

The Lions' Tales

WHEATON LIONS
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

Serving the Sight and Hearing Impaired.



Wheaton LIONS Club Den
Established October 23, 1923

Luncheon Meeting Tuesdays at Noon in the Masonic Building, 120 W. Wesley, Wheaton, IL 60187 • August, 2008

"My Lions" Video on WCTV Channel 17: Noon, 4pm, 8pm Tuesdays

www.wheatonlions.org Vol. 10, No. 08

Seeing Our Way

By Dorothy Troyer,
DEICKE EYE CENTER FOR VISUAL REHABILITATION

DOLLARS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST BLIND

A federal appeals court recently ruled that the U.S. discriminates against blind people by printing paper money that makes it impossible for them to distinguish among the bills of varying values. This ruling upheld a decision by a lower court in 2006 and could force the Treasury Department to redesign its money. Suggested changes have ranged from making bills different sizes to printing them with raised markings.

Mitch Pomerantz, president of the American Council for the Blind says, "I don't think we should have to rely on people to tell us what our money is." The U.S. acknowledges the current design of bills hinders blind people, but it argued that blind people have adapted. Some relied on store clerks to help them. Some used credit cards and others folded certain corners to help distinguish between bills.

The court ruled 2-1 that such adaptations were insufficient. The government might as well argue that, since handicapped people can crawl on all fours or ask for help from strangers, there's no need to make buildings wheelchair accessible, the court said.

While the government has been fighting to overturn the lower court ruling, it has been taking some steps toward modifying U.S. currency for the visually impaired. The most recent currency redesign of the \$5 bill introduced in March features a giant "5" printed in purple on one side of the bill to help those with vision problems distinguish the bill.

Continued to Pg. 2 Dollars...

Golf Outing & Steak-Fry Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at Cantigny Golf Club

The Wheaton Lions Charities has been serving the Wheaton Community for over 80 years by providing services and equipment for the visually and hearing impaired. Funding for these services is provided by such activities as our annual August Golf Outing and our October Candy Day. Your support for these fund raising activities is vital to our continued commitment to the visually and hearing impaired. We thank you for your support by attending our Golf Outing this year.



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Upcoming Events...

*NEW: View "My Lions" Video on
WCTV Channel 17:
Noon, 4pm and 8pm Tuesdays.*

- August 20— Golf Outing
- August 19— No Meeting Golf Event
- September 02—No Meeting:
Labor Day week
- September 13— Autumn Fest
Hearing Bus
- October 07— No Meeting:
Candy Days
- October 10-11— Candy Days
- November 25— No Meeting:
Thanksgiving

Birthdays:

- August 03 ----- Karen Lellios
- August 07 ----- Mike Benard
- August 10 ----- Bob Paszczak
- August 28 ----- Tony Ladd
- August 31 ----- Scott Cross
- September 02 ----- Ed Green
- September 13 ----- Finny Rajchel
- September 16 ----- Harold Gaede
- September 18 ----- John Orr
- September 19 ----- Greg McBeth
- September 30 ----- Ed Lambke

Thought for the Day . . .

In three words I can sum up
everything I've learned about life:
it goes on.

—Robert Frost

Membership Directory

To obtain a copy, please contact
Lion Jim Ellingson at 630-665-9471

Please send news for the September issue
by August 28, to Bud Roeser
Fax: 630-668-4599 • Tel: 630-668-3885
email: broeser@hayesadv.com

Speakers Calendar

August 5

Sponsor: Lion Dorothy Troyer
 Speaker: Debbie Oates
 Topic: Teaching Visually Impaired Kids

August 12

Sponsor: Lion Harold Gaede
 Speaker: Ralph Hinkle
 Topic: Train Ride With Terrorists

August 19 No Meeting Golf Event 20th

August 26

Sponsor: Lion Jeff Kincaid
 Speaker: Bob Walgren, Ex. Dir.
 Community Housing Assoc. of DuPage
 Topic: How to get help if you need a house

September 2 No meeting Labor Day

September 09

Sponsor: Lion Bill Guild

September 16

Sponsor: Lion Bob Heager

September 23

Sponsor: Lion Ron Austin

September 30

Sponsor: Lion TBA

October 07 No Meeting Candy Days

November 25 No Meeting, Thanksgiving

December 09

Sponsor: Lion Linda Wallace
 Speaker: High Schools Students
 Topic: Christmas Music

Dollars . . . Continued to page 2

Other countries have added features to aid the blind at a relatively small cost. The U.S. never explained what made its situation so unique that changing the money would be an undue burden.

Hear Here

By Dr. Terri Lightbody, Au.D
 HEARING SPECIALISTS OF DUPAGE
www.thehearingspecialists.com

Cerumen: What is it?

Cerumen. Everyone has it. For most people it is unobtrusive. For others it can interfere with daily living by causing pain, itching, fullness, ringing or buzzing in the ears, and even hearing loss. So what is cerumen anyway? Cerumen is a substance (also known as ear wax) that is secreted by glands in the external ear canal. It can either have a yellow or brown appearance and can be soft and moist or dry and flaky.

Where does it come from?

Cerumen forms in the outer ear canal. The ear canal is a tube that runs from the side of the head inward towards the eardrum. The skin that lines the ear canal has several sets of glands, including the sebaceous glands that secrete an oily, fatty substance- a major product of which is cerumen.

Why do we have it?

Cerumen has many anti-bacterial and antifungal agents that protect the ear canal from infection. Additionally, cerumen also provides lubrication so the ear canal does not become dry and itchy. The combination of hair follicles and wax within the ear canal also works to block sand and dust particles from entering the ear.

Problems that can occur:

Earwax moves out of the ear canal naturally by movement of the jaw during chewing and speaking. When this does not occur, an accumulation of wax can start to build up in the ear canal. Factors that can lead to impaction include:

- Individuals who obsessively try to clean their ears to remove the wax
- A twisted, narrow, or torturous ear canal
- Ears that overproduce cerumen
- Age (elderly are more prone)

Hearing Loss

A build up of cerumen that blocks the ear canal (impacted wax) can cause

hearing loss. Individuals who attempt to clean our their ear canals by using cotton swabs often push cerumen deeper into the ear canal, which can injure the ear canal or even damage the ear drum. Cerumen impaction can also result from placing a hearing aid in the ear canal. The obstruction of acoustic sound entering the ear canal to the eardrum, caused by total blockage of the ear canal, can result in hearing loss. Impacted cerumen is the simplest and easiest treatable form of hearing loss. Hearing is restored to normal when the cerumen is removed by a trained professional- either an Audiologist or ENT doctor.

How is cerumen impaction diagnosed?

Your doctor will ask about your symptoms and medical history. You doctor will also look into your ear with a special flashlight called an otoscope to look for impacted earwax.

Treatment

Treatment involves removal of the earwax from the ear canal. Treatment options include removal of cerumen using either a curette (a small instrument shaped like a scoop) or a suction. Other techniques involve squirting water into the ear canal to flush out the earwax or by using a liquid-like solution (a ceruminolytic agent) which is dropped into the ear to soften the earwax and help ease removal. Your hearing healthcare provider can determine which method is best for you.

You may need to have your ears cleaned out on a regular basis if you overproduce cerumen. You can set up a schedule with your hearing healthcare provider as to when you should get the wax removed- typically this is every 6 to 12 months.

To avoid cerumen impaction:

- Do not clean your ears with anything other than a soapy washcloth on the outer rim of your ear.
- Do not use cotton-tipped swabs or Bobbie pins to clean inside your ear
- If you are concerned about earwax, see your doctor. Do not attempt to remove the earwax by yourself.

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