



*We serve our community
with good news!*

Village View



B-MAC EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 1 | January 2, 2024

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Allen Epley Live at the Henry Klein House in Blue Island, Illinois

January 13 at 7 p.m. at the Henry Klein House 12950 Greenwood Ave, Blue Island.

Allen Epley (The Life and Times, Shiner, Birdhands) performs live in the historic Henry Klein House while

it's still decked out for the holidays. Your \$25 ticket gets you entry to the event, drinks, and hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://blue-island-historical-society.square.site/>.

Midlothian Public Library announces new Swan Libraries + App

With the unexpected discontinuation of the SWAN Libraries app in early December came the unexpected opportunity to launch the new SWAN Libraries+ app. This app offers nearly all the features of the previous app and provides a new, more consistent experience with what you see when you use the library catalog on your web browser. To get started, download it from wherever you get your apps!

Calumet Township presents Holiday Lights Recycling program

In partnership with State Representative Robert "Bob" Rita and Blue Island Park District, drop off your old holiday lights now through Thursday, February 1st.

The drop-off locations are: Calumet Township office 2353 York St., Blue Island, IL 60406; Memorial Park 12804 Highland Ave, Blue Island, IL 60406 and Calumet Township Community Center 12633 Ashland Ave., Calumet Park, IL 60827.

For the safety of our teams please remove broken bulbs prior to recycling.

Blue Island Forestry Board presents Community Parkway Pruning Days

Friday, January 19 from Noon until 3 pm meet at the Rock Island Public House parking Lot 13328 Olde Western Ave., Blue Island. Structural pruning trees planted 5 years ago (hackberry, hybrid elms, oaks). Register now at <https://cerv.is/0254x1887>.

Friday, February 16 from noon until 3 pm meet at Memorial Park 12804 Highland Ave., Blue Island. Structural pruning trees planted 5 years ago (hackberry, hybrid elms, oaks). Register now at <https://cerv.is/0254x1888>.

Learn more at BlueIsland.org.

The Lyric Blue Island upcoming events for January

An Evening with John Vincent Fri. 1/5, Doors at 6:30 p.m., Show at 7:30 p.m.

After an unforgettable performance in July, South Side native and national performer John Vincent returns to Blue Island for our first live show of 2024. His unique covers of Sinatra, Louie Armstrong, Johnny Cash and more, along with stories of his journey, will inspire and captivate you.

The Midnight Sun Band: Prince vs. Michael Jackson, Fri. 1/12, Doors at 6:30 p.m., Show at 7:30 p.m.

Let the party begin in this versus matchup of a lifetime between "The King of Pop" and "The Purple One." Deep cut masters of elite funk and soul, Midnight Sun, will have you dancing the night away. The 10-piece ensemble will play all the hits with impeccable harmony from two legendary artists.

Comedy Show with Mike

Toomey Sat. 1/13, Doors open 7 p.m., Show 8 p.m.

After a sold out show in 2023, Mike Toomey brings his sharp delivery, quick wit and unique style back to Blue Island. A regular contributor on The WGN Morning News in Chicago, Mike has performed on HBO, MTV, The Arts and Entertainment Network. Opening act is comedian Bill Bunker.

Small Town: A Tribute to John Mellencamp, Fri. 1/19, Doors at 6:30 p.m., Show at 7:30 p.m.

The seven-piece band from the Hoosier state returns to Blue Island to bring the iconic musical catalog of John Mellencamp to life. You'll be dancing to the sounds of "Hurts So Good," "Pink Houses," "Cherry Bomb," "Small Town," "R.O.C.K. in the USA," "Lonely Ol' Night," and many more.

Country Artist Allie Colleen, Fri. 1/26, Doors

open 7 p.m., Show 8 p.m.

Allie Colleen's music style is truly her own. Her strong voice with hints of timeless tradition falls between classic country and the emerging country sound. Allie can captivate the crowd when she sings about the layers of love and heartbreak that have shaped her. But she can also rock it out.

Brooklyn Charmers: A Steely Dan Tribute, Sat. 1/27, Doors open 6:30 p.m., Show 7:30 p.m.

The Brooklyn Charmers are comprised of some of Chicago's top players. With masterful precision and obsessive dedication to the music, Brooklyn Charmers injects a new energy into the beloved Steely Dan catalogue that blends rock and jazz along with infectious hooks and poignant lyrics.

The Lyric Blue Island is at 12952 Western Ave, Blue Island, 708-972-0700.

Blue Island Historical Society volunteers needed!

We have big plans for 2024 and beyond, but we need help to put them into action. These initiatives include:

Regular open hours at the Albee House. As of right now, plans are to be open on Friday and Saturday each week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Neighborhood walking

tours. We're looking for docents who'd be willing to volunteer for one weekend date each month, June thru October.

Scanning photos for an Images of America book we plan to publish soon.

Helping to organize our collection and prepare the second floor of the Albee

House for an archiving and cataloging project.

Volunteering for our House Walk on September 21.

If any of this sounds fun to you and you think you can help, let us know! You can reach us by email at info@bihistoricalsociety.org, or by calling 708-371-8546.

Registration now open for spring semester classes at Moraine Valley

Moraine Valley Community College is offering an assortment of courses and formats for the spring 2024 semester. Aside from in-person classes, other formats include online and hybrid, which is a combination of online and face-to-face instruction. Classes start Jan. 16 and later.

Moraine Valley offers more than 130 degree and certificate programs. Students interested in transferring to four-year colleges or universities can earn associate degrees in Arts, Fine Arts, General Studies, Engineering Science, Applied Science or Science. Students also can choose from several career certificate programs, including Allied Health

and Nursing, Business and Computer Sciences, Industrial Technology and Public Service. The college offers noncredit programs and courses as well.

Moraine Valley also offers several classes at its two extension sites, the Education Center at Blue Island (12940 S. Western Ave.), where students can complete the Nursing Program in the health care classrooms and labs on-site, and the Southwest Education Center in Tinley Park (17900 S. 94th Ave.), which features the college's legal library for the Paralegal Program.

Tuition at Moraine Valley costs \$471 per three-credit-hour course compared to more than \$1,475 per

class for private colleges or universities, ultimately saving students thousands of dollars each year.

A complete list of credit and noncredit classes can be found in the spring 2024 class schedule online at morainevalley.edu. Registration is ongoing. Tuition is \$137 per credit hour plus fees and books. New students must complete an admission application at morainevalley.edu/apply, and can register in the Registration Office, located in the Student Services Center (Building S), 9000 W. College Parkway in Palos Hills; by phone at (708) 974-2110 (TTY 711), email registration@morainevalley.edu or online.



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Village View



FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 1 | January 2, 2024

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Tinley Park Village Board passes intercity bus ordinance

The Tinley Park Village Board recently adopted an ordinance giving police the authority to cite, impound or take other appropriate measures against any intercity bus driver that attempts to make an unscheduled stop in Tinley Park and unload passengers.

“Unscheduled bus stops

without a coordinated plan, especially in inclement weather, endangers the safety and welfare of passengers,” Mayor Michael Glotz said. “This ordinance holds non-compliant bus operators accountable and eases the burden on Village resources that results from these kinds of unplanned stops.”

The ordinance ratifies two Executive Orders signed by Mayor Glotz and Village Clerk Nancy O’Connor.

The Village Board also passed an ordinance that clarifies penalties for any person, firm or corporation that violates the maximum stay length for hotels and motels.

Treasurer Pappas posts property tax bills online and gives taxpayers preview

Cook County property owners have no need to wait for their next property tax bills to arrive in the mail to find out how much they will owe by the March 1 due date, Treasurer Maria Pappas said.

Taxpayers can visit cookcountytreasurer.com to view, download and prepay their First Installment 2023 property tax bills.

Property tax bills are divided into two annual installments. The First Installment, which is 55 percent of the previous year’s total tax, is due March

1, 2024. By providing an early look at the bills, property owners can plan their finances or make payments before the end of the year.

“A lot of bills come due after the holidays,” Pappas said. “By posting First Installment bills online months before they are due or even mailed, we strive to help people manage their household budgets and plan accordingly.”

The Treasurer’s Office expects to mail First Installment 2023 bills to owners of about 1.7 million properties around Feb. 1.

Visiting cookcountytreasurer.com and follow these steps to download your tax bill and make a payment:

Select the blue box labeled “Pay Online for Free”.

Enter your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN).

There is no fee if you pay from your bank account. The Treasurer’s Office accepts partial payments but First Installment taxes must be paid by March 1 to avoid a late charge of .75 percent per month, as mandated by Illinois law.

Southwest Job Fair to be held at Orland Park Civic Center on January 11, 2024

The Southwest Job Fair will be a one-day event held at The Orland Park Civic Center at 14750 S. Ravinia Ave. in Orland Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (11 a.m. for military veterans and 11:30 p.m. start for the general public.) With the goal of connecting talented individuals with local businesses, the fair will feature a wide range of industries, including healthcare, public safety, technology, retail, hospitality, and more.

“The event is a collaborative effort aimed at bridging the gap between job seekers and employers, fostering economic growth and opportunities within the Southwest suburban region,” said Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau.

Job seekers of all experience levels and backgrounds are encouraged to attend.

Military veterans are extended a special invitation to the event. “We recognize the unique skills, dedication, and leadership that veterans bring to the workforce,” said Pekau. “We will reserve the

first half-hour of the event specifically for military veterans to ensure they have early access to resources and opportunities.”

The first 100 job seekers will receive a \$10 e-gift card. All attendees will be entered into a drawing for twenty, \$20 gas cards, 30 backpacks and four laptops. Professional headshots for digital download will be available free of charge for all job seekers.

“We are thrilled to co-host the Southwest Job Fair, bringing together job seekers and employers in our vibrant communities,” said Tinley Park Mayor Michael Glotz. “This event will serve as a platform for individuals to explore career opportunities, network with industry professionals, and gain valuable insights into the job market.”

The Southwest Job Fair will provide job seekers with the opportunity to meet face-to-face with hiring managers and company representatives from prominent local businesses. Attendees will

have the chance to submit resumes, engage in on-the-spot interviews, and learn about available positions and career paths within various industries.

“We recognize the importance of supporting our local workforce and fostering economic development in the Southwest suburban region,” said Orland Township Supervisor Paul O’Grady. “By co-hosting the Southwest Job Fair, we aim to connect job seekers with employers, creating a win-win situation that benefits both individuals and businesses.”

“The Southwest Job Fair represents a collaborative effort to address the needs of our community and support local businesses,” said Cook County Commissioner Sean Morrison. “We are excited to bring together employers and job seekers, fostering economic growth and creating opportunities for individuals to thrive in their careers.”

For more information go to <https://swjobfair.com/about-2>.

Debra Melchert honored for volunteerism from Village of Tinley Park

When Debra Melchert recently retired as a volunteer for the Village of Tinley Park, she had amassed an impressive 30 years of service to the community.

“Volunteering helps fill the time when I’m not busy with my other passions, which include taking care of the family, cooking and baking,” she said.

Debra, who is known to friends and family as Deb, was honored at the recent Village Board meeting for her decades of dedicated service. Friends and family were in attendance as Mayor Michael Glotz read a proclamation recognizing Deb for her work with the Village and congratulating her on her retirement.

It was all a fitting end to Deb’s years of volunteerism, which began after a friend asked if she would help out at Darefest in 1993. She did such a good job at the event that she was asked to join the D.A.R.E. Committee shortly thereafter.

It wasn’t long before Reta Brudd, the former chairperson of the Human Resources Commission (later renamed the Community Resources Commission, or CRC), asked if Deb would be interested in joining. Deb said she was, beginning a long and storied history of service to the community that has spanned decades.

Through her work with the CRC and later the Marketing Commission, which absorbed members of the former in 2019, Deb has been a very active volunteer who has helped out at numerous Village events throughout the years, including Holiday Happenings, the Irish Parade, the Downtown Tinley Boo Bash and the Tinley Park Block Party, just to name a few.

“I love seeing people being happy and enjoying themselves,” Deb said. “It’s also great to get through a two- or three-day event and hear all the compliments from the residents, knowing a good chunk of the successful event was

pulled off by a small army of volunteers. As the old adage says, ‘tis better to give than receive.’ It was a blessing to be a part of that army.”

Deb was born and raised in the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago. She married Robert Melchert in 1979, and together they raised two sons, Bob and Dan. The family moved to Tinley Park in 1986 and quickly grew to love the neighborhood and community.

Deb has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 16 years and the Patriot Guard Riders for more than 20 years and is a founding member of Post 615 Legion Riders.

“The Village is eternally grateful for Deb’s years of dedicated volunteerism to the Village,” Marketing Director Donna Framke said.

Please join the Village in wishing Deb a very happy retirement!



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Village View



SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 25 | Number 1 | January 2, 2024

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Chicago Kids Company Theater presents *Beauty and the Beast*

Don't miss Chicago Kids Company's newest show! Full of comedy, romance, and plenty of audience participation! This one-hour musical adaptation will be geared for children ages 2 through 10. Come and find out if true love can turn the Beast into a handsome prince!

January 19th through April 27th at the Beverly Arts Center 2407 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois. Weekdays at 10:30 am, weekends and holidays at 11 am.

Single Tickets: \$18.00 to

\$22.00 each. Lap children under 2 years old are free. Groups of 20 or more: \$10.00 each.

Call our box office at 773-205-9600. More info at www.ChicagoKidsCompany.com or email info@chicagokidscompany.com. School groups, birthday parties and other group kids' activities are encouraged to attend.

Founded in 1992 as a non-profit theatre company, Chicago Kids Company has produced 53 original musicals based on fairy tales and performs



Bella loves to read and spend her time in town with her fellow villagers! Photo by Paige Coffman.

for over 75,000 people each year. The productions feature professional actors, up-to-date references, sing-along songs, brightly colored costumes, and sets, and are geared for children ages 2 through 10 and their families.

Palos 118 Board of Education Votes to Add Referendum to March Ballot

At its recent meeting, the Palos School District 118 board of education unanimously voted on a resolution to add a referendum question to the March 19, 2024 ballot.

Voters will be asked to approve a shift of \$4.35 million in funds currently being collected for the District's debt service fund to its operating fund in order to address growing budget shortfalls.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Anthony Scarsella, said that the school district is not asking for more money from taxpayers and that voting "yes" for the referendum will not increase or decrease property taxes. The proposed increase in the operating tax rate will be offset by a corresponding decrease in the debt service tax rate. The district will be debt free in 2024.

"By going to voters in

March, we saw an opportunity to address our growing budget shortfalls without creating an additional financial burden for our residents," he said, noting that voters last approved a change in the operating rate for the schools over 60 years ago.

Scarsella said "The calvary is not coming to help with these unfunded mandates," he said noting that the district receives very little from state and federal funding sources. Despite the state's recent increases in investment to K to 12 education, the school district only received an additional \$34,000 this past year.

"That \$34,000 in additional state funding is nowhere near adequate to cover the growing unfunded portion of state and federal mandates," he said, noting that "The unfunded portion of our two largest mandates has grown from approxi-

mately \$2.4 million in 2012 to \$6 million in 2023."

If approved, the measure will move \$4.35 million from the district's debt service fund to its operating fund with about \$2 million going toward annual upkeep of its three school buildings, another \$2 million to eliminate operating deficits and avoid cuts, and another \$350,000 earmarked for implementation of full day Kindergarten starting in the 2024-25 school year, 3 years before a recent mandate from the state requires all Illinois school districts to provide full day kindergarten starting in 2027.

The District will host a virtual community forum on January 11, and in-person forums on February 6 and February 8. More information and details about the referendum can be found on its website www.palos118.org/referendum.

Greer Foundation funds STEM students

Seventeen students are poised for STEM success as part of an inaugural cohort of Greer Scholars at Moraine Valley Community College.

Moraine Valley is the first Chicago area community college grantee of the Greer Foundation, which supports organizations that are committed to helping people improve their lives. With the Greer Scholars Program, the Greer Foundation's goal is to help diversify STEM careers by funding and supporting students who are underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"For our students, one of the biggest barriers to completing their college degree is the cost," said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Moraine Valley Foundation. "The Greer Foundation has stepped in to remove that barrier and provide our Greer Scholars with wrap-around support services to help them navigate higher

education and graduate with advanced degrees in STEM-related disciplines."

Lisa Sanchez, the Greer Foundation's chief financial officer, said Moraine Valley's students are joining 1,800 Greer scholars. Sanchez visited the college recently and offered encouragement to the scholars.

"We think it's so important for you to continue your education," she said. "We're so glad you're here, and we're so glad to sponsor you. Moraine Valley has awesome support services to help you be successful, but ask yourself, 'Am I doing everything I can do to be successful?' While others can provide support, but only you can do the work."

Dr. Paula DeAnda-Shah, professor of math and STEM Center coordinator at Moraine Valley, is leading the scholars along with Student Success specialist Elizabeth Barrera. DeAnda-Shah and Barrera regularly meet with the scholars for

check-ins, goal setting and progress tracking. Scholars also attend professional development events and STEM experiences, such as a field trip to the University of Illinois Chicago's Innovation Center, an exploratory hike at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center and a visit to the college's cadaver lab.

"Our hope is to expose these students to a lot of different experiences and help them find a path they feel good about," DeAnda-Shah said. "Moraine Valley is an excellent choice for anyone who wants to start here. Students will be on par with anyone at four-year schools when they transfer."

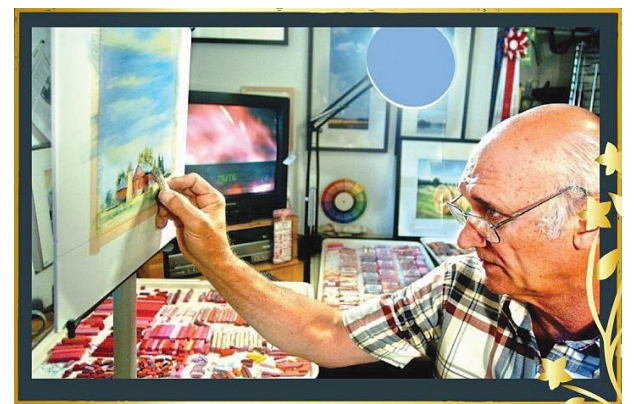
Student Janice Gbedo, who plans to become a pharmacist, said she's thankful for the Greer Foundation scholarship and the support from DeAnda-Shah and Barrera.

For more information about STEM opportunities, including the Greer Scholars program, visit morainevalley.edu/stem.

Remembering Gary Wick

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gary Wick. Gary was an instructor at McCord for eight years teaching pastel painting and retiring in 2018. But a following of his former students, and others who were happy to learn from his insight, would meet with him at McCord on Friday afternoons in our Open Studio class. They would happily engage his thoughts on their works, and the world at large, up until a few months ago when he took ill.

Gary and his wife Alice traveled the world together. He photographed the sites



Gary Wick. Courtesy McCord Gallery and Cultural Center.

that captured his interest, and then he would come home to paint them. He was meticulous in archiving all his artwork over the years, tracking who purchased his paintings and when. A self-taught artist, he created over 1,200 paintings, mostly landscapes, over a career that continued over 25 years, and

acquiring some 150 awards. Gary was a distinguished member of the Chicago Pastel Painters, La Grange Art League, Elmhurst Artist Guild and Naperville Art League.

Most treasured of all, he was a member of the McCord family, and he will truly be missed by all of us here.



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Village View

**Celebrating
Our 50th Year!**

SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 50 | Number 13 | January 2, 2024

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

OSF Little Company of Mary Crystal Heart Ball to raise funds for EP lab

The OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center Crystal Heart Ball will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at a new location, the Museum of Science & Industry, 5700 South DuSable Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

The theme for the black-tie event is Rhythm of the Night. The evening begins with cocktails at 6:30 pm, followed by dinner, a program emceed by Patrick Elwood and Dina Bair from WGN-TV, and dancing to music provided by Maggie Speaks Talk of the Town Big Band.

This will be the 32nd anniversary of the Crystal Heart Ball with proceeds going to the new Electrophysiology (EP) lab at OSF Little Company of Mary. In a dedicated EP lab, providers can utilize precision equipment to diagnose heart rhythm

issues and provide critical, lifesaving treatment. The EP lab at OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center will provide state-of-the-art cardiology treatment for patients.

Each year, the Crystal Heart Ball also showcases individuals and organizations for their outstanding accomplishments and service. The Venerable Mary Potter Humanitarian Award honors those whose personal and professional accomplishments embody the ideas, vision, and mission of Venerable Mary Potter, who founded the Little Company of Mary Sisters in 1877.

The honoree for this year is Pat Mac's Pack. Patrick Thomas McNamara died at 13 from a pediatric brain tumor disease known as ependymoma. Patrick was the child of Thomas and Deidre McNamara, who



Amber Circle Studio. Adobe AI Stock Art.

established Pat Mac's Pack in his memory. The charitable organization raises funds for pediatric brain tumor research including drug research and development, and the advancement of novel surgical procedures used to treat pediatric brain tumors. The organization also provides funds to assist young cancer patients and their families.

Chairpersons for the 2024 Crystal Heart Ball are Dr. Chadi Nouneh and Yvonne Nouneh, and Marci Schneider Batsakis.

For more information on OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center, visit <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/little-company-of-mary/>.

Sheriff Dart, Illinois Secretary of State Giannoulas partner to provide State ID Cards

Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart and Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced recently a partnership to provide State Identification Cards for individuals leaving Cook County Jail.

Government issued IDs are critical for enrolling in educational programs, onboarding for jobs as well as obtaining housing and government benefits. Individuals in custody may have lost their ID cards or they may have expired while in custody, and they may face challenges in attempting to renew them after returning to the community.

"We know that people who have a safe place to live, are receiving services they need, and are employed are less likely to reoffend," Sheriff Dart said. "Having a government-issued ID is the first step to obtaining those things. So, this initiative not only helps people with their individual needs but also helps public safety."

The program is initially working with individuals who either have previously applied for a State ID card or driver's license, or have access to documents, such as birth certificates and social security cards, to apply for the first time.

"Providing individuals who have completed their sentences with essential resources and tools upon their release increases their chances to successfully re-enter society, become self-sufficient and rebuild their lives," Secretary Giannoulas said. "A valid state ID will help them with basic needs like locating housing, securing a job, opening a bank account, enrolling in assistance programs, and attaining reliable transportation. Fulfilling these basic needs reduces recidivism, saves taxpayer money, and makes our communities stronger."

The collected information will be sent electronically via a secure transfer to the Secretary of State's Office. After the Secretary of State's Office staff determines applicants have met the requirements for an ID card, they will be mailed to their residences.

Mercy Circle residents, Mother McAuley students spread Christmas cheer

Mercy Circle residents and members of the Science National Honors Society Club at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School created prayer ornaments with heartfelt message on ornaments they decorated and wrapped families who benefit from Pat's Pantry.



Left to Right: Juliana Weiss, Grace McLaughlin, Gabrielle Goyer and Marianne Scott join Mercy Circle resident, Sr. Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM, to present the gifts they created for families served by Pat's Pantry to Kathy Cavallone-Turney. Photo by Marc Monaghan.

Students at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School meet on the third Thursday of every month with their neighbors, residents of Mercy Circle, to complete a project as part of MACs with Mercy. This intergenerational program builds connections, starts new friendships, and supports the community. This year MACs with Mercy is donating all of its projects to Pat's Pantry.

Pat's Pantry was established in 2021 by Kathy Cavallone-Turney to honor the memory of her son, Patrick Turney, who died in September 2019 at age 23. Because her son was passionate about his friends and neighbors in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood and beyond, Cavallone-Turney and her volunteers now provide groceries each week to close to three dozen families at the Mt. Greenwood Community Church.

Options Counseling offered to Stickney Township Residents

Older and disabled adults and their family members and friends who support them are often not aware of all the services and supports that are available. Options counseling focuses on exploring these long-term support options to help older and disabled adults and their families make the best choices for themselves.

Long term support options may include figuring out how to remain in the adults or a family

member's home, learning about community options for support, or exploring placement options.

An options counselor can help you develop your own personal long-term care plan and connect you to options and supports that help you remain in the community. Stickney Township Office on Aging's Options Counselor is trained to work with you, and/or family members to connect you to vital resources and services that

fit your current situation.

Who do we serve? Seniors aged 60 and over, persons with disabilities and family members and caregivers.

Examples of Service: Information about long-term services; Assistance with referrals; Follow up and planning next steps and counseling when you need it.

Please call 708-636-8850 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Learn more at www.townshipofstickney.org.

Village of Oak Lawn Board Continues to Address Migrant Crisis

The Oak Lawn Village Board will consider additional measures to address the migrant crisis at their next Board Meeting on January 9th. These measures will be in addition to a previous vote at their December 12th meeting that amended the Village's hotel/motel occupancy ordinance in response to the growing concern over migrants occupying these facilities for extended stays.

"Oak Lawn is a wonderfully diverse and welcoming Village, but like our neighboring communities, we do not have the resources to handle hundreds and thousands of undocumented

migrants," said Oak Lawn Mayor Terry Vorderer about the Village's plans. "This is a problem our federal government caused, and they need to fix it."

Specifically, on January 9th the Village will be considering measures to establish common-carrier regulations requiring a Village of Oak Lawn license to operate a bus within the Village and prohibiting unscheduled bus stops and passenger drop-offs. Such measures will ensure that the Village has prior notice of the intent of a carrier to make a stop within the Village and drop off passengers, enabling the Village to

adequately address potential public health and safety issues.

"America is a nation of immigrants, but also a nation whose borders need to be respected," said Oak Lawn 6th District Trustee Ralph Soch when asked about the board's intentions. "We have an immigration process, and people need to follow that process."

Contact Info: Oak Lawn Mayor Terry Vorderer, 708-499-7744, tvorderer@oaklawn-il.gov; 6th District Trustee Ralph Soch, 708-346-7006; rsoch@oaklawn-il.gov and Oak Lawn Village Manager Tom Phelan, 708-499-7743; tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov.

From the Desk of the MWRD President

As a chemist and environmentalist, the ability to work on behalf of all Cook County residents to resolve flooding issues, achieve clean water and develop and maintain a green environment is an honor and a privilege.

Our mission at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD or "The District") is to protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan), improve the quality of

water in watercourses in its service area, protect businesses and homes from flood damages, and manage water as a vital resource for its service area. The District's service area is 883.5 square miles of Cook County, Illinois. The District is committed to achieving the highest standards of excellence in fulfilling its mission.

Our water environment should be taken personally! The goal of the STEELE Water Weekly is to provide relevant content that shares MWRD Board Room

updates, water tips, facts, and definitions, MWRD employment and internship opportunities and community news.

If you have questions about our services, contact my office at 312-751-5694, visit our website at MWRD.org or send me an email at kari.steele@mwrdd.org.

Thank you for the new opportunity to stay connected! Wishing you Peace, Love and Clean Water.

Kari K. Steele, President, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.



Estate Planning: The Importance to You and Your Loved Ones

Only one-third of all adults in the United States, reported in a 2021 Caring.com Wills & Estate Planning study, have any estate planning documents such as a will or trust, despite the fact that approximately two-thirds of the respondents viewed such documents as somewhat or very important. Many respondents attributed their lack of estate planning to procrastination, but many others indi-

cated a mistaken belief that estate planning is not necessary because they do not have many assets.

An estate plan is actually appropriate for just about anyone and can provide significant peace of mind by ensuring that your money and property are protected, plans are in place in the event you become ill, and your accounts and property pass down according to your wishes.

Key elements of an estate plan:

- A last will and testament and a trust
- A financial power of attorney & A medical power of attorney
- Advance directive

The close of one year and the start of another is a great opportunity, not only to take steps to make sure your own estate plan is in place, but also to talk to your loved ones, especially elderly parents, about creating an estate plan. Estate planning is often a

difficult topic to broach so, here are a few tips to help you start the conversation.

- Be sensitive to your loved ones' feelings.
- Involve others in the conversation.
- Consult an estate planning attorney.

An estate plan is the very best gift you can give yourself and your loved ones, and a great way to start the year off!

Kerlin Walsh Law, located in Palos Heights is dedicated to drafting Wills and Trusts with warmth and competence. After 25 years of consulting with clients in her office, their homes and hospital rooms, Eileen Kerlin Walsh, J.D., Principal Attorney, has discovered no area of law is more important or rewarding. Eileen has helped hundreds of families preserve their assets and their family harmony and is ready to help you with her "Healing Law" approach. Need a Will or Trust? Call 708-448-5169.

Illinois Tollway News

The Illinois Tollway's I-PASS Assist program offers income-eligible individuals and families the cost-saving benefits of I-PASS with lower up-front costs for pre-paid tolls and no deposits required. Through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Revenue and the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Tollway is able to verify the eligibility of households via a secure web form that requires minimal information to determine if household income falls below the required threshold based on Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Before you hit the road don't forget to bring your I-PASS, it's accepted in 19 states and within more than 35 tolling agencies using E-ZPass, and includes a 50 percent discount on tolls on the Illinois Tollway's five roadways. As a member of the E-ZPass IAG consortium, you have the luxury of traveling worry free whether in your car or rental car.

Drivers should call *999 to get help from Tollway roadway maintenance crews or from Illinois State Police Troop 15 who patrol the Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Motorist aid patrols stand ready to help stranded customers change tires, jump-start batteries, add coolant, dispense fuel, transport customers, move vehicles away from traffic and call for a tow truck.

If you would like to receive a 2024 Media kit, email us at vvnew@sbcglobal.net. You can also fill out our Contact Form on our website at www.vvnew.com or call 708-425-1910, or fax 708-221-6663.

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

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Village of Tinley Park Business Grant announced

The Illinois Back to Business New Business Grant Program (B2B NewBiz) will provide financial relief to businesses that started during the pandemic in the industries most impacted by the pandemic. For-profit and nonprofit organizations must meet all the criteria to be eligible for a grant award. The application window will close on January 11, 2024, at 11:59:59 pm CT. For more information, please visit <https://b2bnewbiz.com>.

Oak Lawn Village View Newspaper Archive

Explore digitized microfilm from the Oak Lawn Village View. Hosted by the Internet Archive. Look at the Oak Lawn Library website at <https://www.olpl.org>.

Big Tips for Small Businesses

(NAPSI)—Small businesses are the backbone of our society and play a critical role in our economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Association, firms of 500 employees or fewer make up 99.9% of all U.S. businesses, equating to 61.7 million workers. Small business workers contribute 43.5% of the gross domestic product in the U.S. annually.

Small businesses also face unique challenges. Entrepreneurs, owners and their employees typically wear so many hats that it can be difficult to stay updated on business and consumer trends.

But help is available. Stakeholders can overcome obstacles by taking the following steps:

Network, Network, Network—Seek out like-minded individuals and companies within your industry or community to network, share ideas and look at challenges from a different perspective. This could also include joining a trade organization, subscribing to publications or attending events relevant to your industry.

Embrace Online Resources—Results-oriented online tools offer a broad range of helpful materials. At Synchrony.com, one can find advice on financing,

sales, human resources, digital marketing, customer experience, data, legal and cybersecurity.

Commit to Lifelong Learning—In an era of constant change, there are always new things to learn. To meet this need, Synchrony just launched



Small businesses, vital to the country's economy, can get expert help keeping their own economy afloat.

a digital learning platform: the "Small Business Learning Center," which is geared to help its business owner partners with credit, financing, enhanced customer experiences and compliance. In addition to the Learning Center, Synchrony helps enable nearly a million small business partners to manage, market and grow their businesses by offering:

- Financing programs with a straightforward application process, strong approval rates and loyalty programs.

- Digital tools for retailers and health and wellness providers.

- Grants to small businesses through its Synchrony Pillars program.

- Webinars, podcasts, and one-on-one consulting opportunities; a closed-loop technology network so

small businesses can offer private-label credit cards; advertising technology, among other things.

Take a break!—While small business owners and employees are by nature invested in the success of their business, research indicates that breaks go a long way for mental health. Breaks are important and help small business owners recharge and tackle the unique challenges in their path.

For more tips for small businesses, call 866-209-4457 or visit www.synchrony.com.



Candace Hunter. Photo by Tran Tran.

Free public MLK Day celebration at Hyde Park Art Center

Hyde Park Art Center, proudly presents a free public Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration MLK DAY 2024: Yesterdays, Today's, and Tomorrow's on Monday, January 15, 2024, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 5020 South Cornell Avenue. Eclectic programming for all ages celebrating Black creators and artists includes art making inspired by artists Candace Hunter and Robert Earl Paige, an artist talk with Candace Hunter and scholar Kimberly Harmon, a pop-up bookshop, a live music performance by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago Chamber Ensemble, and more. Registration is recommended at HydeParkArt.org.

Art Making Activity: Folklore and Shadow Figures 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants can create their own shadow figures

inspired by the silhouettes featured in current exhibition Candace Hunter: The Alien-Nations and Sovereign States of Octavia E Butler, and the characters found in traditional Black folklore.

Semicolon Bookstore Pop-Up Shop 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

An Afrofuturism and Science-Fiction pop-up book shop curated by local Black woman owned bookstore Semicolon Bookstore & Gallery, in honor of Candace Hunter: The Alien-Nations and Sovereign States of Octavia

E Butler.

Open Arts Studio and Art Making Activity: Found Object Printmaking 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Future is Breath: An Artist Talk on Afrofuturism and Speculative Fiction 12 until 1:30 p.m.

A conversation about The Alien-Nations and Sovereign States of Octavia E Butler with Candace Hunter moderated by scholar, Kimberly Harmon.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago Chamber Ensemble performing music by Black American Composers 2 to 2:45 p.m.

A Night in White

Thursday, January 25th | 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club | 10700 W.153rd St

Join us for a special evening of entertainment, networking and awards. Guests encouraged to dress in winter white!



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There will be Music & Cash Bar, bring your own snacks!

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Enjoy the Football Playoffs and all your favorite sports at the "V" ample seating great atmosphere

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OPACC asks businesses to support Veteran's Discount Card

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce received a letter from the Cook County Clerk's Office. It explained that the Clerk's Office has a dedicated Veterans Affairs Unit and that they sponsor the Cook County Military and Veterans Discount Card. This initiative provides veterans with discounts to many businesses throughout Chicago and suburban Cook County, including restaurants, museums, zoos, fitness centers, auto repair shops and many other services. The Cook County Clerk's Office is looking to see if more businesses

would like to participate in this wonderful program. This partnership comes at no cost, other than the discount provided to veterans. Attached to this email, you will find the Military and Veterans Discount Card Vendor Form. If you have any additional questions about this program, you can contact Brian Cross, Director of Veterans Affairs, at brian.cross@cookcountyil.gov or by calling 312.603.5788.

Go here to download the form: <https://chamber.master.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/2145/File/12192023153816-0001.pdf>

Peanuts Deliver Good Food Fast

(NAPSI)—Life today often seems to be in overdrive, leading many Americans to make snack and meal decisions quickly without really thinking about the nutritional makeup of what they're consuming—but it doesn't have to be that way.

Think Twice

"Being mindful about what you eat each day can have a significant impact on so many aspects of your life. Food choices can influence your mood, energy level, cognition and memory, as well as your overall health and well-being," says Samara Sterling, Ph.D., director of research for The Peanut Institute.

Unfortunately, most "fast food" is overly processed and relies on sugar, salt and saturated fat to make it taste good in the moment, but it can end up having

detrimental effects down the road and may even increase the risk for certain cancers.

Food As Medicine

Peanuts and peanut butter, on the other hand, are convenient and healthy superfood choices that satisfy immediate hunger while delivering lifelong benefits.

According to numerous research studies, regular consumption of peanuts has been shown to: reduce Alzheimer's disease risk by 70%; reduce diabetes risk by 53% and cardiovascular disease risk by 13%; and aid memory, cognitive function and concentration. Daily consumption can even help reduce anxiety and depression.

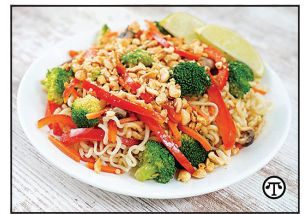
"Peanuts deliver such a plethora of benefits. A single serving of peanuts, which is about a handful, is packed with 19 vitamins

and minerals and contains seven grams of plant-based protein," adds Sterling.

The Science

The benefits of plant-based protein are becoming more and more apparent. Research that compared nuts and legumes to animal protein showed higher intake from meat was associated with increased mortality risk. Another study found that replacing animal-based protein with plant-based protein can substantially lower the likelihood of developing diabetes. Finally, an interesting study of older adults found that faster walking speed was associated with a higher intake of plant protein, while slower walking speed was associated with greater animal protein intake.

To easily incorporate peanuts and peanut butter into a busy schedule, check



Peanuts deliver a plethora of health benefits and this delicious ramen dish incorporates both peanuts and peanut butter.

out The Peanut Institute's collection of simple yet tasty recipes.

Tasty Peanut Ramen

1 (3 oz.) package ramen; 1 Tbsp shallot, diced; 2 tsp minced garlic; ½ cup shredded carrot; ½ cup sliced mushrooms; ½ cup coleslaw blend or chopped broccoli florets; ½ cup red pepper, large dice; ¼ cup peanut butter ½ cup to ⅔ cup water; 1 Tbsp soy sauce; 1 Tbsp brown sugar; 1 Tbsp Sriracha; ¼ cup roasted peanuts, chopped and 1 Tbsp cilantro, for garnish.

Cook ramen according to package directions. Strain noodles and set aside. In a medium sauté pan, warm 1 Tbsp of oil over medium high heat. Add shallot and garlic and cook until aromatic. Add mushrooms to pan, sauté until tender. Combine carrots, broccoli and red pepper into the pan and sauté about 2 minutes. Remove from the pan. Combine water, peanut butter, soy sauce, brown sugar and Sriracha in the pan. Simmer and reduce until sauce is thickened, about 2 minutes. Top ramen noodles with sauce and combine well. Top with vegetables, chopped peanuts, and cilantro.

Learn More

For other recipes and further information, visit www.peanutinstitute.com or follow The Peanut Institute on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter.

• *The Peanut Institute is a non-profit organization supporting nutrition research and developing educational programs to encourage healthful lifestyles that include peanuts and peanut products. It pursues its mission through research programs, educational initiatives and the promotion of healthful lifestyles.*



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Chandler's Lunch Show: May 17

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White Fence Farm Lunch Show: June 6, Dinner Show: August 9
Chandler's Lunch Show: July 25

Olivia Newton-John Tribute
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White Fence Farm Lunch Shows: May 3, Sept. 24, Dinner Show: June 28
Chandler's Lunch Show: August 29

Reservation price \$50 ea. (\$47 ea. for groups of 15 or more), INCLUDES ENTIRE EVENT!

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Mercury Theater Chicago announces casting for *Jersey Boys*

Mercury Theater Artistic Director Christopher Chase Carter, Managing Director Kristi J. Martens and Executive Producers L. Walter Stearns and Eugene Dizon proudly announce the cast and creative team for the first built-in-Chicago production of *Jersey Boys*, the Tony Award winning story of Frankie Vallie and The Four Seasons. *Jersey Boys* features a book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, with music by Bob Gaudio and lyrics by Bob Crewe. *Jersey Boys* runs March 15 through May 19, 2024, at Mercury Theater Chicago, 3745 N. Southport Avenue.



Jason Michael Evans, Michael Metcalf, Adrian Aguilar, and Andrew MacNaughton. Photo courtesy Cathy Taylor Public Relations Inc.

The cast of *Jersey Boys* includes Adrian Aguilar (Tommy DeVito), Grant Alexander Brown (Joey Pesci), Jason Michael Evans (Nick Massi), Adam Fane (Bob Crewe), Amanda Handegan (Lorraine), Carl Herzog (Gyp DeCarlo), Eric Lewis (Barry Belson), Andrew MacNaughton (Bob Gaudio), Maya McQueen (Francine), Michael Metcalf (Frankie Valli), Jason Richards (Norm Waxman), and Kayla Shipman (Mary Delgado).

Tickets for *Jersey Boys*, priced \$60 to \$90, are on sale now at the box office, 3745 N. Southport Avenue in Chicago, www.mercurytheaterchicago.com. Mercury Theater Chicago is upgrading its seating. Arts enthusiasts are encouraged to buy a ticket for *Jersey Boys* for \$500 and their name will be adorned on a plaque on their new seat.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier presents *Richard III*

Feb. 2 through March 3, 2024, at the Courtyard Theater 800 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL, by William Shakespeare, directed by Edward Hall, starring Katy Sullivan.

Power, greed, ambition. A world where to win is everything. And to win at all costs. Tony Award nominee, Paralympic champion, and bilateral above-knee amputee Katy



Tony Award nominee Katy Sullivan. Photo by Jeff Sciortino.

Sullivan makes her Chicago Shakespeare debut in Edward Hall's first production as artistic director. Full of scathing dark comedy and high-stakes family drama, a divided kingdom provides fertile ground for the charismatic, unscrupu-

lous Richard to seize power and exact revenge, and no one is safe from his tyranny. This marks the first major US production of *Richard III* to feature a woman with a disability in the title role.

Box office phone is 312-595-5600.

Broadway in Chicago presents *Message in a Bottle*

Playing at Cadillac Palace Theatre 151 W Randolph St, Chicago, IL., Feb. 28 to Mar. 3, 2024.

The peaceful village of Bebko is alive with joyous celebrations. Suddenly, under attack, everything changes forever. Three siblings, Leto, Mati and Tana, must embark on perilous journeys in order to survive.

Message in a Bottle is a spectacular new dance-theatre show from five-time Olivier Award nominee, Kate Prince, inspired by and set to the iconic hits of 17-time Grammy Award-winning artist Sting, including *Every Breath You Take*, *Roxanne*, *Walking on the Moon* and more. With a mix of exhilarating dance styles, high-energy footwork and breath-taking athleticism, *Message in a Bottle* tells a unifying and uplifting story of humanity and hope. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble announces the World Premiere of *Wipeout*

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (RTE), Chicago's only Equity theatre dedicated to advancing the lives of women through the power of theatre, announces the world premiere of *Wipeout* by Aurora Real de Asua, directed by Rivendell Artistic Director Tara Mallen with movement direction by Ensemble Member Devon de Mayo. *Wipeout* runs February 17 to March 30, 2024. Tickets are now available at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, 5779 North Ridge Avenue in Chicago, (773) 334-7728 or www.RivendellTheatre.org.

Three retired best friends. One hotrod surf instructor. The currents of the Pacific Ocean. What could possibly go wrong? Set on surfboards, *Wipeout* is a poignant comedy about friendship, grief, and the unpredictable tides of life. *Wipeout* is produced at Rivendell as part of a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. Other Partner Theaters are B Street Theatre, Sacramento, CA and The Gloucester Stage Company, Gloucester, MA. For more information, please visit nnpn.org. Tickets: \$39 General

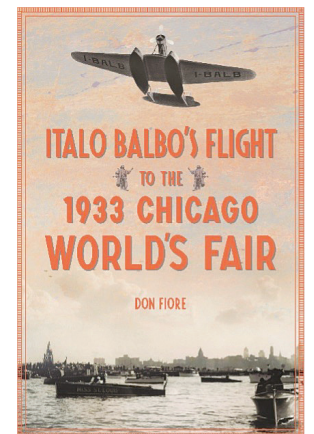
Admission; \$17 Student, Educators, Military/Veterans, Industry (Limited quantity, first-come, first-served); \$28 Seniors; \$49 Sponsor Admission (to help us pay artists fair wages by covering the full cost of a seat at the performance) and \$94 Angel Admission (one Basic Admission, plus helping to cover discounted or free tickets to people who need them). Membership Subscription: RIV Pass \$95 (see Rivendell productions and other events as often as desired).

Box Office: (773) 334-7728 or www.RivendellTheatre.org.

Italo Balbo's Flight to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair by Don Fiore

In an era when transatlantic travel was still dangerous, Italy caused a sensation by announcing that its participation in the upcoming Century of Progress World's Fair would be highlighted by an unprecedented formation flight from Rome to Chicago. Led by renowned aviator Italo Balbo, the squadron of two dozen seaplanes accomplished a daring navigational feat that was commemorated by a number of civic monuments that stand in Chicago to this day. Since the United States fought Italy in World War II, the monuments have weathered decades of intermittent controversy. Don Fiore provides a fascinating account of the complex legacy of Balbo's flight.

Born in Chicago, Don Fiore has been a lifelong student of Italian history, an anti-defamation activist, a writer, and a columnist on subjects of Italian and Italian American cultural and historical interest for Fra Noi and other local and national publications. He has been a musician and assistant manager of Caliendo's Banda Napoletana, one of the few remaining Italian-style symphonic bands in the United States for the past five decades. In 2004, he was officially conferred the title of Cavaliere (Knight) by the President of Italy for his work promoting and preserving Italian cultural heritage.

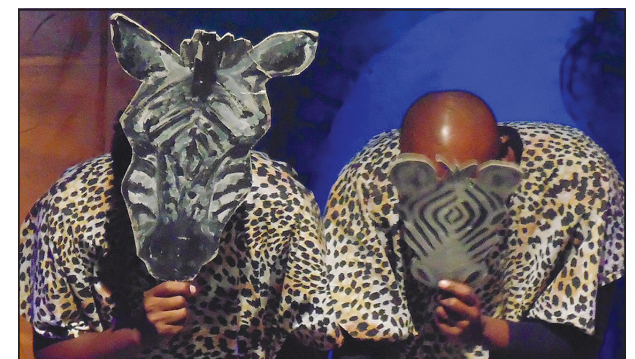


Chicago: Puppetry Capital of the World

The 6th Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival is back January 18 to 28, 2024, ready to heat up Chicago with its annual international pageant of puppet shows and artists at dozens of venues around the city.

Only in Chicago, over 11 days in January, do audiences turn out to experience an incredible range of puppetry styles from around the world, at what's now the largest annual puppet festival of its kind in North America.

Chicago welcomes international puppet artists and companies from Belgium,



Tears by the River. Photo by Jay Kelly.

Chile, Norway, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Poland. Team U.S.A features puppeteers from Maryland, New York, North Carolina and two New York-based companies with international roots.

Learn more about the out-of-town artists who will help transform Chicago into "the Puppetry Capital of the World". For tickets and information, and to learn about more attrac-

tions by top Chicago puppeteers, visit chicagopuppetfest.org.

Free Neighborhood Tour: *Tears by the River*, Krystal Puppeteers, all ages.

Kenya: Presented by the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, Navy Pier the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parksm and UChicago, January 18 to 28, 10 performances at 9 locations throughout the city.

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POW-R Sertoma Club's NFL Pool is back for 2024!

POW-R Sertoma Club is bringing you an exciting chance to support a worthy organization right from the comfort of your home.

Money raised will support Sertoma Star Services, which provides programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those living with mental illness. POW-R Sertoma is a local chapter of the national service organization Sertoma, Inc.

POW-R Sertoma Club is sponsoring two pools, one for each NFL Playoff game on January 28, 2024.

There will be two 5 x 5 boards, one for the AFC and one for the NFC. Each game board will have 25 squares and require a \$100 per square donation.

Each square will have four potentially winning combinations. The payouts will be: 1, 2 and 3 Quarter Score \$200. 1, 2 and 3 Quarter Score Reversed \$50.

Final Score \$400. Final Score Reversed \$100.

POW-R Sertoma Club will send out details on how to purchase squares next week.

Players can get in both games, purchase multiple squares for \$100 each square. If you have a particular square you desire, you can request it with your payment. All requests will be first come, first serve, and POW-R Sertoma Club reserves the right to assign an alternative square if needed.

Questions? Contact Frank at ftomecek@comcast.net.

Wiffle Ball Tournament Brings in Toys for Tots in Evergreen Park

The Mustang Baseball Academy joined the Evergreen Park Community High School baseball program for their third annual Wiffle Ball Tournament at the EPCHS Sports Complex Wednesday night.

Baseball players join the tournament by donating a toy to support the EPCHS National Honor Society's Toys for Tots drive.

This was the first year that the youth program joined in the festivities.

Both the high school players and the young ball players had a blast playing wiffle ball and eating pizza, all the while bringing in two big boxes of toys! About 35 toys were brought in during the tournament this year.



Mustang Baseball Academy Tournament Champs Jimmy Duggan, Patrick Jaurez, Gideon Earley. Courtesy Evergreen Park HS.

The MBA team composed of Jimmy Duggan, Gideon Earley, Patrick Jaurez, and the High School team of Rashawn Andrews, Aidan Carr, Billy Duffner, Yarim Garcia and Noah Munoz brought home the championships.

Meza off to flying start for Oak Lawn Swimming

by Brian Frangella,
OLCHS Staff Writer

Vladimir Meza went into the boys swim season with a desire for great success. So, in the off-

season, he worked extremely hard, and it is paying off already. In the first meet of the season, Meza helped the team take first place at the

Oak Forest Pentathlon Invitational by setting a new personal best in the 100 butterfly. He finished third overall in points out of 36 swimmers.

Quinones locks in for Oak Lawn Girls Basketball

by Brian Frangella,
OLCHS Staff Writer

When given the praise of being one the team's best defenders, a ton of responsibility comes with it. As one of the top defenders for the Oak Lawn Community High School girls basketball team, Lamia Quinones' responsibility was to open the season by guarding one of the premier scorers in the area and maybe the state.

She locked in, and gave a great performance, holding Lyons Township's leading scorer to just six points in the season-opening game. Then, she took care of business at the other end of the floor for the Spartans and scored 14 points of her own, going 4-of-5 from the floor and 6-of-7 at the free-throw line.

"Lamia was outstanding in our first game of the season against one of the



Lamia Quinones. Courtesy Oak Lawn Community HS.

best teams in the state," head coach Mark Sevedge said. "Lamia gave so much effort into chasing her around and not allowing her to get any space to shoot the ball. So far, Lamia has been one of our top two defenders and is willing to guard our opponent's best players.

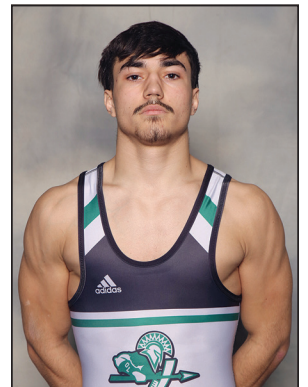
"Only a junior, Lamia is making strides to be one of the best defensive players in the area, and she is continually working to improve as a scoring guard for us as well."

Barba winning on mat with technical skill for Oak Lawn Wrestling

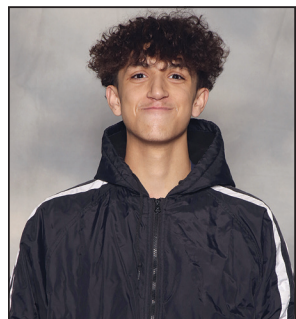
by Brian Frangella,
OLCHS Staff Writer

Isaac Barba has opened his senior wrestling campaign with great start. As a captain of the team, he has a record of 9 to 3 with five pins so far, and he took fifth place at the 45th Annual Carson DeJarnatt Invitational.

"Isaac has demonstrated exceptional skills and leadership this season," head coach Dave Early said. "He has led with distinction both in the wrestling room and on the mat. His impressive achievements include securing five pins, a testament to his technical skill and competitive spirit."



Isaac Barba. Courtesy of Oak Lawn Community HS.



Vladimir Meza. Courtesy of Oak Lawn Community HS.

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Oak Lawn Baseball offers US Baseball Academy Camp in March

by Brian Frangella, OLCHS Staff Writer

It's back. For the 17th year in a row, Oak Lawn Community High School is offering a US Baseball Academy camp for grades K through 8 during the month of March. Baseball and softball players are welcome to attend the camp. USBA camps are designed to develop skills in all facets of the game.

The camp focuses on fundamentals in hitting, defense, and pitching, and is run by the Oak Lawn baseball coaching staff and current Oak Lawn players.

Matt Kocourek will be coordinating the pitching, John Buhle will run the hitting portion, and Gary Gudino leads the fielding and baserunning aspects of the camp.

The dates of the camp are March 3, 10, 17, and 24. The camp will take place on the campus of OLCHS. Sessions include six hours of instruction in one skill for \$149, and players can add a second skill and save \$20 or a third skill to save \$60.

The camp offers a low player to coach ratio with tons of individual atten-

tion in the small-group format. Contact Oak Lawn head coach Bill Gerny at @usabaseballacademy.com with questions or to register.

American Legion Marris-Meyer Post 991 upcoming events

Everyone is welcome to join in our events for the upcoming months at 11001 S. Depot Ave. Worth, IL or call 708-448-6699.

Chili Cook Off Competition on Sunday Jan. 7th, 2024. Calling all great chili cooking aficionados! Put your favorite recipe to the test on Sunday January 7th at Post! Please see bulletin board at post to sign up for this yummy event! No entry fee. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners (\$100, \$75, \$50).

Live Comedy Night Saturday January 20th. Tickets are going fast, and seating is limited. See bartender asap to get yours. \$20 per person, ticket includes one free drink! What a fantastic, fun night to get out with your family & friends. These live comics are sure to make us laugh. Stop in your Post today to get your tickets. This is a super fun event at the Post that you

don't want to miss. Stay after the comedy show for some great late night Live Music. Chad Hartmen will be entertaining the crowd starting at 9 pm.

Live music in January Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm. No cover charge ever. Come out and join the fun.

Here's who's playing this month: Jan. 5th Joe Orozco; Jan. 6th Karaoke Night (8:00 pm); Jan. 12th Mokena Mike & John Weeks; Jan. 13th Kristen Rose; Jan. 19th Whiskey & Harmony; Jan. 20th Chad Hartmen (9:00 pm); Jan. 26th The Koop and Jan. 27th Discount Vinyl.

This just in karaoke on Tuesday Jan. 16th (7pm) Sing It Baby.

Worth F.O.P. Pancake breakfast and auxiliary bake sale on Sunday, February 4th 8 am to noon. Baked goods donations needed to sell. Put on your aprons and support this worthy fundraiser.

Book Review

Dennis LeHane, *Small Mercies* (Harper 2023).

by Lorraine Schmall

I watched the news last night on CNN, featuring a video produced by Hamas, which showed Gazans jeering at a dozen old Israeli women as they were released from months-long captivity. It was painful to watch. We're better than them, I wanted to say; then I remembered what some of us have done, and still do, to "others."

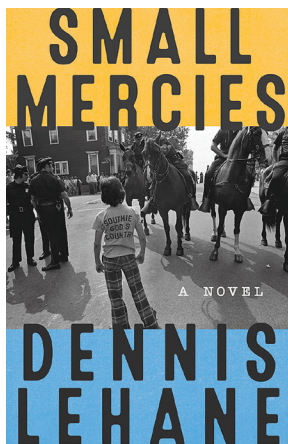
Dennis LeHane, whose previous bestsellers were made into blockbuster films by Clint Eastwood, Martin Scorsese and Ben Affleck and who wrote for *The Wire* and *Blackbird*, throws a spotlight on our recent, horrible past. *Small Mercies* is his latest, and he claims, his last book, hailed by SA Cosby as "beautiful, brutal, lyrical, and blisteringly honest." It's a crime thriller favored by Barack Obama, but between the endless racist slurs that drop from the tongues of the madding crowd as frequently as the Hail Mary, and the vicious, almost bestial criminality perpetrated by the Irish mob (led by a fictional Whitey Bulger) and the main character herself, *Small Mercies* is a difficult read.

The bitter fates of two women center the story. Mary Pat Fennessey, a "project chick from Southie," is a "white, Irish, chain-smoking, foul-mouthed, alcoholic, racist single mom." Calliope Williamson is a quiet, intelligent, home-owning, black woman. They worked together in an old people's home. Mary Pat thought Calliope, she called her Dreamy, was her friend. But how could she be? They cohabited a city that showed America that racism, violence, crime, poverty and failed social experiments were not relics of the Old South.

They lived in Boston in 1974, when court-ordered

busing brought thousands of white moms to the streets, hauling their children to throw rocks, scream horrible things, burn Senator Ted Kennedy in effigy, and boycott the public school that was their last best hope of escaping the wasteland into which they were born; and black moms, who feared for their children's lives as they were thrust into "equal opportunity." What these women had in common were irremediable pain and a desire to seek vengeance for the children they lost. Neither found redemption or recompense, but as the author said in an interview, "the House always wins" but at least you can put sugar in their gas tanks, or tell them how you feel. Calliope found her voice when she rejected sympathy from Mary Pat: "You raised a child who thought hating people because God made them a different shade of skin was okay. You allowed that hate. You probably fostered it." And Mary Pat, who ultimately realized she was wrong about so many things, fought back the best she could. She didn't get the King. "But man, did she fuck up the King's court."

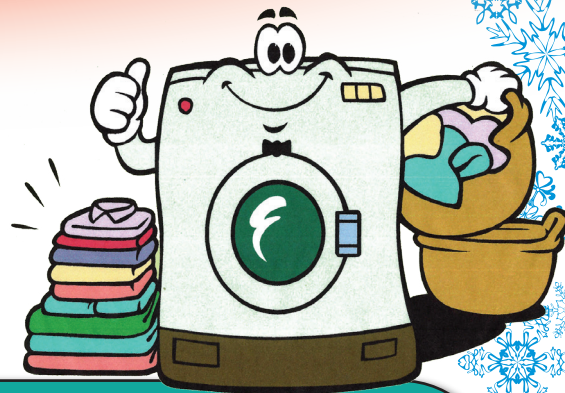
LeHane's writing is hypnotic, the character development, even for the bit players, is full-bodied, and the scene-setting is brilliant. If you haven't read LeHane, start with his last, and dip into a little moral reckoning before the end of this year.



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