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“Where Life Happens”

Volume III

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Issue 1
October 2, 2009



CITY DONATES VEHICLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY AGENCY

CEDA/Neighbors at Work, Inc. receives City truck to help continue its much needed work

Neighbors at Work, Inc., a local community action agency, recently received a donation of a surplus vehicle from the City of Evanston to help continue its much needed work in the area. The new truck will be used for the organization's minor repairs, interior and exterior painting services provided to Evanston homeowners.

“Our organization offers these services to area residents who meet the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program income guidelines,” explained Patricia Vance, Director of Neighbors at Work, Inc. “The majority of our clients utilizing this program are senior citizens, female-headed households and individuals residing in the CDBG target area.”

See page 3 for more

Evanston Receives \$720,000 in Federal Funds

The State of Illinois has awarded Evanston \$720,000 to fund the reconstruction of the lakefront bike path from Lee Street to Clark Street. Awarded to the City's Parks Division, the funding is given through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), which uses federal funds to promote transportation enhancements, such as bike trails. When combined with a previous award of \$550,000, Evanston has now received a total of \$1,270,000 in ITEP funds for this project, which is scheduled for construction in spring 2010.

There was strong competition statewide for this program, which was funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. More than 332 applications were received but only 27 projects were awarded funding. The funds are awarded competitively, and any local or state government with taxing authority can apply.

Skokie Receives Federal Stimulus Funds for Skokie Boulevard Beautification Project

The Village of Skokie will receive approximately \$858,000 in federal stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a Skokie Boulevard beautification project. Skokie's grant award is one of 27 project awards in the State of Illinois given as part of the Illinois Transportation Enhancement program designed to promote alternative transportation and preserve transportation resources.

The project area is Skokie Boulevard from Oakton Street to Main Street, and includes the area adjacent to the new CTA Yellow Line station, construction of which should begin in 2010. When operational, the new station will serve nearly 3,000 riders daily.

Skokie Boulevard project improvements will concentrate on linking the increasing pedestrian uses near the new Yellow Line station. Project initiatives include replacing existing sidewalks with streetscape elements and adding ADA-compliance upgrades, installation of pedestrian lighting, upgraded street lighting, wayfinding signage, area appropriate trees and other plantings. The funding program requires project completion in 2010, and the improvements will result in a pedestrian friendly corridor to support the new transit use. For more information: Ann Tennes, Director of Marketing and Communications 847/933-8234.

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Stardust Banquets
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Use Bank Parking South of Hall (Refreshments)

Niles

Thursday, October 29
10:00 a.m.
Howard Leisure Center
6676 West Howard Street
(Continental Breakfast)

Des Plaines

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SEE OUR NEW SECTION “SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS” ON PAGES 6 & 7

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Seasonal Flu Shots Offered This Fall at Levy Senior Center

Seasonal flu shots will be available in October and November at the Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Available to anyone regardless of residency, the shots are given on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$25 or free with Medicare Part B (please bring your Medicare card with you). These seasonal shots, which do not cover the H1N1 (swine) flu, will be given 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, and 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. Appointments are not necessary. For more information, call 847-448-8250.

Village of Skokie Flu Shot Program

The Skokie Health Department offers flu shots to Skokie residents beginning in September 2009. Please note that these clinics will administer the traditional annual flu vaccine for this year and not the vaccine to prevent infection with the novel influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus.

Any resident age 50 or older is eligible to obtain an annual shot with no out-of-pocket expense. Flu vaccines are available to adult residents under the age of 50 who have a chronic illness and provide can provide a physicians note. This note must state the person’s chronic illness and that a flu shot is medically indicated. 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.

Flu clinics take place at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, Skokie. Current clinic dates and times include:

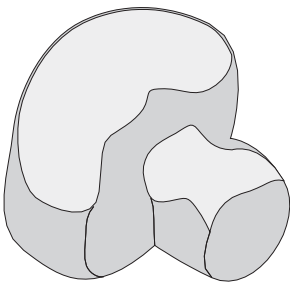
- * Wednesday, September 30 from 1 to 5 p.m.
- * Tuesday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- * Tuesday, October 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- * Monday, October 19 from 3 to 7 p.m.

The Oakton Community Center is accessible to people with disabilities and also accessible by CTA buses #97 and #54A. Dates and times are subject to change based on vaccine availability. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252. For more information on the novel influenza A H1N1 visit www.skokie.org.

WILD MUSHROOMS

Mushrooms grow best when kept in the dark and fed bull dung. Today, it is often the case that service providers, elected officials, and businesses use this same methodology when dealing with customers and constituents. Unless we speak out and demand fair treatment, honesty, and transparency, this practice will continue and worsen. We are informed and active taxpayers, not wild mushrooms, and as such, it is our responsibility to hold to a higher standard those we have elected to represent us – after all, they are “public servants” first – and the businesses to which we choose to give our hard-earned money. Might does not equal right.

We want to hear from you at mushroom@ourvillagechicago.com. We hope that Wild Mushrooms will be a regular feature in this paper, an opportunity for readers to voice legitimate concerns about injustices they experience as consumers and as citizens. (See Credit Cards on page 11)



Evanston to Receive Fire Engine from Northwestern

Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl is happy to announce the generous donation of a new fire engine pumper by Northwestern University to the City of Evanston.

“We are very grateful to Northwestern University President Morton Schapiro for this thoughtful and practical donation that will help save lives and protect property,” said Mayor Tisdahl. “We are eagerly looking forward to a long, continued relationship with the University in our partnership to make Evanston an even greater community than what it is already.”

Northwestern University’s purchase of a new fire engine will replace a fifteen year old front-line engine. The typical life-span of an engine is approximately ten to twelve years. Evanston has five front-line fire engines. They are the vehicles equipped with hoses, water and a fire pump to provide the high pressure necessary for the firefighters to extinguish a blaze.

In the City’s ongoing commitment to the safety and well being of all its residents, the Fire Department responded to 607 calls for service on the campus of Northwestern in 2008. Approximately 48% of the calls were for Emergency Medical Services. With this new equipment the City will continue to provide the same timely and professional service.

“We are pleased to fund the purchase of this new fire engine, which was the top priority of the City in our discussions with how we might assist the City financially,” said Northwestern President Morton Schapiro.

The new engine has a 1500-gallon per minute pump and carries 500 gallons of water. It will carry three firefighters of which at least two will be paramedics. It will also have all the fire equipment and advanced life support supplies needed for first responders.

Northwestern will donate \$550,000 to the City for the purchase of the engine.

The engine will also serve as an Advance Life-Support Unit and carries all of the medical equipment found on an ambulance so that fire personnel can begin treatment of a patient before an ambulance arrives. This includes a heart monitor/defibrillator, advance airway management tools and medications for the treatment of anything from a heart attack, to an asthma attack to a bee sting.

“The new engine comes at a critical time when several pieces of our fire fleet are in need of replacement during these difficult economic times,” said Fire and Life Safety Services Chief Alan Berkowsky. “This new

engine is a welcome addition to our fleet and will serve the citizens of Evanston as well as the students, faculty and visitors of the University for years to come.”

The donation by Northwestern is a continuation of the University’s financial support of the City of Evanston. Earlier this year, Northwestern agreed to provide financial support to the City for repairs to the city’s salt dome, which stores road salt used by the City and Northwestern in winter weather.

“The City and the University have been partners in many areas to benefit both Evanston residents and the Northwestern community, including mutual support by City and University police and extending the University’s fiber-optic communications system to city facilities,” President Schapiro said. “We look forward to extending this cooperation through the purchase of this fire engine.”

Have a heart-to-heart with your neighbor.

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Evanston Mural Rededication

Celebrate the restoration of the Wall of Struggle and Dreams mural. As part of Arts & Humanities Month, the impressive 300-foot mural will be rededicated in a special program starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18. Located in Clyde-Brummel Park, Clyde & Brummel Streets, the mural was repainted and restored by community volunteers and professional artists this summer. All ages participated in the restoration effort.

The rededication offers a chance to mingle with the volunteers as well as the artists. The program is free.

Arts & Humanities Month is a month-long celebration with a variety of events held at venues throughout Evanston. Many events are free; others are offered at a reduced price. For a complete schedule of events, go to www.cityofevanston.org/artsmonth or call 847-448-8058. Arts & Humanities Month is sponsored by the City of Evanston's Cultural Arts Division, the Evanston Arts Council, the Evanston RoundTable and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

LOOK FOR LIONS ON STREET CORNERS ON Oct. 9th and 10th

Members of the Skokie Lions Club and their volunteers will take to the streets of Skokie on Friday and Saturday, October 9th and 10th, to raise funds as part of the annual Candy Day event. Funds donated by community members will be used to help the hearing and vision impaired of our community.

According to Lion President David Putrus, "All money raised will allow Lions to meet pressing needs in our community including providing glasses and hearing aids to people who might not be able to afford them; supporting the Niles Township Food Pantry, and doing other things that need to be done in Skokie." Lions thank everyone who contributes to this important work. You are truly helping Lions make a difference in our community."

The Skokie Lions Club has 27 members and meets on every third Wednesday at 6:30 PM at The Holiday Inn, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., in Skokie. Lions clubs are a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Skokie Lions Club, please contact Lion Walt Holden at 847/679-7457 or mylionsclub@aol.com.



Skokie Fire Dept. Open House

The Village of Skokie Fire Department will host an Open House on Sunday, October 18, 2009 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Fire Station #17, 8157 Central Park Avenue. The free event includes:

- * Meeting Skokie firefighters
- * Viewing firefighting apparatus and equipment
- * Touring the fire station
- * Viewing a high-angle rope rescue and a vehicle extrication demonstration
- * Fire safety activities for children
- * A ride on an antique fire truck
- * Information on other Village programs

For more information contact the Skokie Fire Department at 847/982-5340 or visit www.skokie.org.

CITY DONATES VEHICLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY AGENCY

from page 1

Neighbors at Work, Inc. is an affiliate agency of the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA) serving the northern Townships of Cook County- Evanston, Niles, New Trier and Northfield. It is a comprehensive, private and not-for-profit community action agency serving the diverse needs of low to middle income residents throughout the area since 1965.

Since 1984, CEDA/Neighbors at Work has been operating the Minor Repairs and Painting Assistance Program in Evanston. The program offers these repair services to Evanston homeowners. The program hires residents of the community as a part of the crew that performs the work. The vehicle is used to transport the crew and supplies to and from the various job sites.

"The current used vehicle, a 1994 orange Chevy Van, was purchased in 2004 from Cahill and has more than served its purpose over the years," explained Vance. "We are very grateful to Alderman Ann Rainey (8th Ward) for helping secure this donation from the City of Evanston."

Over the past couple of years, the original van has not been operating properly and the maintenance costs increased considerably. The current HUD guidelines do not allow for the program to purchase a vehicle. The board, under the leadership of President Hecky Powell, had as one of its goals to secure a vehicle for the program. Powell contacted the Chair of the CDBG Committee, Alderman Rainey, to come out to the worksite where the crew was working. The alderman was able to see the good work being done and the vehicle that was being used. After seeing the condition of the old vehicle, the alderman moved to help the agency secure a vehicle donation from the City of Evanston who had some surplus vehicles that it was getting ready to auction.

"Thanks to the hard work of Alderman Rainey, we are now the happy owners of a 1996 GMC Tahoe which will help us continue to assist those in need in our community," explained Vance.

DANK-Haus Opens "Lost German Chicago"

The DANK-Haus in historic Lincoln Square will present "Lost German Chicago" in its newly created museum space. The exhibition features art, artifacts and memorabilia from within Chicago's German American community. The items record what has been lost in the Chicago German community while archiving and preserving that which has been entrusted to DANK. Highlights include: exquisite wood carvings dedicated by the Germania Club by the Oscar Mayer family, relics from the Deutsches Haus at the Columbian Exposition, Hessen Verein standards, items from dozens of restaurants including the original Red Star Inn, Schulien's Math Igler's Casino, the Golden Ox, memories of St. Boniface Church, Deli Meyer, FC Hansa, the Schiller Liedertafel, Schoenhofen Brewery, Lincoln Park Turner Hall and many more.

The exhibition opens on Friday, October 2 and runs through October 2011. The public is invited to Opening Night, Friday October 2, 2009 at 7:30 pm, group entry every 30 minutes until 11:30 pm. Free and open to the public.

Evanston's Arts + Humanities Month Features Dance Showcase

Evanston's Dance Showcase 2009, a tribute to dance in all forms, takes the stage at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at the Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. One of Arts & Humanities Month's most anticipated events, the Dance Showcase annually features local professional and amateur dance companies coming together to perform for audiences of all ages. Among the companies performing this year are Giordano 3, Evanston Dance Ensemble, The Cartier Collective, Elements Contemporary Ballet, Evanston School of Ballet, Enid Smith, B.L.A.S.T., Be the Groove and Kaleidoscope Dance Ensemble. The Dance Showcase is free and open to all.

Arts & Humanities Month is a four-week celebration with a variety of events held at venues throughout Evanston. Many events are free; others are offered at a reduced price. For a complete schedule of events, go to www.cityofevanston.org/artsmonth or call 847-448-8058. Arts & Humanities Month is sponsored by the City of Evanston's Cultural Arts Division, the Evanston Arts Council, the Evanston RoundTable and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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Let’s say you’re a Shih Tzu puppy in need of your first haircut and bath; your Human makes the appointment for you and brings you to some new place. You hear and smell the other dogs and begin to get nervous, but luckily your Human cuddles and coos you to calm down. You are greeted by a nice lady who gives you a rub on the head and tells you how cute you are; she is called the Groomer. You realize that she is smart and flaunt your stuff for her; but wait a minute your Human is leaving! Panic sets in and you begin to shake; the nice lady is trying her best but she is not YOUR Human! She puts you in the jail where you are forced to sit. In fear you begin to whine, scream, anything to get out of jail!

After what seems like years of waiting, the Groomer finally takes you out! She talks nicely, but you are really freaked out! Opps... you poop and piddle on the table! The Groomer tries to tell you to calm down, but you think she is crazy! Then this crazy person grabs a weapon, oh no! They begin to rub this weapon all over your coat, hey wait a minute! This doesn’t hurt; it feels kind of good and you begin to relax. Then the Groomer yields another contraption this one is loud and vibrates; again you are back in panic mode! The Groomer shaves under your feet and your private area, and then they have the nerve to give you a pedicure! You do your best screaming in the hope they will stop, but the evil Groomer continues on her way. Next she goes into your ears and pulls out the hair! Ouch! The Groomer finally says your done for now and cuddles you! You give in for now, plus you are exhausted!

Next, you are put onto this cold surface where you hear water. Oh no! The water is touching me, panic! You are now breathing heavy and are trying to jump out of this place! The massage you are getting is putting you in a much better mood; oh what fun bubbles! Not again, here comes the water, IKES! With the water turned off you again begin to relax, but then you here the loudest noise you have ever heard! It’s a dryer and it headed straight for you, mayday! Mayday! Mayday! Oh finally it’s stopped and your returned to your jail!

You decide that jail isn’t so bad and take a short nap! You are woken by that evil Groomer again, now what? She puts you back onto the table and that noise begins again, you are being dried! Then the vibrating thing is back; the groomer moves it all over your body! You want to complain, but are too tired and just want to wake up form this nightmare! The Groomer finally stops the vibrating tool and brings out this knife looking things. They aren’t so loud by are scary; she uses them all over and then holds your face to get the hair she wants. You fight and pull; you don’t want your face held (even if she isn’t hurting you)! After long last the groomer cuddles you and tells you you’re done; and you are placed back into jail!

When they get you again you are freaking out, but then see your wonderful Human! You dance around and yelp at the torture you endured! As typical, the Human doesn’t understand you but goes on about how cute you are! Well they are right! You do feel good and smell a lot better! Nah! You tell yourself that you will be a good dog and just maybe they won’t bring you to this terrible place again!

The above story does make Groomers sound like Monsters! They are not! They are simply doing their job; many dogs don’t understand that it’s better for them! For that matter, most Humans don’t understand it either! All dogs regardless of size, shape, coat length, and coat texture need grooming! There is nothing better than a good brushing to stimulate the oils of the skin and get us feeling our best! Some of us dogs need grooming quite often (like me), while others need just frequent brushing; it really is dependent on the dog! The important thing to remember is that ALL dogs need grooming of some sort! Our hair acts as our heating and air conditioning units; if not properly maintained we are NOT comfortable in any weather. Plus, if we are all tangled we are uncomfortable; imagine never being able to take off that itchy sweater!

My purpose was to help my Human out; Groomers do a lot of work and usually don’t get the credit for it! Some dogs, like me, are a pleasure to work with; while others require a lot more patience. Groomers do their best to not only make its dog looks its best, but have an enjoyable experience. The puppy in the story will learn to like grooming; all it takes is frequent grooming for any dog;

We dogs have to remember we may not like grooming, but we must learn to tolerate it! After all, when it’s all over our Humans cuddle and loves us even more!

As for you Humans, look at your poor dog, does it need a makeover?
by Bosley
Submitted by Bosley’s mom, Nicole Carfora, CMG, owner of Canine Corral.



Halloween Hazards for Your Pets

Part 1 by Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

Halloween is a holiday that is great fun and through the years more and more people have really got involved with extensive decorations in and around the house. In addition, there is the candy and trick or treating. Candy is around the house in bowls for the trick or treaters as well as the candy collected by your own kids as they canvas the neighborhood with their own trick or treating. If you have Halloween parties for kids or adults there will be food and drink around as well. With all this food, decorations and activities it can be a time of great danger for your pet. They will be attracted by the tempting smells and may eat what they should not. They may be intrigued by the shimmering, attractive decorations and begin to chew on objects that could cause severe medical problems. During the holiday you must take steps to be certain that your pets will be safe from potential harm.

Chocolate

Almost everyone knows that chocolate is toxic for pets. Theobromine, a chemical found in chocolate is the cause of the poisoning, which can be deadly in dogs, especially and other pets. They actually have an allergic reaction to the theobromine which can be quite severe. Some dogs may not have as severe of a response but it is not worth taking a chance with your pets. Chocolate should be avoided, do not think a little bit is not going to hurt! If your pet is sensitive to the theobromine it does not take much to cause a toxic reaction.

Depending on the amount ingested, chocolate (bakers, semi sweet, milk and dark) can be potentially poisonous to many animals. Theobromine levels are especially high in dark chocolates. In general, the less sweet the chocolate, the more toxic it could be. In fact, unsweetened baking chocolate contains almost seven times more theobromine than milk chocolate. Vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, hyperactivity and increased thirst, urination and heart rate can be seen with the ingestion of as little as 1/4 ounce of baking chocolate by a 10-pound dog. Halloween treats with chocolate are not appropriate for pets.

Continued next issue...

Referenced from an informational flyer provided by the Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Urbana, IL

Niles Animal Hospital & Bird Medical Center. 7278 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles

Evanston Dog Beach Open

Evanston’s dog beach, located north of the Church Street boat launch facility, opened for the 2009 season on Friday, May 1, and will remain open through Oct. 31. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. All dogs using the beach must have a pass. The fee for a 2009 dog beach pass is \$50 per dog owned by an Evanston resident and \$100 per dog owned by a nonresident. Applications for dog beach passes as well as dog beach rules and regulations are available at the Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., or on the City’s Web site at www.cityofevanston.org. Before obtaining a dog beach pass, owners must show written proof that their dogs are current on their vaccinations and have been examined within the past year for any communicable diseases. In addition, dogs must be currently licensed in Evanston or the city where the dog lives. For more information, call 847-866-2900.

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PG. 4

GREAT OUTDOORS

Urban Wildlife Coalition: Give Wildlife a Brake!

Back to school and back to work means busier rush hours and more congested roadways.

Urban Wildlife Coalition reminds you ... Please, Give Wildlife a Brake!

Be especially cautious in the early morning and evening hours. Our rush hour is their rush hour. Many animals are most active during these times, and a bit of extra caution while driving can keep them (and you!) safe.

Remember that animals cross the street in groups. After one crosses, wait a moment to make sure others are not following.

Always try to allow a bit of extra time and slow down. It is much more difficult to stop for wildlife in a speeding car.

Keep your eyes ahead and on the edges of the road, especially when driving near forest preserves, nature centers, and other animal habitats.

Every piece of food litter tossed out a car window becomes a lure for wildlife. Help by keeping food (and wildlife) off the road.

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 MEANS INCREASED SKUNK ACTIVITY

Recently various areas throughout the city have been experiencing an increased frequency of issues involving skunks. It is common to see increased skunk activity during this time of year as these animals try to gain the extra weight they will need to survive the winter.

Most of the time Evanston residents and wildlife are able to cohabitate very nicely together. However sometimes wildlife can become a cause of concern for residents. The Evanston Police Department's Animal Control Bureau along with the Department of Health and Human Services would like to remind residents of some of the basic things they can do to mitigate a current problem or future problem with a skunk on their property.

Skunks will burrow under sheds, homes, businesses, porches, decks, crawl-spaces and woodpiles to create a home. They will enter foundation openings to get to these spots or create a skunk holes themselves. They have large feet with well-developed claws which makes them very good diggers. In urban areas, skunks can also be found in industrial parks, railroad tracks, high tension power line tracts or park areas with large open areas.

One way in which skunks can be abated from your property is by exclusion. Exclusion in this case is the elimination of all possible sites of habituation where they might make their dens. Remove the den sites under and around structures such as garages and homes. Seal all possible entrances along the foundation, but leave the main burrow entrance open. Sprinkle a thin layer of flour two feet in circumference on the ground in front of the opening. After dark, examine the flour for tracks that indicate the skunk has left to feed. If tracks are not present, reexamine in about an hour. After the den is empty, cover the remaining entrance immediately. Cover all openings with wire mesh, sheet metal or concrete. Bury fencing 1- 1/2 to two feet in areas where skunks could gain access by digging. Reopen one of the entrances the next day for one hour after dark to allow any remaining skunks to exit before permanently sealing the entrance particularly in the months of May and June when baby skunks may still be in the den.

Additionally, make sure to always keep outside garbage cans tightly sealed and do not leave pet food outdoors as it can be a food source for skunks thus avoiding the temptation for skunks to frequent or to inhabit a particular area.

The Evanston Police Department monitors complaints regarding wildlife. If a particular neighborhood experiences an inordinate amount of calls, the Animal Control Bureau staff shares this information with the Health and Human Services Department and other appropriate city staff. Identified areas can then be canvassed with informational flyers sharing tips about how to control a wildlife problem. Animal Control staff can also focus their efforts in the area.

Another possible solution would be to contact the Animal Control Bureau for other methods to safely remove wildlife from residential or business properties. For further information, contact Animal Control at 847/866-5080.

Free Youth Fishing Program Continues

Young anglers, age 5 to 15, can grab a pole and fish for free on Saturday mornings at the pond in Lovelace Park, located on Gross Point Road at Thayer St. Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, this is a catch-and-release program designed to give youth a chance to experience firsthand the fun of fishing. Free equipment and bait are provided, and staff from the Evanston Ecology Center are on hand to offer their expert advice. This fishing program is held from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday through October 31. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fishing licenses are not needed for anglers under age 16. For more details, call 847/448-8256.

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

Nat'l Wildlife Federation: Photo Challenge

The editors of National Wildlife® magazine have selected the finalists in National Wildlife Federation's "America the Beautiful" photo challenge. Now we need YOU to help choose the winner.

Voting ends on October 15. Tell us what image you like best.

After you vote, be sure to enter our NEW photo challenge.

The theme is "Birds on the Move," in honor of the fall migration season. We're looking for images of birds in flight, as well as portraits of migratory birds—raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl and backyard songbirds. If you have photos fitting this description, upload them now for your chance to win! The prize is a Birdsong Identifier kit, which includes a song player, guidebook, earpiece and two song cards.

If you haven't already joined the National Wildlife Magazine Photo Group, check out our Flickr page. It's a place to share your images with fellow nature enthusiasts.

The Last of America's Last Great Prairie?

When Lewis and Clark set out to explore the wild western frontier of America over two centuries ago, they were overwhelmed with the abundance of wildlife there.

Sadly, today more than half of the 122 animal species they encountered are in serious decline...seven are extinct altogether. And now the entire prairie ecosystem is in jeopardy.

Human encroachment has destroyed critical habitat for prairie wildlife like the sage grouse, bobcat, prairie dog and the endangered black-footed ferret.

Even in so-called "protected" wildlife refuges these animals have to compete with livestock for grazing and nesting areas!

If we cannot save this vital habitat, what will become of the American prairie, an irreplaceable part of our nation's very heritage and the natural home of these beloved animals?

It's time to take a stand. Thankfully we have an amazing chance today to make a real difference.

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

LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

St. Peter School in Skokie thanks the community for making this years Oktoberfest so successful.

The Green Mama Café Comes to the Evanston Ecology Center

The Evanston Environmental Association, The Evanston Ecology Center and the Archer Patterson Foundation are teaming up with Chicago environmentalist, writer, teacher and green consultant Manda Aufochs Gillespie to bring her series of green parenting classes, called The Green Mama Café, to Evanston this fall. The weekly classes are designed to provide information, support and community for parents or expectant parents pursuing green lifestyles. Topics will include alternative health and your child, greener diapering, and organic sleep materials and products. Classes meet at 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Sept. 14-Dec. 14, at the Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd. The cost for all 13 sessions is \$35, or a drop-in fee of \$5 per class.

Parents are welcome to bring babies and children. Children age one or older can participate in an Animal Adventures program supervised by Ecology Center staff while the Green Mama Café is going on. There is a \$5 fee for Animal Adventures.

For registration or additional information about The Green Mama Café, call 847-448-8256 or go to www.cityofevanston.org.

FREE PASSES FOR THE KOHL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, BROOKFIELD ZOO AND OTHER MUSEUMS

Starting September 1, Evanston Public Library card holders can receive FREE admission to 17 exciting museums and cultural institutions throughout the Chicago area. Brookfield Zoo, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Oriental Institute, Bronzeville Children's Museum, Kohl Children's Museum, and Evanston's own Mitchell Museum of the American Indian are among those included. This special opportunity is made possible by a generous contribution from Macy's, in partnership with the Metropolitan Library System.

For a full listing of participating institutions and for check-out guidelines, go to www.museumadventure.org, or ask the next time you visit the library.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS PRESENTS: TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Attention parents of 8th grade Special Education students! Special Connections invites you to join in the Special Education 8th to 9th grade transition meeting being held on October 15, 2009, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Niles North High School, Room 1100. A panel of high school representatives will present an overview of special education services that are available for your son or daughter.

Special Connections is an association for families, friends, teachers and others who support special education services in Niles Township High School District 219. Special Connections provides information and resources to parents concerning education programs relative to high school and post secondary options for students with special education needs.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students and their parents to learn about the programs that Niles Township District 219 offers, to help make a smooth transition from eighth grade to high school.

SIX NILES NORTH ART STUDENTS ACCEPTED IN ART SHOW AT DICK BLICK ART STORE IN EVANSTON

Six Niles North art students have been selected to exhibit with professional artists and college students at the juried art show at the Dick Blick Art Store in Evanston. They are also competing for prizes. Exhibits featuring art work by Felecia Huettemann, Nini Kao, Jonathan Leithold-Patt, Emmie Lou Medina, Amaris Sturm and Olena Yatsula are on display at the Dick Blick Art Store, 1755 Maple, Evanston until October 24. Several of the works are also for sale.

Let us know what your school, sports teams and youth organizations are doing. Send your events to: contact@ourvillagechicago.com

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LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1703 Orrington Ave. • 847-448-8600 • www.epl.org

Picture Book Design Workshop with Internationally Acclaimed Children’s Illustrator Klaas Verplancke

Evanston Public Library is very proud to present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Evanston children: the chance to design their own picture book illustrations with an internationally famous artist!

Belgian artist Klass Verplancke is an award winning author and illustrator of books for children and young adults, whose many accolades include the prestigious Bologna Ragazzi Award/Special Mention for his illustrations of Flemish nursery rhymes, a Hans Christian Andersen Award nomination for illustration, and both a Special Mention and First Prize at the Bologna Book-fair.

Mr. Verplancke will lead an illustration workshop for children ages 4-12 on Sunday October 11th at 3:00 pm., Evanston Public Library, Community Meeting Room, 1703 Orrington Avenue. All materials will be provided.

Prior registration is strongly recommended. Please register online at www.epl.org/calendar or by calling 847-448-8610.

Macy’s Museum Adventure Pass available at Evanston Library

Beginning September 1st 2009, Evanston Public Library card holders can receive free admission to 17 exciting museums and cultural institutions throughout the Chicago area. Brookfield Zoo, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Oriental Institute, Bronzeville Children’s Museum, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies and Evanston’s own Mitchell Museum of the American Indian are among those included. This special opportunity is made possible by a generous contribution from Macy’s, in partnership with the Metropolitan Library System.

You will need to visit the library to pick up a one week pass for the museum of your choice. Each museum is contributing four weekly passes, for two or four free admissions, depending on location. They are available on a first come, first served basis.

So many adventures await – some you might never have expected! All you need to take part in these learning adventures is a valid Evanston library card.

For a full listing of participating institutions and for check-out guidelines, go to www.museumadventure.org, or ask the next time you visit the library.

LINCOLNWOOD LIBRARY

4000 W. Pratt Ave. • (847) 677-5277
www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org

Afterschool Cafe. Mondays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Students of all ages can buy a snack and relax before tackling homework!

Stories & More. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Children ages 3-5 enjoy language-rich activities during each 45-minute session. Siblings welcome.

Beginning with Books. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Stories, songs, and activities for infants to 2-year-olds and a caregiver. New time conveniently leads into library’s Playtime program.

Playtime at the Library. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. A friendly, social time for young children, ages 3 and under, and their caregivers. Toys and snacks are provided for the children.

Teen Acting Class. Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. through Nov. 16 Students in 7th grade and up can learn acting techniques, study characters and lines, and try out for parts. Please register in the Youth Services Department (847-677-5277 x234 or youthservices@lincolnwoodlibrary.org). A “Fairytale Whodunit” play will be performed in November.

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Lincolnwood My Tot & Me

This loosely structured program is an excellent bonding opportunity for you and your little one. Age-appropriate games, songs and arts and craft projects will round out this hour of fun. This class is a great way to network with other parents in the community so register early as space is limited.

Ages: 18 – 35 months by the first class

Day/Date/Time: Wednesday(s) * Oct. 17 – Nov. 18 * 9:30 – 10:30am

Location: Lincolnwood Community Center

Fee: Resident = \$48 per session Non-Resident = \$60 per session

Online registration is available by logging onto www.lincolnwoodil.org and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button. For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Reboot! Career Re-Entry Support Group Are you trying to keep one foot in your career while still keeping up with a thousand other responsibilities? We’re starting a support and educational group for people who are not currently pursuing full time employment, but want to keep their skills current so that they can quickly move into the job market. The Reboot Group will meet the second Thursday of each month to share ideas, abilities and encouragement. Next meeting is Thursday October 8th, 10:00 am, Main Library, Small Meeting Room Please call the Reference Desk, at 847-448-8630 to register, or go to www.epl.org/events.

Evanston Northwestern Humanities Lecture Series: “People Who Believe in Nothing:” Intolerable Thoughts in Late Renaissance Italy Thursday, October 8, 7 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library. Edward Muir, is the Clarence L. Ver Steeg Professor in the Arts and Sciences and Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University where he teaches in the Departments of History and Italian.

Friday Films: The Birds (1963, 119 min, not rated) Friday, October 9, 3 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library Alfred Hitchcock's classic is about a woman (Tippi Hedren) and vicious mass bird attacks that follow her around an isolated California community.

AAL Book Discussion: Pig Candy Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m., Community Room, Main Library The African American Literature Discussion Group will discuss Pig Candy: Taking My Father South, Taking My Father Home-A Memoir by Lise Funderburg. Writer Edwidge Danticat calls Pig Candy “...a candid and moving memoir of a daughter’s deep love for her father both when he is most difficult to love and impossible not to.” Copies of the book are available for checkout at the second floor Readers Services desk. Phone (847) 448-8620 to register.

LINCOLNWOOD LIBRARY

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www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org

Morning Matinees, for early birds who want to see recently released films Thursday mornings, 10:30 a.m. Oct. 8: “Hotel for Dogs”; Oct. 15: “17 Again”.

Friday Films shown weekly at 1 p.m. Oct. 9: “Eagle Eye”; Oct. 16: “Duplicity”.

Skokie Valley Lyric Opera Lecture. Oct. 4, 2 p.m. Discussion of “Faust”.

Book Discussion. Oct. 12, 1 p.m. The adult book discussion at Lincolnwood Library features “The Secret Papers of Madame Olivetti” by Annie Vanderbilt.

Humanities Treasures. This free discussion group meets Wednesdays, 1–3 p.m. at the Lincolnwood Library to explore current events and selected readings. Humanities Treasures is affiliated with the Oakton Community College Emeritus Program.

The Lincolnwood Public Library Board meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month in the conference room at the library. Meetings are open to the public.

English as a Second Language Class. Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free weekly class for adults who want to learn to speak English. Sponsored by Oakton Community College. Call (847) 635-1426

Literacy Class. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free weekly class for adults who want to improve reading, writing, and math skills. Sponsored by Oakton Community College. Call (847) 635-1426.

Knitting for Adults. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults can learn to knit or work on knitting projects. All skill levels welcome.

The Mac Users Club meets the second Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m.

When a Loved One Passes



Chester M. Przybylo

Change can be very difficult at times. A death in the family can be especially traumatic. It may feel as though the world should stop to mourn your loss, but it does not. The world still turns, day still follows night, buses and subways still run. Yet, for the family who has experienced the loss, the world may have been turned upside down. Just when grief strikes, the family has additional burdens to bear. It is helpful to have a handy “to do” list so that in the panic and grief of the moment, nothing is overlooked.

Here is a list of action items that will help guide family members when there has been a loss of a loved one:

The hours after the death of a loved one can be particularly traumatic. Make sure family members have friends or loved ones with them. Arrange care for any children or adults needing assistance.

Call the funeral director and clergy to set up appointment to discuss funeral arrangements. Before the meeting, be sure to check to see if the deceased left behind funeral / burial instructions.

Obtain several copies of the death certificate.

Get the word out. Notify immediate family, close friends, the employer, and any important business colleagues.

In the next few days, gather the deceased’s important papers, including the Will or Trust and any life insurance contracts or retirement plan documents. Arrange for an appointment with a qualified estate planning attorney, who focuses their practice in estate planning. During this appointment, the person appointed by the Will (the “Personal Representative”) or Trust (the “Trustee”) can arrange with the attorney for commencement of the Trust Administration or Probate process. The remaining action items are directed to the person appointed in the Will or Trust.

Contact the deceased’s employee benefits department so they can begin processing any benefits. They will need to know the deceased’s name and social security number, your name and contact information, and the cause of death.

Contact the deceased’s local Social Security and Medicare offices with the information above.

If the deceased had life insurance, have the beneficiary contact the life insurance company with the above information. (The life insurance carrier may refuse to speak with anyone other than the beneficiary.) Ask if any additional information is necessary to commence the claim. It may be possible to receive a partial payment to cover expenses prior to the processing of the claim.

If the deceased was ever in the military, notify the Veterans Administration to see if surviving family members are eligible for any benefits due to the death.

Keep a record of any expenditures you and the immediate family make. This may be helpful on future tax returns.

Do not change title to assets without consulting with a qualified estate planning attorney. Changing title can have unexpected income, estate, and property tax consequences.

Remember: Members of the deceased’s immediate family may be in a very emotional state. They should not sign or agree to anything committing to a significant purchase or lending large sums.

The hours and days after a loved ones’ passing can be especially difficult. Keep this list handy so that you will not forget any major items. Don’t go through this alone. A qualified estate planning attorney can help guide you through the often-difficult process after the death of someone close to you.

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

Teach Kids Early about Saving and Investing



Neil Gardner

Bad habits are hard to break. But good habits also tend to stick around for a long time. And that’s why you will want to teach young children about the importance of saving and investing. It’s almost never too early to start — and your efforts can provide a lifetime of benefits.

By the time most children reach age 5, they have more than enough cognitive skills to understand the basics of saving money. Of course, the older they get, the better equipped they will be to handle more sophisticated concepts of investing.

In any case, when your children are young, start them on the right financial path by taking these steps: Set attainable goals Kids will be more motivated to save money if they can see themselves achieving goals. And that’s why you don’t want to burden them too soon by trying to get them to save for a longterm objective such as college. Such a goal may well be appropriate — and even desirable — when your children are a bit older, but when they are quite young, have them put money into a simple savings account for things like toys, video games, CDs, etc. By putting away money regularly and seeing how their efforts are rewarded, children will learn something about financial discipline and delayed gratification — and they’re likely to be more appreciative of their possessions.

Reward their efforts

To help children learn to save and invest, you may want to offer a helping hand. Specifically, consider partially “matching” your children’s savings account deposits. If you were to put in a quarter or 50 cents for every dollar they deposit, their savings would have an opportunity to grow faster, and they would believe they are getting “bonus” payments.

Make investing fun

Try to get your children involved in picking and following a stock for fun. If your children are interested in athletic shoes, for example, take a “research trip” to the nearest sporting goods store and study which shoes seem to be the most popular. Also, ask your children what types of shoes their friends are wearing. If your children are old enough, you may want to go over annual reports and other financial information about the stock, but don’t get too bogged down with numbers, especially if you see their eyes glaze over. Do, however, follow the stock’s price and discuss the factors that may or may not be causing this price to rise or fall.

Stress the long-term nature of investing

Teach your children that a stock is not the same as a bank account and that stocks should not be used for impulse purchases or to meet short-term goals. You might want to share with them some of your brokerage statements that show how many years you’ve owned some of your stocks.

By following these suggestions, you can help your kids develop good savings and investment habits. In other words, you’ll be giving them a gift that can make a big difference in their lives.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Neil Gardner is a financial advisor with Edward Jones, 9175 Gross Point Road, Skokie, IL 60077, 847-933-9845.

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COMMUNITY INPUT SOUGHT

Survey to Determine Evanston’s Housing and Non-Housing Priorities

Evanston’s Department of Community Development encourages residents to complete the Community Priority Needs Survey and help shape Evanston’s future. The purpose of this survey is to get community input regarding housing and non-housing needs for the City of Evanston for the next five years.

“This survey will help guide the City in deciding how to allocate entitlement grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from various programs that can be used to benefit primarily low and moderate income residents,” explained Dennis Marino, Interim Director of Evanston’s Community Development Department. “These priority needs, along with strategies and ways to measure progress, will be included in the City’s 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan to be submitted to HUD.”

The Consolidated Plan is the five year strategy plan that sets a unified vision combining long-term strategies with short-term action steps to meet priority needs. These priority needs are funded through entitlement grant funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships and Emergency Shelter Grant programs.

HUD specifies three statutory program goals for the Consolidated Plan: 1). provide decent housing; 2). provide a suitable living environment including neighborhood revitalization; and 3). provide expanded economic opportunities. The last time that the City of Evanston conducted this survey was five years ago when the current Consolidated Plan was prepared.

As one of the most economically diverse older, mid-sized cities in the Midwest, Evanston is a distinct place with many amenities and opportunities, as well as challenges. Collaborative planning with citizens, businesses and institutions is integral to the city’s culture, as are public and private partnerships that promote revitalization.

Revitalizing Evanston and improving the quality of life is a daily focus of the Planning Division in collaboration with other City departments. Its mission is to serve as a catalyst and a resource base for improving the City, its neighborhoods, historic districts, downtown and the industrial, institutional and commercial components of the local economy.

The Community Priority Needs Survey takes very little time to complete and can be found either on line from the City’s home page at www.cityof-evanston.org or by calling to request a paper copy from the Planning Division at 847/866-2928 x 2268.



Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie Awards Dinner

“Andrew and Ellen Rashkow, residents of Skokie, IL, were recipients of the prestigious “Award of Honor” at the Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie Awards Dinner, held Sunday, September 13, 2009, at the Evanston Golf Club in Skokie. Shown are (L-R) Mrs. Yona Posner, Ellen Rashkow, Andrew Rashkow and Rabbi Yochanan Posner .

In a banquet hall filled to capacity Mr. and Mrs. Rashkow were recognized for “serving as role models of achievement, generosity, sensitivity and modesty.” Mr. Rashkow is the CEO and President of Wilmette-based firm Imbibe, creator and producer of many of the nation’s popular beverages. He and Ellen are active in many organizations and are the parents of two daughters, Joella and Dalia.

Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie serves the entire Skokie Jewish community with an array of educational, social, cultural and charitable programs.

Lincolnwood’s “The Polar Express”, Arrives December 5th

All Aboard! Don’t miss your chance to take this magical journey aboard the Polar Express! We’ll meet at the Edgebrook Metra Station in Chicago and board the train for a special trip. While aboard the train everyone will enjoy listening to the award winning story, “Polar Express”, as we ride the train to the North Pole (Union Station) where a “special friend” will board the train to tell everyone Ho-Ho-Hello! The ride home will include carols and a t-shirt for each child! Resident registration begins August 10th. Non-resident registration begins Oct. 1, if tickets are still available. Limit of 8 tickets per household.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation

Zumba Gold

Zumba Gold is a slower-paced version of Zumba. Easy to follow moves will be set to the same great Latin rhythms of the original class. See the Zumba class description for program details. No class on 11/26.

Thursdays * October 29 – December 10 10:00 – 11:00am
Lincolnwood Community Center * 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue
Resident = \$42, Non-Resident = \$56

Online registration is available by logging onto www.lincolnwoodil.org and navigating to the Parks and Recreation Department home page, then clicking on the REGISTER NOW button.

For more information contact the Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740.

Your Party Place – Lincolnwood Community Center Available for Rent

The Lincolnwood Community Center is part of the Parks and Recreation Department of the Village of Lincolnwood. We serve the community’s recreational needs by offering various programs in our facility. However, when we’re not serving the recreational needs of the community, we would like to make our Community Center available for rent to, businesses, individuals and families of Lincolnwood as well as those living nearby.

It is important for us to serve the public’s recreational needs, but it’s also important to assist families in attaining an affordable space to hold all types of functions, from birthday parties, bat/bar mitzvah parties, family reunions/celebrations, annual holiday parties, wedding engagements, retirement parties, to classroom enrichment programs and more. We can fulfill almost every need of the community with our list of amenities including: round or rectangular tables, banquet chairs, kitchen, TV, podium with microphone, coffeepot, tablecloths and more.

Availability is based upon seasonal Parks & Recreation Department programs and previously scheduled rentals. Stop by our facility, at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue in Lincolnwood, for a tour of the building, to inquire about availability, or to pick up a renter information packet detailing prices, policies and procedures. Or you can contact the Parks and Recreation Office at (847) 677-9740 for more information.

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"A Theatre Review"

“The Fantastics”

***Porchlight Music Theatre at the Theatre Building
1225 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois***

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Porchlight Theatre Company has opened its 209-2010 theatre season at the theatre building with the classic international musical “The Fantastics” to celebrate their 15th Season.

The musical by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt is based on Edmund Rostand’s “Les Romanesque” and the show remains the longest running off Broadway show.

The show is a romantic one that has a cast of eight to tell the story. The show is being directed by Sean Kelly and the choreographer is one of Chicago’s excellent dancers Andrew Waters. The show has two musicians, Tom King Clear who is the pianist and Jennifer Ruggieri who plays the harp as the cast sings such songs as “Try to Remember,” “Soon It’s Gonna Rain” and “Plant a Radish” to name a few of the thirteen songs.

Matt played the engaging Sean Effinger-Dean and Louisa played Emma Rosenthal; they are the two romantic neighbors who fall in love. Their two scheming fathers Dan Ferretti as Hucklebee and Ryan Lanning as Bellomy are unaware of this and so they attempt to spark a romance between the two teenagers by faking a feud. The fathers seek the aid of El Gallo played by Jeff Parker, who couldn’t be better cast for the role to add to bringing the two lovebirds together. El Gallo arranges for Louisa to be abducted by two professional actors Henry and Mortimer played by William F. Raffeld and Russ Rainear but Matt comes to the aid of Louisa and they find very supportive fathers and they all live happily ever after. The other character in the play is Tanya McBride as the mute.

The entire show is all done on a bare stage of four rugs, six chairs and some simple props.

The show runs a little over two hours with intermission. “The Fantastics” runs through November 15. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 773-327-5252. **-Three Stars-**

“Cotton Patch Gospel”

Provisions Theatre

1001 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, Illinois

Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt

The Provision Theatre Company has a new home and the theatre offers free parking to its patrons.

The theatre company is opening their 2009-2010 season with their 2004 Jeff Nominated production of “Cotton Patch Gospel.” The show has music by Harry Chapin and it is under the direction of Lou Contey.

The revamped version is a bigger and bolder version than when it first opened in 2004. The show tells audiences the reverent retelling of the Gospels of Matthew and John in a contemporary Southern setting, set to bluegrass music. The text of the show has a book by Tom Key and Russel Treyz and is adapted from the book by Clarence Jordan, who is a Bible scholar and a civil rights activist.

The theatre’s artistic director who is also an exceptional actor and not a bad singer has the role of Matthew and is the show’s story teller.

On stage musicians, singers and actors are Shaun Whitley, Farley Masterson, Alex Goodrich and Trey Maclin under the musical direction of Alaric Jans. The choir of towns folk are Christian David, Whitney Clair White, Krystal, Metcalfe and Dora Marie Washington Powell and they are all excellent singers.

While none of the musical numbers are listed in the program, you will find your foot tapping to the music as mine was for two hours so it really doesn’t matter if the songs are listed or not.

This show is perfect medicine and is definitely one audiences shouldn’t miss whether you’re a churchgoer or not. You’ll come out of the theatre in a feel good mood and with a smile on your face.

“Cotton Patch Gospel: runs through November 8. For show times, performance days and reservations call 866-811-4111 or log onto www.provisiontheatre.org. Tickets are \$25 and \$28. **-Four Stars-**

“HERE'S JOHNNY” SALUTES 100 YEARS OF THE WORDS OF JOHNNY MERCER

Five of Chicago's most talented cabaret performers will join forces to present Here's Johnny: 100 Years of the Words (and Music) of Johnny Mercer at 7:00 PM on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at the Skokie Theater Music Foundation, 7924 Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, IL. The cast includes David Edelfelt, John Eskola, Carla Gordon, KT McCammond, and Kat Taylor. Musical direction is provided by James Cebastien.

From the mid-1930s through the mid-1950s, songs Johnny Mercer wrote and performed were among the most popular hits of the time. Mercer wrote the lyrics to more than a thousand songs, including compositions for movies and Broadway shows. He received nineteen Academy Award nominations. Mercer won four Academy Awards for Best Song. Mercer was also a co-founder of Capitol Records

For reservations, contact the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation at 847-677-7761 or online at www.skokietheatre.org. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For group tickets, please contact Al Curtis at (847) 677-7761.

ABI GEZUNT STARRING EDDY PATAY, SHIRLEE TODD, AND LARISA FRUMKER Exploring a vast treasure of Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino, and English Songs

The Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents "Abi Gezunt" starring Eddy Patay, Shirlee Todd, and Larisa Frumker on October 4th at 2:00pm at 7924 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie. A

Eddy Patay and Shirlee Todd have reached into the vast treasure of Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew and English songs to recreate the life in the "Shtetl" (town), the mass exodus after numerous pogroms and the Holocaust, following one group to Israel and one to America.

"Abi Gezunt" is a heart-warming presentation for the young and the not so young. Educational, Entertaining, a journey through time.

At the piano the ever so talented Larisa Frumker, rounds up this trio of talent in this showcase of "A mul iz gevyn". Once upon a time. Come and let's celebrate life.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, please visit www.skokietheatre.com. For group tickets, please contact Al Curtis at (847) 677-7761.



*Book by & Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt Based on Les Romanesques by Edmon Rostand*

The Fantasticks

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***September 11 through November 15
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm Sundays at 2:30pm***



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FREE PARKING FOR ALL PERFORMANCES

Village Cooking Corner

Zucchini Nut Bread

(A terrific way to use up summer surplus of zucchini. Freezes well.)

3 eggs, beaten slightly	1 tsp. baking soda
1 c oil	1 tsp. salt
1 3/4 c sugar	3 tsp. cinnamon
2 c zucchini, grated and squeezed dry	1 tsp. ground allspice
3 c flour (whole wheat may be used)	3 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. baking powder	1 1/2 c chopped nuts

Grease and flour two large loaf pans. Stir first four ingredients together. Sift dry ingredients together and add to egg mixture. Stir in vanilla and nuts. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees or until done.

Yield: 2 large loaves Preparation: 30 minutes Baking: 1 hour

Ann Marchek From "The Cedarburg Cookbook"

LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS

EVANSTON

Date: Saturdays, May 16 - Nov. 7, 2009 Time: 7:30am to 1pm

Place: Intersection of University Place and Oak Avenue

Enjoy the bounty of Midwest farmers every Saturday throughout the summer. For over 30 years, the Evanston Farmers' Market has been a crowd-pleaser with 30+ vendors of fruit, vegetables, meat, flowers, cheese and bakery items. Now We're Cookin' and Home Grown Artists are going to be at the Market certain Saturdays throughout the summer. Free parking is available in the Maple Avenue Parking Garage. Senior coupons for Farmers' Markets are available through the Commission on Aging.

Home Grown Artists

Home Grown Artists began in 2005 as a showcase for Evanston artists and their work at the busy and thriving Farmers' Market. In 2005 a survey funded by the Illinois Arts Council and the Evanston Community Foundation determined that Evanston has ten times the national average of artists living and working here. 75% of them support themselves with their art. And in the year of the survey, artists generated \$25 million in the Evanston economy.

Each year the Farmers' Market hosts local artists who display for sale a wide variety of their works including pottery, paintings, sketches, home made paper making, and many other mediums. A portion of the proceeds from the artists renting spaces is used to provide art scholarships.

In 2008, the City Council made Home Grown Artists a permanent part of the Farmers Market. The Market is located at University Place between Railroad and Maple Avenues, north of the municipal garage that serves the Century movie theaters at Church and Maple. It is one block south of Emerson Street/Golf Road and east of Green Bay Road and Ridge Avenue. The hours are Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. through November 7, 2009.

Home Grown Artists will appear at the Farmers Market from 7:30a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on October 3.

SKOKIE

Visit the "Best on the North Shore" Skokie Farmers' Market held on Sundays beginning Sunday, June 28 through Sunday, October 25. The market is open from 7:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Arrive early for the best selection. The market is conveniently located in the Village Hall parking lot, 5127 Oakton Street. The Skokie Consumer Affairs Commission, a volunteer commission, hosts the Skokie Farmers' Market. For more information on the Skokie Farmers' Market, contact Terry Oline, Market Master at 847/933-8224 or visit www.skokie.org.

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SKOKIE ART GUILD

Market Your Artwork Online

Skokie Art Guild presents Artist and SAG Web Master, Joy Appenzeller Bauer. Joy shares technique on personal websites, artist directories, search engine optimization and social media applications. Joy will unveil SAG's new Virtual Gallery. Tuesday, Sept 22, 7:00 PM

Skokie Library 5215 Oakton, Book discussion Room

All Welcome! Refreshments served! Skokieartguild.org

Skokie Art Guild Live Model Figure Drawing Workshops Resume Sept. 10.

Thursdays 7:00 PM - 9:45 PM Saturdays 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie

Live Models/no instructor

Fees per session: Sag Members \$12; non-members \$20.

For information call: Richard Wilberg 847-677-3461

or Skokieartguild.org



CANS FOR CASH CITY RECYCLING CHALLENGE

October is 'Evanston CAN Recycle!' Month

Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl announces that October is 'Evanston CAN Recycle!' month. The City is participating in the Cans for Cash™ City Recycling Challenge. For the third year in a row, the City is calling on Evanston residents and businesses to recycle as many aluminum beverage cans as possible during the entire month of October.

The contest, sponsored by The United States Conference of Mayors, Novelis Corporation and Keep America Beautiful, Inc., challenges cities across the country to collect recyclable aluminum beverage cans and develop innovative ideas for promoting participation. New for this year is the American Recycler Video Award. Cities are encouraged to submit recycling videos to be used to promote the 2010 Cans for Cash city recycling challenge. The Challenge lasts for four weeks, officially starting on October 1 and ending on October 31.

The City of Evanston will be competing with other cities for up to \$15,000 in awards, which are to be used to support recycling efforts through local education and awareness programs. The City hopes to collect the most recyclable aluminum beverage cans and develop the most innovative plan for promoting recycling to win.

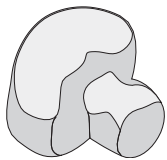
The Aluminum Association, a Washington, D.C.-based trade group representing aluminum producers, reports that recycling is good for the environment and municipal finances because aluminum is the most valuable material in the household recycling bin. Last year, just under \$1 billion was paid for recyclable aluminum beverage cans. Yet nearly 50% of all aluminum beverage cans produced were not recycled. In other words, nearly \$1 billion worth of aluminum cans are thrown away annually.

Evanston community members do not need to do anything extraordinary; simply make certain all of their aluminum cans are placed in recycling containers throughout the entire month of October. Groot, the City's recycling hauler, will sort and weigh the aluminum cans.

Community members without residential recycling pickup are encouraged to make a special effort to bring their aluminum beverage cans to the City's Recycling Center at 2222 Oakton Street: Fridays, noon to 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or to the Service Center at 2020 Asbury: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information about the Challenge, visit www.cityofevanston.org or call 847/866-2940.

WILD MUSHROOMS

"Credit Cards"



We all know the story with credit cards. Big banks, as we know, have decided that from now on they will be controlling people's lives and spending patterns. It appears that we are no longer customers and that they can do with us whatever they wish until the new government regulations go into effect.

It used to be that people could discuss their needs and concerns with their banker, but it seems that large banks have not only ruined the housing market, but have generally made a mess of our Country and now the people who work hard will pay for the banks' errors.

Watch your credit cards; 1) get rid of the use of your credit cards as quickly as possible, and 2) remember, what goes around, comes around.

Those institutions which have been so unethical may find they need some empathy themselves, someday. Most importantly, when you are dealing with a large bank, make sure you read everything to make sure you understand what you are signing. A follow-up story will appear next issue about a specific case we had involving a large bank in Skokie.

If you have experienced any credit card situations yourselves, please send them to: Village Publications, P.O. Box 31391, Chicago, IL 60631, or email to: mushroom@ourvillagechicago.com Contact information will be held in confidence.

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More details of the Joy-FULL Celebration to follow