



# .....The Streamwood Connection.....

*Kiwanis Club of Streamwood*



Volume 9 - Issue 4 January 2013

## *The President's Corner*

*Happy New Year!*

*The New Year offers us a time for renewal, a chance to reassess and make plans to set 2013 up to be our best year yet. As we set our personal resolutions, the Kiwanis Club of Streamwood is looking to improve themselves as well. What new service projects can we do to make a difference in our communities? Are there other changes to how our organization runs that can improve our effectiveness?*

*I invite everyone to share any ideas, big or small, for helping us develop into the best Kiwanis Club we can be this year. Do you see a need at the grade school near your home? Do you know of a social services group that needs a hand with a new project they are working on? Even if you only have a seed of an idea, share it and together we can make it blossom!*

*Share any ideas at one of our noon meetings or email me directly at [SusanDawn117@gmail.com](mailto:SusanDawn117@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year!*

*Sue*

## *December Calendar of Events*



*Kiwanis New Year Celebration*  
*Friday, January 11*  
*6:30 PM*  
*Chicago Loop, Streamwood*

*Noon Meeting - Tuesday, January 15*  
*First Midwest Bank*  
*Schaumburg and Barrington Roads*

*Martin Luther King Birthday*  
*Monday, January 21*

*January Board Meeting*  
*Tuesday, January 29 - 7:30 AM*  
*First Midwest Bank*

*Spring Shopping Faire*  
*Committee Meeting*  
*Tuesday, January 29 - 6:30 PM*  
*The Tampir Home*

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*Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet?*

Thanks  
a million

Once again, thanks to *Mike Buckley*, we had an extremely successful toy drive over the weekend of December 7-9!! We collected 100's of great toys and games for the needy kids in Hanover Township, plus over \$800 for the Grants for Schools program!!

Thanks, also, to everyone who worked that weekend – particularly our Key Club kids!

See all our great photos on the following page.

## Winter Wear Drive

A big thanks to everyone who donated items for the Winter Wear Drive. We were very fortunate to collect a lot of great items so that people in our community will have a warmer winter!! Thanks to *Aneta, Mary Jo and Lori* for coordinating this project!

If you didn't get a chance to drop off your winter wear, it's not too late. You may drop your items off at the Township office on Astor Avenue in Hanover Park.

## Holiday Food Boxes

More thanks are in order to all the Kiwanians who helped distribute holiday food boxes to Hanover Township residents on December 20.

This time, we did the project at St. John's, alongside their employees and volunteers! We had a great time AND the weather cooperated despite the threats of thunderstorms!

See photos on page 5.

## Celebrations

### Happy Birthday

*Sue Begy* – January 17

### Happy Anniversary

*Carol and Ed McNevin*  
January 17 - 54 Years

*John and Sandy Stewart*

January 31 - 43 Years

### Happy Kiwanis Anniversary

*John Johnson* - 7 Years



## We Won!!

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, I received an email from the I-I District with the November-December 2012 edition of the Illeiwian attached.

While skimming through it, I found that the *Kiwanis Club of Streamwood* was the winner – for our club size – of the I-I District newsletter contest!!

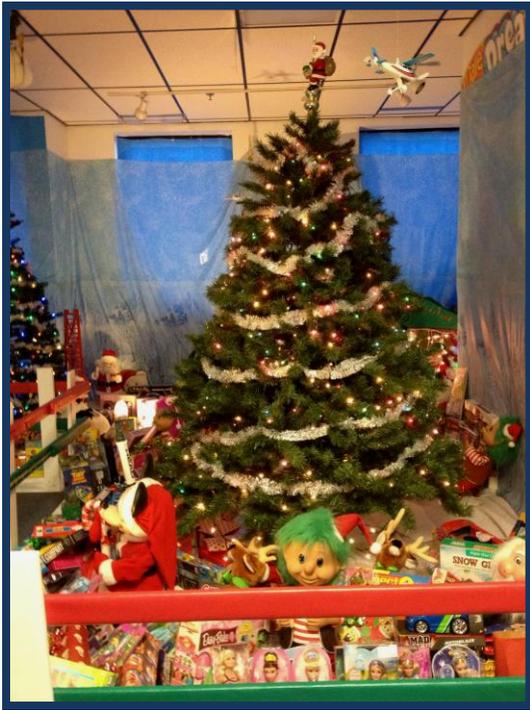
As newsletter editor, I was pretty excited to see the article, especially since we hadn't been contacted directly!

Please continue to help me share the news about our club and our community by submitting any newsworthy information that you may have, whether it be personal, professional or otherwise!!

- *Cathy T.*

P.S. – The Illeiwian had a lot of interesting news about what's going on in the District. Please take the time to check it out!

# *Holiday Toy Drive & Gymnastics Meet at Gymkhana*



*Tim Elenz's son helping out with the toys*



## Congratulations!!

Welcome to the world  
Anthony Joseph!!

All our best wishes to  
happy grandparents, John and Terri  
Johnson and the Di Re family!



## Join us for a Party!

We're going to be doing something a little different this year for our Kiwanis Holiday Party.

It will be held on **Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** – **beginning at 6:30 PM** - at the Chicago Loop on Streamwood Blvd., across from the Chamber office. They're offering us free chips, salsa and pizza (for up to 50 people) and the club will be purchasing soft drinks, salad and appetizers to round out the fare.

All we have to do is show up and have fun! No clean up – no fuss!! The only thing we're on our own for is alcoholic beverages!!

By now, you should have received your Evite. If you haven't already done so, please RSVP as soon as you can.

Spouses, significant others and potential members are encouraged to attend!! So, please invite anyone who you think may be interested in enjoying the benefits of membership in the Kiwanis!!

Hope to see you there!!



*What a handsome guy!!*



*AJ with his adorable big sister, Dani*

*A baby is a blessing.  
A gift from Heaven above,  
A precious little angel  
To cherish and to love.*



*An updated photo of  
Anna Rae Stewart..... what a doll!*

# *Holiday Food Distribution for the Township at St. John's*

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*Cathy, Sue, Maryann, Donna & Ray*



*Pat & Mary Alice Benoit*



*Mary Jo Explaining our Duties*



*Let the Distribution Begin!!*

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## So, What's Coming Up Next??

Now that the Holidays are over, we come upon a time where things get a little slow. We don't have a lot of projects going on, but that shouldn't stop us from coming up with some new ideas and finding ways that we can make a difference!

Sue and Ray Begy have been putting out their feelers around the community, touching base with Police Chief Keegan and Village President Billie Roth. Some good ideas have been kicked around and we're hoping to come up with something new and exciting that will make a real difference in our community!

During this time, we also hope to start working on our new website, getting more visibility on Facebook and sharing the word with the local newspapers about who we are and what we do!

Stay tuned!

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## Building Club Membership

At present, the Kiwanis Club of Streamwood is 24 members strong! Wouldn't it be great to be at 30 or more??

We CAN do it!! But, we need everyone's help to make it happen. We all know people who would make good Kiwanians. Reach out and ask them! Invite them to a meeting. Ask them to join us at a project.

Don't know how to make the first move or how to talk about Kiwanis? We're here to help!! Feel free to contact *Membership Chair, Cathy Tampir* or *President Sue Begy* to lend a hand. Don't forget.....growing our club is one of our top priorities and we'll always do what we can to make it a reality!

## Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in January to discuss this year's project. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to discuss them with *Chairperson, Aneta Lysek, Sandy Stewart or Maryann Cecille.*



## Grants for Schools Committee

This Committee will also be meeting sometime in January. The committee consists of *Chairperson, Ray Begy, Terri Johnson and Pat Hogan.*

Again, if you have any ideas you'd like to share, feel free to contact Ray at [atrophies@msn.com](mailto:atrophies@msn.com).

## Meeting Speakers

If you know of someone who would make a good speaker at one of our meetings, please contact speaker coordinator *Aneta Lysek* at [Aneta.Lysek@firstmidwest.com](mailto:Aneta.Lysek@firstmidwest.com) to make arrangements.

It's always nice to learn new things or hear about other organizations to see how we may be able to help!

# SAVE THE DATE

*Wednesday, February 6 is our first Texas Hold 'Em fundraiser for 2013. Please help the club with this project by signing up to work a shift!!*

## Spring Shopping Faire



It's that time again when we start planning for our annual Spring Shopping Faire!

We were hoping to have it on Saturday, May 4 which would once again be just prior to Mother's Day and a great time to shop! However.....the sisters at Clare Oaks aren't planning to do their bake sale until June 1, so we have to decide if we want to wait a month to host our event or try to find another location.

There will be a committee meeting for any of the ladies interested in helping plan the event. It will be held on:

*Tuesday, January 29 at 6:30 PM  
The Tampir Home  
45 Whispering Drive, Streamwood*

**YES, Ladies, wine will be served!**



***To all of you who will be Tutoring  
at Hanover Countryside  
Elementary School in 2013!***

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

When a new member joins our organization, Kiwanis International recommends that they go through a new member orientation. The purpose is get them educated, involved and acquainted with Kiwanis International, our club, our division and our district. In addition, the orientation program provides a process to match a new member's interests, skills and time availability with a club project or activity.

Sadly, we haven't been very good about making this happen. In fact, we probably have many long time members who never went through the process either.

So, with that said, our Membership Chair, Cathy Tampir, hopes to organize an orientation sometime early on in the New Year. Perhaps, we'll conduct it at one of our meetings or over the course of a few meetings.

There's a lot to learn about what we do and we want to make sure that everyone feels that their decision to join Kiwanis was the right one!

**Stay tuned!**



# upcoming Events

## *2013 Texas Hold 'Em Dates:*

**Wednesday, February 6**

**Monday, May 13**

**Tuesday, August 13**

**Monday, November 25**

**Spring Vendor Faire**

**Location/Date: TBD**

*Watch for some new  
service projects, Division 8  
activities and much more in the  
2012-2013 Kiwanis Year!*

## Contact Us



**President Sue Begy**

**630-951-7003**

**susandawn117@gmail.com**

**Newsletter Editor Cathy Tampir**

**630-213-3660**

**catampir@comcast.net**

**[www.streamwoodkiwanis.com](http://www.streamwoodkiwanis.com)**



*Our thoughts are prayers are with all the families  
touched by the many senseless tragedies in 2012,  
especially the families of the 20 children killed in  
Newtown, Connecticut.*

## *Kudos to the SPD and SFD!!*

On December 15, representatives from the Streamwood Police and Fire Departments, the Village of Streamwood, etc. took 31 children shopping at the local Target to buy gifts for their family and themselves. Each child was given \$150 to spend. They were later treated to goodies at the Fire Station, a visit with Santa and more surprises!

Thanks to everyone who donated toward this effort, whether it was with a monetary donation or their time.

What a terrific way to share the Christmas spirit - great job, guys!!

## *Volunteer for Relay For Life!*

**DREAM BIG  
HOPE BIG  
RELAY BIG**

Planning has already begun for the 2013 American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Bartlett, Hanover Park and Streamwood, which will take place at Hanover Township on Friday, June 14.

If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, we'd love to have you! You can contact Cathy Tampir at [catampir@comcast.net](mailto:catampir@comcast.net) or come to the next committee meeting at the Township Sr. Center at 6:00 PM on **Monday, January 14.**

In addition, please **SAVE THE DATE** for the annual **Relay Kick-Off** which will be held at the Township Sr. Center on **Friday, February 22** beginning at 6:00 PM. There will plenty of information about Relay, a chili cook-off and more!

## Who's Who in Kiwanis?

I hope you all know the officers and board of the Kiwanis Club of Streamwood this year, but do you know who's who outside our club??

Streamwood is part of Division 8 which is a part of the Illinois-East Iowa District (also called the II District) and of course, a significant part of Kiwanis International.

- **Thomas DeJulio** from the Kiwanis Club of Fordham, Bronx, New York is the Kiwanis International President for 2012-2013.
- The II District Governor is **John Moreland** from the Clinton, IA Kiwanis.
- Our Division 8 Lt. Governor is **Tony Tripp** from the Kiwanis Club of Park Ridge Morning.

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## Key Club Updates

Altho the Key Clubs are just getting back from Christmas break, they spent a good deal of their holidays helping out around the community.

They helped out at our toy drive, sorted and distributed toys at the Township and more. Thanks for all you do!

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## Circle K Holiday Embrace

The I-I District Circle K is hosting their annual fundraiser for Spastic Paralysis on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville. The cost for the Dinner and Dance is \$50.00 per person.

For more information, check out:  
[http://www.iicirclek.org/?page\\_id=686](http://www.iicirclek.org/?page_id=686)

## The Eliminate Project

Kiwanis International's global campaign for children is The Eliminate Project. Kiwanis and UNICEF have joined forces for this project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This deadly disease steals the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year.

To eliminate MNT from the Earth, more than 100 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take US\$110 million – and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.

Over the next five years, the work we do to eliminate MNT will change the world. Together, Kiwanis and UNICEF *will* eliminate MNT and give the poorest families the chance to lead the healthy lives they deserve.

### 2012-2013 Conventions

#### *I-I District Key Club Convention*

*Indian Lakes Resort*

*Bloomington, IL*

*March 1-3, 2013*

#### *Kiwanis Int'l Convention*

*Vancouver, Canada*

*June 27-30, 2013*

#### *I-I District Convention*

*Marriott in Naperville, IL*

*August 8-11, 2013*

## ***I-I District of Kiwanis 2013 Achieving Club Excellence Workshops***

### **Why your club should attend an *Achieving Club Excellence* workshop**

Start changing the world in your own community by improving your own Kiwanis club. Lead the way to a larger, more vibrant club that is providing significant service to children. Help your current and future members connect to the Kiwanis purpose and mission to change the world one child and one community at a time. ***All*** club members are welcome to attend the ACE.

The **Achieving Club Excellence** workshop presents a dynamic seven-step process that clubs can follow to remain viable in today's culture. In this 3-hour workshop, club members learn how to explore new approaches to increase service and apply new strategies for membership growth. Club members will focus on how to enhance the membership experience for all club members and how to develop and maintain a relevant service impact in their community.

Clubs will benefit from attending this workshop by:

- Engaging all club members in the club improvement process,
- Assessing club projects and activities to determine what the clubs needs to keep doing , start doing, and stop doing
- Add value to the individual member's experience in Kiwanis,
- Increase the service impact in the club's community, and
- Create public awareness of the Kiwanis club presence and mission.

Children in your own community and around the world need Kiwanis. There are people in your community who have the desire to help. Following this simple process will bring them together.

You can make the difference! All sessions will be held **9 a.m. – 12 Noon** unless otherwise noted:

### **The most convenient locations for us are:**

#### **Saturday, February 2, 2013**

Des Plaines, IL – Des Plaines Golf Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), 353 N. River Road, 60016

#### **Saturday, February 9, 2013**

St. Charles, IL – PNC Bank, 2600 E. Main Street, 60174

#### **Saturday, March 16, 2013**

Champaign/Urbana, IL - Holiday Inn, 1001 Killarney St, Urbana, 61801 (\*\*1pm-4pm\*\*) at Kiwanis Mid-Year Conference

***You can register for a session at [www.iikiwanis.org](http://www.iikiwanis.org).***

## *Streamwood Chamber News*

Watch the Chamber's website for new and exciting activities coming soon!

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

### *Here's What's New Around Town*

- Big Lots is now open at the former Salvation Army location on Barrington Road in Streamwood.
- Party City is moving from Hanover Park to Schaumburg. It will be next to Lou Malnati's on Barrington Road.
- Tony's Finer Foods will be opening at the former Ultra Foods location in Spring 2013.
- A new family restaurant and lounge is planned for the old JT's location on Barrington Road near Countryside Funeral Home. It will be called the Fireside Ale House.
- The Assembly American Bar & Cafe in Hoffman Estates now offers video gambling!!
- Along those lines, a new video gambling cafe called Stella's, selling only light food, beer and wine is coming to Hoffman Estates, and possibly Bartlett, next year. The Hoffman Estates location will be in the strip mall by Mariano's. The Bartlett location would be on Stearns Road, near Route 59.

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Life is short, so do what makes you happy. Be with those who make you smile. Laugh as much as you breathe, and love as long as you live.

-Rachel Ann Nunes

## *Hanover Township News*

The Hanover Township Assessor's Office is open for property assessment appeals starting from now to January 16th. They are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the main office in Bartlett. On Tuesdays, they're open from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. On Thursdays they are also at the Hanover Township Community Relations Office at One American Way in Elgin from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

In addition, on January 9, the Assessor, along with Supervisor McGuire and Cook County Commissioner Timothy O. Schneider, are hosting a Board of Review Outreach Seminar for residents to attend and appeal their property assessments. Starting at 6:30PM, at the Hanover Township Senior Center, 240 S. IL Route 59 in Bartlett, Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak will be present to answer questions and review appeals.

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### *Some Fun at the SPD*

FAME JR

Presented by the Streamwood Park  
District Theater Academy  
Judson University Performance Hall  
1151 N. State Street, Elgin

Friday, January 11 7:00 PM  
Saturday, January 12 2:00 PM

Tickets \$8 on sale at  
Park Place Front Counter

Children 2 years old and younger are free (child must be on parent's lap; if separate seat, ticket must be purchased)

*Please join....*



**Brian P. McGuire**  
Supervisor

**Thomas S. Smogolski**  
Assessor

**Timothy O. Schneider**  
Cook County Commissioner

# Board of Review Outreach Seminar

**Wednesday, January 9**

**6:30PM**

Hanover Township Senior Center  
240 S. IL Route 59  
Bartlett, Illinois 60103

**With:**

**Dan Patlak**

**Cook County Board of Review Commissioner**

**Staff from the Hanover Township Assessor's Office and the Cook County Board of Review will be present to answer questions and assist residents in filing property assessment appeals.**

**Hanover Township is open for appeals starting December 17, 2012 through January 16, 2013. Residents can file an appeal online at [www.cookcountyboardofreview.com](http://www.cookcountyboardofreview.com) or visit the Township until January 15th for assistance in filing an appeal.**

**Hanover Township Officials**

Supervisor Brian P. McGuire • Clerk Katy Dolan Baumer • Assessor Thomas Smogolski  
Highway Commissioner P. Craig Ochoa • Collector Frank Liquori

Trustees

Mary Alice Benoit • William T. Burke • Sandra Westlund-Deenihan • Howard Krick

**For more information, please call 630-837-0301 or visit [www.hanover-township.org](http://www.hanover-township.org)**

## ***Around the Suburbs***

***Rick Saucedo  
(Elvis impersonator)  
Chicago Loop, Streamwood  
Saturday, January 5  
9:00 PM***

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***New Year Holiday Antique Extravaganza  
DuPage Expo Center, St. Charles  
January 5 & 6  
Sat. - 11 AM-5 PM; Sun. - 9 AM-3 PM  
Admission \$6***

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***Sunset Boulevard  
Drury Lane Oak Brook  
January 24 - March 24  
Tickets: \$35 - \$68***

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***Northwest Home Improvement  
& Remodeling Expo  
Prairie Stone Sports & Wellness Center  
Hoffman Estates  
January 26-27  
Sat 10 AM-6 PM; Sun 10 AM-5 PM***

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***7th Annual Craft & Vendor Fair  
Bartlett Hills Golf Club  
Saturday, February 2  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM***

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***Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance  
Akoo Theatre, Rosemont  
Saturday March 2, 2013  
2:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
Tickets: \$36 - \$72***

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**THURSDAY JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

***Girls  
Night Out***

**LATEST IN:**  
*Jewelry* **Cosmetics**  
*Lingerie* *Handbags*  
**& SO MUCH MORE**  
**WIN Fabulous Raffle Prizes**  
Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres  
& EmCee 5-9pm (CASH BAR)

**FREE ADMISSION FOR EVERYONE**

**CHANDLER'S**  
401 N. ROSELLE RD. • SCHAUMBURG  
(847) 885-9009 • CHANDLERSCHOPHOUSE.COM

*Shop 'til you drop!*

**Chicago  
Auto Show**

**McCormick Place, Chicago  
February 9-18**

**10 AM to 10 PM, except  
February 18: 10 AM to 8 PM**

**Tickets: \$12 for adults**

## ***Crab Cakes with Green Onion Sauce***



### ***Ingredients:***

- *1 egg, lightly beaten*
- *2 teaspoons Dijon mustard*
- *1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce*
- *1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice*
- *Dash hot sauce*
- *1/2 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning*
- *1/2 cup finely chopped red bell pepper*
- *1 scallion, including green top, finely chopped*
- *1 pound lump crab, picked over for cartilage*
- *3/4 cup dry bread crumbs*
- *1/4 teaspoon salt & 1/8 teaspoon pepper*

### ***Directions:***

1. *Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Coat a baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray.*
2. *In a medium bowl mix together the egg, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, Old Bay seasoning and hot sauce. Stir in the bell pepper and scallion. Gently fold in the crab, 1/4 cup of the bread crumbs and salt and pepper to taste. Put the remaining bread crumbs in a shallow dish.*
3. *Divide the crab mixture into 8 mounds. Shape 1 mound into a round and coat in bread crumbs. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet and flatten the crab cake to form a patty about 1-inch high. Repeat to form the remaining crab cakes.*
4. *Bake until golden on the bottom, about 10 minutes. Gently flip the crab cakes and cook until the second side is golden, 5 to 10 minutes longer.*

## ***Green Onion Sauce***



### ***Ingredients:***

- *1/2 cup mayonnaise*
- *3 tablespoons heavy cream*
- *1 hard-cooked egg, minced*
- *Couple drops Tabasco Sauce (or to taste)*
- *1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce*
- *1 teaspoon freshly-squeezed lemon juice*
- *1/8 teaspoon dry mustard*
- *1/2 teaspoon salt*
- *1/8 teaspoon pepper*
- *1/4 jalapeno chili pepper, seeded, deveined, and very finely chopped*
- *1/8 teaspoon sugar*
- *3 tablespoons finely-chopped green onions (green and white parts)*

### ***Directions:***

1. *In a medium bowl, combine mayonnaise, cream, egg, Tabasco sauce, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, dry mustard, salt, pepper, jalapeno chili, sugar, and green onions.*
2. *Cover and refrigerate at least one hour. Serve cold.*

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***A great treat to ring in the New Year!! Enjoy them as an appetizer or a meal, served with a nice chilled white wine like a Chardonnay or Pinot Gris.***

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## *New Year's Resolution: Shape Up Your Finances*



It may not be the most popular New Year's resolution, but it's definitely in the top five. Right up there with losing weight and quitting smoking, each year millions of Americans vow to shape up their finances, whether it's make more money or get out of debt. If this is you, try these five tips to help ensure success.

**Create a budget.** Take a good look at your cash flow to determine how much is coming in and going out. Once you determine how and where you're spending money, you can identify which areas can be trimmed.

**Prioritize debts.** Make a list of your debts and organize them by their annual percentage rate (APR). Instead of making a small dent in each, try pay off the one with the highest APR first (most likely a credit card) while making minimum payments on the others. Once it's paid off, focus on the next highest.

**Save more for retirement.** If you haven't started putting money away for retirement, start now! If your employer offers a retirement plan, take full advantage of it. If you already contribute to retirement, whether through work or an individual retirement account (IRA), consider increasing your contribution (especially if you get a raise—you won't even miss it)!

**Create a rainy day fund.** An emergency supply of cash will come in handy should you lose your job or have unexpected costs arise. As a guide, you should have at least three to six months of your income in the form of cash available for times like these.

**Make a will.** Creating a will establishes what happens with your money, property and children when you die. Don't let someone else make those decisions for you. Take charge!

## *Money Matters for 2013*

With the New Year comes changes that affect our money. Here are a few of the things you may want to know or spend some time researching.....

### *Cook County Sales Tax - Effect. 1-1-13*

Cook County sales tax rate on sale of general merchandise decreases by 0.25%. For e.g. if your sales tax rate is 8.25%; your rate as of 1-1-13 will be 8.00%.

### *Social Security*

There will be several significant changes to Social Security in 2013. The most important one, a 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), will go to 56 million Social Security beneficiaries starting in January.

For more changes, check out [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### *Income Taxes*

For tax year 2012, personal exemptions and standard deductions will rise and tax brackets will widen due to inflation. New dollar amounts affecting 2012 returns, filed by most taxpayers in early 2013, include the following:

- The value of each personal and dependent exemption, available to most taxpayers, is \$3,800, up \$100 from 2011.
- The new standard deduction is \$11,900 for married couples filing jointly, up \$300, \$5,950 for singles & married people filing separately, up \$150, and \$8,700 for heads of household, up \$200.
- Tax-bracket thresholds increase for each filing status.

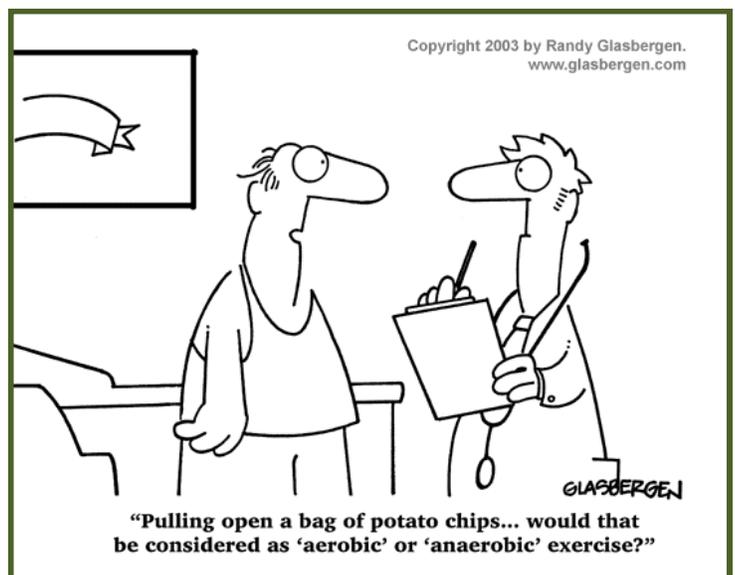
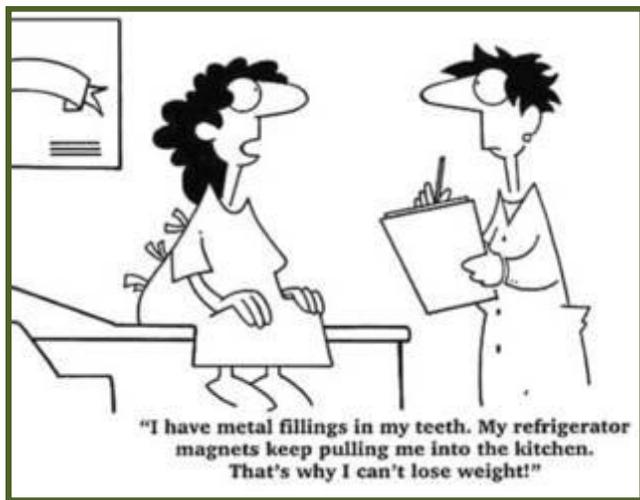
Before you tackle your taxes this year, check out all the changes that may affect your return at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### *USPS - Effect. 1-27-13*

- First-Class letter rate up to one-ounce will increase from \$0.45 to \$0.46.
- Postcards change from \$0.32 to \$0.33.
- Certified Mail increases from \$2.95 to \$3.10.

Check out [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) for all changes.

# On the Lighter Side of the New Year and Dieting



# *Some Interesting New Year Trivia*

New Year's Eve may have passed, but there's always a way to impress your family and friends with this New Year's trivia.

- According to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, more vehicles are stolen on New Year's Day than on any other holiday throughout the year.
- Why should you ring in the New Year with family and friends? It is thought that the first visitors you see after ringing in the New Year would bring you good or bad luck, depending on who you keep as friends and enemies. Keep your friends close and your enemies far, far away!
- The Time Square New Year's Eve Ball came about as a result of a ban on fireworks. The first ball, in 1907, was an illuminated 700-pound iron and wood ball adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs. Today, the round ball designed by Waterford Crystal, weighs 11,875-pounds, is 12 feet in diameter and is bedazzled with 2,668 Waterford crystals.
- Due to wartime restrictions, the New Year's Eve ball was not lowered in 1942 and 1943.
- Throughout the year, visitors to Times Square in New York City write their New Year's wishes on pieces of official Times Square New Year's Eve confetti. At the end of the year, the wishes are collected and added to the one ton of confetti that showers the crowd gathered in Times Square in celebration of the New Year.
- The top three destinations in the United States to ring in the New Year are Las Vegas, Disney World and New York City.
- Food plays a big role in New Year's traditions. Eating black-eyed peas, ham or cabbage are thought to bring prosperity. However, stay away from bad luck foods like lobsters, because they move backwards, and chicken, because they scratch in reverse. It is believed that eating these on New Year's day might cause a reversal of fortune.
- In Colombia, Cuba and Puerto Rico families stuff a life-size male doll called Mr. Old Year with memories of the outgoing year and dress him in old clothes from each family member. At midnight he is set on fire - thus burning away the bad memories of the year.
- According to a survey, 40 to 45 percent of American adults make one or more resolutions each year. The top New Year's resolutions include weight loss, exercise, quitting smoking and better money management. By the second week of January, 25 percent of people have abandoned their resolutions.
- In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year's Day as a symbol of good luck for the upcoming year.



*Kiwanis Club of Streamwood  
P.O. Box 1011  
Streamwood, IL 60107*