



# STREET LEVEL



“Where Life Happens”

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

[www.OurVillageChicago.com](http://www.OurVillageChicago.com)

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Issue 5  
December 4, 2009

## Have a Happy Holiday Season FROM THE STAFF OF VILLAGE PUBLICATIONS

### Evanston Snow Parking Regulations

Evanston's snow plan is a cooperative effort. These are the basic rules we ask you to follow:

- \* Don't park on the Snow Routes at night.
  - \* During a snow emergency, park on the proper side of residential streets between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.
  - \* Clear your sidewalks of snow and ice.
  - \* Clear parking lots for which you are responsible, without pushing snow into adjacent streets, alleys or sidewalks.
- Snow parking regulations are in effect from December 1 through March 31
- HOW DO I FIND OUT IF THERE IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?**
1. Call the Snow Hotline at 847-864-SNOW or 847-866-2917
  2. Tune in to Cable Channel 16
  3. Check this webpage and/or the city homepage
  4. Sign up for the City E-Newsletter and receive snow parking email updates
  5. Listen to Evanston Radio AM 1650
  6. Emergency sirens will be used to alert people to move their cars.
  7. Follow us on Twitter or Facebook

Inquiries or complaints about snow removal should be directed to Streets and Sanitation, (847) 866-2940, or [publicworks@cityofevanston.org](mailto:publicworks@cityofevanston.org).

### 2010 Evanston Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers for 2010 are on sale at the City Collector's office as of Mon., Nov. 16. Every vehicle registered with the Illinois Secretary of State under an address within the City of Evanston must have a 2010 vehicle sticker displayed in its window by Jan. 11, 2010.

Passenger car vehicle stickers cost \$75, and applications received after January 11 will incur a 50% penalty charge. Senior citizens ages 65 and older may be eligible to receive an income-based 50% discount on vehicle stickers. Pre-printed applications will be mailed out the week of November 23rd to all registered owners with a vehicle registered to an Evanston address.

To purchase by mail, send in the completed pre-printed vehicle sticker application to the address on the return envelope. The City Collector's office, located at 2100 Ridge Ave., is open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on select Saturdays and weekdays in December and January.

### Central St. “Shop Small Stores” Campaign Kicks of Dec. 6

On Sun., Dec. 6, the Central Street Merchants Association will kick off the shopping season with a Holiday Open House and will bring the grassroots “Shop Small Stores” campaign to Central Street. “Shop Small Stores” reminds shoppers to make their first stop at small, locally owned stores in the community, to spend their money locally and to support independent, neighborhood businesses. The campaign continues after the holiday season.

### Menorah Lighting at Fountain Square Dec. 14

Mayor Elizabeth B. Tisdahl and Rabbi Dov Hillel Klein will light the Menorah. There will be greetings from city officials and community members, a boys' choir, music and refreshments. 847/869-8060. Sponsored by Tannenbaum Chabad House. Location: Fountain Square, intersection of Davis St., Sherman Ave. and Orrington Ave. on Mon., Dec. 14.

### Pearl Harbor Ceremony

The City of Chicago will host, Chicago Remembers Pearl Harbor, at 11 a.m., Monday, December 7, 2009, at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. Chicago, IL 60611. The ceremony will take place at Navy Pier - Lakeview Terrace (east end of Navy Pier).

This year's date marks the 68th Anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Naval Installation at Pearl Harbor. The City of Chicago will honor all those who fought in the face of extraordinary odds that Sunday morning.

Admission is FREE. For more information, call 312.595.5282

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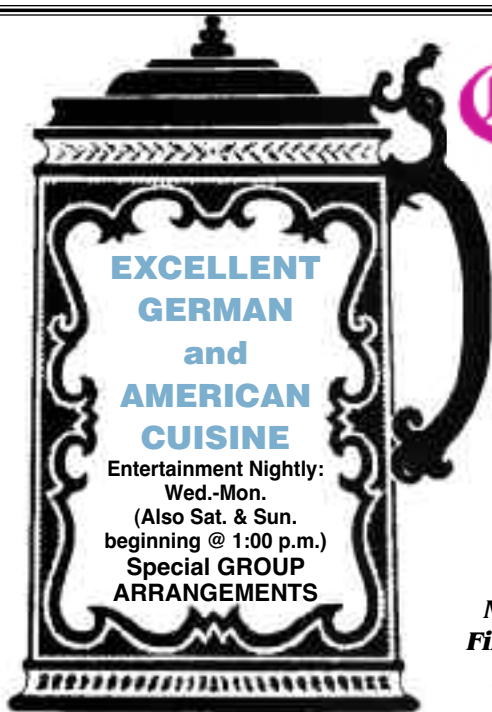
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**Watch 190 North with Janet Davies and Mirabell Restaurant on Sunday, December 13, 10:35pm, Channel 7!**



**Jeffrey Heil, Janet Davies and Anita Heil**

Janet Davies visited with the Heil family, owners of the Mirabell Restaurant and Lounge at 3454 W. Addison St., in Chicago, (773)463-1962, [www.mirabellrestaurant.com](http://www.mirabellrestaurant.com)

**BEARS OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS ATTEND BEARS CAMP**

Bears of Hope held Bears Camp for its volunteers at McCormick & Schmick’s, Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie, on November 21. The event was organized by Bears of Hope, a Skokie based volunteer organization, that makes handcrafted fabric bears for sick and needy children and adults. They have no paid staff, just dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers came to Bears Camp to stuff bears, hand sew bear openings closed, and get bears ready for delivery to various social service organizations who give them to those in need of TLC. Volunteer, Mary Pollack remarked, “I love Bears Camp. It’s a way to meet the other volunteers while getting alot of bears ready for others.” Throughout the year, the volunteers make bears at their convenience in their homes. They pickup materials and drop off completed bears at the organization’s location in Skokie. “I work full time, so being able to do something so worthwhile for others fits perfectly with my lifestyle.” expressed volunteer, Sheila Posner.



Bears of Hope founder, Carolyn Reiner, told the volunteers, “It’s hard to believe 2010 begins our fourth year. The past 3 years has been an incredible journey and it’s because of you. Thank you for what you do for Bears of Hope.” Today, over 500 bears are now bringing comfort and hope to those facing a difficult time in their life. Clergy and social service organizations are given bears to bring to children and adults facing difficult life situations.

When McCormick & Schmick’s General Manager, Kevin Finegold, found out what Bears of Hope does for others, he said “I wanted McCormick and Schmick’s to do something to help them.” Besides hosting Bears Camp, providing lunch and presenting McCormick & Schmick’s dining certificates to the volunteers, the restaurant also is helping Bears of Hope raise funds. Donate \$20 to Bears of Hope and get a McCormick & Schmick’s \$20 dining certificate. Contributions can be sent to Bears of Hope, 8331 Kostner, Skokie, IL 60076. All donations are only used to purchase materials to make bears.

For more information, go to [www.bearsofhope.com](http://www.bearsofhope.com) or contact [bears@bearsofhope.com](mailto:bears@bearsofhope.com)

**Join the Lincolnwood Social Club (55+)**

Are you tired of staying home? Would you like to do fun and exciting things? Do you want to make a few new friends? Then why not join the Lincolnwood Social Club 55+. You do not have to be a resident of Lincolnwood to join. We go to exciting places every week in addition to the numerous special events held at our Community Center. Give us a call and find out what we are all about, our number is (847) 677-9740. This is one phone call you won’t be sorry that you made.

**St. Peter Catholic School Pancake Breakfast**

St. Peter’s Men’s Club will hold a Pancake Breakfast on 13 December to benefit the parish. The price is 8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. All are encouraged to support this event and enjoy a delicious breakfast among friends.

**SKOKIE ART GUILD**

**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](http://Skokieartguild.org)



**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, holiday parties, wedding engagements, retirement parties, to classroom programs and more.

We can fulfill almost every need of the community with our list of amenities including: tables, banquet chairs, kitchen, TV, podium with microphone, coffee pot, tablecloths and more. If you have a specific need that was not mentioned in our amenities list, talk to our staff to see if other arrangements can be made.

Availability is based upon seasonal Parks & Recreation Department programs and previously scheduled rentals. Stop by our facility, located 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.

**33rd Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot Results**

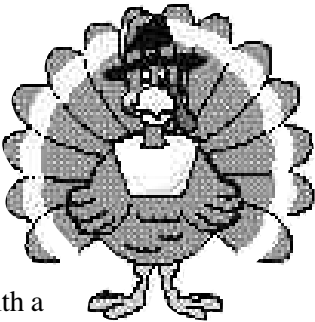
The 33rd Annual Lincolnwood Turkey Trot was held on Sunday, November 22nd, which turned out to be a beautiful sunny day. This year’s race attracted over 1,600 runners, walkers and dashers, and numerous supporters and race fans.

The overall 5K winner was Emisael Favela with a time of 15:34. The first Village resident to cross the 5K finish line was David Elster with a time of 19:05.

The overall 10K male winner was Oscar Ramos with a time of 34:32. The first Village resident to cross the 10K finish line was Dimitri Dallas with a time of 42:51. For full results please visit [www.mychicagoathlete.com](http://www.mychicagoathlete.com).

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank all of our generous sponsors and helpful volunteers; this race would not run as smooth or be as successful without your support.

Next year’s race will be Sunday, November 21, 2010. Mark your calendar now.



**Get Active in your Community- Apply for a Board, Committee or Commission Position**

The City of Evanston has several Boards, Committees and Commissions which, from time to time, have vacancies. Area residents are encouraged to become more involved in their community by submitting applications to serve on these boards.

All applications are kept on file for consideration when a vacancy occurs. The Mayor then reviews the applications and makes recommendations to the City Council for approval. The Mayor always attempts to make appointments that represent the great diversity of our community.

For those residents interested in possibly serving in this capacity or who would like to fill out an application, please visit our “Boards and Committees” web page or call 847/448-8268.

# Russian Dancers Go to SPACE

## Moscow Ballet to Feature 40 Young Dancers from SPACE in December 13 Performance of the Great Russian Nutcracker

Visions of sugar-plum fairies will dance through the dreams of 40 young dancers from the Chicagoland area this holiday season as they share the spotlight with esteemed members of the Moscow Ballet to perform the Great Russian Nutcracker. The holiday classic, which features young dancers from SPACE (Southport Performing Arts Conservatory), is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2009, at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Tickets for the production are \$25.50 - \$85.50 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000.

Praised for exquisite dancing and sumptuous costumes, the Great Russian Nutcracker features Moscow Ballet principal artists Ekaterina Bortykova and Akzhol Mussakhanov and is directed by Anatoli Emelianov. Set against Valentin Fedorov's hand-painted backdrops, the Great Russian Nutcracker delights audiences young and old with a visual tapestry rich in detail and whimsy.

The large-scale production features a number of important character roles which have been cast with 40 young dancers ages 6-14 from Chicago's SPACE performing arts conservatory under the direction of SPACE co-founder Altin Naska. Tryouts for these roles were held in late August.

"The opportunity for these talented young dancers to share the spotlight with such world renowned ballet dancers from the Moscow Ballet is tremendous," said Naska, an internationally known award-winning choreographer, dancer and master teacher who has performed as a soloist throughout Europe. "These children have dedicated themselves to the art and artistry of dance and are eagerly anticipating performing this beloved ballet in front of 4,000 audience members at the Rosemont Theatre."

Chicago's SPACE is a European-style performing arts conservatory that provides instruction in music and dance. Founded in 2005, SPACE has fueled the artistic dreams and aspirations of hundreds of artists from ages pre-school through adult. SPACE provides personalized instruction for all levels of artistic ability and offers a large range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Gifted Program. SPACE's dance program includes instruction in ballet, tap, modern, jazz, ballroom, Latin and hip-hop.

Dedicated to expanding the beauty and love of the performing arts to students in the Chicago area, SPACE's Community Engagement Program is available to all public and private schools from Pre-k through high school. SPACE's specially designed Community Engagement Program meets the Illinois Board of Education's performing arts standards.

SPACE has two Chicago locations and is located at 1439 W. Wellington Ave., 773-880-1701, and at 3433 W. Peterson Ave., 773-463-1220. For more information, please call either office numbers or visit the website at [www.southportarts.com](http://www.southportarts.com)



*"[Being in the Navy has] made me more appreciative of my parents, for how they supported me and my two sisters, and now I feel I'm doing the same for my wife and son." J.C. Hunt, IV*

## A Salute to Chicagoans in Service

As a tribute to the men and women on active military duty overseas, Our Village is continuing our series about Chicagoans in service aboard the USS Nimitz.

What could be more exciting to those in service to our country than hearing from those they love, thousands of miles away? In addition to other important duties, Seaman J.C. Hunt, IV of Chicago is the man with the message – as Logistics Specialist, he works in the ship's post office, and he may well be the person shipmates are most eager to see! On active duty for a year and seven months, Hunt enlisted as a way to make his life and his family's better, to save money, and ultimately to finish school. Before his tour, he attended Austin Community Academy and Trinity International University where he played baseball for two years, ran track, wrestled, and played football. Clearly an athlete, Hunt also is a huge sports fan (Go Bears!) and one of the things he misses about civilian life is playing sports

on a regular basis and catching the game on TV without satellite interruptions.

His service to his country has taught him the value of time and not to waste it. "Time goes by fast. I need to be careful and not let time pass me by."

Seaman Hunt wishes to send his best to family and friends back home. And J.C., we promise to give an extra cheer on your behalf during the next Bears game! Who knows? Maybe it'll help!



**Logistics Specialist Seaman JC Hunt**

## USS NIMITZ AT-A-GLANCE

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Commissioned May 3, 1975

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Four distilling units enable engineers to prepare 400,000 gallons of fresh water per day for use by the nuclear-powered propulsion plants, catapults, and crew

Primary offensive weapon is the ability to launch and recover high performance jet aircraft from the flight deck. Can deploy aircraft on a range of missions, including patrols, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, and rescue missions.

Aircraft used aboard the USS Nimitz include: F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, SH-60F/H Seahawk, C-2A Greyhound, E-2C Hawkeye 2000, and EA-6B Prowler.



## “Trio Contrasts” to Appear at DANK-Haus

The DANK-Haus in historic Lincoln Square will host Trio Contrasts, premiere German musicians, on Sunday December 20, 2009 at 3:00 pm. The afternoon's program includes works from Ives, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Bartok and Brahms.

For further information and tickets contact DANK-Haus 773.561.9181 or [dank@dankhaus.com](mailto:dank@dankhaus.com). DANK-Haus German American Cultural Center, 4740 North Western Avenue.

## NEW YEARS EVE SILVESTERBALL AT DANK-HAUS! \$55 BEFORE DEC 21 ~ \$80 AFTER DEC 21

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# GREAT OUTDOORS

## Community Rallies to Halt Clear Cutting and Burning of Urban Forests

Local community groups Trees for Life, Natural Forest Advocates and Urban Wildlife Coalition are calling for a ban on “restoration” practices including tree cutting, burning and herbiciding conducted by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) on sites including LaBagh Woods, Edgebrook Woods, Indian Road Woods, Bunker Hill, Miami Woods and St. Paul Woods.

Restoration is a land management philosophy that seeks to reshape natural areas into a state that restorationists believe existed before European settlement. Species that they believe were present prior to this are characterized as “native.” The remaining plants and animals are designated “invasive” and targeted for removal. On Northwest Side sites this amounts to cutting down existing forests to establish prairies and savannas, despite maps from the 1800s that show the area was forested.

Because restored sites are artificial landscapes, they perpetually require practices that are environmentally unsound to maintain them, including cutting healthy trees, use of herbicides, burning and wildlife culling.

In order to create prairie and savanna, FPDCC staff and volunteers systematically clear-cut forested areas, removing trees including basswood, poplar, maple, ash, aspen, dogwood, willow, black cherry, hawthorn and elm.

Herbicides such as Garlon 4 (commonly known as triclopyr) are applied to the stumps of the cut trees to prevent them from re-sprouting. Triclopyr is hazardous to humans and animals and is linked to breast cancer in humans and anemia in pets. It can contaminate groundwater and surface water and has a half-life (the time it takes for half the chemical to dissipate) of up to 96 days. Community groups have photographed multiple instances of herbicide misuse by FPDCC staff and volunteers, including spraying Garlon 4 into a channel of the Chicago River.

The piles of cut trees are burned as landscape waste in fires that have no ecological value and sterilize the soil beneath them. As a result, several acres of trees are often cleared and established wildlife habitat eliminated in a single day.

Large scale “controlled” or “prescribed” fires, which are being conducted now on these sites, are then used to keep vegetation in the cleared areas from regenerating. According to maps provided by FPDCC, significant portions of each site will be burned although they are primarily wet forests, which historically would have rarely burned naturally. “FPDCC mischaracterizes burning as a necessary process being reintroduced when instead they’re using fire as a tool of deforestation,” Urban Wildlife Coalition Director Bathsheba Birman says.

Besides the environmental impact, smoke from landscape fires create significant neighborhood pollution problems and contribute to regional air pollution, although the metropolitan Chicago area already fails to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act. Smoke emissions from these fires contain small particles from leaves and wood and harmful chemicals known or suspected to be carcinogens. The Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) opposes landscape fires and likens the health risk from burning wood and leaves to burning a pile of cigarettes of the same size. According to RHAMC, young children, the elderly and those suffering from heart and lung disease are especially compromised.

In an urban setting, where natural areas are in close proximity to homes and businesses, there is also the threat of an out of control fire. On March 17, a fire set by restoration volunteers at FPDCC site Orland Grassland went out of control and the volunteers had no water. The fire burned more than 300 unintended acres and required 70 firefighters from 17 different companies to extinguish it.

Although documents obtained from FPDCC through the Freedom of Information Act show that FPDCC police were aware of the origin of the fire as early as 11 a.m., FPDCC spokesman Steve Mayberry continued to maintain to the media that the cause of the fire was undetermined until June. Two other fires on March 17 at FPDCC sites where restoration activities were being conducted, Swallow Cliff and Cranberry Slough, are still under investigation.

Multiple instances of unattended fires and inadequate safety precautions on FPDCC sites have been documented by community groups over a two-year period and were brought to the attention of FPDCC administration prior to the March 17 Orland Grassland fire. Yet FPDCC has continued to burn as recently as Nov. 10, when a four-acre fire was conducted at LaBagh Woods within a few hundred feet of homes without notifying residents.

“It’s not a case of if the next fire goes out of control, it’s when” says Natural Forest Advocates President Mary Lee Paoletti. “The problem with FPDCC is that they set fires they’re not equipped to put out. Neighboring municipalities are left with both the financial burden and

the responsibility for extinguishing them without appropriate equipment or training for fighting these types of fires.”

Due to prior public outcry, restoration practices were prohibited on these sites through a 1996 moratorium put in place by Cook County Board President John Stroger. After President Stroger became incapacitated, those protections

were lifted by interim president Bobbie Steele in 2006 and practices resumed, despite community opposition.

Community groups are calling for accountability and public input in land management decisions. A Freedom of Information Act request filed by Urban Wildlife Coalition for all scientific studies, including soil and vegetation surveys, used to determine land management objectives on 14 area sites yielded little pertinent information. “FPDCC is cutting and burning our last urban forests without an appropriate scientific basis or an assessment of the environmental impact. We encourage community members to call on the Cook County commissioners entrusted with the protection of our forests and the safety of our homes and families to bring this to an end,” Birman says.

## Urban Wildlife Coalition: Creating a Wildlife Winter Wonderland

Winter can be brutal for urban wildlife. Temperatures plummet and food and water sources become scarce. Attract them to your yard by providing them with creature comforts.

Leave the leaves – if you don’t mind your yard a bit untidy, wildlife use the fallen leaves for food and shelter.

Create your own wildlife sanctuary – a small brush pile, set in a corner away from your home is refuge for many birds, chipmunks, rabbits, and other ground-dwelling animals. Set larger logs and branches at the bottom of the pile. Add twigs with leaves and other vegetation toward the top. Be sure to keep nooks and crannies open for easy entrance and exit.

Re-invent decorating the Christmas tree. Craft your own edible (for wildlife) ornaments to hang from your outdoor tree or shrub. Kids love this activity! Gather fallen pine cones. Snugly tie string or tall grasses around a pine cones so they can hang. Coat pinecones with peanut butter (syrup and honey work, too) and roll in a pile of bird seed, dried berries, or unsalted black sunflower seeds. Hang from a tree or shrub branch. Your wildlife friends will thank you!

Break the ice. During the winter, water is a hot commodity for wildlife. Make it a practice to regularly pour warm water in your bird bath to melt the ice... or better, add a birdbath heater to your holiday wish list.

*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.urbanwildlife-coalition.org](http://www.urbanwildlife-coalition.org). Questions? Call 773-545-8136 or e-mail us at [urbanwildlife-coalition@gmail.com](mailto:urbanwildlife-coalition@gmail.com).*



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# “A Theater Review”

## *The Christmas Schooner Theatre at the Center*

*Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt*

**Critical Evaluation \*\*\*\* out of \*\*\*\***

“The Christmas Schooner,” is making its Indiana debut and it is a wonderful show for the holidays. The show has a cast of twenty performers and backing them up for this musical are seven musicians. The show runs about two hours and fifteen minutes with intermission. The show has seen more than one hundred productions in the United States that include twelve holiday seasons at the Baliwick Theatre. Porchlight had a production of the show last year and it has been performed in Bristol, England.

The show features fifteen songs and some of my favorites were “When I Look at You,” “Loving Sons,” “We All Have Songs” and “That’s America.” The book for the show is by multi-talented John Reeger, who is also an actor and singer, and the show has music and lyrics by Julie Shannon. The two very talented artists have put together another show “Let the Eagles Fly” – the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm workers – and they are now working on a new musical that is set in 19th century England.

Schooner has a strong cast that brings magic to their performances. Brandon Dahlquist as Peter Stossel and Cory Goodrich as Alma Stossel give strong performances as they tell the tale of the 19th century and bringing Christmas trees from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan across the icy waters of Lake Michigan to Chicago. Peter Kevolan in the role of Gustav Stossel, the grandfather from the old country, offers a strong performance. Daniel Coonley is Karl, the son of Peter and Alma, at the age of nine and Mitchell Rose has the role of Karl at fifteen.

Other members who are family friends and who sail on Molly Doone bringing the trees to Chicago are Ronato Keaton as Oskar, and Kevin Barthel as Rudy. Other sailors are Peter Durkin, Adrian Fontanilla, Michael Glazer, John Leen and Peter Vamvakas. Others in the cast include Audrey Billings, Amy Brody, Katrina Kuntz, Jennifer Buhrow and Kellie Cundiff.

Theatre at the Center has a winner on their hands to conclude their 2009 season. The show is being directed by Chuck Gessert. “The Christmas Schooner” runs through December 20th. For performance days and show times as well as reservations call 219-836-3255 or 800-511-1552. Tickets are \$36 and \$40. Opening their 2010 season will be the farce “Noises Off,” followed by “I Do, I Do,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” and ending the season with “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.”

## **Internationally Acclaimed Tenors ROY CORNELIUS SMITH and LUIS ANTONIO GÁLVEZ to Perform at the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation**

Internationally acclaimed tenors Roy Cornelius Smith and Luis Antonio Galvez, two longtime residents of Skokie scheduled to perform a holiday concert at the Skokie Theatre. Hear music from these international tenors’ native lands of North and South America as well as popular holiday songs of the season. These two tenors have not only performed throughout the U.S. but also in England, Italy, Germany and Austria including the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

**DECEMBER 13, 2009 at 7:00PM**

**Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, 7924 N. Lincoln Avenue,  
Skokie 847-677-7761**

**Tickets \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door! Discounts for groups of 10 or more.**

American tenor Roy Cornelius Smith is fast becoming known for his voice of great natural beauty, his compelling dramatic interpretations, and his fine musicianship. He has already been heard on some of the world’s great operatic stages including the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Opera Berlin, Salzburger Festspiele, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Volksoper Wien, Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, and the New York City Opera. He has also appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice, Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Lima, Peru, Luis Antonio Gálvez, possessor of a dark, full-bodied lyric voice has become one of the most sought after tenors in the Chicago area and was recently invited to perform at the Vatican in Rome, Italy. Recent performances include concerts in Salisbury, England at the famous Salisbury Cathedral, soloist in the Peruvian Independence Day celebrations at the Daley Center and the title role in the world premier of Sredni Vashtar by Chicago composer Floyd Thompson at Ganz Hall (Roosevelt University) in Chicago as well as guest soloist with the Lincoln Early Music Festival in Lincoln, England, the Messenger in Verdi’s Aida with Opera Birmingham, and Mozart’s Missa Brevis in B-flat with Brooklyn New York’s Park Slope Singers. Mr. Gálvez has received the most distinguished award offered by the Association of Peruvian Institutions in the U.S. and Canada for his excellence and commitment to the Peruvian community as a valuable contributor to promoting cultural diversity. He is a graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and is a member of the voice faculty in the Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt and Sherwood Conservatory of Music at Columbia College.

For additional information on this concert, contact Al Curtis at the Skokie Theatre or visit [www.skokietheatre.com](http://www.skokietheatre.com).

## *Beethoven, As I Knew Him*

*Reviewed by Richard Allen Eisenhardt*

**Critical Evaluation: \*\*\*\* out of \*\*\*\***

There is only one word that best describes Hershey Felder and that is to say he is a genius. A few years back when he was at the Royal George Theatre he gave Chicago audiences “George Gershwin Alone” and later “Monsieur Chopin” and both were major hits in Chicago for this actor, storyteller and one helluva pianist. He did his current show “Beethoven, As I Knew Him” last summer at Ravinia but for a limited number of performances. At that time I didn’t see this one-man show. Audiences are now having the opportunity through December 20th to see this new show and then for one week he will revive “George Gershwin Alone: and on new Year’s Eve “The Great American Song Book Sing-a-Long.”

The show offers Beethoven’s music that is well known and famous such as “The Moonlight Sonata,” and you’ll hear selections from “Beethoven’s Symphonies Number Five and Nine: as well as “The Pathétique Sonata,” the “Emperor Concerto” and “Grosse Fugue” to name a few. The man is magic at the piano. His shows are biographical and true of the composer and not made-up dramas.

Those attending “Beethoven, As I Knew Him” are in for a treat. I marvel over the mastercraft’s man. After the Chicago run he will concentrate on his next project “Nine Hours on Tenth,” that deals with President Lincoln’s last day. I’m sure with his musical talent he will in time develop projects featuring the music and lives of other great composers. ‘Beethoven, As I Knew Him: runs through December 20th. For performance dates, show times and reservations call 312-642-2000. Tickets are \$55 - \$60. A “Don’t Miss” show.



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## **Lincolnwood Holiday Craft Fair**

A diverse selection of crafters and vendors from the North Shore will be on hand offering gifts and treasures for your shopping pleasure. Plenty of parking is available in the Lincolnwood Village Hall parking lot which is adjacent to the Community Center. There will also be a children's Make n' Take craft area, and a Holiday Fresh Greens Wreath Workshop (pre-registration is required).

Saturday, December 12th 9:00am – 3:00pm

Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue

Fee: \$2.00 Admission Children under 12 get in free if they bring a can of food to be donated to a local food depository.

Online registration is available by logging onto [www.lincolnwoodil.org](http://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.

## **Wine and Cheese Tasting for Women**

Come with your Chanukah spirit to socialize and learn with women from Skokie. Enjoy wines and cheeses from several countries, and leave with your own hand-painted wineglass and a fresh perspective on Chanukah!

This event will take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 8:00 pm at a private home in Skokie. RSVP requested. For more information, please visit the web-site at [www.SkokieChabad.org/Women](http://www.SkokieChabad.org/Women) or contact Yona Posner, 847-677-1770 x5.

## **Beloved Holiday Ballet Skates on Ice in Evanston**

Nutcracker on Ice takes to the ice Dec. 11-13 at the Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston. For four performances, hundreds of skaters of all ages will tell the familiar Christmas tale, bringing to life such characters as Clara, Drosselmeyer and the Nutcracker Prince. Complete with exquisite costumes, Tchaikovsky's familiar music and exciting special effects, this family show is a wonderful way for young and old to catch the holiday spirit.

Evanston residents skating solo parts include Annie Bennett, Imani Bournes, Elnora Bracey, Matthew Bracey-Sherman, Madeline Brooks, Emma Caroli, Blythe Chesney, Eleanor Clark, Vanessa Claude, Emily Cline, Ryen Delaney, Maya Fagen, Lily Freedman, Mariah Garcia, Olivia Gerasole, Peggy Giordano, Tina Giordano, Olivia Grenzebach, Teresa Grodsky, Miara Handler, Emily Hosman, Erin Hunter, Reyanna James, Ginny Johnson, Anna Keeva, Eva Kennedy, Ella Lambert, Linwan Lewis, Ron Lopez, Mallory Mancini, Heather Millikan, Olivia Mitchell, Isabel Reiches, Chelsea Ridley, Earin Ridley, Grace

Robertson, Remi Schreder, Ariel Simmons, Paul Simmons, Sofia Simon, Leia Sohn, Abby Stein, Mathilda Sullivan, Alex Swanson, Morgan Sweeney, Anatolia Syed, and Zoe Wilson.

Performances of Nutcracker on Ice are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Available now, general admission tickets are \$8.50 and reserved seats are \$9.50. Group discounts are available. For more information, call 847-448-8258.

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## **Pathway Senior Living Food Drive**

For the month of November Victory Centre of Galewood, part of Pathway Senior Living, LLC will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit Catholic Charities' food pantry. Due to current economic times, supporting our community is more important than ever. Please drop off donations during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., any day of the week, at Victory Centre of Galewood: 2370 N. Newcastle Ave. Chicago, IL. 60707. If you have any questions regarding specific items please call 773-385-5002 or please send an e-mail to [snebel@pathwaysl.com](mailto:snebel@pathwaysl.com).

## **Liberty Bank's Free Showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" Benefitting the Park Ridge Community Fund**

The holiday season is fast approaching, so mark your calendars to attend Liberty Bank for Savings' showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" on Sunday, Dec. 13. Families and individuals of all ages are invited to attend this joyous holiday event at the historic Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge. Admission is free but donations to the Park Ridge Community Fund (PRCF) are gratefully accepted.

The Pickwick Theatre is located at 5 S. Prospect Avenue, at the six-corner intersection with Touhy Avenue and Northwest Highway. Holiday music and refreshments will start at 3 pm with the movie set to begin at 4 p.m.

Donations will be accepted on-site for the Park Ridge Community Fund. The PRCF will also hold a raffle for prizes to assist in raising additional funds for social service organizations that serve the Park Ridge community. "We are very pleased to be able again to present *It's a Wonderful Life* for the 9th holiday season. We are sincerely grateful to our new sponsor-partner, Liberty Bank, for their most generous support of this annual campaign effort," says Carol Delorin, PRCF Executive Director.

Liberty Bank for Savings has been providing safe and secure banking service since 1898. The community bank, with offices on the northwest side of Chicago, in Park Ridge and Lincolnwood, celebrates its 111th anniversary in 2009. For more information call 773-489-4471 or visit [www.libertybank.com](http://www.libertybank.com).

## **Open Studio Project's Artist 3rd Annual Holiday Fair and Boutique**

Join us in a celebration of the creative spirit with handmade gifts, crafts, home-made baked goods and a raffle. Saturday & Sunday, December 12 and 13 and Monday thru Friday December 14-23, 11am- 5 pm at 901-3 Sherman Ave, Evanston. 847-475-0390, [openstudioproject.org](http://openstudioproject.org)

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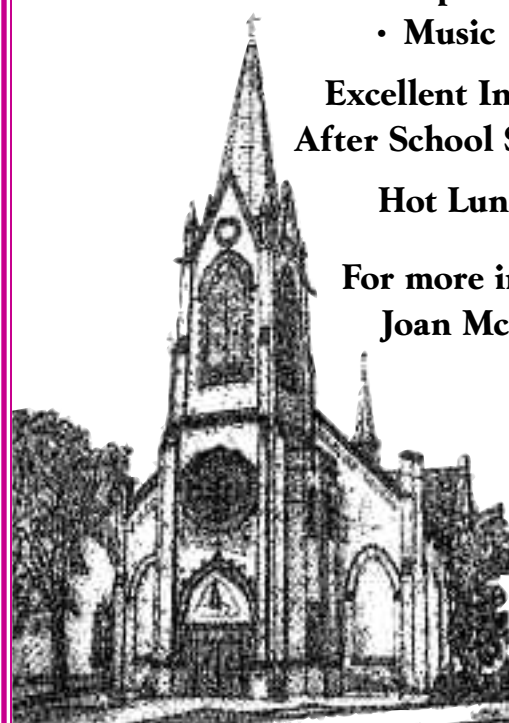
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# POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE 5TH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Executive Officers and Directors of the Polish National Alliance extends an invitation to Polonia and our neighbors to our fifth Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. We invite all our neighbors to join us for this annual tradition at the start of the Holiday Season.

The event will take place on Monday, December 7, 2009 starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Polish National Alliance, 6100 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. We ask all guests to gather in the lobby of the PNA starting at 6:45 p.m.

The PNA will display 18 Christmas Trees, Representing the seventeen Districts of the Polish National Alliance and one representing the Sauganash Neighborhood Community.

Please join us for this tradition.

For updates and details of the Tree Lighting Ceremony, check the PNA website: [www.pna-znp.org](http://www.pna-znp.org) under “Events”.

The Polish National Alliance was founded in 1880 and is the largest Fraternal Polish Organization. We are licensed in 36 states.

## PNA SEEKS DONATIONS OF TOYS FOR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

The Polish National Alliance (PNA) is sponsoring their annual drive of new toys, games and monetary donations for local needy children at Christmas.

There will be a collection box in the front lobby of the Polish National Alliance Home Office, located at 6100 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, both locations of the PNA Banks, 7840 N Milwaukee Ave. - Niles and 4800 S. Pulaski – Chicago and the Alliance Printers and Publishers Building – 5711 N. Milwaukee Avenue - Chicago, for the toy donations until Friday, December 11, 2009. Please, only unwrapped toys for boys and girls up to age 16. After the deadline, the donated toys for the children will be delivered to the Shriner’s Hospital in Chicago, in time for Christmas.

The monetary donations will be collected from Vice President Paul C. Odrobina’s Office, where the money will go to purchase additional toys and gifts for the children in the name of the donor.

For additional information, please call the Polish National Alliance at 1-773-286-0500 ext. 316. or visit the PNA Website at [www.pna-znp.org](http://www.pna-znp.org)

The Polish National Alliance is the largest Polish Fraternal Organization and founded in 1880.

## St. Peter Catholic School Collecting Hats and Gloves

St. Peter is collecting hats and gloves for those in need. All are invited to bring these items to the school office and St. Peter will deliver them before Christmas. Please wrap them and indicate if they are for a boy or girl.

## Evanston Winter Break Camps Spice Up the Holidays

Whether it’s basketball, tennis, chess, art or the great outdoors that captures a child’s imagination, parents can probably find it at one of the 11 winter break camps being offered this holiday season by the City of Evanston’s Recreation Division. New this year is Winter Pee Wee Sports Camp for boys and girls age 4-5. This camp meets mornings or afternoons Dec. 21-23 at the Chandler-Newberger Center.

With camp options that range from drop-in programs to those that meet over one week or two, half-day or full-day, there is a camp to satisfy almost every interest and schedule. Choose from such specialty camps as the Ecology Center’s EcoFreeze Camp or the Winter Arts Camp. There are also camps devoted to specific sports, including Holiday Hoops Camp and Winter Break Indoor Volleyball Camp. Most camps start Monday, Dec. 21. For more information, call 847-866-2900 or go to [www.cityofevanston.org/recreation](http://www.cityofevanston.org/recreation).

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### Immaculate Conception of Mary

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Monday, December 7, 7:00pm (Vigil)

Tuesday, December 8,

7:00am, 8:30am,

5:30pm (Polish), 7:00pm

### Liturgy of the Hours (Vespers)

Sunday, December 6, 4:00pm

Sunday, December 13, 4:00pm

Sunday, December 20, 4:00pm

### Penance Services

Parish Penance Service

December 14, at 7:00pm

English & Polish Service

## Confessions of a Jewish Marine - Chanukah Dinner for Adults

Dave Rosner wore his kippah in uniform, and kept kosher while stationed in Arab deserts and Korean mountains. He even organized a public menorah on a Marine Base in Hawaii! Join friends for drinks and appetizers followed by a delicious buffet dinner, and enjoy comedian Rosner’s funny episodes of his experiences.

Dave Rosner was an active duty U.S. Marine during the first Gulf War, as well as a reserve Marine during the Iraq War, and now holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Dave has performed throughout the U.S., Australia, and Canada, and is a member of the Friars Club.

Monday December 14, 2009, the fourth night of Chanukah, at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:45 p.m.). Advance web discount: \$25 per person, \$48 per couple, At the door: \$30 per person, \$58 per couples. Adults only, please. Contact us for more information at 847-677-1770 or via the website at [www.SkokieChabad.org](http://www.SkokieChabad.org).

## Shabbat Morning Services for Israelis

A minyan for Israelis will meet at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, organized in conjunction with Rabbi Menachem Slavaticki and the Chabad Israeli Center, on December 12, 2009.

The Prayer service for Israelis and Ivrit speakers is complete with Hebrew announcements, Israeli songs and atmosphere. Services to be followed by Shabbat lunch (kiddush). There is a special Hebrew program for kids. It includes Tefilot, Shabbat party, songs, stories, games and prizes. Bring your kids for a great time!

Saturday morning, December 12, 2009, beginning 10:00 a.m. at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St, Skokie. This minyan meets on the second Saturday of every month. For more information, please call 773-338-0985 or contact us via the website at [www.ChicagoIsraeliCenter.com](http://www.ChicagoIsraeliCenter.com).

## Free Menorah Lighting Kit Available

Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie is once again providing menorah lighting kits for this Chanukah season. The kits are provided to help fulfill the mitzvah (Jewish commandment) of lighting the menorah on Chanukah. Each kit contains everything necessary for the ritual - a menorah, candles, and step-by-step instructions and blessings for lighting the Chanukah candles. To receive your free kit, call 847-677-1770 or visit the website, [www.SkokieChabad.org](http://www.SkokieChabad.org).

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Pet Howl-iday Tips

The following are some thoughts for my furry friends. Humans please skip to the bottom.

As mentioned before, the howl-idays are a very busy time for our humans. Either they are busy going too or hosting parties. This is a purrfect opportunity for us to maximize what we want most; love, attention, and treats! The following are some tips that I use on my own family to get the most out of this season.

Look your best! Humans love a clean pet; so make sure to get you’re grooming appointment in now!

Tolerate the bandanna, bow, or outfit your human dresses you in. I don’t know why they want to make us deer, but Humans find this adorable and will load on extra love because of it!

Constantly keep your tail waggin’. If you don’t have one, the whole back end works even better!

Stare longingly and loving into the humans eyes. Humans will melt for the pound puppy look, so practice now!

Keep your paws off everything and don’t be too pushy. You will gain more by being paw-tience. I know this is difficult, but it is well worth it!

Try your hardest to keep the yapping and barking to a minimum. However, for attention humans do love some good yodeling or talking!

Perform any trick you know. Yes, giving Paw is beneath us, but the human like it and they always give a treat for it. Rolling over is humiliating, but again the humans love it and the harder they think the trick is, the better our reward!

Pose for the pictures; don’t run. Humans love a good pet shot! Especially if we are in those stupid antler hats!

If you have friends in your home, work together. Eight paws are better then four!

For the humans, please remember us in this busy time. A little extra attention makes a happy and well-behaved pet. Also, remember our pet friends that don’t have the human family we do. We get plenty, so please share. Donate to your local animal shelter or Pet loving organization it will make you feel so good! Happy Howlidays!

Love Bosley

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

LAW GOVERNING PETS

The boulevards, parkways and parks in our area are lovely places to walk - until, OOPS, you find your foot in canine fecal matter – dog poop, for short. There is nothing you can do. It is there in the ridges and contours of your shoe.

For everyone who has muttered, “There should be a law,” the news is good. There is a law! Ordinance 7-12-420 of the City Code states, “No person shall appear with a pet upon the public ways or within public places or upon the property of another, absent that person’s consent, without some means for the removal of excrement; nor shall any person fail to remove any excrement deposited by such pet.” There is a penalty for violating the ordinance: “Any person found to have been in violation of this section shall be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense.”

In addition to their status as a public nuisance, pet owners violating the law can be classified as public health hazards. Rotting fecal matter spreads disease, feeds rodents, and attracts insects.

The responsibility of pet ownership includes a responsibility to the pet’s neighbors. Bag the dog waste, tie it up, and dispose of it with your garbage. It’s the law!

Santa is ready for the Howlidays, are YOU?



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Keeping Your Home Safe for Your Pets during the Holidays

Part 1 by Peter S. Sakas DVM, MS

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

Holiday Food/Cooking

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

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

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

Be cautious with any bones provided to your pet. Sharp bones, especially from chicken or turkey, may become lodged in the mouth or throat of your pet. If the bones move further into the digestive tract, there is a risk that the bones could perforate the stomach or intestines. This situation may require surgical removal and if they do not receive veterinary attention, they may die. Provide your .pet with commercial chew toys to avoid any potential problems.

Be cautious with guacamole around pet birds. Most bird owners know that avocado is extremely toxic for birds and severe reactions can lead to death. However, some people forget that avocado is the key ingredient in guacamole. When you are having holiday parties and with all kinds of appetizers available, such as chips and dips, be careful if there is guacamole around with your pet birds present. They may decide to sample some of the dip, or an unknowing houseguest may innocently provide a taste of the dip to one of the birds with potentially tragic results.

*Chocolate* - Providing a piece of chocolate to a pet may seem like an act of kindness but there is a risk that this treat could have serious consequences. Chocolate may be fatal to your pet, especially dogs, because they are sensitive to theobromine, a compound in chocolate. It may cause vomiting, diarrhea, heart irregularities, muscle tremors, seizures and coma, sometimes with fatal results. Cats are rarely poisoned due to their more ‘discriminating’ habits. Keep those chocolate goodies out of the reach of your dog. If your dog accidentally eats some chocolate, seek veterinary care immediately.

The Christmas Tree

Decorations go up once a year and for a brief period of time. Your pets will be very interested in new and unusual objects scattered around the house believing that these are special ‘toys’ for their own use. Often these playthings end up lodged in the intestinal tract causing a blockage. Many dangers lurk on the Christmas tree. Overzealous dogs or cats have felled numerous wonderfully decorated trees. Support the tree securely with a sturdy stand and wires.

*The Tree* - There are several factors to consider with the tree. The trunk of a live tree is often coated with chemicals, such as fertilizer or insecticide. When the tree is placed in the stand and watered, the chemicals from the trunk contaminate the water. If your bird, dog or cat drinks it, they may become sick. The needles begin to fall out as the tree ages and dries. The needles are not poisonous but are very sharp, can puncture the skin and produce abscesses. If your pet tries to eat them, the needles can cut the tongue, lips and gums. If swallowed they are relatively undigestible and can actually pierce the lining of the stomach and intestines or cause a blockage.

The branches from artificial trees can be easily pulled out. The artificial needles can be sharp and are always non-digestible. If you pet chews on the branches, they might take in some of the needles. Just like the needles from the live tree, they can cause gastrointestinal problems such as bleeding and blockage.

*Lights* -The lights pose many dangers. They often get very hot after being on for a while and could burn your pet if they are touched. For some strange reason pets seem attracted to wires and like to chew on them. So keep a watch on your pets for this type of activity and check the lower strings of lights for evidence of chewing. You might want to ‘pet proof’ the tree by keeping objects, such as lights and ornaments, at heights that your pets cannot reach. If you want lights all over the tree, then string them on the lower branches, but place them away from the tip of the branches. The pets will have a more difficult time reaching them if they are placed on the inner portion of the branches.

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



Wilmette’s Frankenstein Featured  
in Koehnline Exhibition

Evanston Public Library Modifies  
Hours for Winter Months

Works by surrealist artist Curt Frankenstein (1922 – 2009), who lived and worked in suburban Wilmette for more than three decades, will be on display at the Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, starting Thursday, Dec. 10.

The exhibition runs through Friday, Jan. 29, 2010.

Curt Frankenstein: Dream World and Real World pays homage to the German-born artist who passed away on Jan. 4, 2009. Produced with support from the American Jewish Artists Club, where Frankenstein was a member, the exhibition features distinctive paintings and etchings that range from landscapes and purely figurative efforts to more complicated and cerebral images.

The public is invited to a free reception with refreshments, 5 – 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10. Museum hours are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday.

For more information call 847-635-2633 or visit [www.oakton.edu/museum](http://www.oakton.edu/museum).

City Seeks Residents to Join New  
Media Advisory Group

Evanston City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz recently announced the creation of a new Media Advisory Group and is looking for residents who would be interested in serving as members to the group in a volunteer capacity to assist the City in its new media efforts.

“The City of Evanston has had an award winning website for many years now and this year has added its presence to Facebook, You Tube and Twitter,” explained Bobkiewicz. “The City is looking for residents to advise the City on its efforts and help provide direction on new initiatives. I hope that we can use the talents and insights of Evanston residents to help make our internet presence the leader among cities in the United States.” Additionally, the City Manager maintains his own City blog, to help keep the residents of Evanston updated on the business of their local government.

New projects being considered by the City include increased use of video, making City information more transparent and easier to access as well as creating a customized web experience for individual residents.

Interested individuals can send an e-mail to [webmaster@cityofevanston.org](mailto:webmaster@cityofevanston.org) or call the City Manager’s Office at 847/866-2936. Those who are interested in serving on this voluntary advisory group should submit their interest by Friday December 4.

The Evanston Public Library (EPL) will be modifying its hours of operation starting December 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010 as a measure to maintain its excellent customer service to its patrons and to deal with lower staffing levels.

“The Evanston Public Library has been exploring ways to maintain customer service levels while dealing with work flow and lower staffing levels,” explained Mary Johns, Director of EPL. “ We currently are utilizing other creative methods to guarantee that the public has maximum access to the innovative programs we provide such as using work study students, volunteers and sharing staff between library departments.”

Implementing modified hours will allow the library to more effectively and efficiently utilize staff resources to provide quality customer service. This allows the library to concentrate their limited staff on direct customer service during open hours. This temporary modification will be effective for about 90 days to help library staff better keep up with business and service delivery as they strive to help deal with the City’s difficult budget situation.

The old and new hours of operation are as follows:

Main Library Current Hours: Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday; and 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday – Saturday.

Main Library Modified Hours: Noon - 6 p.m. - Sunday; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday; and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday – Saturday.

North Branch Current Hours: Closed—Sunday; 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday & Thursday; 10a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday; Closed—Friday; and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday.

North Branch Modified Hours: Closed—Sunday; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday – Thursday; Closed—Friday; and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday.

South Branch Current Hours: Closed—Sunday & Monday; 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday & Friday; and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday.

South Branch Modified Hours: Closed—Sunday & Monday; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday - Friday; and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday.

EPL will continue to offer service 24 hours a day, seven days a week on-line at [www.epl.org](http://www.epl.org), Facebook and Twitter. A variety of online databases are available via remote access with your library card.

As always, EPL will continue to provide the same services to residents- employment workshops, computer training, films, lectures, and story times that will continue as scheduled. All three library locations provide computers for Internet access, as well as wireless access for those bringing their laptops. EPL will continue to serve your informational needs.

The Evanston Public Library has been offering library services to the community since 1873 and currently has three locations: Main Library at 1703 Orrington Ave., the North Branch at 2026 Central St. and the South Branch at 949 Chicago Ave.



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# A New Tax and Retirement Opportunity in 2010



**Chester M. Przybylo**

We all know the importance of saving for retirement. However, those earning above \$100,000 have had one retirement saving opportunity denied them: the Roth IRA. The Roth IRA, which became available to some people over a decade ago, is like a traditional IRA, only on steroids. While traditional IRA contributions are tax-deductible and withdrawals are considered taxable income, Roth IRA contributions are not tax-deductible and withdrawals are not considered taxable income.

There are two methods to get money into a Roth IRA: Contributing money to the Roth IRA or converting a regular IRA to a Roth IRA. The rules are different depending on which method is used. For contributions to a Roth IRA, there are income limitations (In 2009, the limit is \$120,000 single and \$176,000 married filing jointly.) In other words, if you have income over the limit, you cannot make a contribution to a Roth IRA for the year.

Prior to 2010, conversion from a regular IRA to a Roth IRA could not be done if you had over \$100,000 in income. However, beginning in 2010, there is no income limitation for converting from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. When you convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, you pay tax on any deferred income in the IRA and it then becomes a Roth IRA. Why should you care? A Roth IRA can be a great tool for retirement savings.

While you pay tax on the account when you convert from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, you normally never pay any tax on the growth. (You pay tax on the growth only if you withdraw from the Roth IRA before 5 years has passed since the date of conversion.)

While a traditional IRA grows tax-deferred, growth is eventually taxed when withdrawn. A Roth IRA grows tax-free. Gains within the Roth IRA will normally never be taxed.

Traditional IRAs and other retirement plans require you to take minimum distributions after age 70 ½, based on your life expectancy. There are no required minimum distributions for a Roth IRA, even after you reach age 70 ½. After your death, your beneficiaries will have to start taking distributions based on their life expectancies, just as with other retirement plans. However, with a Roth IRA your beneficiaries will withdraw that money income tax-free!

Roth IRAs can be particularly attractive for those with a taxable estate. The income tax paid when converting to a Roth IRA is no longer in the taxable estate. Essentially, you have saved any estate tax on that income tax. This allows you to pass on more money to those you care about.

There is one more reason to convert your regular IRA to a Roth IRA in 2010: You get to choose when you get taxed!

You can recognize all the taxable income on your 2010 tax return, or

You can choose to defer the tax and recognize half the taxable income on your 2011 return and half on your 2012 tax return.

The tax code lets you benefit from hindsight by allowing you to change your mind and “recharacterize” or undo the conversion from a regular IRA to a Roth IRA without penalty by October 15th of the following year. So, if you convert in early 2010, you would have more than 1 ½ years to see if you would have been better off not converting and possibly change your mind.

A Roth IRA can be a great way to save for retirement. But, remember these assets are not controlled by your Will or Trust. These and other valuable assets in your estate are governed by beneficiary designations. A qualified estate and retirement planning attorney, who focuses their practice in that area, can help tailor an estate plan that coordinates the beneficiary designations and also maximizes the “stretch” or period of distribution.

*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.*

# Smart Financial Moves Can Help Brighten Holiday Season

If you’re like many people, you’re watching your dollars extra carefully this year as you do your holiday shopping. And that’s a good thing, because even in the best of times, it’s never wise to go overboard on gifts. But by making the right moves during this holiday season, you can also help ensure that you stay on track toward your long-term financial goals.

Specifically, what steps should you be taking during these weeks? Here are a few suggestions:

- Avoid racking up big debts. In a time of economic uncertainty, the last thing you want is to take on a new debt load. Everyone in your life who is important enough to receive a gift from you will understand if you don’t splurge on presents you can’t afford. And winter can be pretty gloomy when you’re trying to pay off big credit card bills from the past holiday season.

- Establish a gift fund. For next year’s gift-giving season, you may want to open a special “gift fund.” Of course, it’s not easy for any of us to find “extra” money after we’re done paying our bills, so the best way to set up your gift fund may be to have the money moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account to another liquid account — one that you wouldn’t normally touch for your day-to-day expenses. Even if you can only afford to put in a small amount each month, you might be surprised at how much you’ll accumulate in a year.

- Don’t touch long-term investments to pay for gifts. Some people tap into their long-term investments to pay for holiday gifts, telling themselves they’ll re-fund the investment when they “get caught up” — but that rarely happens. In fact, once you cash out part of an investment to pay for a gift or an everyday expense, you’ll set yourself back in your pursuit of your financial objectives — so do whatever you can to help preserve those investments. Apart from setting up a gift fund, you’ll also want to make sure you have a reasonable amount of “cash” and cash equivalents in your investment portfolio.

- Protect yourself from identity theft. Victims of identity theft can testify that it’s an enormous — and possibly expensive — hassle. Unfortunately, identity theft seems to go up during the holiday season, so take steps to protect yourself. When you go out shopping, just take one debit or credit card with you — and look around whenever you use it. Identity thieves have been known to copy down credit card numbers and even photograph credit cards with cell phones. Also, if you’re shopping online, make sure you’re on a secure web site. One way to check for a secure site is to look for “https” in the Web address, along with the icon of the locked padlock on your browser’s status bar.

- Shop early for bargains. As you probably know, the best bargains come during stores’ “after-holiday” sales. By taking advantage of these sales, you can stock up on gifts for the next holiday season.

By following these suggestions, you may be able to remove a lot of the financial stress that often accompanies the holidays — and that, by itself, can help you enjoy the season even more.

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.



**Neil Gardner**

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# LOCAL SCHOOLS & YOUTH EVENTS

## Chanukah Party for Kids

Bring your children for a spectacular Chanukah party just for them! They will enjoy games, songs, stories, treats and more, all in the special holiday spirit. December 12, 2009, at approximately 11:30 a.m. (after Shabbat morning services) at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St. in Skokie. No RSVP is required. For more information, please contact us at 847-677-1770 or via the website, [www.SkokieChabad.org](http://www.SkokieChabad.org).

## Ring in Holidays with a Different Rudolf

Family entertainer Dave Rudolf takes the stage for his interactive holiday show, 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, at Oakton Community College's Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Whether Santa's elves have listed you under "naughty" or "nice," Rudolf's show has something for everyone, from jolly parodies including "Candy Cane Twist" and "Frosty the Snowman," to traditional songs of the season. The show is recommended for all ages. A three-time Parent's Choice Award winner, Rudolf has released 10 children's albums and has shared stages with the Beach Boys and Tim McGraw. Tickets are \$7 for general admission; \$5 for children 12 and under; and \$4 for groups of 15 or more. For more information, call the Oakton Box Office at 847-635-1900.

## "NEW WORKS" BY NILES NORTH ARTISTS AT MORTON GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY BEGINNING DECEMBER 1

The community is invited to an opening reception for the Niles North High School art exhibition "New Works," from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove. The exhibit, which includes paintings, drawings and digital photography created by Niles North artists, will be on display in the Baxter Room (auditorium) from December 1 until January 2. The library's hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## NILES WEST HOSTED 19TH ANNUAL JUNIOR HIGH ORCHESTRA CLINIC

On Thursday, November 19, Niles West High School hosted the 19th annual Niles West/University of Illinois Junior High Orchestra Clinic. There were 19 junior high orchestras from around the state that participated. The clinic was run by the Niles West Orchestra Student Board, sponsored by Steven Katz, Niles West High School Orchestra Director. Serving as clinicians were Dr. Louis Bergonzi from the University of Illinois, Joanne May from Elmhurst College and John Fitchuk from Wheaton College.

According to Orchestra Director Katz, "This was a great event for the orchestra and I received numerous compliments from clinicians and junior high orchestra directors concerning the great job that our Orchestra Board did in running this event. They were in charge of every aspect of this clinic, including videotaping the concert for each school, setting up the warm-up rooms, clinic rooms and stage, emceeding the event, greeting and guiding the orchestras throughout the school and organizing meals for Niles West students, our clinicians and the 20 music major students from the University of Illinois who observed the clinic."

Members of the Orchestra Board who worked on the event: Lucy Chang, Sheryl Cherian, Rita Chiu, Rhon DeVera, Sandy Gonzalez, Eunice Hong, Grace Kim, Michelle Kim, Hillary Lindwall, Spencer Love, Harris Miller, Michelle Ouy, Rizelle Prado, Paula Saelim, Divya Shah, Claire Son, Trace Hiyama, Patrick Liscio and especially Orchestra Board President Jennifer Wong and Vice President Tommy Ng.

Participating schools were: Herrick Middle School from Downers Grove, Springman Middle School from Glenview, Lake Zurich Middle School South, Lincoln Junior High School from Skokie, Joliet All City Orchestra, The Avery Coonley School from Downers Grove, Park View School from Morton Grove, Roosevelt Middle School from River Forest, Daniel Wright Junior High School from Lincolnshire, Northbrook Junior High School, Century Junior High School from Orland Park, Columbia Middle School from Peoria, Calvin Coolidge Middle School from Peoria, Nichols Middle School from Evanston, Wilkins Junior High School from Justice, Friendship Junior High School from Des Plaines, Fairview South School from Skokie, Holmes Junior High School from Mt. Prospect, and Lincoln Middle School from Mount Prospect.

## Free Reading/ESL/GED Classes for Adults Tutors Needed

Adults who need help with their English speaking, reading, writing, math, or GED preparation can attend free classes through Oakton Community College. If you are searching for a meaningful volunteer activity, a required 3-part training session will be held at Oakton in Skokie on January 7 and 12, 6:15-10 pm and on Sat., Jan. 30, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call 847-635-1426 for a list of classes or more information about becoming a VITA volunteer tutor. Our e-mail address is: [www.oakton.edu/cont\\_ed/vita.html](http://www.oakton.edu/cont_ed/vita.html).



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