

# Hoffman Estates

# Press Release

## Hispanic Heritage Day in Hoffman Estates

The Hoffman Estates Cultural Awareness Commission is proud to present Hispanic Heritage Day on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The celebration will take place in rooms 105 and 106 at the Hoffman Estates Park District Community Center & Ice Arena located at 1685 W. Higgins Road.

Hispanic Heritage Day brings together diverse members of the community to celebrate the culture, customs and traditions of our Hispanic and Latino neighbors.

Mr. Pepe Vargas, founder and executive director of the International Latino Cultural Center, will be the featured speaker. In 1985, with a budget of \$10,000, an audience of 500 and 14 films projected on a wall, the Chicago Latino Film Festival was born. Under Vargas' direction, the event evolved into the largest Latino film festival in the United States, and Chicago's biggest Latino cultural event.

Vargas grew up in a small town in Colombia. In 1976, he received his degree in Law and Social Science from the National University of Buenos Aires. In 1980, Vargas arrived in Chicago with only \$200 in his pocket, and without speaking English. He studied at Columbia College Chicago, and earned a degree in Broadcast Journalism and Television/Film production in 1985.

Vargas has received many awards and citations for his dedication to the arts. Most recently, he was profiled by the Chicago Tribune as one "Chicagoan of the Year" in 2003. In 2004, he received an Honorary Doctor Degree in Fine Arts from Lake Forest College. He was one of the two winners of the Chicago Community Trust 2006/7 Fellowship for Community Leaders.

Come out and listen to Pepe Vargas as he fosters the understanding of Latino culture through the universal language of art. There will also be live entertainment, refreshments, a "Guess the Name of the Country" game and Children's activities, including the traditional "Breaking the Piñata" contest.

Please RSVP by Oct. 5 to 847-781-2606.

### For additional information:

Village of Hoffman Estates, Sue Lessen, Boards and Commissions Assistant  
847-781-2606

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