



*We serve our community  
with good news!*

# Village View



## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 2 | January 16, 2024

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

### Family Feud at The Lyric Theater

Sunday January 21, 2024, doors open at 4 p.m., Family Feud starts at 5 p.m. ages 21 and over.

Family Feud at the Lyric Theater, Blue Island, 12952 S. Western Ave, Blue Island, IL 60406, continues! We are having one Family Feud date per month in 2024 and our December Tournament of Champions show will only be offered to those teams who placed 1st or 2nd in each of the 11 months prior. Get your tickets now!

\$100 for a team of 5. Games consist of 5 surveys in the first round, best of 5 wins, and 3 surveys in the following rounds, best of 3 wins. Last team standing will win a cash prize. 1st and 2nd place teams will be offered a chance to play in our Tournament of Champions in December!

For more information go to [www.lyrictheater.com](http://www.lyrictheater.com) or call 708-972-0700.

### Help Bring C.S. Lewis to the stage!

If you appreciate Provision Theater, our actors, technical designs, story choices, and our commitment to producing high-quality works of hope, reconciliation, and redemption, please consider fueling us forward. We have ambitious plans to do two productions in 2024. We simply cannot do it without you!

You can go here to give <https://provisiontheater.org/donate/> or you can mail a check to: Provision Theater, 9421 Beall Street, Dyer, Indiana 46311.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for our winter production of C.S. Lewis Onstage! If you would like to help support this inspiring show, visit

our website at <https://provisiontheater.org/> for more details.

As always, thank you for your loyalty and support from all of us at Provision Theater!

Sincerely, Timothy Gregory, Founding Artistic Director.

Provision Theater is a 501c3 organization.

### Join the Blue Island Forestry Board!

In recent years, Blue Island has made great strides in tree care, through the grass-roots campaign of Restore Our Canopy. Now with the reinstatement of the Blue Island Forestry Board, awareness, and education to our residents on the importance and impact that trees have to our environment is being fulfilled.

Come Join Us! The Blue Island Forestry Board shall act as a liaison between Public Works and City Council to promote and preserve trees in the city, providing a thriving tree canopy for this generation and generations to come.

Accomplishments include: Over 400 trees have been planted in public spaces within our community; Working with regional advocacy groups for funding (Morton Arboretum, US Forestry, Open lands); Yearly Arbor Day and Oaktober Day Celebrations; Structural Pruning Parties; Educational Presentations to local schools as well as tablings and town hall meetings; 2023 Tree Ordinance has been revised; Complete Public Space 360-degree tree inventory has been completed; The first draft of Blue Island's Forestry Management Plan has been delivered and 2022 and soon to be awarded for 2023 Blue Island has USA Tree City Status with a Growth award recognition.

More sustainable efforts can be achieved with a few more hands and minds. The Blue Island Forestry Board will meet on the below dates at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted, and your involvement would be wonderful!

March 20: Blue Island Public Library, April 16 at 6 p.m.: Town Hall Meeting at the East Annex Building. Arbor Day Celebration: End of April/beginning of May.

June 18: Blue Island Public Library, September 17 Blue Island Public Library, Oaktober Celebration! December 17: Blue Island Public Library.

Questions, please contact Chairperson Val Kehoe IL-5357 A: [valkehoe62@gmail.com](mailto:valkehoe62@gmail.com); Mike Schroeder: Public Works Supervisor; Bill Fahrenwald: Council Liaison, Sandy Errft: Board Member, Brian Meadows: Board Member, Lindsey Sinde: Board Member, and Alex Rojas: Board Member.

### South Suburban College Embarks on Spring 2024 Enrollment

South Suburban College (SSC) is gearing up for the Spring 2024 Semester with registration events scheduled for Saturday, January 13th, and Saturday, January 20th, from 9 am to 2:00 pm at the main campus in South Holland, Illinois. The semester officially begins on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024.

In its dedication to providing affordable and flexible class options, SSC encourages prospective and current students to explore a variety of course delivery methods. The High Five modes of course delivery at SSC encompass in-person,

online, virtual, simulcast, and blended options, granting students the flexibility to choose based on their preferences and schedules.

Early registration is recommended to secure preferred modes of instruction and class schedules. SSC has instituted a strategy enabling students to enroll in classes without the risk of being dropped for non-payment. The college offers various programs to eligible students, including special tuition rates, tuition-free course waivers, scholarship opportunities, and a plethora of pathway options.

Additionally, detailed course information, including a chat option with a representative, is available at [www.ssc.edu](http://www.ssc.edu). For enrollment information, please contact the College and Career Success Center at (708) 210-5718 or email [admissions@ssc.edu](mailto:admissions@ssc.edu). Para Información En Español Llama: (708) 210-5740. The South Suburban College Main Campus is located at 15800 South State Street, South Holland, Illinois. The college's extension site, the Oak Forest Center, is located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois.

### Free Chicago Museums this year in 2024

Happy New Year! The Whole team here is excited about the new year and getting you all the free things to do in Chicago, so we thought we would start off with a reader favorite, all the free museums in 2024 (although many of the museums only show the first quarter free days- being sneaky!)

Check out this MEGA-list of all the Free Chicago Museums and all the Free Days at Chicago Museums in 2024 at <https://chicagofree.info/category/free-museums/>. Make sure to check out a number of Free Days at Chicago Museums in 2024 at Chicago area museums.

Also make sure to check out the freebies at Millennium Park, an extraordinary testament and home to world-class art, music, architecture, and landscape design. Maybe take your kids to the Chicago Children's Museum, with three floors of engaging and educational exhibits. or better yet, enjoy one of the world's greatest art collections at the Art Institute of Chicago, especially when free on Thursday evenings.

### Moraine Valley Community College, Outreach for Local Internships

My name is Corbett Chico and I am the Internship Manager at Moraine Valley Community College. I am reaching out regarding a potential opportunity to collaborate with our local businesses and professionals that may be interested in offering internship opportunities for MVCC students.

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nity, and this seemed like a great avenue to strengthen our internship program and raise awareness while mutually benefiting the businesses in our area. Let me know if this may interest any of your members or if an opportunity to connect with your chamber and share more information is possible in the near future.

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# Village View



## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 2 | January 16, 2024

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

### Winter Weather Reminders from Oak Forest

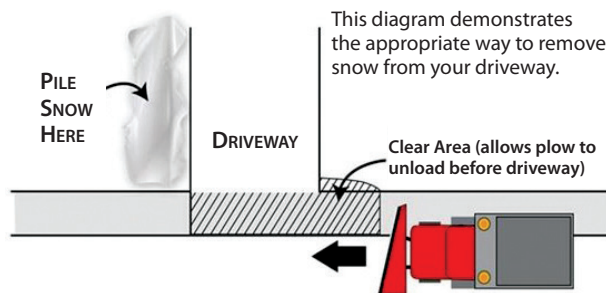
With a winter storm slated to impact the area tomorrow, please remember that the city prohibits residents from parking vehicles on city streets after 2 inches of snow has fallen so that Public Works crews can clear and salt the streets effectively and efficiently.

Read ordinance 73.09 Snow Emergencies for more detail.

Things to Keep in Mind: Vehicles must remain off city streets for 12 hours after the end of snowfall or risk being ticketed or towed. If your vehicle is towed, you could face fines of more than \$250. No warnings will be issued.

Be patient as the plows make their way through town: main roads, side streets, courts. Please keep in mind that several state and local agencies other than the city are responsible for snow removal on some roads.

Pushing snow into the street is hazardous. Do not shovel or blow snow from driveways into the streets as this can cause a hazard and is also against city ordinance. When snow is shoveled into the street, the plow is likely to push it right back in front of the driveway. Although the city's plows may leave some snow across driveway entrances, they try to keep it to a minimum. The Public Works Department will not remove snow from driveway entrances.



### Chocolate Fest coming in February in Tinley Park

Tinley Park's inaugural Chocolate Fest will take place from February 3 to 9.

Dine at any of the participating restaurants during that week, purchase their Golden Ticket special, and receive a special Golden Ticket that will enter you into a raffle on Feb. 14 for a chance to win great prizes. Restaurants will be featuring chocolate items and specials the whole week! Check [TinleyPark.org/ChocolateFest](https://TinleyPark.org/ChocolateFest) in the coming days for more information, including a list of participating restaurants.

### Chicago Gaelic Park Presents Hooley in the Park

Hooley in the Park is a weekend of dance and music in March from the 22nd to the 24th, 2024.

Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 147th St, Oak Forest, IL 60452, has a three-day weekend of Irish social dance and music on tap to keep the March fun going after its 2024 Ireland on Parade and St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. The weekend features, direct from Ireland, dance master Gerard Butler and musicians Stuart Moyles and Jack Keogh. The Hooley in the Park promises to be a great weekend of music, dance, and fun in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere!

Butler, a County Roscommon native who makes his home in County Tyrone, is a nine-time All-Ireland Dance Champion, and his

dance classes in Ireland are hugely popular. On his last visit to Gaelic Park, Butler had dancers of all skill levels improving their footwork and moves while thoroughly enjoying themselves. Butler's musical accompaniments, Mayoman Stuart Moyles and Wicklow man Jack Keogh, are highly regarded on the Irish social dancing scene. Singer/guitarist Moyles won the Hot Country TV "Best Social Dancing Artist Award," and 19-year-old Keogh is making a real name for himself in Irish music circles as a singer/songwriter.

During Hooley in the Park Butler will hold country jive dance workshops and special youth country jive workshops. Each evening of the Hooley weekend will

feature the music of Moyles and Keogh, and the Saturday night dance promises to be extra-fun with local favorites, Myles McVeigh and the Hoyle Brothers joining the line-up. McVeigh hails from Donegal, and the band plays a mix of Irish and country-western favorites.

Gaelic Park has secured a special weekend rate for accommodations for the Hooley 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago, Alsip: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/chicago-gaelicpark2024/>. Attendees will want to check out Gaelic Park's Carraig Pub for food and beverage purchases. For more information about "Hooley in the Park," contact Chicago Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323.

### Crisis Center for South Suburbia Announces Annual Award Honorees

Every year the Crisis Center for South Suburbia awards outstanding supporters and organizations that have made an impact in raising awareness about the seriousness of domestic violence. Three awards will be presented at the 2024 Passport to Adventure: A Stroll Through Spain Gala held on February 24 at The Odyssey Country Club, 19110 Ridgeland Ave, Tinley Park, IL. This event includes fundraising efforts and a program that highlights the prevalence and impact of domestic violence in the south suburbs of Chicago.

The Dianne Masters Award was established in 1994 to honor Crisis Center founder, Dianne Masters, who lost her life as a result of domestic violence. This year it is being given to an individual who emulates selflessness, dedication, and commitment to the Crisis Center's mission. That individual is Frankfort resident, Katie Abbott. Katie was elected to the Board of Directors in 2014. She

served as President from 2019-2021 and has been a co-chair of the annual gala for three years, including this year.

Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital will be honored with the Spirit of Charity Award. Donors since 1991, the hospital staff volunteers at Gala and Golf fundraising events, as well as at the shelter, holds much-needed collections drives and adopts dozens of families during the holidays. They also have awarded the Crisis Center with significant grants for vital programs for domestic violence victims.

The Corporate Partner of the Year Award will be presented to Deloitte and its Chicago-based office. As leaders in professional services, Deloitte's corporate support of the Crisis Center for South Suburbia has had a profound effect on all the work the Crisis Center has been able to do for survivors of domestic violence and their families for many years. "Deloitte is proud to

be a corporate sponsor of the Crisis Center for South Suburbia since 2017. We are honored to be selected for the Corporate Partner of the Year award and grateful for the work the Crisis Center does for those impacted by domestic violence." Martin Brotschul, Principal, Deloitte Consulting LLP.

Tickets for the Crisis Center's annual gala are \$150 each and are available at <https://SpainGala.givesmart.com>. The gala will include live entertainment, online raffles, an online silent auction, and a live auction, and more. Last year, the Crisis Center for South Suburbia provided over 32,000 hours of services and directly impacted over 3,700 domestic violence survivors. The Crisis Center for South Suburbia's services are free and include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, advocacy, prevention, and education. Visit [www.crisisctr.org](http://www.crisisctr.org), or if you are a victim of domestic violence, call 708-429-SAFE.

### Mailbox damage and fire hydrants in Oak Forest

If your mailbox is damaged, call the Public Works Department. If a city plow physically strikes and damages your mailbox, Public Works will replace it with a standard mailbox as long as it was located in accordance with post office and city standards. Incorrectly located mailboxes knocked down from the weight of snow rolling off the plows is the responsibility of the resident to replace.

Read the mailbox installation and maintenance standards. The Public Works Department is not responsible for decorative or brick mailboxes. If a decorative or brick mailbox is struck by a plow, a resident may be eligible for a reimbursement up to \$40 from the city.

Contact the Public Works Department to request an inspection of your damaged mailbox at 708-535-4090.

If you are able to do so, please clear the hydrants on your block for better accessibility for the fire department.

**Keep snow and ice 5 feet away from fire hydrants.**

In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration



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# Village View



## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 25 | Number 2 | January 16, 2024

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

### Leadership Changes at McCord Palos Park

The McCord Gallery Board of Directors announces the retirement of Executive Director Linda Buchanan. Linda has achieved many accomplishments in her 2½ years at McCord. She acquired the financial donations to paint, update the hanging system, and replace the lighting in the McCord House to align with the Anderson Annex Gallery.

She created the successful 5" x 7" Art Sale and Wine Tasting Fundraiser, collaborated with Palos Park Women's Club in hosting fundraising events, and instituted "Women and Art," featuring the works of female artists during

women's history month in our gallery. Linda also brought in new watercolor and pastel instructors to expand our class offerings. Her energy and creativity will certainly be missed.

The Board is pleased to announce Carol Trzcinski as our new Executive Director. Carol brings a unique set of skills to the position. For 9 years, she had served on the McCord Gallery Board of Directors as President, 3 years as a board member, and additionally as Co-Chair of the annual fundraiser several times.

She joined McCord as a volunteer in 2002 and has worked to expand McCord's presence in the Southwest

Suburbs. Her most important accomplishment was being part of the group of volunteers that raised funding for the building addition. Carol's corporate experience in retail and merchandising management for Sears Holding Corp. and Pier 1 Imports is an additional asset to the Executive Director's position.

Come join us as we recognize Linda's contributions to the growth and success of McCord, and welcome Carol to her new role. A Celebration party will be held on Friday, January 19 at 6 p.m. at McCord 9602 W. Creek Road, Palos Park, IL 60464, 708-671-0648, [www.mccordgallery.org](http://www.mccordgallery.org).

### Worth Township is open for appeals

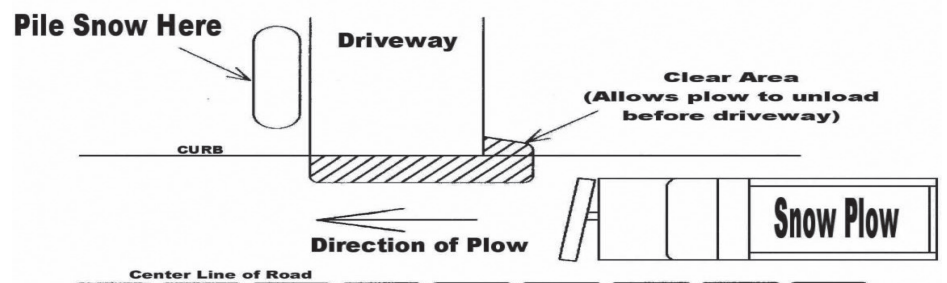
Worth Township is now open for appeals to the Cook County Board of Review. You can file an appeal online at [cookcountyboardofreview.com](http://cookcountyboardofreview.com) now through 2/6/2024. The Worth Township Assessor's Office is happy to assist taxpayers in the process of filing an appeal or obtaining information for your appeal.

If you would like help, please call our office between now and January 31st at 708-371-5557 or email: [assessorworth@worthtownship.com](mailto:assessorworth@worthtownship.com). In order to assist you we will need you to provide your name, address, PIN number (if available), email address and phone number. Please leave this information in your voice message or email and we will respond back to you.

You are encouraged to contact our office early in the appeals' window, as every request will be handled on a first-come first-serve basis. We anticipate a record number of appeals and therefore cannot guarantee that we will be able to assist requests after January 31st, so please contact us prior to that date.

An appeal to the Board of Review is your best opportunity to challenge your new assessed value. We look forward to helping you through the appeals process to ensure that you receive a fair review. From: Worth Township Assessor Shaun Murphy.

### Driveway Plowing Policies



### Snow Season in Palos Park

The Public Works Department snow operations are ready for the winter weather conditions. Please assist Public Works with the clearing of snow and ice from the roads by following these directions:

Do not plow or shovel snow into the street. Move snow to non-paved areas. After a street has been plowed, snowplows will not return to clear patches of snow that have been redeposited onto the paved area of the street by residents and/or contractors plowing, pushing, or blowing snow from a driveway. Snow being redeposited onto the street can result in a citation

to the homeowner. Village Ordinance 1020.03 prohibits pushing or blowing snow from a driveway into the public street. Redepositing snow onto a plowed street can form ice, which presents a hazard to vehicular traffic and hinders subsequent snow removal efforts. The Village trucks plow snow to the side of the road and the snow may drift across driveways. It is the property owner's responsibility to remove any snow that is deposited across a driveway to a non-paved area during snow removal operations. Please do not redeposit snow onto paved areas of the street.

Do not park on the street

during snowfall. When snow starts falling, remove your car from the street. Plows going around a car parked on the street will not be able to return to clear patches of snow where the car was parked.

One way to reduce the amount of snow in front of your driveway is to place the snow along the right side of your drive, as you face the street (see diagram). This reduces the chance of snow removed from your driveway being pushed back across your drive. This suggestion, however, may not work where driveway openings are placed close together.

### Beverly Arts Center presents Little Shop of Horrors

February 8 through 18 2024, by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman.

Timid florist's assistant Seymour Krelborn is unlucky: unlucky in life and unlucky in love. But, when Seymour discovers an unusual new plant during a solar eclipse, his luck seems to improve dramatically, or does it? Featuring music by the legendary Alan Menken and Howard Ashman (including the songs "Suddenly, Seymour and Somewhere That's Green"), Little Shop of Horrors asks the question, "what would you be willing to do to see all of your dreams come true?"

Tickets can be purchased at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/36129/production/1161153>.

### Moraine Valley releases fall 2023 academic achievement lists

Moraine Valley Community College has announced the students named to its President's List, Dean's List and Part-time Student Scholastic Achievement List for the fall 2023 semester. Students are organized by town on all lists.

Qualification for the President's List is a semester grade point average of 3.75

to 4.00. Visit [morainevalley.edu/presidentsfall2023](http://morainevalley.edu/presidentsfall2023) to view this list.

Qualification for the Dean's List is a semester grade point average of 3.50 to 3.749. Visit [morainevalley.edu/deansfall2023](http://morainevalley.edu/deansfall2023) to view this list.

Part-time students on the Scholastic Achievement List have a cumulative

grade point average of 3.5 or higher, 24 or more credit hours earned and at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester the distinction is received. Qualified students must earn three to eight credit hours during the semester the distinction is received. Visit [morainevalley.edu/scholastic-fall2023](http://morainevalley.edu/scholastic-fall2023) to view this list.

### Recreation Department Rental Rate Increase in Palos Park

Recreation Department Rental Rates have increased for 2024. This increase was approved by the Village

board with a recommendation from the Recreation Advisory Council to ensure our rates are a line with

industry trends. The 2024 rates are available to view on the Recreation Department's page of the Village website

under 'Facility Rental' at <https://www.palospark.org/326/Facility-Rental>. These rates apply to all 2024

rentals meaning rentals made in 2023 for 2024 dates will be subject to the 2024 rates. Any questions about

this matter can be directed to the Recreation and Parks Director Stephen DeFalco, [sdefalco@palospark.org](mailto:sdefalco@palospark.org).



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## SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 50 | Number 14 | January 16, 2024

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

### "With Love from The Second City" at the MAC

The best of Second City brings a hilarious look at love to the MAC Valentine's Day weekend, February 10, 2024.

The McAninch Arts Center (MAC) welcomes back The Second City for a hilarious Valentine's Day love-inspired comedy show. The Best of Second City: "With Love, from The Second City" is the perfect night out for those who love (or hate!) the holiday. Performances will take place at 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, February 10.

In the world-famous comedy company's latest side-splitting production, The Second City takes shots at heartbreak, missed connections and the mire of human relationships in an evening that is sure to elicit raucous laughter for couples and singles alike. This show features some of the best sketches and songs from The Second City's history plus the company's trademark improvisation, making it the perfect date night or evening enjoyed with friends.

The cast for the performance includes George Elrod, Chas Lilly, Cat Savage, Annie Sullivan, Max Thomas and Adisa Williams. Music Director is Michael Oldham. Stage Manager is Rebecca Gilman.

Tickets: McAninch Arts Center, located at 425 Fawell Blvd. on the campus of College of DuPage, presents The Best of Second City: "With Love, from The Second City" at 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Tickets are \$30 to \$48. For tickets or more information visit [AtTheMAC.org](http://AtTheMAC.org) or call 630-942-4000. Please note: this show may contain adult language and themes.

Box Office hours are Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. and two hours prior to the performance.



SC Red Company. Photo by Timothy Schmidt.

### Casting announced for Drury Lane Theatre's production of Fiddler on the Roof

Drury Lane Theatre is pleased to announce casting for its final show of the 2023/2024 season, Fiddler on the Roof. The cast of Fiddler on the Roof includes Mark David Kaplan (Tevye), Janna Cardia (Golde), Emma Rosenthal (Tzeitel), Yael Chanukov (Hodel), Abby Goldberg (Chava), Lea Grace Biber (Schprintze), Estella McCarthy Schultz (Bielke), Michael Kurowski (Motel), Zach Sorrow (Perchik), Grant Kilian (Fyedka), Molly Dibble (Alternate Schprintze/Bielke), Janet Ulrich Brooks (Yenta), Joel Gelman (Lazar Wolf), Jeff Parker (Constable), with Dara Cameron (Fruma-Sarah), Thom Cox (Nachum/Yussel), Bill Mcgough

(Rabbi), Karl Hamilton (Mordcha), Susan Hofflander (Grandma Tzeitel), Nathan Kabara (Avram), Sam Shankman (Mendel).

"Now more than ever, Fiddler on the Roof speaks to the universal desire to protect our beliefs and traditions while the ground continually shifts beneath us," comments director Elizabeth Margolius. "This new, evocative approach to Fiddler on the Roof puts the focus on the people in hopes of illuminating this story as never before and inspiring us to question who we are and what we will leave behind for future generations."

The Tony Award-winning musical features music by Jerry Bock, book by Joseph



Janna Cardia as Golde. Photo courtesy Drury Lane Theatre.

Stein, and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick. Fiddler on the Roof runs January 24 through March 24, 2024, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace.

Tickets are available online at [drurylanetheatre.com](http://drurylanetheatre.com) or by phone at (630) 530-0111. Drury Lane Theatre and box office is at 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Single Tickets are \$85.75 to \$96.25. Hours: Monday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm, [DruryLaneTheatre.com](http://DruryLaneTheatre.com).

### New waste and recycling provider for Evergreen Park in 2024

Flood Brothers Disposal Co. will provide weekly garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection in Evergreen Park. More information about the transition has been mailed to residents. Service day has switched to Friday for southeast residents in 2024.

Information can be found on the village website and in the resolution at <http://www.evergreenpark-ill.com>.

Your live Christmas tree can be placed on the curb for pick-up by Flood Brothers. Trees will be picked up on your regular pick-up day throughout the month of January.

### Composers selected for ACO Earshot Recordings with Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

As part of Maestro Stilian Kirov's vision to encourage the development of new musical voices, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is the proud home of IPO Classical Evolve, aimed at expanding the canon of classical music for current and future generations.

Beginning in 2023/2024, IPO has partnered with

Earshot, a program of the American Composers Orchestra. Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra will rehearse, perform and record select upcoming compositions for orchestra, offering selected participants the opportunity to collaborate with world class mentors Jessie Montgomery (an EarShot alum) and James

Stephenson, both established orchestral composers and industry leaders.

Go to: <https://ipomusic.org/classical-evolve-composer-competition/> for more information or tickets to this unique event being held at the Barnes & Noble College Auditorium at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

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## Illinois workers are owed more than \$5M

More than 7,000 Illinois workers are owed more than \$5M in back wages recovered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

Yet, a significant portion of that money remains unclaimed because some of the workers due back wages cannot be located. In many cases, the employees change jobs or change addresses and cannot be notified of the money due them. Name changes or an employer's failure to retain contact information can also make it difficult for us to find employees and put back wages recovered into their hands.

The Wage and Hour Division can only hold unclaimed back wages for three years before we are required to turn it over to the Department of the

Treasury. Despite our best efforts, too much of this money remains unclaimed.

To reach out to more workers and help them claim the money they are owed, the agency has developed an online search tool, Workers Owed Wages (WOW) that allows workers to enter information to find out if we are holding back wages on their behalf. The tool provides a quick and easy way for employees to find out if they are owed money and receive it.

The WOW system is currently available in English and a Spanish. Last year, WHD also updated the WOW website to make it more user-friendly and offer ways to search the database, and we enhanced security.

Both the English and

Spanish versions of the website allow workers and their advocates to answer a series of questions to determine if they are owed wages and to easily claim them. If there is money to be distributed, workers will be directed to the WHD office that can help them get their check quickly. Calls can be answered, confidentially, in over 200 languages.

If you would like to conduct an interview with a Department of Labor spokesperson to learn more about the program, please contact us at Allen.scott@dol.gov, or Burke.rhonda@dol.gov. We can conduct interviews in English and Spanish. For more information on see the Workers Owed Wages link and informational videos at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/wow>.



Amber Circle Studio. Photo by Victoria.

## Preventing Frozen Pipes, Orland Park Businesses

Frozen pipes can burst if left unchecked, and in the cases of unoccupied properties, frozen pipes may not be noticed until it is too late.

Business owners should continue to perform maintenance tasks on their properties, especially in the winter months. A snow removal expert can provide consultation for the outside property, but the inside of the building requires care as well.

Pipes are one of the most important maintenance concerns due to their propensity for freezing as temperatures drop. Clean-up and repair due to lack of preparation can be costly. Below are tips to help prevent pipes from freezing:

**Check for Leaks:** Inspect all water supply points including bathrooms, kitchen areas, utility areas and basements. Note if any pipes or spigots need repair and have this fixed as soon as possible.

**Insulate Pipes:** Many pipes do not have proper insulation to prevent them

from freezing in cold weather. Pipe sleeves and heating tape can be applied to insulate the pipes. It is also a good precautionary measure to caulk around gaps where cold drafts can affect pipe temperatures.

**Set the Thermostat:** There are numerous money saving tips that tell property owners and managers to lower the temperature of the thermostat at night, but in the winter, this can promote pipe freezing. Instead, leave the heat on at night, or, if you will not return to the property for some time, lower the thermostat to 55 degrees. Do not go below this temperature, or frozen pipes may still be possible.

**Circulate Air:** Open cabinets located under sinks to help warm air get to the pipes. Doors to unused rooms that house pipes should also be kept open to prevent freezing of pipes.

**Keep Out Drafts:** Cold air leaks can drop the temperature in a room, potentially allowing the pipes to freeze if the temperature drops

too much. Prevent this by wedging towels beneath outside doors to keep drafts from finding their way into the building.

**Let the Faucets Drip:** Letting even a small amount of water to flow through pipes can do a lot to prevent pipes from freezing. A steady drip is all that is needed to keep the pipes free from ice accumulation.

**Use Preventative Maintenance:** Additionally, commit to a regular preventive maintenance schedule that includes routine inspection of all pipes, plumbing, pressurized drinking-water or fire-water systems, and any other water entry points and sources. Attention to basic infrastructure and systems will enable the discovery of unexpected or slowly brewing problems (e.g., aging, or faulty pipes, drips, or condensation problems). Taking steps to correct problems will prevent them from turning into catastrophes (e.g., burst pipes, or slow or sudden leaks, resulting in damage, corrosion, mold growth and many other possible problems).

**Invest in Smart Sensors/Detection Systems:** Implement an early detection system such as a flow-monitoring sensor device with a remote valve shut-off feature and smart leak sensors. Both devices send alerts via smartphone, tablet, or computer, so leaks can be repaired while damage may still be easily containable and corrected before a much larger problem develops.

## Online Exchange Safe Haven in Orland Park

The Village of Orland Park once again reminds buyers and sellers using online marketplaces that the Orland Park Police Department parking lot and lobby space is available as a location to assist in the safe exchange of goods and money without incident.

This space can be utilized to complete transactions from online sites such as Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, eBay and many selling/trading apps.

Anyone wishing to use the police station as a meeting place to complete transactions is welcome to do so at any time. The station is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, contact the Village of Orland Park Police Dept. at 708-349-4111.

## Illinois Tollway seeks firms for planning, design, and construction management services

The Illinois Tollway today announced that it is seeking professional engineering firms to provide planning, engineering, design, and construction management services for eight new contracts anticipated to be awarded in 2024.

The contracts will provide for an estimated \$28 million in contracts related to work in the 16-year, \$15 billion Move Illinois capital program.

Firms interested in submitting Statements of Interest as prime consul-

tants or participating on contracts as subconsultants are invited to attend an optional pre-proposal meeting on January 18, 2024. Registration information is available on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### Village View Publication, Inc.

708-425-1910

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Owner/Editor/Publisher Annette Dixon  
Published on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Press releases and ads are to be e-mailed to [vvnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vvnew@sbcglobal.net)

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.

### Proud member of the following 2024 Chambers of Commerce

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|   | UBAM<br><a href="http://www.ubam.org">www.ubam.org</a>   |

## Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony

Join us for an evening of recognition, appreciation, and installation of the 2024 Board of Directors on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at The Odyssey, 19110 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Tinley Park, IL.

RSVP to [info@tinleychamber.org](mailto:info@tinleychamber.org) of 708-532-5700 before Friday, January 19, 2024. \$50.00 per person includes Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert, and 3-hour Open Bar.

For more info go to <https://tinleychamber.org/>.

### 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>.

## EP student wins state award

An Evergreen Park Community High School junior is now a two-time winner of the Illinois Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Junior Member of the Year award.

Francesca Canon was recently selected by the state DAV chapter as the award winner for the second year in a row due to her work with the Midlothian chapter of the Illinois DAV, the state's largest. She's now the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Junior Member of the Year for both 2022 and 2023.

"My heart always sings when I see her doing things for veterans," said Jeannie Jaworski, commander of the Midlothian DAV and Canon's grandmother.

Canon, an EPCHS junior, has been volunteering at the Midlothian DAV for about three years now. She began organizing parties and helping with various tasks at meetings as a way to give back to her grandfather, Richard Jaworski, a Vietnam era veteran.

"He went above and beyond in serving our country, so I wanted to do my part in giving back," Canon said. Jeannie Jaworski added that her granddaughter would "do anything for her grandfather."

As part of her volunteerism with the DAV, Canon serves pizza at meetings, helps veterans get to and from their cars and helps feed homeless veterans every winter, among other things. Canon is also the organizer of the DAV auxiliary's winter pet food drive for the Animal Welfare League in Chicago Ridge. In three years, she's raised more than \$1,000 to help the cats and dogs at the shelter.

Her award as the two-time Illinois Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Junior Member of the Year came with a letter of recognition from Paula Raymond, the past national commander of the DAV auxiliary.

"In a time when young people have many activities to participate in, you have chosen to help the people who have made it possible for you to participate in those activities," Raymond wrote. "The fact that you are so willing to give of yourself and your time to help veterans is greatly appreciated. You are the future of our organization, and with individuals like you, we will continue to fight for veterans' rights and benefits."

With more young people like Canon needed to keep DAV auxiliaries across the state and nation strong, Jeannie Jaworski said her granddaughter has inspired at least two other girls to join as junior members, and they both "seem to enjoy it as much as her."



Francesca Canon. Photo courtesy Evergreen Park Community HS.

## Start the New Year by committing to a fun 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run at Lincoln Park Zoo!

Start the new year on the right foot by signing up early for Run for the Zoo. For 46 years, people of all running abilities have come together to support Lincoln Park Zoo in this fun and welcoming race. Register now to snag the best deal before prices increase. The event is Sunday, June 2, \$25 to \$90, all ages are welcome.

New this year: Every registrant will receive a unique, animal-themed medal along with the annual race shirt and other post-race goodies. Follow us on social media to be the first to find out which special animal will be representing Run for the Zoo in 2024!

Race info: Run for the Zoo is thoughtfully

designed to accommodate all members of the family, so everyone can join in and stay for the day. The 10K Run and 5K Run/Walk courses are U.S.A. Track & Field-certified and chip-timed for experienced athletes. The Kids' Course is perfect for kids ages 3 to 8, who can sprint, climb, and crawl over playful obstacles on the

South Lawn. Adults will enjoy the flat, scenic paths through the zoo, in view of the beautiful Chicago skyline and along the lake-shore. Professional photos are taken of all participants during the race.

For more information and to register go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Chicago/RunfortheZoo2024>.



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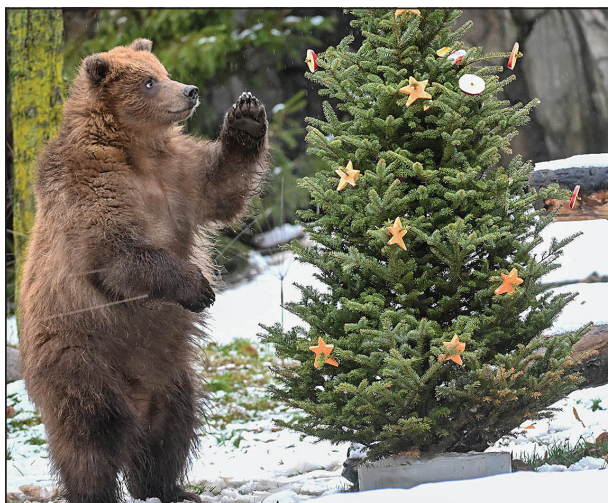
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## Animals at Brookfield Zoo Receive Christmas Trees for Enrichment

The care staff at Brookfield Zoo are repurposing dozens of the Christmas trees that were decorated by more than 900 community organizations, families, and corporations that lined the Zoo's pathways for its annual Holiday Magic. Today, many of the animals received the trees for enrichment.

The reindeer and bison rubbed their antlers and horns, respectively, in the greenery. Brutus, one of the Zoo's African lions, and Whirl, an Amur tiger, retrieved bones from their trees that were hung upside down in their habitats. And, Hudson, one of the polar bears, and Jess and Tim, 1-year-old brown bear siblings who recently arrived at the Zoo, had their trees decorated with a variety of vegetables.

Winter is a great time to venture out to Brookfield Zoo and see the animals that enjoy the cooler temperatures and the snow. Guests who visit in January and February on Sundays, Tuesdays,



Tim, a 1-year-old brown bear at Brookfield Zoo, eyeing some treats. Photo courtesy Jim Schulz/CZS-Brookfield Zoo.

Thursdays, or Saturdays (parking fees still receive free general admission apply).

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## #BettyWhiteChallenge

The beloved actress was well-known for her love of animals. She worked with zoos, advocated for animals, and had many rescued pets of her own. Her birthday, January 17 has been named national Betty White day. At this time, donations are made to organizations that help animals in honor of this remarkable woman.

Please keep her legacy alive and join us in participating in the



by donating \$5 and up to the **Animal Welfare League**.

January 17 -31, 2024

You will be helping hundreds of homeless animals in our care. To donate or for more information, please visit our website: [www.animalwelfareleague.com](http://www.animalwelfareleague.com)



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# Theatre

## Terence Blanchard's "opera in jazz" *Champion* at Lyric



A scene from *Champion* where Emile Griffith is in a boxing ring surrounded by fans. Photo: Ken Howard/Metropolitan Opera.

Experience Terence Blanchard and Michael Cristofer's moving "opera in jazz" at Lyric, January 27 through February 11.

*Champion*, an opera by Terence Blanchard with libretto by Michael Cristofer, tells the true story of welterweight boxer Emile Griffith who is haunted by guilt. This "opera in jazz" features a brilliant cast, including Reginald Smith, Jr. and Justin Austin, and is led by Music Director Enrique Mazzola.

Six chances to see *Champion*: January 27, 31 matinee, February 3, 6, 9, and 11 matinee, 2024.

Sung in English, with projected English titles above the stage. *Champion* addresses adult themes and includes adult language.

More information and tickets: visit [lyricopera.org/champion](http://lyricopera.org/champion) or call 312.827.5600. Lyric Opera of Chicago is at 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 860, Chicago, IL.

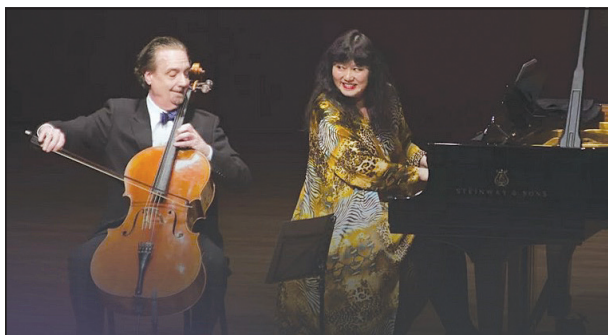
## Magic of Motown at the Auditorium Theatre

A journey through Motown's best Saturday February 24, 2024, 7:30 pm, tickets start at \$43.00. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Magic of Motown is a group of 15 power vocalists backed by a six-piece band delivering all the hits from: The Temptations, The Jackson Five, Diana Ross & The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin etc. With the costuming and choreography, you are transported straight to Motown.

The Auditorium Theatre is at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago Illinois. Phone 312-341-2300 or e-mail [info@auditoriumtheatre.org](mailto:info@auditoriumtheatre.org) for information.

## An Evening with David Finckel and Wu Han on January 25th at Harris Theater



David Finckel and Wu Han. Courtesy Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Harris Theater.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center presents David Finckel and Wu Han January 25th at 7:30 PM at Harris Theater Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Chicago, IL.

In a concert celebrating the range of the cello-piano duo repertoire, Debussy's groundbreaking late sonata, the first truly modern work on the genre, leads seamlessly to the dreamy opening of Bruce Adolph's *Couple*, composed for the

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's own David Finckel and Wu Han.

In the second half, the CMS Co-Artistic Directors are joined by two young artists from the Bowers Program, dedicated to nurturing the next generation of great chamber musicians: Taiwanese American violinist Richard Lin and

BBC New Generation Artist Tim Ridout, a violist with "gorgeous tone, a thoughtful approach to phrasing, and an infectious sense of impetuosity" (Grammophone), performing Dvořák's heartfelt Piano Quartet No. 2.

For more information and to buy tickets: e-mail [info@harristheaterchicago.org](mailto:info@harristheaterchicago.org) or call 312-334-7777.

## Pretty Woman the Musical on Sale at Broadway in Chicago

Based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories of all time, springs to life with a powerhouse creative team led by two-time Tony Award®-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell (*Hairspray*, *Kinky Boots*, *Legally Blonde*).

Musical features an original score by Grammy® winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance ("Summer of '69", "Heaven"), and a book by the movie's legendary director Garry Marshall and screenwriter J. F. Lawton. *Pretty Woman: The Musical* will lift your spirits and light

up your heart. "If you love the movie, you'll love the musical!" (BuzzFeed News).

Are you ready to fall in love all over again?

CIBC Theatre is at 18 W Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603. Purchase your tickets in person at any Broadway In Chicago theatre box office.

## Porchlight Music Theatre announces 29th season concerts

Award-winning Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to announce that Tony Award-nominated Sean Allan Krill and Broadway's Kathy Voytko will star in Porchlight in Concert: Sunday in the Park with George, Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m., at the Studebaker Theater, 410 S. Michigan Ave. This concert performance includes music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine and is directed by Artistic Director Michael Weber and music directed by David Fiorello.

Porchlight's 29th season also includes *Anything Goes*, January 13 to Feb-

ruary 25, 2024 at the Studebaker Theater, 410 S. Michigan Ave, as well as the Cole Porter Festival, A Celebration of the Man and his Music and the return of Porchlight's special fundraising event, Chicago Sings Broadway Pop II, Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the House of Blues Chicago, 329 North Dearborn Street.

Subscriptions are on sale now for \$150 which includes *Anything Goes* and Porchlight in Concert: Sunday in the Park with George. Single tickets for Porchlight in Concert: Sunday in the Park with George (\$75 to \$125, subject to change) are now on sale at PorchlightMusicTheatre.



Kathy Voytko. Photo by James Juliano.

org/porchlight-in-concert or by phone with the Studebaker Theater box office at 312-753-3210. Tickets may also be purchased in-person at the Studebaker Theater, 410 S. Michigan Ave, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Chicago Sings Broadway Pop II may be added to the subscription at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org or 773-777-9884. Single tickets for *Anything Goes* are also now on sale.

## On Your Feet! The story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan

One week only March 19 through 24, 2024. CIBC Theatre, Broadway in Chicago.com. *On Your Feet!* is the inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent, and each other, to become an international sensation: Emilio and Gloria Estefan. Now their story is an all-new exhilarating

original musical winning the hearts of critics and audiences alike, with the Chicago Tribune declaring "IT'S A HIT!" and The New York Times cheering, "The very air in the room seems to vibrate in this undeniably crowd-pleasing musical!"

*On Your Feet!* features some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-

century, including "Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Conga," "Get on Your Feet," "Don't Want to Lose You Now," "1-2-3" and "Coming Out of the Dark." Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!

CIBC Theatre is at 18 W. Monroe, Chicago, IL. Purchase tickets at <https://www.broadwayinchicago.com/shows/on-your-feet/>.



Complexions Contemporary Ballet performs *Star Dust*. Photo by Sharen Bradford.

## STAR DUST: From Bach to Bowie at the Auditorium Theatre

Founders Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, armed with a rich Alvin Ailey lineage and a cadre of 16 spectacular dancers, have re-envisioned ballet through technical precision, athletic prowess, and sheer passion. Complexions' blockbuster hit, *STAR DUST: From Bach to Bowie* is sure to rock audiences with a soundtrack celebrating David Bowie classics, including "Young Americans," "Heroes," and "Space Oddity."

Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 7:30 PM at the Auditorium Theatre 50 E Ida B Wells Dr., Chicago. AuditoriumTheatre.org or 312-341-2300 for tickets.

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## Chicago's 65+ population climbed to 14.3%

It is no great secret that America is getting older. The birth rate in the U.S. has fallen by more than half since the early 1960s. Typical life expectancy in the U.S. has increased by around a decade over the same span. And the last members of the Baby

Boomer generation, which totals more than 75 million members, will hit their 60s starting in 2024.

These developments are all pushing older Americans to be an increasingly large share of the population, with far-reaching implications for society and the

economy, a decreased labor force, strained government budgets, and an increased need for health and social services.

These are the key takeaways from the report for Chicago, Illinois:

In 2012, seniors made up 10.9% of the population in

Chicago.

By 2022, that figure was 14.3%, an increase of 3.4 percentage points.

Overall, Chicago is not aging quite as fast as the country as a whole, which saw a 3.6 percentage point increase over the same period.

Location	Percentage point change in the 65+ population share	65+ population share (2022)	65+ population share (2012)
Chicago, IL	+3.4	14.3%	10.9%
United States	+3.6	17.3%	13.7%

Overall, the northeast corner of the U.S. is aging most rapidly.

You can find the complete results of the analysis here: <https://www.usmoneyreserve.com/news/executive-insights/americas-most-rapidly-aging-cities/>.

**Check out our website at [www.vvnew.com](http://www.vvnew.com)**

## Delicious Traditional Recipes

### Give Traditional Recipes A Better-For-You Twist

(NAPSI)—Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States—about 655,000 Americans die from heart disease each year, according to the Centers For Disease Control And Prevention—but you can protect yourself 3 ways.

#### Three Steps To A Healthier Heart

1. Don't smoke. If you do smoke, quit. Your doctor can help.

2. Get regular exercise. The Surgeon General re-

commends 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise week.

3. Eat right. Choose plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and foods high in fiber and low in saturated fats, trans fat, and cholesterol.

To help, Mazola® Corn Oil has come up with a number of recipes that are delicious and support heart health. The all-purpose cooking oil is a heart-healthy\* choice for baking, grilling, sautéing, stir frying or mixing up a marinade.

Plus, it has a high smoke point of 450° F. All cooking oils have a smoke point



Heart-healthy\* Mazola® helps make delicious steak tacos.

that, once exceeded, negatively affects the food's flavor.

Here's a heart-healthy\* recipe, popular with Latinx cooks, that's delicious for everyone:

**Steak Tacos**  
 1 pound flank or skirt steak, frozen for 30 minutes; 4 tablespoons

(¼ cup) Mazola® Corn Oil, divided; 3 tablespoons tamari or reduced sodium soy sauce; 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice; 3 cloves garlic, finely minced; 2 teaspoons chili powder; ½ teaspoon ground cumin; ½ teaspoon dried Mexican oregano and 8 taco-sized flour tortillas heated on skillet lightly coated with Mazola® Corn Oil until lightly charred.

**Toppings:** Cotija cheese, Chopped cilantro, Pickled jalapeno and Lime wedges.

In large bowl, combine soy sauce, lime juice, 2 tablespoon Mazola® Corn Oil, minced garlic, chili powder, cumin and

oregano. Remove steak from freezer and slice thinly across the grain. Place in bowl with marinade. Stir to cover. Marinate 45 minutes to 2 hours. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in large skillet over high heat. Add steak to hot oil. Sear on both sides for about 1 minute. Immediately reduce heat to medium high. Add reserved marinade. Cook, stirring often, until marinade has reduced to half, about 3 to 4 minutes. Divide steak among warmed tortillas. Top with a sprinkling of chopped cilantro, crumbles of cotija cheese and pickled jalapeño. Serve immediately with lime

wedges.

Learn More

For further healthful eating facts, tips and recipes, visit [www.Mazola.com](http://www.Mazola.com).

\*Very limited and preliminary scientific evidence suggests that eating about 1 tbsp (16 grams) of corn oil daily may reduce the risk of heart disease due to the unsaturated fat content in corn oil. FDA concludes there is little scientific evidence supporting this claim. To achieve this possible benefit, corn oil is to replace a similar amount of saturated fat and not increase the total number of calories you eat in a day.

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Girl Scouts from Troupe 26004 (from left) Aubrey Hanik, Maeve Waropay, Whitney Davis, Zara Walker, Kaylin Natale, Adelyn Galvin and Maeve Flynn entertain Mercy Circle residents with carols and homemade cards. Photo credit Rebecca Healy.

## Girls Scout Troupe 26004 spreads cheer at Mercy Circle

Christmas spirit filled the air recently, as Girl Scouts from Troupe 26004 visited Mercy Circle, a faith-based continuing care retirement community in Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood. While residents were on their way to Mass, the Scouts sang Christmas carols and delivered cards made by eighth graders at Mt. Greenwood Elementary School. All the Girl Scouts are fifth graders there. The Scouts have been busy working in the community, volunteering to help families benefitting from Pat's Pantry.

For more information or to schedule a private appointment, please call 773-253-3600 or visit [MercyCircle.org](http://MercyCircle.org).

## Orland Park Public Library Unveils New Online Room Reservation Process

As part of the library's commitment to enhancing patron experience, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois, is thrilled to announce a significant upgrade in the meeting room reservation process. Effective now, paper-based Meeting Room Reservation Use & Agreement forms have been phased out and replaced by an online booking system. Recognizing the evolving needs of the community, this shift aims to streamline the reservation process.

Patrons who have previously utilized library meeting rooms will no longer need to fill out the traditional Meeting Room Reservation Use & Agreement form. Instead, they can reserve meeting spaces through the library's user-friendly online

calendar system accessible on the library website at [www.orlandparklibrary.org](http://www.orlandparklibrary.org).

This new online booking platform presents several advantages. Patrons can browse room availability and make reservations from any internet-enabled device. Patrons can view room availability in real-time, enabling patrons to select the most suitable time slots that align with their needs. The user-friendly interface guides patrons through the reservation process step by step, ensuring a hassle-free experience.

Meeting rooms are for use by Orland Park resident cardholders to hold community meetings. Orland Park business property owners can reserve meeting rooms as well for staff meetings. Nonprofits

and Government Organizations may reserve meeting rooms as well. An example of a meeting is a Boy Scout troop meeting.

The library has 3 meeting room spaces. Large Meeting Room 104 can hold up to 200 meeting attendees on the first floor of the library. The Multipurpose Room on the second floor of the library can be reserved for smaller groups of about 15, and Meeting Room 104A offers a board room-style meeting space. Due to its size, Large Meeting Room 104 offers two projector screens and microphones. The smaller meeting rooms have a TV screen in them that groups can attach their laptop to and show presentation slides on.

For inquiries or assistance, patrons can reach out to the library at (708) 428-5208 or (708) 428-5205.

## Merry Ploughboys Concert at Chicago Gaelic Park

Saturday, February 10th at 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, 6119 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois 60452.

The Merry Ploughboys return to Chicago Gaelic Park! The repertoire spans humorous old Dublin music hall and street-songs, classic ballads from 19th and 20th century Irish history, timeless songs of emigration and romance, and peppered with traditional Irish dance tunes and their own original material.

You can buy tickets at <https://tickets.chicagogaelpark.com/events/chicagogaelpark/1082692>.

## Hard work gets result for Farhan on hardcourt at Oak Lawn

by Brian Frangella, OLCCHS Staff Writer

For junior Ali Farhan, this boys basketball season began months ago. It started in the offseason with relentless work, a drive to get better, and the dedication to helping improve the Oak Lawn Community High School team. And now, all that preparation is paying off for him.

Farhan has become a valuable asset off the bench. He provides scoring, ball distribution, and pure hustle for the Spartans. He is becoming a difference maker.

"Ali is one of our hardest working players, and his work is beginning to show on the court," head coach Jason Rhodes said. "He is bringing great energy off the bench, adding some zest to our half-court offense while playing opportunistic defense on the other end of the floor. Still improving, he has the ability to play-make from the guard position and reads the floor well, the product of diligent film study on his part.

"He asks good questions, takes good care of his body, and is heavily invested in the well-being of the team. We are proud of his development and dedication, as he has been one of our most committed players in the offseason and a good example for young players in the program to follow."



Ali Farhan. Courtesy Oak Lawn Community HS.

## Evergreen Park Community Center Snow Tubing field trip

The snow tubing trip is Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 11 am until 6 pm, open to grades 5 through 12. The cost is \$30 and includes the bus ride to and from Bartlett Illinois and 2 hours of snow tubing.

After snow tubing, we will visit the Villa Olivia cafeteria. Please bring additional money to purchase concessions/lunch. Outdoor food and beverages are not allowed in the cafeteria.

There are limited spaces available for this trip. Register at the EP Youth Department at 3450 West 97th Street, Evergreen Park Illinois before January 19th. Call 708-229-3377 for questions.

## Thomas provides leadership for Spartan Competitive Dance team

by Brian Frangella, OLCCHS Staff Writer

The bright and shining smile grabs the audience's attention, but the positive and loyal demeanor grabs the attention of teammates and coaches. With this combination, Jazmine Thomas is a sparkling example of what a team captain should be for the Oak Lawn Community High School dance team.

"Jazzy is a senior, and she leads her team with positivity and poise at all times," head coach Ryan Brandt said. "The team has no doubt they can rely on Jazzy for anything as her loyalty and dedication to her teammates means everything to her. Way to go, Jazzy."



Jazmine Thomas. Courtesy Oak Lawn Community HS.

## McCord Gallery and Cultural Center welcomes Stagg HS Student Exhibition

Exhibition dates are now through the reception on January 26, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and is free to the public.

McCord Gallery and Cultural Center is honored

to exhibit the works of young artists in our community.

We invite you to come and see the 2D and 3D works of Amos Alonzo Stagg High School students on display this month.

McCord Gallery and Cultural Center is at 9602 West Creek Road, Palos Park, Illinois 60464, call 708-671-0648 for more information or go to [mccordgallery.org](http://mccordgallery.org).

## Oak Lawn's Arriaga becomes leader for Cheer Squad

by Brian Frangella, OLCCHS Staff Writer

For three years, Oak Lawn Community High School cheerleader Bianca Arriaga has continued to work hard and improve. This year that commitment to excellence propelled her to become a leader on the squad.

"Bianca's hard work, determination, and dedication over the years has now made her a vital part of our varsity squad," head coach Maria Vanderwarren said. "She has become a good base and pushes through any minor bumps and bruises that occur to make sure our squad is performing at its best.

"She also has become a great leader and will step up to get the job done without hesitation. We are fortunate to have Bianca as a part of our cheer program."

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**Spartans snare first place in State Vocabulary Bowl**

by Jennifer Jepsen, OLCHS Staff Writer  
Oak Lawn Community High School is the Illinois Champion for the Vocabulary Bowl Fall 2023 season. The Oak Lawn Community High School students mastered 18,296 words to come in first place in the state.

This honor reflects the collective effort of the English department. All teachers who use vocabulary.com in their classroom challenged students to master words, and the students rose to the occasion. Some vocabulary lists were tied to the curriculum in the classroom, such as words found in the novels students were reading, while other lists were tied to



*Mr. Gerny's English Class. Courtesy Oak Lawn Community High School.*

SAT preparation, word roots, and lists by theme. Students then used the words in their writing and in their conversations and discussions.

In addition to winning the state title, the English department also recognized the top student: Smantha Ramirez. Samantha, a student in Mr. Gerny's College Prep Writing class, mastered 490 words and was awarded an Amazon gift card.

A celebration will take place in January. Congratulations, Spartans!

**Cheer squads qualify for championships**

by Jennifer Jepsen, OLCHS Staff Writer

Both the Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheer squads of Oak Lawn Community High School qualified for the Illinois Cheerleading Coaching Association's Championship being held in Springfield recently. Both squads surpassed the minimum scores required in the Marion Catholic

and Wilmington Cheer invites. ICCA is the longest running cheer championship in the state of Illinois.

ICCA also offers recognition for Senior Scholar Athletes and nominations for the IHSCCO All-State Competition Cheer team. Senior Scholar Athletes for the 23-24 are: Bianca Arriaga, Allyson Fernandez, Annette Gu-

bala and Cecily Santoro. Athletes nominated for the 23-24 IHSCCO All-State Competition Cheer team are: Molly Cameron, Allyson Fernandez and Annete Gubala. The All-State Competition Cheer team will be announced at the ICCA Championship in Springfield.

Coach Maria Vander-



*Illinois State Scholars. Photo courtesy Evergreen Park Community HS.*

**Illinois State Scholars named from EPCHS**

Evergreen Park Community High School Principal Matt Dugan is pleased to announce that 18 students from the EPCHS graduating class of 2024 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency, presents this prestigious recognition of

academic achievement to exceptional Illinois high school students annually.

"We could not be more proud of the accomplishments of our Illinois State Scholar students," Dugan said. "They put an extraordinary amount of work into their past four years of high school, and they truly deserve this recognition."

The following EPCHS students were named 2024-

2025 Illinois State Scholars: Aidan Bench, Thomas Jarosz-Gobby, Michael Joyce, Colin Kelly, Matthew Dever, Amelia Woody, Rachel Thomas, Taylor Yeaman, Shyair Rowser, Skyeleigh Godowic, Theresa Brady, Kai Odom, Nathan Brannigan, Dulce Medina-Meza, Ulises Cardenas, Maya Rayson, Owen Doogan and Andrew Perez.



*Oak Lawn Community high School Cheer Squads Cheer 1 JV, Cheer 2 Varsity. Taken by coach Maria Vanderwarren.*

warren said, "Both Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheer squads showed determination and skill in their performances at the cheer

invitationals. Crowds were cheering loudly to Varsity's Rock theme and JV's Diva theme. We have very talented athletes at both

the Varsity and JV level this year and I couldn't be more proud to coach these wonderful, dedicated ladies!"

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