

Inside Downers Grove

The key to your community

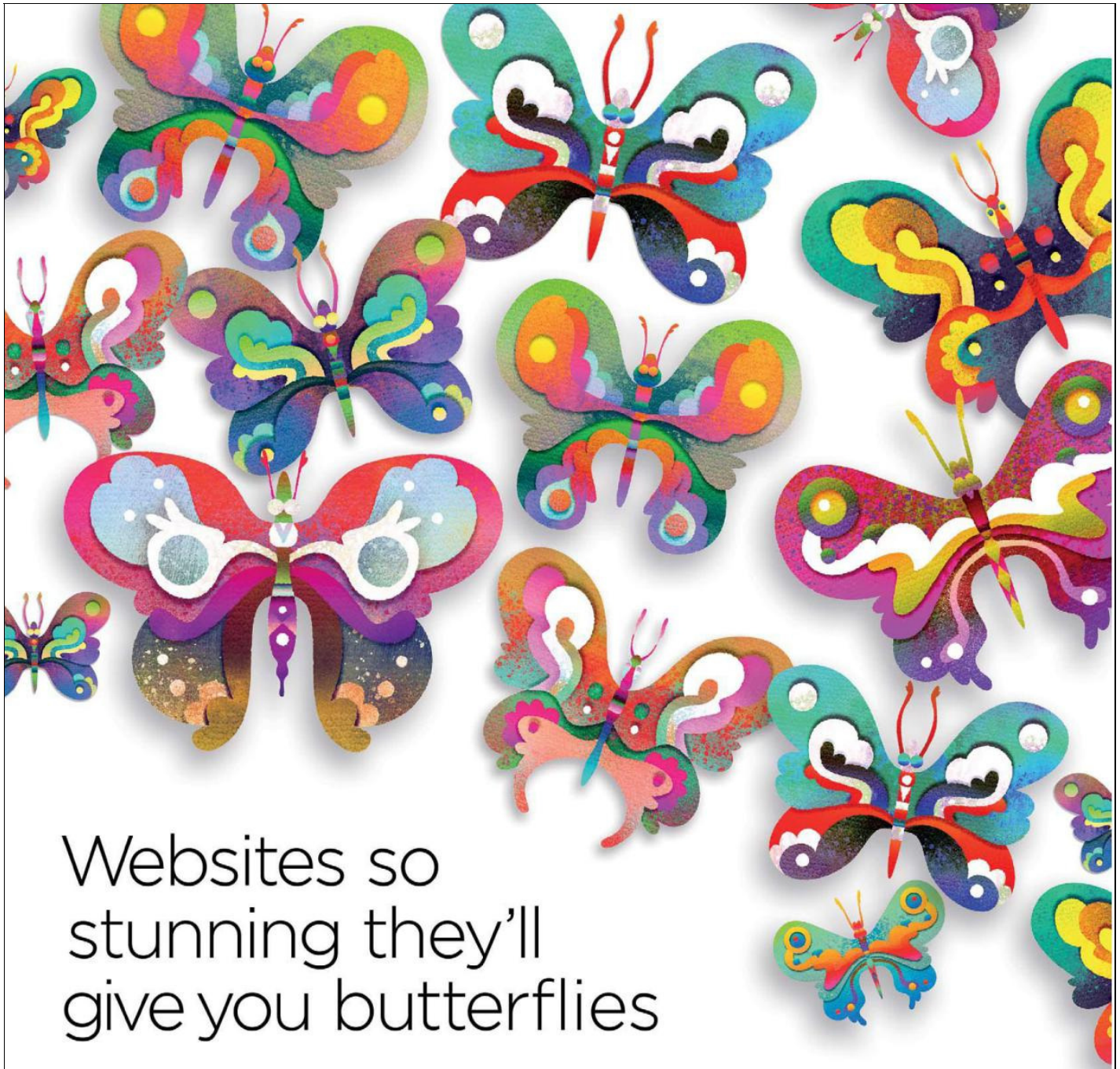
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February 2014

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Inside Downers Grove

The key to your community

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A fond farewell from this month's issue of the magazine.

On the Cover

A Filipino fisherman shows off his solar-powered lamp, which allows him to fish into the evening. The lamps were provided by Watts of Love, a nonprofit organization.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love



You could be a community contributor!

Janet Marinis, a real estate agent, provides information on the real estate market on Page 7. It's easy to join the community conversation; just send articles, photos, information and ideas to the email address shown below.

Get involved! Send your photos, stories or events to:

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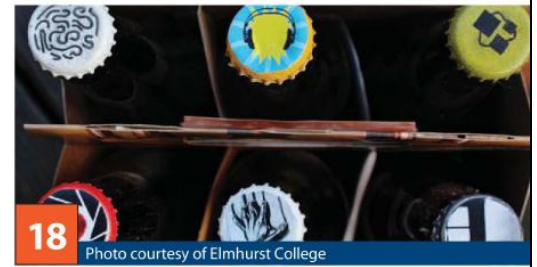
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Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love



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Courtesy of Community High School District 99



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Photo courtesy of Elmhurst College



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Photo courtesy of Family Shelter Service



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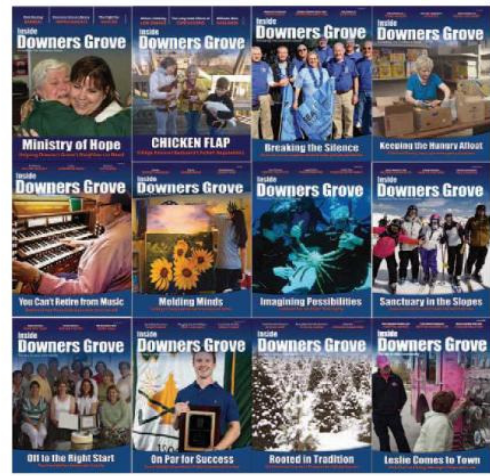
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Message From the **Editor**



Happy anniversary, Downers Grove. Can you believe it has been one year since Inside Downers Grove began to publish. As this publication has grown over the past 12 months, I want to thank you, the people of this wonderful village, for providing the great stories that fill this magazine month by month.

In this month's issue, we celebrate giving in a big way by visiting with the founder of Watts of Love, an organization dedicated to bringing solar-powered lamps to some of the globe's poorest and most remote people. Downers Grove resident Nancy Economou has provided about 5,000 of such lights within the last year to people on three separate continents. Read about her efforts on Page 14.

A big congratulation also goes out to Joette Conger, a teacher at South High School who completed the rigorous process to earn National Board Certification. Learn more on Page 10.

Check out some of the great photographs from the Family Shelter Service Community Resource Council's gingerbread man decorating event on Page 25.

Email your stories to the address below.



Alex Keown

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AROUND TOWN

Local news you can use.

Real Estate Market Heats up the Winter

Current market conditions indicate the colder months will lead to strong sales in the springtime.

by Janet Marinis
Community contributor

Despite a persistent housing market myth, spring is not the only time to buy or sell a home. For buyers and sellers looking to make a move in the next few months, current market conditions indicate a busy fall and winter.

Midwest Real Estate Data LLC reported that 10,900 homes went under contract in October 2013. In June, 11,718 homes went under contract, indicating a much smaller gap between the spring and fall months than the myth would suggest. It's clearly not wise to assume that potential buyers aren't searching for a new home throughout the holiday season, especially in today's market.

Time for a change

Housing inventory in October was at its lowest level since 2009, and new home construction hasn't yet caught up to current consumer demand. This, coupled with persistently low interest rates, has created an ideal environment for buyers and sellers who are looking to make a change.

According to Inman News, more people today are buy-



Contact Janet at janet.marinis@bairdwarner.com.

Photo courtesy of Janet Marinis

ing homes based on needs, as opposed to wants. These needs encompass a variety of situations - marriage, family additions, retirement, job changes or even just the need to upgrade or downsize - that can occur anytime throughout the year. Major life changes aren't relegated to a specific season.

Housing inventory in October was at its lowest level since 2009, and new home construction hasn't yet caught up to current consumer demand.

In fact, according to the United States Census Bureau, the average person can expect to move 11.7 times in their life!

If now is the best time for you to buy or sell, don't wait just because you think winter isn't the best season. I am your local expert who can sit down with you to figure out what next steps are right for you.

Janet Marinis is a Baird & Warner real estate agent.

IN BRIEF

Maintain Your Home Appliances Over Winter

You can really put your dishwasher through the ringer with all of the extra dishes this time of year.

Appliance experts recommend giving your dishwasher time off for good behavior during the holiday season and go manual. If that is not possible, then be sure to thoroughly rinse each dish before using the dishwasher. Your freezer is likely filled to the brim with deli meat, frozen dinners, that fruitcake from Aunt Marigold and everything else you can fit in it.

When you're loading your freezer with holiday delights, be sure it is still able to ventilate. The compressors in overcrowded freezers can easily overheat, causing your food to defrost. —*Janet Marinis*



Photo by Alex Keown

Entertainment

Gather 'Round for Perfect Movie Night

by BPT News Service

Cold weather offers perfect opportunities for friends and families to enjoy a movie night. Cozy up together in front of the TV, enjoy some snacks, figure out what everyone wants to watch, and then argue afterward about what the director intended, and which actor did the best job.

Here are some ideas for making movie nights special.

- **Satisfy taste buds.** Offer a variety of salty, sweet, crunchy and chewy snacks. For something new, try mixing chocolate and popcorn. All that's needed are three ingredients: popcorn, white chocolate and sprinkles. Pop the popcorn while the white chocolate melts, gently mix
- them together, then shake colored sprinkles on top.
- **Keep things cozy.** Plenty of pillows and blankets keep everyone warm and snuggly, and are a handy shield during scary movie scenes. People can even easily make no-sew movie-night blankets. For one blanket, visit a craft or fabric store and pick out two pieces of fleece, about 1 and one-half yards, in an attractive pattern or color. Next, lay the two pieces directly on top of each other and cut strips about 1 inch wide and 4 inches high around all sides of the blanket. Tie each strip of the bottom fabric to the top fabric in a knot so it looks like there is fringe around all sides of the blanket. Finally, cozy up on the couch and watch the movie, in a blanket all your own.
- **Find out about film.** Nobody likes to feel out of the loop on buzz-worthy movies. Get the skinny on plots and read reviews at sites such as movies.com, allmovie.com or redbox.com/staffpicks — just Google “guide to movies.” Those sites also have suggestions for viewing, plus a rundown on which movies are hot and what other movie buffs are watching in their living rooms.
- **Create a theme.** Make movie nights a regular occurrence or find time for more than one movie and select a creative theme for the night that is fun for the whole group.
- **Offer some choices.** Spread a selection of Blu-rays or DVDs on the table for the group to choose from. More options will ensure there's something for everyone.



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Government

County Approves Budget

by Johnna Kelly
Community contributor

This morning the DuPage County Board approved the 2014 budget that cuts spending and holds the line on property taxes.

The 2014 spending plan is \$434.8 million, which is \$3.7 million less than last year's budget of \$438.5 million. Since taking office in December 2010, Cronin has cut more than \$10 million from the county's budget. The budget includes \$87 million for capital projects for stormwater, drainage and road construction and \$250,000 for Elgin O'Hare Western Access.

Johnna Kelly is communications director for DuPage County.



The DuPage County administration office is located in Wheaton. Photo by Alex Keown

Drug Prevention Funded

The DuPage County Board approved its Fiscal Year 2014 budget that includes \$100,000 for an education campaign targeted toward heroin prevention.

Judicial and Public Safety Committee Chairman Grant Eckhoff, who has led the new initiative, said the prevention campaign is necessary as heroin has infiltrated the western suburbs.

"Years ago, heroin was considered an inner city problem. However, in recent years, we have seen a dramatic increase in heroin arrests and fatal overdoses in our community," said Eckhoff. "It is essential that DuPage County provides the tools and resources to not only prevent heroin use, but to also assist families who are struggling with the effects of this dangerous drug."

County Board member Gary Grasso, who helped secure the funding, has attended several forums and seen heroin's devastating effects on the community.

The campaign features an awareness program for DuPage middle and high schools. Regional Superintendent Dr. Darlene Ruscitti said the program will encourage students to learn about the dangers associated with heroin use. —Johnna Kelly

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Schools

Teacher Earns National Certification

by *Jill Browning*
Community contributor

Joette Conger, an English teacher at South High School in Downers Grove, has been recognized by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as a National Board Certified teacher. National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential that acknowledges effective and accomplished teachers. It is a volunteer program.

As part of the rigorous certification process, candidates complete ten assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certificate areas. Assessments measure candidates' knowledge of their subject areas as well as their teaching practices. National Board Certification is part of the growing education reform movement to advance student learning



Joette Conger earned national certification.
Photo courtesy of School District 99

and improve teaching and schools for the 21st century global economy.

"National Board certification affirms my work as a teacher," said Conger. "District 99 has provided professional development opportunities and ongoing support that help me continually grow as an educator. I truly enjoy helping

students learn, and the National Board process required me to consider all the ways I can help students learn."

"All of us at District 99 are extremely proud of Joette for earning this impressive accomplishment," said Superintendent Mark McDonald. "When our teachers achieve this level in their profession, it provides an even richer educational experience for our students."

District 99 values the credential of National Board Certified Teacher and encourages teachers to pursue this distinction and designation. In addition to Conger, National Board Certified faculty at District 99 includes South High's Laura Coster and Glenn Williams and North High's Mike Heinz, Bill Miller, Brayer Teague and John Waite.

Jill Browning is the communications director for District 99.

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Business

Job-Hunting Skills Pay Off at Work

The abilities people need to find and land a job will translate well into actual performance.

by BPT News Service

Finding employment can be a full-time job in these post-recessionary days. Before a job-seeker's confidence begins to wane, it helps to remember that the skills applied to a search for employment can strengthen performance on the job.

"With a thoughtful and determined approach to finding employment, you can not only help yourself stand out from the crowd, but you'll also hone skills that will help you succeed on the job," says Gizelle Ortiz-Velazquez, director of career services at Brown Mackie College-Miami.

- Persistence is key. Rarely does anyone land a job right off the bat. "Looking for a job takes determination, patience and persistence. Candidates must look at job opportunities every day and use multiple resources, such as networking, online job boards, professional organizations and social media sites," Ortiz-Velazquez says. That persistence will apply to success on the job, as well.

- Clear, focused communication is

a must. "Different companies recruit and interview in different ways. The process often varies from company to company, and can include phone screening, Internet screening, email communications and face-to-face interaction," Ortiz-Velazquez says. She advises job applicants to speak or write clearly and stay focused on the topic. At every step, prospective employers evaluate each candidate's ability to communicate.

Once employed, effective communication skills can prove invaluable. "On the job, different employees prefer different forms of communication," Ortiz-Velazquez says. "It is important to communicate effectively and convey necessary information well, whether communicating face to face, over the phone or in writing."

- There is no substitute for professionalism. Whether a job-seeker or a job-holder, it is important to remember that the way people conduct themselves outside the workplace is a personal reflection on them.

"During a job search, most candidates take great care to ensure that they are

dressing, communicating and representing themselves professionally," Ortiz-Velazquez says. "On the job, however, employees sometimes get comfortable in the work environment and become less professional over time."

Social media websites can be a weak point. Ortiz-Velazquez advises job applicants and employees alike to remove personal information and never post questionable images or negative information about a co-worker, boss or the company.

The intangibles

There are also soft skills — a person's attitude, workplace behavior, values and ethics.

Harry Weimann, director of education at WyoTech Blairsville and a business owner since 1986, says he wishes he'd learned to look for soft skills long ago.

Weimann says an employee who shows up on time, performs the job correctly and respects others is more valuable in many cases than an employee who is technically competent but shows up late, is sloppily dressed and has a poor attitude.

"Organizations seem to expect people to know how to behave on the job or have the right soft skills," Weimann says. "The assumption is that everyone knows the importance of being on time, being accountable, having integrity and being a team player, but is that fair to expect without communicating that during the interview process?"

In interviewing job applicants, Weimann suggests some soft-skill questions, such as:

What is your definition of integrity? What does it mean to be accountable? What is your definition of common sense? What is your definition of customer service? What are your feelings regarding deadlines? How do you handle high-pressure situations? Can you give me an example of how you've resolved a conflict in the past?



When it's time for a job interview, persistence, clear communication and professionalism pay off.

Photo courtesy of BPT News Service

Parks

Park District Shows off Learning Center

Open house gives parents preview of early childhood programs.

by *Justine Goode*
Community contributor

Are you considering preschool or tot school for your child in 2014-2015? The Lincoln Learning Center Preschool and Tot School held an open house on Jan. at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave. Parents toured the Lincoln Center classrooms and visited with the teachers to learn more about the Downers Grove Park District Early Childhood program.

All new students who attended the open house received a coupon for \$25 off their first tuition payment in September 2014.

Preschool is for children who turn 3, 4 or 5 years old, but not yet 6 years old by September 1, 2014. Tot School is a Preschool readiness program for children who turn 3 years old between Sept. 2 and Dec. 31, 2014.

New student resident registration for both Preschool and Tot School took place Jan. 13 – Jan. 18.

A random selection for class time placement took place on Jan. 20.

Both residents and non-residents may register for remaining class openings on a first-come first-served basis beginning Jan. 21.

Justine Goode is supervisor of marketing for the Downers Grove Park District.



Photo courtesy of Downers Grove Park District

Program info

CLASS TIMES AND tuition information can be found in the 2014 Winter Recreation and Parks Guide, at dgparks.org. The Downers Grove Park District provides a variety of year-round recreation programs, parks, open space and natural areas.

Parks Recycles Trees

Holiday evergreens become mulch.

Downers Grove Park District hosted two drop-off sites for residents who wanted to recycle their Christmas Trees between Dec. 26, 2013 and Jan. 13 of this year.



Photo courtesy of hibu

Trees are turned into chips which will be used as mulch within parks and landscaping projects.

There was a drop-off location at Whitlock Park, located at 40th & Fairview, in the parking lot off of Fairview and another drop-off location at McCollum Park, located at 6801 S. Main Street, in the north parking lot off of 67th Street.

Last year, the Downers Grove Park District chipped 120 trees to be used as mulch within the Park District.

For more information on the Park District's tree recycling program, call (630) 963-1304. To see other Park District green initiatives, visit dgparks.org.

The Downers Grove Park District is dedicated to providing a wide variety of year-round recreation programs, facilities, parks, open space and natural areas that respond to the articulated needs and desires of residents. —*Justine Goode*

A Buzz on Beekeeping

Participants learn about the insects.

Do you have an interest in keeping honeybees? Join Marge Trocki, Lyman Woods Naturalist, for a 6-week beginner's course in beekeeping.



Photo courtesy of Downers Grove Park District

The program will take place Jan. 30 through March 6, on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., located at William F. Sherman, Jr. Interpretive Center, 901 31st St.

This course will introduce participants to basic honeybee biology, social insect behavior and honeybee colony dynamics as well as teach you the ins and outs of maintaining a hive throughout the entire year.

Trocki will take participants through everything from ordering gear and equipment to harvesting honey and other products of the hive while she discusses what she has learned in her years of experience with over 30 hives.

Participants will receive a beginner's beekeeping book as part of the course.

The program is for ages 16 years and up. The fee is \$72 per person. —*Justine Goode*

Community

It's Easy to Help the Community

Want to volunteer, but not sure how? Pick an organization, shop smartly, and look to veterans.

by BPT News Service

Many families would love to help with volunteer efforts in their communities, but don't know how to get started. Whether people choose to volunteer once a week, or just on holidays, they'll be welcomed by many organizations. There are many ways to make a difference.

The local United Way, an internet search, or information from a friend or neighbor can all lead toward doing good deeds. Three ideas for getting started:

Make local volunteering a new family tradition.

Over the past few years, the national volunteer rate has risen to more than one in four adults; that means 64.3 million Americans are devoting time to a formal organization.

In addition, volunteering is an excellent way to network and can provide opportunities to develop skills. People looking for volunteer opportunities can check with local organizations or look to volunteermatch.org, which connects volunteers with organizations from soup kitchens to animal shelters. Type in a zip code and a keyword about the type of activity you prefer, and you get a list immediately. If people find something they like, they can a message directly from the website to the organization's volunteer coordinator.

Two other sites, Idealist.org and handsonnetwork.org, do similar coordinating. Idealist.org allows people to hunt for the exact types of volunteer opportunities they want; for instance, under events, a person can choose to see only fundraisers and walks. The HandsOn Network is the volunteer arm of the Points of Light Institute, a non-profit organization inspired by former President George H.W. Bush. People can search for opportunities by type and by location, operate local action centers to



Young or old, volunteers are always needed to help people in the community where they live.
Photo courtesy of BPT News Service

help people find opportunities in their area, and offer help for a company to set up a customized employee volunteer program.

Thousands of organizations are looking for volunteers, says Robert Rosenthal, vice president of communications for volunteermatch.com. The website has a strong search engine to help people find the right place to volunteer. People can filter search results to include opportunities that are located nearby and that embrace a particular values.

"If you can, it's also great to choose a cause your children already care about, like animals or their local park," Rosenthal says.

Select brands that reinforce your values.

Hundreds of companies — including major firms such as Coca-Cola, Target, Visa and Starbucks — have programs to donate part of their sales to charities, totaling well over \$1 billion a year.

One example: In 1997, Things Remembered, a national retailer of personalized gifts, decided to help the Make-

A-Wish Foundation with a share of sales from a launched a line of ornaments and products. The results include more than \$6.4 million raised and 850 wishes granted.

Serve those who serve us.

People who serve in the military, and their families, make a tremendous sacrifice for their country. There are many ways Americans can begin to return the favor to men and women in the service — attending observances on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, sending cards to troops overseas, and participating in events organized to benefit veterans. For instance, the Tough Mudder stages 10- to 12-mile obstacle course challenges, and the money raised helps disabled veterans through the Wounded Warrior Project. With events such as the Berlin Wall or the Mud Mile, Tough Mudder participants have raised more than \$3 million. A group called Homes for Our Troops uses volunteer help to build homes or adapt existing homes for injured veterans and their families.

Downers Grove Woman Shines a Light Into Darkness

Watts of Love founder Nancy Economou has a mission to bring solar lamps to remote areas of the world.

by Alex Keown
Editor

The inspiration for a project to bring light into some of the world's darkest places is drawn from the verse in the Gospel of St. John that says: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

Following a visit into parts of the Philippine Islands, Nancy Economou of Downers Grove was stunned to learn that many people, despite the plethora of mobile telephones, did not have electricity in their homes — instead relying on kerosene lanterns to see at night. "It's so dark where these folks are that they're sleeping with these lit lanterns next to their heads each night. It can be very dangerous, not only with the chance of being burned by the flames, but also the noxious fumes they're constantly breathing in and out," Economou said.

During that visit nearly five years ago, Economou talked with the residents of these remote villages, many of which consisted of bamboo huts or shacks created from discarded materials. She saw firsthand the levels of poverty and the harsh living conditions these Filipinos faced.



Many young people have to rely on an open flame to read or study at night.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love

"It just breaks your heart to see the hand-to-mouth existence they live with," she said.

When Economou returned home from the Philippines, she knew her mission was to find a way to provide lights to as many people as she could.

Working with her husband, an architect and an electrical engineer, Economou formed Watts of Love, a nonprofit organization based in Lombard.

The organization's mission is simple — provide solar-powered lamps to some of the most impoverished and remote regions of the world.

Impact of light

When people hear about organizations providing clean water, shoes or food, there's an "immediate understanding" of that mission, Economou said. But, when you tell people you're providing portable solar-powered lights, people can't immediately grasp the concept — primarily because most people in the United States cannot comprehend a life without electricity.

"People may not understand bringing light, but once they realize the kind of impact it has on people's lives, it's huge," she said. "Lighting affects health. If you have more light, you work longer hours to make more money, or children can study a few more hours. There's an immediate impact."

Each of the portable lamps that Watts of Love provides includes a solar charger and the lamp itself, which has multiple lighting settings, as well as a USB port and cord. Economou said that recipients of these lamps have been able to use the USB port to start their own businesses of charging mobile telephones in marketplaces.

Continued on next page



With the solar-powered light provided by Watts of Love, study time is safer and can last longer.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love



A Filipino is able to work into the evening, repairing his home from damage caused by a 2013 typhoon, with the solar-powered light provided by Watts of Love.
Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/Watts of Love



A family that received a light from Watts of Love proudly displays it in the ruins of their home in the Philippines.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love

Continued from previous page

“It’s kind of strange that even though there’s no electricity many of the people have cell phones that were provided to them by some agency or the phone companies themselves,” Economou said.

Freeing people from reliance on the constant use of kerosene provides an instant economic boost to the household income, she said. Many of the people who live in areas without electricity spend a hefty portion, about 30 percent, of their daily income on kerosene.

Brighter Future

5,000

The approximate number of solar lamps that have been distributed worldwide by Watts of Love.

“The minute you hand them that light, their financial situation changes,” Economou said.

During her last visit to the Philippines, Economou said that she gave a light to a woman whose primary income came from whittling bamboo skewers for open-flame cooking. When the sun set each day, she had to stop working, because it was too dark to see — even with the kerosene light she was using. A few days after giving her the lamp, Economou returned to the woman’s home to see how she was doing. The woman said that she had been able to continue crafting her skewers into the evening because of the light and was able to increase her daily earnings twofold.

“When it gets dark there, your day is done. With the light, there’s an instant impact,” she said.

But it’s not only a financial impact; Economou said that the addition of new light can improve the emotional health of people, too. One woman Economou met on her trip had been abandoned by her family and other villagers. She initially refused the gift of the light, telling Economou “she was too poor to be loved.”

“To have a feeling like that, you just can’t comprehend ... it just broke my heart,” Economou said.

But after receiving the light, the woman was able to improve her economic well-being, and also was able to take in her granddaughter, who also had been abandoned by family. Economou said that she saw a family formed as a direct result of the light.



Many people in Asia, Africa and other areas rely on open flames that emit noxious fumes to provide light every night.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love

Because the lights are especially valuable in these remote regions, Economou designed a backpack and harness so the new owners can always keep them wherever they go.

Lighting the world

Watts of Love began to distribute the solar-powered lights about a year ago. To date, more than 5,000 lights have been distributed to families on three continents. A shipment of 1,000 lights currently is on its way to parts of Africa, including Mozambique and Kenya, and a smaller shipment is being sent to parts of Haiti.

Economou said that she has provided 2,000 lights to the Philippines, with a goal of 10,000 in total.

Economou is partnering with nongovernmental organizations that already have an established presence to distribute lights to the areas she wants to target.

The people chosen to receive the lights only are asked to donate their time to helping out their neighbors in return for the solar lamp. The light brings hope, and banishes the darkness of despair, Economou said.

"We've not heard any stories of people being unwilling to share their time with their neighbors. It's a wonderful thing to see," she said.

Like this story? Tell us why.
hibumagazine.com/survey

Typhoon Recovery

In addition to providing lights to Filipinos, Watts of Love is assisting in typhoon relief efforts.

In November 2013, a deadly typhoon struck the Philippines, wreaking untold havoc and leaving more than 6,000 dead in its wake.

After watching news reports about the massive damage caused by the typhoon, Nancy Economou, founder of Watts of Love, stepped up her efforts to provide more lights to the devastated people. She's determined to bring 10,000 of her lamps into the hands of the Filipino people.

"They lived in poverty and without electricity before the typhoon hit, but now it's much worse. We can instantly change their lives with these lights," Economou said.

Economou is seeking donations of \$40, which can cover the cost of one disaster relief light and power kit with a built-in cell phone charger and radio charger. Economou said that she has witnessed the life-changing impact that the lights had on people before the typhoon and knows that providing more lights will have a lasting and positive effect on the lives of recipients.

"Light brings life and hope. We're going to be able to break the cycle of poverty for so many people," she said. "These lights are able to provide so much for people who have so very little."

People interested in helping Watts of Love can visit wattsoflove.org.



A physician is able to see more patients in this Filipino clinic due to the solar-powered lamp provided by Watts of Love.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuster/ Watts of Love

Art Show at College

Graduating students showcase their work in the Capstone exhibition.

by *Desiree Chen*
Community contributor

Elmhurst College art majors graduating in February exhibited their final projects during the Fall Capstone Exhibition, which began Dec. 7.

The Capstone Exhibition is a high point for every graduating art major. Each student works for the entire term to create a body of work in his or her area of concentration. Then the students plan the exhibition and design their postcard and poster.

Six students presented their work during the fall exhibition. Their projects represents a variety of media, including drawing, graphic design, photography and sculpture.

- Suzanne Kessell of Mt. Prospect applied her concentration in graphic design to creating promotional items for a fictional festival called Future Sonic.

She designed posters, flyers, a pamphlet, T-shirts and a wristband for the festival.

- Stephanie Chaddick of Wood Dale, whose concentration was in drawing, created a series of graphite and charcoal drawings of the hand in a variety of positions that depict intense

emotional states.

- Danielle Swayze of Itasca applied her concentration in photography to a series of digital photographs that explore people and their hobbies.

“For my Capstone I created a series of photographs that explore the things that make people unique and the activities they’re most passionate about. These are things that people do not for the attention or the spotlight, but truly for the love of the activity, and I’ve found that asking people about their hobbies and observing as they participate is strangely revealing and captivating,” Swayze said in an artist statement.

- Hailey Williams from LaSalle, who concentrated on photography, featured photographs that express brokenness by depicting abandoned spaces in a home environment.

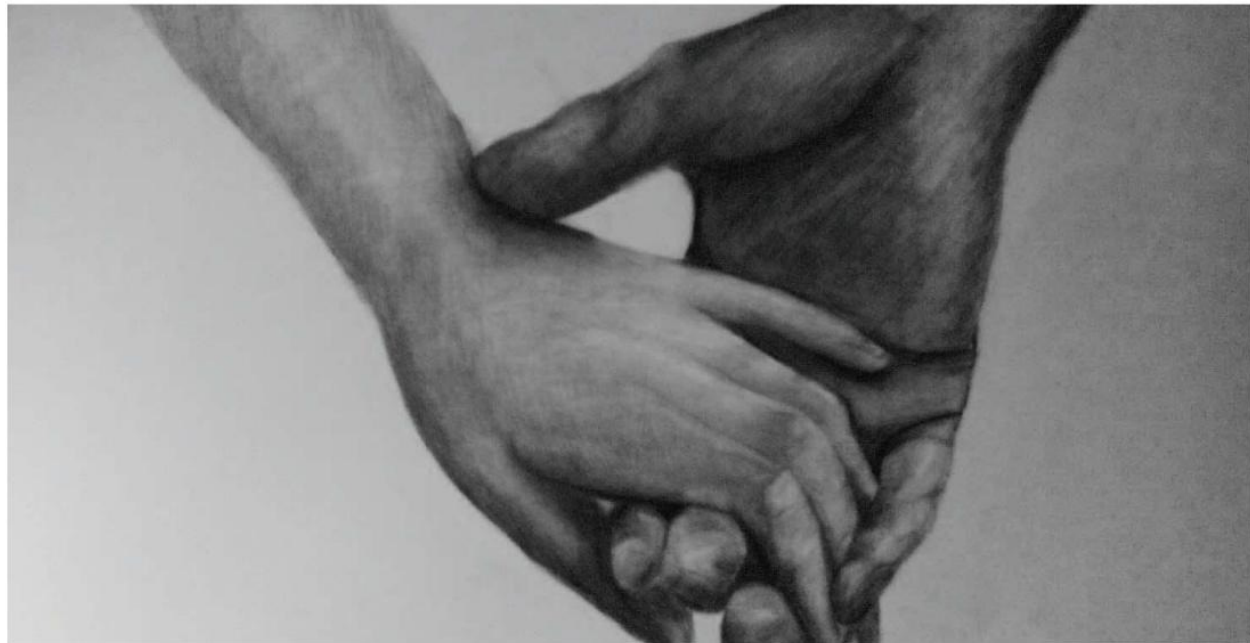
“The goal of my capstone is to metaphorically represent a broken home by photographing abandoned spaces. By doing so, I hope to provide closure of some sort not only for myself, but also for others who have experienced some form of loss in their life,” Williams said in her artist statement.

- JP Provenza of Mt. Prospect, whose concentration is in sculpture, created objects that express his concern for the environment and the planet Earth.

- Kevin P. Gac of Northfield, whose concentration is in drawing, exhibited four mannequins embellished with a labyrinth of intertwined patterns.

The Fall Capstone Art Exhibition ran from Dec. 7 through Dec. 14 in the Barbara A. Kieft Accelerator ArtSpace.

Desiree Chen is managing director of public affairs at Elmhurst College.



Stephanie Chaddick drew a series of large scale drawings of hands in expressive positions-showing emotions.
Photo courtesy of Elmhurst College



Having fun at the Happy to Be Me luncheon.
Photo courtesy of Robert Crown Center for Health Education.

Empowering Young Women

The Robert Crown Center for Health Education in Hinsdale will host an afternoon of female empowerment, promoting self-esteem and strengthening mother-daughter relationships. This Happy to Be Me mother-daughter luncheon will be held Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Carlisle, 435 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard.

Last year, the event focused on female body image and drew more than 400 attendees. Organizers expect more than 600 people this year. The event, which is aimed at girls in fifth through eighth grades, focuses on teaching them to be confident in who they are.

“This is an event for girls and the important women in their lives. We want to reach the girls and their parents because this is the age when girls begin to separate from their parents,” said Barb Thayer, a developmental associate for the center.

Happy to Be Me Luncheon Promotes Self Esteem



A mother and her daughter look over an event list during the first Happy to be Me luncheon.
Photo courtesy of Robert Crown Center for Health Education.

Motivational speaker Harriet Turk will address the ladies in the audience, emphasizing the need for girls to put in an effort when they want to achieve their goals.

Turk explains that young girls are in charge of their choices and must deal with any consequences from those choices. Additionally, she explains that while many people, herself included, put on “different costumes” depending on the group they happen to be hanging out with at the time, the girls should always be true to who they are.

The center wants to create programs that support girls and help them make decisions that will “keep them healthy, happy and safe, and not adversely affect them through



Many of the young ladies at the Happy to Be Me luncheon last year will return this year.
Photo courtesy of Robert Crown Center for Health Education.

adulthood,” said Joan Drummond Olson, the interim director of the center.

The center focuses on a number of issues, including sexual activity and the use of alcohol and narcotics.

Many of the mothers attending the event want to learn the materials Turk will present so they can model those ideas for their children, Olson said.

Turk’s message teaches young girls to believe in themselves and respect their self-worth, she said.

In addition to Turk’s program, the event features booths from local clothing and jewelry boutiques, photo booths, interactive activities and a raffle.

Dolphin Pups Doing Well

The calves continue to thrive under the care of their mothers, marine mammal staff.



Tapeko and her calf, who was eight weeks old at the time of this photo, swim together at Brookfield Zoo.

Photo courtesy of Brookfield Zoo



The unnamed dolphin calf receives care from his team of zoo staff members. He receives around the clock care.

Photo courtesy of Brookfield Zoo

by *Sonda Katzen*
Community contributor

Chicago Zoological Society animal care specialists continue to be cautiously optimistic with the progress of two male dolphin calves born at Brookfield Zoo: a 6-week-old dolphin calf that marine mammal staff has been handrearing around the clock since his birth and an 8-week-old calf, the fifth to be raised by Tapeko, his 31-year-old mother.

“We are pleased with the progress the handreared calf has made during his first six weeks of life,” said Jennifer Langan, DVM, Dipl. ACZM, associate veterinarian for the Society. “However, he still remains in guarded condition as he has several milestones he needs to achieve over the next few months before we would consider his situation less critical, including eating solid fish on his own, being introduced to the other members of the dolphin group, and finally becoming independent.”

The calf being handreared was born to Spree, 11, on Oct. 28. Spree, an inexperienced mother, was not providing adequate maternal care. At that time, Chicago Zoological Society’s Animal Programs staff made the decision to intervene.

“The health and welfare of the animals in our care is our highest priority here at Brookfield Zoo,” said Bill Zeigler, senior vice president of animal collection and care for the society. “Caring for this calf has been a zoo-wide effort involving the collaboration of several departments to provide him with

around-the-clock observation, care, and support.”

The calf has been gaining weight and appears to be thriving due to the tremendous dedication of a team of staff from the Marine Mammal, Veterinary Services, Life Support, and Animal Nutrition Departments. Within the marine mammal community, there have been only a few documented cases of a newborn dolphin calf being handreared.

Since his birth, the unnamed calf has spent the majority of his time in a “nursery” pool set up specifically for a newborn dolphin’s needs.

“A member of the marine mammal staff has been in the pool with the calf 24 hour a day providing him with the necessary support, including feeding him, conducting important behavioral observations, taking breath rates, and documenting his growth and weight measurements. All of this data assists us in making decisions regarding his constant care,” said Rita Stacey, marine mammal curator, who added “everyone in the zoo family is pulling for this little guy.”

Although the calf is receiving a dolphin milk formula, during his first week of life he received his mother’s milk, which contains vital nutrients and antibodies for health and immunity.

Additionally, the 8-week-old calf born on Oct. 16 to Tapeko continues to do very well. Marine mammal staff monitored him around the clock for the first 30 days of his life, which is the most critical period. During this time, staff used EthoTrak, an electronic behavior-monitoring program that was developed by a team of Chicago Zoological Society computer programmers and biologists and is now used by other zoos around the country. Marine mammal staff recorded nursing bouts, slipstreaming behavior, and other developmental behaviors.

Sonda Katzen is a communications specialist for Brookfield Zoo.

200 New Laws Now in Effect

New legal requirements impact grant awards, driving with mobile devices.

by *Patty Schuh*
Community contributor

More than 200 new laws take effect on Jan. 1, said State Sen. Christine Radogno including measures targeting distracted driving and developing the rules and regulations associated with the state's new medical marijuana law.

Oversight of state grants

Though state grants account for hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars each year, it is extremely difficult to track these funds and what they are being used for. Two new laws sponsored by Sen. Radogno will not only make it easier to review how grant monies are being used, but ensure the dollars aren't being used in an inappropriate manner—such as furthering someone's political ambitions.

Beginning Jan. 1, Senate Bill 2380 will restrict state grant dollars from being used for prohibited political activities. To more easily track state grants, Senate Bill 2381 requires the state's chief information officer to develop a system to collect state financial data, including information specific to the management and administration of grant funds, and make the information available on data.illinois.gov for public review.

Cell phone ban while driving

On Jan. 1, Illinois will join roughly a dozen other states with laws banning the use of cell phones while driving. Though the state already has a prohibition in place for texting and driving, once House Bill 1247 takes effect Illinois residents will no longer be allowed to talk on cell phones when driving, unless using hands-free technology.

Proponents say the new law will cut down on distracted driving, making Illinois' roads safer.

Violators of the law will be fined \$75 for a first offense. Fines of as much as \$150 could be issued for repeat offenses as well as facing a moving violation on their driving record, though drivers are still legally allowed to make calls on hand-held phones in emergency situations.

Patty Schuh is press secretary for Sen. Christine Radogno, a Lemont Republican.

BY THE NUMBERS New Illinois Laws Went Into Effect on Jan. 1

BILLS

200

New laws approved
in Illinois

SPEED

70

Drivers can go faster
on interstates

FINE

\$75

First offense for using
phone while driving

MORE FINES

\$150

Second offense for
driving and texting

OTHER LAWS

Speed, Medical Marijuana

Illinois' speed limit will soon be in line with most of the rest of the country. Senate Bill 2356 increases the maximum speed limit to 70 miles per hour (mph) on all interstates and toll highways.

Last summer, Illinois' new medical marijuana law was signed. House Bill 1 legally allows authorized patients to use medical marijuana grown by an approved cultivation center and purchased from a registered dispensary. The bill extends only to patients suffering from approximately 30 specific diseases and conditions, not including "chronic pain" or "severe nausea."—*Patty Schuh*



The legislature approved 200 new laws for 2014.

Photo courtesy of hibu

Teens Aren't as Cyber-Savvy as They Think They Are

Survey shows children need parents' help in understanding how their online actions can hurt them.

by BPT News Service

While some parents may not know a gigabyte from Google, they still need to help their kids stay safe and protect personal information online. A survey by LifeLock finds that some of today's young people don't understand the dangers of their tech-heavy lifestyles.

While 89 percent of the 700 teenagers polled said they don't give out too much personal information online (although 46 percent said their friends do), many admitted to online behaviors that could put their personal information at risk. Three-fourths of kids 13 to 17 included some type of personal information (partial or complete birth date, address, phone number, school, etc.) on their social media profiles.

"While teens may be experts at using technology and social media to stay connected, we as parents must help them understand the steps necessary to protect their online privacy — or how their online actions today could affect their lives in the future," says Hilary Schneider, LifeLock's president.

Despite near-daily stories of social media misbehavior damaging the careers of politicians, athletes and entertainers, nearly half of surveyed teens don't expect their online activities to hurt them later in life.

"Children are favorite targets for identity thieves because they have clean credit histories," says Schneider, who herself is a mother of teenagers. "Fraud may go undetected for years until the child applies for credit as a young adult. With the risks so high, teens and parents have to take steps to protect their privacy, security and identities online."

LifeLock offers some tips to protect against identity theft:

- Limit the personal information posted in a social media profile. A full name, full address or even the birth date could open the door to identity thieves.
- People should not accept friend requests from anyone they have not already met in person, even if he or she claims to be a friend of a friend.
- Use strong passwords for each social media account and all mobile devices. Strong passwords include capital and

lowercase letters, numerals and special symbols.

- People should do their best to verify the security and authenticity of a website before interacting with it, buying something from it or giving any information about themselves. Look for the URL to begin with "https" or for the lock symbol on the page that indicates a secure site at checkout.
- People need to remember that anything they post online is forever. It's almost impossible to completely eliminate information from the Internet. Inappropriate material posted online now may affect future relationships, ability to get into a preferred college, even future job prospects.
- Use privacy settings. Many social networking sites and chat rooms have adjustable privacy settings, so parents can restrict who has access to their kids' profiles.

More information is available at lifelock.com/education and from the Federal Trade Commission at onguardonline.gov.



While young people tend to be adept at using tech devices to communicate, they're often naïve about what can happen.

Photo courtesy of BPT News Service

GOTTA GO!

See. Do. Enjoy.

Feb. 7-9



Photo courtesy of hibu

Enjoy Some Cool Fun at the Ice Festival

Come to downtown Downers Grove for the chance to enjoy ice-sculpting demonstrations, entertainment and food. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, and Sunday, Feb. 9. Throughout the weekend, the streets will be lined with various ice sculptures. A full schedule of events for the ice fest is not yet available, but some of the entertainment last year included a magic show and a screening of "Ice Age" at the historic Tivoli Theatre, with proceeds benefiting Noah's Hope, an organization that funds research into curing childhood diseases. There also was a pancake breakfast and a live performance by Radio Disney Road Crew last year. —**Alex Keown**

The annual ice event is free and is sponsored by Downtown Downers Grove Management Corporation, which "works on creating a diverse retail, shopping and service business environment," according to its website. For more information, visit downtowndg.org or call 630-725-0991.

Feb. 4



Photo courtesy of hibu

Author Dan Stashower to Discuss His Book on Abraham Lincoln

New York Times best-selling author Daniel Stashower will regale fans with his research into the Baltimore Plot — the plan to assassinate former President Abraham Lincoln. Stashower will discuss his latest book, "The Hour of Peril," on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at Anderson's Bookshops, 123 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville. The event is free. The book can be purchased at the Naperville or Downers Grove store.

andersonsbookshop.com
630-355-2665

Feb. 11



Photo courtesy of hibu

Take Time to Relax With a Spa Hop at Glen Ellyn Salons

Enjoy 15-minute spa services on Tuesday, Feb. 11, throughout downtown Glen Ellyn. When the Spa Hop event was held in early 2013, more than 356 women took advantage of more than 465 appointments, which cost \$5 each. Participating salons include Cosmos Beauty Bar, Cheveux Salon & Day Spa, Escape Salon & Spa, Jazz Salon & Spa, Linea Hair Salon & Day Spa, Namasté, Salon Estem, and Chicago Spa Parties.

downtownglenellyn.com
630-469-5000

Feb. 20-23



Photo courtesy of hibu

Chance to Indulge in Hot Sounds at Jazz Festival

Some of the best high school and college jazz bands will showcase their talents Thursday, Feb. 20, through Sunday, Feb. 23, at the 47th annual Elmhurst College Jazz Festival at Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect Ave. The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra will perform Friday, Feb. 21, during the evening performance, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Prices for weekend passes range from \$65 to \$75.

elmhurst.edu/jazzfestival
630-617-5534

Entertainment

Fun Musical at Drury Lane

"Young Frankenstein" takes the stage through March.

by Katherine Hughes
Community contributor

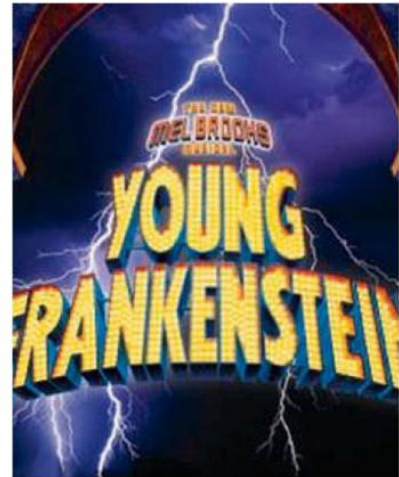
Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace presents the Mel Brooks Broadway hit *Young Frankenstein*, which runs through March 16.

The cast is led by Devin DeSantis as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein ("Anyone Can Whistle" with Patti LuPone at the Ravinia Festival, four years in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and "Pirates of Penzance," "Boys from Syracuse" and "Hot Mikado"); Jeff Award winner Jeff Dumas as Igor (First National Tour of "Spamalot" directed by Mike Nichols, "Bounce" at The Kennedy Center, NBC TV's "Chicago Fire," "The Merry

Widow" at Lyric Opera Chicago, "Pacific Overtures" at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Winesburg, Ohio at About Face Theatre); and Johanna McKenzie Miller as Elizabeth Benning ("Mary Poppins" at Marriott Theatre, "Fiddler on the Roof" at Drury Lane Theatre, "The Music Man" at Marriott Theatre, "Sunday in the Park with George" at Ravinia Festival and "The Three Musketeers" at Chicago Shakespeare Theater).

For reservations call the Drury Lane Theatre box office at 630-530-0111, call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or visit drurylane.com

Katherine Hughes works for Noreen Heron and Associates, a public relations firm based in Chicago.



Young Frankenstein runs through March 16 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.

Photo courtesy of Drury Lane

Winter Activities Take Place in Forest Preserves



Hiking the forest preserves of DuPage County with snowshoes is a popular activity.

Photo courtesy of hibu

by Bonnie Olszewski
Community contributor

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites outdoor explorers to enjoy snowy frozen fun through activities like snow tubing, cross-country skiing, ice fishing and more this winter.

The tubing hill at Mount Hoy at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville offers thrilling rides down an 800-foot run and a chance to explore surrounding trails by snowshoe. When 3 or more inches of snow covers the hill, the facility will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends February 2014 and Presidents Day, Feb. 17. Only Forest Preserve District inner tubes are permitted on Mount Hoy and are \$5 per tube per day. Snowshoes cost \$5 for two hours or \$10 per day. Tube rentals end at 3:30 p.m., and snowshoe rentals end at 2 p.m.

Visitors can use their own snowshoes or cross-country skis at most DuPage preserves. When conditions permit, staff members groom trails for classical and freestyle cross-country skiing at the following forest preserves: Blackwell in Warrenville, Danada in Wheaton, Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook, Greene Valley in Naperville, Herrick Lake in Wheaton, Hidden Lake in Downers Grove, Mallard Lake in Hanover Park, Meacham Grove in Bloomingdale, Springbrook

Prairie in Naperville, Waterfall Glen in Darien, and West DuPage Woods in West Chicago. All trail users are asked to take care not to damage tracks that have been set. For trail conditions call the Outdoor Report at 630-871-6422.

Frozen lakes provide opportunities for ice skaters and anglers. At least 4 inches of clear ice is recommended for any ice activity. Rangers do not monitor ice thickness, and all ice-related activities are done at the user's own risk. Per District fishing regulations, each individual is permitted two ice-fishing holes at one time, no more than 10 inches in diameter.

Bonnie Olszewski is in the forest preserve's office of public affairs.

Home Sweet Home Event Nets \$10,000

More than 200 guests and their children attended the second annual Home Sweet Home Gingerbread Decorating Event on Dec. 7 in support of Family Shelter Service. Home Sweet Home was organized by the Family Shelter Service Community Resource Council of Southeast DuPage.

This year's Home Sweet Home raised more than \$10,000 for the shelter, counseling and court advocacy services of Family Shelter and also enabled many client families and their children to attend free of charge.

Photo courtesy of Family Shelter Service



Children of all ages eagerly decorated their gingerbread creations with the help of DuPage Medical Group volunteers at The Abbington in neighboring Glen Ellyn. The appearance of storybook characters and elves with tales to tell, as well as Santa and Mrs. Claus, caused delight and merriment and many kids took the opportunity to have a photo with Santa. Founded in 1976, Family Shelter Service is dedicated to helping families affected by domestic violence.

Photo courtesy of Family Shelter Service

Finance

Did Recession Eat Into Retirement Plan?

Experts outline some approaches that can help people to catch up financially.

by BPT News Service

A busy life can make people feel as if they're always playing catch-up — from finally reading that best-seller that's been sitting on the bookshelf for a year to getting a solid eight hours of sleep to making sure enough money has been set aside for the future. But there's good news for the millions whose retirement savings and investments suffered during the recession: A few simple steps will help them catch up.

On average, baby boomers say they have saved or invested \$275,000 for retirement, but believe they'll need \$750,000 to live comfortably, according to a Boomers & Retirement Survey released by TD Ameritrade Inc. That means some boomers may face a shortfall of nearly a half a million dollars as they head into retirement.

Smart retirement planning, thoughtful choices and a handy -option called a "catch-up contribution" can help boomers regain ground lost during the recession.

A catch-up contribution allows people older than 50 to increase their contributions to their IRA or employer-sponsored retirement plans beyond the usual limits for such tax-deferred retirement plans.

"Anyone approaching retirement should consider different opportunities, like catch-up contributions, that might make sense for their retirement investing plans," says Lule Demmissie, managing director, retirement, for TD Ameritrade. "These catch-up contributions could help workers 50 years and older save thousands more — perhaps even hundreds of thousands of dollars more — toward their retirement."

Demmissie offers some guidance:

- **There is no standard target for retirement.** People set their own goals, based on a realistic idea of how much they'll need to maintain the standard of living they desire in retirement. Online calculators and tools can help people set goals by exploring real-world scenarios that might affect their assets over time.

For millions, retirement savings and investments suffered during the recession.

For example, a person with health challenges needs to plan for medical expenses. People who want to travel should make a budget.

- **Don't rely on Social Security benefits, but don't overlook them, either.** They should be a part of an overall retirement plan, but not the heart of it; generally, the benefit checks are not large enough to give people the standard of living they've come to expect. Unfortunately, 65 percent of retired boomers say they rely on Social Security, and nearly one-third say they couldn't live comfortably without it, according to TD Ameritrade's survey.
- **Take advantage of catch-up contributions.** People who are 50 or older may be eligible to contribute an extra \$1,000 per year toward an IRA until they turn 70 (the last year to contribute to a traditional IRA). Saving an additional \$1,000 per year for 20 years, with a 5 percent rate of return, could provide an additional \$34,719 toward retirement. Fully fund an IRA with \$6,500 a year between ages 50 and 70, and that could amount to an additional \$225,675 for retirement.

"If you experienced financial setbacks that stalled your retirement efforts, it may just mean you have to adjust your retirement expectations, work a little longer or think of other means of support that you may have not considered before," Demmissie says. "But it's never too late to get started."



Lots of people dream about retirement, but the recession put a big dent in a lot of investments.

Photo courtesy of BPT News Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Schedules are subject to change.
Call venues to confirm event information.

Let us know about any upcoming events.
Email us at downersgrove@hibu.com.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 1 Local Natives in Concert 7:30 - 11 p.m.

WHAT: The Student Activities Office of Wheaton College presents Local Natives in concert. Local Natives is an indie rock band based in Silver Lake, Los Angeles.

WHERE: Wheaton College (Edman Memorial Chapel), North East Corner of Washington & Franklin, Wheaton

PRICE: Advance: \$30, Door: \$35
INFO: Call 630-752-5181

SATURDAY 1 Tubing And Snowshoeing 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WHAT: When 3 or more inches of snow covers Mount Hoy, take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill, or explore Blackwell's trails by snowshoe.

WHERE: Blackwell Forest Preserve, Warrenville

INFO: Call 630-871-6422

SATURDAY 1 Volunteer Restoration Workday 1 - 4 p.m.

WHAT: Help restore a natural area by removing nonnative vegetation. (Ages 8 and up)

WHERE: West Chicago Prairie County Forest Preserve, West Chicago

INFO: Call 630-933-7681

SATURDAY 1 Wonders of Winter 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WHAT: Discover the fun of visiting a forest preserve in winter through horse-drawn hayrides, ice fishing, geocaching, nature hikes and more.

WHERE: Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook

PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-933-7248

FREE - FAMILY

SATURDAY 1 Blacksmithing Demonstrations 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: Stop by the wagon shed to see the blacksmith repair equipment and demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade.

WHERE: Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago

INFO: Call 630-876-5900

SATURDAY 1 The Cat's Pajamas Vocal Band 8 - 9:30 p.m.

WHAT: Every once in a while something special emerges onto the music scene, and with the arrival of The Cat's Pajamas, there's no doubt this explosive five-man vocal band is taking the world by storm.

WHERE: North Central College - Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville

PRICE: \$25, \$20
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SATURDAY 1 Matt McCarthy at Zanies Comedy Club 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Zanied Comedy Club, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles

PRICE: \$23
INFO: Call 630-584-6342 or visit stcharles.zanies.com

FOOD

SUNDAY 2 Light Opera Workshop 3 p.m.

WHAT: The program features Elmhurst College students performing an offering of beguiling and entertainment gems from opera to musical theatre.

WHERE: Elmhurst College Hammerschmidt Chapel, 190 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst

PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-617-3005 or visit public.elmhurst.edu or email mill@public.elmhurst.edu

elmhurst.edu
FREE - FAMILY

SUNDAY 2 Sleigh Rides Noon - 3 p.m.

WHAT: Relax on a ride through prairies and woodlands as you learn about historic Danada preserve.

WHERE: Danada Equestrian Center, 35507 Naperville Road, Wheaton

PRICE: Ages 13 & up: \$5, Ages 5-12: \$2, Under 5: Free

INFO: Call 630-668-6012

FAMILY

SUNDAY 2 Ice Fishing for Beginners 1 - 3 p.m.

WHAT: Learn about safety, equipment, techniques and tips for forest preserve lakes. Fishing will follow if conditions permit. (Ages 6 and up)

WHERE: Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, 580 Naperville Road, Wheaton

PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-933-7248

FREE

TUESDAY 4 'Step Up And Volunteer!' Q-and-A Session 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

WHAT: Get detailed information on the Forest Preserve District's volunteer programs, ask questions and decide which option fits your interests and schedule.

WHERE: Danada Equestrian Center, 35507 Naperville Road, Wheaton

PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-933-7681

FREE

FRIDAY 7 Sit And Stitch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WHAT: Enjoy some camaraderie and pick up pointers while you work on your own crocheting, quilting or knitting. (Ages 10 & up)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Schedules are subject to change.
Call venues to confirm event information.

Let us know about any upcoming events.
Email us at downersgrove@hibu.com.



Photo courtesy of Zaxxone Family Foundation

Ongoing in February

Seed Gala for Mercy Home

WHAT: Register for the Zaccone Family Foundaton's Planting the Seed Gala for the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

WHERE: Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, 2815 Jorie Blvd.

INFO: Register for the March 1 event at zacconefamily-foundation.com. All proceeds support Mercy House.

WHERE: Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-876-5900
FREE

SATURDAY 8
Theatreworks USA
"Teacher from the Black Lagoon and Other Stories"
10 - 11:20 a.m.

WHAT: An exciting new musical revue based on favorite contemporary children's books.
WHERE: North Central College - Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton, Naperville
PRICE: Adults: \$12, Children (Under 12): \$6
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SATURDAY 8
DuPage Symphony Orchestra "DSO By Request"
8 - 10 p.m.

WHAT: Joins the DSO for Antonin Dvorak's exquisite Violin Concerto in A minor, a rarely heard treasure by the 19th century Czech master.
WHERE: North Central College - Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: Adults: \$35, \$30, Seniors: \$31, \$26, Students: \$17, \$12
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SATURDAY 8
ABBA Mania
8 - 10 p.m.

WHAT: If you're looking for an excuse to party, reminisce or simply be entertained by the best music ever, then ABBA Mania is for you.
WHERE: North Central College - Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton, Naperville
PRICE: \$45, \$35, \$25
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SUNDAY 9
Suzanne Petri "Evening of Cabaret"
6 - 8:30 p.m.

WHAT: Suzanne Petri has established herself as one of the Windy City's premier entertainers, performing to standing-room-only crowds at some of Chicago's top stages.
WHERE: North Central College - Madden Theatre, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: \$35, \$30
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SUNDAY 9
Owls Of DuPage
2 - 4 p.m.

WHAT: Find out why people give a hoot about owls, and learn about species that live in DuPage. (Ages 12 & up)
WHERE: Willowbrook Wildlife Center, 525 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn
PRICE: \$2
INFO: Call 630-942-6200

SUNDAY 9
History Speaks Lecture Series: The Last Year of Mary Todd Lincoln
4 - 5 p.m.

WHAT: The audience will learn about her insanity trial and subsequent hospitalization at Bellevue Place.
WHERE: Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St., Naperville
PRICE: \$5 - \$7
INFO: Call 630-420-6010 or visit napersettlement.com or email towncrier@naperville.il.us

FRIDAY 14
An Evening with Jazz Pianist Chris White
8 - 10 p.m.

WHAT: Pianist and North Central College Jazz Faculty member Chris

White will headline a concert.
WHERE: North Central College - Madden Theatre, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: Adults: \$20, Students: \$15
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

FRIDAY 14
An Evening with Jazz Trumpeter Art Davis
8 - 10 p.m.

WHAT: Trumpeter and North Central College Jazz Faculty member Art Davis will headline a concert.

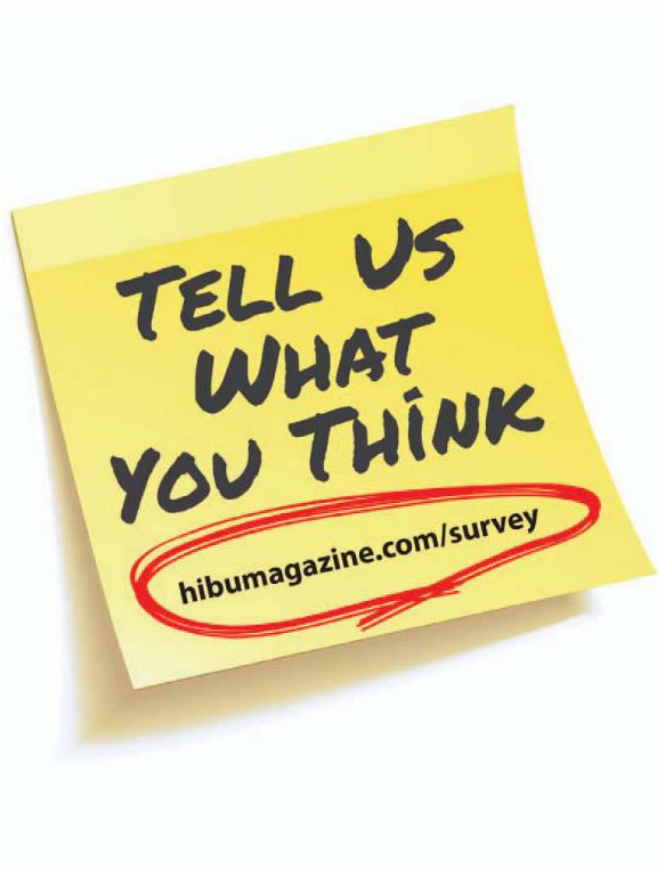
WHERE: North Central College - Madden Theatre, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: Adults: \$20, Students: \$15
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SATURDAY 15
"Build Her a Myth" by Carrie Anne Schumacher
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

WHAT: "Build Her a Myth" examines the demands that feminine culture places upon women by utilizing the garment as a social signifier.
WHERE: North Central College - Schoenherr Gallery, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SUNDAY 16
"Tools of the Trade: A Resident's View of Law Enforcement" by Lindsay Olson
Noon - 5 p.m.

WHAT: Lindsay Olson created



conceptual drawings based on the challenges and tools of law enforcement from a citizen's perspective.

WHERE: North Central College - Schoenherr Gallery, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville, Illinois
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

SUNDAY 16
Archery For Beginners
 1- 2:30 p.m.

WHAT: Discover the basic techniques of this classic sport, and learn about equipment and rules in an indoor setting. (Ages 7 and up)

WHERE: Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, 580 Naperville Road, Wheaton
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 630-933-7248
FREE

MONDAY 17
Forest Fitness Walk
 8:30 - 10 a.m.

WHAT: Join a naturalist for a brisk weekly walk, and enjoy some exercise as you take in the wonders

of the woods during this walk. (Adults)

WHERE: Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, Oak Brook
PRICE: \$6
INFO: Call 630-850-8110

MONDAY 17
Lambing
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WHAT: See the season's new lambs some as they're being born and learn about the role livestock played on an 1890s farm.

WHERE: Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago
INFO: Call 630-933-7681 or email volunteer@dupageforest.com

MONDAY 17
Tapping Into Fun
 10 - 11:30 a.m.

WHAT: Learn about the history of maple-sap collection, and then hike to the sugarbush to tap a sugar maple tree. (Ages 6 and up)

WHERE: Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook
PRICE: \$5
INFO: Call 630-850-8110

MONDAY 17
Introduction To Drawing
 3 - 4:30 p.m.

WHAT: Learn the basics using simple methods and an array of subjects including a live model. (Adults)

WHERE: Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
PRICE: \$125
INFO: Call 630-206-9566

THURSDAY 20
Explore the Sound concert series
 7:30 - 9 p.m.

WHAT: To explore the Sound is the annual seamless, theatrically lit and staged concert featuring choral and instrumental ensembles and faculty artists performing from every nook and cranny of Wentz Concert Hall.

WHERE: North Central College - Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: Adults: \$7, Students & Seniors: \$3
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

FRIDAY 21
Sap Collectors
 4 - 5 p.m.

WHAT: Hike to the sugarbush to collect sap from sugar maple trees. (Ages 6 and up)

WHERE: Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, 3609 Spring Road, Oak Brook
PRICE: \$3
INFO: Call 630-850-8110

SUNDAY 23
Cast-Iron Cooking
 1 - 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire, and learn tips for cooking with cast iron. (Ages 5 & up)

WHERE: Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton
PRICE: Ages 13 & up: \$10, Ages 5-12: \$5
INFO: Call 630-933-7248

SUNDAY 23
The Irish Rovers
 3 - 5 p.m.

WHAT: These international

ambassadors of Irish music have maintained their timeless ability to deliver a rollicking, rousing performance of good cheer one that will soon have you singing and clapping along.

WHERE: North Central College - Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: \$30, \$20
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

THURSDAY 27
"Urinetown"
 7:30 - 10 p.m.

WHAT: What to do when you have to pay to pee? North Central College's production of "Urinetown" will be directed by senior musical theatre majors.

WHERE: North Central College - Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton, Naperville
PRICE: Adults: \$15, Students & Seniors: \$10
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

FRIDAY 28
Ramsey Lewis and John Pizzarelli "Straighten Up And Fly Right: Nat King Cole Tribute"
 8 - 9:30 p.m.

WHAT: A tribute to the titan of '50s vocal pop, from his hits along with his singular tracks of sophisticated cool jazz that have influenced their own careers.

WHERE: North Central College - Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PRICE: \$60, \$50
INFO: Call 630-637-7469

MARCH

SATURDAY 1
Tim Walkoe at Zanies Comedy Club
 7:30 p.m.

WHAT: Tim Walkoe's fast paced, shoot from the hip style of comedy has made him one of the country's top headline acts.

WHERE: Zanies Comedy Club, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles
PRICE: \$23
INFO: Call 630-584-6342

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AND ANOTHER THING ...

Holiday Magic Spreads Joy

Annual lights event at Brookfield Zoo provided fun and entertainment through New Year's Eve.

*by Sondra Katzen
Community contributor*

Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Magic, presented by ComEd and Meijer. The festive event features more than one million twinkling lights, caroling to the animals, live entertainment, professional ice-carving demonstrations, a 41-foot LED talking tree, a dazzling laser light show, and a new holiday light spectacular.

Now in it's 32nd year, Holiday Magic ran through New

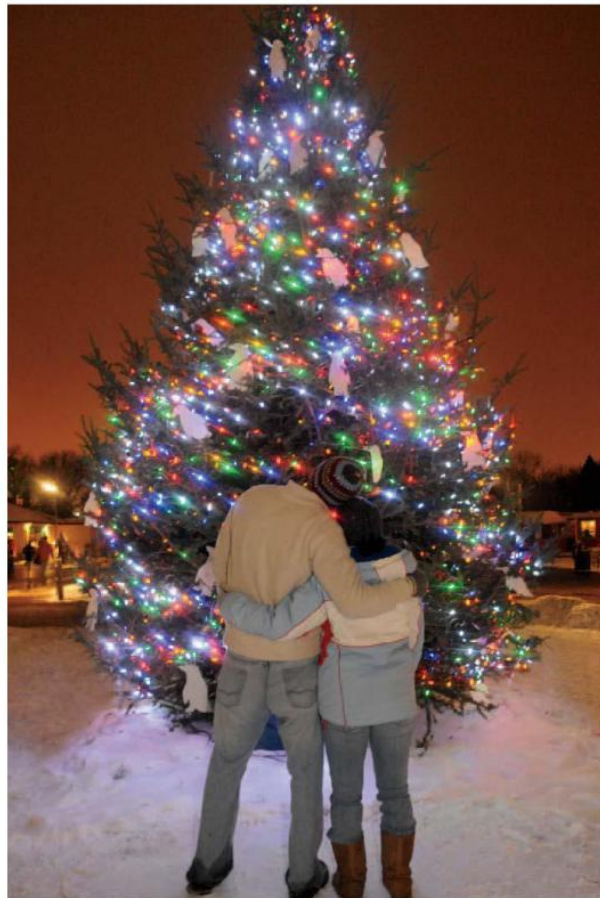
Year's Eve.

While strolling the walkways, guests could see some of their favorite animals. Exhibits open during Holiday Magic include Great Bear Wilderness, Tropic World, Australia House, Big Cats, The Swamp, Feathers and Scales, Birds and Reptiles, The Living Coast, The Fragile Desert, The Fragile Rain Forest, Pachyderm House, and Hamill Family Play Zoo.

Back again by popular demand was the laser show that lights up a 40-foot-by-30-foot screen on the zoo's West Mall.

Guests were able to view more than 450 decorated community trees lining the malls, and around Roosevelt Fountain.

Sondra Katzen is a public relations specialist for Brookfield Zoo.



A couple admires one of the holiday trees at Brookfield Zoo.
Photo courtesy of Brookfield Zoo



Friendly animal characters greeted guests at Brookfield Zoo.
Photo courtesy of Brookfield Zoo



An aerial view shows off the lights at the zoo.
Photo courtesy of Brookfield Zoo

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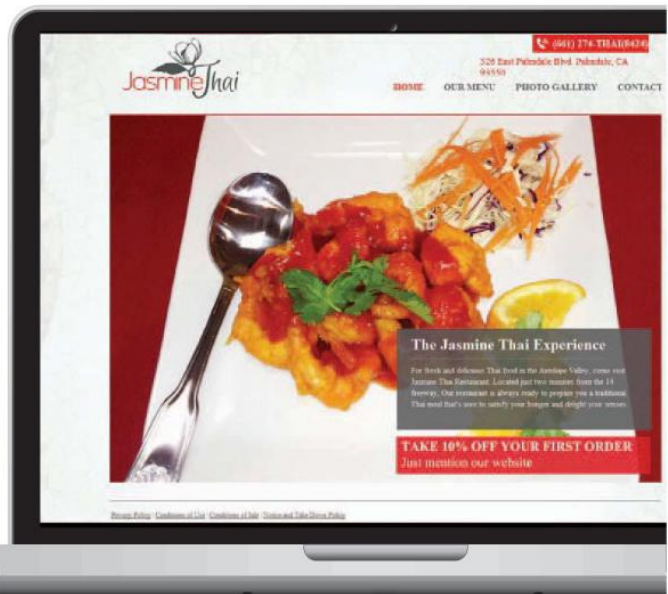


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