



We serve our community
with good news!

Village View



B-MAC EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 3 | February 6, 2024

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

South Suburban College Opens Multicultural Wellness Center

The recent grand opening of the new Multicultural Wellness Center at South Suburban College's (SSC) main campus in South Holland. Funded through the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act grant, SSC has established its inaugural Multicultural Wellness Center, acknowledging the diverse needs of students. This center, focusing on six pillars of wellness (Physical, Intellectual, Occupational, Spiritual, Social, and Emotional), adopts a holistic approach to promote a balanced state of well-being and enhance academic success. The Wellness

Center provides information, resources, mental health crisis intervention services, and educational workshops. Additionally, it offers a space for meditation and reflection.

The Wellness Center welcomes all students during open hours, providing support without the need for scheduled appointments. For more information, please contact Alexandra Glumac, Director of the Multicultural Wellness Center, via email at aglumac@ssc.edu or by calling 708-596-2000 ext. 2393. SSC continues to enroll students actively.



The South Suburban College main campus in South Holland, Illinois.

For enrollment details call College and Career Success Center at (708) 210-5724 or email admissions@ssc.edu.

For information in Spanish, please call (708) 210-5740. The main campus of South Suburban College is situated at 15800 South State Street, South Holland, Illinois. Additionally, the Oak Forest Center, the college's extension site, is located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois.

The Drama Group presents *Ain't Misbehavin'*

Ain't Misbehavin' is a musical revue with a book by Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby, Jr., and music by various composers and lyricists as arranged and orchestrated by Luther Henderson. It is named after the song by Fats Waller (with Harry Brooks and Andy Razaf), "Ain't Misbehavin'."

The musical is a tribute to the black musicians of the 1920s and 1930s who were part of the Harlem Renaissance, an era of growing creativity, cultural awareness, and ethnic pride, and takes its title from the 1929 Waller song "Ain't Misbehavin'." It was a time when Manhattan nightclubs like the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom were the playgrounds of high society and Lenox Avenue dives were filled with piano players banging out the new beat known as swing. Five performers present an evening of rowdy, raunchy, and humorous songs that encapsulate the various moods of the era.

Show times for *Ain't Misbehavin'* are 7:30 pm beginning Friday, Feb. 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24; added Saturday matinee Feb. 24 at 2:00 pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm Feb. 18 and 25.

The Drama Group has an online ticketing service, BookTix Ticketing and Livestreaming. All tickets are available by going to The Drama Group BookTix website dg.booktix.com, where you will be directed to set up your account with "The Drama Group-BookTix Box Office." Or you may always opt to call our Box Office at 708-755-3444.

Bunny Trolley Hop 2024 at the Railway Museum in Union, IL

The Illinois Railway Museum is pleased to announce that we will be holding the Bunny Trolley Hop again in 2024.

This event will run on three days: Saturday, March 23rd, Sunday, March 24th, and Saturday, March 30th. Gates open at 9:15 am and close at 5:00 pm.

Young visitors will be able to meet and be photographed with the Easter Bunny in his carrot coach and there will be lots of other attractions to enjoy. Bunny and the other attractions will all be located on the museum campus, with a frequent service of streetcars providing rides between the carrot coach and the following attractions: see live animals at the small animal zoo or join the Easter egg hunt.

Whilst riding the streetcar, help the Bunny to find his missing treasure. Enjoy games as well as our regular playground activities. Coloring activities will be available in our diner annex.

Don't miss our large model railroad displays (under the Hobby Shop sign).

For those who would like a longer ride, electric main line trains will operate from the depot. The display barns, housing IRM's large collection of historical railroad equipment will also be open to enjoy at your leisure.

Tickets are available for purchase on the Museum website at \$20 each and are required for those aged two and over.

Windy City Dueling Pianos at the Lyric Theater Blue Island

Windy City Dueling Pianos return to Blue Island with an engaging, high-energy show that takes the party to another level. If there's a song you want to hear, WCDDP will deliver and then some. Get ready to sing, dance and, most of all, have a great time.

On Friday night at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. At 12952 Western Ave, Blue Island, Illinois. Theater opens 1 hour prior to showtime. Concession stand, and full-service bar are open.

New Cook County Grants for Arts Organizations

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development launched a new grant program to assist arts and culture organizations in building resiliency in the post-pandemic economy.

The Nonprofit Relief Grant Program is a component of Cook County Arts, a \$5 million pilot arts initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Cook County Arts focuses on suburban communities

as many artists and organizations there are ineligible for major funding opportunities available through the City of Chicago. The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development is spearheading the initiative, which will include relief grants, creative place making investments and new research on the suburban arts sector.

The Cook County Arts Nonprofit Relief Grants program will provide up to

\$1.5 million in unrestricted relief grants to nonprofit organizations located in suburban Cook County. The application process is open now and will close on February 29, 2024. The \$1.5 million program will consist of \$5,000 or \$10,000 grants depending on the scope and scale of the applying organizations and is specifically for suburban organizations.

For information, visit CookCountyArts.org.

Sertoma Star Services has recently partnered with South Suburban PADS (SSPADS)

The Southland PSH is a component of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Expansion in South Cook County. It is an all-encompassing system of care that assists homeless individuals and families by providing a wide range of housing and services.

"This new partnership with SSPADS will support individuals with mental illness who are impacted by homelessness," said Kirk Hanson, Senior Director of Community Mental Health, and Counseling. "Mental health is often a hurdle for individuals but by offering the services of a Residential Mental Health Case Manager, we can provide support with benefits, linkage, and other services that, unfortunately, a large part of the population needs."

Sertoma Star Services is a newly merged agency through the alliance of two long-standing organizations of Sertoma Centre, Inc., Alsip, and New Star, Chicago Heights. Sertoma Star's Community Mental Health and Counseling is based in Matteson and serves the south suburbs, offering support and education to enable people with mental illness to participate in a personal recovery process.

Everyone, including museum members, will need a ticket for admission to the event.

To minimize wait time and congestion in the carrot coach, a limited number of tickets will be available for each 30-minute time slot between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The time on your ticket is the time when you should visit the Bunny in his carrot coach at the depot. You should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before this to allow time to get to the depot.

Illinois Railway Museum is at 7000 Olson Road, Union, IL. For more information call 815-923-4391 or go to www.irm.org.



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Village View

Celebrating
Our 50th Year!

Volume 22 | Number 3 | February 6, 2024

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Orland Township Offering Scholarships to Local High School Seniors

The Orland Township Scholarship Foundation, launched in 1998, has since awarded more than 340 scholarships to Township students totaling over \$280,000.

The Orland Township Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships based on a combination of the applicant's leadership skills, dedication to community service, academic focus, participation in extracurricular activities, recommendations from school representatives, volunteer supervisors, or employers, and an assigned essay question response.

Students faced with hardships will be given strong consideration. Applicants



Orland Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady with 2023 scholarship recipient, Armando Gutierrez. Photo Alexandria Shipyor.

must be residents of Orland Township, high school seniors graduating in 2024, and enroll as a full-time student at a college, university, trade, or vocational school.

"Education is important to have," said Supervisor Paul O'Grady. "As a township, we want to help out where we can provide opportunities for our local youth to receive higher education, I look forward to celebrating the Class of 2024."

Applications for Orland Township Scholarships are available at the Township office, 14807 S. Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park, and on Township website: orland-township.org/scholarship-foundation. Completed applications must be post-marked or delivered to Orland Township by Thursday, March 28, 2024.

For more information visit the website orland-township.org, or call (708) 403-4222.

Tumulty to be Irish Parade Grand Marshal in Tinley

The Village of Tinley Park is pleased to announce that WGN reporter Brónagh Tumulty will be the Grand Marshal of the 24th annual Tinley Park Irish Parade, which will step off at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 3 along Oak Park Avenue in Downtown Tinley.

Brónagh is originally from Ireland, which is where she started her reporting career. She has been with the WGN News team since July 2020 as a general assignment reporter.

The Village is still taking applications for those who would like to participate in the parade! The cost is \$20 for veterans, schools, and nonprofits; \$50 for Tinley Park businesses; \$100 for non-Tinley Park businesses and political groups; and \$200 for unions and large corporations. Participants will be eligible to win awards in one of four categories, including Amateur Float, Professional Float, Performance Group, and Walking Group/Vehicle.

To apply, fill out the 2024 Irish Parade Application on the Village website and return it by Feb. 16. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the Village will not accept entries after the maximum number has been met.



Brónagh Tumulty. Courtesy Village of Tinley Park.

Breakfast with the Mayor of Orland Park

Join Mayor Pekau and other active members of the community for Breakfast with the Mayor on Saturday, February 10 at 9:30 a.m. at Village Hall at 14700 South Ravinia, Orland Park. Breakfast will be catered by Orland Park's own Mayan Palace Grill & Cantina, so bring your appetites and any questions you may have to the event.

Brudd Scholarship now open in Tinley Park

The Village is once again offering the Reta Brudd Scholarship program to graduating high school seniors who are residents of Tinley Park, who will receive a diploma in the spring, and who will attend an accredited college, university, business college, vocational school, or trade school in the fall.

Final selection will be based, in part, on the applicant's having provided outstanding service to the community, in addition to his/her participation in the classroom. The scholarship may be applied toward

tuition, room and board, or books (the check will be payable to the recipient's school).

Applications are available online, at www.tinleypark.org from your local high school guidance counselor, or in limited quantities at Tinley Park Village Hall. Applications should be sent back to Village Hall and postmarked no later than April 1. Late applications will not be considered.

The program is named in honor of Reta Brudd (pictured), who served as a commissioner for 46 years until her passing in April



Reta Brudd. Courtesy Village of Tinley Park.

2019. She contributed more than 20,000 hours of volunteer work and received many recognitions and awards, including a Life Achievement Award from the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call Village Hall at (708) 444-5000.

Oak Forest Fleadh celebrates 15th anniversary on March 2

The Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Oak Forest will host the 15th Annual Oak Forest Fleadh on Saturday, March 2. The community event includes the CNB Oak Forest Fleadh 5K race at 8:30 a.m. and the family parade on 151st and Central Avenue at 11 a.m. and head south to the Oak Forest Park District.

"We are excited to celebrate 15 years of fitness, family and fun in Oak Forest," said Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director Kim Malecky-Iles.

More than 500 participants are expected to run or walk the CNB Fleadh 5K, which starts and finishes at 155th Street and Betty Anne Lane. The pre & post-race activities will be located inside Fire Station 1 at 5620 James Drive.

This year's grand marshal is the Oak Forest Raiders. "Walking in the parade has always been a great way for us to bring the Raiders family together off the field," said Oak Forest Raiders President Mike Forbes. "We are thrilled to serve as grand marshal during this milestone year. We are truly honored to be a part of it."

After the festivities on Central Avenue, parade goers are invited to continue the celebration at local restaurants or bars.

For information about the Oak Forest Fleadh, including sponsorship opportunities, race and parade registration, and street closures, please call 708-687-4600, e-mail kim@oc-chamber.org, visit www.oak-forest.org, or follow @oakforestfleadh on Facebook and Instagram.



Participants enjoy the 2023 Oak Forest Fleadh family parade on Central Avenue on March 4, 2023. Photo by Kelly Ryan Photography.



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Village View



SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

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



Cub Scout Troupe #3665. Photo Trustee Elaine Davenport

Cub Scouts visit Chicago Ridge Village Hall

Trustee Davenport hosted Cub Scout Troupe #3665 at the Chicago Ridge Village Hall recently. The scouts are learning about their Chicago Ridge community.

Illinois households could lose affordable internet access

Barring Congressional action to fund the Affordable Connectivity Program, nearly 23 million rural, suburban, and urban households risk losing affordable high-speed internet.

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel today wrote to Congressional appropriators to formally inform them that, in one week, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) will no longer accept new enrollments. To make clear the real-world impacts if Congress does not renew funding for this critical broadband affordability program, the Chairwoman shared enrollment data for every state, territory and Congressional district which show that more than 694,922 households in Illinois could be at risk of losing affordable internet access.

“The Affordable Connectivity Program is connecting millions and millions of households across the country. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created this program, our largest-ever effort to make broadband affordable nationwide, but we now are on the brink of letting

that success slip away,” said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. “Disconnecting millions of families from their jobs, schools, markets, and information is not the solution. We have come too far with the ACP to turn back.”

The ACP is the largest, and most successful, broadband affordability program in our nation’s history. Nearly 23 million households across rural, suburban, and urban America rely on the ACP to pay for the high-speed internet service they need for school, work, health care, and more. The ACP supports eligible low-income households struggling to afford monthly broadband service.

In accordance with pre-established wind down procedures, the ACP will stop accepting new enrollments on February 8, 2024, and an outreach effort is already underway to tell ACP households about the potential loss of the benefit. Last week, broadband providers were required to send an initial notice to all their ACP subscribers to preview the possible end of the ACP and the impact on the house-

holds’ broadband bills once the ACP benefit is no longer available. Following the FCC announcing the official final month of ACP funding, ACP providers must send at least two more notices to households informing them that the ACP is ending, how and when the end of the ACP will impact their bill, and that they may opt-out of continuing service after the end of the ACP or change their service.

As announced in January, ACP funding is currently expected to last through April with only partial support available in May 2024. Without more funding, nearly 23 million households across the country are at risk of losing internet access. A bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives have introduced the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act, which, if adopted, would provide an additional \$7 billion for the ACP.

To find a breakdown of ACP participation by Congressional district, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/total-ebb-acp-support-by-geographic-region/>.

Ladder Up’s Tax-a-Thon: empowering low-income communities with free Tax Return filings

Chicago-based nonprofit, Ladder Up, is again set to return hard-earned money to low-income residents in the city and suburbs in the form of free tax return filings, is available now.

The organization’s annual Tax-a-Thon event took place at Olive-Harvey College, 10001 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, Illinois. This event brings dozens of tax expert volunteers to provide free, high-quality tax filing services to individuals earning up to \$32,000 a year and families earning up to \$64,000 a year.

Executive Director Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek said Tax-a-Thon, as well as the several Tax Assistance Program (TAP) sites in operation now through April, serve a critical purpose.

“This event kicks off our tax season throughout all our 13 tax sites and brings about awareness of our services. Many of those we serve reside in underserved communities where trustworthy financial services are scarce,” Cavallone-Jurek said.

The Ladder Up website provides a full list of documentation to bring to a tax filing session. Tax-a-Thon and the TAP sites are walk-in only, and sites close once capacity is reached. Clients will receive gift bags and could win raffle prizes at the Tax-a-Thon event. Ladder Up also offers a digital tax preparation service, called eTAP, to those who prefer digital support. The service and qualifying information can also be found on their website at <https://www.goladderup.org>.

Palos Heights Police Department: Things to look for during Tax Season

As we enter tax season, the Palos Heights Police would like to make our citizens aware of some common scams that we encounter.

These scams are mostly related to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) telephone scams and tax related identity theft. The individuals associated with these scams are professional criminals and are not afraid to use aggressive tactics to intimidate their targets into believing that they owe money and that if payment is not made immediately, anything from being fined up to arrest will result.

Another thing to be on the look-out for are “phishing” scams in which you receive a notification from someone claiming to be from the IRS or other government office. In these incidents, the intent is to get the victim to provide vital personal information, which can then be used to steal that individual’s identity. Identity theft can result in many outcomes,

including opening lines of credit in the victim’s name, buying cars, then defaulting on those loans in the victim’s name and even filing income tax returns in the victim’s name to claim refunds.

The IRS does not initiate contact by means of e-mails, text messages or social media outlets. The IRS will also, NEVER request payment be made using credit cards, debit cards or pre-paid gift cards.

Things to look for: Scammers use fake names and badge numbers.

Scammers may be able to provide some identifying information about the target to gain credibility (partial social security number, birth date, etc).

Using recent technology, they may be able to “spoof” the telephone number showing up on your caller ID to identify as an IRS number.

If contact is via e-mail, click on the sender’s e-mail address, this will show the actual sender information.

If contact is made, the scammer will threaten the victim with any number of possible penalties, such as fines, suspension of your driver’s license or even arrest. They may then hang up and call back a short time later after the potential victim has become upset or anxious.

Anyone claiming to be from the IRS instructing you to pay a “fine or penalty” using a credit card, debit card, or any type of gift card.

NEVER provide anyone your banking information.

If you receive any communication that you are suspicious of you can call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. DO NOT call any phone numbers provided by the suspected scammers.

If you believe that you have been targeted by one of these fraudulent entities, you can report it to your local police and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.



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SUBURBAN EDITION

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



OLCHS Music Students. Courtesy of Oak Lawn Community High School.

OLCHS Music makes big impact at the Illinois Music Education Conference

by Eric Kallenborn,
OLCHS Staff Writer.

The Oak Lawn High School (OLCHS) Music Department made an impact at the Illinois Music Education Conference held in Peoria recently. Representing OLCHS with pride, three outstanding students, Billy McNichols, Mikey Mills, and Polly Olson, earned spots in the All State band and choir ensembles.

Billy McNichols and Mikey Mills showcased their vocal skills, qualifying for the esteemed All State choir. Polly Olson demonstrated her exceptional flute skills, securing a coveted spot in the All State band.

These students not only exemplify the musical excellence fostered at OLCHS but also bring honor to

their school on a statewide platform.

In addition to student achievements, the OLCHS faculty played a pivotal role in the conference. They conducted four clinics on Thursday and Friday, offering insights on incorporating pop music into music education to reach the other 80% of non-traditional music education students. The sessions were well-received, affirming OLCHS's commitment to innovative teaching methodologies.

The culmination of Oak Lawn's contributions took place on Saturday morning, featuring a clinic and performances by the commercial music ensembles MME (Modern Music Ensemble), MME Workshop, and the

student-run Grupo 95. These showcases not only highlighted the talent within OLCHS but also underscored the school's dedication to diverse musical genres.

Looking ahead, Oak Lawn High School is set to host the inaugural Commercial Music Fest for the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) in April. This event will provide a unique platform for schools statewide to bring their ensembles and music producers together for collaborative endeavors, creative exploration, and mutual performances. Oak Lawn continues to demonstrate leadership in music education, fostering an environment that celebrates both tradition and innovation.

Blues legend Buddy Guy coming to Evergreen Park H.S.

Blues music legend Buddy Guy will be coming to Evergreen Park Community High School this month for a special Black History Month event.

The evening will begin with a screening of a biographical documentary, after which Mr. Guy will be interviewed on stage by EPCHS students Nikolus Guy and Samatha Ricks. Tickets will be available for free to EPCHS students and families. Information will soon follow on ticket availability for the public. For more information call 708-424-7400. On Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Event starts at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. At the Evergreen Park Community High School's Marshall Batho Auditorium, 9901 S. Kedzie Ave. Evergreen Park, IL 60805.

Buddy Guy is a Chicago blues legend. Mr. Guy has won eight Grammy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Medal of Arts, and the Kennedy Center Honors. He was ranked 27th in Rolling Stone magazine's 2023 list of the greatest guitarists of all time. Eric Clapton once described him as "the best guitar player alive."

Tribute to Prince at Beverly Arts Center

Join Great Moments in Vinyl as we pay tribute to Prince with a concert of hits and highlights from throughout his career, accompanied by stories of his remarkable achievements. Great Moments in Vinyl features vocalist Eric Tre'von with Clarence Williams and Greg Woods on keyboards, Aaron Weistrop on guitar, Jonathan Reed on drums, and William Lindsey Cochran playing bass and telling the stories.

February 10, at 7:30 pm, cost of tickets is \$30.50. Website: AudienceView Professional (ovationtix.com).

Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast in 19th Ward

The 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea's 10th Annual Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 25th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at St. John Fisher School (10200 S. Washtenaw Ave). Additionally, Ald. O'Shea will once again join forces with WGN-AM Radio's Home Sweet Home Chicago with David Hochberg, to host a "Vest-A-Thon" on Saturday, February 24th.

The Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast and Radiothon benefits the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's (CPMF) initiative, which purchases bullet proof vests for Chicago Police officers.

Admission to the Pancake Breakfast is \$5 per person or \$25 for families, which includes all you can eat Original Pancake House in Beverly, pancakes, and sausage.

The WGN Radio Vest-A-Thon will be aired live on WGN-AM/720 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday. The Vest-a-Thon will feature stories of officers whose lives have been impacted by bullet proof vests, who will share their perspective on the increasingly difficult work they do each day. Donors to the Vest-A-Thon will have the opportunity to win incredible prizes including skybox experiences at many of Chicago's best teams, sports paraphernalia, and much more.

Donations will be accepted by visiting cpdvest.com, or by calling 872-262-8378 (VEST). To volunteer, donate sports tickets, or other items to be given away throughout the Vest-a-Thon, please e-mail mattoshea@the19thward.com.

St. Germaine School Builds New Library

St. Germaine School, through the use of a \$25,000 educational grant, has unveiled the Family School Association Library, a remarkable feat accomplished because of the cohesiveness and collaboration of faculty, staff, and volunteers. It is a hub for teachers and students in pursuit of information and literacy skills, including locating, evaluating, applying, and sharing books and information.

"The library has created an enthusiastic buzz throughout the school," commented the Principal, Philip O'Rourke. "The kids are beyond excited, and it is great to see them so invested in reading and learning."

The library is home to over 3,000 books encompassing fiction, non-fiction, picture books, early readers, manga, and chapter books. St. Germaine's librarian, Keri English, has organized the books in a student-friendly way for easy access. Mrs. English teaches students how to navigate the library's collection as well as how to use the different systems all libraries utilize.

New initiatives, including the library, are part of the driving force behind St. Germaine's substantial increases in enrollment and growth. If you would like to support St. Germaine's various initiatives, including monetary donations for



St. Germaine new library. Photo courtesy St. Germaine School.

filling the shelves with additional books, please contact Mr. O'Rourke at the school office.

St. Germaine School is located at 9735 S. Kolin Ave, Oak Lawn, IL. For further information, contact the school office at 708-425-6063, Principal Mr. Philip O'Rourke, mrporourke@stgol.org or visit our website www.stgermaineschool.com.

People you should know in Tinley

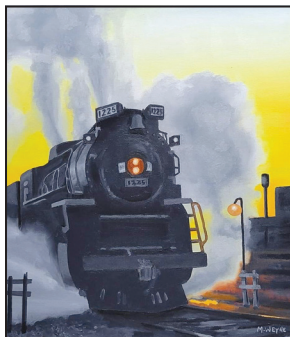


Artist Michael Weyhe, Photo Credit: Mrs. Weyhe.

WEYHEART, Artist. Michael Weyhe, voodoo restos@yahoo.com.

I learned to paint with oils at the age of 12. A woman named Evelyn Martin taught me the basics of working with oils. The first three months she taught me color mixing, perspective, and brush work before she ever let me sit down to paint. After her initial training she told me to apply what I learned from her and paint whatever or however I wanted. I still have my first painting that I've kept for the past 50 years.

Throughout my journey I've lived in many places and worked different jobs, including railroading. I've lived in NYC, Miami Beach and Paris France. Painting has been a constant in my life through it all. It was Evelyn Martin who inspired me in the direction I took and how I lived my life. Each session with her wasn't just teaching me, they often included stories of her life achievements, which inspired me. This was the only formal education I received. I have solely continued to work on my artistry.



I've sold a few paintings privately, also donated some artwork, as well as gifted paintings over the years. I've donated work for auctions that have benefited Alzheimer's awareness, breast cancer awareness and for the homeless plight. When living in New York City in the 80's the cast for Saturday Night Live held a benefit for the homeless in NYC.

My style has evolved a bit over the years. I'll always be a realist; wherever that may take me. In the past decade I've

First installment tax bills are due March 1

First installment property tax bills for tax year 2023 were mailed at the end of January, 2024, according to Robert Maloney. "Property taxes are paid in two installments. The first installment is fifty-five percent (55%) of a property's total tax bill for the previous year, and will be due on March 1, 2024," Robert Maloney said.

Taxpayers looking at this year's first installment bills should note that they do not reflect homeowner, senior citizen, or other

exemptions, nor do reflect the impact of reassessments or successful assessment appeals from tax year 2023. Exemptions, reassessments, and successful appeals will instead impact second installment bills, as will the effect of changes in the tax levies of local governments. Second installment bills will likely be due in the summer or fall of 2024.

Details about Paying Taxes. Property owners who do not have mortgage companies paying their taxes can make tax

payments in person, by mail, or online at the Cook County Treasurer's web site, www.cookcountytreasurer.com. Those wishing to pay in person can do so at the Cook County Treasurer's downtown office at 118 N. Clark Street and at any Chase Bank in the Chicago area. Chase branches most convenient to Palos Township residents.

If money for property taxes is paid into an escrow account with a taxpayer's mortgage company,

the financial institution should receive the tax bill electronically, even if the taxpayer also receives a copy of the bill. Robert Maloney advises taxpayers with property tax escrows held by their mortgage companies not to pay property taxes on their own, as this may result in a double payment of taxes. But taxpayers with mortgage escrows should check the Cook County Treasurer's website to verify that their mortgage companies have paid the taxes.

Thank you

Dear Ms. Schmall,

I read with interest your book review of Dennis LeHane, *Small Mercies*, in the January 2, 2024 Village View newspaper. I plan to read the book as a result.

My interest peaked when you wrote about the story in the book of the court-ordered busing to desegregate some of the Boston Public Schools and brought it home to our corner of the wood, Chicago for instance.

I was reminded of my personal experience:

In the mid-seventy, I was hired by the Chicago Urban League Education Department. Part of my job was to monitor and report upon the desegregation of some of our Chicago Public Schools in the southwest side. As a white young mother, myself, I could not believe how some of us, mothers, were screaming racial slurs and N words at small Black kids, four or five years old entering their

moved beyond cities to rural areas. I've painted a variety of subjects including trains, tractors, hot rods, dragsters, flowers, ranches, farms, horses, boats, corn, plows or whatever catches my eye. My goal is to bring my work to the people who live and work in the places where I find my subjects.

I was at the Exhibit Gallery in Morris, IL recently to frame some of my work, and my wife, Mrs. Weyhe took a couple of photos.

assigned schools. It was ugly. Despicable. I cannot find any other words to describe how I felt.

As Americans, we often have to provide leadership on world issues, and I am proud of this. But we cannot lose our moral compass on issues close to home. And in this instance, some of us did and gave the rest of us a bad reputation.

I like what you said: we think "We were better than them." And yet some of us are, but others are not. We, all of us, need to continue to reach to a higher goal if we want to be proud of being Americans. We need to respect each other, and most of all, we need to build sweet worlds for our children, all of our children.

Anyhow, thank you for your book review. I am looking forward to reading "Small Mercies."

Sincerely, Francoise Johnson

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.

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>.

Police Department Testing

The Chicago Ridge Police Department is currently accepting applications for entry level law enforcement for the purpose of creating an eligibility list. For details or to obtain an application click the link below. Applications will be available and must be returned by February 28, 2024.

For more information visit . COPS & Fire Recruitment (copsandfiretesting.com).

Metra 2024 Fare Structure Change

Starting now, Metra has revamped its fare structure replacing the existing 10-zone distance-based structure with a four-zone structure.

Downtown stations will be assigned to Zone 1 and outlying stations will be assigned to Zone 2, Zone 3, or Zone 4 based on a combination of distance from downtown, service patterns and ridership characteristics on each line, which vary. Metra made a variety of

changes to its fare structure, prices, and purchase channels effective Feb. 1. Here are the highlights, with details about all the changes below.

There is a new fare structure with a variety of new fare prices, products, and rules. Fares under the new structure are set at or below pre-pandemic levels.

Metra closed its remaining ticket windows. Vending machines have been installed at the busiest stations.

The 10-Ride Ticket is no longer available for purchase.

The Fair Transit South Cook pilot ended on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines; it was replaced with the Access Pilot Program, which allows reduced fares for low-income riders on all lines.

The Regional Connect Pass is available in the Ventra app only.

Learn more at metra.com/2024FarePlan.

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Supervisor Paul O'Grady's 5th Annual Souper Bowl Challenge

Warm up for the Super Bowl LVII by joining Orland Township at the 5th Annual Souper Bowl Challenge! Guests will have the opportunity to sample a variety of soups before casting their votes for their favorite. While helping build the futures of local youth by supporting the Orland Township Scholarship Foundation and local soup kitchens.

The Souper Bowl Challenge will feature four "quarters" (categories) of competition:

1st Quarter: Rookies, Foodies between the ages of 12 and 54 years of age.

2nd Quarter: Public Service Pro Bowlers, Emergency Services, Education, Healthcare Providers, etc.

3rd Quarter: Senior Hall of Famers, Senior Citizens, 55 years of age and older

4th Quarter: Culinary MVPs, Local restaurants and individuals with a culinary degree or certificate.



Souper Bowl Contestants Mary Lu & Steve Wasniewski with Supervisor Paul O'Grady. Photo by Alexandria Shipyor.

The Souper Bowl Challenge on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Orland Township, 14807 S.

"Step Back into a 1950s Valentine's Day" and 75th Anniversary



Photo courtesy Park Forest House Museum

The 1950s Park Forest House Museum, at 227 Monee Road (inside St. Mary's Catholic Church), Park Forest, Illinois, invites you to "Step Back into a 1950s Valentines Day," from February 3 to March 9, 2024, open Wednesday, and Saturday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; other times by appointment. One room represents a classroom in Forest Boulevard School, which was set up in a row of townhomes. The classroom is decorated for a 1950s Valentines Day party with crepe paper candy baskets, and construction paper heart-shaped Valentine "mailboxes" on each desk. Red

honeycomb, puffy hearts and vintage Valentines are on display throughout the house. Exhibits on the 75th Anniversary of Park Forest will also be on display. Admission is Adults \$5; children 12 and under free.

Park in the small lot and knock on the second to last classroom door, next to the museum sign. A guide will tell village history, and social and fashion trends of the era. Visitors may use a script for a self-guided tour.

Special tours can be arranged by calling Jane Nicoll 708-481-4252, or Michael Gans, 708-305-3308. Information visit www.parkforesthistoricalsociety.org.

The Park Forest Historical Society is looking for more members.



Ravinia Avenue, Orland Park. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for children 5 years of age and older (children under 5 are free). Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the Township office or at the door the day of the event.

For more information, orlandtownship.org, or 708-403-4222.

Check out our website at www.vvnew.com

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Theatre

Murry & Peter present *The Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue*

Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue is a parody that brings Miami's sassiest seniors to stages around the country for one more hurrah. We find Sophia out on bail after being busted by the DEA for running a drug ring for retirees. Blanche and Rose have founded CreakN, a thriving sex app for seniors. And Dorothy is trying to hold it all together with help from a new (much) younger sex-crazed lover. Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue allows audiences to relive the heartfelt hilarity of the four ladies who never stopped being best friends.

Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue is a professional stage show unlike any other Golden Girls tribute that you might have experienced. The cast includes Ryan Bernier as Dorothy, Vince Kelley as Blanche, Adam Graber as Rose, Christopher Kamm as Sophia, and Jason Bowen as Stanley/Burt. The tour is produced by Murray & Peter Present and Innovation Arts & Entertainment.

The show is from February 6 to 25, 2024 at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place at 175 E. Chestnut St. Chicago, IL. or call 312-977-1700 or Ticketmaster.

Blade Runner in Concert at the Auditorium Theatre

Experience Ridley Scott's multi-Academy Award®-nominated cult classic, Blade Runner (2007 Final Cut), on a vast HD screen while Vangelis' synthesizer-led score is performed by The Chicago Philharmonic in-sync with the 1982 motion picture.

In this stylish noir thriller, detective Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford) must continue as Replicant Hunter following the escape of 4 Replicants from colonies who've returned to earth. His mission however is complicated when he falls for Rachel (Sean Young);

a Replicant based at the Tyrell Corporation.

Reserve your seat at 312-341-2300 at the Auditorium Theatre at 50 East Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Performance is February 17, 2024, at 7:30 pm., tickets start at \$59 and up.

Chicago debut of Spain's *Compañía Nacional de Danza*

Be among the first Chicago audiences to see the internationally-renowned, Madrid-based Compañía Nacional de Danza (CND) making their Chicago debut at the Auditorium Theatre on Saturday, February 10, at 7:30 pm at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago. Performing a mixed repertory program, the company with showcase varied and representative styles, recognizable inside and outside Spain, including classical, neoclassical, and contemporary dance. CND will perform works by De Luz, Nederlands Dans Theater dancers Sol León and Paul Lightfoot, and acclaimed Spanish modern ballet dancer and choreographer Nacho Duato, former CND director and current artistic director of the Berlin State Ballet.

Tickets start at \$40 for more information call Auditorium Theatre at 312-341-2300.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater presents *Illinoise*

Chicago Shakespeare Theater presents the highly anticipated *Illinoise*, a new kind of musical now playing in a limited engagement in The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare through February 18. Based on Grammy and Oscar-nominated Sufjan Stevens' acclaimed concept album, *Illinoise* is an ecstatic pageant of storytelling, theater, music, and dance, with a story crafted by Tony Award winner Justin

Peck (New York City Ballet, Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*) and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Jackie Sibbles Drury (Fairview), and original choreography by Peck. A virtuosic cast and a live band lead audiences on a journey through our state, from campfire stories to the edges of the cosmos.

More information at www.chicagoshakes.com/illinoise and www.illinoiseonstage.com.

Single tickets (\$57 to



Shara Nova (right) and Tasha Viets-VanLear. Photo by Liz Lauren.

\$135, subject to change) are selling quickly for this strictly limited engagement through February 18. For more information, visit www.chicagoshakes.com/illinoise, or call 312-595-5600.

Crystal Cirque Du Soleil's First-Ever Acrobatic Performance on Ice

Cirque du Soleil's Crystal a one-of-a-kind production that brings the circus arts to the ice for the very first time, returns to NOW Arena (5333 Prairie Stone Parkway, Hoffman Estates, Illinois) from March 22-24, 2024. With seven jaw-dropping traditional circus acts all thrillingly adapted for Cirque du Soleil's first foray into a brand-new creative territory, the ice, Crystal takes audiences on an unforgettable journey into the vivid and whimsical world of imagination.

Since 2017, Crystal has dazzled more than 1.9 million people in over 135 cities worldwide, blending the art of skating with adrenaline-inducing acro-



Cirque du Soleil 2019. Costumes Marie Chantale Vaillancourt®. Photo Matt Baker and Olivier Brajon.

batics and aerial feats.

Artistic Director Crystal Manich says, "Crystal is a universal story about finding one's true voice through a journey of discovery. Anyone of any age will connect to the show and our protagonist's breakthrough experience. I am especially excited for Crystal to contribute to the strong arts and culture found in the Chicago area."

General tickets are on-sale. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.cirquedusoleil.com/crystal.

Crystal Performance

Schedule Hoffman Estates, IL at NOW Arena: Friday, March 22nd at 7:30 pm; Saturday, March 23rd at 3pm and 7 pm, and Sunday, March 24th at 1 pm and 5 pm.

Using larger than life visual projections on ice (a Cirque du Soleil first) and a soundtrack that seamlessly blends popular music with the signature sound of Cirque du Soleil, Crystal transports audiences on an unforgettable visual and auditory experience full of magic and wonder. The show is suitable for all ages.



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<h3>Pop Go-Go</h3> <h3>The 60's</h3> <p>Pop tunes of the 60's delivered in go-go boot style!</p>	<p>Lunch Shows: April 11 October 17</p>	<p>Lunch Show: May 17</p>
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<h3>60's/70's FLASHBACK</h3> <p>A "Sweet Reminder" of the super sounds of the 60's & 70's!</p>	<p>Lunch Show: June 6</p> <p>Dinner Show: August 9</p>	<p>Lunch Show: July 25</p>
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<h3>Olivia Newton-John Tribute</h3> <p>"Captures Olivia's sound and essence to a T!"</p>	<p>Lunch Shows: May 3, Sept. 24</p> <p>Dinner Show: June 28</p>	<p>Lunch Show: August 29</p>
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Reservation price \$50 each - **INCLUDES ENTIRE EVENT!**

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Lunch served 11:30, show to follow. Dinner served 5:30, show to follow.

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Friday Nights at Stony Creek

Everyone is welcome to come to our every Friday Night, Fish Fry. From February 16 to March 29, 2024, seating is 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Includes Cole

Slaw, Garden Salad, Corn Cobettes, Soup of the day, Fried & Baked Fish, Mixed Vegetables, Mac N Cheese or Baked Potato (depending on what week

it is served).

Adult cost is \$19.99, Children ages 4 to 12 are \$12.99, and ages 4 and under are free., Seniors are \$16.99.

Stony Creek Golf Course is at 5850 West 103rd Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois. For more information call 708-857-2433 or visit www.olparks.com.

Mokena Community Park District's Preschool Open House and Fall 2024 Registration

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 9 until 11 am at Program Center, 10925 W. La Porte Road, Mokena (south end of Main Park) Parents and children are invited to the Preschool Open House/Fall 2024 Registration. Our successful and long running programs include academic skills, physical activity, arts and crafts, story time and songs. Our programs stress the social development of young children, and the importance of learning through playtime, music, art projects, and more. Pre-reading and pre-math activities will help to develop logical thinking and prepare children for kindergarten. Children must be able to separate from their parents for an extended period

of time and they must be toilet trained.

Prep School, 3-year-olds Preschool, 4-year-olds Kinderbridge, 4-year-olds Tuesday and Thursday Monday, Wednesday, Monday through Friday 9 to 11:30 am and Friday, 9 until 11:30 am 12:30 to 3 pm.

Required at registration: Copy of birth certificate and Proof of immunizations. Non-refundable deposit of \$50 plus first month's tuition for first child. \$0 deposit plus first month's tuition for 2nd child or more. Monthly tuition varies by program. Entire amount is non-refundable.

For more information, call Mokena Park District at 708-390-2401 or visit www.mokenapark.com.

Zoo Camp Registration Opens on February 6

Zoo Camp is the perfect opportunity for your child to connect with animals and nature in a variety of fun and exciting ways.

Children ages 4-14 will explore the zoo through play and learning with our skilled camp counselors. There's so much to see and do with weekly sessions that offer many unique experiences. Our Zoo Camp is an inclusive camp program where ALL children come together to learn, play, and explore together. They make new friends, explore the world around them, and learn that "I can" is much more powerful than "I can't." At Zoo Camp, children are creating memories that will last a lifetime.

2024 Weekly Zoo Camp Pricing: Full Day Zoo Camp: Nonmember \$500,



Zoo Camp. Courtesy Chicago Zoological Society Brookfield Zoo.

Member \$400, Half Day Zoo Camp: Nonmember \$325, Member \$275.

For aspiring Zoo Campers who aren't quite 4 years old yet, check out our popular Seedlings programs where you and your tot can sing, dance, explore, and play along with the staff and animals at the Hamill Family Play Zoo.

Registration for Zoo

Camp opens February 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Members of Brookfield Zoo receive a discount on Zoo Camp; to become a member of Brookfield Zoo, contact the zoo. Please contact adventuresinlearning@czs.org with questions.

Brookfield Zoo is at 3300 Golf Road, Brookfield, Illinois 60513, 708-688-8400.

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Legendary EPCHS Basketball Coach Bruce Scaduto to Retire



Bruce Scaduto. Photo courtesy Evergreen Park H.S.

Bruce Scaduto, who has been courtside as head coach of an Evergreen Park Community High School varsity basketball team for more than a quarter-century, has announced that he will retire from coaching at the end of the 2023-2024 EPCHS girls' basketball season.

"I feel that it's time," Scaduto said. "I've been doing it for so many years that I feel it's time to step down and let someone else have it."

Scaduto has been at the helm of either the boys or girls' basketball program at EPCHS since the 1997-1998 school year.

"We won the regional three years in a row," Scaduto said, referring to the Lady Mustangs regional championship teams in 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Scaduto remains in touch with the core players from those years, Megan Pfister, Nicole Larkin and Maddie Vojacek, to this day. Both Pfister and Vojacek have served as coaches on Scaduto's staff.

Kacey Gardner, a member of the 2017-2018 Lady Mustangs who now plays professional basketball in Portugal, credits Scaduto for much of her success on the court.

Although Scaduto's time leading the boys' and girls' programs has been roughly the same, it's those girls' teams that he'll remember the most.

Lamberth earns call up to Varsity Bowling team at Oak Lawn

by Brian Frangella, OLCHS Staff Writer

Oak Lawn Community High School freshman Allison Lamberth made a strong impression early in the season, helped lead the junior varsity team to success, and now is being rewarded with a call up to the varsity team for the Illinois High School Association Girls Bowling Regional meet.

Lamberth helped the JV team finish second at the Spartan Baker Tournament and placed sixth overall for JV at the South Suburban Conference meet where the team finished in third place. She averaged 143.5 pins per game at the SSC meet.

Opportunity to learn practical money management strategies

by Herbert Chavez, media communications coordinator, Illinois Extension.

Navigating financial management can often seem overwhelming and intimidating, particularly for those uncertain about how to begin. Studies have shown that financial stress can have detrimental effects on both physical and emotional well-being. Therefore, having access to practical financial resources is essential. These tools can provide guidance and strategies to enhance financial stability, tailored to address individuals' unique concerns and objectives.

University of Illinois Extension offers the Money Basics series, a free monthly webinar to improve participants' financial well-being through various money topics. This safe and non-judgmental series will also provide simple tools to use in everyday life. The series covers the psychology of money, the cost of debt, understanding credit, debt repayment strategies, savings strategies, and the keys to financial security.

"The Money Basics series is a non-judgmental way to learn how to manage personal finances and explore basic money concepts," says Jamie Mahlandt, family and consumer sciences educator. "This webinar series offers research-based information on various topics to help you build a better financial future."

All sessions are at 11:00 a.m., and topics include:

Psychology of Money on Feb. 14; The Price of Debt: How much is too much? on March 13; Understanding Credit on April 10; Strategies for Debt Repayment on May 8; Smart Saving Strategies on June 12; Keys to Financial Security on July 10; Participation is free, but registration is required at go.illinois.edu/MoneyBasics2024.

For more information or if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact Jamie Mahlandt at knuf@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet access needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY



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Rain can do hidden damage to community infrastructure, but that can be prevented. The experts at Advanced Drainage Systems, a leading manufacturer of innovative stormwater products and services that deliver solutions for the most persistent and challenging water management problems, can help. Learn more at www.adspipe.com.

Now is the time to start planning your backyard for the season ahead. Visit your nursery, plant centers, outdoor power equipment service dealers, and/or contact a landscaper, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). Learn more at www.OPEI.org.

Small daily choices can build good health habits. For example, updated COVID vaccines can re-

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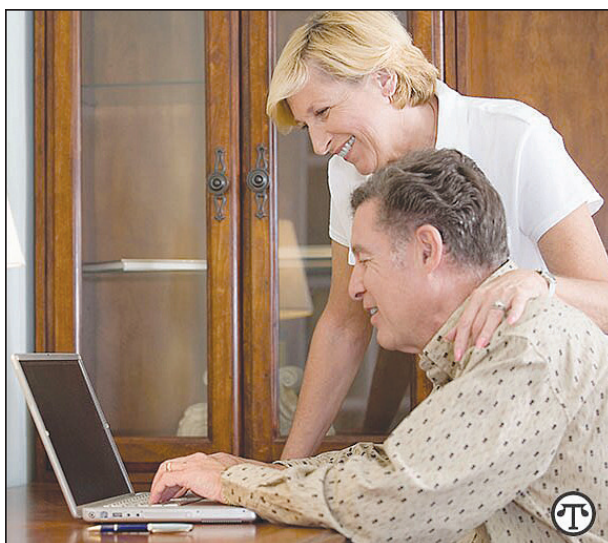
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Eating a balanced diet is important for maintaining a healthy smile, just like brushing and flossing, said Dr. Gregory Theis, DDS, vice president of dental services at Delta Dental of Wisconsin. Learn more at www.deltadentalwi.com.

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Simple Ways to Lower Your Heating Bill

(NAPSI)—There's good news for the 46% of U.S. households who heat their homes with natural gas this winter: it's expected to cost 7.8% less this year than last year. Heating with electricity or oil, however, will likely cost more.

Saving on Energy
Fortunately there are ways everyone can save. One of the biggest sources of a house's energy consumption is the HVAC system. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut their energy bill by 20-30% simply by doing proper equipment maintenance, and air duct cleaning is a way to save big money on energy bills.

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A clean HVAC system is more efficient and doesn't use as much energy to maintain a comfortable temperature this winter, ultimately saving you money on utility costs.

Indoor air contains unseen pollutants: dust, dander, pollen, mold, chemicals, and more. Your heating and cooling system circulates the contaminated air through the air duct pathways and it can build up in the ductwork and on other components.

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The National Air Duct

Cleaners Association (NADCA) recommends having a professional clean the entire HVAC system.

One way to make sure you get a qualified contractor to do the job right is to search the NADCA online directory for a nearby member employing technicians with advanced training and certification in HVAC system cleaning.

Learn More
For further facts and tips visit www.breathingclean.com.

Chicago Christian High School Announces the Hiring of New Head Football Coach, CJ Cesario

Chicago Christian High School is pleased to announce the hiring of Coach CJ Cesario from Chicago. He earned his bachelors and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota where he played football collegiately as a Wide Receiver.

Coach Cesario most recently served as the Head Sophomore coach at Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago. Prior to Mt. Carmel, CJ coached at Chattanooga Christian School in Tennessee and Ridgeland High School and Heritage High School in Georgia. CJ also served

in leadership with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as the campus ministry director & athletic chaplain for University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Regarding his appointment, CJ shared, "I'm honored and will lead with passion and excellence. The roots of my upbringing drive my desire and heart for the urban community. I'm excited to be a part of this school community serving the Chicago southland."

CJ will also be a member of the Admissions and Marketing team at Chicago Christian High



CJ Cesario. Courtesy Chicago Christian H.S.

School and Southwest Chicago Christian School. Superintendent Mark Hamstra welcomed CJ, and informed the community that, "I am a firm believer that Coach Cesario is the right leader to propel our football program forward and he will be an important addition to our school as we broaden the reach of our recruitment efforts."

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