



Chase Winter Away

...We know what to do when the skies are grey and cloudy: plan a trip where there is color, color and more color. We invite you to come along with the Friends of the Library to a flower extravaganza. Travel by comfort bus to the 1998 Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier on Saturday, March 14, and enjoy over 30 distinct gardens represented there.

...You will leave the library at 8:30 AM for your trip to Navy Pier and reboard the bus at 4:30 PM for the trip back to Lowell. Fee for the comfort bus is \$12, non-refundable and includes a donation to the Friends of the Library, sponsors of the trip. The bus fee does not include admission to the Flower and Garden Show. For more details stop at the circulation desk.

...Speaking of flowers, Darlene Rigg, who grows all those exotic plants you see on the reference desk was so thrilled with the new addition to the reference collection, *The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, that she bought another copy of the book for herself. She encourages all plant and flower growers to come in and view this book.

...Is it a plant, an alien? Darlene's son Ernest thought her plant selections were a bit too fancy and she needed to jazz up her plant life. During the Christmas holiday he gifted his mother with a member of the Grasstop Family, and that is how this strange little troll-shaped figure came to the library's reference desk. When he first arrived he had a shiny dome top but now he is sprouting a head of grass thick enough for a lawn mower to plow through. Born at the Grasstop General Hospital, he needs a certificate of birth. Children are invited to visit the reference desk and check his daily "grass" growth and fill out his birth certificate. They can choose his name, weight and length at birth, the father's name, mother's name and name of the doctor who brought this funny little creature into the world. Darlene will choose a final name from the entries.

... Have an afternoon out on the town! Enjoy the matinee performance of *Phantom of the Opera* in Chicago! This comfort bus trip, scheduled for Sunday, April 19, is sponsored by the Lowell Parks Department and is just the ticket for an exciting change of pace. Call 696-1570 and ask for Mindy.

...Speaking of a night on the town, what better way to meet new friends than to join the Friends of the Library. And February is the perfect month to get to know the members. Friends will be dining out at Dick's Restaurant & Tap, 10808 Wicker Ave., St. John. They will meet at the library on Wednesday, February 18, to car-pool to the restaurant. Come to the library's circulation desk and pick up a membership application and join the fun.

...Tax help is on the way. Trained volunteers of AARP are now scheduling appointments to offer free tax assistance for senior citizens, handicapped or low income taxpayers. Each individual tax session is 45 minutes. Please bring your records. Beginning February 2, tax assistance will be offered at the Lowell Library each Monday from 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM. Each Friday, beginning February 6, tax assistance will be offered at the library from 9:15 AM to 1 PM. The Schneider Branch will offer tax assistance each Tuesday evening, 4 PM to closing, beginning February 3.



