

# 'Golden' Lambs Farm celebrates the '60s

BY JENNIFER BURKLOW

Kid Zone

Lambs Farm, a leader in vocational training for the developmentally disabled, had its start in the 1960s. So it's only fitting that the north suburban landmark celebrates 50 years of service with "Celebrating the '60s: Peace, Love & Lambs!" from 2 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 20.

Founded in 1961 as a pet shop on State Street, Lambs Farm expanded and moved to its current Libertyville location just off of Interstate 94 in 1965 thanks to the donation of 70 acres of farmland by W. Clement Stone.

Where the pet shop once employed 12 developmentally disabled people, the farm now provides residential, vocational and social support services to more than 250 participants. The property houses not only businesses that employ and train developmentally disabled adults, it also is home to 11 group residences in which many participants live.

"The reason that we picked the '60s is because obviously Lambs Farm was actually founded in the early '60s," said Dianne Yaconetti, Lambs Farm CEO. "But also the '60s ... was a very tumultuous decade ... it's so indicative of what was going on in the world of people with developmental disabilities at the same time. Lambs Farm was really the stepping stone for all of the progress for this population of people over the last 50 years, so it seemed only logical that that

## 'CELEBRATING THE '60S: PEACE, LOVE AND LAMBS!'

◆ 2-9:30 p.m. Aug. 20

◆ Lambs Farm, Illinois 176 and I-294, Libertyville

◆ Admission, \$10 for those 13+over

◆ (847) 362-4636; [lambsfarm.org](http://lambsfarm.org)

would be what we would be celebrating at the same time."

"It's going to be a fantastic day," added Jackie Rachev, communications coordinator. "It's full of activities for children and adults."

Among the activities: temporary tattoos, fishing, trivia boards, dance contests, horseshoes and music all day.

Entertainment gets off to a rousing start with the Trinity Irish Dancers at 2 p.m. Elvis impersonator Travis Morris takes the stage at 2:45 p.m. followed by the '60s music of Mike Flood & Co. at 3:45 p.m. Mystic Soul performs at 4:45 p.m. and Beatles tribute band American English provides the grand finale at 7 p.m.

Throughout the day, North Shore author Lise Dominique and Harvey the Wonder Dog will do readings about Harvey's adventures, and Ben the Bubble Guy will make bubbles as big as a car. Along with an inflatable, kids can enjoy the Lambs' standbys: the farmyard, the carousel, miniature golf, the miniature train and the pet shop, of course.

Yaconetti hopes "Peace,

Love and Lambs!" will open visitors' eyes to the breadth of Lambs' mission: "Empowering people with developmental disabilities to lead personally fulfilling lives."

"One of the things that we struggled with over the years is that Lambs Farm has tremendous name recognition ... but people don't really totally understand what our mission is," she said. "By having this event, we're hoping to expand the knowledge of people of what we actually do here."

## KIDDING AROUND

◆ **The Genius Spark of Nikola Tesla** continues at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand, through Aug. 28. The free exhibit showcases 11 inventions — on loan from the Tesla Museum in Belgrade — created by the Serbian-American engineer for whom the all-electric Tesla vehicle (also on display at the southeast end of Dock Street) is named. For more information, call (312) 595-7437 or visit [teslaexhibitichicago.com](http://teslaexhibitichicago.com).

◆ **Did You Know They're Native?** spotlights famous Native Americans and their achievements through Jan. 8, 2012, at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central in Evanston. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children younger than 12 and \$10 maximum for families. The kids' craft workshop this weekend is woven blankets (11 a.m. Aug. 20, 12:30 p.m. Aug. 21). Call (847) 475-1030 or visit [mitchellmuseum.org](http://mitchellmuseum.org).

*Jennifer Burklow is a local free-lance writer.*