bowl. The bowl contains hot punch made from ale, apples, eggs, sugar, and spices. The word wassail comes from Was Haile, an old Saxon greeting that means “Be Healthy.”

In Ireland, people put a lighted candle in their window on Christmas Eve as a sign of welcome to Mary and Joseph.

Most Scottish families decorate a Christmas tree and sing carols, but most hold their main celebrations on New Year’s Day.

In France, children put their shoes in front of the fireplace so Pere Noel (Father Christmas) can fill them with gifts. Many families attend midnight Mass and then have a festive supper called Le reveillon. Large numbers of French families also decorate their homes with small Nativity scenes. In these scenes, clay figures called santons (little saints) portray the story of Jesus’ birth.

In Germany, Saint Nicholas visits children’s homes on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5, and delivers candy and other sweets to be opened on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. Most German families have a Christmas tree that they decorate with lights, tinsel, and ornaments. Spicy cakes called lebkuchen are made in various shapes and used as decorations.



The “Christmas Tree” dates back to medieval times in Germany and was introduced in America by the German immigrants who settled here. Most countries now have some form of the tree as wreaths or boughs, decorated with red and green. Evergreens symbolize the strength of life over the forces of winter. Each culture has its own decorating techniques, but a star at the top of the tree is a constant,

representing the Star of Bethlehem which led the magi to the Christ Child.

The *Christkindl* (Christ Child) Market first originated in Nuremberg, Germany, and has become a popular tradition in many parts of the world during the weeks before Christmas. People of all nationalities buy their special holiday gifts, decorations and foods. The Market is held outdoors and is a festive gathering place for sharing good times, music and togetherness.

In Spain, people dance and sing in the streets after midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Most Spanish homes and churches display a miniature Nativity scene called a Nacimiento. During the evening of January 5, children put their shoes on a balcony or near a window. The next day is Epiphany, the last day of the Christmas season. It celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. According to legend, the Wise Men arrive during the night before Epiphany and fill the children’s shoes with small gifts.

In the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, according to legend, Saint Nicholas gives presents to children on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5, which they open on December 6, St. Nicholas Day. Wearing a red robe, he arrives on a boat from Spain and rides down the streets on a white horse. His servant, Swarte Piet (Black Pete), accompanies him. Saint Nicholas goes down the chimney of each house and leaves gifts in shoes that the children have put by the fireplace.

continued on page 11...

St. Richard’s Episcopal Church

5101 W. Devon, Chicago (773) 774-4519
Pastor, Fran Holliday

Christmas Eve
7:00 Candlelight Service with Communion and Carols

Christmas Day
10:30 a.m. Festive Eucharist with Carols

Children of all ages are welcome
A community where all are welcome to the table

Ursula and Ben Fromm
AT MOBILE HEARING WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON & THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR

TO HELP YOU HEAR ALL THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON AND THE CELEBRATION BY THE ONES YOU'RE WITH.... WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FREE HEARING AID CONSULATION AND OUR NEW EVERYDAY PRICING OF HEARING AIDSSTARTING AT \$525.00 TO \$3300.00 PER AID

MOBILE HEARING

MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
CHICAGO (773) 588-4200
SKOKIE (847) 675-4201

HEARING AIDS CANNOT BE RETURNED

HABEN
Funeral Home & Crematory
Established 1923

8057 Niles Center Road
Skokie, IL 60077-2599
Phone: (847) 673-6111
Fax: (847) 673-8976

Would you like to work with funeral directors who understand how valuable it is for you and your family to have a truly meaningful funeral experience?

When the time comes to **honor a loved one’s memory** in a personal way, give us a call.

For a Life Worth CelebratingSM

PLUS DENTAL

Sukyong Chang, D.D.S.
(773) 777-8686

- Teeth Whitening
- Gum Treatment
- Child Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Endontics
- Implant Services
- Extractions
- Crowns
- Bridges
- Dentures

All Kids
Pediatric Care for All Kids

–Exams
–X-Rays
–Simple Cleaning
(excluding gum disease conditions.)
\$50⁰⁰

Most Insurances Accepted

Se Habla Español

4801 W. Peterson, Ste 309 (Edens’ Plaza Bldg.) Chicago

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Traditional Greek Christmas

On Christmas Eve, the children go from house to house to sing Christmas carols. They knock on the door and when the host/hostess opens, they ask: “May we sing?” They have to ask because if there is a recent death in the family, they are not allowed to sing. When the host/hostess answer “go ahead, sing” they begin. In Greece, the Christmas liturgy is done on Christmas Eve around midnight. When the liturgy is over and the parishioners return home, many families eat chicken soup with egg and lemon (avgolemono), Christmas bread, and pastries, such as kourapiedes and melomakarona. The traditional Christmas dinner is stuffed turkey. In Greece they do not exchange gifts Christmas day but New Year’s Day. Christmas cards are not exchanged between members of the same family living together nor among friends who live near enough to be wished in person; instead cards are only sent to those friends and relatives who live far away. As elsewhere, the Christmas tree is a recent innovation and formerly (and indeed still on some islands today) a Christmas ship was decorated and had the place of the tree. Traditional Greek Christmas

The Christbread is blended with special attention and patience, by the housewives, during Christmas Eve. This bread is blessed because it will bring

strength to the family.

On Christmas day, during lunch, the father makes the sign of the cross over the Christ bread and after cutting it, gives a piece of cake to each person. This procedure is a revival of the Eucharist. The custom of the Christ bread is kept alive in few regions of Greece, especially in Crete. This custom has deep roots, and is considered to be an exclusive Christian custom.

Greeks place much emphasis on the first day of the New Year; They believe that if the first person they see on New Year’s Day is a good person, they will have a good year. In contrast, if the first person they see is not a good person, then the year will not be as good.

In addition, Greeks also pay much attention to who will come to their house that day; therefore, many times they invite people they care for ahead of time to come, so that they can be the first people to come to the house. Also, they pay attention to how their New Year’s Day weather is; if it is good weather, and then the following day will be good. In contrast, if it is cloudy on New Year’s Day, then it will be a heavy winter. Many games that test one’s luck are played on this day as well; whoever wins is going to be the luckiest during the year.

The cake that is eaten on New Year’s Day is called the “Vasilopita,” and contains a hidden coin or trinket which gives good luck to the receiver. It is made of a variety of doughs, depending on regional and family tradition, including tsoureki. On New Year’s Day families cut the Vassilopita to bless the house and bring good luck for the new year. A coin is wrapped and hidden in the bread by slipping it into the dough before baking. A piece of cake is sliced for each member of the family and any visitors present at the time, in order of age. Slices are also cut for various other people or groups, depending on local and family tradition.

None of the annual customs is continued so infrangibly by the Greeks (all over the world), and has not so deep roots through the years, as the New Year’s cake. Because always, the hidden coin represents the fluke of luck, which shows the fortunate of the New Year.

Truly, Greeks, as members of a family, a fellowship or a society or organized people, do not celebrate the coming of the New Year without the cutting of the Vasilopita. In the collective conscience of our nation, the vasilopita, sweet or salty, with sugar or meat, refers to a new year’s symbol with great attributes, not only revelational, but also determinative for the luck of the people, the animals and the possessions of the Greek family.

Best wishes, and Happy Holidays. (“Kales Giortes”)

By Eleni Andritsakis



PAY
COOK COUNTY
PROPERTY TAXES
ONLINE
cookcountytreasurer.com

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer



PAYMENT STATUS
REFUND INFO
EXEMPTION HISTORY

CALL
312.443.5100
24-hour automated phone system
English ■ Spanish ■ Polish

or

VISIT
cookcountytreasurer.com

***Happy Holidays and a Prosperous
and Healthy New Year from the***



**Greek American Rehabilitation
& Care Centre**

IF YOUR THINKING ABOUT
HIP OR KNEE REPLACEMENT, CONSIDER US
FOR SHORT TERM REHABILITATION

(847) 459-8700 www.greekamericancare.org
220 N First St., Wheeling IL 60090



**EXCELLENT
GERMAN
and
AMERICAN
CUISINE**

Entertainment Nightly:
Wed.-Mon.
(Also Sat. & Sun.
beginning @ 1:00 p.m.)
Special GROUP
ARRANGEMENTS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Chicago Brauhaus

4732 N. Lincoln Avenue — Chicago, IL 60625

LUNCH AND DINNER SPECIALTIES:

- Wiener Schnitzel
- Chicken Schnitzel
- Roast Veal Shank
- Sauerbraten
- Pork Shanks
- Roast Duckling

- Bratwurst
- Steak Tartar
- Homemade Soups
- Homemade Apple Strudel
- Fresh Fish of the Day

Open for Lunch and
Dinner Wednesday
thru Monday


FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL:
(773) 784-4444

Music & Dancing
Fine Food & Drinks
Closed Tuesday

Holiday Hours:
Dec. 24: 11 am - 5 pm
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 31: 11 am - 5 pm
Jan. 1: Closed


Visit our website at
www.chicagobrauhaus.com





Skokie Theatre Music Foundation

847-677-7761
7924 N. Lincoln Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
www.skokietheatre.com



Plenty of free parking!

Group Rate Available

Ticket prices do not include service fees

Buy tickets online at www.skokietheatre.org

POP/JAZZ/FOLK

December 19, 8pm “Gettin’ Hep’ for the Holidays”, \$20 advance/\$25 door The lovely Pinups bring back your favorite favorite holiday memories

January 30, at 8pm Welcome to Laborland with Bucky Halker

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

January 31, at 8pm Pop Goes the Classics!

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

COMEDY

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

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

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

The Nuns are watching your every move

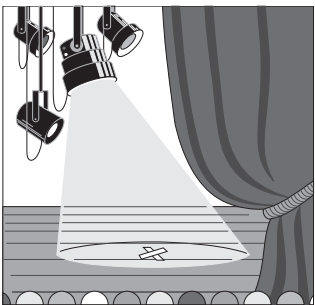
December 31, New Year’s Eve at 8pm LATE NIGHT CATECHISM - \$50 Champagne and Chocolates after the show.

STAGE

February 6-22 · 8 pm & 2pm HIZZONER - Tickets are \$35

Showtimes:

- 2/6/09 8pm
- 2/7/09 8pm
- 2/8/09 2pm
- 2/13/09 8pm
- 2/14/09 8pm
- 2/15/09 2pm
- 2/20/09 8pm
- 2/21/09 8pm
- 2/22/09 2pm



SKOKIE ART GUILD

FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOPS

THURSDAYS -7:00 PM - 9:45 PM, SATURDAYS 10:00 AM- 1:00PM

Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie

Live Models/No Instructor. Fees per session:

Skokie Art Guild Members \$10: non-members \$15. For information call: Richard Wilberg 847-677-3461

CALL FOR ARTISTS:

Skokie Art Guild's 48th Annual Art Fair. July 11-12, 2009. Fine Art. 75 artists. Held downtown Skokie on the Village Green, 5211 Oakton (next to the Library). Prizes and Awards. **APPLY NOW!** For information/application: skokieart@aol.com 847-677-8163

Guess Who’s Coming to the Skokie Theatre?

LATE NITE 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.

On January 30 our favorite America artist, Bucky Halker, presents his great program of labor music, “WELCOME TO LABORLAND.” This is one of the most exciting and unique songfests of its kind.

January 31st, it’s the debut of “Pop Goes the Classics” tracing the roots of popular music to its roots in classical compositions. And, on February 1st at 2pm get ready for the Super Bowl with WJG radio host, Kevin Moore presenting a wonderful program featuring six of Chicago’s finest cabaret artists in a rich program of the music of Rodgers and Hart.

February marks the return of HIZZONER. Neil Giuntoli reprises his award winning performance as Mayor Daley the First. This is a must see event. Get your tickets early for this one.

Check our schedule for the return of Chris Carter, Jim Post, Corky Siegal, Mike Toomey, and many of your other favorites WWW.SKOKIETHEATRE.ORG

Submitted by Al Curtis for the Skokie Theatre

VITA

(Volunteers in Teaching Adults)

ESL/Literacy/GED Program

Oakton Community College

Free Reading/ESL/GED Classes for Adults

Do you need help with your speaking or reading and writing skills in English? Come and learn with a small group. It’s a fun way to learn more English. Classes are offered on weekday mornings, afternoons, and evenings and on Saturday mornings in Evanston, Skokie and nearby locations. Call 847-635-1426 for a list of ESL or Literacy classes, or GED classes in Spanish or English offered by Oakton Community College.

Need for VITA Volunteer Tutors

Come and join the Oakton Community College VITA (Volunteers in Teaching Adults) program if you are looking for a meaningful volunteer activity in which you help adults improve their speaking or reading and writing skills in English. Our next 3-part training session will be held at Oakton in Skokie, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Rm. B110, on January 8 and 13, 6:15-10 pm and on Saturday Jan. 31 from 1:30-3:30 pm

Please call 847-635-1426 for more details. Our e-mail address is: www.oakton.edu/cont_ed/vita.html.



White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant

A Przybylo family tradition

“Join Us For The Holidays”

CHRISTMAS EVE, Order early and take home our “Famous Homemade Specialties” to delight your family & friends (Call for a menu and to order)

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

Have your holiday parties for any group size

6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. • Niles, IL 60714 • (847) 647-0660

Visit our gift shop for unique handmade imports from Poland

Our Deli is Now Open!

The Happiest of Holidays to All of Our Neighbors



Annie’s



Old Fashion Pancake House

4900 W. Oakton

located in the heart of Downtown Skokie

Daily Specials Mon-Fri

Cheerful Staff And Great Home Cooked Meals Await You!

New Luncheon Features

Closed Christmas Day

Open Daily 6am-4pm

Phone: 847-675-7562 Fax: 847-675-7564

Registration is ongoing for Winter/Spring classes at

North Shore Dance Center

8401 Crawford Avenue
Skokie, IL 60076
847-674-2216

www.northshoredancecenter.com

Classes begin January 10th

Take Two Children’s Theater presents

Disney’s Cinderella Kids

Auditions are January 14th at the North Shore Dance Center call 847-674-2216 for more info



North Shore Dance Center

“If you want to learn how to dance, the North Shore Dance Center is the school for you.” This is the sentiment of many of our dance students. The North Shore Dance Center is a full service Fine Arts Academy offering training in dance, theater and related arts. Located on the corner of Main and Crawford in Skokie, NSDC has been serving students from toddler to adult for more than 15 years. We offer the following dance forms: Ballet/Pointe, Jazz/Modern, Tap, Hip Hop, Ballroom, Club Dance, Pre Dance and Take Two Children’s Theater.

In the theater department, Take Two is a children’s theater program open to boys and girls ages 5 and up. In their most recent production, 101 Dalmatians Kids, participants enjoyed acting, singing, dancing and especially, the applause! The next performance will be Cinderella Kids presented in March 2009.



Students interested in competitions are encouraged to audition for the Junior and Senior performing Groups: Take One (ages 7 – 12) and Showstoppers (ages 12 and up). In addition to participating in regional competitions, these dancers also perform at local nursing homes, libraries, Kohl’s Children’s Museum, Navy Pier and area shopping malls. In May 2009, they are looking forward to performing at Walt Disney World. The annual recital is slated for June 2009. If they choose, all students are invited to perform whether they are age 3 or 83!

The North Shore Dance Center’s staff includes advance degreed instructors and/or professional performers in their area of expertise. Private instruction is also available in dance, drama, voice and piano. More information can be found on our website: www.northshoredancecenter.com, or by phone at 847-674-2216.

"A Theatre Review"

“Meet Me In St. Louis” Drury Lane Theatre at the Water Tower 175 East Chestnut St. Chicago, IL

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt
The holidays have arrived with productions of “A Christmas Carol,” “It’s A Wonderful Life,” “The Christmas Schooner,” “The Radio City Christmas Show,” and at the Drury Lane Water Tower “Meet Me In St. Lois,” thanks to Kyle De Santis, William Osetek and the first rate direction of Jim Corti. Corti has a great future and will be directing the annual “Snow Queen” at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theatre next.

St. Louis is based on stories by Sally Benson that has a book for the stage version by Hugh Wheeler with songs by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane. Tammy Mader has handled the choreography.

The show features familiar songs such as “Meet Me In St. Louis,;” “Trolley Song,” “Boy Next Door,” and “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” along with several others.

The cast features Megan Long as Esther, Cory Goodrich and Michael Gerhart are a perfect match as the parents of five. They are incredible actors and singers. Richard Henzel is the Grandfather, Emily Leahy is Tootie the role that Margaret O’Brien played in the movie. Rose the older sister is played by Dara Cameron, the brother Lon is played by Stephen Schelhardt and veteran actress Susan Hart has the role of the Irish Cook. Justin Berkubien and Brandon Dahlquist have the roles of Esther and Rose’s suitors, two very talented performers.

The story takes place at the turn of the century and the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair. The father wants to move the family to New York and the family isn’t to happy about it. If you haven’t seen the movie see the show as it is perfect entertainment for families. “St. Louis” runs through January 4. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 312-642-2006. Tickets are \$50-\$60.

Sold Out in NYC & Washington DC

**C.S. LEWIS’
THE
ScrewTape
LETTERS**

Performances begin Oct. 2

“WICKEDLY WITTY...IT IS ONE HELL OF A GOOD SHOW!”
— *The Wall Street Journal*

“TERRIBLY ENTERTAINING...SCREWTAPE BOILS OVER WITH WIT!”
— *The Washington Times*

“SLY, FUNNY...HANDSOMELY PRODUCED”
— *The Washington Post*

“...IMAGINATIVE THEATRICALITY...WONDERFUL PERFORMANCES”
— *New York Post*

WED, THU & FRI 8:00, SAT 4:00 & 8:00, SUN 3:00
The Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport, Chicago
Box Office 773.325.1700 ticketmaster 312.902.1500

www.ScrewTapeOnStage.com

“The Other Cinderella” Black Ensemble Theatre, 4520 North Beacon St. Chicago, Illinois

By Richard Allen Eisenhardt
If you attend a production of the Black Ensemble Theatre in the Uptown area you always find the evening inventive, informative and musically first rate. Many of the shows are based on the lives of black performers that white audiences are familiar with such as Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole, Dionne Warrick, Mahalia Jackson, Sarah Vaughn and the list goes on. Many of these bios get extended by popular demand. “The other Cinderella” has been reincarnated several times and this modern day version is perfect for the holidays.

One again the show is being revived, produced, written and directed by the Black Ensemble’s founder and artistic director Jackie Taylor.

Jimmy Tillman is the theatre’s musical director and its drummer in the show3’s five piece band.

Melanie McCullough is perfectly cast as Cinderella and she sings like a lark. Other standouts are Dawn Mitchell as the Fairy Godmama and Rhonda Preston as the stepmama.

This is more a contemporary version of the fairytale as this Cinderella was born in the projects but is transferred to being beautiful.

“The Other Cinderella” was first done in 1976. The show runs through December 28. Show time is 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 3:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$45. For reservations call 773-769-4451.

Marriott Theatre *Only At* Marriott Theatre *Only At* Marriott Theatre

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

**THE
BOWERY
BOYS**

Only At
Marriott Theatre

847-634-0200

*New Saturday Showtimes
2:30pm & 8:00pm*

Marriott Theatre *Only At* Marriott Theatre *Only At* Marriott Theatre

Santa Paws

By Bosley

Recently I have discovered that many of you don't know the story of Santa Paws, Santa Clause's dog. Everyone knows about his reindeer, so why not his canine friend? So, I am taking this opportunity to share Paws' story.

Once upon a paw, it was a cold and snowy Christmas Eve and Santa Clause was busy making his usual deliveries. As he stopped to check his list he heard a small cry. Santa went to investigate and discovered a tiny white ball of curly fur; it was a poodle puppy. Santa picked up the puppy and instantly saw the mischievous twinkle in the puppy's eyes. Not wanting to leave the poor creature, Santa took him along on his sleigh. Santa quickly discovered that there was something special about this puppy, the spirit and magic of Christmas seemed to be alive in this pup's eye. This pup should have been afraid and concerned, but instead sat upon Santa's sleigh as if he was meant to be there. Santa realized that this puppy was to remain by his side.

Santa often observed the bonds of people and their dogs, after all dogs are man's best friend. So, he decided to let him come home with him and Mrs. Clause. As the puppy, now named Paws because of his big feet, grew it was obvious to all that met him that he was special. He possessed the ability to make people smile and laugh, there was never a creature that he didn't like or who didn't like Paws. Paws seemed to carry that magic of Christmas with him throughout the year! With that magic came the ability to communicate freely with both animals and people.

As time passed, so did the demands for Santa. He was beginning to wonder how he could possibly keep track of all the good or bad children in the world. Seeing Santa's distress got Paws thinking, and then he came up with an idea. However, Paws was uncertain about how to approach Santa. You see, Paws was considered the happy-go-lucky clown of the North Pole and wasn't sure if his idea was even good enough to tell. Mrs. Clause noticed that Paws seemed concerned about something. Paws then told her that he might have an idea to help Santa, but wasn't sure how to tell him. Mrs. Clause then reminded Paws that everyone's ideas are important and should be shared, those ideas may not be used exactly but we can always build upon them. With new confidence Paws set out to find Santa.

Paws' idea for helping Santa was very simple, he told Santa that they could get the other dogs of the world to help keep an eye on the children in their lives. Santa was thrilled with the new idea and added that we should also ask the cats, birds, snakes, hamsters, and all creatures that have children around to watch them and report back to Santa. Santa was very proud of Paws and put him in charge of communicating with all the pets in the world. Those pets started calling him Santa Paws, the Santa of the animal kingdom! These pets don't just work for Santa, but are rewarded on Christmas day along with the good children.

Santa Paws had helped Santa and to this day continues to be along side his favorite person and help communicate with all pets. So, on Christmas Eve when you hear Santa's bells listen closely because you might hear the howling of Santa Paws. Also, remember to reward your favorite pet because they have been keeping an eye on you all year and they report directly to Santa Paws! Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy Howlidays!



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

Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

(continued from last issue)

Be cautious with 'edible' type ornaments. Sometimes the store-bought varieties may not be edible and contain hardening agents/preservatives that could be toxic. If you make your own edible ornaments, your pet may try to eat them. They may knock over the tree trying to get a string of homemade popcorn or a gingerbread ornament.

The safest ornaments are one-piece, non-breakable and made of non-toxic material. They should be too big to swallow. Also, have them out of the reach of curious beaks, mouths and paws.

Tinsel -One of the most dangerous materials to put on a Christmas tree is tinsel. Animals are attracted to its bright finish and flexibility. Cats are especially attracted to tinsel and if you have a cat, it is recommended that you do not use tinsel on your tree. If your pet eats tinsel, there is a good chance that it will become wrapped around the tongue. As the pet struggles to remove it, the tinsel gets stretched out and wraps even tighter. It can cut sensitive tissues in the mouth and stop the circulation of blood to the tongue. If a strand is swallowed it can bunch up and block the intestine. If this occurs, surgery is usually required to remove it. The best advice is, if you have pets, do not place tinsel on your tree. You may lose the aesthetics of the icicle effect, but your pets will be much safer.

Holiday Decorations/Packages

Many people place decorations throughout the house including lights, evergreen branches, holiday knickknacks and other assorted objects to provide a festive environment. We have discussed some of these dangers previously. Lit candles can burn a curious pet or could be knocked over and start a fire. Centerpieces of dangling streamers and feather fronds are enticing to the curious pet. If chewed and swallowed, these materials can cause an intestinal blockage. Icicles and tinsel draped on a mantle are as dangerous as tinsel on a tree. Monitor your pets and watch out for any evidence of chewing on these objects.

Wrapped presents can pose a hazard to pets. They are attracted to the decorative bows, ribbons and other frills placed on the packages. If your pet would chew and swallow these materials, there is a risk of intestinal blockage. Food packages wrapped as gifts and left under a tree can entice a hungry animal. With their keen sense of smell they can sniff these out and decide to have a feast. Exercise caution with these types of presents around pets, especially dogs.

Poisonous Plants

Many homes are decorated each year during the holiday season with poinsettias and mistletoe. These plants do represent the season; unfortunately they are toxic for our pets and represent a problem for curious dogs, cats and birds. Poinsettias produce a milky sap that is irritating to the skin and eyes on contact and to the gastrointestinal tract if eaten. It may cause irritation and blistering of the mucous membranes of the mouth and stomach. Intake of large amounts of mistletoe may cause nausea, vomiting and gastroenteritis. Make sure that these plants are kept out of the reach of your pets. If you do catch you pet eating a poinsettia or a few loose mistletoe berries, seek veterinary care immediately.

(conclusion next issue)

by Peter S. Sakas, DVM
Niles Animal Hospital and Bird Medical Center, 7278 N. Milwaukee, Niles

The Anti-Cruelty Society Adoption Event at Muvico Rosemont

Saturday, January 17th, 2009 from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The Anti-Cruelty Society will be at the Muvico Rosemont 18 to help promote the release of "Hotel for Dogs", a movie about dogs. We will be bringing approximately 7 dogs available for adoption, assisted by our Anti-Cruelty Society volunteers. We will also have an informational booth with both giveaway and sale items. Please come out and show your support and tell your friends who are looking for furry companions!

Muvico Rosemont 18 is located at 9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, IL 60018. Call (847) 447-1027 for more information.

Our Move has been postponed!

🐾 We are still at our Higgins location. 🐾



featuring:
Dog & Cat grooming by our Friendly
& Certified Staff!

Now Open
Monday-Saturday 8-5

CANINE CORRAL
7040 W. Higgins * Chicago **773-775-1040**

FOR ANYONE WHO KNOWS THE TERRIBLE PAIN THAT
ACCOMPANIES THE LOSS OF A FRIEND...

**THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY OFFERS A FREE
PET LOSS AND GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP.**

CALL 312-644-8338 EXT 344 FOR MORE INFO
VISIT OUR WEB SITE @ WWW.ANTICRUELTY.ORG



A Corporation in Illinois, since 1982

Powers of Attorney – May Not Be Enough



Chester M. Przybylo

A power of attorney is a way to delegate your decision-making authority to someone else. People often ask “My daughter has my power of attorney, is that all she needs?” While powers of attorney can be useful under some circumstances, people think they are of broader effectiveness than they are.

First off, a power of attorney is only effective so long as the person granting the power, otherwise known as the “principal,” is alive. For example, if you appoint your daughter as agent under a power of attorney, and you die,

her authority dies with you. If she were to go to the bank and attempt to use the power of attorney to withdraw funds, they would tell her it is no longer valid. Basically, at your death, it ceased to be worth more than the paper on which it was written.

Even while the principal is alive, a power of attorney may not be the most effective way to delegate powers. For example, some title companies will not insure title on real estate when title is transferred pursuant to a power of attorney drawn up more than eighteen months before the transfer.

So, if a power of attorney may not be enough, what is the answer? A revocable living trust offers the solution. With a revocable living trust, you transfer your assets to the trust and you serve as the manager, or “trustee,” of the trust during your life. At your death or incapacity, the person whom you have selected steps in to make decisions for you. Your successor trustee simply presents the physician statement of your incapacity and thereby gains the ability to manage the assets in the trust. If the vacation home needs to be sold to pay for health care, he or she would have the authority to do so, even if the trust were done years before the incapacity.

The trust has the added benefit of avoiding probate, the legal process by which assets in a decedent’s name are re-titled after death. A trust may also provide a very flexible way to accomplish your wishes regarding distribution of the assets you placed in the trust. For example, if you want your assets held for your spouse and kids and then distributed out only after the youngest has graduated from college or reached age 25, it can do that.

Regardless of your wishes, a trust can help you achieve your goals. A qualified estate-planning attorney who focuses his or her practice in that area can help you tailor an estate plan to ensure that your person of choice has the means to make decisions on your behalf.

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.

Evanston Snow Parking Regulations in Effect Dec. 1

Evanston community members are reminded that snow parking regulations take effect December 1 and last through March 31, 2009. Community members are asked to anticipate Snow Route Parking Bans and Snow Emergencies and call the snow hotline, (847) 864-SNOW, to find out how to park their cars accordingly.

If snow is anticipated, community members should not park on the Snow Routes at night, and they should park on the proper sides of residential streets between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Several information outlets can be used to verify Evanston’s snow situation: the information hotline, 847-864-SNOW; cable channel 16; the city’s web site www.cityofevanston.org; and the city’s radio station WPXZ-497 AM Radio 1650.

Community members can also receive snow alerts right to their email addresses by signing up for the City of Evanston E-News, www.cityofevanston.org/newsletter.

For more information on the city’s snow regulations, contact Streets and Sanitation, (847) 866-2940.

Snow Route Parking Bans may be declared after two-inch snowfalls. Main thoroughfares in Evanston are designated as Snow Routes and are cleared first.

Permanent red, white and blue signs are posted to indicate that parking is illegal on these streets between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. after the accumulation of at least two inches of snow.

Sirens will sound at 8:15 p.m. on nights when Snow Route Parking Bans are in effect.

Even if plows have been through, snow removal operations may require return visits by city trucks.

After an accumulation of four inches or more, a Snow Emergency may be declared. The city’s emergency sirens will sound at 7:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Snow Emergency days.

Snow Emergencies apply to streets with parking on both sides which are not posted as Snow Routes and are plowed over a two-day period; however, Snow Emergencies may be extended if conditions require it.

During a Snow Emergency, community members should NOT park on even-numbered sides of the streets on even days between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Additionally, community members should NOT park on odd sides of the streets on odd-numbered days between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Permanent signs indicating alternate side parking rules are found on every block that is affected.

Cars parked illegally are subject to ticketing and towing. If towed, cars will be returned to the vicinities from which they were towed.

Most streets with parking on one side have permanent “ODD date” or “EVEN date” signs. This allows the streets to be plowed during snow emergencies.

Skokie Alternate Side Parking

The Alternate Side Parking Program is in effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, after any snowfall of 2” inches or more. The program stays in effect for at least two days. To check if the program is in effect, call 847/675-SNOW (7669) or listen to 1660 AM Skokie.

After 2 inches of snow or greater on even days of the month all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. On odd days of the month all vehicles must be moved to the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses.

Tune into the newly launched 1660 AM Skokie radio station for updates regarding alternate side parking. The primary use of AM 1660 Skokie is to inform the public of emergency conditions in the area and how to respond to them. Cable television subscribers will be alerted to the start of the Alternate Side Parking Program through the Village emergency override system at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., and to the end of the program at 6 p.m.

ESTATE PLANNING

WILLS AND TRUSTS

CHESTER M. PRZYBYLO

COUNSELOR AND ATTORNEY AT LAW

Best Wishes for the

Holiday Season

5339 N. Milwaukee Avenue

Tel (773) 631-7100

Chicago, Illinois 60630

Call for a FREE Initial Consultation

Other Office Locations Available

Matt Bale

Funeral Director Intern

Les Bale

Funeral Director

Christian Funeral Home

Family Owned and Operated

Personal • Dignified • Affordable Services

Save \$2,000-\$4,000 on Funerals in

Your Church or Our Funeral Home

Cremation Starting at \$1,000

Complete Funeral Including: 1 Night Visitation, Service Next

Day, Register Book, Memorial Cards and Casket for \$4,700

3100 West Irving Park Road

Chicago, Illinois 60618

24 Hour Phone (773) 478-3240

www.christianfunerals.net

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

The eight days of Chanukah begins Sunday night December 21 and ends Sunday night December 28.

Illuminate the World

Excerpt of a letter from the Lubavitcher Rebbe,
Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the victory – more than 2100 years ago – of a militarily weak but spiritually strong Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness.



The miraculous victory – culminating with the dedication of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and the rekindling of the Menorah which had been desecrated and extinguished by the enemy – has been celebrated annually ever since during these eight days of Chanukah, especially by lighting the Chanukah menorah, also as a symbol and message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness.

It is a timely and reassuring message, for the forces of darkness are ever present. Moreover, the danger does not come exclusively from outside; it often lurks close to home, in the form of insidious erosion of time-honored values and principles that are at the foundation of any decent human society. Needless to say, darkness is not chased away by brooms and sticks, but by illumination. Our sages said, “A little light expels a lot of darkness.”

The Chanukah lights remind us in a most obvious way that illumination begins at home, within oneself and one’s family, by increasing and intensifying the light of Torah and Mitzvos in the everyday experience, even as the Chanukah lights are kindled in growing numbers from day to day. But though it begins at home, it does not stop there, such is the nature of light that when one kindles the Chanukah lights are expressly meant to illuminate the “outside,” symbolically alluding to the duty to bring light also to those who, for one reason or another, still walk in darkness.

What is true of the individual is true of a nation, especially this great United States, united under G-d, and generously blessed by G-d with material as well as spiritual riches. It is surely the duty and privilege of this Nation to promote all the forces of light both at home and abroad, and in a steadily growing measure.

Let us pray that the message of the Chanukah lights will illuminate the everyday life of everyone personally, and of the society at large, for a brighter life in every respect, both materially and spiritually.

More information about Chanukah and our Chanukah events can be found at our website www.SkokieChabad.org and www.SkokieChabad.org/Chanukah.

continued from page 5...

In Italy, most homes and churches have a presepio (Nativity scene). On Christmas Eve, the family prays while the mother places a figure of the Bambino (Christ child) in the manger. Many Italians serve eels and other fish dishes for dinner on Christmas Eve. They also bake a Christmas bread called Panettone, which contains raisins and candied fruit. Italian children receive gifts from La Befana, a kindly old witch, on the eve of Epiphany.

In Poland, people attend Pasterka (Shepherd’s Mass) at midnight on Christmas Eve. Many Polish families follow the Christmas tradition of breaking an oplatek, a thin wafer made of wheat flour and water. Nativity scenes are stamped on the oplatek. The head of the family holds the wafer, and each person breaks off a small piece and eats it. The Christmas Eve meal features fish, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, and beet soup.

In Denmark Norway, and Sweden, Christmas dinner includes rice pudding, called julgrot, which has an almond in it. According to tradition, whoever gets the almond will have good luck throughout the new year.

In some countries, especially Britain, France and the Scandinavian nations, many families burned a Yule log at Christmastime. The log was a large piece of a tree trunk, and people kept an unburned part of it to light the next year’s log. Early Europeans believed the unburned wood had magic powers. It was thought that bad luck would follow if the Yule log fire went out.

In Latin America, the nine days before Christmas have special importance in Mexico. These days are called posadas, which means inns or lodgings. On each day, Mexicans reenact Mary and Joseph’s search for lodgings on the first Christmas Eve. After each posada ceremony, Mexicans feast and celebrate. Children enjoy trying to break the piñata, a brightly decorated paper or clay figure containing candy and small gifts.

In Asia there are relatively small numbers of Christians, and so Christmas is not widely celebrated there, but in the Philippines people attend Misas de Gallo (Masses of the Cock), which are celebrated early each morning the nine days before Christmas. On Christmas Eve, Filipinos parade through the streets carrying colorful star-shaped lanterns called parols. These lanterns are also displayed in the windows of most homes.



On Christmas Eve, Christians from throughout the world gather for midnight Mass in Bethlehem, the town near Jerusalem where Jesus was born. They kneel to kiss the silver star that is set in the ground at the spot where Jesus’ birth is believed to have taken place.

The traditional colors of Christmas are green and red. Green represents the continuance of life through the winter and the Christian belief in eternal life through Christ. Red symbolizes the blood that Jesus shed at His Crucifixion. Christmas decorations that feature these colors include the Christmas tree, the Christmas wreath, holly, and mistletoe.

The first Christmas card, was created in 1843 by John Calcott Horsley, an English illustrator. It featured a drawing of a family enjoying Christmas together. Smaller drawings on the card showed people helping the needy. About 1,000 copies of Horsley’s card were sold. Today, of course, millions of people send greetings to family and friends by way of Christmas and Seasons Greetings cards sent through the mail.

No matter how one celebrates Christmas, it is a time of year when we feel charity toward our fellow man. The spirit of the season has always evoked joy, peace and good will.

Chicago’s #1 Car Washes

We do it Faster!
We do it Better!
We do it for Less!

5724 N. Lincoln, Chicago
7130 N. Western, Chicago
4900 N. Broadway, Chicago
900 Civic Center Dr., Niles

Daily 7am-9pm • Sunday 8am-6pm
Interior Cleaning Available!

\$3.50

CAR WASH

25¢ Extra on Fri., Sat., Sun, Holidays and the day before.
Free Sealer Wax!
With this Coupon and Wash Purchase.
Exp. 01/10/09 One per customer.
Not valid with other offers.

Gifts You'll Want To See Under Your Tree!



**The Phantom
Firebird Complete RTF**

- Proportional FM 3-channel control through throttle, steering and pitch with a 1,300-foot range and digital trims
- Assembles in minutes—everything needed is included

\$59⁹⁹ REG. \$79⁹⁹

NEW & COOL!



**Millennium
NTU RTF**

\$49⁹⁹ REG. \$59⁹⁹

- The Millennium NTU is completely ready-to-fly and offers many exciting features for beginning helicopter pilots
- Durable foam body is very hard to damage and easy to repair



Blade MCX RTF

\$129⁹⁹ REG. \$169⁹⁹

- Ultra-micro size and weight perfect for indoor flying
- Includes everything needed to fly except the transmitter



Aerobird 3 RTF Electric

\$109⁹⁹ REG. \$169⁹⁹

- Reusable ZX10 radio system with 3-wire servos for more precise control and fast response
- Soft rubber nose provides shock absorption in case of a hard landing or crash



1/18 Mini-LST2 Monster Truck RTR

\$199⁹⁹ REG. \$299⁹⁹

- Losi radio system with 2.4GHz DSM technology
- Factory-decorated Mini-LST2 body (available in red, blue and silver)
- 7.2V 1100mAh NiMH battery pack and charger included

NEW!



E-Flight Blade CX-2 RTF

\$189⁹⁹

- Incredible stability and positive control
- 4 channel 72MHz FM Transmitter Included
- No assembly required



6017 NORTHWEST HWY., CHICAGO • 773-775-4848
 Mon-Thu 11-7, Fri 11-8:30, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4:30
Visit our web site: www.chicagoland-hobby.com



Gift Certificates Available!

U.P.S. Shipping Available!



PAY

COOK COUNTY
PROPERTY TAXES

ONLINE

cookcountytreasurer.com

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer



PAYMENT STATUS
REFUND INFO
EXEMPTION HISTORY

CALL
312.443.5100
24-hour automated phone system
English ■ Spanish ■ Polish

or

VISIT
cookcountytreasurer.com

The Heil Family and All The Staff of


Mirabell

Restaurant & Lounge

**LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU IN 2009
AND WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THE
VERY HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAY SEASONS**

Enjoy the Best
"Wiener Schnitzel"

Fine German
& American Cuisine



HOLIDAY HOURS:
Closed Dec. 24, 25 and Dec. 31, Jan. 1

Open Mon-Sat.
Lunch 11:30-3:00pm
3:00-5:00pm For
Select Items

Dinner 5-10pm
Closed Sundays
Except Mother's Day

Gift Certificates & Party Room Available

Parking Available In The Lot Across the Street
3454 W. Addison, Chicago (773)463-1962
www.mirabellrestaurant.com