



Wonder Works

APRIL 2009 NEWS

A Children's Museum in Oak Park

6445 West North Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

tel: 708.383.4815 fax: 708.383.5730 www.wonder-works.org

Open to the public: Wed to Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm,

Reserved on Mon & Tues for classes, field trips and private parties

Wonder Works is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Nurture Your Child's Interest in Nature

Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 10am to 12pm

Eric Gyllenhaal, PhD, geologist and local nature buff, will exhibit the many ways adults can nurture young children's interest in the natural world, right in their own backyards. Eric will use the concepts of collecting, digging and taking things apart, animal allies, maps and paths, and special places and small worlds, to demonstrate how children can experience their own world more fully. Don't miss the chance to explore with Eric! This experience is included in museum general admission. Check out his website: saltthesandbox.org.

Help Plant Our Organic Garden

Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24

Our organic garden continues to educate children on sustainable and healthy living. During April and May, visit our plants indoors, under the lights, as they grow strong. Then join us as we put our new crop in the ground on May 23 and 24 (weather permitting). Throughout the summer and fall, watch them grow and share in the harvest.

(Monetary donations to support the garden are very welcome. Drop them in the donation bucket at the museum, give us call or send them to us with "garden" on the memo line.)

The Importance of Creative Play

According to the Public Broadcasting Service's Whole Child Program, "Nothing reinforces the creative spirit and nourishes a child's soul more than providing large blocks of time to engage in spontaneous, self-directed play throughout the day. Play is the serious business of young children and the opportunity to play freely is vital to their healthy development." Sending your kids to play can help develop reading skills, exercise concentration and promote creativity and flexibility in thinking. Support creative play at Wonder Works.

The Elements Live In Concert

Saturday, April 18, 4pm

Local rock sensation "The Elements" will perform live at Wonder Works. The Elements are three kids from the hard-scrabble streets of Oak Park who play the essentials of rock n' roll. The Elements feature Ray Bizot on drums, Drake MacMillan on bass, and Nick Alexandroff on guitar and vocals. The Elements may blow you away! Your \$5 museum general admission includes this concert event.

Visit Us At the Oak Park Farmer's Market

Saturday, May 30, 7am to 1pm

Stop by the Wonder Works Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market, located on Lake Street and Elmwood Avenue, in the Pilgrim Church parking lot. We'll have a wide selection of home baked goods including diabetic-friendly, vegan and gluten free offerings.

We also need lots of bakers for the sale!

If you could help us out, please contact David at 708-383-4815 or dhoambrecker@wonder-works.org for more information.

New Birthday Packages at Wonder Works!

Full of fun and exploration, our children's museum is the perfect place for your child's next birthday party. New party packages are available to help parents on any budget celebrate that special day. For more details please visit our web site at www.wonder-works.org/parties/index.html.

Wonder Works Wish List for Donated Items

- Card Board Tubes
- Card Board Egg Cartons
- Paper for Coloring and Easels
- Costumes
- Hand Puppets
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Musical Instruments
- Play Food and Plastic Fruit
- Building Blocks (all kinds)
- Art Supplies (all kinds)
- Packing Peanuts
- Beach Balls
- Kid Picnic Tables
- Rubbermaid Container w/ Lids
- Kid Sized Chairs
- Puzzles and Floor Games
- Plastic/Rubber Cones
- Bulk Copy Paper
- Outdoor Play Equipment

People donating these items can drop them off at Wonder Works. For additional information please call Wonder Works at 708.383.4815 or visit our web site at www.wonder-works.org.

COME JOIN THE FUN

Check out our new membership packages today. Wonder Works is offering more for your family at the same great price. For details please visit www.wonder-works.org/membership/index.html for complete details or call us at 708.383.4815.



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**15% OFF
ALL MEMBERSHIP
PURCHASES**

Coupon expires 05-30-2009.
Limit one coupon per customer per visit.

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JOIN THE FUN ON THE GOLF COURSE

Wednesday, June 17 at 11 am

Traditions at Chevy Chase Golf Course
1001 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL

Times are tough and the weather is cold, so it's a wonderful time to think golf. This annual fundraiser benefits Wonder Works, a Children's Museum in Oak Park, a non-profit committed to imaginative play, interactive learning and healthy communities. Funds raised help bring kids who are otherwise unable, into the museum so they can learn through excellent programming, special guests and creative fun.

- Reserve your foursome by May 7th for a discounted rate of \$800.
- \$225 per person after May 7th, \$850 for foursome.
- Hole sponsorships are just \$350.

To sponsor or play, contact Board President John Harris at 312.706.2529 (jharris@a5inc.com), Lee Leibig (leeleibig@broadcom.com) or Mike Griffin (michael.griffin@wsj.com).

Free Cone Day!

Visit us at Ben & Jerry's on
Tuesday, April 21, noon to 8 pm

On this day every year, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream offers free ice cream cones to the public and collects donations for a local nonprofit. Wonder Works is proud to partner with our local store, 1025 Lake Street in Oak Park, again this year to serve you ice cream. All donations collected will go to Wonder Works.

If you're a real ice cream lover and would like to help scoop for a few hours, contact Liz Bunkers at 708.383.4815 or ebunkers@wonder-works.org.



Thank You to the Oak Park Area Arts Council for
Your Continued Funding of Wonder Works.