

# NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

DECEMBER 2, 2010 ★ A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION ★ WWW.NILESHERALDSPECTATOR.COM ★ \$2.00

## THIS WEEK

### FOOD



#### THE RAW TRUTH

Eating without cooking  
boosts health

PAGE 26



#### Home Front

by BlockShopper

#### House calls

Which local  
residence sold, and  
for how much? Turn to  
Home Front to find out

PAGE 19



## EARLY TO 'BUYS'

Shoppers make their way through Golf Mill Shopping Center, which opened at 6 a.m. for "Black Friday" shoppers. PAGE 6. | Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

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**Skokie \$350,000**  
Adorable 4bed/3ba Cape Cod w/newer updates. Hdw flrs finished bsmt & more. ID#03105299  
Sheila Doyle 847-491-1855



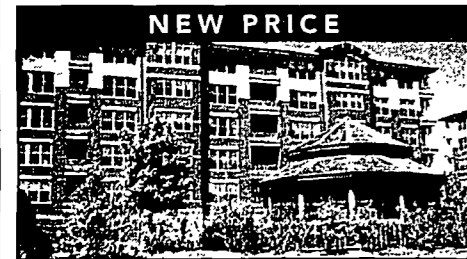
**Skokie \$347,500**  
Superb 3bd/Devonshire Hghlnds w/updts/Custom Brick wrk/Rock grdn/Must see! ID#03105303  
Dorit Helmer 847-491-1855



**Lincolnwood \$339,000**  
Lincolnwood estates- traditional brk georgian-spacious home offers 4 bdrms ID#04405281  
Irene Yungerman 773-775-1855



**Skokie \$315,000**  
Newer condo. 2br w/eat-in kit & Indry rm. Mstr w/2 closets, ba w/sep shower ID#93909018  
Maureen Dunn 847-446-1855



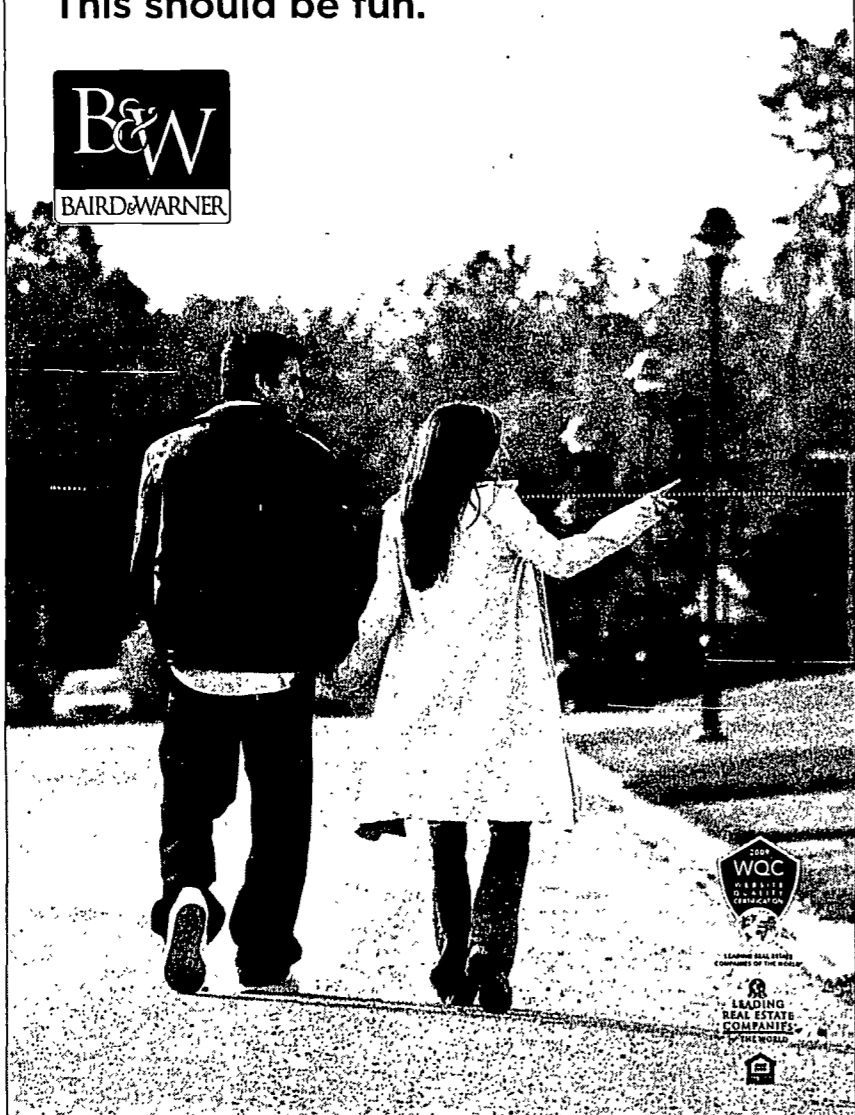
**Skokie \$305,000**  
Gorgeous 2bd/2ba condo in desirable Skokie subdivision. 2 prkng spaces ID#03105319  
Sheila Doyle / Tami Carlsen 847-491-1855

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Fairview south school dist. 50x125 lot. Oak hdwd flrs, inv LR w/wdbfrpl. ID#04405381  
Rebecca Cleal 773-775-1855



**Skokie \$279,000**  
Sparkling split level home in desirable neighborhood! Ready to move into. ID#03905295  
Lynn Barras 847-446-1855



**Morton Grove \$254,500**  
3 Bd 2 Ba Nr trns, I-94. Walk to parks, school. PKVw & Niles W. Schools. ID#03105287  
Theo Shaw 847-491-1855



**Morton Grove \$199,000**  
Well maint quality blt brk ranch, 2C gar, large yard in area of new constr. ID#04405595  
Tina Marie Campbell 773-775-1855



**Skokie \$124,000**  
MovetoBarcelona! Updated 1-bdrmonthe "green, quiet" side. Deeded parking! ID#03905075  
Mary Anne Perrine 847-446-1855

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**3NWilliamSt.com Mount Prospect**  
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Joseph Stacy 847.874.6800



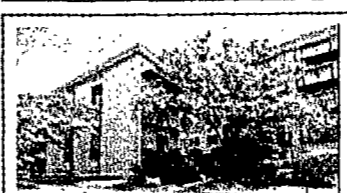
**606ECampMcDonaldRd.com Prospect Heights**  
Completely updated brick ranch on appx 1/2 acre lot. Newer kit w/granite breakfast bar opens to lv & din rms. Adjacent fam rm. Hdwd flrs. Short sale. 3 br/2 ba. \$299,900  
Janet Wilson, GRI, ABR, SFR 847.272.0330



**4850WBirchwoodAve.com Skokie**  
BI-level home in Fairview area. Large living room, sep dining room, huge and updated kitchen. Newly finished family rm in lower level. Det 2-car gar. 3 br/2 ba. \$260,000  
Walld Tallya 773.435.4300



**1307NutmegCtD.com Mount Prospect**  
Unit w/tranquil setting. Pond view w/lush landscaping. Living rm cathedral ceiling w/skylights. Fireplace. Bamboo floors thruout. Laundry in-unit. 2 br/2 ba. \$249,000  
Shirlee Ehlers 847.823.4144



**8600WaukeganRd504E.com Morton Grove**  
Unique condo. Top flr, corner unit. Very spacious, eat-in kit w/wood cabs & newer appls. Newer wood/mahogany laminate flr & newer sliders & windows. 2 br/2 ba. \$209,900  
Mary Andriotis 847.823.4144



**453WRandRd.com Mount Prospect**  
Mt Prospect home has been professionally painted thru-out, new windows, new carpeting, new bath & huge fam rm addition w/a bar. Detached 2-car garage. 2 br/1.5 ba. \$175,000  
Jon Sesterhenn 847.874.6800



**6400NCiceroAve402.com Lincolnwood**  
Spacious unit with newer Berber carpet. Newer furnace, a/c in 2004. Master br walk-in closet, shower stall in master ba, sliding door to balcony. 2 br/2 ba. \$159,900  
Sharon Kolber 773.435.4300



**6400NCiceroAve202.com Lincolnwood**  
Estate sale. Appx 1,575 sq ft. Fam rm/den opens to kit, eating area, many cabs. New frig. Corian, large balcony off kit & lv rm. In-unit laundry. 1 br/2 ba. \$150,000  
Sharon Kolber 773.435.4300



**8300CalleAve501.com Morton Grove**  
Nice condo close to transportation and parks. Well maintained building. Short sale. 1 br/1 ba. \$103,500  
Carmen Hedeann 773.435.4300

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# Local News

5  
NIL • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

Managing Editor: Matt Schmitz  
Phone: (708) 524-4433 | mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com

THIS WEEK: SHOPPERS UP EARLY FOR BLACK FRIDAY | POLITICS: VILLAGE BOARD TO TALK VIDEO GAMING | POLICE: MERITORIOUS SERVICE REWARDED | CRIME: MAINE EAST STUDENT REPORTS LURING ATTEMPT

## NILES TOWNSHIP

# Food pantry faces unprecedented demand

By MIKE ISAACS  
misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

A new sign hangs near the entrance of the Niles Township Food Pantry: "You can count on us to be here when you need us."

Food Pantry Director Cynthia Carranza, who put up the sign, knows better than anyone the challenges in meeting that comforting promise.

"I've never seen anything like the demand we've had recently," Carranza said following one of the toughest Food Pantry days in its history.

For three days leading up to Thanksgiving eve, the Food Pantry gave away roomfuls of food. During that time, it served food

for more than 800 households, more than 200 of them on that last day.

The first day was for registered clients, the second day for seniors and Nov. 24, the toughest of them all, for others not in the first two categories.

For the first time Carranza can remember, the Pantry ran out of turkeys after giving away 650 of them before the holiday.

"I just didn't think it would get that bad," she said. "I saw more desperation than I have ever seen before. It was just unimaginable the desperation I was seeing in people's faces."

Carranza called it "the worst day" since she's been on the job. "I mean the ab-

solute worst," she said.

Not only has the continuing recession created a greater need for food but also pantry workers have been witness to a barrage of heartbreaking stories.

A Skokie man with four children called Carranza last week pleading for food.

"He said, 'Please help me.' He said he had no food. Period. He had nothing for the holidays and he didn't even have regular food," Carranza recalled.

The man tried contacting different agencies but they couldn't offer him help until a future date. He was desperate for any food and even intimated that he

Food pantry, PAGE 14

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

# Volunteering, money donations most needed

By MIKE ISAACS  
misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

At one time, it didn't matter to Niles Township Food Pantry Director Cynthia Carranza whether people wanted to donate money or food to help her pantry.

Now, she reluctantly and even a bit embarrassingly has to ask for money as a first choice.

"I liked to leave it up to people to choose," she said. "People could donate the way they wanted. Whatever was in their heart was fine with me."

But that was before the recession, before large numbers of new people began using the pantry and before prices and availability of food presented new challenges.

"Now the food goes flying out the door and it's so expensive to buy the food that we need monetary donations," Carranza said.

At the start of the recession several years ago, people were eager to help.

"In the beginning, a lot of people expected the recession was going to be a year-long thing," she said. "And we saw a lot of generosity at first. It was very heartwarming to see the generosity in food donations and monetary donations to all food pantries, not just ours."

But it's a different time

now, and donations have declined as demand has increased.

Even though monetary donations are most needed now, The Niles Township Food Pantry still welcomes food donations as well.

Among foods the pantry could use are turkeys, hams, roasting chickens, canned fruit, bottled or

canned juice, small jars of jelly, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, canned soups, boxed pasta dishes, pasta, boxed rice dishes, mixed vegetables, canned tuna, stuffing mix, small jars of mayonnaise, small cans of coffee, small boxes of tea, crackers, packaged cookies, gravy (dry or liquid), pie shells (dry or frozen), pie fillings, and cake mixes.

Donations of personal care items such as razors (men/women), shaving cream, aftershave, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, soap, lotion, feminine hygiene products, tissues, toilet paper, laundry detergent, bleach, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and mouthwash are also accepted.

Many local school events and projects, including the creation of gardens, have benefited the pantry. Skokie Voice, a new community residents' association, recently held an open house

where cans of food were collected for the pantry.

Three paid staff members — Carranza and employees Tony Araque and James Tassev — as well as 11 part-time volunteers keep the pantry running. The pantry also gets help from children with special needs and those who must perform community service.

But more volunteers are still needed, Carranza said. It's not always a romantic job, she admitted, but people serious about the work will have the satisfaction of knowing they are helping people in need.

That's certainly true of Bill Zimmer, 68, of Morton Grove, who has been working at the pantry for more than two years. His wife is also a commissioner on the Niles Township Board.

"It's a giveback," he said. "I'm retired and it's important to give back to the community. I don't like sitting at home. I'd rather help people."

Zimmer puts in orders for food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository and drives the truck delivering food to the pantry.

Nancy Lanning, 72, of Morton Grove, just began working for the Food Pantry, but volunteering is

Donations, PAGE 14



Niles Township Food Pantry employee Tony Araque of Chicago unloads a new batch of food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository last week. The food pantry, located in Skokie, has seen an explosion in the need for food and has been trying to keep up with the unprecedented demand. | Mike Isaacs-Sun-Times Media



**Bargain hunters** The Golf Mill Shopping Center opened at 6 a.m. for "Black Friday" shoppers, with certain stores offering special sales, deals and giveaways.



Ashley Jacoby and Jenny Aglikin talk as they make their way through the early-morning shoppers at the Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles on Friday.



Shoppers sought deals from special sales during an early opening of the Golf Mill Shopping Center. | Photos by Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

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**SLIDESHOW**



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**PIONEER PRESS**

John Barron Publisher (847) 486-7201

Jeff Wisser Editor in Chief (847) 486-6848

Mike Sperling Vice President Advertising (847) 486-7307

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By e-mail: mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com By mail: Letters to the editor, Niles Herald-Spectator, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026 By fax: (847) 486-7495 Letters must include name, address and daytime phone

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**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

# Video gambling to come up again at January meeting

By **TRACY GRUEN**  
Contributor

Village of Niles trustees voted on Nov. 23 to delay the discussion of banning video gaming in Niles until the January village board meeting.

The Illinois Video Gaming Act that was enacted on July 13, 2009, legalized the use of video-gaming terminals in liquor-licensed establishments, such as bars, restaurants and veterans halls. A municipality or county can ban video gaming by passing an ordinance that prohibits the activity.

The village board was expected to discuss whether to ban video gaming in the village at the regular board meeting Nov. 23, but Mayor Robert Callero recommended that they table the discussion until June due to a lack of information regarding specific rules and regulations of the Illinois Video Gaming Act.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak suggested discussing the issue at the January meeting instead of waiting until June, and after much discussion the board eventually voted in favor of this. He wanted to make sure local

restaurant and bar owners were aware that they shouldn't move forward with anything related to video gaming until the village board decides whether to ban it in Niles.

Mayor Robert Callero assured the board that he sent a letter to local liquor establishments informing them they should not sign any contracts or spend money on video gaming until the board makes a decision regarding video gaming.

Trustee Andrew Przybylo supported Callero's suggestion of waiting until June to discuss the issue, because he didn't see a reason to discuss it sooner if they would not have any additional information.

"Are we going to discuss the evils of gambling?" wondered Przybylo, about why they should bring it back in January. He said personally he'd "prefer not to have video gaming in Niles," but he's willing to hear arguments on the other side.

"We can't vote on what we don't know," said Callero, who noted that the village will have no more information in January than they do currently.

In nearby communities, 15 banned video poker and 20 have taken a positive "wait-and-see" approach.

At a village board meeting on video gaming June 30, Mayor Callero showed his support for video gaming in Niles. At the meeting it was stated that video gaming is expected to create estimated receipts for the village of between \$150,000 and \$300,000 annually.

At that same meeting Harry Achino, owner of A's Bar, 8553 Milwaukee Ave., said bars have been struggling due to the economy and the smoking ban, and banning video gambling in Niles would cause them to lose business to bars in surrounding towns where it is permitted.

Pete Dalamangas, the owner of Chaser's Bar and Grill, 9003 N. Milwaukee Ave., felt the same way and urged Callero and the trustees to allow video gaming in Niles.

Ginger Troiani, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars facility on Caldwell Avenue, said the VFW is short of funds and could benefit from additional revenue from video gaming.

**NOTRE DAME COLLEGE PREP**

**Adopt-A-Kid donations accepted until Friday**

The holidays are traditionally a time to share with others so, as they have for the past 20 years, the Notre Dame College Prep community is participating in the Adopt-A-Kid program to help less-fortunate children feel the joy of Christmas.

Students, staff and faculty are sponsoring 165 children through the Adopt-A-Kid Christmas Program. Adopt-A-Kid has been in existence

for 22 years. All students were asked to donate \$5 in the spirit of giving. Each Advisory will take the names of four children and raise the necessary money to purchase one practical gift and one fun gift for each child. Donations are being accepted through December 3.

National Honor Society members will organize and deliver the gifts to the Adopt-A-Kid Program location. NHS students will also take an active role in the Santa's

Workshop that checks, packs and bags more than 8,000 gifts from more than 60 schools and workplaces. The gifts will then be delivered to numerous agencies.

"It's so simple — your \$5 can make the holidays a bit happier for a child," said Joan Daul, a Notre Dame counselor and moderator of the National Honor Society, in a news release.

For more information contact Daul, (847) 779-8693, or jdaul@nddons.org.

Advertisement

## \$1500 Tax Credit for Homeowners Set to Expire

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that provides homeowners with a tax credit equal to thirty percent (30%) of the cost in an amount not to exceed \$1500 for energy efficient home improvements is set to expire December 31, 2010. Homeowners in the Chicagoland area are encouraged to take advantage of the stimulus package immediately.

Brian Carlisle noticed several drafty areas in his 55-year-old 2-story brick Georgian home. He didn't think there was much that could be done to insulate his brick walls and was resigned to another cold Chicago winter. Carlisle saw USA Insulation at a home and garden show and liked what he saw in the demonstration.

"They were the only ones that installed the foam insulation from the outside," he said. "And the foam is environmentally friendly." Carlisle was impressed with the installation as well as the installers. "They drilled holes through the mortar junctions, but you can't see where the holes were when they were finished." Carlisle has noticed some definite improvements in his indoor environment.

"Before my house was insulated, my

furnace and air conditioner would work constantly to keep my house comfortable. Now they run less often, and I've seen a dramatic difference in my utility bills. There is an evenness of temperature throughout the house, which is very significant," he added. "Also, my house is much quieter than it used to be. I can't hear the outside traffic or the noisy crickets anymore. It's a great product, and it will also be good for the resale value of my home."

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**NILES POLICE**

**Police awards honor meritorious service**

On Nov. 19 the Niles Police Department held its third annual awards luncheon at the White Eagle in Niles, a news release stated. The ceremony is held to honor those who have performed meritorious service.

Cook County Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Timothy Hannigan received the Chief's Award of Valor for pulling a driver from a burning vehicle at Golf Road and Milwaukee Avenue on Dec. 16,

2009. Niles resident Kathleen DeRosa was awarded the Chief's Citizen Award for notifying and assisting Niles investigators about suspicious activity that eventually led to an arrest in her community in 2009.

Detective Sgts. Joseph O'Sullivan and John Huinker along with Detective Thomas Fragassi received department commendations for their part in a homicide investigation in November 2009 in which a 15-year-old boy was run down with a motor vehicle in Niles. The offender was arrested and

charged.

Officers Michael Oracion, David Pekosh and Brian Zagorski received department commendations for responding to a house fire on Nov. 28, 2009, on the 7600 block of Grennan Place. The officers entered the burning home and helped family members escape.

Officers James Griesenauer and Michael Allmon received department commendations for chasing down and arresting a felony shoplifter after he attempted to flee and elude them in a vehicle and on foot on

Aug. 8.

Officer Anthony Scipione was awarded a department commendation for responding to a stabbing at a Niles nightclub in May, finding the offender in the nightclub and having him identified by witnesses and charged.

Detective Nick Beyer was awarded two department commendations, one was for identifying and arresting a man who robbed a Niles business in November 2009 and also recovering the weapon used, and the second for arresting a person in July for possession of co-

caine while Beyer was conducting surveillance on a park in Niles that had received numerous complaints from local residents of criminal activity.

Officer Noe Hernandez was awarded a department commendation for identifying a "tagging crew" resulting in the arrest of four juveniles who committed multiple criminal damage to property offenses in Niles in March 2010.

Officers James Griesenauer, Joseph Lazo and Paul Murphy were awarded commendations for the arrest of

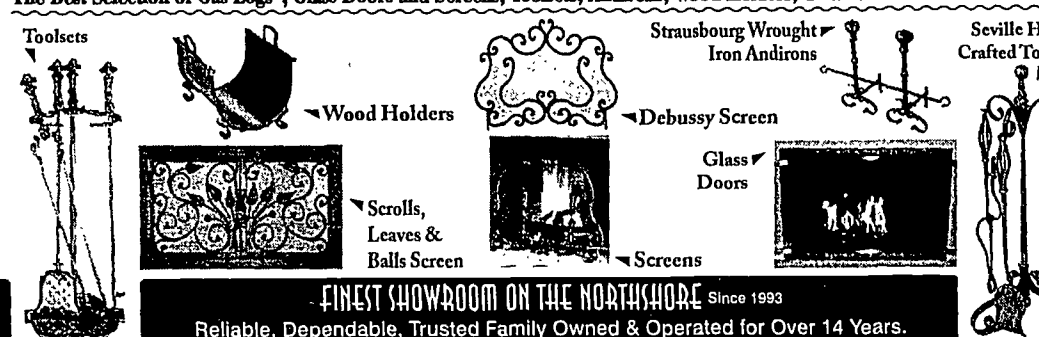
a person who had burglarized a gym locker at the YMCA and then attempted to flee in a stolen vehicle. The offender was captured after a brief car and foot chase. Their efforts solved an additional locker burglary and recovered the stolen property and resulted in five felony charges.

Special Service Officer Edward Bacher was awarded a department commendation for finding 29 vehicles in 12 months that were delinquent for parking tickets totaling more than \$52,000.

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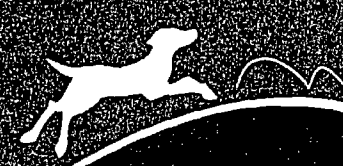
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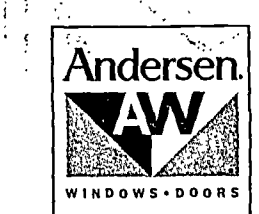
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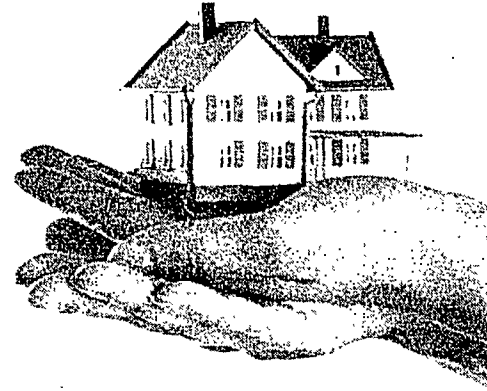
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Santa arrived at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Nov. 20. | Contributed photo

**GOLF MILL SHOPPING CENTER**

**Santa's arrival coincides with nonperishable food collection**

Santa arrived at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Nov. 20 in a smooth ride to the Santa Depot in a red, hot convertible "sleigh," according to a news release.

Led by dancers from Studio 22 High Tek, the red-convertible sleigh provided by Golf Mill Ford took Santa to his destination for pictures, ornament decorating and free hot chocolate from Cinnabon.

The arrival of Santa was the official kickoff to the Festival of Trees program, during which shoppers are encouraged to vote for their favorite tree by bringing nonperishable food items that will benefit the Maine Township Food Pantry. Each item counts as one vote.

Carol Teschky, supervisor at Maine Township, welcomed the program among the crowd of shoppers gathered around for the countdown to tree lighting.

Mayor Robert Callero greeted everyone and was excited about the way Golf Mill kicked off a holiday season.

Callero said: "I want you of course to go around the mall and start your Christmas shopping, because that helps everyone."

Choir singers from The Willows Academy in Des Plaines helped bring holiday cheer with classic holiday songs, like Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

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'NO KIDDING, IT'S HORRIBLE'

# Cook County sees property values down, taxes up

It's property tax time in Cook County, and the latest bills have hit home with a vengeance.

Recipients report anger, despair or just plain bewilderment. They've had to relearn a lesson forgotten when housing prices rose: The bill can rise, and probably will, even when the assessment drops.

"No kidding, it's horrible," said 44-year-old Bill Erickson, who visited the assessor's office to complain about the bill on his Albany Park home, up 19 percent to \$8,187 a year.

"I don't have any pie-in-the-sky dreams. I'm sure I expected a 4 or 5 percent [increase]. But 19 percent? That's unreasonable," Erickson said. He said he's gearing up to appeal his assessment next year.

Housing is in a bear mar-

ket that by most accounts started in early 2007. The crash has shaved more than 30 percent from the value of most Chicago area homes.

Cook County Assessor James Houlihan, whose office sets the value for tax purposes of county property, said he's kept pace with the fast-moving market. Properties get reassessed every three years, but in 2009 he jumped ahead of schedule to order blanket assessment reductions for suburban homes.

The cuts ranged from 4 percent to 15 percent, depending on the township. For the city, the regularly scheduled reassessment last year saw values reduced in all but a few elite neighborhoods, such as the Gold Coast, Houlihan said.

How did that translate to

the tax bills? In the suburbs, more than 80 percent of homeowners saw an increase in the latest bill, Houlihan said. In Chicago, 54 percent of the residential bills went up, he said.

When people get blindsided by property taxes, they often blame the assessor, who has only a part of the process, or the Cook County treasurer, who's just the messenger who mails the bill and collects the payment.

Experts in the process say there are at least three culprits behind the higher bills. First and foremost are local governments, the agencies that police streets and teach children. Their spending requests, called tax levies, determine how much has to be raised from property owners.

The second factor re-

minds you that you neglected high school algebra. It's the state multiplier, a figure applied to property tax valuations each year by the Illinois Department of Revenue. It more than triples the tax value of Cook County properties.

It exists because of a long-running argument between state and local officials over whether Cook County property is underassessed compared with parcels in other counties. This year's multiplier of 3.3701 is 13 percent higher than last year's and would hike the bills by itself without some other factor negating it.

And if you think that's complex, consider the last big tax-bill influence: exemptions. Cook County has a patchwork of exemptions that extends breaks to some homeowners and de-

nies them to others. When someone gets a big change, Houlihan said, it's often because exemptions they used to receive dropped off the books, perhaps in error.

Houlihan said other taxpayers have been affected by a gradual rollback in a state-imposed limit of 7 percent on assessment increases. Reductions in that benefit took effect this year for the northern suburbs.

Myer Blank, executive director of Chicago's Tax Assistance Center, an agency set up to help people contest assessments, said homeowners sometimes fail to apply each year for exemptions, such as one that freezes assessments for low-income seniors, or one that limits increases for owners of the same property for at least 10 years.

Blank also said the 7 percent limit sometimes gets removed entirely when a home is refinanced, when that should happen only for a sale.

Andrea Raila, a property tax lawyer, said the system's complexity creates unfairness and likens it to the U.S. income tax code.

Houlihan, who is leaving office next month after 13 years, said the complexity is often played up "by the property tax bar as a pretense for seeking clients." He said most people understand their bills with a little explanation.

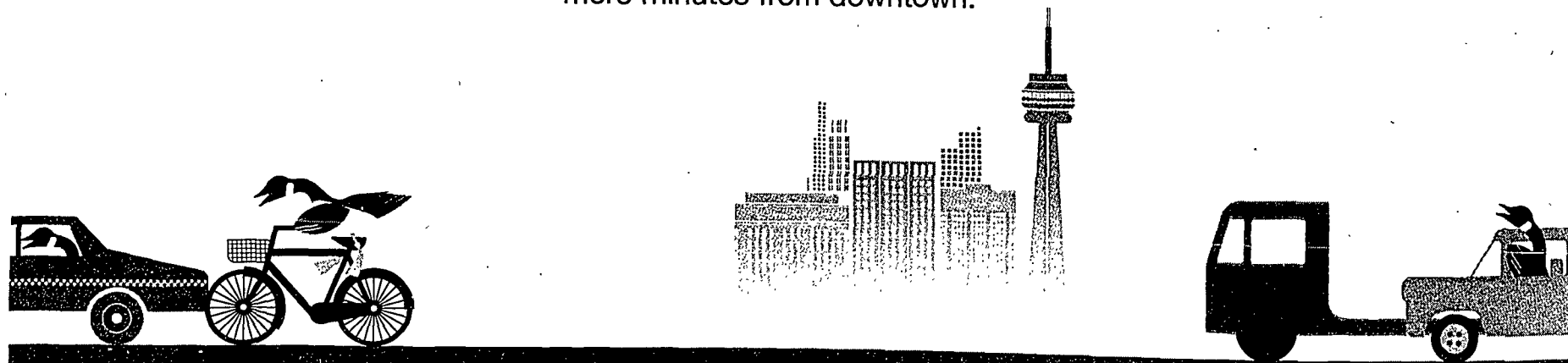
A steady stream of homeowners is coming to his downtown and suburban offices, bill in hand, seeking that counsel. They can be expected at least until the bill's due date of Dec. 13.

—STM

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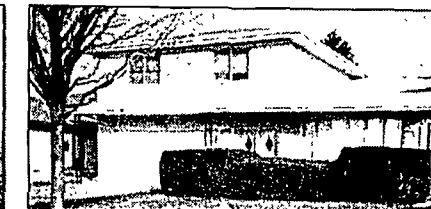
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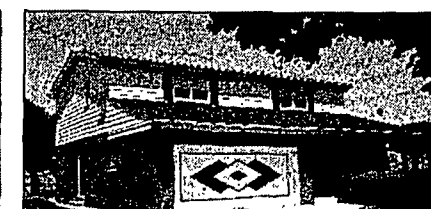
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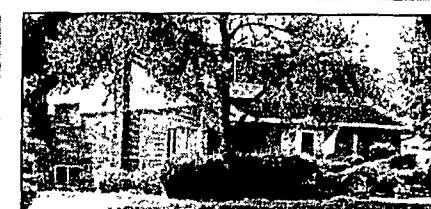
**Morton Grove \$899,000**  
Expansive 6 br, 5.5 ba loaded w/Brazilian cherry floors. Gourmet kit. Liv rm w/plc. All baltis w/natural stone. Deck w/hot tub. 3-car gar.



**Niles \$399,000**  
Multi-level 4 br, 2.5 ba. Lrg foyer, liv rm w/cath ceil & fam rm. Sliders to patio. Wbtp. EA. Hdwd fls. Furn&a/c 2005; roof 2002. 2-car gar.

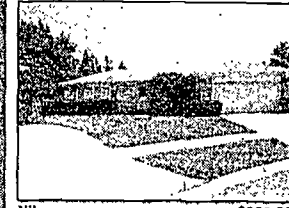


**Niles \$389,000**  
Attractive 4 br, 2+ ba Colonial. Main flr fam rm, mstr w/walk-in closet, bsmt rec rm, new kit appl, hdwd flrs under carpet, new roof.



**Niles \$385,000**  
4 br, 3 ba home on a huge lot w/many improvements & updates. All refin hdwd flrs. Big eat-in kitchen w/new oven, cooktop & new ceramic fls.

Marla Schneider 6105Elm.info 847-724-5800



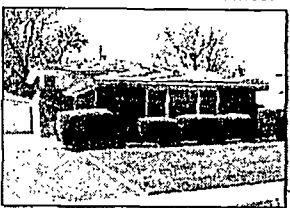
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**Morton Grove \$359,000**  
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www.8529Chester.info



**Morton Grove \$335,000**  
Spacious and open floor plan. 3 br, 2 ba. Meticulously maintained Mortonaire split. Large liv/din rm combo with beautiful picture window.

Bill Alston 847-696-0700



**Morton Grove \$300,000**  
Beautiful 2 br, 2.5 ba unit with \$40,000 of upgrades. 42 inch cherry cabinets and hardwood floor in the kitchen with sliding door to patio.

Barbara Mundt 847-696-0700



**Morton Grove \$298,000**  
3 bedroom, 2 bath with nice curb appeal. Good size split level. Newer white appliances, ceramic tile kitchen, hardwood floors. 2.5-car gar.

Andrew Grzesiak 847-696-0700



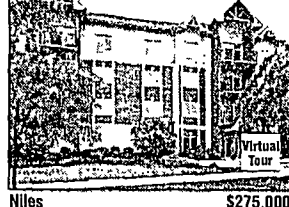
**Niles \$279,900**  
3 br, 1.5 ba jumbo bi-level duplex w/formal din rm, fam rm, bsmt & laundry w/storage. Large fenced yard w/patio. 3 prkg spaces.

Tony Lullo 847-696-0700



**Niles \$279,000**  
Attractive 3 br, 2 ba bi-level in great loc! Updated kit & both ba. Newer windows. Hdwd flrs under carpet. 2.5-car gar, big patio & more.

Semi Klim 847-480-071



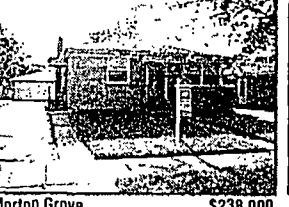
**Morton Grove \$275,000**  
2 br, 2 ba. Top-of-the-line finishes throughout. 10 ft ceilings. Hdwd flrs in kitchen and great room. Kitchen with Kraft cabs, huge island.

www.9438ozanam.info 847-945-7100



**Morton Grove \$240,000**  
Great 3 br, 2 ba home w/2-car att garage on spacious corner lot. Hdwd flrs. Rec rm w/built ins, family rm w/wood-burning fireplace & more.

Suraj Malik 847-724-5800



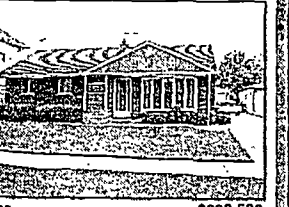
**Morton Grove \$238,000**  
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath located on a quiet tree-lined street, close to schools, transportation and shopping. Gleaming hardwood floors.

Bernadette La Rocco 312-543-3838



**Morton Grove \$229,900**  
4 bedroom, 2 bath home location near Prairie View sports center and Prairie View shopping center.

Andrew Grzesiak 847-696-0700



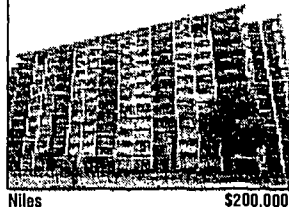
**Niles \$229,500**  
3 br solid brick ranch located in Park Ridge School District. 3rd br/sep din rm. Many recent appl. Extra-lrg 2.5-car gar. Deep yard w/shed.

Bill Alston 847-696-0700



**Niles \$201,500**  
Sturdy 2 bedroom home needs updating or build new. Low tax area with many new homes.

Phyllis Hollander 847-945-7100



**Morton Grove \$200,000**  
Upgraded 2 br, 2 ba corner unit. Den/ofc can be 3rd br. Maple cabs, stainless appl, updated ba. Assessment incl pool, heat, cable. Lrg balc.

Muriel Koester 847-724-5800



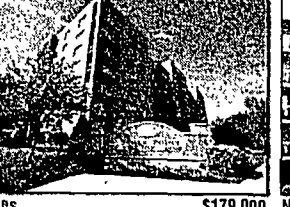
**Niles \$189,000**  
2 br, 2 ba corner unit w/plc. Full size eat-in kitchen. Master br w/Jacuzzi. Full laundry room. Double balcony. Heated indoor gar.

Connie Redelsperger 773-467-5300



**Morton Grove \$179,000**  
Lovely 2 br, 2 ba condo w/neutral decor. Newer appliances & countertops in kit & balcony from eating area & liv rm. Spacious master suite.

Patricia Furman 847-724-5800



**Niles \$179,000**  
Bright & cheery 1 br penthouse unit w/high ceilings & sky lit rooms. Lots of upgrades. Large living/dining rm. Heated parking.

Basil Paoulos 847-696-0700



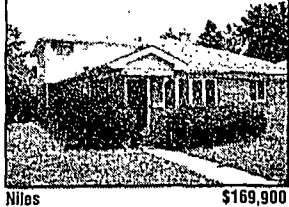
**Niles \$170,000**  
Tree-top facing 2 br, 2 ba well-maint unit. Large eat-in kitchen with skylite. Separate in-unit laundry room with full size w/d. Heated gar.

Connie Redelsperger 773-467-5300



**Morton Grove \$169,900**  
Bright 2 br, 1.5 ba sunny unit w/southwest exposure. Large living & dining rooms & inviting patio. The unit has an assigned parking.

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**Niles \$169,900**  
Fantastic opportunity! Corporate-owned 4 bedroom, 2 bath home being sold in as-is condition.

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3 bedroom home. Needs work. Short sale. Don't miss this opportunity!

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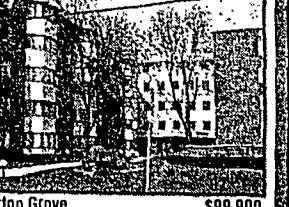
**Niles \$139,900**  
Largest unit in complex! 2 br, 2.5 ba unit feat new carpet, window treatments, fresh paint, newer a/c units. 2 balc. Ample closets & ba.

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**Niles \$107,000**  
Beautiful 1br condo w/fresh paint. New carpeting in neutral colors. Large guest & linen closets in foyer. Eat-in kit opens to liv/din rm.

lisa Farrell 847-724-5800



**Morton Grove \$99,900**  
Nice unit in Lotus Gardens. Seller will pay assessments through December 2010.

Frank Genualdi 847-384-7573

Anthony Nasca 847-696-0700

Janet Staackmann 847-864-2600

Basil Paoulos 847-696-0700

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### Food pantry

Continued from PAGE 5

didn't want to have to "hit somebody over the head" to buy food.

"And he meant that," Carranza said. "He was so desperate. He had four starving kids and he was contemplating whether he would have to rob somebody to get some food for those children."

Carranza put a turkey and other food aside for him, but she noted that the man wasn't even aware that the Food Pantry was available to him.

That, in part, is because so many new people who never dreamed they would be in a desperate situation are now looking for help, she said.

#### Middle class blues

The Food Pantry serves about 1,100 households per month, but that number is likely to dramatically rise during the holiday season.

The population of newcomers — many who believed they were securely in the middle or upper middle class not long ago — has accounted for the greatest growth.

"These people are all first-time users previously employed and a lot of them are very educated," Carranza said.

The spike in this demographic group has been on the rise the last three years — ever since the economy soured and the recession began.

### Donations

Continued from PAGE 5

nothing new to her.

She used to work at the Morton Grove Senior Center and has been on several church committees. She also volunteers as an emergency medical worker who can be called away at any time.

"I've been wanting to work for the food pantry, and since I don't work at the senior center anymore, I had the time," Lanning said. Her church brings Panera Bread

"The demand exploded and then just got worse and worse and worse," Carranza said. "There has not been a leveling out period yet, which makes it really rough because we can't just say we're giving away the norm, here it is."

Mark Collins, Niles Township Board member and liaison to the food pantry, says that Carranza and her team go about trying to save the world every day.

"It's the people that make this whole thing work," he said. "I'm not sure everyone realizes the challenge that they face, but it's really the people here who make a difference."

The Niles Township Board led by President Lee Tamraz has supported the pantry and recognized the growing need in the community. What many people don't recognize, Carranza said, is that any person can now find himself or herself in a state of need and desperation.

"I say over and over again that the people who come here could be you and they could be me," Carranza said.

"Many refuse to believe that, but I tell them I see your educated peers here who have lost their jobs — professionals who have been off of work for a year and a half. Despite their experience and education, their wisdom and everything, there's no job to be had."

#### Help needed, not pity

The Food Pantry is open to Niles Township residents in need who live between

Central Avenue (Glenview) to the north; Devon Avenue (Chicago border) to the south; McCormick Boulevard (Skokie and Lincolnwood) to the east; and Harlem Avenue (Morton Grove and Niles) to the west.

About 85 percent of residents who use the food pantry live in Skokie.

Registered clients "shop" twice a month and receive a variety of food to create a well-balanced meal. The Niles Township Food Pantry is one of the few that hands out meat.

"Technically, our category is emergency food pantry," Carranza explained. "We're here to prevent people from starving to death but in many cases, we are supplements for people."

The job has become all the more challenging not just because of the rise in demand but also because of the higher cost and lower availability of food.

The Niles Township Food Pantry is one of about 600 agencies under the Greater Chicago Food Depository. When Carranza first came to her job five years ago, she said, a variety of food was available for about 7 to 9 cents a pound, and some of it was free.

All of that has changed, she said.

The Pantry receives 7,000 to 8,000 pounds of food free, which doesn't go very far these days, Carranza said. An example of the new cost

Food pantry, PAGE 16

call Carranza at (847) 983-0073. Checks should be made out to the Niles Township Food Pantry Foundation.

More information about the Niles Township Food Pantry can also be obtained by joining Friends of the Niles Township Food Pantry on Facebook.

The pantry, located at 5255 Main St., Skokie, is open from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The pantry is closed the last two days of every month to restock the shelves.

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# Food pantry

Continued from PAGE 14

burdens facing the pantry can be seen in purchasing peanut butter, a staple item, which comes in 12 jars to a case.

The Pantry is allowed to buy 28 cases at a "subsidized rate" of \$6 per case, which in itself has increased over the last three years.

But that only amounts to 336 jars for \$168. To serve the Pantry's 1,110 member households, the Pantry must purchase the remaining jars at double the subsidized cost.

In total, the Pantry has to pay nearly \$1,000 for peanut butter, which is easily double the cost of such a purchase three or so years ago.

Still, Carranza said, the Niles Township Food Pantry is determined to meet the needs of the people it serves.

This summer, the pantry moved out of its cramped location to a structure in the back of the main Niles

Township building at 5255 Main St. The empty building once was used for child-care service, which is no longer provided there.

Although the square footage of the spaces are about equal, Carranza said, the layout is a major improvement and allows food to be stored and distributed in a much more efficient manner.

Carranza is also planning a special holiday party and holiday food pickup on Dec. 20, which is open only to registered families who have been using the pantry for at least three consecutive months. This is an additional service that Niles Township supports.

"It's very tough for everyone right now, and the stories we hear are heart-breaking," Carranza acknowledged.

"Some people say they couldn't do this job. But people in need don't need our pity, they need our help. They need for all of us to roll up our sleeves and to dig in and to take care of each other."



Niles Township Food Pantry employees Tony Araque of Chicago (right) and James Tassev of Skokie unload a new batch of food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository the day before Thanksgiving. | Mike Isaacs-Sun-Times Media

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 <b>2424 DEMPSTER</b> EVANSTON Bank owned property! Good exposure to traffic. Ideal for retail or auto use. Traffic count 21000 cars daily. \$499,000	 <b>5725R MEADE</b> CHICAGO This 5 bedroom 5 baths home has all you need for comfort living. 2 master bedrooms, 2 master baths, 2 full kitchens, 2 laundry rooms. 2nd floor features a great room with cathedral ceiling. \$539,000	 <b>5107 TOUHY</b> SKOKIE Short Sale!! Large 3Br/2Ba Bi-level w/2.5 Car gar, circular driveway. Newer windows Doors 2nd kitchen. Large fenced-in yard. \$539,000	 <b>3506 LINCOLN UNIT 316</b> MORTON GROVE Large and sunny desirable end unit has it all. New bay windows & balcony, updated kitchen with oak cabinets, tile floor. New dishwasher disposal & faucet. Porcelain floor in living, dining & bath. Both kids also have new windows with custom made treatments & new carpet. All place fully repaired and ready for new owners. Heat, water, cable, pool & more included in the asmt. \$179,000

AD #1809433, Pub: 12-2-10

## NORWOOD PARK TRAIN STATION

# Party aims to bring holiday cheer to widows, widowers

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The holidays can seem bleak for someone who has lost a spouse, but two local women are hoping to make the season a little more festive.

Widows Rock the Holidays, a cocktail party open to both women and men who have lost a spouse, will be 7-10 p.m. Dec. 11 at Northwest Cafe in the Norwood Park Train Station, 6088 N. Northwest Highway, in Chicago's Norwood Park

community.

The party is hosted by Wendy Doyle Diez, of Norwood Park, and Laura Tully Dennis, of Edison Park. The concept was developed by the national organization Soaring Spirits Loss Foundation, which provides widows and widowers a support network and opportunities to connect with others grappling with grief. Rock the Holidays parties are being held in a six U.S. cities including Chicago, this year.

"They are an opportuni-

ty for people who may not feel like celebrating during the holidays to get together with others who understand," Diez said.

Diez, who lost her husband, St. Paul of the Cross Church choir director Chris Diez, in 2009, said she volunteered to co-host Widows Rock after becoming involved in SSLF activities. The organization, she said, has helped her connect with younger women like herself who have lost a spouse.

The party will feature ap-

petizers, an open bar, raffles and a caroling performance. Those who attend will also have an opportunity to create a personalized ornament in memory of their spouse, which will be hung on a Christmas tree. Irene McGoldrick, author of a memoir about widowhood, is the special guest.

Diez said she hopes those

who attend will develop "some sort of feeling of kinship" with others.

"It's an opportunity for people to not feel pressured to be jolly but feel somewhat normal, experience a holiday gathering and meet new people in their communities who also deal with the same challenges they do," Diez said.

Widows Rock the Holidays is open to men and women of all ages. Tickets are \$30 and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Soaring Spirits Loss Foundation.

To order tickets go to [www.sssl.org/events.html](http://www.sssl.org/events.html) and scroll down to the Chicago "Rock the Holidays" event.

## MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM CHURCH

# A blanket statement

More than 200 blankets were made during Blankets of Dreams, an annual event sponsored by the Catholic Women of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church in Park Ridge.

Coordinator Terri Collins said a total of 225 blankets were created during the

daylong community event last month. Ten additional blankets were also donated.

The blankets were blessed during Mass the following day and have been distributed to four organizations that assist the homeless: Night Ministry of Chicago, a Chicago men's shelter; a

Public Action to Deliver Shelter site at St. Mary's Church in Des Plaines; and a Baptist church in Rockford.

More than 200 volunteers, many of them children, contributed their time to blanket-making, Collins said. *Comment: pioneerlocal.com*



Volunteer Paul d'Ambrosio, 14, of Park Ridge, helps make a blanket for the homeless Nov. 13 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom in Park Ridge. | Buzz Orr-Sun-Times Media

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Information is provided by Record Information Services, P.O. Box 894, Elburn IL 60119; phone (630) 557-1000; fax (630) 557-1001.

**DES PLAINES**

**1250 E Washington St.**, Felicia Mermer to Keith Jay Mich Regina Zenaida Mich, \$58,000, Oct. 28  
**1389 Perry St. Apt 202**, Roehrig Trust to Stanley M Kozak, \$155,000, Nov. 1  
**1636 Ashland Ave. Unit 609**, Packard Trust to Constantin Ursache Camelia A Nastas, \$160,000, Oct. 29  
**1670 Mill St. Apt 201**, United World Development Llc to Herbert Wunar Tuoi Wunar, \$171,000, Oct. 28  
**1788 Ash St.**, Vacik Trust to Stacey R Miller Robert J Miller, \$255,000, Oct. 28  
**2076 Sunset Drive**, Fannie Mae to Wlodzimierz Kondusz, \$66,000, Nov. 1  
**289 S Warrington Road**, Sam Shin to Borislav Minkovskiy Ruslina Utomo, \$210,000, Oct. 28  
**338 E Washington St.**, Haerle Trust to Justin T Sewell Laura Lea Sewell, \$200,000, Nov. 2

**473 Kinkaid Court**, Piehl Trust to Andy Reedman Zofia M Reedman, \$280,000, Oct. 29  
**722 Gracefand Ave. Apt 104**, Corcoran Trust to Sonia Pappas William G Pappas, \$112,000, Nov. 1  
**8814 Briar Court Apt 1c**, Bank Of America Na to Jerry Bikneris Darinka Bikneris, \$42,500, Nov. 2  
**8852 Robin Drive Apt F**, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Rome Y Benjamin, \$86,500, Oct. 27  
**975 Walter Ave.**, Swihart Trust to Michael T McLaughlin Susanne E McLaughlin, \$265,000, Nov. 2

**DUNNING**

**3428 N Ottawa Ave.**, Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Joanna Sanfelice, \$125,000, Oct. 28  
**3452 N Natoma Ave.**, Nick Penesis to Jason J Krzyzyk Jessica L Woodward, \$264,000, Oct. 27  
**3642 N Pioneer Ave.**, Frank J Perroni to Javier Perez Madeline Irizarry, \$253,000, Nov. 2  
**3826 N Page Ave.**, Helena Korczak to Jaroslaw Nita Erika Wright, \$270,000, Oct. 28  
**3910 N Harlem Ave.**, Jp Morgan Chase Bank to My Cao, \$80,000, Oct. 28  
**6227 W Henderson St.**,

Hawthorn Holdings Llc Series 1 to Michelle C Riojas, \$286,000, Oct. 27  
**EDISON PARK**  
**7453 N Octavia Ave.**, Chlystek Trust to Katherine Dorsch, \$200,000, Oct. 29  
**7542 N Octavia Ave.**, Groch Trust to Rachel Burciaga Brian T Tryba, \$245,000, Oct. 28  
**GLENVIEW**  
**1131 Pfingsten Road**, Preciado Rick Trust to Antonio R Preciado Margaret T Preciado, \$300,000, Oct. 28  
**1461 Baffin Road**, Collin L Sprau to Erik E Blumberg Anna Erika Blumberg, \$750,000, Oct. 29  
**1828 Culver Lane**, Timothy I Costello to Kenneth A Phillips Stephanie L Phillips, \$682,500, Oct. 29  
**2020 Valor Court**, Keith W Durham to Donna E Egen, \$687,500, Oct. 28  
**251 Fernwood Lane**, Charles C Lee to Dongning Li Shi Chen, \$320,000, Oct. 29  
**2651 Commons Drive**, Toll II Iv Lp to Ronald J Gerstein Joy P Gerstein, \$410,500, Nov. 2  
**3206 Crestwood Lane**, Bank Of New York Mellon Ttee to Brian D Gryll Jami C Gryll, \$390,000, Oct. 29

**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

**JEFFERSON PARK**  
**5104 N Austin Ave.**, Petra Guardado to Tomasz Wojtowicz, \$180,000, Oct. 26  
**5372 N Latrobe Ave.**, Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Adam Dudek Rebecca Dudek, \$220,000, Nov. 2  
**LINCOLNWOOD**  
**6500 N Kilpatrick Ave.**, Mihai Smalbergher to Jim Bany, \$315,000, Oct. 29  
**6923 N Kenton Ave.**, Bank Of America Na to Nebojsa Niketic Gordana Niketic, \$700,000, Oct. 28  
**7308 N East Prairie Road**, Spencer Weisz to Steven J Lee Sandy Lee, \$600,000, Oct. 29  
**7324 N Kenneth Ave.**, Jacek Zarebski to Slobodan Berberijan, \$310,000, Oct. 26  
**MORTON GROVE**  
**203 Narragansett Court**, Toll II Iv Lp to John I Lee Bok J Lee, \$344,000, Nov. 2  
**8913 Meade Ave.**, Fannie Mae to Regina Rose Velez, \$230,000, Nov. 1  
**9047 Moody Ave.**, Nathan Kaplan to Dae Y Kim Eun Kyoung Koh, \$332,500, Oct. 28  
**9235 Cameron Lane**, Juan L Jaramillo to Alwin John Jilu T Jose, \$260,000, Nov. 1  
**9533 Oconto Ave.**, Alan Joseph to Timothy B Bracken Anna Bracken, \$209,000, Oct. 28  
**MOUNT PROSPECT**  
**104 Creekbend Court**, Dimitri Rykov to John W Schoen Iv, \$275,000, Nov. 1  
**1107 N Westgate Road**, John W Forsythe to Piotr M Przdaka, \$212,500, Nov. 1  
**123 S Pine St.**, David A Diprima to Evan N Diacou Jennifer Ann Diacou, \$405,000, Oct. 26  
**138 E Bonnie Brae Ave.**, Jp Morgan Chase Bank to Marcin M Kolbiarz, \$267,000, Nov. 1  
**1515 E Mitchell Lane**, Geib Trust to Matthew J Murphy Michelle Murphy, \$345,000, Nov. 1  
**1515 Stonegate Manor**, John M Sanders to Michael S Vishoot Donna C Vishoot, \$415,000, Oct. 27  
**1827 W Pheasant Trail**, Mary E Schenkemeyer to Mitesh Kumar Patel, \$254,000, Oct. 28  
**400 S Helena Ave.**, Zieger Trust to Robert J Griesbaum Michon V Griesbaum, \$355,000, Oct. 29

**29**  
**412 Wilmette Ave.**, Arshad A Khan to Yijian He Yuanqin Li, \$775,000, Oct. 29  
**936 Raleigh Road**, Mussay Trust to Nicolino Dagostino Kristen E Dagostino, \$780,000, Oct. 28  
**518 S Elmhurst Road**, Ashok Natverlal Dave to Hardik A Dave Deeksha H Dave, \$265,000, Nov. 2  
**705 W Central Road Apt A7**, Thompson Trust to Terry Setar Barbara Barker, \$60,000, Oct. 29  
**713 W Central Road Apt B4**, Teodor Pienzykowski to Cheryl L Stencil Robert L Stencil, \$69,000, Nov. 2  
**NILES**  
**6874 W Touhy Ave. Unit 1a**, Fannie Mae to Herbert Ryan, \$96,000, Nov. 1  
**7057 W Grennan Place**, Joseph Schwager to Nicholas V Ribauda Mary C Ribauda, \$287,000, Oct. 28  
**7638 N Osceola Ave.**, Adamson Trust to Michelle Severino John A Severino, \$230,000, Nov. 2  
**8035 N Overhill Ave.**, Jan Szulakiewicz to Jamil A Abdala Erika C Abdala, \$530,000, Oct. 28  
**8341 N Newland Ave.**, Us Bank Na Trustee to Robert M Heller Tamar Heller, \$215,000, Oct. 27  
**8837 N Grand St.**, Aurora Loan Services Inc to Rajendra C Shah Pinky R Shah, \$121,000, Oct. 27  
**NORRIDGE**  
**5032 N Oneida Ave.**, Albany Bank & Trust Co Na Ttee to John Norton, \$215,000, Oct. 29  
**NORWOOD PARK**  
**4825 N Harlem Ave. Unit 2**, Wanda B Russek Estate to Zeng Hua Lin, \$50,000, Oct. 28  
**5655 N Ozark Ave.**, Karsten Trust to Wayne D Frano Jr Ashley Marie Frano, \$295,000, Oct. 27  
**5656 N Melvina Ave.**, James Cunningham to Robert L Hedge Erin N Hedge, \$215,000, Oct. 27  
**5720 N Merrimac Ave.**, Terrence Maloney to Petru Bodocean, \$337,000, Oct. 27  
**6412 N Newark Ave.**, Stanislaw L Pietras to Gregory F Langheim Carole A Duggan Langheim, \$612,000, Oct. 29  
**7615 W Myrtle Ave.**, Castellano Trust to James Legg Maria Legg, \$232,500, Nov. 1  
**O'HARE**  
**4600 N Cumberland Ave. Unit 204**, Josephine M Sapienza Bunyon to Patrick Merola, \$73,000, Oct. 29  
**7810 W Bryn Mawr Ave.**, Jordan Trust to Philip J Martin Hanna K Martin, \$223,000, Oct. 28  
**8617 W Foster Ave. Unit 1b**, Ludmila Lemieszko to Dariusz Adamczyk Violetta Adamczyk, \$85,000, Oct. 29

**8700 W Evelyn Lane Apt 206**, Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Bojan Vazic Milos Vazic, \$126,000, Oct. 26  
**OAK PARK**  
**122 N Taylor Ave. Apt 1s**, Fannie Mae to Andrea De Fraga, \$42,500, Oct. 29  
**201 Le Moyné Parkway**, Catherine Pidek to Felipe Reyes Lynn Brown, \$419,000, Oct. 29  
**556 N Marion St.**, Michael J Shiffer to Stephen B Daunis Kimberly A Daunis, \$605,000, Oct. 29  
**7116 Roosevelt Road**, Tech Y Te to Emilio Morrone Joseph Salerno, \$100,000, Oct. 29  
**714 N Grove Ave.**, James E Walsh to Lorena Driscoll Colin Brietzke, \$275,000, Oct. 29  
**805 N Grove Ave.**, Paul M Nowak to Todd M Hover Cheryl M Hover, \$680,000, Nov. 1  
**PARK RIDGE**  
**1003 Peale Ave.**, David Reichle to Caryn Granzow Will Granzow, \$482,500, Oct. 29  
**1420 S Clifton Ave.**, Greg Fahey to Vincent Lavecchia, \$525,000, Oct. 28  
**1428 Grove Ave.**, Judicial Sales Corp to Barbara T Barrett, \$224,500, Nov. 2  
**2100 W Talcott Road**, Dino Kellikidis to Helmut Mueller Anna Mueller, \$245,000, Oct. 26  
**407 Elmore St.**, John Glasebrook to Kathleen Mendoza Matthew Mendoza, \$677,000, Oct. 29  
**609 S Chester Ave.**, Liggett Trust to Howard E Lakin Gina M Lapalio Lakin, \$315,000, Nov. 1  
**SKOKIE**  
**3340 Greenleaf St.**, Litwin Trust to Craig A Hargreaves Judith A Hargreaves, \$213,000, Oct. 29  
**4824 Wright Terrace**, Gronnert Trust to Farzanabanu Sheth Aiazhusain Sheth, \$330,000, Nov. 1  
**7558 Crawford Ave.**, Irene V Pirpiris to David Greenberg Jyotsna Kottoor, \$242,000, Oct. 27  
**7849 Kostner Ave.**, Klein Trust to Violet A Sambomba, \$260,000, Oct. 29  
**8045 Harding Ave.**, Ibrahim Vrtagic to Evette Mansoura Nini Alisha, \$288,000, Oct. 28  
**8232 Niles Center Road Unit 617**, Luis Aponte to Alfred Gaona, \$3,000, Oct. 27  
**8617 Trumbull Ave.**, Firstmerit Bank Na Trustee to Daniel G Araia Tegisti A Araia, \$300,000, Oct. 28  
**8700 Skokie Boulevard Apt 21**, Robin Bluestone Miller to Italo Fernandez, \$51,000, Oct. 29  
**9655 Woods Drive Unit 1406**, Aurora Loan Services Inc to Young Hee Kim, \$195,000, Oct. 29



**HOT PROPERTIES** BY ROB PISKAC

# Premier penthouse

Fifth-floor condo features new appliances

6401 N. Lincoln Ave., Unit 505, Morton Grove — \$255,000

Located in the five-story Morton House condo building, this top-floor unit features an open floor plan. It has an eat-in kitchen with modern appliances, ceramic tile flooring, hardwood cabinets, granite countertops and track lighting. Sliding glass doors open from the kitchen to a balcony that offers views of the area. The adjoined living and dining rooms offer carpeting, new wooden trim, two ceiling fans and large windows.

The unit has a single-car parking space, and the building is three blocks from the Morton Grove Metra station.

**Listing agent:** Candace Kuzmarski, Coldwell Banker Residential, (847) 977-4010, candace1555@gmail.com



The unit for sale in this Morton Grove building offers an open floor plan and sweeping views.

**Beds:** 2

**Baths:** 2

*Selling a home that stands out from the rest? E-mail us: hotproperties@blockshopper.com*

**DATA POINT**

NILES REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

# 60

The number of foreclosures recorded so far this year in Niles, more than the 45 there in all of last year.

## Operations pro spends \$300,000

**By David Lister**

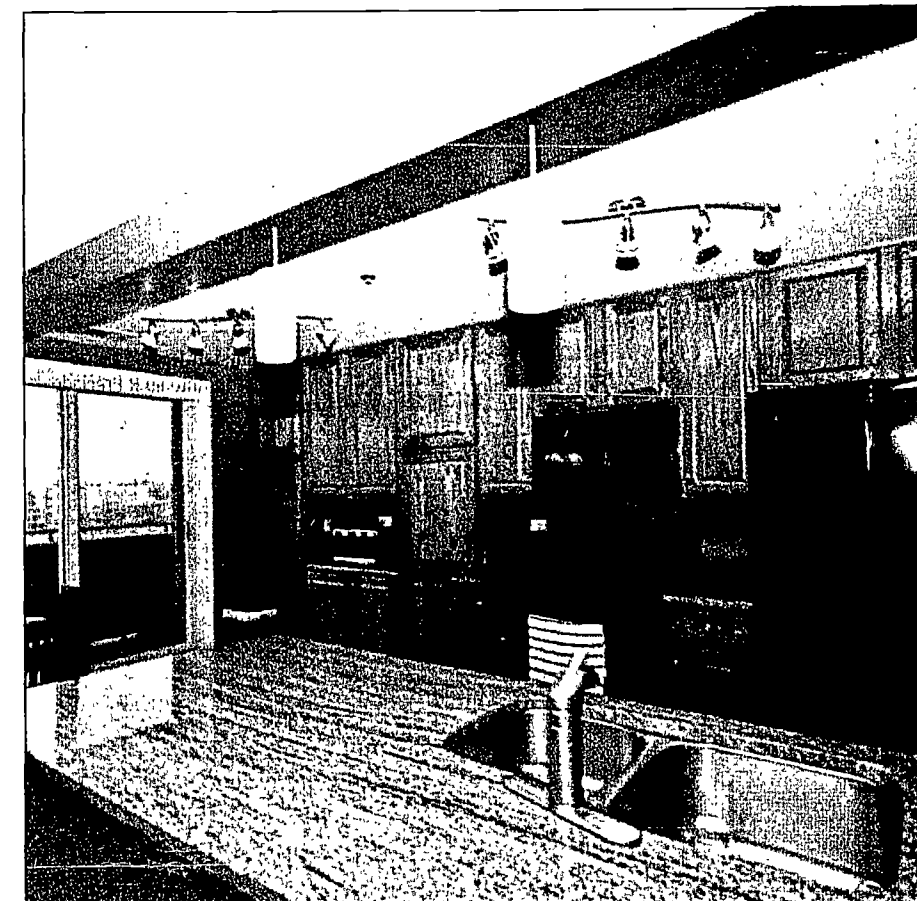
The director of Asia operations for a global finance software firm has spent \$300,000 for a home in Morton Grove. Bor-Wen Yang bought the three-bedroom, two-bath home at 8952 Oak Park Ave. on Nov. 9. Prior owners Shirley and Charles Gebien paid \$210,000 for the home in June 1998.

The 1,296-square-foot home was built in 1961. Yang joined the global firm Cassiopae in 2007. Before that, he spent more than a decade at EnableUs/McCracken, working as the director of consulting and information services. He holds an M.B.A. from Babson College in Wellesley, Mass.

## MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

City	For sale	Median price	Foreclosure rate	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Chicago: Edison Park	1.94%	\$273,000	8.70%	115	10
Chicago: Forest Glen	1.94%	\$355,000	12.50%	16	2
Chicago: Norwood Park	2.32%	\$280,000	16.50%	200	33
Des Plaines	3.02%	\$180,000	31.20%	891	278
Evanston	3.10%	\$290,000	16.41%	780	128
Glenview	2.85%	\$391,500	13.74%	626	86
Lincolnwood	2.97%	\$275,000	14.74%	156	23
Morton Grove	2.45%	\$248,000	21.40%	257	55
Niles	2.59%	\$220,000	24.75%	303	75
Park Ridge	2.52%	\$332,000	12.24%	441	54
Skokie	2.46%	\$245,000	27.13%	656	178
Wilmette	2.50%	\$602,000	4.30%	372	16

Source: Chicago BlockShopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.



The kitchen has granite countertops, wood cabinets and glass doors that open to the balcony.

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**PRETTY AS A PICTURE!**

Skokie... Quality built 3 rm Rambling brick Ranch has been beautifully updated & well maintained throughout! Spacious living rm w/fireplace, formal dining rm & updated eat-in kitchen. 3 large brs & 2 full baths. Huge main flr family rm w/FP. Full finished bsmt w/rec rm, fireplace & bar. Newer 2 1/2 car brick garage. New roof & gutters in 2010. Located in Fairview School District Convenient near Downtown Skokie!! .....\$430's

**NATURE LOVER'S DREAM!**

Morton Grove... Rare spectacular 75' Lot backs to golf course, forest preserves & bike/bndle/jogging path! Quality built 7 rm brick Colonial Split. Kitchen overlooks wooded preserves. 3 huge bedrooms & 2 full baths. Large living rm + separate dining rm. Large lower level family rm. Huge 18' master br. 2 car attached garage. Located in Golf District. Near Old Orchard! Price Reduced!! .....\$260's

The following incidents in unincorporated Maine Township were compiled by the Cook County Sheriff's Department. Additional details about each incident were not provided by Sheriff's Department.

**ASSAULT**

An aggravated assault was reported at 5:50 a.m. Nov. 22 on the 9500 block of Park Lane.

**BATTERY**

An aggravated battery re-

port was filed at 8 p.m. Nov. 11 on the 9200 block of West Emerson Street.

A battery report was filed at 9:52 p.m. Nov. 13 on the 9000 block of Federal Court.

**SHERIFF'S REPORTS**

**BURGLARY**

A residential burglary was reported at 7:12 p.m. Nov. 10 at Crestwood condominiums and apartments on the 9900 block of Holly Lane.

A residence was report-

ed burglarized at 12:45 a.m. Nov. 21 at Crestwood condominiums and apartments on the 9900 block of Linda Lane.

**THEFT**

A theft from a vehicle was reported on the morning of

Nov. 20 on the 9600 block of Lois Drive.

**HIT-AND-RUN**

A hit-and-run accident was reported at 12:38 a.m. Nov. 21 on the 9100 block of Barberry Lane.

**MAINE EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

# Student reports attempt to lure her into vehicle

Report is the latest in string of like incidents near schools

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Another incident involving a local high school student and a suspicious vehicle was reported to police

Nov. 19. A 16-year-old Maine East High School student told Park Ridge police that she had left school early and was waiting for a bus at 10:30 a.m. near the corner of Dempster Street and Dee Road when a red vehicle pulled up alongside her, said Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen. The driver, who asked the student if she spoke Spanish, told her to "get in the car" and offered her a ride, Jogmen said. He also re-

portedly stated, "You're beautiful. Give me your number." The student ran back to the school and reported the incident. The man was described as between 25 and 30 years old and was wearing a black ski hat, police said. There was no further description of his car other than it was red, Jogmen said. This is the latest in a string of incidents involving suspicious vehicles and

people encountering high school students in Park Ridge, Niles and unincorporated Maine Township. Among the incidents reported were the Oct. 27 attempted abduction of an 18-year-old girl by the driver of a blue van in the Robin Drive subdivision in unincorporated Maine Township; a man who reportedly motioned for a 17-year-old Maine East student to get in his car while she was

waiting for a bus Nov. 3 along Golf Road in Niles; a suspicious blue van that reportedly followed a 14-year-old girl briefly Nov. 10 near Oakton Street and Dee Road in Park Ridge; and a red vehicle that reportedly followed a group of three Carpenter School students Nov. 17 in Park Ridge. Police have not confirmed if any of the incidents are related. On Nov. 19, Maine Township High School District

207 issued a "reminder on safety precautions" to students in light of the several reports to local law-enforcement agencies by students who were "approached or observed by strangers." Students were advised to walk in pairs after dark, avoid jogging alone early in the morning or late at night, have their keys out as their approach their door, and report any suspicious incidents to police. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

9TH ANNUAL NATIVITY EVENT

# Room at the Inn

at the

December 4 and 5, 2010 • 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Center for Health 13601 N. Western Avenue, Park Ridge

Oak Park resident Susan Greeley will exhibit her private collection of nearly 400 nativity scenes from around the world. Guests are invited for refreshments and a free raffle. Children will enjoy the "please touch" table and a chance to win a nativity set of their own.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Please don't miss it - you'll be so glad you came! For more information, call 847-825-5531 or visit www.StMatthewCenter.org

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**POLICE BLOTTER**

The following incidents were listed in the official reports of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT**

A woman was approached Nov. 20 in her back yard on the 8600 block of Madison Drive by someone who said he was there to install an electrical box. Another person who was inside the home told her husband that they worked for a company that was hired by AT&T and they were there to check the outlets to see if there was too much electricity being used. One of the offenders said the two outlets failed the test and when the victim asked for their IDs they both ran out of the house and drove away in a dark gray van.

**DOMESTIC DISPUTE**

A woman and her hus-

band were arguing in the man's car Nov. 23 on the 5600 block of Touhy. The man then grabbed her hair and struck her head into the dashboard, police said. The victim did not want to sign complaints.

**VEHICLE THEFT**

An unknown person allegedly stole a vehicle Nov. 20 while it was running with the keys in the ignition inside a garage on the 9000 block of Maryland. The vehicle was last seen headed north on Maryland toward Church Street. The neighbor said he saw the offender stop, look back at him and wave and then enter the victim's garage.

**DUI**

A vehicle was stolen Nov. 23 from a residence in the 8900 block of Washington. The victim said the windows were rolled up and the doors were locked.

**FELONY RETAIL THEFT**

Ashlee Kalvelage, 23, and

Valerie Vannatter, 20, both of 410 W. Florian Drive, Des Plaines, were charged with felony retail theft Nov. 23. Kalvelage, whose bond was set at \$10,000, was with her 3-year-old daughter when she allegedly stole \$33.96 worth of clothing from a store at 220 Golf Mill. Vannatter allegedly stole \$222.97 worth of clothing from the store; police said she was hiding under a clothes rack and ran away from the loss-prevention employee.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**

A \$1,000 laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on Nov. 19 on the 5700 block of Touhy. The victim said he did not lock the door.

**RETAIL THEFT**

A \$76 bottle of perfume was stolen Nov. 23 from a store at 220 Golf Mill. The offender removed the bottle of perfume from the display shelf, put it in her purse and exited without paying. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

has a Dec. 13 court date.

Kevin Zurek, 24, of 221 N. Knight, Park Ridge, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Nov. 24 on the 6600 block of North Caldwell. Bond was set at \$1,000. He has a Jan. 3 court date.

**COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY**

A woman purchased a drink Nov. 19 at 245 Golf Mill with a fraudulent \$100 bill, said police. The bill was a bleached-out \$5 bill that had hundred-dollar markings printed over it. The officer contacted the Secret Service, who said it could be placed into evidence for further investigation.

**RETAIL THEFT**

A \$76 bottle of perfume was stolen Nov. 23 from a store at 220 Golf Mill. The offender removed the bottle of perfume from the display shelf, put it in her purse and exited without paying. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

**MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL**

# Police suspect rival school in vandalism

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Park Ridge police are hoping evidence recovered at Maine South High School will lead them to the people who spray-painted derogatory graffiti on the outside of the school last month. Park Ridge Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen said the nature of the graffiti suggests it was tied to the Nov. 13 quarter-final football match between Maine South and Stevenson High School, a game Maine South went on to win. The graffiti, which was discovered the morning of

Nov. 13, was extensive and included phrases such as, "You'll lose," as well as derogatory, anti-Maine South statements, Jogmen said. The graffiti also included the initials "SHS," which may refer to Stevenson High School, he said. The graffiti was spray-painted on the east side of the school, including brick walls and a glass hallway, and the south and east sides of the A Wing building, Jogmen said. "We recovered some evidence and processed the scene," he added. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## NORTHWESTERN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Northwestern vs. Missouri

Sunday, December 5 at 1pm

Welsh-Ryan Arena in Evanston

### AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Northwestern Women's Basketball and the Chicagoland Chapter of Autism Speaks have partnered for a special event to increase awareness, promote research, and advocate for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders.

**Event Highlights**

- ~ FREE T-shirt for first 200 children ~ Special Ceremonial Tip Off
- ~ Halftime Guest: Chicago Boys Acrobats
- ~ Quiet Room Available

For more information or tickets call 888-GO-PURPLE or visit [www.NUSPORTS.com](http://www.NUSPORTS.com)





# Opinion

YOU SAY

## O'Hare around the holidays: Is it just God's little ant hill?

The Pyramids and the Acropolis are thousands of years old; Chartres and St. Peter only hundreds of years old.

And yet, each in its own way, a sacred place — a place where you simply can't avoid thinking about humanity and your tiny part in it all.

In my case, I need only travel 10 minutes from my front door for another kind of sacred place: O'Hare International Airport during this holiday season. It, too, evokes stop-in-your-tracks thoughts about our humanity. Just experience the drama hurrying and shoving all around you.

A crash course in what it means to be human: the pride, the passion and the purpose.

The first thing you feel — and, oh, you will feel it — is the sense of urgency. Everyone on their way to somewhere. Or something. Or someone. A sprawling ant-hill microcosm of the human experience in a state of perpetual motion. Virtually every race, nationality, gender, religion, party and career. But woven into this crazy-quilt tapestry is the same universal need. To believe that all of this — and all of us — are somehow of consequence in the scheme of things.

Armed police, drug-sniffing dogs, security checkpoints are there to reassert another universal: To be human is to be always in

danger. The moment we're torn from our mother's womb, we're in a state of danger from infections, accidents and other assorted calamities.

Thankfully, we've all made it this far; but new risks will always lurk. And so our species will never rest.

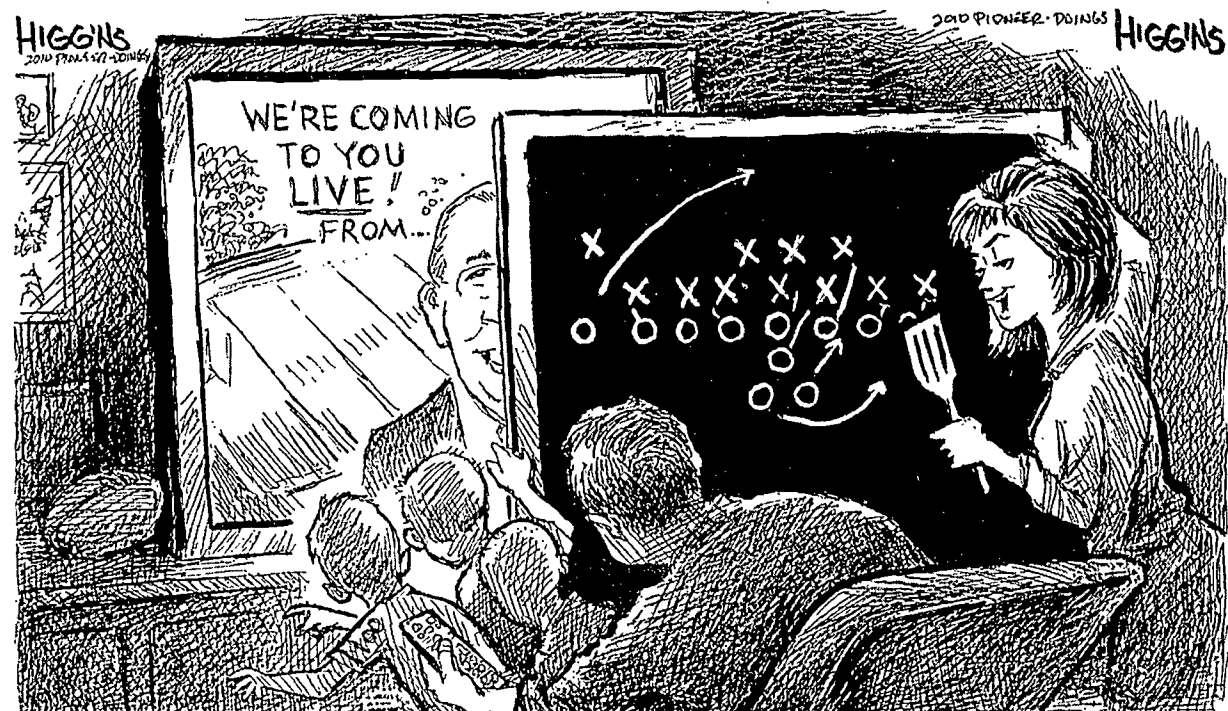
Perhaps the greatest universals pulsating throughout this hippodrome are the ancient twins: sorrow and joy. Both are here, playing out before your eyes at almost every terminal. The little and large sorrows of good-byes ... but then the very large joys of hellos. Watch the family and friends bunch up to play their respective parts.

Hugs and tears where loved ones are departing for who knows how long; but in rich counter-point, terminals where eyes pop and arms explode at the first sight of the one they've been waiting for.

Sitting here nursing a cup of Italian Roast, I may be guilty of an arrogance of sorts. All these flesh-and-blood people with flesh-and-blood agendas — somehow I've made of them a cast in my own three-act drama. A remarkable piece of theater without even the price of admission. And why not? No harm to them, and great reward to me.

Everything holiday season. Say, I wonder: Is this a little like God sees us? **Jack Spatafora**  
 Park Ridge

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS



"A LOOK AT THE TELESTRATOR SHOWS AN OPENING DRIVE TO THE MALL, THEN UP-THE GUT TO SEE SANTA. A ROLL-OUT TO TOYS AND, PERHAPS, AN AUDIBLE THAT COULD LEAD US INTO OVERTIME AND SUDDEN DEBT... BACK TO YOU, BRENT!"

## Amending 'Boys Leave, Girls Stay'



CHERYL O'DONOVAN

VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Today, we sniffle at "It's a Wonderful Life," decorate the tree. We even survive making a left turn into Best Buy on Black Friday.

But someday, when my boys are men, I must cope with the "boys leave, girls stay" factor.

Unless a boy is Norman Bates, boys pretty much marry and spend time with

their wives' extended families, leaving we moms of sons defrosting our Swanson turkey dinners, sobbing into our cranberry sauce as we watch old videos of Pinewood Derby races.

Moms of boys contemplate their predicament. "I hope I get along with my daughter-in-law so I can see my grandchildren." "Mine's dating a Bridezilla."

"Well, good luck with that. Mine's dating a Bridezilla." "Mine took roses to Lindsay Lohan in jail."

I realize I must take the law into my own hands. My husband and I drive to our nation's capital where we encounter tough security measures. TSA guys frisk me, wave high-powered wands over my body, Taser me to make sure I'm not

wearing an explosive Depends, and then threaten to waterboard me with partially hydrogenated oil. Fed up, I yell that I drove here and no way am I boarding a plane.

Once I pass security, I am intercepted by a congressional aide who listens to my request. "Madam, you ask for the impossible."

"No, bud, impossible is parking at Woodfield during Christmas."

Before a joint session of Congress, I'm sworn in.

"I'm here to amend the rule that girls stay, boys leave," I say. "I want my boys to stay. Not to start a garage band, exactly, but I want to see them once in awhile once they start shaving."

A senator leans into his microphone. "Girls Stay, Boys Leave, isn't a law."

"Well, the Laws of Thermodynamics isn't in the Constitution, either," I counter.

"Ma'am," the senator sighs. "We're too busy working on other sayings and clichés."

"What?" My husband cracks. "Lay down with dogs, you get up with fleas?"

The senator narrows his eyes. "Someone have the IRS pay that man a visit. No, sir. We've assembled a bipartisan effort to effectively tackle the one cliché that ails Congress."

"What?" I ask. "Talking in circles."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## Expect more, you get more



RANDY BLASER

If you expect more from all high school students, will more of them gain greater achievement and perform at a higher level?

I think the answer is yes, and apparently so does Evanston Township High School.

ETHS is considering teaching all incoming freshmen honors level English and biology and giving those ill-prepared for it extra support.

It won't be easy, but I think it is worth it and I applaud Evanston for the attempt.

If Evanston implements the program, here's what I think will happen:

There will be some surprises. For some kids —

kids who don't have a track record of high academic achievement — the light will go on. Some teacher will see something in them or maybe they will read something in a book that will trigger a desire to learn more.

Other kids will do average work or just get by. But they'll be getting by in a more rigorous curriculum. That will benefit them. Winston Churchill was not a very good student, but he turned out OK.

Some kids will flounder and possibly fail. But those are probably students who would flounder or fail anyway. Does being exposed to a more rigorous academic program help them?

I don't know for sure, but will guess that they will be. The world beyond the walls of high school does not care about such academic parlor games. The world beyond high school only cares about performance and success.

Out in the world, the rule is achieve or flip burgers.

And there are plenty of burger flippers already who do the job poorly and plenty of cashiers who can't make change on a simple order.

Sometimes I think schools would be much better off if they took a page from their counterparts in the sports department.

Student athletes are required to attend practices every day where they work hard on getting better at their sport. At times it seems they spend more time in the gym than they do on their homework.

And the coaches expect the student athletes to work hard and improve.

What if regular classes were longer and what if teachers encouraged all their students to work harder and improve? What if there was no muffing a poem by Robert Frost or misunderstanding the importance of Grant's victory at Vicksburg?

All I can say is, Go Evanston!  
 Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## I got a name to sell. Any buyers?



PAUL SASSONE

What's in a name?

A brussel sprout by any other name would still taste like the inside of a high school senior's athletic shoe.

But names are important, vital, because everything and everybody has to be called something. How would it be if you were named Kid One, your sister Kid Two, your brother Kid Three, and so on by Parent One and Parent Two? Not so hot.

Names and naming have been in the news lately. Chicago officials have been thinking (no small effort) of something to name after Mayor Daley, who is abdi-

cating, I mean, not seeking re-election.

Even more interesting and having an impact on us, is that Chicago is thinking (wow, again!) of selling the naming rights to just about everything it owns — train stations, the train lines themselves, bus routes, even the CTA logo.

So, someday soon, a commuter trying to go downtown by el will just hop on the Viagra at Harlem Ave. and get off at the O-KE-DOKE Cheese Flavored Popcorn Station. From there it's just a couple of blocks to the Depends City Hall.

All this is being contemplated because the city, like every other unit of government, is strapped for cash. But, so are we.

How can we get in on this? I don't have a lot to which I could sell the naming rights.

I have a cat. His name is Jack. I'd be willing to sell the naming rights to him.

But, there are two problems with that:

1. He's an indoor cat, so no one would know that he no longer is Jack Sassone, but Dockers Sassone.

2. He doesn't acknowledge he has a human-bestowed name as it is and won't come when called. So I don't see why he'd come when I yell, "Here, Frito. Come here, Frito. That's a good Frito ..."

No, when you come right down to it, the only thing I have to sell is me. Let's see...

Victoria's Secret Sassone. Samsung Sassone. Volkswagen Sassone. Google Sassone.

I could wear a jacket with my new name on it. I could introduce myself to people on the street. "Hi, I'm Chia Pet Sassone. Glad to meet you ..."

So, any takers? I wouldn't charge much.

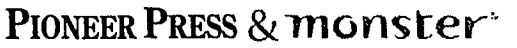
Anyone?  
 Anyone at all?  
 Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT {diversions}

B1  
 THURSDAY,  
 DECEMBER 2, 2010

## 4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for the coming week

**1. The Bittersweet Christmas Band** will present songs of the season, including Solstice and Hanukkah, at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$8. Visit [www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse](http://www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse) or call (847) 677-3334.

**2. The Chicago Northshore Shorts Film Festival** will be presented from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Tickets are a minimum donation of \$10, which includes the after-party. Visit [www.SkokieTheatre.com](http://www.SkokieTheatre.com).

**3. "An Evanston Symphony Christmas"** will be presented by the Evanston Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Evanston Township High School auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave. The concert will feature madrigals and minstrels, 50 singers from the Evanston Children's Choir and the Evanston Dance Ensemble. \$25; \$10 for children. Visit [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org) or call (847) 864-8804.

**4. "Kid Simple: A Radio Play in the Flesh"** will be presented Dec. 2-12 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$10 for general admission; \$8 for students and seniors. Visit [www.oakton.edu/tickets](http://www.oakton.edu/tickets) or call (847) 635-1900.

## Film fest benefits Skokie Theatre

**Chicago Northshore Shorts Film Festival**  
 Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. A \$10 minimum donation includes admission to a post-screening party. For more information, call 847-677-7761 or visit [www.skokietheatre.com](http://www.skokietheatre.com).

By **BRUCE INGRAM**  
 Film Critic

After its debut two months ago, the Chicago Northshore Shorts Film Festival returns at 6 p.m. Sunday for another round of brief dramas, comedies and documentaries in support of the beleaguered Skokie Theatre, which is currently threatened with foreclosure.

"We need to keep pushing so people will realize how this theater helps the community and maybe give it a little help in return," said festival organizer Kamelya Alexan.

Purchased and renovated in 2004, the 100-year-old former movie house has served as a performance showcase for young artists. Entertainment attorney/pianist Bob Acri planned it as an extension of Skokie Music Foundation, which he founded to help educate young musicians about the realities of the music business.

Later, the theater screened Columbia College graduate Alexan's "One Simple Life," a 21-minute drama about a young schizophrenic, when she was unable to find another venue.

Now Alexan is returning the favor by asking filmmakers she knows to submit work to the Northshore Shorts fest.



"Some Boys Don't Leave" producer Jason Potash (from left), with his actors Eloise Mumford and Jesse Eisenberg, and director Maggie Kiley.

Topping the bill is a contribution by Jason Potash, who worked with her on "The Dark Knight" a few years ago, and went on to produce "Some Boys Don't Leave," a romantic comedy starring Jesse Eisenberg of "The Social Network." The short has been seen at numerous film festivals around the country, including the TriBeCa Film Festival in New York in April. "Some Boys" is currently in development as a feature film.

Seven films are in the line-up of the two-hour program.

**"Some Boys Don't Leave":** Eisenberg stars as a boyfriend who gets the message that his girlfriend wants to break up with him, but can't quite bring himself to leave their apartment.

**"Chicago":** Producer/director Alexan and her writing/editing partner Brian Soszynski shot this music video to accompany a rap/pop

ode to the title city from musicians Nonsense and Vince Tybor.

**"Taco Mary":** In this comedy, an atheist's worldview is shaken when he sees the Virgin Mary in his taco.

**"Highlight":** A young girl tries to make sense of historically tragic news she hears on television while waiting for her mother in a beauty salon.

**"Black March":** A documentary on a Chicago rally in protest of the recent

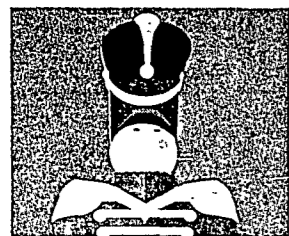
attack on an Assyrian Christian church in Baghdad by Muslim extremists.

**"Forgiven":** A drama inspired by the biblical parable of the unforgiving servant, illustrating that it is sometimes difficult to forgive, even after you have been forgiven.

**"Glassmaker":** A documentary portrait of Katie Creyts, who explores fairy tales through art she makes from glass.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

# TICKETS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!



Salt Creek Ballet's  
**THE NUTCRACKER**  
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Tovah Feldshuh in  
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May 7

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PIONEER PRESS



Wilmette Theatre's ATC Repertory presents "Into the Woods."

### FAMILY FRIENDLY

## New teen troupe takes kids to Broadway

By MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

Fourteen teens will take family audiences on a journey "Into the Woods." They are the members of Wilmette Theatre's newly formed ATC Repertory Company under the direction of Janet Louer.

Louer said she is launching the company with the "Jr. Version, Act One, Happily Ever After" of the Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine musical because "It's appropriate for kids 6 and up. And I thought it was a good melding of what the audience was used to with fairy tales — Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood — and bringing them into the Broadway world."

Louer selected the ensemble members based on their performance in other shows and their training in classes at the theater's Actors Training Center, "basically proving that they were professional, responsible and dedicated actors."

Louer added that she "couldn't have picked a more challenging show for these young actors to do. These kids are getting a taste of what professionals

go through." Performances are 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 and 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Dec. 12 at 1122 Central St. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

For details, call (847) 251-7424 or visit [www.wilmettetheatre.com](http://www.wilmettetheatre.com).

### Build to suit

Playing with food — creatively — is the idea behind Holiday Gingerbread Houses, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. You and your 6- to 10-year-olds will decorate gingerbread structures with candy canes, gum drops and frosting at this family workshop. Cost is \$35 for a family of 3-4, \$30 for Brickton members. Reservations are required.

For details, call (847) 823-6611 or visit [www.bricktonartcenter.org](http://www.bricktonartcenter.org).

### Top choice

Dreidels will spin at the Temple Beth Israel Brotherhood's Hanukkah Party, 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. The event begins with games for younger children, followed by a meal of latkes, hotdogs, chips, desserts and drinks, more

games and prizes for all kids. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children with a maximum family charge of \$15.

For details, call (847) 675-0951 or visit [www.tbiskokie.org](http://www.tbiskokie.org).

### Rudolf, not Rudolph

Don't expect a red-nosed reindeer at the Second Sunday Special, 2-3 p.m. Dec. 12 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. The attraction is the Dave Rudolf Winter-Fest, a musical family show featuring the lively entertainer who gets everyone into the act. Niles residents can reserve tickets now, non-residents starting Dec. 5.

For details, call (847) 663-6622 or visit [www.nileslibrary.org](http://www.nileslibrary.org).

### Toot those flutes

Not only will the Lakeside Flute Choir play classic flute music at the Niles Public Library's Holiday Open House, 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at 6960 W. Oakton St., they'll also demonstrate the different kinds of flutes. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit [www.nileslibrary.org](http://www.nileslibrary.org).

### PLAY REVIEW

## Holiday spirit trumps confusion of war tale

'A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration' Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Through Dec. 19. Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except Dec. 5 and 12). Tickets: \$45-\$55. (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org).

By DOROTHY ANDRIES  
Contributor

Comparisons jump to mind.

"A Civil War Christmas," running at Northlight Theatre in Skokie through Dec. 19, is framed by the poem "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," penned by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1864 during the final days of our country's devastating war between the states. *A Christmas Carol* was written by Charles Dickens in 1843 as a holiday plea for social justice and common humanity during the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain.

Northlight's production at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, subtitled "An American Musical Celebration," crackles with the chaotic atmosphere of Washington, D.C. on Christmas Eve 1864, as Union soldiers, the White House kitchen staff, free blacks, a fugitive slave and her lost daughter, and Mary Todd Lincoln cross paths and try to keep warm on that chilly December night.

President Lincoln barely escapes being kidnapped by John Wilkes Booth, a Christmas tree appears in the White House Blue Room and then vanishes, while Confederate soldiers sit glumly across the Potomac, knowing their



Felicia P. Fields (left), and Paula Scrofano in "A Civil War Christmas." (Photo by Liz Lauren)

long battle has been lost. Playwright Paula Vogel has packed her drama with more than three dozen characters, played by only a dozen actors. Director Henry Godinez has done a yeoman's job of trying to keep them all straight for us, but there is some unnecessary confusion. Paula Scrofano, for example, portrays Mrs. Lincoln and Clara Barton, the role of Secretary of War Stanton, that is an absurd stretch.

Derek Hasenstab plays John Wilkes Booth, Robert E. Lee and General Sherman, but it is ridiculous to wrap a blanket over his trousers and top his head with a bonnet to

play boarding house owner Mary Surratt. There are other odd multiple characterizations, but some others are perfect. Chicago favorite Felicia P. Fields, for example, is cast as Elizabeth Keckley, Mary Lincoln's seamstress, and as Mrs. Thomas, who runs a home for destitute children. In several carols and spirituals her voice soars through Northlight's little theater filling it with hope amid the sorrow, and her strains of "There is a Balm in Gilead" are heart-wrenching.

James Earl Jones II plays a free man now in the Union Army, longing

Spirit, PAGE B10

"A JOYOUS PRESENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY" Chicago Sun-Times

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Charles Dickens

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Directed by WILLIAM BROWN

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Natalie Portman in "Black Swan."

MOVIE REVIEW

# Natalie Portman's passionate spiral

By **BRUCE INGRAM**  
Film Critic

**BLACK SWAN**  
★ ★ ★ 1/2

An hysterical, often disturbing mix of "The Red Shoes," "All about Eve" and body-morphing Cronenbergian horror, the psychological thriller "Black Swan" sacrifices coherence for spectacular craziness. It's also guaranteed to make you think twice about buying your little girl her first pink tutu.

Natalie Portman moves way, way out of her comfort zone, with impressive results, as Nina, a young dancer who has devoted her life to dance, to such an extreme degree that she still lives a stifled, child-like existence with her smothering, near-abusive mother (Barbara Hershey).

In her own career, Nina's mom never made it out of the corps of supporting dancers (a fact that fills her with simmering jealousy and resentment), but Nina has true talent and her obsessive dedication to tech-

nique has caught the eye of Thomas (Vincent Cassel, as ruthless here as he was in the brutal "Mesrine" gangster films), her company's bullying, manipulative artistic director.

Thomas would like to elevate Nina to principal dancer and cast her in the dual role of Swan Queen in his upcoming production of "Swan Lake." The only problem: Nina is perfect for the frightened, vulnerable White Swan, but he doesn't believe she can handle the darker, passionate, malevolent role of the Black Swan, who embodies everything nice-girl Nina is not.

Not, that is, until things begin to turn seriously weird.

Thomas gambles on Nina, though — or on his ability to sexually manipulate her — and after callously ejecting his previous prima ballerina (Winona Ryder), installs Nina in her dressing room. Then he covers his bet by inviting Lily (Mila Kunis) to join the company. As a dancer, Lily is Nina's opposite: undisciplined, passionate, sensual and ideal to

play the Black Swan. And when she becomes Nina's alternate, Nina's tenuous grasp on her new position, and on reality in general, begins to slip. The situation is further complicated when her newly unleashed sexual nature begins to focus on Lily.

All of that may be interesting but it's also irrelevant to a certain extent, because "Black Swan" is not exactly a plot-driven film. Early on, director Darren Aronofsky (who scored a more generally accessible success with "The Wrestler" two years ago, but typically pushes narrative boundaries with films like "Requiem for a Dream" and "The Fountain"), begins to suggest that Nina might possibly be losing her mind. She sees her own face on strangers in the subway. The portraits her mother paints momentarily shift into distorted horror masks and there's occasionally a nasty surprise when she looks at herself in the mirror — again, that's just for starters.

So it's possible to argue that all of the tortured, horrific things that happen in "Black Swan," as Nina's paranoia escalates and eventually overwhelms her, are merely figments of her imagination, like the stigmata that appear on her shoulder blades and threaten to erupt into wings, but may be a harrowing expression of her need to shed her old self in order to grow.

Monday-morning psychologizing seems a particularly lame exercise in this case.

More to the point, "Black Swan" is essentially a filmmaker's tour de force. From the very beginning, Aronofsky's primary preoccupation is telling a story about an artist's self-destructive obsessive devotion to her art and he does that in the most artfully extreme way imaginable. "Black Swan" is a sumptuous, gorgeous, challenging film that attempts to drive deep into the essence of dance and the essence of madness.

Whether you like it or not, you won't find it easy to forget.  
Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

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MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHE YOUNG COSTUME DESIGNER STACY WALKER CRAWLER RISA SHAPIRO PRODUCTION DESIGNER DONALD DE LUXE  
EDITED BY STEVEN ANTHON  
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PRODUCED BY STEVEN ANTHON  
WRITTEN BY STEVEN ANTHON  
DIRECTED BY STEVEN ANTHON  
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CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

SONY

Movie times are effective Friday and are compiled from information available on Tuesday. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change. If no listings are provided, please call the theater for information.

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS**

**Arlington Theaters**  
53 S. Evergreen St.  
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**TANGLED (PG)**  
Fri: 4:50-7:00-9:10  
Sat, Sun: 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:00-9:10  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:50-7:00  
Wed: 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:00

**BURLESQUE (PG-13)**  
Fri: 4:45-7:15-9:45  
Sat, Sun: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:45-7:15  
Wed: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:25

**HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 (PG-13)**  
Fri: 3:45-6:45-9:45  
Sat, Sun: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 3:45-6:45  
Wed: 12:45-3:45-6:45

**MORNING GLORY (PG-13)**  
Fri: 4:40-7:00-9:10  
Sat, Sun: 12:00-2:20-4:40-7:00-9:10  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 4:40-7:00  
Wed: 12:00-2:20-4:40-7:00

**UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13)**  
Fri: 5:40-7:40-9:10  
Sat, Sun: 12:00-2:20-4:40-7:00-9:10  
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 5:40-7:40  
Wed: 1:40-3:40-5:40-7:40

**MEGAMIND (PG)**  
Fri: 5:30-7:30-9:30  
Sat, Sun: 11:30-1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30  
Wed: 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30

**HIGHLAND PARK**

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**127 HOURS (R)**  
Fri-Thurs: 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:15

**TODAY'S SPECIAL (NR)**  
Fri-Sun: 12:30  
3:00-5:30-8:00  
Mon-Thurs: 3:00-5:30-8:00

**LEAVING (NR)**  
Fri-Sun: 11:30-1:45-4:00-6:15-8:30  
Mon-Thurs: 1:45-4:00-6:15-8:30

**THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST (R)**  
Fri-Thurs: 1:00-4:15-7:30

**MAO'S LAST DANCER (PG)**  
Fri-Thurs: 5:00-7:45

**AHEAD OF TIME (NR)**  
Fri-Sun: 12:45-2:45  
Mon-Thurs: 2:45

**MOUNT PROSPECT**

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**THE WARRIOR'S WAY (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:25-8:00-10:25  
Sun: 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:25-8:00  
Mon-Thurs: 10:50-1:10-3:30-5:55-8:25

**BURLESQUE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:50-1:30-4:25-7:20-10:05  
Sun: 10:50-1:30-4:25-7:20  
Mon-Thurs: 11:05-1:55-4:40-7:20

**FASTER (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:10-12:45-3:10-5:45-8:15-10:35  
Sun: 10:10-12:45-3:10-5:45-8:15  
Mon-Thurs: 11:00-1:20-3:40-6:05-8:25

**LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50  
Sun: 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10  
Mon-Thurs: 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10

**TANGLED (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:30-2:10-4:45-7:45-10:15  
Sun: 11:30-2:10-4:45-7:45  
Mon-Thurs: 11:30-2:10-4:45-7:45

**TANGLED IN 3-D (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:30-1:15-4:05-7:00-9:45  
Sun: 10:30-1:15-4:05-7:00  
Mon-Thurs: 12:15-3:10-5:45-8:20

**HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 9:45-10:45-12:05-1:00-2:00-3:15-4:15-5:15-6:30-7:30-8:30-9:40-10:45  
Sun: 9:45-10:45-12:05-1:00-2:00-3:15-4:15-5:15-6:30-7:30-8:30  
Mon-Thurs: 10:45-12:05-1:00-2:00-3:15-4:15-5:15-6:30-7:30-8:30

**THE NEXT THREE DAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:15-1:10-4:10-7:15-10:00  
Sun: 10:15-1:10-4:10-7:15  
Mon-Thurs: 10:55-1:40-4:50-7:35

**UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 9:55-12:25-2:45-5:10-7:50-10:20  
Sun: 9:55-12:25-2:45-5:10-7:50  
Mon-Thurs: 10:45-1:05-3:25-5:50-8:10

**MORNING GLORY (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:00-1:45-5:00-7:40-10:10  
Sun: 11:00-1:45-5:00-7:40  
Mon-Thurs: 11:20-2:20-5:00-7:40

**DUE DATE (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:25-2:15-4:35-7:25-10:10  
Sun-Thurs: 11:25-2:15-4:35-7:25

**MEGAMIND (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:20-1:05-3:30-6:00-8:20-10:40  
Sun: 10:20-1:05-3:30-6:00-8:20  
Mon-Thurs: 11:05-1:25-3:45-6:00-8:15

**RED (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 9:50-12:20-2:50-5:20-7:55-10:30  
Sun: 9:50-12:20-2:50-5:20-7:55  
Mon-Thurs: 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:50

**SECRETARIAT (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 10:40-1:35-4:20-7:05-9:55  
Sun: 10:40-1:35-4:20-7:05  
Mon-Thurs: 10:55-1:45-4:25-7:15

SHOWTIMES

**NILES**

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**TANGLED (PG)**  
Fri-Sun: 1:00-4:00-6:30-8:45  
Mon-Thurs: 4:00-6:30-8:45

**MORNING GLORY (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 2:15-4:45-7:00-9:15  
Mon-Thurs: 4:45-7:00

**UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 2:15-4:45-7:00-9:15  
Mon-Thurs: 4:45-7:00

**HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 (PG-13)**  
Fri-Sun: 2:00-5:00-8:00  
Mon-Thurs: 5:00-8:00

**ROSEMONT**

**Rosemont 18**  
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave.  
(847) 447-1030

**THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER IN 3-D (PG)**  
Thurs: 12:01 a.m.

**THE TOURIST (PG-13)**  
Thurs: 12:01 p.m.

**DEAD AWAKE (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:00-3:40-6:00-8:20-10:40-12:55  
Sun-Thurs: 12:00-3:40-6:00-8:20-10:40

**THE WARRIOR'S WAY (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:50-2:25-5:00-7:35-10:10-12:40  
Mon-Thurs: 2:25-5:00-7:35-10:10

**BURLESQUE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40-12:30  
Sun-Thurs: 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:40

**FASTER (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:55-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15-12:50  
Sun: 11:55-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15  
Mon-Thurs: 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15

**LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:40-4:25-7:15-10:05-12:45  
Sun-Thurs: 1:40-4:25-7:15-10:05

**NUTCRACKER IN 3-D**  
Fri, Sat: 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:30-12:20  
Sun-Thurs: 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:30

**TANGLED (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:50-12:25  
Sun: 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:50  
Mon-Thurs: 2:10-4:45-7:20-9:50

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**THE NEXT THREE DAYS (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs: 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25

**SKYLINE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:35-3:10-5:35-8:05-10:35-1:00  
Sun-Thurs: 12:35-3:10-5:35-8:05-10:35

**UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:45-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10-12:40  
Mon-Thurs: 2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10

**MORNING GLORY (PG-13)**  
Fri, Sat: 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:45-12:25  
Sun-Thurs: 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:45

**DUE DATE (R)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:20-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25-12:45  
Sun-Thurs: 12:20-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25

**MEGAMIND IN 3-D (PG)**  
Fri, Sat: 11:40-2:15-4:50-7:25-9:55-12:25  
Sun: 11:40-2:15-4:50-7:25-9:55  
Mon-Thurs: 2:15-4:50-7:25-9:55

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**HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 (PG-13)**  
Fri, Wed, Thurs: 4:30-7:30  
Sat, Tues: 1:30-4:30-7:30

**THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST (R)**  
Fri: 4:50-7:45  
Sat: 12:15-3:05  
Sun-Thurs: 2:00-4:50-7:45  
Wed, Thurs: 4:00

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DAN JEWEL, LIFE & STYLE WEEKLY

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DVD COLUMN

'Inception' now available on DVD

By BRUCE INGRAM  
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

**INCEPTION**  
★ ★ ★ 1/2

Characters spend a lot of time sleeping in this movie, but not because things are dull. Occasionally confusing, yes, but never dull. This spectacularly complex, cerebral summer blockbuster from writer/director Christopher Nolan may not tie up apparent loose ends with the mathematical precision of his brilliant "Memento" (though it will probably take multiple viewings to be sure). It's also emotionally tepid and it disappoints, just a bit, in the final moments. But this is still a must-see — a welcome challenge compared to the spoon-fed plots of standard-issue formulaic product. Nolan begins with a formula: One Last Big Job for a weary, homesick corporate espionage super-thief (Leonardo DiCaprio) with a guilty secret, who steals secrets from dreaming mega-executives, but he plays mind-bogglingly original variations on that theme. Cobb (DiCaprio) and his team of shared dreamers (Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page and Tom Hardy) play fast and loose with reality as a matter of course, but the climactic Big Caper, which involves planting a new idea in someone's mind instead of merely uncovering a secret, requires navigation of a dream within a dream within a dream and subconscious suggestion amounting to deep Freudian psychotherapy in a hostile subconscious with their lives at stake. Never fear: "Inception" pulls its weight as a purely entertaining popcorn movie, with no shortage of



"The Twilight Saga: Eclipse"

shootouts, car chases, explosions, etc. (in addition to a wealth of fantastic imagery), but it gives you something else to chew on as well. (BI) Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action throughout.

**THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE**  
★ ★ ★

If you're not in the target demographic; that is to say, if you're not female and more specifically of the teen variety, you might be forgiven for thinking the angst-ridden melodrama is a bit tedious and the tortured romance is a bit goopy in this third installment of the teenage supernatural action romance phenomenon. But then, you wouldn't be watching it in the first place if you weren't, would you? Vampire boy Edward, werewolf boy Jacob and inexplicably attractive girl-next-door Bella (Robert Pattinson, Tyler Lautner and Kristin Stewart) are back facing a new threat from an invading vampire army, their vengeful old enemy Victoria (Bryce Dallas Howard), the ever-threatening Volturi and their own raging hormones. The direction by David Slade ("Hard Candy") emphasizes flashy camera moves and fast-cutting combat scenes, but the real action is in the way the burner's been turned up a notch on the young, aching, vampire love. (BI) Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action and



"Inception"

violence, and some sensuality.

RECENT RELEASES

**KNIGHT AND DAY**  
★ ★ ★ 1/2

A fast-paced, often extremely funny and surprisingly inventive action-comedy-romance. Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz both have a field day as an affable, ultra-violent runaway superspy with a clueless, hysterical civilian in tow, and director James Mangold ("3:10 to Yuma," "Walk the Line") keeps us guessing about whether or not Cruise is a good guy or a rogue agent out to sell a top secret to the highest bidder. (BI) Rated PG-13 for sequences of action violence throughout, and brief strong language. (Fox)

**THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE**  
★ ★ ★

This family-friendly action-adventure comedy casts a mean, audience-pleasing spell. Nicolas Cage plays a former apprentice of Merlin who's been searching for centuries to find Merlin's successor. Naturally, the future

supreme master of wizardry turns out to be a nervous, socially awkward, apparently weak-kidneyed NYU physics nerd (Jay Baruchel) — who's not at all happy about the situation. (BI) Rated PG for fantasy action violence, some mild rude humor and brief language. (Disney)

ALSO NEW THIS WEEK:

**BIG BAD MAMA/ BIG BAD MAMA II**

1970s drive-in gangster opuses from Roger Corman, starring Angie Dickinson as a gun-totin' gangster mom — much sexier than Ma Barker. Part of Shout! Factory's excellent, ongoing Corman series. (Shout! Factory)

THE BOB HOPE COLLECTION

Five vintage Hope comedies, all restored and remastered in high-definition: "The Road to Rio (1947)," "The Road to Bali" (1952), "The Lemon Drop Kid" (1951), "My Favorite Brunette" (1947), and "The Seven Little Foys" (1955). (Shout! Factory)

HUNTER PREY

Intergalactic commandos attempt to track down their escaped alien prisoner after their ship crashlands on an unknown planet. (Maya Entertainment)

RESTREPO

A documentary detailing day-to-day life of combat soldiers in one of the most dangerous outposts in Afghanistan. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at this year's Sundance Festival. (Virgil Films & Entertainment)

YOGI BEAR'S ALL-STAR COMEDY CHRISTMAS CAPER

Yogi poses as a department store Santa to restore a little girl's faith in Christmas. (1982) (Warner) Comment: pioneerlocal.com

OPENING FRIDAY:

**BLACK SWAN**  
★ ★ ★ 1/2

Darren Aronofsky ("The Wrestler," "Requiem for a Dream") directed this psychological thriller about a ballerina (Natalie Portman) whose obsessive devotion to her art may be driving her mad. Vincent Cassel, Mila Kunis, Barbara Hershey and Winona Ryder are featured. Reviewed in this section. (BI) (103 min.) Rated R for strong sexual content, disturbing violent images, language and some drug use.

THE WARRIOR'S WAY

The world's greatest swordsman (Korean star Jang Dong-gun) attempts to begin a new life in the American Wild West, only to be pursued by his enemies. Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush and Danny Huston are featured in the martial arts adventure. Rated R.

ides to break her out of jail himself. At its best "The Next Three Days" plays like an old-fashioned caper movie along the lines of "Rififi." Much of the enjoyment comes from watching Brennan make meticulous plans and ultimately execute them, all the while coping with a set of heart-stopping complications. Women are likely to find another source of pleasure entirely in the extreme, almost insane, husbandly perfection of Prof. Brennan, though that's likely to be mixed with a certain frustration about the bozos they're stuck with. (BI) Rated PG-13 for violence, drug material, some sexuality and thematic elements.

BURLESQUE

A small-town girl (Christina Aguilera, yeah right) moves to LA to become a star and gets her chance at a burlesque club run by Cher. Actor Steve Antin ("NYPD Blue") makes his writing/directing feature with the musical romance. Rated PG-13 for sexual content including several suggestive dance routines, partial nudity, language and some thematic material.

STILL PLAYING:

**HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS**

In the first installment of this two-part adaptation of J.K. Rowling's final "Potter" novel, Harry and friends pit themselves against the evil Lord Voldemort, whose black magic has grown perilously strong. David Yates ("Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince") returns as director. (146 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sequences of intense action violence, frightening images and brief sensuality.

FASTER

An ex-con (Dwayne Johnson) attempts to avenge the death of his brother while being pursued by a veteran cop and a hit man. George Tillman Jr. ("Soul Food," "Men of Honor") directed the action/adventure. Rated R for strong violence, some drug use and language.

LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS

A free-spirited woman (Anne Hathaway) and a charming ladykiller (Jake Gyllenhaal) meet and, much to their dismay, fall in love. Edward Zwick ("Blood Diamond," "The Last Samurai") co-wrote and directed the romance. Rated R for strong sexual content, nudity, pervasive language and some drug material.

**TANGLED**  
★ ★ 1/2

Director Byron Howard's (here teaming with fellow former animator Nathan Greno) knack for slapstick comedy, first demonstrated in 2008's "Bolt," should make this elaborately embroidered riff on "Rapunzel" relatively easy to take — especially if you happen to be nine years old. After being imprisoned in a tower by an evil witch who needs to keep Rapunzel's magical golden hair nearby to stay young and passes herself off as her mother, our heroine (voice of Mandy Moore) begins to get stir fever just about the time roguishly handsome thief Flynn Rider (Zachary Levi, TV's "Chuck") breaks in and steals her heart. Well, actually, Rapunzel knocks him senseless several times with a frying pan, but you get

FILM CLIPS

Becky is very, very good at her job, which makes this one of those rare films that feature a fairly fully-developed female character who's more than a wife, a mother or a waitress. Roger Michell ("Notting Hill") directed from a script by Aline Brosh McKenna ("The Devil Wears Prada"). (BI) (102 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sexual content including dialogue, language and brief drug references.

**127 HOURS**  
★ ★ ★ 1/2

That's five days plus change if you've been counting on your fingers, during which time extreme hiker Aron Ralston (James Franco) is basically pinned in an isolated canyon by a boulder that has rolled loose and crushed his arm. That extreme ouch situation, based on a memoir by mountain climber Ralston, is the basic setting for the entire film, but co-writer/director Danny Boyle ("Slumdog Millionaire," "Trainspotting") keeps the story moving along with frequent flashbacks, dreams and hallucinations — all teaching Ralston painful lessons about himself. In fact, "127 Hours" is almost hyperkinetically energetic and visually stylized, in addition to being remarkably suspenseful as Ralston at-

tempts impossible escape with nothing but a length of cord and a dull pocket knife. This is the second impressive leading role in a row for Franco after "Howl" (kindly overlooking his unlikely appearance as Julia Roberts' whiny boyfriend in "Eat Pray Love"), and he goes a long way toward anchoring all the frenetic visual tricks with plain humanity. Still and all, this one could result in wholesale cancellations of Outdoor magazine. (BI) (94 min.) Rated R for language and some disturbing violent content/bloody images.

**DUE DATE**  
★ ★

It's "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," basically, but with fewer conveyances and far fewer laughs. Zach Galifianakis plays an exceedingly annoying aspiring actor (with a comedy/tragedy pin in his lapel) who's making a cross-country trip to LA with his father's ashes in a coffee can. Robert Downey Jr. is a tightly wound architect who finds himself stranded and utterly dependent on his new worst enemy if he hopes to get back home in time for the birth of his first child. And, of course, there's a bulldog in a neck brace riding along just to make things a little more bizarre. There are a few genuinely funny moments here and there, but nothing to match direct-

tor Todd Phillips' previous "The Hangover." After awhile, "Due Date" plays more like an extended nightmare than an outright comedy, with emotional pain eventually outstripping the slapstick punishment dealt out to Downey. (BI) (100 min.) Rated R for language, drug use and sexual content.

**FAIR GAME**  
★ ★ ★ 1/2

Serious and straightforward right down the line, this engrossing political drama is a surprising change of pace for director Doug Liman ("Swingers," "The Bourne Identity," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith"), whose previous forte was stylish action and stylish comedy, or a combination of the two. Sean Penn and Naomi Watts are nicely matched as retired ambassador Joe Wilson and his wife, CIA agent Valerie Plame, who was outed by the White House in 2003 to discredit Wilson after he challenged the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Liman manages to keep things tense, despite the age and familiarity of the story, and to bring a fair amount of sympathy from the ensuing marital conflict — based on books written by both Plame and Wilson. The politics might be a little hard to handle, but that's mainly due to the way Penn's role fits his personal political agenda. All in all, this is a satisfyingly dramatic treatment of a key moment in recent history. (BI) (104 min.) Rated PG-13 for some language.

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### HOLIDAY

"A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration," through Dec. 19 at Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 7 only); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except Dec. 5 and 12). Tickets: \$45-\$55. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org).

A reading of "A Christmas Carol," with afternoon tea served at intermission, will be presented at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. \$20 per person.

Half of each ticket price will be donated to Connections for the Homeless. Reservations required: call (847) 864-1679 or visit [www.celticknotpub.com](http://www.celticknotpub.com).

The Jamie O'Reilly Christmas Show will be presented at 2 p.m. Dec. 19 at SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Vocalist O'Reilly is joined by musical partner and composer Michael Smith in O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," narrated by Rick Kogan. The show also includes carols and folk songs. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call (847) 492-8860 or visit [www.evanston.space.com](http://www.evanston.space.com).

"Dance-Along Nutcracker" will be presented by the Performing Arts Limited cast from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 4 in center court at Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood. Free. For information, call (773) 262-3262 or

visit [www.performingartslimited.com](http://www.performingartslimited.com). "Nutcracker on Ice" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11; and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston. Tickets are \$8.50 for general admission; \$9.50 for reserved seats. Group discounts are available. For more information, call (847) 448-8258.

"The Nutcracker" will be presented by the Performing Arts Limited, with Ensemble Espanol and Zahara Fusion, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 and 2 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Nolan Center for the Performing Arts at St. Scholastica Academy, 7416 N. Ridge, Chicago. Tickets: \$5-\$20. Nutcracker Tea precedes the Sunday matinee: \$30 tickets include the performance. Nutcracker Boutique at shows sells nutcrackers, tiaras and other souvenir items. For tickets and information, call (773) 262-3262 or visit [www.performingartslimited.com](http://www.performingartslimited.com). "Do-it-yourself Nutcracker" will be presented by the Evanston Dance Ensemble at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 12 at Dance Center Evanston, located in the Dempster Plaza, 1934 Dempster St. A reception for all performers will follow each show. Suggested donation: \$5 per person or \$10 per family. For further information or to reserve a space, call (847) 328-6683.

"The Nutcracker" will be presented by Salt Creek Ballet at 3 p.m. Dec. 18-19 in the Centre East Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

go., PAGE B12

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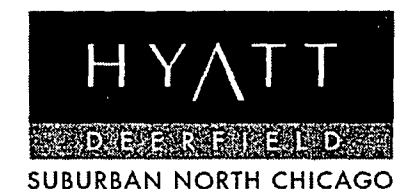
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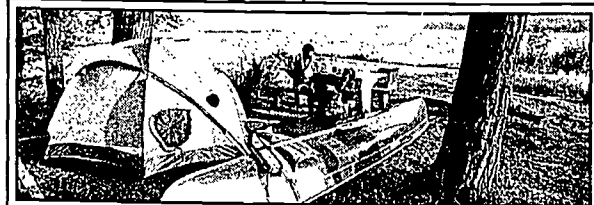
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**Spirit**

Continued from PAGE B3

for his wife Rose back in Texas. He sings the usually jaunty "Yellow Rose of Texas" as a ballad, and soon Rose, played by Mildred Marie Langford, appears as a dream, her voice joining his in tender harmony. It is quietly the loveliest moment in the show. Langford also plays Hannah, the fugitive slave looking frantically for her daughter, Jessa, played by Khori Faison.

Longfellow is played by David Girolomo, who sings the verses of "I Heard the Bells" with the passion of a poet. The carol, based on that poem, which we sing today omits the angry references to the Civil War, but they are revived here and resonate with immediacy.

Girolomo also portrays General Grant and three

other men. Alex Goodrich is memorable as the guileless Quaker soldier Chester, two other roles, plus the young rebel's horse Silver. Yes, you read that right, and it provides some much-needed humor in this Christmas Eve drama.

The star chameleon, however, has to be Bethany Jorgensen, who portrays a young rebel boy, Anna Surratt and Widow Saunders, mother of Chester, in addition to playing the fiddle!

The cast includes Will Klinger as Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman, with Kevin Douglas and Samuel Robertson sharing eight roles between them.

There is music in "A Civil War Christmas," but the tunes are selected from among carols, spirituals and anthems known during that time, including "Silent Night" and "O Tannenbaum." Another is

"Follow the Drinking Gourd," reputed to be from the days of the Underground Railroad urging slaves to follow the Big Dipper, which points to the North Star and freedom. "Rise Up Shepherds and Follow," "What Child is this?" and "Children Go Where I Send Thee" are among familiar songs.

Does this work have the power of Dickens's holiday tale? Not quite. It would have been easier to follow had the cast either been slightly larger, with more distinction between characters, or had the story been simpler, without so many people, so much activity and such frantic action.

Still it is our history and the two-and-a-half-hour show does move quickly. Plus it has a warm heart, filled with, in Longfellow's words, "peace on earth, good-will to men."

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Continued from PAGE B8

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets: \$30-\$38. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org).

"Get Behind Me, Santa!" comedy sketch show will be presented Dec. 3-19 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, with pre-show food and drink at the Gale Street Inn, 4914 N. Milwaukee Ave. Schedule: Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. at Gale Street Inn, with performance at 10:30 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. at Gale Street Inn, with performance at 6:30 p.m. Each \$40 ticket includes appetizers and three drink tickets on Saturdays and a three-course meal and two drink tickets on Sundays, tax and tip included, free parking at Gale Street Inn and one ticket to "Get Behind Me, Santa!" at The Gift. Visit [www.thegifttheatre.org](http://www.thegifttheatre.org) or call (773) 283-7071.

"Bright the Holly Berries" will be presented by the Lakeside Singers at 8 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Music Institute of Chicago's Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$30; \$20 seniors and students; \$10 children under 12. Call (847) 382-5085 or visit [www.lakesidesingers.com](http://www.lakesidesingers.com).

Family entertainer Dave Rudolf presents an interactive holiday show at 3 p.m. Dec. 4 at Oakton Community College's Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. The show is recommended for all ages. Tickets are \$7 for general admission; \$5 for children 12

and under; and \$4 for groups of 15 or more. Call (847) 635-1900.

The Bittersweet Christmas Band, featuring folksingers Phil Cooper, Kate Early, Margaret Nelson and Susan Urban, will present songs of the season, including Solstice and Hanukkah, at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard, attached and street parking), Skokie. \$8 includes pastry and beverages. For further information, visit [www.ethical-humanist.org/coffeehouse](http://www.ethical-humanist.org/coffeehouse) or call (847) 677-3334.

"Christmas Old and New" will be presented by Chicago Choral Artists at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 Dickens, Chicago. The program will highlight texts set to music centuries apart, including Gabrieli and Poulenc, Viadana and Arvo Part, Praetorius and Distler, and more. Directed by Clayton Parr, director of Choral Activities at DePaul University. Tickets: \$20; \$15 senior citizens; \$10 students. Call (708) 848-1762 or visit [www.chicagochoralartists.org](http://www.chicagochoralartists.org) for discounted tickets.

"The Christmas Star" will be presented by the Northwest Choral Society at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at Southminster Presbyterian Church, 916 E. Central Road, Arlington Heights, and at 4 p.m. Dec. 5 at Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. Tickets: \$18; \$15 for students and senior citizens. Visit [www.nwchoralsociety.org](http://www.nwchoralsociety.org).

"Music for the Season of Christmas" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and 3 p.m. Dec. 5 in Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Robert A.

Harris and Amy G. Weller will conduct the University Chorale, University Singers, University Chorus and the University Symphony Orchestra in a program of traditional and newer choral works celebrating the Christmas season. The concert will conclude with the combined choral ensembles and orchestra performing John Rutter's "Gloria," a festive cantata for soprano solo, chorus and orchestra. Tickets: \$12; \$9 for senior citizens; \$6 for full-time students with IDs. Call (847) 467-4000 or visit [www.pickstaiger.org](http://www.pickstaiger.org).

A Festival of Lessons and Carols will be presented at 10:40 a.m. Dec. 5 in Northwestern University's Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. Stephen Alltop will conduct the Alice Millar Chapel Choir, Philharmonia and Millar Brass Ensemble in a concert featuring oboist Michael Henoch. The holiday program will tell the story of Christmas in a combination of music and readings. The carols for brass, strings, organ and choir range from medieval to modern and will include excerpts from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," Monteverdi's "Gloria" and "Magnificat," Whitacre's "Lux Aurumque" and Chilcott's "The Shepherd's Carol." Admission is a free-will offering.

"Holiday Delights" will be presented by Bella Voce, an a cappella choral ensemble, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 616 Lake St., Evanston. Tickets: \$35 premium; \$28 general admission; \$15 students. For information, visit [www.bellavoce.org](http://www.bellavoce.org) or call (312) 479-1096.

go., PAGE B14

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 Continued from PAGE B12

"An Evanston Symphony Christmas" will be presented by the Evanston Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Evanston Township High School auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave. The concert will feature the 100-voice Evanston Symphony Festival Chorus along with madrigals and minstrels. 50 singers from the Evanston Children's Choir, and the Evanston Dance Ensemble. Tickets: \$25; \$10 for children, with a special discounted family package available. Visit [www.evansonsymphony.org](http://www.evansonsymphony.org) or call (847) 864-8804.

Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach will be presented by Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at the First United Methodist Church of Evanston, 1630 Hinman Ave. Tickets: \$38, \$45, \$60. Call (312) 551-1414 or visit [www.baroque.org](http://www.baroque.org).

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented at 4 p.m. Dec. 5 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. The church's Chorus, Junior, Youth and Adult Choirs, together with a variety of instrumental ensembles and chamber orchestra, will lead the traditional seasonal service. For information, call (847) 825-6659 or visit [www.stlukespr.org](http://www.stlukespr.org).

Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit [www.skokietheatre.com](http://www.skokietheatre.com). Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Dec. 5, 2 p.m.: John Van Keulen in "Merry & Gay: The Holiday Show." Dec. 10, 8 p.m.: Shout Section Big Band presents "Duke the Halls," a holiday tribute to Duke Ellington. Dec. 11, 8 p.m.: Rob Dorn presents "Wonderland." Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m.: Tony Bernard presents "Christmas Crooners." Dec. 17, 8 p.m.: Catherine O'Connell presents Christmas songs old and new.

"Holidays a cappella" will be presented by Chicago a cappella at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Music Institute of Chicago's Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes Chanukah melodies, African-American spirituals, and Christmas music from Spain, Sweden, Latvia, and Greece, as well as works by Francis Poulenc, Daron Hagen and Chicago composer Wayland Rogers. Tickets: \$28-\$35; \$22 seniors; \$12 students. For further information, call (773) 755-1628 or visit [www.chicagoacappella.org](http://www.chicagoacappella.org).

"Holiday Joy" will be presented by the Park Ridge Chorale at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Tickets in advance are \$14; \$12 for seniors; at the door, \$16/\$14. Free admission for children under 18. Call (847) 825-5499 or (847) 825-2216.

"Christmas Songs in the Night," featuring Evanston and Chicago choirs and men's choruses, will be presented at 6 p.m. Dec. 11 at Faith Temple Church, 1932 Dewey Ave., Evanston. Donations will benefit the H.E. Lane Center for Positive Change. For information, call (847) 769-2736.

"Canciones de Navidad: A Spanish Christmas" will be presented by The Chicago Chamber Choir at 7 p.m. Dec.

12 at the Music Institute of Chicago's Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door; \$15 for students. Visit [www.chicagochamberchoir.org](http://www.chicagochamberchoir.org) or call (312) 409-6890.

"Christmas at the Opera" will be presented by North Shore Opera Hour, featuring soprano Kaori Williams, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. The program will include selections from "La Boheme" and "Madama Butterfly," as well as holiday songs. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit [www.skokietheatre.com](http://www.skokietheatre.com).

"Songs of the Season" will be presented by Women of Note at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 14 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Free admission. For information, contact Sharon Bussell at (847) 251-7600 or [srbuss@aol.com](mailto:srbuss@aol.com).

Evanston Children's Choir will present its Holiday Concert 2010 at 4 p.m. Dec. 19 at Northwestern University's Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. The program includes music of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and features guest artist Miah Logan of S.O.U.L. Creations. Free-will donations accepted at the door. For more information, call (847) 733-0814 or visit [www.evansstonchildrenschoir.org](http://www.evansstonchildrenschoir.org).

Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. The annual event includes a bake sale and visit from Santa Claus. Mass is celebrated in the auditorium at 10:30 a.m. and a traditional Irish breakfast follows. Irish musicians Clara Walton and Cormac McCarthy will entertain throughout the day. Cost for the breakfast is \$8, \$4 for children, and reservations are required. Call (773) 282-7035, ext. 10. There is no admission fee for the bazaar.

"Koledy Polskie: Polish Carols" will be presented by The Lira Singers and Lira Symphony of the Lira Ensemble at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 2 at St. John Brebeuf Church, 8307 N. Harlem, Niles. Call (773) 508-7040 or visit [www.liraensemble.org](http://www.liraensemble.org).

"The Nutcracker" will be performed by The Joffrey Ballet, with live musical accompaniment by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 10-26 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Parkway, Chicago. \$30-\$115. For tickets, call (800) 982-2787 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). For information, visit [www.joffrey.org](http://www.joffrey.org).

"It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play," through Dec. 30 at the American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St., Chicago. ATC transforms its intimate space into a 1940s radio studio to tell Frank Capra's classic story of one man's effect on his community, complete with audiograms and commercial breaks. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$35-\$40. Call (773) 409-4125 or visit [www.atcweb.org](http://www.atcweb.org).

"Miracle on 34th Street" will be presented by Porchlight Music Theatre through Jan. 2 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont, Chicago. When a white-bearded gentleman claims to be the real Santa Claus, he brings about a genuine "Miracle on 34th Street," convincing a divorced, cynical single mother, her somber daughter, and the entire state

of New York that Santa Claus is no myth. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays; 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$38-\$40. Call (773) 327-5252 or visit [www.stage773.com](http://www.stage773.com).

"Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Ho-Ho Night," through Dec. 19 at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago. The Christmas comedy asks "Did Baby Jesus get to ride in the sleigh? Was Santa with the Holy Family in the manger? Did the elves guide the Three Wise Men?" Performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$30. Call (312) 988-9000 or visit [www.nuns4fun.com](http://www.nuns4fun.com).

"Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" will be presented by A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Company through Jan 2 at The Conservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 4 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$15; \$12 for students and seniors. Visit [www.artco.com](http://www.artco.com) or call (773) 418-4475.

"The Annoyance Christmas Pageant," a family-friendly retelling of two classic holiday stories - "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Year Without A Santa Claus" - through Dec. 19 at The Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway, Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. Saturdays, with matinees at 2 p.m. Sundays. Dec. 12 and 19. Tickets: \$16; \$12 for children. Call (773) 561-4665 or visit [www.theannoyance.com](http://www.theannoyance.com).

Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m.: New Year's Eve party, featuring bands The Modern Day Romeos and Jaktrippert, pop singer Tony Ocean, a dance club with music by a DJ, and more. \$59 per person. Overnight packages and dinner buffet also available. Reservations are required. Call (800) 233-1234 or visit [www.hyattregencyohare.com](http://www.hyattregencyohare.com).

**STAGE**

"Hello, Dolly!" will be presented by Light Opera Works Dec. 26-Jan. 2 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Irrepressible matchmaker Dolly Levi is hired to arrange a marriage for the tightfisted "half-millionaire" Horace Vandergelder. She finds him the perfect mate - herself! Performances are at 2 p.m. Dec. 26-27, Dec. 29 and Jan. 2; 7 p.m. Dec. 28; and 8 p.m. Dec. 30-31 and Jan. 1. Tickets: \$48, \$68, \$77 and \$92 for the main floor; \$32, \$48, \$68, \$77 for the balcony. All seats \$2 higher on New Year's Eve. Half-price for ages 21 and younger half-price on Dec. 27, 28 and 29. Call (847) 869-6300 or visit [www.LightOperaWorks.com](http://www.LightOperaWorks.com).

"Kid Simple: A Radio Play in the Flesh" will be presented Dec. 2-12 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sundays. In this modern fable, science fair champion Moll builds a machine for hearing sounds that can't be detected - spider footsteps or a heart breaking - and must battle the forces of darkness to save the universe from destruction. Tickets: \$10 for general admission; \$8 for students and seniors; \$6 for groups of 15 or more; \$5 for the preview performance on Dec. 2. Call

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DEC. 14

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Friday, January 7, 2011  
 Paramount Theatre • Aurora, IL  
 Tickets: \$10 (ages 12 and under), \$15 (ages 13-17), \$20 (ages 18-24), \$25 (ages 25-34), \$30 (ages 35-44), \$35 (ages 45-54), \$40 (ages 55-64), \$45 (ages 65-74), \$50 (ages 75-84), \$55 (ages 85-94), \$60 (ages 95-100)

Thursday, January 6, 2011  
 North Shore Center • Skokie, IL  
 Tickets: \$10 (ages 12 and under), \$15 (ages 13-17), \$20 (ages 18-24), \$25 (ages 25-34), \$30 (ages 35-44), \$35 (ages 45-54), \$40 (ages 55-64), \$45 (ages 65-74), \$50 (ages 75-84), \$55 (ages 85-94), \$60 (ages 95-100)

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(847) 635-1900 or visit www.oakton.edu/tickets.

"Local Wonders," through Jan. 9 at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago. Featuring anecdote, humor, poetry and song, the musical celebrates the wonders of everyday life. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25-\$30; discounts available for students and senior citizens. Call (630) 457-1074 or visit www.chicagodramatists.org.

"The Lonesome West," through Dec. 19 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Showtimes at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

"A Man for All Seasons" will be presented by the Northridge Preparatory School Drama Club at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at Stage One Theatre, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines. Tickets: \$12; \$6 for students and children. For information, e-mail marketing@northridgeprep.org.

"The Piano Teacher," presented by Next Theatre Company through Dec. 5 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. When the sweet, cookie-loving Mrs. K, the epitome of the caring grandmotherly piano teacher, reaches out to her old students, she discovers a chain of startling secrets that she can no longer

keep hidden inside her piano bench. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$30-\$45. Call (847) 475-1875, ext. 2, or visit www.nexttheatre.org.

CLASSICAL

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.arsviva.org. Tickets: \$44-\$70, with discounts for seniors and students. Dec. 5, 4:30 p.m.: The program includes Schumann: Overture, Scherzo and Finale; Schubert: Symphony No. 3 in D; and Brahms: Serenade No. 1 in D. Also featuring the Music for Life program for children 4 to 11 years old. Children attend the first part of the concert with their family, then leave for a music education session. Parents purchase regular tickets and their children attend for free. Jan. 30, 4:30 p.m.:

"The Genius of Mozart," with David Taylor, violin, Charles Pikler, viola, Lyon Leifer, flute, and Lynn Williams, harp. The program includes Mozart's Serenade in G ("Eine Kleine Nachtmusik"); Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat for Violin, Viola and Orchestra; Concerto for Flute and Harp in C; and Symphony No. 29 in A. Extra performance at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31 in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m.: "The Hungarian/Finnish Connection," with Lori Kaufman, piano. The program includes Zoltan Kodaly: "Dances of Marosszek"; Bela Bartok: Piano Concerto No. 3; and Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 6 in d minor and "Finlandia." May 1, 4:30 p.m.: "A Rising Star," featuring the winner of the Music Institute of Chicago Competition. The program includes James

Stephenson: Concertino and Fanfare; Carl Maria von Weber: Overture and March from "Turandot"; and Paul Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber. The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$20-\$75. April 17: "Going for Baroque," with David Schrader, guest conductor, and Alyce Johnson, piccolo, guest soloist. The program includes Vivaldi's Concerto for Piccolo and Strings in C Major and CPE Bach's Harpischord Concerto in D minor. May 15: "Rachleff Conducts Brahms," with pianist Jeffrey

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 Continued from PAGE B16

Siegel as guest soloist. The program includes Brahms's Symphony No. 1 and Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto No. 5 in E Flat Major.

Lutkin Hall at Northwestern University, 700 University Place, Evanston. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public; senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. (847) 467-4000. Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.: Faculty recital, "Twilight Muses." Tenor Kurt Hansen and pianists Karina Kon-torovitch and Ruth Lin will perform music by Mendelssohn, Brahms and Rachmaninoff. \$9/\$7/\$5. Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.: 2011 Segovia Classical Guitar Series features Paraguayan guitarist Berta Rojas. The program includes selections from her albums "Terruno," "Cielo Abierto" and "Intimate Barrios." \$21/\$18/\$10.

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera's series of live performance transmissions into movie theaters, includes Showplace Niles 12, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles, and Evanston 18, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston. Tickets are available at the theater box offices and online at www.fathomevents.co. Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m.: "Don Carlo."

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.: The Music Institute of Chicago Chorale celebrates the 200th anniversary of Mexican inde-

pendence with a Mexican Baroque concert, featuring the Rogers Park Neighborhood Choir of Chicago Children's Choir. The program includes works by late 16th to 18th century composers Manuel Zumaya, Francisco Lopez Capillas and Gaspar Fernandez, and concludes with a Te Deum for double choir and orchestra by Ignacio de Jerusalem. Tickets: \$15; \$10 for seniors; \$7 for students. Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.: The Community Symphony Orchestra of the Music Institute of Chicago, under the direction of Larry Eckerling, will present a free concert. The program includes Capriccio Espagnol, "Finlandia" Overture and more. Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.: Mezzo-soprano and MIC faculty member Julia Bentley performs the world premiere of Laura Elise Schwendinger's "About A Mountain," inspired by John D'Agata's book of the same name. Also on the program is George Crumb's Madrigals, Books I-IV, based on the poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca. Tickets: \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students.



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**go.**  
Continued from **PAGE B18**

"Music of Vienna," with soloist Daniel Gingrich, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's co-principal French hornist. The program includes Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 3 in E-flat Major; Robert Schumann's Third Symphony ("Rhenish"); Johann Strauss Sr.'s Radetzky March; and Johann Strauss Jr.'s Emperor Waltz. April 10: "Russian Triumph," featuring bassoonist William Dawson. The program includes Mozart's Concerto in B-flat for Bassoon and Orchestra; Debussy's Petite Suite; and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 in D minor. May 22: Pops concert, showcasing military, opera and Broadway themes. Featuring Stephanie Block, viola, winner of the Paul Vermet Young Artist Award.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit [www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org](http://www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org) or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. Feb. 13, 2:30 p.m.: "Opera & Symphony," with Anne Marie Lewis, mezzo-soprano soloist, Peder Reiff, tenor soloist, and Peter Van De Graaff, narrator. The program includes Rossini: Overture and excerpts from "William Tell"; Mozart: Excerpts from "Così fan Tutte"; and Sibelius: Symphony #2 in D, Opus 43. April 10, 2:30 p.m.: "Baroque Bash," with Victor Huls, cello soloist. The program includes Bach: Brandenburg #1 in F major; Boccherini: Cello Concerto (Gruetzmacher); and Haydn: Symphony #49 in F minor (La Passione). May 1, 2:30 p.m.: "Homage to Mozart," with Sarah Hibbard, soprano soloist, Jessye Wright, contralto soloist, Peder Reiff, tenor soloist, Peter Van De Graaff, bass soloist, and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus, the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir and the Algoma Festival Choir of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. The program includes Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and Requiem Mass in D minor.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000. [www.pickstaiger.org](http://www.pickstaiger.org). Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public, senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.: "Music from Kyiv: A Festival of Ukrainian Composers," Robert G. Hasty, associate director of orchestras, will conduct the Chamber Orchestra in a concert featuring harpist Andrea Mumm, a Northwestern University Concerto/Aria Competition winner. The program will include Lyashenko's Harp Concerto, Ludmila Yurina's "Pangea," Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro" and Tchaikovsky's Suite from "Swan Lake." \$7/\$5/\$4. Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Band presents "Old Wine in New Bottles," a concert featuring newer band works derived, borrowed or transformed from earlier musical material. \$7/\$5/\$4. Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Evanston Chamber Ensemble and guests perform Brahms' Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major and the chamber version of

Mahler's Symphony No. 4. \$22/\$20/\$10. Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.: Bienen School of Music faculty and guest artists will perform Bartok's "Contrasts." Strauss Sonata for Violin and Piano in E-flat Major, Dahl's "Concerto a Tre" and Faure's Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor. \$22/\$20/\$10. Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.: Jupiter String Quartet, a group of young, Boston-based chamber musicians, will perform Beethoven's String Quartets No. 2 in G Major and No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, as well as Kurtag's "MicroLudes." \$24/\$22/\$12. Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Bienen School of Music faculty and guests will present Sir William Walton's "Facade," with narration by Chicago television journalist and documentarian Bill Kurtis. The program also includes Mozart's "Gran Partita." \$22/\$20/\$10. Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.: Philharmonia Quartett Berlin will perform Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Minor; Beethoven's String Quartet No. 8 in E Minor; and Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor. \$24/\$22/\$12. Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Violinist Arnold Steinhardt, a founding member of the Guarneri String Quartet, will perform Mozart's Violin Sonata in G Major, Janacek's Violin Sonata, Schumann's Romance from "F-A-E Sonata" and Dvorak's Piano Quintet in A Major. \$24/\$22/\$12. Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra, with Northwestern University Concerto Competition-winning clarinetist Jack Marquadt. The program will include Cesar Franck's "The Accursed Huntsman"; John Corigliano's Clarinet Concerto; and Richard Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra." \$9/\$7/\$5. Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra will perform Hugo Wolf's "Italian Serenade," Bartok's "Romanian Folk Dances," Desyatnikov's arrangement of Piazzolla's "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires" and Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings in C Major. \$30/\$26/\$14.

Regenstein Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public; senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Saxophone Ensemble will present a program of original works and orchestral transcriptions. \$7/\$5/\$4. Jan. 16, 11 a.m.: Berta Rojas Guitar Master Class. Admission is free.

Rembrandt Chamber Players will present "Classic vs. Contemporary" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes Telemann's Suite in A Minor, Bach's Violin Concerto in A Minor, and contemporary works of John Pasalteri and Joan Tower. Tickets: \$37-\$50. Call (312) 360-3145 or visit [www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org](http://www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org).

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$23-\$37; \$10 for children. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.svso.org](http://www.svso.org). Dec. 12: "Rachmaninoff, Puccini and Wagner," including a semi-staged performance of the third act of "La Bohème." The concert also features Kate Liu, winner of the orchestra's Young Artist Competition, performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. The program also includes Wagner's Overture to "Rienzi." Feb. 27: An all-Beethoven program featuring the Symphony No. 3 (Eroica) and Symphony No. 8. May 15: "Strauss and Tchaikovsky," including the Pathétique Symphony.

**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. Dec. 3, 8 p.m.: Usher with Trey Songz. \$29.50-\$125. Dec. 4, 8 p.m.: Michael Bublé. \$49.50, \$75, \$95.

The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-1679. [www.celticknotpub.com](http://www.celticknotpub.com). No cover unless noted otherwise. Mondays, 8 p.m.-midnight: Bluegrass and roots music with The Mudflaps. Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.: Irish music session. Dec 18, 10 p.m.: Bluegrass Advocates. Dec. 19, 5-8 p.m.: Eric Lugosch.

Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse, 5464 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 928-9900. [www.gibsonsteakhouse.com](http://www.gibsonsteakhouse.com). Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m.-midnight: Lenny Capp. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight: Lenny Capp Trio. "Jewmangous!," a concert of comedy songs featuring Sean Altman, will be presented at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, with special guest comedienne and songwriter Cindy Kaplan. Open to all ages. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Visit [www.kfar-center.org](http://www.kfar-center.org).

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. [www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org](http://www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org). Dec. 12, 2 p.m.: Live@Lincolnwood - The Lincoln Hall Swing and Honor Choir performs songs of the season. Free tickets available at the circulation desk.

Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. (773) 381-4554. [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com). Dec. 2, 8 p.m.: Shannon McNally and Hot Sauce (rock and Americana). \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Dec. 7, 8 p.m.: Singer/songwriter Darrell Scott. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; \$40 for VIP seating. Dec. 8, 8 p.m.: Eastern Blok plays world music. \$15. Dec. 9, 8 p.m.: Geoff Muldaur and Jim Kweskin (folk and Americana). \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. [www.musicinst.org](http://www.musicinst.org). Jan. 16, 5 p.m.: The seventh annual Martin Luther King Celebration, featuring the Brotherhood Chorale of the Apostolic Church of God. The 180-member male choral group, led by conductor Brian C. Rice, will perform a program of traditional and contemporary gospel and jazz arrangements. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted to benefit the William Warfield Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Music Institute of Chicago, which annually offers financial assistance to MIC minority students.

The New Horizons Band performs at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16 in Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Free admission. For information, visit [A CUSTOM MEDIA SOLUTIONS SECTION

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

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BY REX ROY  
\*SearchChicago-Autos Correspondent\*

Right now, you're living through one of the biggest transformations the automotive world has ever encountered. The future is uncertain.

Will all future cars be electric? Possibly. However, genetically engineered organisms may be created to produce gasoline, diesel and ethanol. This would allow future generations of internal-combustion engines to survive.

The reality is this: If anybody claims they know exactly what the future holds, they're lying. Here's what we do know: Over the next 10 to 15 years, battery-electric vehicles will share the roads with diesels and a variety of partial to full hybrids. And many cars will still run on plain old gasoline.

BMW's 2011 product line exemplifies the early stage of this trend. The company offers four different power sources: diesel, gasoline, battery electric and now two hybrids.

You'll find the fourth and newest power alternative from BMW - a gasoline/electric hybrid - in the 7 Series sedan and the X6 SUV.

continued on page 4

\*\*today's homes\*\*  
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'Holiday' homes gift-wrapped with savings

C.A. Development has gift wrapped its "Guaranteed Lowest Price Savings Event." This special program offers savings of up to 40 percent on all 11 of the existing inventory single-family homes available for immediate delivery at Edgebrook Glen and Mayfair Crossing, two Northwest Side Chicago communities.

Edgebrook Glen is a private enclave adjacent to the Indian Woods forest preserve in the Edgebrook/Forest Glen neighborhood. Mayfair Crossing is near the Marketplace at Six Corners in the Old Irving Park neighborhood.

C.A. Development has taken final additional discounts on the existing inventory, including four decorated models and several of its "Smart Choice" energy-efficient and space-efficient homes.

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The Edgebrook Glen sales center and models at 5200 W. Armstrong Ave. are open Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. The Mayfair Crossing sales center, 4223 N. Kilpatrick, is open from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. Visit \[www.cadevelopment.com\]\(http://www.cadevelopment.com\), or call Barbara O'Connor of Dream Town Real Estate at 773-491-5631.

Full story inside Today's Homes

\*\*SEE INSIDE FOR:\*\*

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## BMW blends power, efficiency

continued from page 1

unique to the model. Looking at the 7 Series first, you can get the sedan in a standard or long wheel-base body, meaning that you can have your luxury in the size that fits you best.

These superficial changes overlay a heavily modified 750i and 750Li. The most important changes are under the hood. Raise it and you'll find a complex 4.4-liter V-8 engine that features two turbochargers and direct fuel injection. The DI system is more precise than existing systems and enables the engine to be more efficient while making more power. Additionally, BMW eliminated the alternator, starter motor and the conventional air-conditioning compressor to save weight and conserve energy. These changes help the hybrid put out a serious 440-horsepower that will make some sports cars green with envy.

These technologies help the ActiveHybrid 7 achieve 15 percent better fuel economy (17 mpg city, 24 mpg highway) than a V-8 750i. In fact, the ActiveHybrid 7 nearly matches the six-cylinder BMW 740i's mileage of 17/25. The 740, however, has only 315 horsepower. With its extra power, the BMW hybrid not only outruns the six-cylinder, but trounces its fellow V-8 sedans in acceleration. BMW claims 4.8 seconds for 0-60 mph, 0.3 to 0.4 seconds faster than the non-hybrid 750i and 750Li.

The transmission is what makes this car a hybrid. There's an electric motor integrated into the eight-speed automatic. The compact motor produces an additional 20 horsepower and can function as a generator that recharges the car's batteries and negates the need for the alternator. It also works as the car's starter motor.

Total horsepower for the mild-hybrid package is 455, not the 460 that adding the two max-horsepower figures would suggest. BMW's Dave Buchko explained that because the peak horsepower for the engine and motor occur at different rpms, the two peak horsepower figures cannot be added together to arrive at the final sum.

As is the case with electric motors, they add much more torque than horsepower. In this application, torque is up 165 pound-feet (to 516

pound-feet) compared to a standard 750i. Even so, the small motor is not powerful enough for electric-only driving. However, it does add enough juice to help the 4,800-pound car to move off the line like a sports car half its size.

While a fast BMW isn't anything new, the fact that the big 7 Series gets better mileage is news. The bump in economy comes from engineers being able to lower the engine's operating speed at all road speeds.

For example, in gear eight at 1,000 rpm, the ActiveHybrid 7 loafs along at about 50 mph. At the same speed, the V-8 in a non-hybrid 750i is turning 1,600 rpm. The gearing change is made possible by the additional torque of the electric motor. Like most BMWs, top speed is limited; the electronic nanny on this model steps in at 150 mph.

Another fuel-saving feature of the ActiveHybrid 7 is the engine's auto-start/stop. Pull to a red traffic light and the engine smoothly shuts down. Unlike when cars had carburetors and would stall for no reason, this engine is turning off on purpose.

All of BMW's safety features and interior amenities are maintained. The auto-stop feature does take some getting used to. For instance, when the engine is off, the steering wheel goes stiff. A tug on the rim causes the engine to instantly re-fire, making the car ready for action. Releasing the brake pedal causes a similar reaction from under the hood. During the miles we drove, we never caught the car wrong-footed.

The ActiveHybrid 7's lithium-ion battery pack (stored between the rear wheels in a position that maintains the car's 50/50 weight distribution) keeps the car alive when the engine is not. The 120-volt/400-watt-hour battery is about the size of a

large encyclopedia and weighs barely 60 pounds. Storing the battery causes a net loss of only 1 cubic foot from the 7 Series' trunk.

For those who want their luxury packaged like an SUV, this same technology resides in the X6.

If the ActiveHybrid 7 is the first hybrid you've ever driven, you're in for a treat. The experience begins like any other luxury car. Unlike some hybrids, every time a driver starts the ActiveHybrid 7 the V-8 engine actually starts.

The BMW's V-8 quickly settles into a smooth idle. Pulling away from a standstill is simply effortless, like the linear thrust of a locomotive.

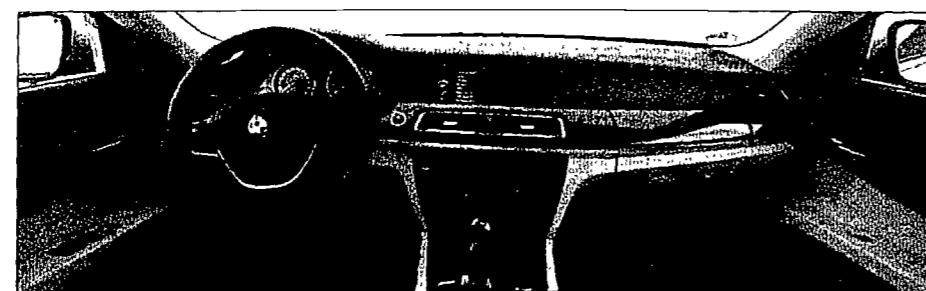
The eight-speed transmission quickly upshifts through the gears. BMW engineers explained that the ActiveHybrid 7 spends most of its life in just two gears: second and eighth. First is rarely called for, and the other gears above second are simply transitory.

Even though the ActiveHybrid 7 weighs more than a conventionally powered 7 Series, the chassis easily handles the poundage.

The immediate torque delivery and the quiet burble of the V-8 gives this refined luxury sedan some muscle car overtones — kind of like those secondary and tertiary rastes one enjoys in a good red wine.

The feeling behind the wheel of an ActiveHybrid X6 is similar, only your view out the windshield is above most other traffic.

While these BMWs don't answer the question about which technology will power vehicles in 50 years, they prove that the intervening years will be full of good driving.



SearchChicago-Autos Editor John Stein • 708.633.4845 • jstein@southtownstar.com

### autoBRIEFS

## HEAT offers tips for shopping safely this season

LIVONIA, Mich. — Help Eliminate Auto Thefts (HEAT), an organization in its 25th year of combating auto theft-related crimes in Michigan, wants to ensure shoppers across the country are making safety a part of their holiday to-do lists this year.

With thoughts tuned to family, friends and celebrations, preoccupied bargain hunters provide an unnecessary amount of opportunity for thieves during the busy shopping season.

"It's so easy for people to get distracted and overwhelmed by holiday plans," said Terri Miller, director of HEAT. "Distractions cause people to let their guard down, providing thieves a prime opportunity. Fortunately, there are a number of simple steps that shoppers can take to make sure they, their vehicles and their possessions are protected."

To keep safe this holiday season, HEAT recommends the following tips:

- Stay alert and watchful. While walking to your car, take a moment to observe the surroundings. Talking or texting on cell phones, digging for keys or juggling multiple packages can be a distraction, all of which make you an easy target.
- Park in well-lit, high-traffic areas. Try to avoid shopping alone after dark. If possible, avoid parking near objects that block your view of the surrounding area such as dumpsters, bushes, large vans or trucks. Avoid parking next to cars with dark tinted windows that you cannot see through.
- Place valuables and purchases in the trunk or out of view. Before leaving your car, make sure anything of value is locked in the trunk or out of sight.
- Remember where your car is parked. Walk directly to your car and do not spend unnecessary time wandering around the parking lot. Walk confidently and with purpose.
- Move your car. If you return to your car in the middle of a shopping trip, move to another area of the parking lot, deterring a thief who may have been watching you unload and then leave your purchases.
- If threatened by a carjacker with a weapon, give up the car. Don't resist or argue. A life is more important than any vehicle.
- If you witness an auto theft or carjacking, call the police immediately.

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'09 Honda Civic EX ..... Automatic, Full Power, Moonroof, Black, P3739 ..... \$15,495 '08 Mazda 5 Sport ..... Automatic, Air, 6 Passenger, 20K, Silver, P3759 ..... \$15,495 '08 Ford Fusion SE ..... Automatic, Air, 36K, Black, P3758 ..... \$14,495 '07 Mazda 3 Hatchback S Leather, Sunroof, Automatic, 34K, Black, P3636 ..... \$13,995 '04 Honda Civic LX Sedan ..... Automatic, Air, Full Power, 45K, Grey, P3738 ..... \$13,995 '04 Honda Civic EX AWD ..... Automatic, Sunroof, Blue, Only 40K, 6074A ..... \$13,995 '08 Mazda 3 Sport ..... Automatic, Air, Silver, 5654A ..... \$13,495 '07 Nissan Altima ..... Automatic, Air, 40K, Black, P3755 ..... \$13,495 '08 Nissan Sentra 2.0S ..... Automatic, Air, Full Power, 41K, Gold, P3756 ..... \$12,395 '09 Chevy Aveo LT ..... Automatic, Air, 28K, Blue, P3757 ..... \$9,695 '90 Miata Convertible ..... Hard-Top Top, 5-Speed, White, NAMI, 30K, 2604A ..... \$8,995	'10 Forester Limited ..... Auto., Leather, Sunroof, White, 6CD, 7K, P3822 ..... \$23,995 '10 Forester Prem. .... All Weather, Sunroof, Automatic, Red, P3807 ..... \$20,995 '10 Tribeca Touring DVD & NAVI 7-Pass., HD Lites, Silver, Loaded, P3811 ..... \$31,995 '09 Subaru Tribeca Ltd. NAVI Leather, Sunroof, Only 9K, White, P3812 ..... \$27,995 '08 Subaru Tribeca Ltd. NAVI/DVD .. 7-Passenger, Silver, 34K, 6655A ..... \$26,995 '08 Subaru Tribeca Ltd. NAVI/DVD ..... 7-Passenger, Grey, P3814 ..... \$25,995 '08 Subaru Tribeca Ltd. .... Leather, Sunroof, Only 28K, Grey, 6648A ..... \$24,995	'10 Subaru Legacy GT Ltd./NAVI Leather, Sunroof, Bluetooth, Blue, P3803 ..... \$26,995 '10 Subaru Outback Ltd. .... Leather, Sunroof, Bluetooth, 6CD, Auto, P3797 ..... \$26,495 '09 Subaru Outback Ltd./NAVI ..... Leather, Sunroof, Auto, Green, 18K, 6675A ..... \$23,995 '10 Subaru Legacy Ltd. .... Leather, Sunroof, Bluetooth, 6K, Grey, P3783 ..... \$23,995 '10 Subaru Outback Prem. All Weather Pkg., Power Seat, Silver, P3808 ..... \$22,995 '08 Subaru Outback Ltd./NAVI ..... Auto., Leather, Sunroof, Bronze, P3799 ..... \$21,995 '10 Subaru Legacy Prem. .... All Weather Pkg., Blue or Black P3793/3756 ..... \$19,995 '08 Outback 3.0R LLBean/NAVI Sdn. Leather, Sunroof, Blue, 51K, P3798 ..... \$18,995 '08 Subaru Legacy Ltd. .... Leather, Sunroof, Automatic, Grey, P3734 ..... \$16,995 '09 Subaru Legacy 2.5i SE ..... Auto., Air, Sunroof, Green, 3825 ..... \$15,995

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06 DODGE AVENGER SXT \$11,718	05 BUICK LESABRE \$11,873	01 BMW 330I \$11,884	06 CHEVY HHR SS \$11,996	03 FORD EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER 4X4 \$12,883	08 MAZDA 3 TOURING \$13,829
04 CHEVY COLORADO 4X4 CREW CAB \$13,997	09 MERCURY MILAN \$14,972	10 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA \$15,977	06 DODGE CHARGER R/T \$16,997	03 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 \$17,844	06 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 Z-71 \$17,883
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## NEW ENGLAND HOMES

### Prices reduced up to 30 percent at The Atwater

Lakefront location,  
1-hour drive from Chicago  
add to retreat atmosphere

Until the end of the year, New England Homes is offering significant incentives on its waterfront one- and two-bedroom condos, featuring spectacular Lake Michigan views.

Buyers can take advantage of \$30,000 in savings by purchasing a one-bedroom, one-bath condo now available for \$169,900, while the one-bedroom-plus-den unit is offered at \$198,900. Prices have been reduced up to 30 percent on all remaining homes.

"With interest rates at a historic low and builders offering huge incentives, now is a great time to make your purchase," said Managing Member Chris Rintz.

In addition to substantial savings, New England Homes is offering a variety of special incentives.

"It's the opportunity of a lifetime with both fixed rate and adjustable financing at their historic lows. FHA financing is also available for qualified buyers," added Rintz.

"The Atwater offers something for everyone, with current floor plans having 757 to 1,836 square feet of living space. Homeowners have a variety of choices, from one-bedroom one-bath, to two-bedrooms-plus-den and 2½ baths. All remaining residences are waiting for selections and can be completed in six to eight weeks, so buyers can enjoy next spring and summer on Lake Michigan.

"Next spring, imagine stepping out on your private balcony and enjoying breathtaking views of Lake Michigan," said Rintz.

With driving time only one hour from Chicago, many buyers have chosen The Atwater as their vacation getaway retreat or year-round residence. Entertainment opportunities abound throughout the year.

In spring and summer music fills the air with live noon-time concerts and summer nights at Monument Square, while the cultural scene brings a diverse palette of gallery openings and opportunities to meet the artists. This holiday season opens with the festive



Cape Cod shingle-style architecture graces the 40-unit Atwater at Gaslight Pointe, a condominium community within walking distance of downtown Racine.

SEE ATWATER, PAGE 4

To find out more about this community online, visit [www.nebinc.com](http://www.nebinc.com)

## INSIDE

### Your new neighbors

Local real estate transactions  
PAGE 2

### Holiday savings

Save up to 40 percent at C.A. Developemnts' Edgebrook Glen and Mayfair Crossing.

PAGE 3



Tax bill too high? There are many ways for a property owner to appeal.

DON DEBAT, PAGE 4

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- Interest rates as low as 2.5% on some units
- Down payment as low as 3.5%
- VA/FHA financing available

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New England Homes, LLC



Developer: Gaslight Pointe Associates, LLC

TRANSACTIONS

Curious about more home sales in your neighborhood? For more Chicago area transactions, see "Recent Sales" at www.researchchicago.com/homes. Search by address, county, ZIP code, price range or year of sale.

Bradleyview
2209 Taylor Ln, Thonk \$130,000
2328 S 13th Ave, Sprull, Gwendolyn M \$150,000
2545 S 16th Ave, Hill, Willie T & M, died \$120,000

Barrington
976 Hampden Park, Kachwala, Shaou & Sarah \$440,000
300 Steepchase Road, Schultz, Kerry D & Franceschelli, Maria \$645,000

Buffalo Grove
2 Oakleaf Tr, Chettler, Mahou & Mahou, Margie \$462,500
350 Hazwood Ter, Naidu, Mahesh P & Pradham, Prachi R \$190,000
2497 Waterbury Ln, Raghu, Sundaram \$330,500
112 Willow Park, Brown, Mary F \$157,000
1010 Twisted Oak Ln, Cahuzac, Jerome & Anne \$239,000
1496 Willow Park, Wu, Yaoli J & Li Hua \$225,000

Des Plaines
1915 Locust St, Murlugaito, Ollip & Soly \$440,000
9055 N Western Ave, Shah, Vijay & Bhurika \$505,000
90 S Josephine Ct, Bealze, Yanira \$490,000
757 W Lincoln Ln, Brusciaelli, Mark & Kamila \$450,000
340 Anita St, Math, Helen \$290,000
903 E Villa on Pauli, Terry A & Debra L \$162,000
1332 Irving Ave, Perez, Elissa A & Susana \$193,000
1670 Hill St, Sosa, Osaki, Kazutomo &

Matsubara, Miyako \$172,000
1670 Hill St, Sosa, Osaki, Kazutomo & Miyako \$172,000
9408 N Parkside Dr, Fish, Road W & Blkin, Sam \$130,000
861 North Ave, Garcia, Marc & Joanna \$162,000
8924 Robb Dr, Begum, Anwarulhaque \$78,000
1226 S 2nd Ave, Mathies, John A \$255,000
508 S Westgate Road, Kang, Chul Koo & Hyun Jo \$295,000
183 W Algonquin Road, George, Henry, Melissa A & Zola, Susan \$450,000

Elmwood Park
7770 W Hampton Dr, Beazett, David J \$235,000
7908 W North Ave, 607, Ibbicki, Zygmunt & Teresa \$415,000
3014 N 78th Ct, Martioz, Xochitl \$255,000

Evansston
2326 Chicago Ave, 310, Ballard, Shelley \$285,000
323 Currier Ave, 131, Evans, Robert F & Helen \$445,000
1101 Grove St, 4B, Champagne, Theresa \$112,500
2665 Hillside Ln, Stearn, James R & Lisa P \$290,000
25031 Lavelle Ave, Rogowski, Christopher & Jose, Meredith \$236,500
807 Lincoln St, Schmitt, Timothy & Bodnar, Schmitt, Paula \$475,000
1572 Maple Ave, 702, Markowski, Paul A & Karol O \$675,500
1218 Oakton St, Markowitz, Joshua J \$246,000
828 Oakton St, 4C, Waxman, Greg \$121,000
828 Oakton St, F, Enoch, Merilaine \$132,000
810 Ridge Ter, Scaro, Brian O & Dawn \$400,000
2519 Thayer St, Cass, Paula & Rubin, John M \$607,000
1500 Dewey Ave, Wicherl, John & Frances \$150,000
800 Elgin Road, Pawl, Simoon S \$260,000
1114 Judson Ave, Bayco, Catherine L & Lee A \$1,125,000
828 Judson Ave, 7, Zwiolnek, Joshua J & Binnett, Rachael V \$263,000
2335 Mary Ave, Sanchez, Peter M & Adams, Kathleen M \$740,000
1710 Oak Ave, 203A, Stanley, Tara E \$350,000
2531 Princeton Ave, Walz, Sara K & Lawrence, Cheryl L \$365,000
2021 Ridge Ave, 1, Leeds, Kevin M & Norma H \$270,000

Franklin Park
3030 George St, Olaz, Marlo \$150,000
2901 Calverton St, Torres, Juan D & Veronica \$120,000
2917 Sunset Ln, Pieper, Anthony & Stephanie \$195,000

Glenview
415 Woodlawn Ave, Horwood, Nina J \$75,000
110 Green Bay Rd, 301, Ross, Rustin \$182,500
538 Monroe Ave, Connell, Trent & Kimberly \$1,085,000

Harwood Heights
6615 1/2 W Forest Preserve Dr, West, Charles \$115,000
4811 N Cortez Ave, 604A, Alzarcon, Cheryl & Loel F \$277,000

Hillside
4922 W Hawthorne Ave, Palao, Malena \$115,000
10 Verano 55
1539 Shire Cir, Collins, Daniel & Elaine \$319,000
237 Stratford Road, Urban, Krzysztof \$300,000

Lisle
643 N Williams Ave, Helawa, Alex & Kathy \$460,000
6756 N Navajo Ave, Tlombhand, 000 M & Jocelyn \$680,000

Melrose Park
10559 Diversey Ave, Ivanovitch, Zlatko \$100,000
816 Joyce Ave, Patel, Navjotchandra & Bhavikram \$85,000
1302 N 15th Ave, 25, Orosco, Frank \$180,000
11509 W Grand Ave, Najera, Marivel \$70,000
1645 N 20th Ave, Mendoza, Larry & Aguirre, Urbano \$150,000
1011 Western on Solgataris, Julio C \$175,000

Maroon Grove
8400 Calle Ave, 203, Fogg, Daryl M \$160,000
8914 Masco Ave, Plampanampill, Jacob & John, Alice \$505,000
5715 S Park Ave, Khan, Ferose M & Shehnaaz \$240,000
9451 Sayre Ave, Thumblak, Praveen & Julie A \$324,000
8121 N Ridge Road, Chagoya, Ricardo \$180,000
1821 E Euclid Ave, Lesiak, Joe & Bonilla, Sondra \$550,000
415 E Wood Ln, Eckl, Robert J & Tanya M \$312,500
914 N Pecon Ln, Tripple, Russell W & Falk, Kirby J \$269,000

631 S George St, Rankin, James T & Kimberly \$455,000
2558 Central Road, Kim, Younhee & Paul A \$199,000
10389 Dearborn Road 1F, Kim, Joona Young \$159,000
2215 Glenview Road, Chapman III, William M & Chapman, Jessica N \$590,500
104 Radcliffe Ct, Lee, Young Rok & Naeng, Anjo \$370,000
1801 Stevens Dr, Lucio, Susana \$215,000
805 Elm Dale Road, Ter Saakyan, Yuri & Mila \$585,000
709 Gleashire Road, Kamla, Katherine \$183,000
1657 Pablicreek Dr, 7, Golditz, Mariusz & Anasowicz, Marietta \$175,000
213 Robinson Ln, Chang, Feu Yu & Chen, John P \$228,000
1744 Stevens Dr, Stack, Kevin & Karen \$450,000
4000 Trumvera Dr, 450A, Naruszewicz, Bartosz \$107,000

Northridge
215 W Elmwood Ave, Chavez, Luis & Valquez, Cynthia \$225,000
4660 N Redwood Dr, Lestowski, Tech \$235,000

Northbrook
2614 Fairway Ln, Hope, Nathaniel & Kibart, Beth \$427,500
3430 Lawrence Ln, Cocho, Julie & Zachary \$378,000
3530 Lawrence Ln, Young, Phillip & Kwal Pa \$243,000
3550 Beach Ln, Gillette, William J & Marie T \$435,000
3115 Mohr Hill Dr, Zimmermann, Marcus & Jennifer \$675,000
4136 Yorkshire Ln, Salsall, Nicolas C & Orrio, Luisa \$565,000

Northfield
2050 Bosworth Ln, Marshall, Lawrence P & Mary Shyla \$230,000
810 Hagg Road, Blak, Daniel & Laura \$608,000
1710 Northfield Sq, Laguarda, Janet \$150,000
2040 Sulfur Road, Kocovsky, David & Paulina \$885,000

Northlake
309 E Lyndale Ave, Fontaine, Jimmie & Rebo, Irma \$180,000
1207 N Roberts Ave, Heikel, Melissa \$129,000

Oak Park
344 Wisconsin Ave, Zamora, Eduardo & Mariassolotto, \$162,500
530 Gundersen Ave, Helgh, David J & Renia Mattara \$399,000
265 Home Ave, Chang, Brian S & Wilton, Kelly A \$1,005,000
840 N Austin Blvd, Jackson, Earl \$169,000
1616 Northworth Ave, 6G, Stefanick, Robert M & Marianne K \$262,500
1221 N Ridge Road, Pfeiffer, Michael \$334,000
6436 Roosevelt Blvd, Davis, Meredith S & Bus, Jonathan \$150,000
221 S Meadworth Ave, Paul, Robert A & Dawn, Joseph \$445,000
201 S Maple Ave, 410, Alford, Michael A & Alford, Krystalevka, Rita \$124,000
3229 Woodlawn Ave, Rajcundrak, Venkatesh A \$300,000

Palatine
54 E Wood Ln, Quarter, Robert J & Tanya M \$312,500
914 N Pecon Ln, Tripple, Russell W & Falk, Kirby J \$269,000
1535 S Miller Street, Ciri, Aguilera, Jaime & Rosalba \$113,000
302 N Boothwell St, Gaan, Maurice & Blisak, Megan M \$290,000
1020 N Ridgeway Ln, Macdonald, Pedro \$157,500
2154 N Westmoreland Dr, Mohammad, Saleem \$115,000
59 S Stonelook Dr, Berc, Jeffrey S \$108,000
117 W Beaton St, Wazek, Ruddy & Melissa \$556,000
67 N Bridge View St, Englebert, Daris H & Shalloo \$270,000
8036 Koster Ave, Havell, Elena & Madera, Ivan \$189,000
10031 La Crosse Ave, Caberto, Wendell & James \$400,000
7508 Laramie Ave, 22, Sak, Anoo \$181,000
7615 Long Ave, Willaster, Irene Y & Archie \$240,000
8316 Monticello Ave, Steffen, Gwendolyn \$225,000
9225 Woods Dr, 615, Awwah, Samuel \$368,500

Westchester
1928 Handel Ave, Torres, Olivia \$200,000
1851 Westchester Blvd, Howard, Boy, Marilee \$210,000
1306 Belmont Ave, Greco, Elmer \$200,000
10310 Wright St, Glebo, Mary & John H \$195,000

Wilmette
622 Illinois Road, Odoedaal, Andre & Gudrun \$597,000
2541 Wilmette Ave, Wang, Xinchao & Cheryl \$235,000
724 12th St, 211, Oregallo, Daniel J \$161,000
200 Thames Pkwy, 22, Calpalda, Nadia L \$95,000
1019 W Oakton, Oomally, John P & Oomally, Barbara \$230,000
1020 W Talcott Road, Pickett, David M & Frankowski, Leanne R \$332,000

Prospect Heights
916 E Old Willow Road, 101, Sanchez, Silvana \$79,000
1209 Galathea Dr, Che, Jade \$24,000

River Forest
434 Clinton Pl, 405, Bridges, David L & June F \$150,000
231 Keystone Ave, 01, Blase, Stephen & Roger \$190,000
1451 Forest Ave, Rodgers, Paige A & Jacqueline M \$167,500
7615 Washington Blvd, McFall, Rebecca & Boss, Barrett \$424,000

River Grove
2541 Hestige St, Kurkowski, Damian \$114,000
10700 W Higgins Road, 260, Ichou, Roger \$1,000

Schiller Park
3733 Emerson St, Paakiv, Volodymyr \$158,500

Skokie
8832 Brook Ave, 2N, Tchiko, John \$170,000
9560 Gross Point Road, 507B, Gross, ma, Edith \$172,500
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7657 Park Ave, Ricardo, Mirala \$177,000
5015 Brunmel St, Evangelou, Carmela \$265,000
4655 Fargo Ave, Khan, Himyath A & Liquehal, \$500,000
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8036 Koster Ave, Havell, Elena & Madera, Ivan \$189,000
10031 La Crosse Ave, Caberto, Wendell & James \$400,000
7508 Laramie Ave, 22, Sak, Anoo \$181,000
7615 Long Ave, Willaster, Irene Y & Archie \$240,000
8316 Monticello Ave, Steffen, Gwendolyn \$225,000
9225 Woods Dr, 615, Awwah, Samuel \$368,500

Westchester
1928 Handel Ave, Torres, Olivia \$200,000
1851 Westchester Blvd, Howard, Boy, Marilee \$210,000
1306 Belmont Ave, Greco, Elmer \$200,000
10310 Wright St, Glebo, Mary & John H \$195,000

Wilmette
622 Illinois Road, Odoedaal, Andre & Gudrun \$597,000
2541 Wilmette Ave, Wang, Xinchao & Cheryl \$235,000
724 12th St, 211, Oregallo, Daniel J \$161,000
200 Thames Pkwy, 22, Calpalda, Nadia L \$95,000
1019 W Oakton, Oomally, John P & Oomally, Barbara \$230,000
1020 W Talcott Road, Pickett, David M & Frankowski, Leanne R \$332,000

Prospect Heights
916 E Old Willow Road, 101, Sanchez, Silvana \$79,000
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'Holiday' homes gift-wrapped with savings

Up to 40 percent reductions at Edgebrook Glen, Mayfair Crossing

For serious city home shoppers during the holidays, C.A. Development has gift wrapped its "Guaranteed Lowest Price Savings Event."

This special program offers savings of up to 40 percent on all 11 of the existing inventory single-family homes available for immediate delivery at Edgebrook Glen and Mayfair Crossing, two unique Northwest Side Chicago communities.

Edgebrook Glen is a private enclave adjacent to the Indian Woods forest preserve in the Edgebrook/Glen neighborhood. Mayfair Crossing, just steps from the Marketplace at Six Corners in the Old Irving Park neighborhood on the Northwest Side.

In addition to revising the base pricing on all of the home models to be built, C.A. Development has taken final additional discounts on the existing inventory, including four fully decorated model homes and several of their new "Smart Choice" energy-efficient and space-efficient homes.

"These are the lowest base prices we have ever set - or will ever set - on our new homes, and we are guaranteeing in writing to our buyers that these prices won't be reduced further, so there is no reason to wait any longer to buy," said developer Paul Bertsche of C.A. Development.

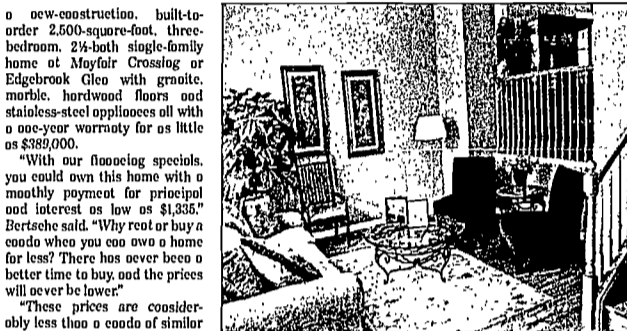
"We are guaranteeing that if one time after a buyer contracts for a new home, and before he closes on it, we offer that some model existing home or some model home to be built at that development for a lower price, we will credit the difference to the buyer of either," Bertsche said.

The total holiday savings generated in these final price reductions can be as much as \$461,000 on the ultra-luxury 6,000-square-foot Oak III model, a six-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath fully decorated model home at Edgebrook Glen. This is a savings of 40 percent off the original offering price of more than \$1.15 million.

With this holiday event pricing, a buyer could purchase



C.A. Development is offering up to 40 percent off on inventory homes at Mayfair Crossing and Edgebrook Glen on Chicago's Northwest Side. Pictured is the living room of the Lodeo model.



Savings for holiday homebuyers at Edgebrook Glen and Mayfair Crossing, two Northwest Side communities, include inventory homes like the Hickory, which offers three bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Shows is the model living room.

the new model home and sales center at 4230 N. Kilpatrick from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. Visit www.cadevelopment.com. Or call Barbara O'Connor of Dream Town Real Estate at 773-491-5631.

Here's the Guaranteed Lowest Price Savings Event lineup

Pricing for C.A. Development's Guaranteed Lowest Price Savings Event shows the value and variety of home styles and savings on the inventory of 11 homes available for immediate delivery at Edgebrook Glen and Mayfair Crossing.

The Oak III. This 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath, ultra-luxury decorated model home showcases 4,934 square feet of space, with master's en-suite, walnut and marble floors, custom chef's kitchen and more than \$150,000 in designer upgrades.

The Oak III was originally priced at more than \$1.15 million. The price has been reduced to \$699,000, which is less than \$140 per square foot for our custom single-family home.

The Oak II. This six-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home features 4,988 square feet with a cedar and stone Craftsman style elevation. Custom marble shower in master spa, a fenced yard and oversized corner lot. It was originally priced at \$855,000 and now reduced to \$650,000.

Chestnut III. This five-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath decorated 7,477 square foot, Cherry floors and stairs, a gourmet kitchen with double ovens, cooktop and 48-inch refrigerator was originally priced at \$885,000. The price is now reduced to \$725,000.

Chestnut II. This five-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath brick and cedar Tudor elevation home showcases 4,477 square feet, and features Cherry cabinets, granite and marble tops, private master suite balcony and custom pool. It was originally priced at \$830,000. The price has been reduced to \$575,000.

The Maple. This four-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath Victorian cedar elevation home with full front porch and 3,772 square feet is an oversized corner lot. Huge rooms, a superior entry and floor plan ideal for entertaining make this home previously priced at \$729,000 a best buy now at \$580,000.

The Cherry. This five-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home with 3,216 square feet is the flagship of C.A. Development's new "Smart Choice" energy and space-efficient homes.

The Cherry features 2-by-6-gy exterior wall framing with 50-percent higher insulation. Energy Star appliances and windows with Argon gas for superior insulation and solar protection and high efficiency zoned heating system among its many features.

It has an ultra-flexible floor plan which allows for four bedrooms or an optional nursery or sitting room on the second floor. An optional 20-by-20-foot roof deck over the attached garage of three exceptional outdoor entertaining space. All these features and more are now available at \$549,000 at Edgebrook Glen and \$539,000 at Mayfair Crossing, both on oversized corner lots.

The Hickory. This three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home with 2,483 square feet and 22-foot rear deck on a 45-foot lot abutting a landscaped greenway, is a "Smart Choice" energy-efficient home. It was originally priced at \$554,700. The price is now reduced to \$419,000.

The Mayfair. This four-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home with 3,080 square feet on an oversized 160-foot lot has a large back yard. Large bedrooms with vaulted ceilings in the master, and a huge family room make this a gracious family home. Low premiums and upgrade costs have been eliminated in the reduced pricing of \$525,000.

The Avocado. This four-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home with 2,736 square feet and a Victorian elevation features a large roof deck overlooking an 11/2-acre garage and features cherry cabinets and granite tops with stainless appliances. Originally priced at \$599,000, the price is now reduced to \$469,000. Energy Star appliances and

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8 GREAT COMMUTER-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES ACROSS CHICAGOLAND
HOMES AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE MOVE-IN

Table listing various Lennar communities such as Arlington Reserve, Bridgeview Place

# Real estate tax bill higher?

Here is advice on how to appeal



**Don DeBat**  
On the home front

With home and small apartment resale values generally falling across Chicago and Cook County, thousands of property owners were expecting to see lower real estate tax bills in their mail boxes earlier this month.

Despite the general decline in Cook County property values, some Chicago property owners in neighborhoods such as Lincoln Park, Lakeview North, Center and Hyde Park were hit with hefty increases, while others appended their assessments and received reductions.

Experts say the total tax burden faced by both homeowners and business in Chicago will rise less than four-tenths of 1 percent, and suburban tax hikes will average around 2.5 percent. "Even though most home resale values generally are lower because of the recession and the home-foreclosure crisis, some Cook County homeowners were hit with assessment increases in the 2009 re-assessment," noted Michael Griffin, a real estate tax appeal attorney.

"The lucky ones saw their assessments staying flat," Griffin said. A record 430,000 property owners filed an appeal with the Board of Review and many received a reduction in their assessment. Those who won will pay a lower second installment 2009 tax bill on December 13th.

Everyone wants to blame former Cook County Assessor James Houlihan for the increases, but he was just doing his job. Effective December 6th, the job will belong to new Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios, who won election in November.

The assessor's office reassesses the value of each of the 1.6 million parcels of property in Cook County every three years. The reassessment is done on a rotating basis among three regions of Cook County—north suburbs, south suburbs, and the city of Chicago. For 2009 and this tax bill, it was the city's turn.

For residential properties, the Assessor has determined the assessment by comparing each property to similar properties in a given area. Increased real

estate tax reassessment generally means higher property taxes, but the relationship, or ratio, is not one to one. An assessment increase does not equal the same percentage increase in taxes, experts say.

For 2009, Assessor Houlihan lowered the residential assessment level to 10 percent from 16 percent. Assessment levels of commercial and industrial properties also were lowered to 25 percent from 36 percent or 38 percent.

Chicago-area real estate appraisers and some Realtors estimated that real estate values actually have depreciated to pre-2000 levels—a decrease in value of more than 40 percent.

However, some "Mn and Pn" apartment owners still were hammered with higher taxes. Here are some examples of tax hikes from Chicago's North Side:

- The owner of a 4-flat apartment building in Old Town was shocked to receive a second-installment 2009 bill for \$10,221. The total 2009 tax bill is \$18,700, up a whopping 21.3 percent from \$15,417 in 2008.

- The owner of a 16-unit apartment building in the Roscoe Village section of Lake View was slapped with a total 2009 tax bill of \$22,363, up 12.8 percent from \$19,811 in 2008.

On the other hand, Griffin said many owners who filed tax appeals received relief in the form of lower taxes:

- The owner of a 6-flat building in Old Irving Park was happy to receive a 2009 tax bill of \$7,138, down 18 percent from tax 2008 tax bill of \$8,218 following a successful 2009 tax appeal.

- An homeowner in the Villa Historie District in Irving Park was elated to receive total 2009 tax bill of \$5,180, down from 12.7 percent from \$5,936 in 2008 after a tax-appeal victory.

What can a property owner do to control real estate assessment increases and tax hikes? First check how your

property's assessed valuation compares with similar properties in your neighborhood. Visit the assessor's website at [www.cookcountynassessor.com](http://www.cookcountynassessor.com), or call 312-443-7550.

Also check to see if the assessor has listed any exemptions for which you are eligible, such as the Homeowners Exemption, Senior Citizen Exemption, and Senior Assessment Freeze Exemption. These exemptions can save you hundreds of dollars in taxes.

If you feel you have grounds for a reduction, file an appeal with the Assessor or the Board of Review. The appeals can be filed at either office or at the office's website. Or call Michael Griffin, a professional tax assessment lawyer, at 312-943-1789. Griffin says there are three key grounds for an assessment reduction:

- Assessor's error: If you can prove the assessor made an error in the description of your property, you can win a reduction. However, the error must have an impact on the estimated market value of your home.

- A uniformity complaint. This means your home's assessment is not in line with the assessed valuation of other similar homes in your neighborhood. A homeowner should find at least three examples of similar homes with lower assessments than theirs.

- Evolutions approach. Homeowners file an appeal and submit a recent closing statement for their home and/or purchase prices of homes similar to yours to show that the assessed value is greater than 10 percent of the purchase price.

If an initial appeal at the Assessor's office doesn't lower the assessed value, there are two other appeal options: the Cook County Board of Review (312-603-5542), and the Property Tax Appeals Board (217-785-6070).

Griffin advises homeowners in recently assessed neighborhoods to carefully look at the assessor's estimate of your property's market value.

"Ask yourself, 'Is it fair?'" Griffin said.

Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by DaBat Media Services. For more home-buying information visit his Website at [www.dondebat.net](http://www.dondebat.net).

# Millennium to host year-end auction

Millennium Properties R/E, Inc. will host a banked-owned, sealed-bid real estate auction on Wednesday, Dec. 15. Included in the auction are two portfolios totaling 187 vacant lots in Chicago, three residential lots in Long Grove and office buildings in Homewood and on the northwest side of Chicago.

The 137 vacant lots in Chicago will be offered in two separate packages, with owner financing, divided by geographic region from the west to south sides of Chicago. The west side portfolio consists of 64 vacant lots with a minimum bid of \$633,000 (only \$9,890 per lot). The minimum bid for the south side portfolio is \$503,000 and consists of 73 vacant lots (only \$6,890 per lot). Seller financing is available with 80 percent down.

The three residential land lots in north suburban Long Grove will be sold as individual lots. The three spacious lots are adjacent to each

other and part of the new luxury Ravenna subdivision in Long Grove, which is within the Vernon Township and Adlai E. Stevenson High School district. The parcel sizes are 11,994, 12,439 and 13,620 square feet. The minimum bid for each of the three parcels is \$65,000, after previously being priced at \$279,990 each.

"This is a tremendous discount rarely seen in such an exclusive community," said Greg Block, executive vice president at Millennium. "We anticipate overwhelming interest from families looking to build their dream home."

The office building offered in Homewood has upside potential for users and investors alike. The 17,325-square-foot building was originally marketed for \$719,000, but will be offered for a minimum bid of \$225,000. The building is currently 94 percent occupied and has current gross annual income of \$67,947.

The north side office building

is at 4969 W. Belmont in the Belmont-Cragin neighborhood and sits on 6,680 square feet of land. The 6,643-square-foot vacant building was gutted in 2005 and then completely remodeled, including flooring, walls, ceiling, plumbing, electrical and HVAC. The building consists of 10 offices, a kitchen, copy room and two baths. The building was originally priced at \$690,000, but will be offered for a minimum bid of only \$250,000. Seller financing is available for this property with 30 percent down.

All minimum bids are subject to an 8 percent buyer's premium.

"Lenders are extremely motivated to get some properties off their books by year's end, which translates to great opportunities," said Daniel J. Hyman, president of Millennium Properties.

For more details, contact Greg Block at 312-338-3002, or via email to [gblock@mpirealestate.com](mailto:gblock@mpirealestate.com).

## ATWATER

FROM PAGE 1

Downtown Holiday Open House on Dec. 11 and the Winterfest Snow Sculpting Festival Dec. 17-19.

From an architectural perspective, the innovative condominium building reflects Raine's historic waterfront landmarks with its New England single-style architecture. Crowned with an architectural-shingled roof and covered in cedar shake siding and a beautiful stone water table, all natural materials were selected to blend seamlessly into the neighborhood.

Building amenities include spacious balconies or expansive paver terraces, heated underground parking with large, private storage, and

secured lobby entry in a state-of-the-art elevator building. And the entertainment deck on the rooftop of the carriage house may be reserved for special functions.

Elegantly appointed kitchens have Corian solid-surface countertops, stainless steel double-basin sinks, Moen faucet with spray. Frigidaire stainless steel appliance package with self-cleaning sealed burner gas range, micro hood, dishwasher and refrigerator and the buyer's choice of maple, birch, oak or white cabinets in a variety of finishes.

Amenity-packed master baths feature Corian vanity tops with drop-in sinks, maple, birch, oak or white, raised-height vanity cabinets, oversized showers with a clear glass

door and enclosure, 12-by-12-inch porcelain or ceramic floor and wall tile. Moen chrome faucets and oversized mirrors. A choice of wood or ceramic tile flooring is available in the foyer and kitchen, and there is stain-resistant nylon carpeting in the living room and bedrooms.

To visit the Atwater sales center, take Interstate 94 north and exit Route 20. Go east for 9 miles and bear right onto 14th Street (just after Washington Park) to the Lake. Take a left on Main Street through downtown, then a right on Gaslight Drive. The sales center is open Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5 p.m., and Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 262-637-7801 or visit [www.aebline.com](http://www.aebline.com).

**MILLENNIUM PROPERTIES R/E, INC.**

**Greg Block**  
312.338.3002  
[gblock@mpirealestate.com](mailto:gblock@mpirealestate.com)

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SALE DATE: DECEMBER 15

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ADDRESS	SIZE
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7216 Daybreak Lane	12,439 SF
7218 Daybreak Lane	13,620 SF

**DESCRIPTION**

The three spacious lots, being offered with a 77% price reduction, are part of the new Ravenna Subdivision right off of Route 83 and Grosse Pointe Blvd. Ravenna's single-family residential lots give the owner the ability to build up to a 5,200sf dream home.



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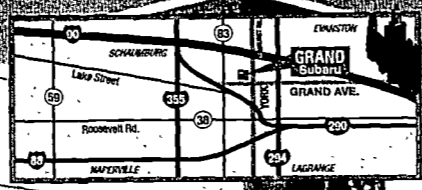
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<p>10 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING PRE-DRIVEN, 30 MPG, PW, PL, PM, CD, #2997 <b>\$12,995</b> or <b>\$142/mo</b></p>	<p>10 DODGE AVENGER SXT PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, PRE-DRIVEN, #X2856 <b>\$12,995</b> or <b>\$142/mo</b></p>	<p>10 DODGE JOURNEY PW, PL, PWR MIRR, CD, CHR, PRE-DRIVEN, #X3013 <b>\$13,995</b> or <b>\$157/mo</b></p>	<p>10 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY LX STD H, GO, REAR AC, PW, PL, PM, CD, PRE-DRIVEN, #12684 <b>\$14,995</b> or <b>\$173/mo</b></p>	<p>10 DODGE CHARGER SXT PRE-DRIVEN, 3.5 V6 HIGH OUTPUT, PW, PL, CD, ALLOYS, BLK, #X2943 <b>\$15,995</b> or <b>\$189/mo</b></p>	<p>10 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING PRE-DRIVEN, 2.7 V6, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CHROME PKG, #X3025 <b>\$15,995</b> or <b>\$189/mo</b></p>

INSTANT CREDIT APPROVAL! CALL TODAY! 866-695-0018  
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\*New car prices & payments include applicable manufacturer rebates & manufacturer incentives. Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. In lieu of special financing. \*\*With approved credit. 0% APR FOR 72 mos. Ex: \$13.99 per \$1000 financing w/ 30 down. Offer in lieu of all other manufacturer rebates and financing offers. See dealer for details. EPA's estimated highway MPG's. \*\*\*0% MSRP. MSRP may not be price of which vehicle is sold in trade area. Includes applicable manufacturer rebates & manufacturer incentives. In lieu of special financing. Ex: 2010 Dodge Ram, s/c #11020, MSRP=\$45,125-\$10,000=\$35,125. \*With approved credit. Ex: \$13,000 financed with \$79 down at 9.9% APR x 60 months=\$210.30. \*\*With a good down payment. May require a co-signer. \*\*\*Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. Payments based on 4.19% APR x 72 months with \$4,000 down. With approved credit. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 2 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.

<p><b>MANAGER'S SPECIAL</b> 07 DODGE MAGNUM SXT HARD TO FIND! LOW MILES, PW, PL, PM, CD, #10366A <b>\$11,995</b> OR BUY FOR <b>\$34/WK</b></p>	<p><b>OIL CHANGE SPECIAL</b> \$9.95 PLUS TAX &amp; SUPPLIES WE BACK WHAT WE SELL! BIRD MILE WARRANTY 3 MONTH/3000MILE MAX CARE LTD. WARRANTY RENTAL CAR ALLOWANCE</p>	<p>01 PONTIAC AZTEK INDEPENDENT FAMILY CAR <b>\$3,995</b></p>	<p>05 FORD MUSTANG AUTO VS. PW, PL, PM, CD, PWR MIRRORS, ALLOY WHEELS, #10664 <b>\$7,995</b> or <b>\$267/mo</b></p>	<p>05 DODGE STRATUS R/T OVER 30 MPG, PW, PL, PM, CD, CHECK OUT THIS PAYMENT! <b>\$7,995</b> or <b>\$267/mo</b></p>	<p>07 DODGE CARAVAN SE 4X4, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, #10334 <b>\$7,995</b> or <b>\$267/mo</b></p>	<p>08 CHEVY COBALT LT 4X4, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, #10316 <b>\$9,595</b> or <b>\$317/mo</b></p>
<p>06 CHEVY MONTE CARLO LOW LOW MILES <b>\$9,995</b> or <b>\$357/mo</b></p>	<p>07 DODGE CALIBER SXT PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, ALLOY WHEELS, CD, #10365A <b>\$9,995</b> or <b>\$377/mo</b></p>	<p>09 NISSAN SENTRA OVER 30 MPG, PW, PL, PM, CD, CHECK OUT THIS PAYMENT! <b>\$10,995</b> or <b>\$377/mo</b></p>	<p>09 MITSUBISHI GALANT PW, PL, PM, CD, #10330 <b>\$10,995</b> or <b>\$377/mo</b></p>	<p>08 CHEVY IMPALA LT ALLOYS, PW, PL, PM, CD, #10304 <b>\$10,995</b> or <b>\$377/mo</b></p>	<p>10 HYUNDAI ELANTRA OVER 30 MPG, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, PRE-DRIVEN <b>\$11,995</b> or <b>\$347/mo</b></p>	<p>10 MITSUBISHI GALANT ALLOYS, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, PRE-DRIVEN <b>\$12,995</b> or <b>\$387/mo</b></p>
<p>09 KIA RONDO INDEPENDENT CROSSOVER <b>\$10,995</b> or <b>\$377/mo</b></p>	<p>07 HYUNDAI TUCSON PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, #10327A <b>\$11,995</b> or <b>\$347/mo</b></p>	<p>10 HYUNDAI ELANTRA OVER 30 MPG, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, PRE-DRIVEN <b>\$14,995</b> or <b>\$347/mo</b></p>	<p>10 HYUNDAI SONATA OVER 30 MPG, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, PRE-DRIVEN <b>\$12,995</b> or <b>\$387/mo</b></p>	<p>08 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB TRD ED, PW, PL, PM, KEYLESS ENTRY, TOW PKG, #10291A <b>\$16,995</b> or <b>\$567/mo</b></p>	<p>07 CADILLAC DTS BLACK LUXURY PACKAGE #X2958 <b>\$18,995</b> or <b>\$597/mo</b></p>	<p>07 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4X4 3RD ROW, PW, PL, PM, CD, TOW PKG, #10291A <b>\$24,995</b> or <b>\$867/mo</b></p>
<p>08 NISSAN ALTIMA PW, PL, PM, S ENTOR #X2993 <b>\$13,995</b> or <b>\$457/mo</b></p>	<p>10 FORD FUSION SE 2.5L I4, PWR MIRROR, MIRRORS, CD, PRE-DRIVEN #X2911 <b>\$13,995</b> or <b>\$457/mo</b></p>	<p>07 CHRYSLER 300 C HEMI ONLY 17K MILES, LTR, PWR, HD LEANS, BOSTON INDUSTRIES, CHROME WHEELS, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, #10351 <b>\$19,995</b> or <b>\$677/mo</b></p>	<p>07 JEEP COMMANDER LTD 4X4 LTR, MTR, PWR MIRR, 3RD ROW, DVD, TOW PKG, #10291A <b>\$21,995</b> or <b>\$697/mo</b></p>	<p>09 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4, 3RD ROW, PW, PL, PM, CD, BELLER, TOW PKG, PW, PL, CD, #10291A <b>\$21,995</b> or <b>\$697/mo</b></p>	<p>07 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4X4 3RD ROW, PW, PL, PM, CD, TOW PKG, #10291A <b>\$24,995</b> or <b>\$867/mo</b></p>	<p>08 CHEVY AVALANCHE LT ONLY 22K MILES, PWR, RUNNING GEAR, TOW PKG, PW, PL, PWR MIRRORS, CD, #10164 <b>\$28,595</b> or <b>\$997/mo</b></p>

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2008 Chevy Silverado S1K# KT3453, Work Truck! **\$14,995**

2008 Nissan Altima 2.5 S1K# KC3489 37K Miles, One Owner! **\$15,995**

2008 Subaru Forester S1K# ST3578, One Owner! **\$16,677**

2008 Ford Escape S1K# ST3554 37K Miles, Sharp! **\$16,688**

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2011 Kia Sorento S1K# KP3543, New Arrival! **\$18,995**

2011 Hyundai Sonata S1K# SP3542, Sharp! **\$18,995**

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\*Prices plus tax, title, license and doc. fee.

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2000 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer Edition S1K# 26691TT 4x4, Auto, PW/PL **\$4,999**

2001 Chevy Town & Country LX1 S1K# 26087TT, All the Toys! **\$5,495**

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'09 NISSAN ALTIMA #P15715 \$12,995 CALL NOW! 888-695-7313

'09 NISSAN CUBE #P15911 \$13,995 CALL NOW! 888-695-7313

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'94 Oldsmobile Cutlass \$1100 '90 Volvo Sedan \$200 '87 Chevy Celebrity \$850 3377 N. Milwaukee 773-262-1098 visit.samsauto.com

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MITSUBISHI 2003 ECLIPSE Automatic, \$1900.

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CHEVROLET 2001 EXPRESS CARGO Automatic, \$1900.

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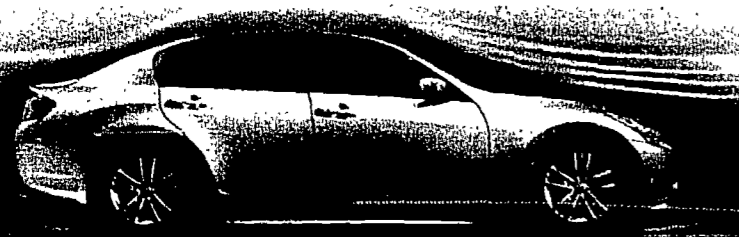


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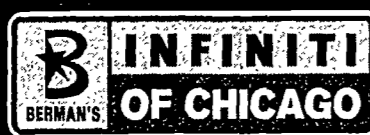
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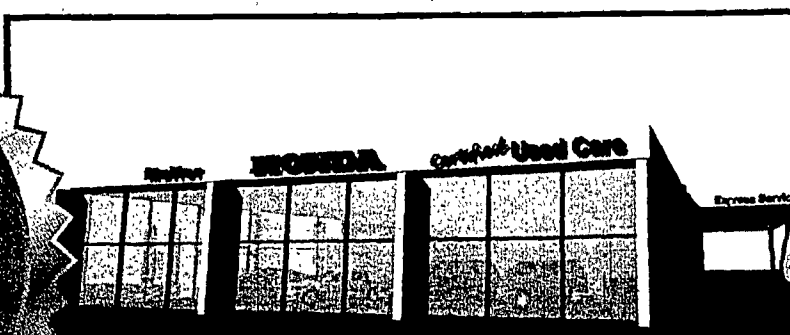
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 Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org). Dec. 30-31, 8 p.m.: New Year's Eve with E. Faye Butler and her combo present jazz, pop, show tunes and blues. Tickets: \$45 (Dec. 30) and \$55 (Dec. 31).  
 Oakton Community College, Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-1900. Dec. 5, 2 p.m.: Guitar instructor Tom Clippert and the Oakton Guitar Ensemble will present an afternoon of stringed music. General admission is \$3. Dec. 6, 8 p.m.: String Ensemble, under the direction of Daniel Golden, will present a program of familiar classics. General admission is \$3. Dec. 8, 8 p.m.: Vocal Recital will feature voice students presenting an evening of classical and contemporary songs. General admission is \$3. Dec. 9, 8 p.m.: Choral Recital offers songs from Broadway shows performed by the Oakton Community Choir, under the direction of Eileen Berman. General admission is \$3. Dec. 10, 8 p.m.: The Oakton Jazz Band, directed by Robert Evans, presents music by Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and Horace Silver. General admission is \$5; senior and student tickets are \$3.  
 Regenstein Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public; senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.: "Brazilian Nights," an evening of Brazilian jazz performed by small ensembles from the Blenon

School of Music will be conducted by Victor Goines, director of Northwestern University's Jazz Studies Program. \$7/\$5/\$4.  
 Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit [www.rosemonttheatre.com](http://www.rosemonttheatre.com). Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.: Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith. \$35, \$49.50, \$65.  
 Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit [www.skokietheatre.com](http://www.skokietheatre.com). Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. Dec. 4, 8 p.m.: Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, presents "Our Kind of Sound." Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m.: Ester Hana presents "Music of the World." Dec. 18, 8 p.m.: Ava Logan presents "Girls' Night Out," performs the music of Diana Ross, Natalie Cole, Barbra Streisand, Roberta Flack, Whitney Houston and others. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Dec. 19, 2 p.m.: Jimmy Niteclub presents "Doo Wop Chicago Style." Dec. 19, 7 p.m.: "June's Got the Cash," celebrating the music of Johnny Cash and June Carter. Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m.: Mambo Caliente: A Big Band Tribute to the Music of Tito Puente. Dec. 31, 8 p.m.: Tony Bernard presents "Rock 'n' Roll is Here to Stay." \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Dec. 31, 10 p.m.: Jack Muccio in "Forever Frank: The Sounds of Sinatra." \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.  
 S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. [www.evanston.space.com](http://www.evanston.space.com). (847) 492-8860. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted

otherwise. Dec. 2-3: Hot Buttered Rum and The Lee Boys (bluegrass). \$20/\$25. Dec. 4: Vienna Teng. \$18/\$22. Dec. 8: Jeffery Foucault. \$12/\$15. Dec. 9: Lucy Kaplansky (folk). \$17/\$20. Dec. 10: Las Guiltarras de Espana with Avanti Guitar Trio (Spanish guitar). \$20/\$25. Dec. 11: Joe Krown Trio with Walter Wolfman Washington and Russell Batiste (New Orleans/funk). \$15/\$18. Dec. 15: Josh Hoge and Todd Carey. \$12/\$15. Dec. 17: Giryman (folk/rock). \$20/\$25. Dec. 18: TFDI: Tony Lucca, Jay Nash and Matt Duke. \$12/\$15. Dec. 19: Andrew Belle. \$12/\$20. Dec. 30: Ezra Furman: Solo Acoustic with Cameron McGill opening. \$10/\$12. Dec. 31, 6 p.m.: Jill Sobule and Julia Sweeney. \$20/\$25. Dec. 31, 10 p.m.: Shemekia Copeland (blues). \$40/\$45. Jan. 7: The Flat Five featuring Nora O'Connor, Kelly Hogan, Scott Ligon, KC McDonough and Gerald Dowd (indie rock). \$12/\$15. Jan. 8: Pieta Brown (folk). \$12/\$15. Jan. 13: 93XRT welcomes Peter Himmelman (folk/rock). \$25/\$30. Jan. 14: Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater (blues). \$15/\$20. Jan. 15: Otis Clay (R&B/soul). \$15/\$20. Jan. 18: Guitarist Charlie Hunter. \$18/\$22. Jan. 20: The Flatlanders (country/rock). \$30/\$35. Jan. 21: Leo Nocentelli's The Meters Experience (soul). \$20/\$25. Jan. 23, 7 p.m.: Songwriters Circle, hosted by Ingrid Gaudins, Justin Roberts, Amelia White, Phil Anagnosti and David Ramont. \$10/\$14. Jan. 27: Nellie McKay. \$17/\$20. Jan. 28: The Nadas with Allison Scott (folk/rock). \$12/\$15. Jan. 30: Freedy Johnston and Darden Smith. \$17/\$20. Feb. 1: Shelby Lynne. \$27/\$30. Feb. 3:

go., PAGE B22

Friday, December 10, 8:00

**REGINA CARTER & ESPERANZA SPALDING**  
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 Chamber Music Society

Two innovative artists share the stage for an evening that breaks barriers between jazz and other genres. Violinist Regina Carter brings her unique fusion of world music and jazz in a program showcasing her album *Reverse Thread*, which *Time* magazine describes as "wonderfully listenable, probingly intelligent, and at times breathtakingly daring." Esperanza Spalding's new project, *Chamber Music Society*, combines intrigue and improvisation with sweet string arrangements, encompassing elements of jazz and African folk melodies.

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Continued from PAGE B21

Frank Vignola with Frank Portolese (jazz guitar). \$15/\$20. Feb. 9: Chris Thomas King (blues). \$12/\$15. Feb. 12: James Hunter (soul). \$24/\$28. Feb. 17: Casey Driessen & the Tillers (bluegrass). \$12/\$15. Feb. 18, 7 p.m.: Rory Block (blues). \$15/\$18. Feb. 19, 7 p.m.: Jason Reeves. \$12/\$15. Feb. 19, 10 p.m.: Antje Duvekot (folk). \$12/\$15. Feb. 20: Jay Nash and Matthew Perryman Jones. \$12/\$15. Feb. 21: 93XRT welcomes Buckwheat Zydeco. \$28/\$30. Feb. 22: Lizz Wright (jazz). \$28/\$32. Feb. 23: Mike Mangione & the Union, Todd Kessler & the New Folk, The Spires (folk/rock). \$10/\$14. Feb. 27: Eric Noden, Joe Filisko, Matthew Skoller and Lurrie Bell (blues). \$12/\$15.

The Sweet Singers of Congregation Ezras Israel will perform a program of Yiddish, Hebrew, Israeli and English songs with Jewish content, and special Chanukah melodies, at 2 p.m. Dec. 7 for residents of The Park, 8975 W. Golf Road, Niles. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, call (773) 764-8320.

**ART GALLERIES**

Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The museum will be closed for winter break Dec. 13 through Jan. 13. Admission to the museum is free; unless noted, admission to all programs is also free. Through Dec. 12: "Leon Golub: Live & Die Like a Lion?", featuring late drawings by the American artist, in the main gallery. Through Dec. 12: "Shirin Neshat: Rapture," a video and sound installation by the Iranian-born and U.S.-based photographer, video artist and filmmaker, in the Alsdorf Gallery. Jan. 14-March 13: "Thomas Rowlandson: Pleasures and Pursuits in Georgian England." One of the most popular caricaturists of his period, Thomas Rowlandson (1757-1827) applied his light-hearted, deft humor and masterly drawing ability to satirical depictions of political and social life in the late 18th and early 19th century England. "The Satirical Edge in Contemporary Prints and Graphics" also on view.

Oittmar Memorial Gallery at Northwestern University's Norris Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston. www.norris.northwestern.edu/oittmar.php. (847) 491-2348. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. The gallery will be closed for winter break Dec. 10 through Jan. 4. Admission is free. Through Dec. 9: "Intense Brightness," works by Licha OeLaPena. Chicago-based artist DeLaPena creates textured, vibrant acrylic paintings inspired by her Logan Square neighborhood. Jan. 5-Feb. 6: "Emotional DIY," featuring "emotional functioning" sculptures by Soo Shin. Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Gallery hours: 9

a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Contact Shirley Engelstein, fine arts coordinator, (847) 674-3806. Through Jan. 7: Paintings by Leon Oks.

Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Oes Plaines. (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through Dec. 3: ID Show 2010, paintings, photography, ceramics and digital art by members of the art faculty at Oakton Community College.

**AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**STAGE**

Brillianteen will hold open auditions for its production of "The Wiz" from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 4 and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 5 at the YMCA Children's Center, 1420 Maple Ave., Evanston. Brillianteen is a program restricted to high school juniors and seniors. All who try out will be part of the cast, and all who sign up will be part of the crew. No experience necessary. Those auditioning will learn and perform a short song, dance, and do a reading with a small group of peers. Advance preparation is not necessary. Callbacks will be held Dec. 15, with the first rehearsal scheduled for Jan. 4. Production dates are Feb. 26-March 6 at the King Lab School, Evanston. All those interested in cast or crew positions must attend one of the scheduled audition dates, register in advance at www.brillianteen.org or www.mcgyymca.org, and pay a registra-

tion fee of \$85 for YMCA members, \$140 for nonmembers. For more information, call Shun Tucker, (847) 475-7400, ext. 225.

Real Clear Productions is seeking performers of all backgrounds for its March/April production of "A Chorus Line." Auditions will be held by appointment from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 11 at North Shore Baptist Church, 5422 N. Lakewood, Chicago. Callbacks will be held in the morning on Dec. 12 in Oes Plaines. All performers must be able to travel to both Chicago and Des Plaines for rehearsals and performances. For an audition appointment, call (773) 828-9584 or e-mail info@realclearproductions.org. For information, visit www.realclearproductions.org.

**MUSICIANS**

Canzonetta Youth Orchestra is seeking players for the 2010-11 music season. Directed by Hillel Kagan, Canzonetta is a chamber orchestra that offers specialized instruction for children interested in developing their orchestral skills. Training orchestra, for 7- to 10-year-olds with beginning orchestral experience, meets from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturdays. The Intermediate orchestra, for 10- to 13-year-olds with more advanced training, meets from 3-4:30 p.m. Sundays. The Senior orchestra, a high school group for advanced musicians, meets from 1-3 p.m. Sundays. There will be at least four concerts throughout the year. All orchestras meet at the Wilmette Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road. For audition information, call Hella Schramm, (847) 328-0570.

Music Institute of Chicago is sponsoring the Generation Next Young Composer's Competition. Prizes range from \$75 to \$350 and include a concert of the winning works, a CD recording of the performance, and scholarships to participate in MIC's Composer's Lab. Application deadline is Dec. 15. For information, visit www.musicinstituteofchicago.org.

**SINGERS**

Lyric Opera of Chicago will hold auditions by invitation only in January, February and March for experienced, classically trained singers in all voice categories who seek positions in the company's choral ensemble for the 2011-12 season. Applicants must sing a preliminary audition to be considered for the callback auditions. Preliminary auditions will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 22 and 29; 3-6 p.m. Feb. 9; 2-4 p.m. Feb. 11; 3-7 p.m. Feb. 15; and 4-7 p.m. March 4. To obtain an audition invitation, singers should send a current résumé and photo to: Chorus Auditions Coordinator, Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 860, Chicago IL 60606; or e-mail to: choraud@lyricopera.org. Include a cover letter indicating first, second and third choices for audition dates and times. The deadline for submitting materials is Jan. 28. Not all applicants who submit a résumé and photo will be asked to audition. Walk-ins will not be seen. To obtain a current audition brochure, visit www.lyricopera.org and click the "About Lyric" link, or call the audition hotline at (312) 827-3548.

Chicago Metro men's chorus rehears-

es at 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays at Sokol Community Center, 4855 N. Elston Ave., Chicago. New members welcome. Call (847) 208-6055 or visit chicagometrochorus.com.

The Mellotones, a senior chorus, rehearse at 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Merrimac Park, 6343 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Seniors age 55 and older are encouraged to join the four-part mixed chorus that performs a variety of Broadway, patriotic, sacred, Hawaiian and holiday songs. Call Rudy Oliva, (773) 777-4226.

Skokie Concert Choir seeks male and female singers at any level of choral experience. No auditions are held. The choir performs a variety of music, from classical to Broadway, and performs two concerts annually, under the direction of Candice Crane, with accompanist Adrian Metzger. Rehearsals are held from 7-9 p.m. Mondays, September through June, at Old Orchard Junior High School, 9310 Kenton Ave., Skokie. Visit www.skokiechoir.org or call (847) 674-3219.

**BENEFITS**

Empty Bowls at Oakton, sponsored by the Ceramics Club at Oakton Community College, will be held from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 4 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Professional and student potters from the Chicago area have contributed hundreds of bowls for the fund-raiser, which benefits local food charities. For a donation of \$12, participant's select a handcrafted bowl that is theirs to keep, and receive a simple meal of

soup and bread. The event includes a raffle drawing for ceramic art works and a silent auction of sculpture and jewelry. Entertainment will be provided by the acoustic duo Patchouli. For information, call (847) 635-1699.

**BOOKS & POETRY**

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Dec. 11-18: Friends of the Lincolnwood Library book sale, during library hours. Dec. 13, 1 p.m.: Discussion of *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. Love Is Murder Mystery Conference will be held Feb 4-6 at the Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont, featuring novelists Rhys Bowen, Joseph Finder, Carolyn Haines, Joan Johnston, Jon Land, F. Paul Wilson and others. Events include author panels, master writing classes, weapons demonstration, crime lab and evidence discovery experts, bookstore and other vendors. Full and partial registrations available. For information, visit www.lovelismurder.net or call (773) 774-3372.

Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Oes Plaines. Dec. 8, 12:30 p.m.: Bayo Ojikutu highlights his works of fiction set in Chicago as part of the Chicago Writers Series at the college. Author of *47th Street Black* and *Free Burning*, Ojikutu received the Washington Prize for Fiction and the Great American Book Award. Free.



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 SUN 3PM & 7PM

FOR TICKETS INFORMATION CALL (630)457-1074 OR VISIT localwondersmusical.com

go.

Continued from PAGE B23

CHILD'S PLAY

"The Jungle Book" will be presented at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 3; and 2 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton, Skokie. The production is geared for young audiences. Tickets are \$10; \$7 for students, senior citizens and children 12 and under. The per-

formance is free of charge on Dec. 2. Call (847) 626-2633. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Through Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays: Stories & More, an interactive storytime for children ages 3-5. Through Dec. 15, 10 a.m. Wednesdays: Beginning with Books, featuring stories, songs and activities for infants to 2-year-olds and a caregiver. Dec. 16, 7 p.m.: Pajama Storytime. Monday Kid Flicks, 3:30 p.m. Mondays - Dec. 6: "How to Train Your Dragon." Dec. 13: "Furry Vengeance." Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston. (847)

475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Suggested donation is \$5 adults; \$2.50 senior citizens, students and children. Maximum suggested admission per family is \$10. Kids Craft Mornings are offered from 11 a.m.-noon. Museum staffers and volunteers lead informal workshops where children learn to construct simple versions of traditional Native American objects and engage in other hands-on activities related to native culture. Admission is included with an entrance donation to the museum. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration is necessary. Dec. 11: Lakota star quilts. Dec. 18: Inuit snow goggles. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Dec. 11, 10 a.m.: Award-winning musician and storyteller Susan Reed presents a special program for families. The concert is preceded by a 9 a.m. open house featuring an instrument petting zoo, early childhood music demonstrations, student performances and refreshments. Tickets are \$10 per family.

3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. Dec. 10, 7 p.m., and Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.: Barney Live in Concert - Birthday Bash! Tickets: \$15, \$25 and \$35. A limited number of \$45 Gold Circle Seats also available. Wiggleworms early childhood music sample classes offered free of charge Tuesday-Saturday mornings through Dec. 18 at St. Matthew's Church, 2120 Lincoln, Evanston. Open to children 6 months to 4 years of age. To reserve a spot, call (773) 728-6000. For more information about Wiggleworms, visit www.oldtownschool.org.

GROUPS & LESSONS

Chicago Dance Chapter of USA Dance, the national organization representing amateur ballroom dancers. Lesson begins at 7:30 p.m.; dancing from 8:15-11 p.m. Admission: \$8 members; \$10 non-members; \$6 for students with ID. Dance music for all swing, Latin and ballroom dances. Partners not required - singles welcome. Beginning dancers encouraged. For information, call (847) 577-9014 or visit www.usadancechicago.org. Dec. 11: "Home for the Holidays" at The Centre at North Park, 10040 Addison, Franklin Park. Featured lesson is the nightclub two-step. Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May 14, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. \$6 per guest. For information, call (847) 698-5501 or (773) 685-8407. Square Spares & Pairs Square Dance Club, a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8:10 p.m. \$5 for members; \$6 for guests. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Norwood Park Historical Society will host Victoria's Holiday Craft Boutique and Café Dec. 2-5 at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N. Newkar Ave., Chicago. Hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 7-10 p.m. Friday for the Girls' Night P.J. shopping party; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. \$1 admission fee; participants in the society's Dec. 4 Holiday House Tour will be admitted at no extra charge with their tour ticket. For information, call (773) 631-4633 or visit www.norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org. Native Arts Holiday Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 4 and noon-4 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's 3009 Central Street building, next door to the Evanston museum. Native artists will sell work ranging from paintings, ceramics and baskets to jewelry, beadwork, clothing, feather work and more. Admission to the bazaar is \$5, which includes museum general admission. Bazaar admission is \$3 for Mitchell Museum members. Children under 12 are admitted free to the bazaar but pay \$2.50 if they wish to visit the museum. For information, call (847) 475-1030 or visit www.mitchellmuseum.org.

block-cinema. Admission is \$6; \$4 for Block Museum members, senior citizens, and students with ID, or as noted below. All films shown at 7 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Dec. 3: Art on Screen series, "The Desert of Forbidden Art." After flourishing briefly in the 1920s, modern and avant-garde artists found their visions unwelcome as the Soviet Union embraced the aesthetics and propaganda of socialist realism. In defiance of rigid censorship policies, painter, archeologist and art collector Igor Savitsky opened the Nukus Museum in a remote part of Uzbekistan as a secret haven for purged and endangered modernist works. The Chicago Northshore Shorts Film Festival will be presented from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Films to be screened include "some boys don't leave," directed by Maggie Kiley; "Chicago," directed by Kamelya Alexan; "Taco Mary," directed by Mary Novak; "Highlights," directed by Mary Novak; "Black March," directed by Joseph Dankha; "Forgiven," directed by Evan Atwood; and "Glassmaker," directed by Mario Contreras. Tickets are a minimum donation of \$10, which includes the after-party. Tickets can be purchased at www.SkokieTheatre.com. Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. (847) 866-0300. www.epl.org. The Reeltime Independent Film and Video Forum presents award-winning independent feature, documentary and short subject films and videos. Each screening is followed by discussions with the audience. All Reeltime

screenings are free. www.reeltimeevanston.org. Dec. 8, 7 p.m.: "The Calling" stories of several young Americans - Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim - who are ignited by a "call" to serve humanity and have decided to join the clergy. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Friday Films at 1 p.m. - Dec. 3: "Seraphine." Dec. 10: "Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg." Dec. 17: "Brothers." Morning Matinees at 10:30 a.m. - Dec. 9: "Iron Man 2." Dec. 16: "The Karate Kid."

ORGANIZATIONS

The American Jewish Artists Club is now accepting applications for new artist members. The club exhibits widely in the Chicago area in museums, public venues and institutions, synagogues and community centers. Members also participate in salon discussions and art critiques, plein air painting sessions, and other activities. For information, visit www.american-jewishartistsclub.org. Des Plaines Art Guild meets at 7 p.m. on the second Friday of the month at the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 Thacker St., Des Plaines. New members are welcome. For information, visit www.dpag.org. Skokie Art Guild meets on the fourth Tuesday of March, April, May, June and September at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. For information, visit www.skokieartguild.org.

SINGLES

ComboSingles, open to singles 21-plus. RSVP two days before dinners. For information about the group and upcoming events, call (847) 757-1299 or (847) 331-0666, or visit www.combosingles.org. Dec. 12, 6:15 p.m.: Bowling at Brunswick Zone, 824 E. Rand Road, Mount Prospect. \$20 league members; \$25 non-league members. Socialize without bowling for \$10. No advance reservation required. Spares Singles Sunday Evening Club holds ballroom dances from 7:30-10:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays of each month at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Admission is \$8 for members; \$9 guests. Dec. 19: Christmas buffet and dance, with music by Chuck and Friends. Buffet and dance, starting at 6 p.m., \$10 members; \$15 guests. Dance only, at 7:30 p.m., \$8 members; \$9 guests. Jan. 2: Music by Chuck and Friends. Jan. 16: Music by The Music Men. Spares Club dinners are held at 4 p.m. on non-dance Sundays. For information, call Rosemary Bartley, (847) 806-0493. Dec. 12: 7 Brothers, 9330 N. Waukegan Road, Morton Grove. Dec. 26: Kappy's, 7220 W. Dempster, Morton Grove. Jan. 9: Andrew's, 2610 W. Dempster/Potter, Park Ridge. Jan. 23: Graziano's, 5960 W. Touhy, Niles. Jan. 30: Jimmy's, 1440 Rand Road, Des Plaines.

workshops from 7-9:45 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie. Fee is \$12 for members; \$20 for nonmembers. Visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. (773) 381-4554. www.maynestage.com. Dec. 6, 8 p.m.: WildClaw Theatre's Deathscribe 2010: Third Annual International Horror Radio Festival. The evening features five original horror plays, selected from nearly 1,000 submissions. \$20. Visit www.wildclawtheatre.com.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: \$12; \$8 for students and senior citizens; \$6 for children ages 5-11. Through Jan. 2: "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race," an exhibition about the role of science in Nazi ideology. Produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., the exhibit examines how the Nazi leadership, in collaboration with individuals in the professions traditionally charged with healing and the public good, used science to help legitimize persecution, murder and, ultimately, genocide.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing

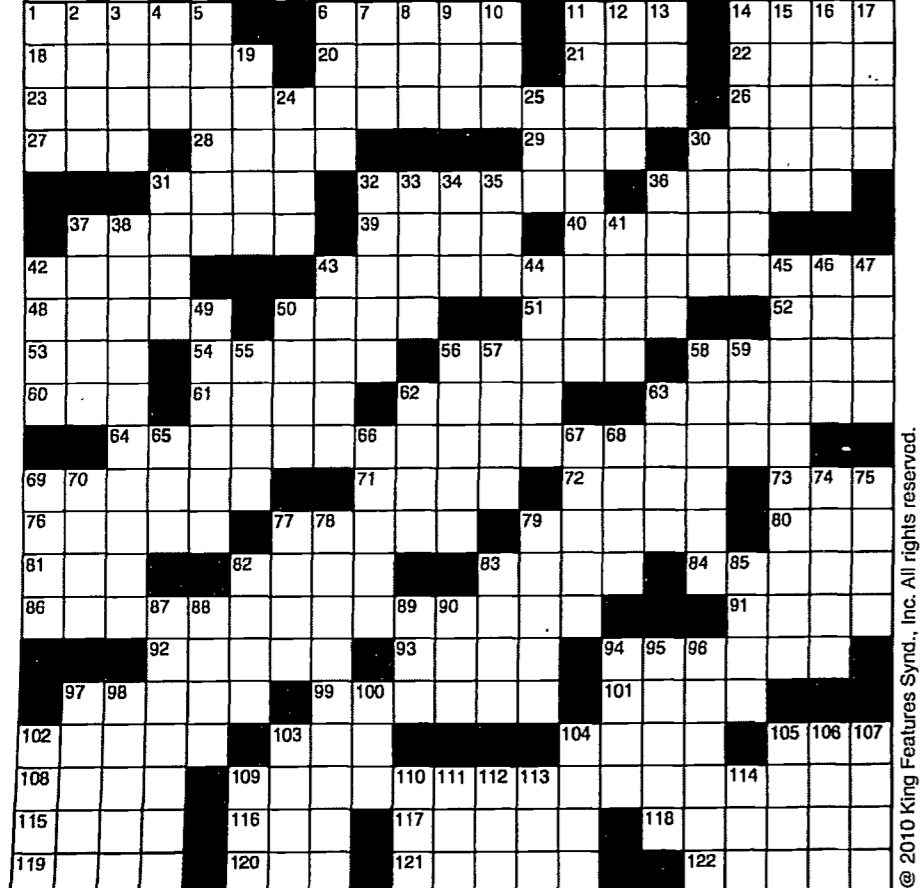
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DIC - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

# Super Crossword WHEREABOUTS

- |                              |                               |                             |                                |                                  |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | 51 Schoenberg's "Moses und —" | Saudi Arabia                | 9 Stadium shout                | part                             | 85 Asian litle                |
| 1 Winning                    | 52 —Magnon                    | 94 Rubble or File           | 10 Nice season                 | 44 Spoken for                    | 87 Duds                       |
| 6 In the know                | 53 Benjamin of                | 99 Kyoto companion          | 11 Where to find               | 45 Stress                        | 88 Crow's-nest cry            |
| 14 Nursery furniture         | 54 "Salome" character         | 101 Jal —                   | 12 Easy as falling off —       | 46 Author                        | 89 — pollut                   |
| 18 Hook's mate               | 55 Elbows                     | 102 Thought-provoking       | 13 Part pugilists              | 47 — creature was stirring . . . | 90 Printer's measures         |
| 20 Corday's prey             | 56 Implied                    | 103 Our omega               | 14 '66 Association hit         | 48 Prepares eggs                 | 94 Cantata composer           |
| 21 Flamenco dancer's shout   | 57 Like a balm                | 104 Sacred image            | 15 Glossy black                | 49 Grain husk                    | 95 Fugard's "A Lesson from —" |
| 22 Mandlikova of tennis      | 58 Persia, today              | 105 Air-quality org.        | 16 Pointless (united) ring     | 50 Part of Q.E.D.                | 96 Liberation                 |
| 23 "Sunrise Sunset" musical  | 59 Hitchcock opus             | 106 Hasty                   | 17 Simple                      | 51 Emulated                      | 97 Cold-war assn.             |
| 26 Writer Hunter             | 60 Newspaper circular         | 107 Old folk song           | 18 Domain                      | 52 Scant                         | 98 Emerald                    |
| 27 Southern constellation    | 61 Deride                     | 108 Starting at             | 19 Downey of "An Angel"        | 53 — up                          | 99 Cartoon cry                |
| 28 New Mexico resort         | 62 Gumshoe                    | 109 Carries out             | 20 "Touched by a mission"      | 54 Walked                        | 102 Hoarse horse?             |
| 29 Med. test                 | 63 Dirlies                    | 110 Grind one's teeth       | 21 Velez of "Mexican Spitfire" | 55 VCR button                    | 103 African native            |
| 30 Statistical focus         | 64 Prohibition, e.g.          | 111 Mike of "Austin Powers" | 22 "Annabel Lee" monogram      | 56 Black piano key               | 104 Craving                   |
| 31 Unruffle                  | 65 Propeller part             | 112 Romeo                   | 23 Pupil's place               | 57 Hors d'oeuvre holder          | 105 "Harper's Bazaar" artist  |
| 32 Reposes                   | 66 Actress Thurman            | 113 It grows on you         | 24 Tribe                       | 58 "It — Right" ("56 song)       | 106 Brace                     |
| 36 Michael of "Little Voice" | 67 Part of USNA               | 114 Small businessman?      | 25 Opera's Herb                | 59 First zookeeper?              | 107 Blows away                |
| 37 Noxious atmosphere        | 68 Dals covering              | 115 Count up                | 26 Striking org.               | 60 Williams was glass            | 108 Gob                       |
| 39 Dock                      | 69 Kiddle-lit classic         | 116 Envelope abbr.          | 27 Cain's nephew               | 61 Botswana bigwig               | 109 Taina                     |
| 40 Unburdens oneself         | 70 Envelope abbr.             | 117 apso                    | 28 Freightier front            | 62 List ender                    | 110 Actress                   |
| 42 Ostentation               | 71 Neighbor of                | 92 — apso                   | 29 Pitchfork                   | 63 Asian litle                   | 111 Chinese principle         |
| 43 Alistair                  | 93 Neighbor of                | 93 Neighbor of              |                                |                                  | 112 Steveviores'              |
| 44 Alistair                  |                               |                             |                                |                                  | 113 Advisory                  |
| 45 Alistair                  |                               |                             |                                |                                  | 114 Go for it                 |



Answers: Inside today's classified section

## HOROSCOPES

For the week of Dec. 8 — Dec. 14

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** At this time you might want to resist that otherwise admirable Aries penchant for getting to the heart of a matter quickly. Keep in mind that a delicate situation calls for patience.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Your aspects favor more diplomacy and fewer direct confrontations when dealing with a relationship problem. Avoiding hurt feelings can help in your search for the truth.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Positive aspects are strong this week. Although you might still have to deal with some problems caused by a recent period of turmoil, you are making progress, and that's what counts.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** A family matter could benefit from your counsel. But don't come into it unless invited, and don't stay if you feel uneasy. Just remember to reassure one and all that you'll be there for them.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** As the truth about an ongoing situation emerges, you could find that you were right to defer judgment before you had all the facts. Now would be a good time to move on to other matters.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Your plans to take control of a personal situation because you feel you are best qualified could create resentment. Best to hear what everyone else involved in the matter has to say about it.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Uncovering some surprising background facts about that

ongoing personal matter could make you reconsider the extent of your involvement. A neutral family member offers advice.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Religious or spiritual themes start to dominate your aspect this week. This can serve as a counterweight to the mounting effects of the season's growing commercialization.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Taking on that recent challenge impressed a lot of important decision-makers. Meanwhile, proceed with your holiday plans, and don't forget to include you-know-who in them.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Disagreeing with an opinion you can't accept could be dicey, and your motives might be questioned. Best to wait to mount a challenge until you have support for your position.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Getting involved in helping others in this increasingly hectic period not only makes the generous Aquarian feel good, but you could also gain a more substantive benefit from your actions.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** The Piscean way of thinking clearly and objectively helps you resolve a complex situation without creating any ill will. Don't be surprised if your counsel is requested on another matter.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of persuading people to look at the positive possibilities that make up any choices they might face.

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## HOCUS FOCUS AMBER WAVES OUT ON A LIMB

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WE'RE STUDYING SCIENCE AND FAMOUS INVENTIONS.

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- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

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625 Busse Hwy. PARK RIDGE, IL 60068  
Phone: (847) 685-1002 Fax (847) 685-1005

**Death Notices**

**MaRous, Arnold M.**  
Arnold M. MaRous, 84, of Park Ridge; veteran of WWII, U.S. Army Air Corps, at peace with Christ Sunday, November 28, 2010. Beloved husband of Barbara for 57 years; loving father of Michael (Jane) and Kathryn; fond grandfather of Anne, Sarah (Shawn), Lonni (Ashley), Kristin (Nick), Joey, Michael, Daniel, and the late David; great-grandfather of Connor, Mason, and David. Visitation Wednesday 3 to 9 PM at Cumberland Chapels (Friel Funeral Directors), 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. Family and friends are asked to meet on Thursday at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington, Park Ridge, for Mass 10 a.m. Interment to follow with military honors at the Town of Maine Cemetery, Park Ridge. All city guard, Lane Tech High School, graduated from Loyola University in 1950, worked for industrial Appraisal Co. for 42 years, past president of Field School P.T.A., former Alderman of the city of Park Ridge, past president of the Park Ridge Country Club, Illinois ASBO Board Member, and past president of the North Shore Golf League. Should friends desire, memorials to Rainbow Hospice would be appreciated.

**Mikolainis, Donald J. (Don)**  
age 74, of Thorp, WI, (formerly of Evanston, IL) passed away on Saturday, November 27, 2010 at the Clark County Health Care Center in Owen, WI. Beloved father of Carol Ann (Victor) Jugo, Robert William Mikolainis, and Catherine Marie (Gregory) Kuhl; proud grandpa of 5 grandchildren; beloved brother of Jolanta (Ron) Grzeszkowiak. Funeral services will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at St. Bernard-St. Hedwig's Catholic Church in Thorp, WI. Private burial will take place in St. Hedwig's Catholic Cemetery at a later date. Visitation will be held at Thorp Funeral Home, Thorp, WI on Friday, December 3, 2010 from 4 to 8pm with a 7pm rosary. Visitation will also be held on Saturday, December 4, 2010 one hour prior to services at the church. Online condolences may be directed to: www.cuddiehl.com. Thorp Funeral Home, Thorp, WI is assisting the family with arrangements.

**REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A DEATH NOTICE OR MEMORIAL AD.**

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**Death Notices**

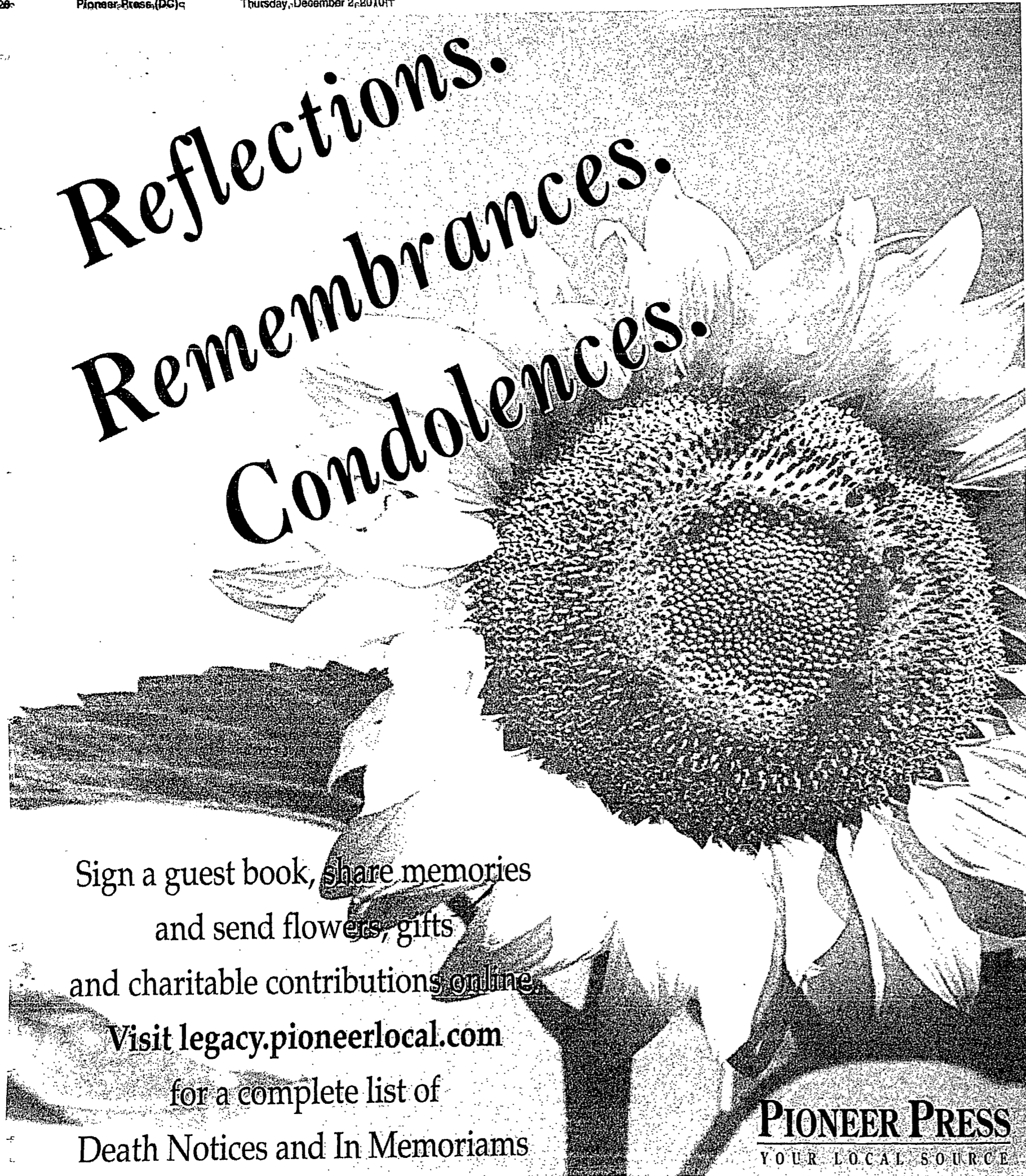
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Call 708-784-9453</p> <p><b>FINANCIAL</b></p> <p><b>Business for Sale</b> <b>Business Insurance</b> <b>Business Opportunity</b> <b>Distributorships</b> <b>Financial Services</b> <b>Franchise</b> <b>Loans</b> <b>Work at Home</b></p> <p><b>Business for Sale</b> Earn \$1,200/week or MORE! Combo Vending Machines. 19 snack / 15 drink selectors. Prime Locations! 312-315-5133</p> <p><b>Business Opportunity</b> <b>BE YOUR OWN BOSS</b> <b>MENARDS</b> Has great opportunities for individuals looking to start their own delivery business. This would include owning and operating a Truck w/Forklift setup of 16' Box Van. This GREAT opportunity comes with SUPER SECURITY and UNLIMITED Earning Potential. This is YOUR opportunity to work with the #1 Home Improvement Center! Call: 715-978-4000</p> <p>Pursuant to the Business Opportunity Sales Law of 1995, every business opportunity must be registered with the Illinois Securities Department. Protect yourself and get the facts before you hand over your hard earned money by contacting the Illinois Secretary of State's Securities Department at (800) 626-7327.</p> <p><b>The Doings</b> <b>PIONEER PRESS</b> YOUR LOCAL SOURCE</p> <p>The Doings and Pioneer Press Newspapers</p> <p><b>Truck Drivers Wanted - Best Pay and Home Time!</b> Apply Online Today over 750 Companies! One Application, Hundreds of Offers! <a href="http://www.HomerLansJobs.com">www.HomerLansJobs.com</a></p> <p><b>DON'T NEED IT? SELL IT FAST. CALL 847-998-3400</b></p>
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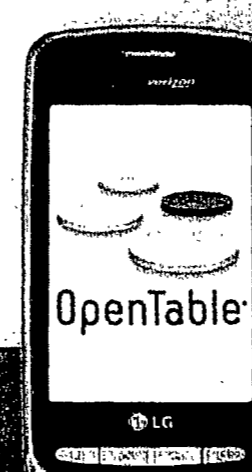
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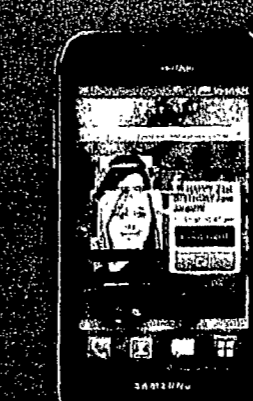
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## The raw truth about healthy eating

By **VERONICA HINKE**  
Contributor

A growing group of health enthusiasts believes eating foods "raw" — vegetarian foods prepared without the often fatty results of cooking or baking — boosts health and energy. Holiday sweets, they say, are no exception.

"Raw foods are the best tasting stuff — without the fat," says Penny Shack. The Le Cordon Bleu-Paris-trained executive pastry chef, a Bannockburn native, makes pecan tartlets and gingerbread cheesecake to toast the season — all without firing up the oven. "You just need a food processor or blender," Shack said.

When she makes raw vegan foods, Shack trades in traditional pie or cheesecake crusts with blended nuts and dates. She replaces processed sugar with raw agave nectar or maple syrup. She opts for melting coconut oil by holding it under 78-80 degree water, rather than melting it in a microwave.

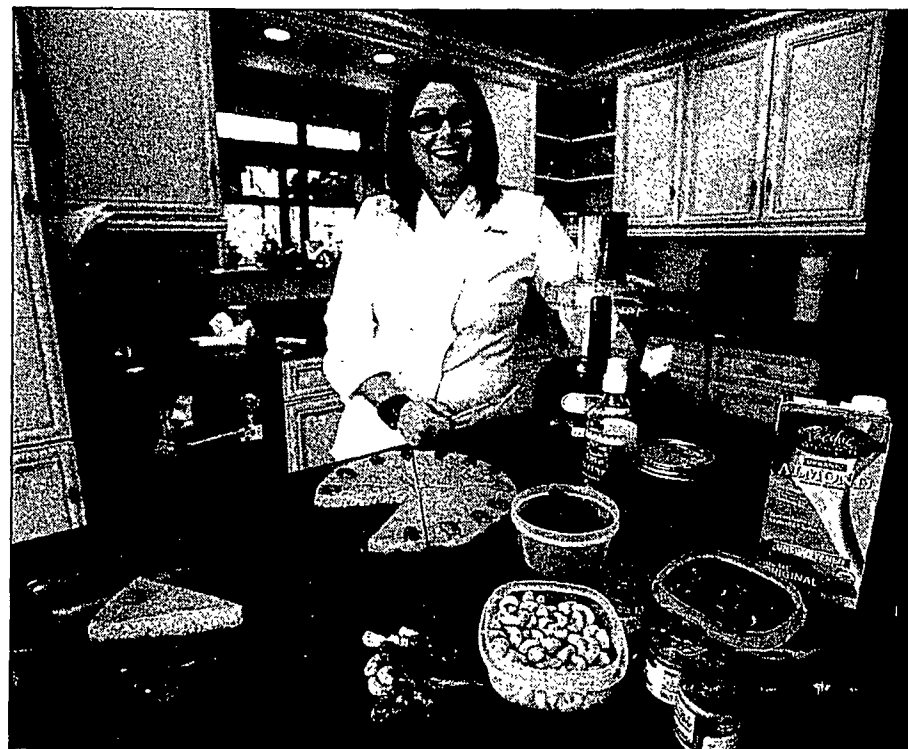
"The technique retains natural enzymes," she explained.

Shack believes most recipes can be tweaked to raw vegan requirements. "I love coming up with new recipes," she said.

She "threw herself into" the lifestyle one year ago, and offers raw vegan treats along with classically-prepared sweets through her company, Penny's Pastries.

"Your approach doesn't need to be all-or-nothing," Shack said. "Every little bit that you can do to make your lifestyle choices any bit healthier counts."

Licensed nutritional counselor Jane Fresne has



Pastry chef Penny Shack, owner of Penny's Pastries, shares her recipe for a raw vegan gingerbread pumpkin cheesecake. | Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

explained the raw foods concept to hundreds of clients who have consulted her through her Evanston office. She has helped them learn how to manage such concerns as weight issues, allergies, acid reflux or heartburn.

"It's about re-examining; changing your thought process about food," Fresne said. "People think it's a lot of work, but once you get used to it, within three or four months, it's simple. Incorporate a few easy changes into your diet; toss a few cranberries into a green smoothie for a festive touch."

But Fresne said some adhere strictly to raw vegan law, even ruling out maple syrup as a processed sugar substitute because it is cooked. She recommended raw blue agave nectar. "It's the lowest on the glycemic index," she said.

### Penny Shack's Raw Vegan Pecan Tartlets

#### Crust:

1 C cashews  
1 vanilla bean scraped or 1 T vanilla extract  
1 tsp. sea salt  
1 1/2 C (about 15) Medjool dates  
1 1/2 C shredded unsweetened coconut  
1/4 C coconut oil, melted

Cover cashews in water and soak overnight. Rinse well. Pulse nuts, salt and coconut in food processor to almost powdery consistency. Add dates and vanilla. Blend until dough-like. Add melted coconut oil and process until just combined. Press into either 1 large pie pan or 12 mini tartlet pans. Place in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Use a knife to lightly carve around the edges of the mini tart pan after it has been out of the refrigerator for five minutes. Pop tarts out, and return to refrigerator to reharden.

#### Filling:

2 C pecans  
1 C Medjool dates  
2 T honey or agave  
1 T cinnamon  
3/4 C water

Extra pecans, crushed, for topping

Cover pecans in water and soak overnight. Cover dates in water and soak for 30 minutes. Place dates, 2 tablespoons water, cinnamon and pecans in food processor or blender and combine until mostly smooth and like a thick pudding. Place one tablespoon of filling into each tartlet shell, or place all into large pie shell, and top with crushed pecans. Set overnight.

### Penny Shack's Raw Vegan Gingerbread Cheesecake

#### Crust:

2 C soaked pecans  
2 tsp. ground ginger  
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. ground cloves  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/4 tsp. sea salt  
1 C dates

#### Filling:

3 C cashews  
2 C almond milk  
3/4 C maple syrup or agave nectar  
2 T vanilla  
3 tsp. ginger  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. clove  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
1/4 tsp. salt  
3 T lecithin powder  
1 C coconut oil, melted

#### For crust:

Blend nuts, spices, vanilla and salt in food processor or blender until fine. Add dates and process until dough-like consistency. Place in 10-inch springform pan. Press evenly into bottom. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

#### For filling:

Cover cashews in water and soak overnight. Mix cashews, almond milk, maple syrup, vanilla, salt and spices in food processor or blender until thick and creamy. Add lecithin and melted coconut oil. Process until blended. Pour over crust. Set in refrigerator overnight.



This vegan gingerbread cheesecake developed by pastry chef Penny Shack uses a crust of pecans and dates with a filling of blended cashews and almond milk. | Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

## It's good to be a Good Guy or Gal



**STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN**

THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Fixer: Sometimes you print stories about businesses that are good to their customers. One that I have encountered is SmartShopper USA.

I purchased an electronic grocery organizer from them in December 2007. We loved it, used it — but several months ago, we began to have problems. New batteries ran out too fast, the screen would go blank, the voice recognition wasn't as good, and the print wasn't clear.

I e-mailed their support department, and they gave me a few suggestions. When those didn't work, they asked what model I had and when I purchased it. Realizing it was three years ago, I thought for sure they would just tell me to buy another one.

Instead, the message I received was: Give us your mailing address; we'll send a replacement. No request for a proof of purchase, no shipping charges, no replacement charges, no hassles — it was fantastic.

They have a great product, and they have a great service department, too. Kudos to SmartShopper!

Laura Curley

Dear Laura: When Team Fixer received your letter, we immediately thought of The Fixer's "Good Guys" (and Gals)!

Your experience with a business that went above and beyond the norm is just the sort of story we are seeking for our annual year-end feature on happy consumer experiences.

Something similar happened to The Fixer many years ago when a strap on a briefcase broke and the maker repaired it free of charge without requiring a receipt. Yay!

After dealing with people's horrible (and sometimes humorous) consumer problems all year, it's nice to hear some stories that restore our faith in humanity. Past "Good Guys" columns have included stories such as these from Fixer readers:

- A heating guy who came out and fixed an elderly woman's furnace as her apartment dropped to a dangerous 41 degrees. When her daughter tried to pay for the service call, he refused to take any money.

- A dentist who did a root canal for free for a woman with no insurance.

- A cabdriver who went back and returned a lost wallet to a previous passenger before she even realized it was missing.

- A coffee-shop owner who cared for a customer going through cancer treatments, remembering her chemo schedule and giving her free treats to keep her spirits up.

- A mechanic who refused to take payment to replace a car's clutch — because the clutch was fine and he couldn't scam someone.

- An airline that flew a panicked young woman to her dying father in another state for free — and provided a driver to take her straight to the hospital so she could say goodbye.

- A mailman who not only rescued a woman's 90-pound lab but walked the dog home, lifted it over her gate and made sure it was safe.

That's just a tiny sampling. There really are great people in this world.

So, if you've encountered a business owner, customer-service rep, clerk, waitress, service person or anyone else who performed an exceptionally good deed for you as a consumer,

please let us know!

We have a special e-mail address for submissions: [goodguys@suntimes.com](mailto:goodguys@suntimes.com).

Please include your name and town. We'll run the best stories the last two weeks in December.

### Look out for sales that are no bargain

The holiday shopping frenzy is well under way, and the December 2010 issue of ShopSmart — the shopping magazine from the publishers of Consumer Reports — wants you to recognize when a "sale" price isn't worth jumping at.

Here are some of the tactics used by retailers:

- Basing a discount on an inflated price. Some stores will advertise a lower price than the manufacturer's "regular price" even though the manufacturer has an even lower suggested retail price. You can combat this with a quick online search of products and prices.

- Tacking on sky-high shipping and handling fees. Some sites will inflate S&H charges to compensate for the deals they offer; ShopSmart found. You need to calculate the entire cost before buying online.

- Hying their liquidation sales. People expect a great bargain from a business that has gone broke, but the opposite can happen. The liquidator may jack up the prices first, then "slash" them for the liquidation sale.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem?

Tell it to The Fixer at [www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer](http://www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer), where you'll find a simple form to fill out. Or, you can mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to: The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Because of the large volume of submissions, The Fixer can't make personal replies.

Letters are edited for length and clarity. Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

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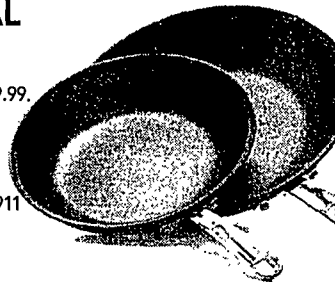
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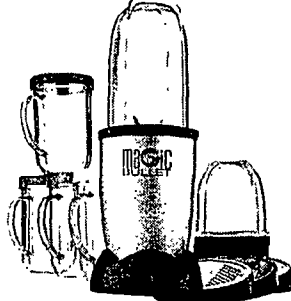
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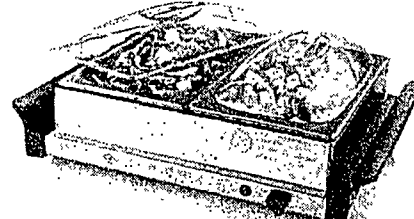
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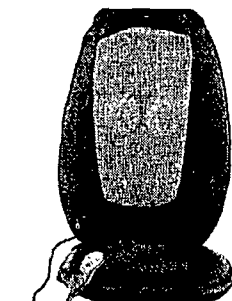
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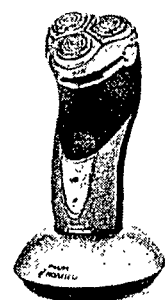
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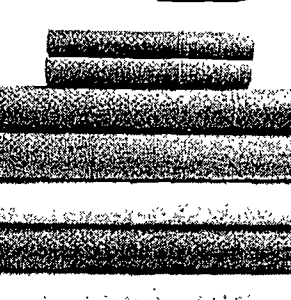
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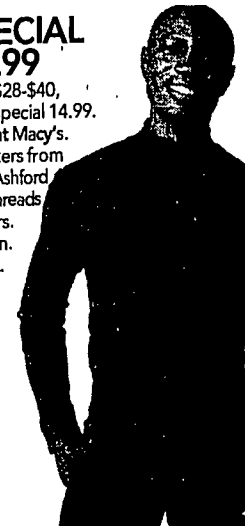


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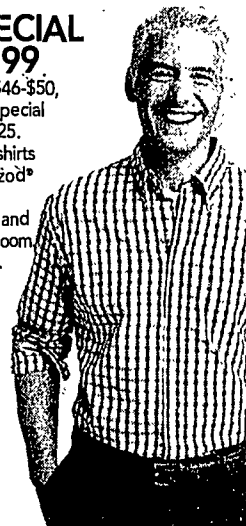
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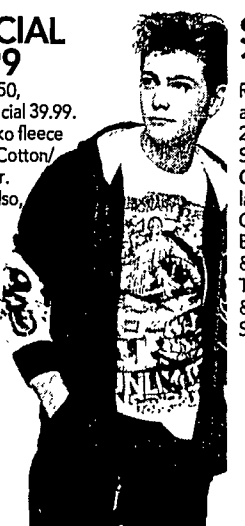
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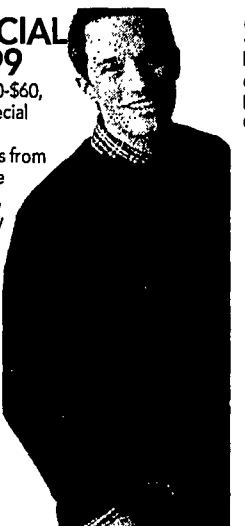
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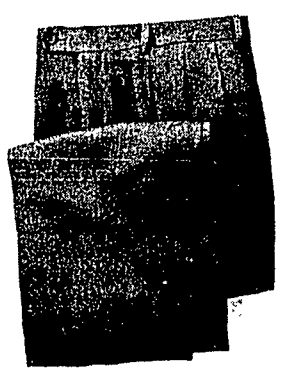


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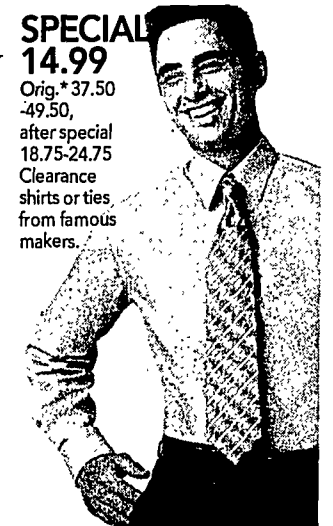


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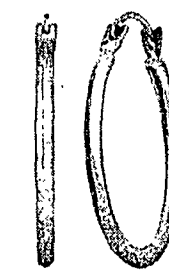
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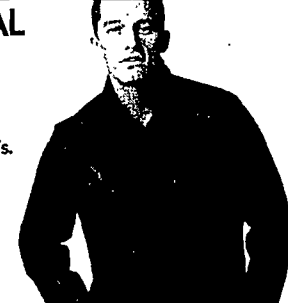
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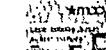


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### DISTRICT 207

Maine East and Maine West High School chapters of DECA, an Association of Marketing Students, performed well in the annual Business Challenge hosted by Maine East on Oct. 27. Participants included about 100 Maine East students and about 20 Maine West students, along with 15 members from Northside Prep High School, a new chapter within the region.

Overall Business Challenge winners were: Maine East's **Alinia Antony, Judy Bielaga, Syed Hussain, Chris Kosmas, Peter Liavas, Rohan Parikh, Jay Shah, Jinal Shah, Aman Tahiliani, Divya Tailor and Pratik Vaidya** and Maine West's **Silvena Bochukova**.

The competition involves various role-plays in categories such as Sports Marketing, Retail Merchandising, Restaurant Management and Entrepreneurship. Students also take a comprehensive economics test to measure their understanding of key business, economics, and applied mathematics concepts learned in their business classes.

### DISTRICT 219

Niles Township High School District 219 Superintendent **Nanciann Gatta** was honored with the 2010 Community Service Award by the Evanston/North Shore Branch of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP) at its 46th annual Freedom Fund Banquet. The event was held Oct. 29 at the North Shore Holiday Inn, in Skokie.

"The award was a validation of the partnership D219 has developed with the NAACP and our belief that every student and parent must be guaranteed a voice in education," said Dr. Gatta. "Our Board of Education and administration continues to show the nation that it is possible to provide a free, public, equitable and rigorous education for every child in this community. In D219 we are transparent about the challenges we face in ensuring

### SCHOOLS DIGEST

every student is ready for college and we are forthright with the strategic plan we are implementing to move us toward attainment of this goal."

The NAACP branch congratulated Dr. Gatta for her educational leadership, citing her efforts to make improvements at District 219 so that all students are treated with equity regardless of race, ethnicity or socio-economic status. The chapter recognized a number of innovative initiatives the district has undertaken, including: increasing the academic rigor of the curriculum to better prepare all students for college readiness standards; having counselors and teachers work more closely with students and parents to ensure that students are placed in higher level classes whenever possible; and the Anywhere/Anytime Learning program that provides netbooks to every incoming freshman so all students learn critical technological skills and have equal access to information.

**Branch Vice President and Banquet Co-Chair John Fuller** singled out Dr. Gatta for her candor and professionalism in dealing with difficult issues. He told the audience that he first met her when the NAACP contacted the school district about a possible case of racial discrimination.

"She welcomed us into her office ... and listened carefully to our concerns," Fuller said. "Not only did Dr. Gatta do everything that she said she was going to do, she did those things and more. That was the beginning of a wonderful relationship between the NAACP and District 219."

Also receiving Community Service Awards this year were **Dr. Margaret Lee**, president of Oakton Community College, **Dr. Dorothy Williams**, the executive director of Family Focus, and **George Mitchell**, president of the Evanston/North Shore Branch of the NAACP.

### MAINE EAST

Maine East High School's Winter Concert will take place at 2 p.m. Dec. 12 in

the school auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, String Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Mixed Chorus and the Demonaires. The Art Department will also display student art work in the lobby. Maine East is located at 2601 W. Dempster St. in Park Ridge.

### MAINE SOUTH

The Maine South High School Hawkettes will present "Holiday Hawkettes" from 7-9 p.m. Dec. 11 in the school gym, 1111 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge. The show will feature the dance team's kick and jazz routines, football game routines and a special holiday performance. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

### NORTHBRIDGE PREP

Twenty-five students from Northridge Prep -- Niles have been recognized by the College Board's Advanced Placement program as AP Scholars.

Six students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are **Bart Bak, Tim Madigan, Dan McDermott, Bart Radzik, David Rahimi and Brian Taylor**.

Eight students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are **Mohammad Abdelfattah, Joe Brochu, John Hauff, Joseph Klatt, Peter Knapp, Phil Krupowicz, Deam Rinnan and Connor Schickel**.

Eleven students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are **Michael Cheely, Peter Hinderer, James Holohan, Theodore Huntington, Donovan Kelly, Martin Navarrete, Michael Oswald, James Petros, John**

**Romano, Spyritthon Rubanis and David Zdunek**.

Of this year's award recipients at Northridge Prep, 22 were seniors and three were juniors, the latter of which have at least one more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award.

### RESURRECTION

Junior high school girls and their families are invited to attend the next Resurrection College Prep High School Open House from 2-4 p.m. Dec. 5 to learn more about Resurrection and tour the school. In addition, families can meet and talk with the staff, students, coaches and school administrators. Visitors can also learn about the curriculum and programs at Resurrection, including block scheduling, advisement, the Practicum Program, the Strategies for Academic Success Program, and work/study tuition assistance opportunities. A Spring Open House will also be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 24.

Seventh- and eighth-grade girls are also invited to participate in a Shadow Day in order to spend the day with a current Resurrection student and experience the school first-hand.

The following dates are still available for eighth-grade girls to shadow before the Entrance Exam in January: Dec. 2, 7, 9, 14 and 15. Shadow Days are available beginning in January for seventh-grade girls and for eighth-grade girls who do not have the opportunity to shadow before the Entrance Exam. Contact Debbie Gillespie at [dgillespie@reshs.org](mailto:dgillespie@reshs.org) or call (773) 775-6616, Ext. 129, to schedule a Shadow Day.

Eighth-grade girls are invited to take the Entrance Exam from 7:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 8. No preregistration is necessary -- students should bring two No. 2 pencils, a calculator and a \$25 testing fee (cash or check payable to Resurrection High School). Parents are welcome to attend a Parent Information Session in the Resurrection Library beginning at 8 a.m. on the day of the Entrance Exam.

If a student needs limited accommodations for the exam, contact Gillespie.

Resurrection College Prep High School is a Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school for young women located at 7500 W. Talcott Ave. in Chicago. Visit [www.reshs.org](http://www.reshs.org).

The Resurrection College Prep High School Alumnae Association presents "Breakfast with Santa" from 9-11:30 a.m. Dec. 11 (breakfast served from 9-10:30 a.m.) at the school, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. All are welcome to enjoy breakfast with Santa, face-painting, a theater production by Res drama students and Christmas arts and crafts. Children and families can have their photos taken with Santa and each child will receive a special gift from Santa. Tickets are \$8 per child in advance; \$9 at the door; and \$5 per adult. Reservations are encouraged. Tickets may be purchased at [www.reshs.org/tickets-pages-54.php](http://www.reshs.org/tickets-pages-54.php). Tickets may also be ordered by contacting Stefanie Thorpe at [sthorpe@reshs.org](mailto:sthorpe@reshs.org) or (773) 775-6616, Ext. 127.

### ROOSEVELT

Roosevelt students in kindergarten through fifth grade will present their science projects from 6-8:30 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Roosevelt Elementary School -- South Gym, 1000 S. Fairview Ave. Professional scientists will also be present. Free and open to the public. For additional information, call the Roosevelt office, (847) 318-4235.

### ST. EUGENE

St. Eugene School, 7930 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, has implemented the Accelerated Reader Program in first through eighth grades. The purpose of this program is to enable students to experience more powerful practice reading sessions. Accelerated Reader enhances and supports the basal reader series and other instructional materials. The program provides data that helps the teacher monitor and personalize reading practice, encourages substantial amounts of reading

practice, and makes reading practice fun for students by facilitating successful encounters with books. It promotes wide reading, which is the most effective method for building vocabulary. Students receive direct and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics skills, and comprehension strategies.

### ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick High School announced scholastic honors for the first quarter. Stu-

dents from Park Ridge are: First Honors: junior **Daniel Potts Jr.**; freshmen **Jack Donovan, Liam Forde and Michael Potts**. Second Honors: senior **Billy Donovan**.

Preliminary results show Saint Patrick High School students broke another school record during their Nov. 2 LifeSource blood drive. The first count showed the school community donated 216 units of blood saving 648 lives. The number is up from the record 203 units collected at last spring's drive, and

close to the 233 units collected across both school drives the 2007-08 school year.

Earlier in October, LifeSource representatives presented St. Pat's administrators with a check for \$3,250 that will be put toward the school's financial aid program. The award was offered to the school after the success of last year's drives.

LifeSource encourages other members of the community to donate to St. Pat's total by mentioning

St. Pat's school code, J401, when donating at other LifeSource Blood Centers.

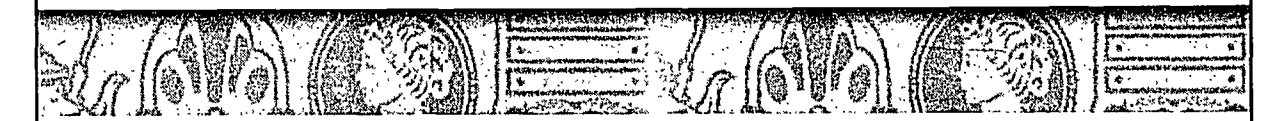
### ST. JOHN BREBEUF

The eighth-graders at St. John Brebeuf School participated in a food drive for Chicago's St. Sylvester's Thanksgiving Breakfast for the Homeless. The students learned of the Thanksgiving breakfast through "Uncle Pete's Ministry," which serves the homeless and

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NEWS BRIEF

Lutheran General center helps the hungry

In October, the staff and patients of the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Caldwell Breast Center recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month by collecting more than 500 cans and boxes of food for the local Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry.

with each of its 1,800 October mammogram reminder letters to women across the area. Women who brought in food were eligible for raffles to win a handmade afghan, knit by Lisa Totzke, a volunteer at the center for more than 16 years, as well as a custom-made breast cancer awareness-themed shopping bag.

chasing additional items. "We had two goals for this effort, and we accomplished them both," said Sharon Ochal, Caldwell Breast Center office coordinator and co-organizer of the "I Can Help" program. "We wanted to help out those in our communities who are less fortunate than ourselves, and we wanted to inspire others to think about ways that they might be able to give back."

Brief PAGE 34

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes: Monday, Dec. 13 - Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 7 through 28 - Employment counseling, by appointment. Tuesdays, Dec. 7 and 21 - Medicare counseling, by appointment. Wednesdays, Dec. 8 - Annual Holiday Party, 7 p.m., Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Wednesdays, Dec. 15, 29 - Grief and loss support group (call first). Saturdays, Dec. 4 and 18 - Legal counseling, by appointment. Saturday, Dec. 18 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m. - noon (no appointment needed). Note: The Center will be closed Dec. 24 and 25.

The Center of Concern will hold its annual holiday party for clients, volunteers, and community supporters at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Festivities include refreshments and raffle prizes donated by local merchants. Holiday entertainment will be provided and volunteers will be honored. The public is welcome. Bring a nonperishable food item for the Maine Township Food Pantry. Call 847-823-0453 if transportation is needed. Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Cares Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the longtime-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption. Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays. The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Civic

A representative from the Niles Township Clerk's office will be available 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate residents with passport applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an ap-

pointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300. The Maine Township Neighborhood Watch meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in the basement of Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Meetings address issues within the unincorporated area of the township and all residents are invited. Reports from the Cook County Sheriff's Police, North Maine Fire Department, and the township's Code Enforcement Department are shared, and residents are invited to ask questions and report any concerns or problems in their neighborhood.

Classes

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is now offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is \$60, Contact Dorinda King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs

The Park Ridge Catholic Woman's Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. Dec. 13 in the South Park Recreation Center, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. The Harmonaires will provide entertainment. Members are asked to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share and enjoy with beverages. The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 8 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Lunch will be served at noon, with a meeting and program to follow. Hostesses for the day are: Nancy Gutreuter, Carol Pauty, Mary K. Redmann, chairman. The Maine South Vocal Jazz Ensemble, an extra-curricular group of upperclassmen vocalists under the direction of Matthew Hanes, will perform "Christmas in Song." Bring nonperishable and/or canned goods to the meeting for the Des Plaines Food Pantry. Women who are interested in membership in DAR should know that any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. DAR recognizes "Patriots" not only as soldiers, but anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. Contact Second Vice Regent, Betty Borman at (847)818-9001.

The Sweet Singers of Congregation Ezras Israel which entertains at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rosenberg Auditorium of Ezras Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezras Israel office at (773) 764-8320. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until close.

ing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbond54762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890. The Korean War Veterans Association, Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Henmuller, (773) 774-9671. I Chiacchieroni Italian-language dinner group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Salerno's, 1716 E. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect. The next meeting will be Dec. 9. This is a casual evening of conversation in Italian. Call Gabriella, (847) 292-0089, or e-mail: ichiacchieroni@yahoo.com. Join the Catholic Women's Bowling League for Ladies Night Out at Classic Bowl, 8530 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove. Fee is \$15 per week. All skill levels, welcome. Call Deanne Drozd at (224) 628-4009 or ddrozdz@comcast.net.

The Knights of Columbus (North American Martyrs Council, Niles), provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920. Niles Chapter Toastmasters meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

Community

Northridge Prep Drama Club presents "A Man for All Seasons" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 3 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at Stage One Theatre, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines. Tickets for adults are \$12 and for students or children, \$6. Contact marketing@northridgeprep.org. A Russian Winter Festival will take place from noon-5 p.m. Dec. 5 at Holy Virgin Protection Russian Orthodox Cathedral, 1800 Lee St., Des Plaines. A Holiday Bazaar will feature Russian treasures, handmade winter wear, jewelry, arts and crafts and more. Homemade Russian borscht and hot piroshki along with delicious sweets and treats will be served as well as be available for carry out. Vodka tasting, Russian tea poured from a traditional samovar and hot chocolate for the kids, will be offered. The event also features Sarafan women dancers, carolers and strolling musicians. Sleigh ride with the kids at Lake Park's Winter Wonderland. Proceeds are earmarked for the church school building fund. Admission is free. Public is invited. Call (847) 299-2585 or (773) 619-8755 or go to www.english.holyvirginprotection.org. St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 5000 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago, features bingo on Friday evenings; doors open at 5 p.m., and the first game is at 7. Evening features two \$500 games with pull tabs, raffle, computers, food and refreshments. Call (773) 625-4805.

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less fortunate all year round. The eighth-graders were asked to deliver flyers to their neighbors requesting specific food items that St. Sylvester's was to serve to the homeless and less fortunate at the church Thanksgiving morning.

Historically, St. Sylvester's has been able to provide a warm Thanksgiving breakfast for about 50 homeless men, women and children. However, the SJB eighth-grade families and their neighbors donated such an abundance of eggs, bread, butter, sausages, cereal, oatmeal, juice, and milk that they were able to feed about 200 people, and St. Sylvester's was able to reach out to other parishes and offer the breakfast to even more people deserving of a warm meal.

The students also collected an abundance of peanut butter and jelly and were able to make and donate 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the guests to take home with them for lunch Thanksgiving day.

The students, with smiles on their faces, brought bags and boxes of food to the St. John Brebeuf Parish Ministry Center, where the food donations were sorted and counted, then delivered to the people at St. Sylvester's.

In addition to making the lunch sandwiches, eight to 10 eighth-graders and their families returned to St. Sylvester's early Thanksgiving morning to help serve the breakfast.

Anyone who would like an opportunity to give to Uncle Pete's Ministry and the St. Vincent DePaul Society may call (847) 966-8145.

St. John Brebeuf celebrated the end of the first quarter with an assembly to recognize the students for their hard work, service and friendship towards others. Students were honored for serving on patrol, having no tardies, being an altar server, making the honor roll and being nominated by their classmates as a peacekeeper.

This year, the theme is

"Team SJB: Friendship, faith, knowledge and service." The assembly focused on the character of friendship. Each grade and the faculty had a flag with a letter on it spelling out the word friendship. The students cheered when their letter was called. Enjoyed by all was a slide show presentation accompanied by the song "You've Got a Friend in Me." The assembly concluded with a friendship relay.

In an ongoing effort to remain current and offer its students as much as possible, two teachers from the St. John Brebeuf School faculty attended an internship last July, held at Northrop Grumman in Rolling Meadows. The workshop focused on introducing middle school math, science and technology students to engineering as a career. The teachers participated in "hands-on" activities and Northrop Grumman sent them home with many ideas for their classrooms. As a result of their experience, Janelle Siwiec and Lynn Baer submitted an idea for a grant funded by Northrop Grumman. The grant was secured will be used to purchase a classroom set of graphing calculators and to offer an after-school program for science, math and technology students.

ST. PATRICK

When senior Kevin Lawnicki arrives at St. Patrick High School an hour before classes each morning, he has one goal in his mind — to take advantage of the opportunity he has to be here, with his classmates, learning and having fun each day.

In August, Lawnicki and his family lost his 4-year-old sister, Peyton, to leukemia. Over the last few years, during frequent hospital visits to see Peyton, Lawnicki observed how she and all the other young patients did not have a normal childhood. "I'm lucky to be able to live a normal life — going to classes and saying hello to my friends every day. They just don't get that," Lawnicki stated.

Despite the tremendous challenges he and his family have faced, Lawnicki has

maintained top grades as a Shamrock. He is a Student of the Month for the second consecutive month, nominated by the World Languages Department for September and Business/Computers Department for October.

Lawnicki has been on the St. Pat's Honor Roll and has participated in the Spanish Club, Science Club and newly formed Peregrine Society. He is interested in entering pre-med for his undergraduate work, and has yet to choose a school from among his top choices: Northern Illinois University, Marquette University, Northwestern University and the University of Iowa.

Lawnicki is the son of Frank '85 and Jennifer Lawnicki. The following local students have been selected as the October 2010 Students of the Month:

- Seniors — Austin Connolly, Art (St. Giles); Daniel Delgado, Science (St. Tarcissus); Daniel Flood, Shamrock Council (St. Juliana); Kevin Jandristis, Music (St. Celestine); Michael McCarthy, Math (St. Thecla); Jack O'Connor, World Languages (St. Vincent Ferrer); Jason Rodriguez, Athletics (St. Genevieve); Paul Vaccaro, Theatre (Mt. Carmel Academy).

Saint Patrick High School will host a special production of "Put the Nuns in Charge" by Vicki Quade ("Late Night Catechism") starring Elaine Carlson at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved at www.stpatrick.org or by calling (773) 286-8470.

TRINITY

Trinity High School in River Forest has named local students who earned honors for the first block of the 2010-11 academic year. First Honors — Northridge: Junior Noeli Benitez, Monica Kenar, Molly Krebs; freshman Milijana Marjanovic. Park Ridge — Junior Chrissy Athans; freshman Kaitlin Leen.

Second Honors — Niles: Sophomore Shannon McGinnis.

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Holiday Worship Guide. ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 3rd Annual Christmas Nativity Display. Dec. 11, 5pm-8pm. Dec. 12, 9am-1pm. Carter Westminster United Presbyterian Church 4950 West Pratt Ave., Skokie 847-673-4441 www.cwupc.org. Featured guest soloists from the Lyric Opera & Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra of Chicago will perform with our Chancel Choir. Open House No admission charge.



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**Hunger issues** locally and around the world are the focus of "Empty Bowls" at Oakton, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 4 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Professional and student potters from the Chicago area have contributed hundreds of unique bowls for this annual fundraiser.

For a donation of \$12, participants select a distinctive handcrafted bowl that is theirs to keep, and receive a simple meal of soup and bread as a reminder that "someone's bowl is always empty." The event includes a raffle drawing for ceramic art works and a silent auction for select pieces of sculpture and jewelry. All proceeds benefit local food charities. More than 1,200 bowls were sold at last year's event, which raised some \$20,000 to fight hunger.

Sponsored by the Ceramics Club at Oakton, Empty Bowls is a nonprofit, global movement that has raised millions of dollars for food banks, soup kitchens, and other meal programs. Entertainment will be provided by Patchouli, an acoustic duo whose songs about harmony and healing inspire the human spirit.

For more information, contact emptybowls@oakton.edu, or call (847) 635-1699.

**Award-winning author** Bayo Ojikutu highlights his works of fiction set in Chicago at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 8, as part of the Chicago Writers Series at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. This event is free and open to the public; parking is available (Lot A recommended).

Author of *47th Street Black and Free Burning*, Ojikutu received the Washington Prize for Fiction and the Great American Book Award. He has taught cre-

ative writing at the University of Chicago and DePaul University.

This program is made possible by student activity fees and the Oakton Educational Foundation.

For more information about the Chicago Writers Series, contact Lynn Woodbury at (847) 635-1953 or woodbury@oakton.edu.

**Six members** of Oakton Community College's Jazz Band were honored at the 2010 Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference Jazz Festival, Nov. 13, at Oakton. A panel of professional musicians selected winners from participants representing eight community colleges.

Guitarist **Peter Burke** of Glenview, trumpeter/flugelhornist **Michael Phillippe** of Glenview, alto saxophonist **James Postilion** of Arlington Heights, and tenor saxophonist **Preetham Marati** of Skokie earned Outstanding Soloists Awards, the competition's highest honor. Trombonist **Lia Corinth** of Evanston and alto saxophonist **Shelly Pettibone** of Barrington received honorable mentions. Oakton's Jazz Band is under the direction of Robert Evans.

The annual festival provides an opportunity for Illinois Skyway conference students to play with professionals and hear critiques of their work.

The award-winning Jazz Band will perform at "Jazz Invasion" at 8 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for students and seniors. For details, call (847) 635-1900.

**Designed for anyone** seeking a better understanding of routine maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair of industrial and commercial equipment, Oakton Community College announces the new Industrial/Commercial Electrical Maintenance Cer-

ificate, pending approval by the Illinois Community College Board.

The 13-credit-hour program certificate allows students to gain a better understanding of wiring codes for buildings of all sizes. Courses will meet at the Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. and include: *Introduction to Electronics* (ELT 101); *Survey of Electronics* (ELT 107); *Residential Wiring* (ELT 114); *Basic Blueprint Reading and Shop Theory* (MFG 102); *Hydraulics, Pneumatics, and Controls* (MFG 135); and *Sensors and Vision* (MFG 139).

For more information, contact Electronics and Computer Technologies Chair Majid Ghadiri at (847) 635-1909 or mghadiri@oakton.edu.

**Oakton Community College** seeks submissions from aspiring playwrights for an opportunity to have their work brought to life at the Oakton Performing Arts Center next summer.

Play On, an annual statewide playwrighting competition, is open to all community college students. Students are asked to submit a one-act script of any genre. Scripts must be 10 pages or less, written in 12-point font, and never previously produced. Include a cover page with your name, phone number, mailing address, e-mail address, and school name. Only one submission is allowed per student. Winners will be notified in March and works will be performed in July.

Deadline for submission is Jan. 31, 2011. Scripts can be e-mailed to Kate Tillotson at katet@oakton.edu.

**Close out the year** by enrolling in continuing education courses offered by the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College.

*All Aboard the Orient Ex-*

press (HIS T12-02) examines the luxurious interiors of the famed Italian hotels — the Cipriani in Venice and Villa San Michele in Florence — both owned by the Orient Express Company. Course meets 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., or 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview. Course fee is \$24.

**Holiday Craft and Paper Wrap** (ART B75-02) demonstrates how to make handcrafted creations and festive decorations. Materials are provided by the instructor. Course meets 6-9 p.m. Dec. 8 at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Course fee is \$30.

**Mini Sushi Workshop** (HEC F12-03) teaches how to make sushi using smoked salmon, tuna, crab, and spicy shrimp. Course meets 7-9 p.m. Dec. 8, at the Glencoe Park District, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe. Course fee is \$35.

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

**Embark on a one-week study/travel** Alaskan cruise offered by Oakton. Trips in 2011 depart in May, June, July, August, and September.

In Juneau, visit the state's oldest Russian Orthodox church, or take a trip to the famed Mendenhall Glacier. Glacier Bay features a 65-mile long fjord sculpted by the retreat of snow and ice over two centuries.

Ketchikan is home to the world's largest totem pole collection.

For complete itineraries and information about upcoming tours, call Bea Cornelissen at (847) 635-1812, or visit www.oakton.edu/news/first/ravel.htm.

# Calendar

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**The St. John Brebeuf Holy Name Men's Club** will host a Holiday Bingo Dec. 3 in the Ministry Center, 8305 Harlem Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 for 15 games. Snacks and beverages will be available. Donations of two nonperishable items for the Food Pantry are requested. Call (847) 966-8145.

**The White Eagle in Niles** is hosting two Join-In Parties: 5-11 p.m. Dec. 9 and 1-6 p.m. Dec. 12. These parties allow small businesses and families in the Niles community to celebrate Christmas in a big way on a tight budget. For \$22 per person — participants can enjoy great food, cash bar, and entertainment in an elegant and festive atmosphere. For reservations, call (847) 647-0660 or e-mail whiteeagle@thewhiteeagle.com.

**Saint Andrew Life Center**, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Niles, will join forces with the world's most famous elf when it hosts a free brunch with Santa from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 4. Adults, families and children of all ages are invited to spend some time with Santa, enjoy brunch and make a holiday ornament. Call (847) 647-8332 for reservations.

**The Festival of Trees** runs to Dec. 4 at the Mill Shopping Center. Marking the 50 anniversary of the center, "Then & Now" offers a wide spectrum of creative decorations such as an era, a fashion trend, or a significant movie of the times. The event will also help replenish the Maine Township Food Pantry. Shoppers will vote for their favorite tree by donating non-perishable food items at the Customer Service Center. **The Solid Waste Agency** of Northbrook Cook County has established locations for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost. Sites are the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays; and the Public Works of Morton Grove, 7840 Nagle Ave., 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-noon Fridays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers — PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals — mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs — printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swancc.org.

**The Northwest Choral Society** subscription drive for the 2010-11 concert season runs through Dec. 7. The program line up will feature the annual holiday concert, scheduled for Dec. 4 and 5 and entitled *The Christmas Star*, will feature Harian's Christmas Canticle, accompanied by a string quartet, as well as carols and hymns of advent and Christmas by Bach and Lauridsen. The Spring Concert, to be presented March 26 is under the title *Praise and Triumph*. Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass" will be the featured score. While typi-

cally more classical in nature, the Spring Concert also will include pieces from Handel, Mozart and Franck. Members of the Northwest Choral Society Chamber Orchestra with Alan Heatherington as concertmaster will accompany the chorus. The final concert of the season, *Celebrate Americana* will be held June 4 and 5, with selections from Copeland's "Old American Songs," Gerstwin's "Porgy & Bess," and Bernstein's "West Side Story." Season tickets for the three concerts are offered at a discounted price of \$40, for adults and \$33, for students and senior citizens. Single concert tickets are \$18, for adults and \$15, for students and seniors citizens. To order tickets, call (224) 585-9127 or visit www.nwchoralsociety.org.

**This year the Maine South Athletic Pass**, entitling bearers to admission to all home football and basketball games (except IHSA games), is available exclusively through the Maine South Athletic Boosters for \$30. See south.maine207.org, click on Organizations, then Hawk Boosters and then the membership link to obtain a membership/pass application — or call Laurie Kovalick, membership committee chairperson, at (847) 292-1665 or John Wolf, Booster president at (773) 935-5585 for more information or an application. Consider becoming a member in addition to purchasing the pass for the good and benefit of all Maine South athletics.

**Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers** can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

**Avenues Thrift Shoppe** offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and finer merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

**The Center of Concern**, an independent social service agency serving the elderly and others in need in the north and northwest city and suburbs, is accepting holiday gift donations for area senior citizens and needy families with children. The center also needs volunteers to deliver the gifts. Gifts appropriate for seniors include gift cards for local grocery or drug stores; large-print magazines and books; stationery or greeting cards and postage stamps; toiletries such as hand creams and soaps; non-perishable food items; and calendars. Gifts appropriate for families with children include gift cards, non-perishable food items, and Christmas gifts requested by individual children on their holiday wish lists. Donors who want to help a family should contact the center to find out what particular families need. Holiday gifts are accepted until Dec. 14. The center is located at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. Call (847) 823-0453.

**Stop by North Shore Senior Center's** Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Campus in Northfield and pluck a gift tag off the Giving Tree located in the Atrium to help disadvantaged seniors in need for the holidays. Purchase the requested gift (\$25 or less) for the person on the tag, then wrap and return it. Their staff will hand deliver every gift in time for the holidays. Cash do-

**Crafts**

**Get into the holiday spirit** with the Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 5. The annual event includes Mass (10:30 a.m.), traditional Irish breakfast, bake sale and visit from Santa Claus (1-3 p.m.). The Fifth Province Pub will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland and will be decorated for the season with as many as 12 Christmas trees. The Irish Heritage Singers will provide the music for Mass. Irish musicians Clara Walton and Cormac McCarthy will entertain throughout the day on vocals and piano. Cost for the breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children; reservations are required. Call (773) 282-7035, Ext. 10. There is no charge to browse and shop.

**The Norwood Park Historical Society** will host Victoria's Holiday Craft Boutique and Café at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House at 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago, Dec. 2 to 5. Hours are: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday plus 7-10 p.m. Friday. Special Girls' Night P.J. shopping party: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. There is a \$1 admission fee; participants in the society's Dec. 4 Holiday House Tour will be admitted at no extra charge with their tour ticket. The Holiday Café will serve soup, sandwiches, and other lunch fare, homemade desserts and pastries and hot and cold drinks. Call (773) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

**Donations**

**The Center of Concern**, an independent social service agency serving the elderly and others in need in the north and northwest city and suburbs, is accepting holiday gift donations for area senior citizens and needy families with children. The center also needs volunteers to deliver the gifts. Gifts appropriate for seniors include gift cards for local grocery or drug stores; large-print magazines and books; stationery or greeting cards and postage stamps; toiletries such as hand creams and soaps; non-perishable food items; and calendars. Gifts appropriate for families with children include gift cards, non-perishable food items, and Christmas gifts requested by individual children on their holiday wish lists. Donors who want to help a family should contact the center to find out what particular families need. Holiday gifts are accepted until Dec. 14. The center is located at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. Call (847) 823-0453.

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### COOK COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM

#### PERFORMANCE HEARING

DATE: Thursday, December 2, 2010  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Cook County Board Room  
118 North Clark Street  
County Building - Room 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

PURPOSE: The Cook County Community Development Advisory Council will hold a Performance Hearing to review the progress and performance of program activities for the 2009 Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investment Partnership Program and Emergency Shelter Grants Program for the 2009 Program Year (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010).

These programs do not include the City of Chicago.

**Cook County Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report**

The Cook County CAPER will be available for public review on December 1, 2010. Cook County will accept comments on the report from December 1, 2010 through December 15, 2010. The report can be viewed at the Cook County Bureau of Community Development, 69 West Washington, Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60602. (312) 603-1000. AD#1809251, Pub: 12-2-10

## NOTICE FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64

- A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for Community Consolidated School District No. 64 for 2009 will be held on Monday, December 13, 2010, at 7:20 p.m. at the Raymond E. Hendee Education Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Rebecca J. Allard, Business Manager, 164 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL at (847) 318-4324.
- The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2009 were \$54,719,021. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2010, are \$57,578,075. This represents a 5.22% increase over the previous year.
- The property taxes extended for debt service for 2009 were \$2,690,520. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service for 2010 are \$2,697,385. This represents a 0.26% increase over the previous year.
- The total property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$57,409,541. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2010, are \$60,275,460. This represents a 4.99% increase over the previous year's total levy.

AD# 1808869, Pub: 12-2-10

## Brief

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The Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry provides food on an emergency basis to persons living

in the greater Maine Township area. Monetary or food donations may be dropped off during normal business hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays to the General Assistance office located in the Maine Township Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Donations can be mailed to

that address. "I am very proud of everyone who stepped up and participated in our food drive," said co-organizer Carol Dallmeyer, a breast health nurse navigator at the center. The Caldwell Breast Center, part of the Lutheran

General Center for Advanced Care, is a leading-edge outpatient facility dedicated to the diagnosis of breast cancer, cancer treatment and management. The center offers state-of-the-art screening, diagnostic, treatment and counseling capabilities.

**LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY  
FOR NILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 71  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for Niles Elementary School District No. 71, Cook County, Illinois for 2010 will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Clarence E. Culver School, 6901 W. Oakton Street, Niles, Illinois 60714.
- Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mrs. Amy Kruppe, Superintendent, Niles Elementary School District No. 71, 6901 W. Oakton Street, Niles, Illinois 60714, 847-966-9280 extension 1107.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$6,846,973
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$7,324,836. This represents a 6.9% increase over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes extended for debt service for 2010 are \$517,399. This represents a -49.96% decrease over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$7,881,039. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$7,842,235. This represents a -.49% decrease over the previous year.
- V. The taxing district has estimated its equalized assessed valuation to secure new growth revenue and must adhere to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL or "tax cap" law). PTELL limits the increase over the prior year in the property tax extension of the taxing district to the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which 207%.

AD#1809535, Pub: 12-2-10

**Calendar**

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nations also may be made for those who cannot shop, and the agency will make the purchase in your name. Gifts should be returned to the Administration Office by Dec. 14. Their Northfield campus is located at 161 Northfield Road. Contact Maryann. (847) 784-6000.

**The Village of Niles and Niles Fire Department announce the Kickoff of the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve/Village of Niles Toys for Tots Drive.** Donations of new and unwrapped toys may be dropped off through Dec. 16 at Niles Fire Department stations located at 8360 W. Dempster St. and 6611 Jarvis Ave.; Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive; Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive; Niles Teen Center, 373 Golf Mill Center; Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St.; Citibank, 8400 W. Dempster St.; and Toy Land at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Shoppers who purchase toys for Toys for Tots at Toy Land will receive a 15 percent discount. No stuffed animals or toiletries.

**Village of Niles employees and local banks are partnering together for a food drive to ensure that no person in Niles goes hungry this Thanksgiving and holiday season.** Through Dec. 17, donations of non-perishable food items may be dropped off at any of the following locations: Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive; Family Services and Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive; Niles Fire Department, 8360 W. Dempster St.; Niles Police Department, 7000 W. Touhy Ave.; Niles Public Works, 6849 Touhy Ave.; Niles Teen Center, 373 Golf Mill Center; Citibank, 8400 W. Dempster St.; Parkway Bank & Trust, 7601 N. Milwaukee Ave.; First Merit Bank 8720 W. Dempster St.; First American Bank 7747 Waukegan Road.

**Fitness Center**

**Niles Family Fitness Center,** 987 Civic Center Dr. Niles, (847) 588-8400 or www.nilesfitness.com.  
**Pilates Exo Chair** is a semi-private, two-person class. **Exo Chair Express** is a 30-minute semi-private class providing a challenge to take on chair exercises and enhance mat exercises on the exo chair for an ab blasting, stability challenging workout. (Mat experience recommended). **Core Blast Express** is a 30-minute semi-private class focusing on challenging core musculature. **Exo Chair Express** is conducted 10:15-10:45 Mondays, 6-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays or 8:15-8:45 a.m. Thursdays. **Core Blast Express** is held 7:45-8:15 p.m. Wednesdays. Cost is \$114, members; \$119, nonmembers.  
**Pilates Reformer** Class options: Private Pilates Mat Training; Private Pilates Reformer and Chair Training; Pilates Individual Reformer and Chair Training, half session; Pilates Reformer and Chair, semi-private. To schedule an appointment, call Group Exercise Coordinator Danielle

Desherow at (847) 588-8410.  
**Fall swim lessons** for ages 3 months to 13 years run six weeks and each lesson lasts 35 minutes. Bring a towel from home. Group lessons are \$54, members; \$69, nonmembers.

**Food Drives**

**The Maine Township Food Pantry** is in desperate need of nonperishable items, including: canned vegetables, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter, hamburger/chicken helper, cookies, crackers, spaghetti, rice and snack bars. Items may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Niles Chamber of Commerce office, 8060 W. Oakton St., inside the North Side Community Bank building.

**Fundraisers**

**Our Lady of Ransom Parish** in Niles is selling Entertainment 2011 Books at \$25. The book offers a variety of values, mainly two-for-one deals at many restaurants and establishments. Discounts cover a variety of areas: travel, restaurants, car rentals, movie theaters, hotel discounts and more. The sale of these books benefits the parish. To obtain a book, contact Josephine Box at (847) 823-8984.  
**Like New Auto Spa, Inc.**, 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed, or buys a gift card from the company - and also asks for the Lutheran General discount - will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call Aimee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274; or visit www.likenewautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the homepage with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

**Health**

**Pediatric developmental screenings** offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Ozark Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenon at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505.  
**A local dialysis clinic**, Fresenius Medical Care Niles, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.  
**Senior Advocate** of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital offers free blood-

pressure screenings 10 a.m.-noon on the first Wednesday of every month at the hospital's Patient Resource Center, 8820 W. Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7277.

**Library**

**Niles Public Library,** 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

**Start the holiday season** at the Niles Public Library Open House with a performance by the Lakeside Flutes Choir and the Winter Reading Club Kick-off. The annual Holiday Open House at 2 p.m. Dec. 5 features the holiday music of the Baroque and Classical periods by the Lakeside Flutes Choir. Learn about the various kinds of flutes used in the performance. Register for the Lakeside Flutes Choir performance by calling (847) 663-1234 or online at nileslibrary.org/attend. Refreshments will be served. At 3 p.m., the first-ever "Snuggle up with a Good Book" Winter Reading Club for the whole family will kick off. Learn how to win prizes by playing Library Bingo and hear about some good winter reading options. Refreshments will be served. Prizes include a Sony Reader for adults and a NOOKcolor for kids. Play alone or with your family. An online edition will also be available via the Niles Public Library website.

**Youth programs** on a drop-in basis - **Babytime**, 11 a.m. Mondays, for babies age 2 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, fingerplays and extended playtime afterward. **Rise & Shine Storytime**: 10 a.m. Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver; enjoy stories, songs and more.

**Maine Township**

**Maine Township's FISH** (Friends Indeed Serve and Help) is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities in and near Maine Township. Volunteers may choose how much time they wish to devote. Requirements include a current drivers license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need be mobile, or be able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed-Oken, (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 283.

**Parks**

**Maine-Niles Association** of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

**The Art of Mehndi** - One day workshop on the ancient artform of Mehndi. Students receive instruction, supplies and a small tattoo design: 2-4 p.m., Dec. 4, Feldman Park.

**Belly Dance** - Participants age 16 and up can study under the expert guidance of world renowned instructor, Jasmin Jahat; Feldman Park.

**Sign up early** for a dinner of pizza, pasta, salad and dessert, games and time visiting with Santa from 6:30-8 p.m. Dec. 17 at Feldman Park.

**Create a Gift Workshop** - All materials are included in this one day workshop where participants will create a "stepping stone" for the garden: 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at Dee Park.

**Jelly Bean Sports** - Classes are geared for children ages 2-3 and include soccer, T-ball and sport shorts. Class days and times vary but next sessions begin in January. Dee and Feldman Parks.

**Preschool** - There are still spots available for second-semester preschool (for 4-year-olds) starting Jan 17, 2011. Offered are morning (5 days per week) and afternoon classes (Mondays through Thursdays). All classes are at Dee Park.

**Tae Kwon Do** - Popular martial arts classes for children (ages 7-15) and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round.

**Winter Break "Smocks & Jocks"** Workshop - During the first half, participants will create arts and crafts projects and then go into the gym for organized sport activities: 10:30 a.m. to noon. Dec. 20, 21 and 22. Feldman.

**Various rooms/gyms** are available for rental for parties, meetings or ongoing activities. Call (847) 297-3059.

**The Golf Maine Park District** offers a selection of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk will also house the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning Program. ENERGY STAR Activity Books for children, as well as ENERGY STAR home energy conservation and electronics information, will also be available. A recycling bin for used CFLs will also be available. CFLs may be purchased at Feldman Park, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000.

**The Golf Maine Park District** offers the community an opportunity to recycle paper products. A recognizable green-and-yellow container supplied by Abitibi Bowater was dropped off in the Feldman Park lot, 8800 Kathy Lane, near the corner of Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Products that can be recycled in this container include: newspapers, magazines, office paper (fax and copy), shopping catalogs, mail and envelopes, catalogs, folders, colored paper and shredded paper (bagged); no cardboard or phone books. All money raised will

fund the scholarship program, allowing children to attend summer camp and other programs. Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperretriever.com/.

**Religion**

**Registrations for the St. John Brebeuf "Joy in Jesus"** Sunday preschool program are now being taken. The program is open to children ages 3 and one-half through kindergarten age. Classes are held during the 10:45 Mass each Sunday. Registration fee is \$40 and covers all materials for the year. Special emphasis is given to the development of self-awareness in the children and their place in the Christian community. The goal of the program is to provide a foundation for a future understanding of their faith. To register, call Charlotte Lindquist, (847) 470-1434.

**Messiah Lutheran Church**, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian-education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:15 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Child-care services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

**St. John Brebeuf Adoration Chapel** in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. Call (847) 966-8145.

**Ezra-Habonim**, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew

classes on Sundays and monthly Vidush. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehnl.org.

**Reunions**

**The 1966 Class of Ridgeway High School** is planning a reunion and looking for graduates. Anyone with information concerning alumni is asked to e-mail haydelju@comcast.net or call (217) 352-7254.

**St. John Brebeuf School** in Niles is looking for graduates from the class of 1964. Contact Libby Ryder at lryder@sjbschool.org.

**St. John Brebeuf** is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@sjbschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

**Maine Streamers**

**The Maine Township MaineStreamers** program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Contact the MaineStreamers, (847) 297-2510, or go to www.mainestreamers.com.

**Maine Township** is asking for assistance in locating good, reliable

handymen in the area. If you know of someone and would like to submit a name, contact Therese Tully, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 260, and she will forward a form to complete.

**Maine Township**, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 use for seniors. Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.

**Senior Center**

**The Niles Senior Center** offers membership to Niles residents age 62 and older, and their spouses. Only center members may register for classes or trips, or purchase tickets. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420, for an application.

**Seniors**

**Golf Mill Shopping Center** is hosting "Feats of Fitness," a mall walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Maine Township Mainstreamers and Partners in Healthcare (North Shore Physicians Group). Health seminars and blood pressure screenings will be offered throughout the year every month on the second Wednesday. Call the Golf Mill management office, (847) 699-1070.

**Senior Link Alliance**, in collabora-

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY  
FOR MORTON GROVE SCHOOL  
DISTRICT NO. 70**

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for Morton Grove School District No. 70 for 2009 will be held on December 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Park View School, 6200 Lake Street, Morton Grove, Illinois.
- Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Gary Zabilka (847) 965-6200.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2009 were \$9,886,232.00
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$10,874,855.00. This represents a 10.00% increase over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2009 were \$556,317.00
- The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2010 are \$533,850.00. This represents a -4.04% increase over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$10,442,549.00.
- The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$11,408,705.00. This represents a 9.25% increase over the previous year.

AD#1808628, Pub: 12-2-10

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR  
NILES TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 219  
COOK COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS**

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax increase for Niles Township High School District No. 219, Cook County, Illinois for 2010, will be held December 13, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. at Niles Township High Schools District 219 Administrative Offices, 7700 Gross Point Road, Skokie, Illinois 60077.
- Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Paul O'Malley, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, at Niles Township High School District No. 219 Administrative Offices, 7700 Gross Point Road, Skokie, Illinois, 60077, telephone 847-626-3967.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$110,093,746.
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$132,475,000. This represents a 20.33% increase over the previous year.
- III. Property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2009 were \$6,820,540.
- The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2010 are \$8,697,331. This represents a 27.52% increase over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$116,914,286.
- The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$141,172,331. This represents a 20.75% increase over the previous year.
- V. The taxing district has estimated its equalized assessed valuation to secure new growth revenue and must adhere to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL or "tax cap" law). PTELL limits the increase over the prior year in the property tax extension of the taxing district to the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is 2.7%.

AD#1809725, Pub: 12-2-10

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tion with the City of Chicago Department on Aging, offers a free Home Repair Referral Service to all seniors residing in Park Ridge, Niles, Harwood Heights, Norridge, Schiller Park, River Grove and Elmwood Park. Program helps seniors over 60 find honest reliable workers to help maintain their homes. Seniors are given three names of prescreened qualified handymen or contractors who are matched to the type and size of the job. Jobs include carpentry, plumbing, drywall, plastering, painting, gutter cleaning and repair, electrical work, roofing, washing windows, errand running, yard work, snow removal, furnace repairs, wallpapering, tuckpointing, tiling and more. Call Carol McDavid, (773) 777-0202.

**CJE SeniorLife** is accepting applications for its Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Robineau offers a residential community composed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building, in a warm, friendly setting designed to serve seniors. 62-years and older, who may need a helping hand. Staff is available on-site. 24 hours a day, in case of emergency. Additional supportive services are available through CJE. Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. Scholarships are available. For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8589.

**Super Seniors**, a Jewish Seniors group for people older than 60, meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays at the North Shore University Health System Skokie Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Topics include current events, books, jokes and Israel. Call (847) 583-9328.

### Support

**The annual worldwide "Let Their Light Shine Candlelighting"** is a joint project between Rainbow Hospice and the Queen of All Saints Elizabeth Ministry in association with the Compassionate Friends Network. This event is to honor and remember children who have died, regardless of age or cause of death, and to "let their light shine" with others across the globe. It will begin at 6:45 p.m. Dec. 12 at Queen of All Saints Basilica, 6280 N. Sauganash Ave. No fee or registration required. Call (847) 882-8884.

**Life after Loss** is a six-week support group for widowed persons 55 years of age or younger who have been widowed for less than two years. It meets from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 14 and 28, Jan. 11 and 25, at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite 145, Park Ridge; \$40 for the six sessions. Call (847) 692-8884 or visit www.rainbowhospice.org.

**Widowed Support Group** is an ongoing support group that addresses losses faced by persons, as a general

guideline, who have been widowed less than two years. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite 145, Park Ridge; \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884 to register.

**The Lutheran General Hospital Stroke Club** for stroke survivors and their caregivers meets from 3-4:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July) at the Outpatient Therapy Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines; use south entrance. Contact Meg Potterfield, (847) 723-4765.

**Catholic Charities** of the Archdiocese of Chicago invites those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide to participate in its Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) meetings at its Northwest office, 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The minimum age for the monthly meetings or eight-session groups is 18-years-old. If possible, call the LOSS office, (312) 655-7283, for an initial intake before the first meeting or visit www.catholiccharities.net/loss. Groups meet 7-9 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

**Families Anonymous** is a support group for family members and friends who are concerned about and affected by the substance abuse or behavioral problems of a loved one. Group 831 meets at 10 a.m. every Friday at Carter Westminster Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie, in the basement; enter from parking lot in the rear. Group 173 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except holidays) at First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge in Parlor Room, south portion of main level; use entrance at rear (Grant Place), across from parking lot. No dues or fees required. First names only used at meetings to preserve individual anonymity. This is a nonprofessional and non-religious program. Call (773) 777-4442 or visit www.familiesanonymous.org.

**Community Reinforcement and Family Training Groups** provide education on early intervention, tools for motivation and self-care techniques for families as they learn new ways to approach a loved one who misuses, abuses or has addictive behaviors 6:30-8 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Serenity Center, 29 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Fee is \$35 per group. Open registration required; contact Barbara DeHart, (708) 536-8775 or e-mail reffnews4@gmail.com.

**NorthShore Hospice** will sponsor the following Grief Support Groups: **Soul Mates**, is an ongoing support group for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or life partner. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. **Legacy** is an ongoing support group for adults who have experienced the death of a parent. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901

Searle Parkway, Skokie. Handicap accessible and parking available. To pre-register for the programs, call Thom Dennis, (847) 982-4364 or e-mail dennis@northshore.org.

**Tops Club, Inc.** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), an international weight-loss network of support groups, holds a local meeting weekly on Monday beginning at 5 p.m. at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 West Howard St., Niles, on the lower level. The building is handicap accessible. TOPS has helped individuals live healthier lives since 1948 with a combination of sensible eating, regular exercise, and ongoing support to help members achieve and maintain their weight-loss goals. Women, men, teens and preteens committed to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight are all invited to join. Visitors are welcome to visit their first TOPS meeting free of charge. For more information about this meeting call (847) 966-4871 or, to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call 800-932-8677.

**MOMS Club of Northern Chicago** holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit http://sites.google.com/site/momscubofnorthernchicago or e-mail chicagomomscub@gmail.com.

**One Hope United**, formerly Kids Hope United, is seeking foster, adoptive parents to provide homes for at-risk children. Call (847) 245-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

**The Maryville Crisis Nursery**, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Maryville Crisis Nursery, which opened in 2006, is a safe haven for children, newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crises in their lives, such as: job/medical issues, homelessness, domestic violence or other stressful situations. The nursery cares for children for up to 72 hours while parents concentrate on resolving the problems that are the root cause of the stress. There are no charges for services. Children are cared for by professionals and skilled childcare volunteers. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is available to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24 hour help line number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600.

**The National Alliance** on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban, invites the public to attend its "Family Support Group" for families of individuals with a mental illness. Program is free and meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Nessel Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2252.

**The local TOPS Club** chapter meets at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level (handicap accessible). TOPS meetings are open to

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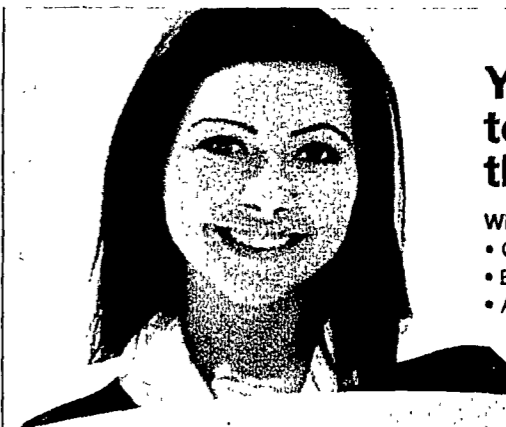
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# Calendar

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women, men and teens. Cost is nominal. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Call (847) 966-4871 to find another local chapter, visit [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org) or call TOPS Headquarters at 1-800-932-8677.

**The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance**-Greater Chicago has free support groups for people with mood disorders and support groups for their families. Meetings take place 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms 6952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376. **An Alzheimer's Caregivers** support group, co-sponsored by Advocate Medical Group and the Alzheimer's Association, is offered monthly at the Nessel Pavilion on the campus of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Meetings are 1:30-3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the lower-level conference room of Nessel Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Meetings are free and no registration is required. Contact Sandy Guarise, (847) 318-2501.

**The Neptune Society**, the largest independent cremation company in the nation based in Des Plaines, is bringing comforting teddy bears to Chicago area children who are hurt, frightened or alone. The Neptune Society Teddy Bear Program names a teddy bear in honor of every person whose

death care is handled by Neptune on the one-year anniversary of their death. The teddy bears are then donated to organizations such as Rainbow Hospice in Park Ridge and local fire departments to be given to a child in need.

**The Les Turner ALS Foundation** Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. For directions, call (847) 675-0951. Those attending are asked to notify Claire Owen, director of patient services, (847) 679-3311 or [cowen@lesturnerals.org](mailto:cowen@lesturnerals.org).

**Grandparents As Caregivers**, a program sponsored by Children's HomeAid, will offer grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10-11:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9590.

**The Stroke Club** of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Potter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Potterfield, (847) 723-6690.

**Holding Onto Hope** is a monthly daytime group for widowed people grieving the loss of a spouse. It meets 1-2:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge. Registration is required. Admission is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884. Life Transitions Group is an ongoing support group for anyone who, as a general guideline, has been widowed for one to four years, meeting 7-8:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge. The fee is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884. **Good Mourning** Program will meet 6:45-8 p.m. every third Monday of the month at Lutheran General Family Care Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines. The program is a support group for children, teens and families who have lost a loved one through death. Preliminary interview is required before registration. To register, call Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement Support, (847) 692-8884.

**Weight No More**, a friendly weight-loss support group, is welcoming new members. Discussions include weight-loss tips, recipes, contests and helpful ideas to help you reach your goal. Meetings are 9:30-10:15 a.m. Fridays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., Niles, lower level (elevator accessible). Weigh-ins are 9:15-9:30 a.m., meetings 9:30-10:15 a.m. Cost is \$5 per month. Call (847) 679-4229.

**Crohn's & Colitis** Foundation support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Room 1063, Park Ridge. The focus is to assist patients with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, their families, significant others and

friends in coping more effectively with the illness. Call (847) 827-0404. **Resurrection Medical Center** sponsors a variety of free cancer-support groups for both patients and their family members. All support groups are free and meet in the Cancer Conference Room (ground floor, Entrance C). Contact Carol Flanagan, (773) 792-5116.

**The Cancer Support Group** for cancer patients, families and friends meets monthly 7-8:30 p.m. every last Wednesday. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Family Support Group for people with leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's Disease and their families meets every first Wednesday of the month. The *Butterfly Club* is a support group for children ages 6 to 13 whose parent or caretaker has been diagnosed with cancer. The group meets every first Wednesday of the month. Registration and parental consent are required. **The Us Too! Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets every second Wednesday of the month.

**The Teen Cancer Support Group** is for teens ages 13 to 18 whose parent or caretaker has been diagnosed with cancer. The group meets every third Wednesday of the month. Registration and parental consent are required. **Multiple Sclerosis Support Group** meets the last Saturday of each month in the Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C, Call (773) 594-7856.

**Alzheimer's Support Group** meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Health Management Classroom. The session is free. Call Health Management, (773) 792-5022. **Afterglow Support Group** for stroke survivors and their family and friends meets the second Wednesday of the month in the Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C. **Parkinson's Support Group** meets the third Wednesday of the month 5-7 p.m. at Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C. Call (773) 594-7866.

**Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** is forming a support network for women living with breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Networking Group will meet 2-3 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month. The support group provides breast-cancer survivors the opportunity to share information and experiences with other women. The group will be at Lutheran General's Center for Advanced Care, 1700 Luther Lane, Park Ridge, in the ground-floor conference room G104. Call (847) 723-8130.

**Northwest Suburban Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome Support Group** of Illinois meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, Conference Room 1064. E-mail: [zbarnikow@aol.com](mailto:zbarnikow@aol.com) to be added to the e-mail list for meeting announcements.

**An area Alzheimer's support group** for caregivers and family members of people with Alzheimer's Disease meets

at 10:30 a.m. every second Saturday at Central Baptist Village, the Commons Theater Lounge, 4747 N. Canfield Ave., Norridge. New members are always welcome. Call Jessi Lenth, group facilitator, (708) 583-8509. **Queen of All Saints** hosts a weekly meeting for female survivors of sexual abuse. The meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Benedict Center Chapel, 6275 N. Ionia. To participate in the confidential, 12-step program, call Queen of All Saints Rectory, (773) 736-6060. Additional meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at St. Juliana Parish Center, 7200 Osceola Ave. Call Linda, (773) 271-2281.

### Teen Center

**The Niles Youth Council** is a group of teens from sixth through 12th grade who provide support and advice on teen center programming, develop leadership skills and work to serve the Niles community. They meet the first and third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Stop to check them out. Call (847) 375-8949. The Teen Center is located at 373 Golf Mill Center in Niles.

**The Teen Center** is working with the Niles Senior Center to find teenagers willing to help senior citizens with leaf raking, snow shoveling and general yard work while earning money. Complete the Niles Teen Job Connection form available on the center Web site and return it to Mark at the center. Information will be shared with the director of the center and contacts will be made with residents in need of services.

**Register your bike** through the Niles Teen Center or Niles Police Department. Every year the Niles Police Department accumulates a number of lost or stolen bikes and is forced to sell them at an auction because their owners cannot be identified. By registering your bike, you are issued a Village of Niles Police Department sticker and your bicycle's information is entered into a national database allowing the Police Department to reconnect you if it is ever lost or stolen.

### Volunteers

**The Center of Concern**, an independent social service agency serving the elderly and others in need in the north and northwest city and suburbs, is accepting holiday gift donations for area senior citizens and needy families with children. The center needs volunteers to deliver the gifts. Delivery times are flexible and can be arranged to meet volunteers' schedules. The center is located at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. Call (847) 823-0453.

**Individuals who have few of hours to spare** are urged to join the Avenues to Independence Thrift Shoppe Team of Volunteers. Avenues is looking for friendly, hard-working men and women to help staff at the Thrift Shoppe, 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, or 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Volunteers receive a discount. No experience is needed. All proceeds from the Thrift Shoppe help Avenues continue valuable programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Contact the store manager, Michael Frustini, (847) 292-0870, Ext. 771.

**The Men's and Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** is looking for new members. The community-based philanthropic and social organization raises funds for the hospital through a variety of events, including an annual golf outing, glove sale and concert. The organization's donations have assisted the hospital in expanding programs, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment and pursuing research and education initiatives. Yearly dues are \$35. Call (847) 723-6105. **Many individuals** have found themselves laid off or unable to find employment. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care would like to respond by helping professionals stay current with their job skills (or gain experience if recently graduated) by offering professional volunteer opportunities. Possible opportunities include positions in medical records, human resources administration, community outreach, finance, marketing and admissions/customer service. Volunteers must have a willingness to make use of their professional skills and a positive attitude allowing them to take on a great deal of responsibility. Training and seminars for professional and personal development will be provided. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 685-9900, Ext. 3128, or [rparr@rainbowhospice.org](mailto:rparr@rainbowhospice.org). Visit [www.rainbowhospice.org](http://www.rainbowhospice.org).

**Junior Achievement** of Chicago is a nonprofit organization focused on inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in the global economy. Volunteers from businesses are trained and given materials to go into a classroom and teach students from kindergarten through high school about financial literacy and entrepreneurship-work readiness skills. Partnerships have been formed with some teachers at Niles North, Central and West High Schools for JA programs this school year. Volunteers are needed. Each program consists of five visits to the classroom for about 45-50 minutes each. If interested call Kristin Goodwin, operations manager, Junior Achievement of Chicago, (708) 456-1400, Ext. 245, e-mail [kgoodwin@jachicago.org](mailto:kgoodwin@jachicago.org) or go to [www.jachicago.org](http://www.jachicago.org).

**The Men's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** is looking for new members. The community-based philanthropic and social organization raises funds for the hospital through a variety of events, including an annual golf outing, glove sale and concert. The organization's donations have assisted the hospital in expanding programs, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment and pursuing research and education initiatives. Yearly dues are \$35. Call (847) 723-6105. **Many individuals** have found themselves laid off or unable to find employment. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care would like to respond by helping professionals stay current with their job skills (or gain experience if recently graduated) by offering professional volunteer opportunities. Possible opportunities include positions in medical records, human resources administration, community outreach, finance, marketing and admissions/customer service. Volunteers must have a willingness to make use of their professional skills and a positive attitude allowing them to take on a great deal of responsibility. Training and seminars for professional and personal development will be provided. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 685-9900, Ext. 3128, or [rparr@rainbowhospice.org](mailto:rparr@rainbowhospice.org). Visit [www.rainbowhospice.org](http://www.rainbowhospice.org).

**Junior Achievement** of Chicago is a nonprofit organization focused on inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in the global economy. Volunteers from businesses are trained and given materials to go into a classroom and teach students from kindergarten through high school about financial literacy and entrepreneurship-work readiness skills. Partnerships have been formed with some teachers at Niles North, Central and West High Schools for JA programs this school year. Volunteers are needed. Each program consists of five visits to the classroom for about 45-50 minutes each. If interested call Kristin Goodwin, operations manager, Junior Achievement of Chicago, (708) 456-1400, Ext. 245, e-mail [kgoodwin@jachicago.org](mailto:kgoodwin@jachicago.org) or go to [www.jachicago.org](http://www.jachicago.org).

**The Men's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** has recently expanded its role and membership base in the community and adopted a new name to reflect that change: The Men's and Women's Association of Lutheran General Hospital. The change will allow the nonprofit organization to sponsor more events, encourage greater participation in annual activities, such as the golf outing and fund-raising sales, expand opportunities for men and women to take on leadership roles, and increase collaborative efforts with the hospital's development office, Service League and the Advocate Charitable Foundation. The organization's donations have assisted Lutheran General in expanding its programs, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment and pursuing research and education efforts. Call (847) 723-6105.



# Your Local Worship Guide

CHICAGO	NILES	SKOKIE	SKOKIE	SKOKIE
<b>Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)</b> 6201 W Peterson Ave. Chicago, IL 60646, (773) 631-0715 <a href="http://www.faithonpeterson.org">www.faithonpeterson.org</a> Saturday Worship 5:30PM Sunday Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 9:15AM Holy Communion Weekly, Pastor Barbara Berry-Bailey	<b>St. John Lutheran Church</b> 7429 Milwaukee Ave., Niles 847-647-9867 <a href="http://www.st-john-niles.org">www.st-john-niles.org</a> Sunday Service 9:30AM	<b>St. Mary's Episcopal Church</b> 306 S. Prospect Ave., (847) 823-4126 <a href="http://www.stmaryspr.org">www.stmaryspr.org</a> Sunday Services: 8:00 & 10:00 AM Wednesday Service: 9:00 AM Sunday School & Nursery during worship, Youth Fellowship The Rev. Sarah D. Odderstoel, Rector WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME! Check website for all activities.	<b>Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation</b> You home for Jewish, Learning, Living and Loving 4500 Dempster St. Skokie, IL 60076 847-675-4141, Fax: 847-675-0327 <a href="http://www.ehnt.org">www.ehnt.org</a> Weekly Shabbat Services - Fri 8PM & Sat 9:30AM Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM; Sat & Sun 6PM Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM Religious School Wed & Sat; Early childhood services. Rabbi Jonathan H. Ginsburg Cantor Benjamin Warschawski Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus	<b>Temple Judea Mizpah</b> Your Reform Jewish Home on the North Shore Since 1954 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie <a href="http://www.templejm.org">www.templejm.org</a> 847.676.1566 Spiritual Leader Rabbi Amy Memis-Foler Religious School (Pre-K to Grade 12) Contemporary Monthly Shabbat Monthly Family Shabbat at 7pm Saturday Morning Minyan Adult Education & Activities Temple Youth Group Free High Holiday Family Services Progressive and Socially Active (2009 FAIN Award Recipient) All Families Welcome! JOIN NOW AND SAVE 50% OFF MEMBERSHIP
<b>St. Paul Lutheran Church</b> 5650 N. Canfield, 60631, (708)867-5044, <a href="http://www.stpaulcanfield.org">www.stpaulcanfield.org</a> Street Level, Air Conditioned Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM Saturday Worship 6PM St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day School, Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD, TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE	<b>NORWOOD PARK</b> <b>Norwood Park Lutheran Church</b> 5917 N. Nina Ave. Chicago, IL 773-631-2860 Fax: 773-631-0142 Sunday Service 10AM Sunday School 9AM (September thru May) Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor	<b>Congregation Bene Shalom</b> 4435 Oakton, Skokie, (847) 677-3330 <a href="http://www.beneshalom.org">www.beneshalom.org</a> Friday Shabbat Services 7:30pm; Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30pm On 3rd Friday of the month Kabbalistic Prayer/Meditation Service 10:30am On 2nd Saturday of the month Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen Cantorial Soloist Charlene Brooks Choir Director Nona Balk Interfaith Families Welcome All services voice & sign language Handicap Accessible	<b>Evanshire Presbyterian Church</b> 4555 Church Street (847) 673-2575 <a href="http://www.evanshirepresbyterian.com">www.evanshirepresbyterian.com</a> Every Sunday at 11am	<b>WILMETTE</b> <b>Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emonah</b> 3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213 <a href="http://www.bhce.org">www.bhce.org</a> Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:00 PM Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat, Torah Time 10:30 AM Followed by Kiddush Daily Minyan AM and PM Rabbi Allan Kensky Cantor Pavel Roytman Dean Marshall Kupchan A multi-generational egalitarian conservative congregation "A Place to Grow as a Jew"
<b>All Saints Cathedral Parish National Catholic Church</b> 9201 W. Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631, 773-380-7131 Website: <a href="http://www.ascpncc.org">www.ascpncc.org</a> Sunday Masses 8:30 & 11 am; Sunday School/Catechism 9:45 Weekday Masses at Noon Bishop Anthony Kopka, Pastor	<b>PARK RIDGE</b> <b>First Church of Christ, Scientist</b> 330 Touhy Avenue (847) 823-3329 Every Sunday at 10:30 am Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm	<b>Central United Methodist Church</b> 8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie (847) 673-1311 <a href="http://www.skokiecentralumc.org">www.skokiecentralumc.org</a> Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM	<b>St. Peter's United Church of Christ</b> Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue 847-673-8166 <a href="http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org">www.stpeteruccskokie.org</a> Sunday Worship 10AM Sunday School 9AM (Sept. thru May) Rev. Richard Lanford Childcare Provided Air Conditioned Sanctuary	<b>MORTON GROVE</b> <b>Morton Grove Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)</b> 8944 Austin (Lake & Austin) (847) 965-2982 <a href="http://www.mgcccpsbyterian.org">www.mgcccpsbyterian.org</a> Sunday Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11 AM Rev. Lolly Dominski, Pastor Handicapped Accessible ALL ARE WELCOME!
<b>Edison Park Lutheran Church (ELCA),</b> 6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL 773-631-9131 <a href="http://www.edisonparklutheran.org">www.edisonparklutheran.org</a> 8:00 am - Traditions 9:00 am - Spirit Bridge 10:30 am - Contemporary Rev. Michael Sparby, Pastor	<b>Park Ridge Presbyterian Church</b> 1300 West Crescent Avenue 847-823-4135 <a href="http://www.parkridgepresby.org">www.parkridgepresby.org</a> Sunday Service: 10:30 am	<b>Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue</b> 7800 Niles Ave., Skokie 847-674-9146 <a href="http://www.devaremet.org">www.devaremet.org</a> A community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the promised Jewish Messiah. Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am	<b>St. Timothy Lutheran Church</b> 9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie 847-676-1300 <a href="http://www.sttimothyskokie.org">www.sttimothyskokie.org</a> Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM	<b>SKOKIE</b> <b>Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church</b> 4950 W. Pratt, 847-673-4441 <a href="http://www.cwupcc.net">www.cwupcc.net</a> Sunday Worship Services: Contemporary & CW Café 9AM Traditional 11AM & Fellowship 12PM Noon Sunday School (all ages) 10AM Michael Scott Porter, Sr. Pastor



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# Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

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Bankrate.com

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>KENILWORTH FINANCIAL, INC. 630-812-2100</b> <a href="http://www.kenilworthfinancial.com">http://www.kenilworthfinancial.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$1295	20%	4.316
5/1 ARM	3.125	0.000	\$1295	20%	2.953
30 yr jumbo refi	5.250	0.000	\$995	20%	5.270
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$995	20%	3.839

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>MORTGAGE DIRECT, INC. 312-506-8293</b> <a href="http://www.gomortgagedirect.com/mdrates">http://www.gomortgagedirect.com/mdrates</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$945	20%	4.439
30 yr FHA refi	4.250	0.000	\$945	4%	4.726
7/1 jumbo ARM refi	3.875	0.000	\$1490	20%	3.733
7/1 jumbo ARM (interest only) refi	4.000	0.000	\$1490	20%	3.635

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY BANK 847-384-9221</b>					
30 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
15 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
5/1 ARM	Call for Rates				
7/1 ARM refi	Call for Rates				

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>PNA BANK 630-371-6931</b> <a href="http://loans@pnabank.net">loans@pnabank.net</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.500	0.000	\$1200	20%	4.562
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$1200	20%	3.857
10 yr fixed	3.250	0.000	\$1200	20%	3.404
30 yr jumbo	5.375	0.000	\$1200	20%	5.400

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>PROSPECT MORTGAGE 847-273-2200</b> <a href="http://www.myprospectmortgage.com">http://www.myprospectmortgage.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$1583	20%	4.331
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$1583	20%	3.892
5/1 ARM	3.000	0.000	\$1583	20%	3.102
30 yr FHA	4.250	0.000	\$1583	4%	4.331

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>RICHLAND MORTGAGE COMPANY 847-809-2996</b> <a href="mailto:charleguloan@yahoo.com">charleguloan@yahoo.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$975	20%	4.425
20 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$975	20%	4.319
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$975	20%	3.837
10 yr fixed	3.375	0.000	\$975	20%	3.500

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>THIRD COAST MORTGAGE LLC 847-580-5555</b> <a href="mailto:scohen@3rdcoastmortgage.com">scohen@3rdcoastmortgage.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$1700	20%	4.463
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$1700	20%	3.902
5/1 ARM	3.250	0.000	\$1700	20%	3.175
7/1 ARM	3.500	0.000	\$1700	20%	3.319

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>UNITED HOME LOANS 708-531-8388</b> <a href="http://www.UHLoans.com">http://www.UHLoans.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$995	20%	4.426
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$995	20%	3.839
5/1 ARM	3.125	0.000	\$995	20%	2.946
7/1 ARM	3.250	0.000	\$995	20%	3.032

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>AIMLOAN.COM 888-525-8496</b> <a href="http://www.aimloan.com">http://www.aimloan.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$1995	20%	4.856
15 yr fixed	3.625	0.000	\$1995	20%	4.306
10/1 ARM	3.750	0.000	\$1995	20%	4.209
5/1 ARM	3.000	0.000	\$1995	20%	3.610

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>ALLSTAR HOME MORTGAGE, INC 847-441-5050</b> <a href="http://www.allstarhomemortgage.com">http://www.allstarhomemortgage.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$850	20%	4.419
15 yr fixed	3.625	0.000	\$850	20%	3.701
5/1 ARM	2.875	0.000	\$850	20%	3.004
7/1 ARM	3.125	0.000	\$850	20%	3.103

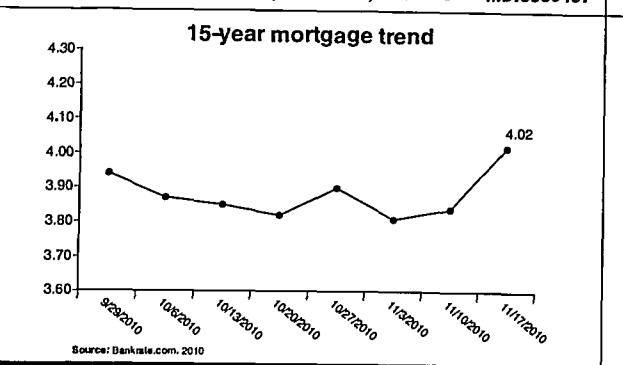
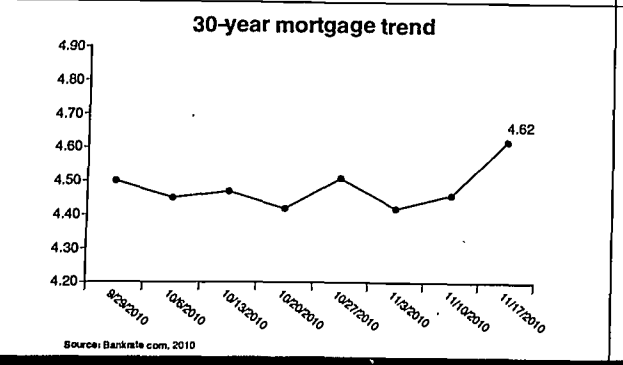
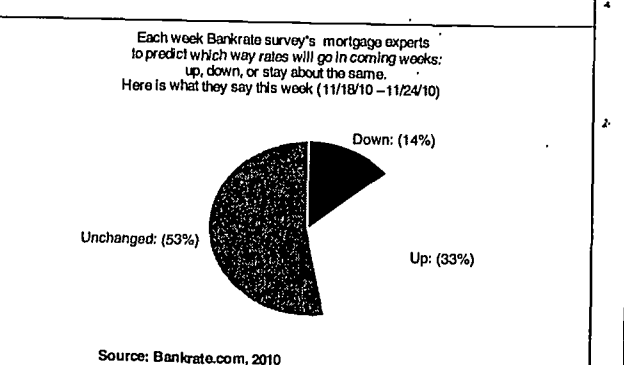
Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>BRIDGEVIEW BANK MORTGAGE COMPANY LLC 847-951-8288</b> <a href="http://www.BridgeviewBankMortgage.com">http://www.BridgeviewBankMortgage.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
20 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
15 yr fixed	Call for Rates				
5/1 ARM	Call for Rates				

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>COMMUNITY BANK OF OAK PARK RIVER FOREST 708-660-7038</b> <a href="http://www.cbopr.com">http://www.cbopr.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.375	0.000	\$1782	20%	4.467
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$1782	20%	3.910
5/1 ARM	3.125	0.000	\$1782	20%	3.135
30 yr FHA	4.500	0.000	\$1782	4%	5.209

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>EVERGREEN BANK GROUP 630-413-9580</b> <a href="http://www.EvergreenBankGroup.com">http://www.EvergreenBankGroup.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$914	20%	4.297
15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$914	20%	3.832
5/1 ARM	4.375	0.000	\$914	20%	3.537
7/1 ARM	4.875	0.000	\$914	20%	3.944

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>GLENVIEW STATE BANK 847-729-1900</b> <a href="http://www.gsb.com">http://www.gsb.com</a>					
30 yr fixed	4.625	0.000	\$1800	20%	4.719
10 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$1800	20%	3.983
7/1 ARM	Call for Rates				
15 yr fixed	3.875	0.000	\$1800	20%	4.037

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
<b>LENDERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEATURE CALL BANKRATE.COM SALES DEPARTMENT @ 800-509-4636</b>					



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# Dons overcome Z-B's size

BY CHRIS PELLIZZARI  
 Contributor

**BOYS BASKETBALL** — In terms of physical stature, it was the old battle of David vs. Goliath.

Notre Dame could not match up to Zion-Benton in terms of feet and inches. But the Dons had something that the Zee-Bees did not, deadly accuracy from three-point range.

Notre Dame was 13-of-21 from beyond the arc, including 9-of-12 in the first half, in its 86-75 victory Friday in the title game of the Lane Tech Thanksgiving Tournament.

Things looked ominous for Notre Dame (5-0) at the beginning as Zion-Benton (4-1) went down low to 6-foot-4 forward Milik Yarbrough (30 points, 5 rebounds). The freshman had no problems scoring in the post against shorter defenders. When Notre Dame dou-



Notre Dame's Rodney Pryor (right) drives on Taft's Jonathon Doss during the first round of the Lane Tech Frank Lollino Sr. Thanksgiving Tournament. | Tamara Bell-Sun Times Media

ble-teamed him, Yarbrough dumped the ball off to 6-8 center Carlyss Jackson (12 points), who met little resistance as he easily converted baskets under the basket.

But Don junior guard Greg Leifel (11 points) changed the entire momentum of the game when he

nailed Notre Dame's first three-pointer towards the end of the first period. The shot sparked a 13-0 Notre Dame run that included another three from Leifel and a three from Joe Ferrici (11 points) just before the buzzer.

Notre Dame finished the second period with six

three-pointers, including two by Rodney Pryor (23 points, 4 rebounds) at the end of the period to help stave off a Zion-Benton run.

"We just get after it in practice during the shooting drills," Pryor said. "We knew that the kick-out to the open shooter would be there tonight."

Ryan Tompkins (18 points), who finished with three three-pointers, also joined the shooting barrage in the third period and his three-pointer with six minutes left in the period gave the Dons their biggest lead of the game at 50-36.

Notre Dame never looked back and finished with a monstrous offensive out-pour that consisted of 22 points in the fourth period, including nine from Pryor.

Notre Dame senior Quinton Chievous (17 points), who finished with four three-pointers, was named the tournament MVP.

# Dons win their first 11 matches

By MATT HARNES  
 mharness@pioneerlocal.com

**WRESTLING** — Matt Sommers and Notre Dame got off to the start everybody expected from the Dons.

Sommers, a two-time regional champion and son of former Notre Dame wrestler Tom Sommers, spent part of the summer training in Colorado Springs and at the Naval Academy. After running cross country in the fall, the lightweight went 8-1 at Maine East's tournament last weekend as the Dons entered this week 11-0 in dual meets.

"We think we are going to be pretty good because of who we have coming back and all the work we put in during the offseason," said Augie Genovesi, who's in his 24th season as Notre Dame's head coach. "We are going to have a bit depth, and we showed that at Maine East."

Notre Dame, which returned 11 starters and added



Notre Dame's Colton Kelly (right) competes against Hersey's Jason Olson during a 215-pound bout Saturday at the Maine East invitational. | Michelle LaVigne-Sun-Times Media

three standout transfers, wrestled 21 athletes last weekend. Middleweights Tim Donnelly and Jim Wallenberg both went 10-0 at Maine East, while 125-pounder Sean Heneghan and lower middleweight Jim Biancoforti each finished 9-1 in Park Ridge.

Genovesi said this could be his best club since the 2003-04 season when the Dons sent six to the state tournament and advanced to the

quarterfinals as a team. Notre Dame lost to eventual state champion St. Rita to end that season.

"They are probably as good," said the veteran coach, whose team went 23-7 overall and 6-1 in the ESCC last season. "But until they accomplish what those guys did, we can't say it. "We're always pretty competitive."

Genovesi can't wait to see how good the team can be

now that the Dons have a wrestling room to call home. Notre Dame is using space at Maryville Academy in Des Plaines to practice this season.

"Now we can comfortably fit up to 70 kids in a room," he said. "In the past, we were having split practices. This is temporary because we hope to have a field house in year or two down the road."

Another strength working for the Dons is the 10-person coaching staff that includes two longtime head coaches in Jim Cartwright (Conant) and Bill Scully. Scully is in his first season with the Dons after two decades at Hoffman Estates. Former Glenbard North standout Nick Esposito and Notre Dame grad Mike Rosengrant also are in their first seasons at Notre Dame.

"Our staff has greatly improved," Genovesi said. "Nick now gives us a legitimate heavyweight coach."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# Niles North happy with bench support

Vikings sweep to Palatine title

By MATT HARNES  
 mharness@pioneerlocal.com

**BOYS BASKETBALL** — Niles North sent notice to area teams last week.

By winning all four games in comeback fashion at Palatine's tournament — all by "eight points or fewer — the Vikings positioned themselves as a legitimate challenger to Glenbrook North in the CSL North. For a program that hasn't won a regional championship since 1999, the Vikings could be a scary opponent, come this postseason.

"There's a lot of good things that took place last week besides those four wins," said second-year coach Glenn Olson, whose team trailed in the fourth quarter every game. "Sometimes you get wins and that's good. But there was

so much other positive stuff that went on."

Missing two starters for the opener Nov. 22, the Vikings scored the last eight points to beat Lake Zurich. In the absence of Abdel Nader and Malachi Nix, Andre Shaw and Mychael Henley both stepped up. Shaw scored 19 and had eight rebounds, while Henley finished with 12 points and seven rebounds.

"You work all offseason and all summer and then the week of the first game you lose two leading scorers," Olson said. "That caused some apprehension. But it also allowed others to step in and play. In the course of a four-month season, that experience will pay off."

Nader missed two games while recovering from mononucleosis, while Nix was sidelined one game with a hip flexor. Even when he came back, Nader wasn't at full strength, but the 6-foot-6 senior came through when

it mattered most.

Nader scored 13 of his 14 points in the final 16 minutes of the team's 48-46 double-overtime win over Palatine in the third game. Nader and Henley, who scored 17 against Phillips, both were named to the all-tournament team.

"He looked good, and he felt good," Olson said. "That's what we are trying to gauge right now. He's such a competitor, something people have doubted in the past. He's showing he's willing to get after it, to roll up his sleeves and compete."

The Vikings secured the title with their 62-58 win over Deerfield, a team they will see again in the CSL North. Nader scored 20 and grabbed eight rebounds. Jovan Williams, who struggled through three games, added 11 points.

"He hit some big shots down the stretch," Olson said of Williams. "We handled every tough situation

that was put in front of us. That bodes well for us for the rest of the season."

Olson knows it's too early in the season to get too jazzed, but he sees success in this team's future.

"A lot of people come out of Thanksgiving feeling pretty good," he said. "I just believe we will only get better as the year goes on. That's what's exciting to me. This team has a great upside. So, yeah, I am excited."

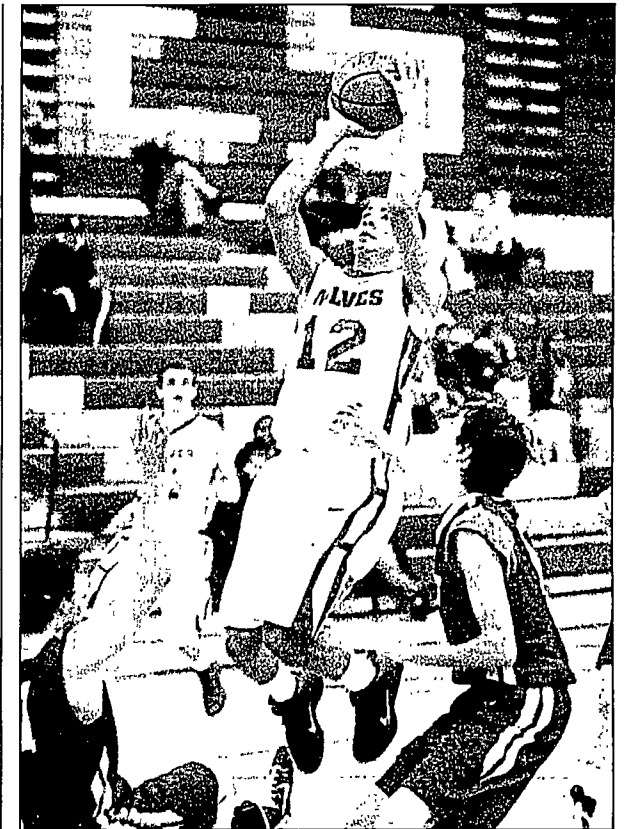
Niles North plays a CSL crossover at home Friday against Evanston before hosting rival Niles West on Saturday.

"There's still a long way to go, so we don't want to get stuck in neutral," the coach said.

## Tournament Recap

The Vikings swept to victories over Lake Zurich 45-44, Phillips 50-42, Palatine 48-46 (2 OT) and Deerfield 62-58.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



**Schnurr victory** Niles West forward Lauris Herth eyes a basket during the Wolves' 78-68 win over Lake Forest at Saturday's Billy D. Schnurr Tournament. Niles West finished 4-0, but Glenbrook North was awarded the title on a tiebreaker. | Joe Cyganowski-for Sun-Times Media

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 Dr. Stamatis (Tom) Dimitropoulos is a graduate of Rush Medical College. He completed his Internal Medicine residency, as well as his fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease at Rush University Medical Center. He completed an Interventional Cardiology fellowship at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan in 2009. Dr. Dimitropoulos is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in Cardiology and Internal Medicine.  
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 Dr. Bill Dimitropoulos received his medical degree from Rush University. He completed Dermatology residency in 2005 at the University of Michigan as well as additional training in the Melanoma Multidisciplinary Clinic. Dr. Dimitropoulos followed his residency with a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery at Rush University, completed in 2006. Dr. Dimitropoulos is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.  
 Dr. Clarence Brown is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine. He completed his Internship at the University of Chicago Hospitals and his Dermatology residency in 1999 at Rush University Medical Center. He completed a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic Surgery at Baptist Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri, in 2000. Dr. Brown is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.  
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# Local Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL: NILES NORTH WINS ALL FOUR GAMES AT PALATINE TOURNAMENT | WRESTLING: DONS CAPTURE FIRST 11 MATCHES | SWIMMING: TWO-TIME STATE CHAMP NAMED SWIMMER OF THE YEAR

## THIS WEEK MAINE EAST

**Today**  
Girls basketball at Glenbrook North, 7:30 p.m.  
Boys wrestling hosts Glenbrook North, 7 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Boys basketball hosts Niles West, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls gymnastics at Wheeling Invite, 6:30 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Boys swimming at Zion-Benton, noon  
**Tuesday**  
Boys basketball hosts Highland Park, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball at Highland Park, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls gymnastics at Maine West, 5:30 p.m.  
Boys swimming at Maine South, 5 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Boys wrestling at Gordon Tech, 5:30 p.m.

## NILES NORTH

**Today**  
Girls basketball hosts Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Boys wrestling at Deerfield, 7:15 p.m.  
Boys basketball hosts Evanston, 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Boys wrestling hosts Super Duals, 8 a.m.  
Girls gymnastics hosts Fenton, Evanston, 11 a.m.  
Girls basketball hosts Niles West, 6 p.m.  
Boys basketball hosts Niles West, 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Girls gymnastics hosts Deerfield, 5:30 p.m.  
Boys basketball at Glenbrook North, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball hosts Glenbrook North, 7:30 p.m.

## NILES WEST

**Today**  
Girls gymnastics at Glenbrook North, 5:30 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Girls basketball at Waukegan, 7:30 p.m.  
Boys basketball at Maine East, 7:30 p.m.  
Boys wrestling hosts Maine South, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Boys wrestling at Joliet Central Quad, 9 a.m.  
Boys basketball at Niles North, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball at Niles North, 6 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Boys basketball hosts New Trier, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball at New Trier (Winnetka Campus), 7:30 p.m.

## Maine East shows improvement

### Demons win last two games of tournament

By MATT HARNESSE  
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

**BOYS BASKETBALL** — Nobody will have to show Dave Genis around the Niles West gym Friday.

The first-year Maine East coach returns to the Skokie school Friday after coaching the Wolves for three seasons from 2008-05. Genis, who still teaches at Niles West, hopes the Demons are more organized than they were during the first week of action.

Maine East finished 2-2 at the Battle of the Ridge and is three wins away from matching last season's victory total.

"That first game was kind of chaotic," Genis said of the 72-40 loss to Vernon Hills on Nov. 22. "I kind of expected it, but I didn't expect that amount of chaos on the floor.



Maine East junior Aaron Shannon improved as the Demons progressed during last week's Battle of the Ridge tournament. | Michael Jarecki-for Sun-Times Media

"It was the first game in a new system, so you do expect some confusion. The biggest concern was that we were very unorganized defensively. That was a surprise because they hadn't shown that to me in practice."

After dropping its first two games of the tournament,

Maine East closed out with wins Friday and Saturday. Although Guerin and Aspira don't have the athletes of the first two opponents, Genis was nonetheless pleased with the performances.

"As the tournament went on, we got better," he said. "Now, we just have to go out

and beat some quality teams." Maine East gets its chance this week. The Demons were scheduled to play Streamwood before meeting the Wolves, who have improved in their second season under Bob Williams.

"Both games are well-

placed," said Genis, whose Demons open the CSL North next week against Highland Park. "Niles West will be a good test for us to see how we handle defensive pressure. Those two games will get us ready for our conference."

Like the team itself, Aaron Shannon made strides with each game. After struggling with his shot in the opener, the junior guard figured out better ways to get his points.

"He has a great ability to get to the rim," the coach said. "He has good sense and a good stride. When he gets the ball in his hands, I want him to get into the paint and be a threat to attack the basket. He needs to do that."

"These games were good tests for him."

### Tournament Recap

The Demons opened with losses to Vernon Hills 72-40 and to Northridge 36-22, before recording consecutive victories over Guerin 58-41 and Aspira 58-27.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

## Demons sophs bring in winning experience

By MATT HARNESSE  
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

**WRESTLING** — Mike Kuzebski did everything Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez had hoped his varsity rookie would accomplish last week.

The sophomore was part of a freshman group that finished 17-2 a year ago. Several of those wrestlers will be counted on to contribute as underclassmen.

Kuzebski did his job last weekend by going 10-0 at

145 and 152 pounds at Maine East's tournament.

"The whole thing about last week was getting matches," said Hernandez, who counted only four returning starters in the lineup. Two missed the first week with injuries. "The good thing I saw was that this team is a bunch of fighters."

After winning its final three matches Friday to go 3-2, Maine East struggled Saturday in the top pool to finish 3-7 overall. But the

Demons still were happy with a top-eight finish at their own tournament.

"We had a fantastic Friday, but Saturday was rough," Hernandez said. "We're not there yet."

Sophomore lightweights Nenif Kesso, Aayush Shah and J.J. Farley also won more than they lost last weekend. Junior lightweight Gabriel Patino, who missed all of last season with a dislocated hip, performed well on the mats.

"I believe he's going to be

one of our tougher kids by the end of the year," Hernandez said of the 125-pound Patino.

Starters back for Maine East include: senior Jimmy Dickman (125-130); Pedro Cambron (135); senior Andy Mendoza (140); senior Vlad Vilme (145); senior Pedro Lopez (160); and senior Jose Guzman (189).

Hernandez is unsure when Guzman and Cambron will be ready to go. Guzman is recovering from a concussion, while Cam-

bron injured his knee. Cambron was the team's highest finisher at regionals last season.

The Demons open the CSL North season today against Glenbrook North. Some sophomores are looking for revenge for their only loss as freshmen a year ago.

"I am definitely excited about this year," the coach said. "There's no quit in these guys."

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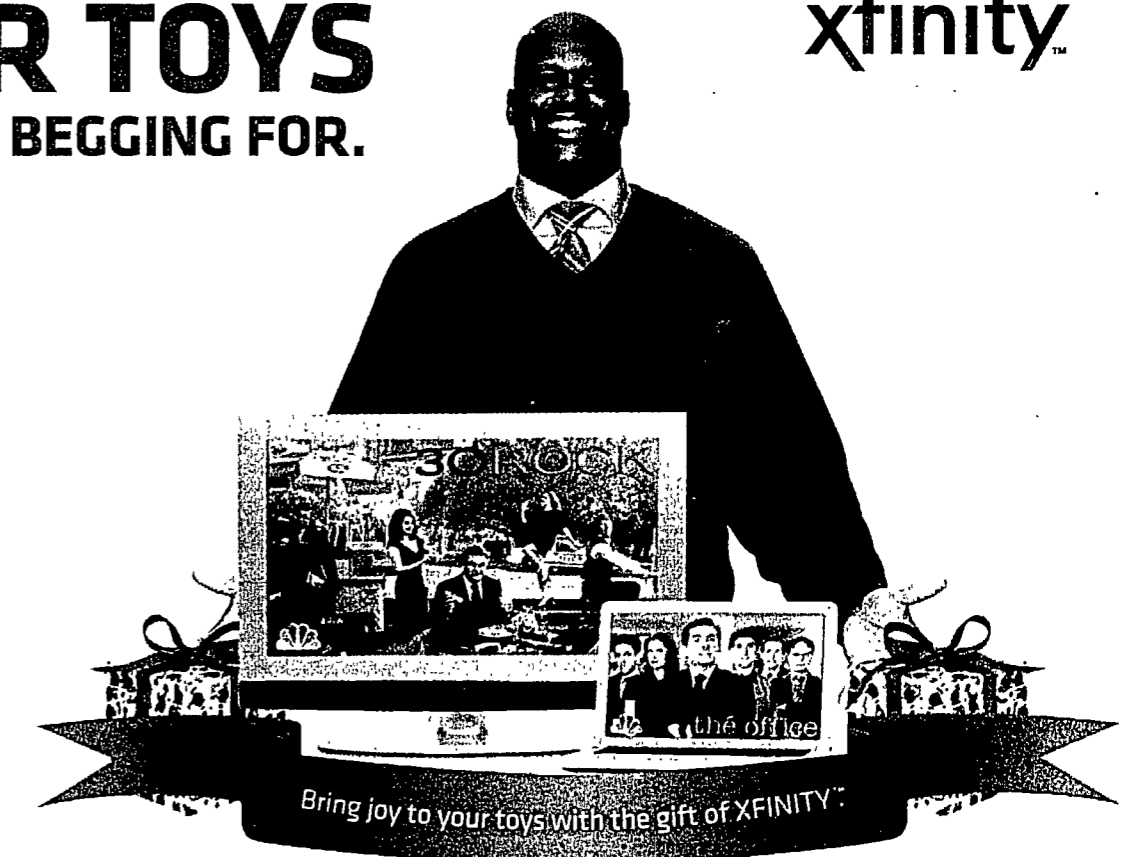
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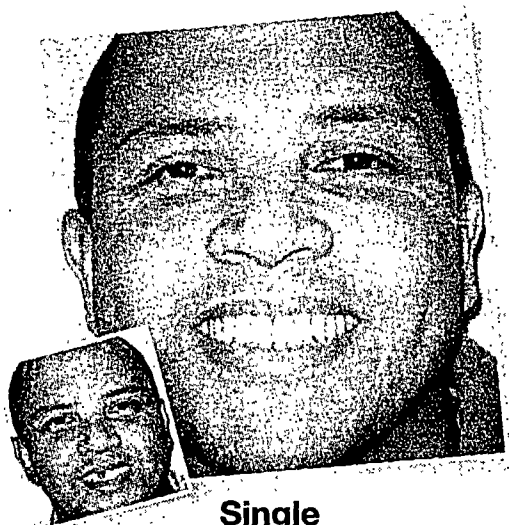
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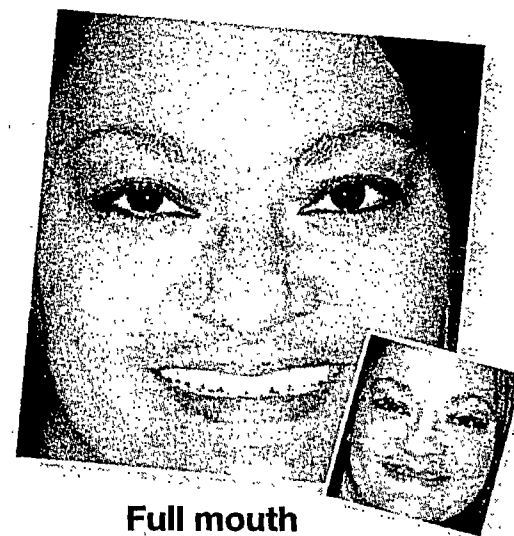
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