The Joffrey Ballet remounts Midsummer Night's Dream

The Joffrey Ballet concludes its 2023-24 season with the return of Alexander Ekman's acclaimed Midsummer Night's Dream. Far from a Shakespearean tale, Ekman's Midsummer Night's Dream is a mindbending trip to a surreal realm of unearthly delights. Set during the traditional Scandinavian summer solstice festival, dancers celebrate a day of revelry and romance under the maypole, which soon unravels into an otherworldly dream. Ekman's picturesque fusion of classical and contempo-



Midsummer Night's Dream. Photo by Cheryl Mann.

rary ballet blurs the line between the real and the imagined, making audiences wonder, was it all just a dream? Midsummer Night's Dream will be presented at the Lyric Opera House, 20 North Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago, in ten performances only, from April 25 to May 5, 2024.

Midsummer Night's Dream features live music

performed by the Lyric Opera Orchestra, conducted by Scott Speck, Music Director of The Joffrey Ballet.

Single tickets start at \$36 and are available for purchase at Lyric Opera Box Office located at 20 North Upper Wacker Drive and by telephone at 312-386-8905, or online at joffrey.org.

Moraine Valley receives Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

Moraine Valley is one of just six community colleges in the country to receive a 2023 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

"This award means we are a school that is really special, and we can be proud of that. It recognizes we have an obligation to continue to be that. We are an innovator. We are a leader in this work, and we are doing it together. It's not just one person, one department," said Rory Smith, executive director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Moraine Valley.

The HEED Award selection process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees; demographic information of faculty, staff and students; leadership support for diversity; campus culture and climate; supplier diversity; and many other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion.

"We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across campus," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of the magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

Moraine Valley has received several HEED awards throughout the last 13 years and was in the inaugural group to receive the award when it was first presented in 2012. Since then, DEI work at the college has ramped up, evidenced by diversity, equity and inclusion being added to its list of core values, the creation of the Equity Academy, new articulation agreements with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions and the creation of Smith's position, among other initiatives.

"We really do meet our students where they are as opposed to expecting our students to meet us where we are. It's a different dynamic, and it shows up in the success our students have," Smith said. "The work we've done isn't just a new thing. It's something we've been leaning into for a long time. We're living our best practices, and it shows."

Aretha Franklin Tribute at the Lyric Theater Blue Island

Friday, February 23, 2024, doors open 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. The Lyric Theater is at 12952 Western Ave, Blue Island, IL 60406.

Soul Bliss, starring the magnificent LaShera Moore Ellis, pays homage to the Queen of Soul, the legendary Aretha Franklin. Along with a dynamic 11-piece band, Ellis pays tribute to the most soulful and sublime entertainer to ever grace a stage. It's a night of pure bliss. Call 708-972-0700 for more information.

Verdi's Aida at Lyric Opera of Chicago

Torn between love and loyalty, a captive princess must choose between her patriotic duty and her love for an enemy hero in Giuseppe Verdi's classic Aida, on stage at Lyric Opera of Chicago from March 9 to April 7, 2024. Music Director Enrique Mazzola adds the 100th title to his vast operatic repertoire with his very first performances of Aida. The production also marks the final opera of Anthony Freud's 13-year tenure as Lyric's General Director, President & CEO.

Spirited dance sequences by renowned choreographer Jessica Lang draw audiences even further into the mythic world created by director Francesca Zambello for this new-to-Chicago production.

Forbidden love in a time of war. Aida, a young, enslaved woman, harbors secret feelings for the military hero Radamès, who has conquered her people. Unbeknownst to her captors, she is also a princess and the daughter of their sworn enemy, Amanasro. One of the most beloved masterpieces

in all of opera, Aida features such famous arias as "Celeste Aida," "Ritorna vincitor," and "O patria mia," along with intimate duets, extended dance sequences, and the grand Triumphal Scene, during which 200 artists will be on stage and in the orchestra pit. Aida is a timeless story of hard-won trust, unexpected betrayal, bitter resolve, poignant remorse, and heart-wrenching vulnerability.

More information and tickets: visit lyricopera.org/aida or call 312-827-5600.

Expo Chicago is at Navy Pier in April

Tickets now available for the 11th Edition of Expo Chicago, taking place April 11 through 14 at Navy Pier.

Announced that tickets are now on sale for the exposition's 11th edition and first edition as part of Frieze. Taking place April 11 to 14



Expo Chicago 2023. Photo Justin Barbin.

at Navy Pier's iconic Festival Hall, Expo Chicago gives guests the opportunity to explore collections from more than 170 galleries spanning 75 cities and 29 countries.

For the second year, Expo Chicago will offer a special Opening Night ticket for Thursday, April 11, giving art enthusiasts the opportunity to be among the first to experience the fair's 2024 edition. In addition to admission, tickets include complimentary return admission throughout the weekend, one drink ticket, Frieze Magazine subscription benefits, complimentary admission to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago during Expo Chicago, access to additional Expo Art Week events, one complimentary ride on Navy Pier's Centennial Wheel and more.

Early bird Opening Night tickets are available now for \$150, while early bird general admission passes start at \$30. Early bird pricing is available while supplies last.

Tickets available now at www.expochicago.com.

Volume 22 | Number 4 | February 20, 2024

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park



Member of Tinley Park Police Dept. Courtesy of Village of Tinley Park.

Police take the Polar Plunge for charity

Members of the Tinley Park Police Department are participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics Illinois.

This winter event is part of the police department's year-round efforts to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics athletes. Officers are plunging into an icy pool located on the east lot of the police department, with the goal of raising \$20,000.

It's not too late to donate! Visit the Tinley Park Police Department's page at https://support. soill.org/team/551735 to help officers reach their goal.

Tinley Park High School Staff Raises \$2,000 for Project Fire Buddies Gala

Tinley Park High School staff has rallied together to support Project Fire Buddies, a local organization that holds a special place in their hearts. Recently Special Education Teacher Lauren Brazel and School Counselor Shannon Gormley attended the Project Fire Buddies Gala, and in a gesture of solidarity, they decided to contribute a gift card basket on behalf of TPHS for the organization's raffle.

What started as a modest goal of \$500 quickly surpassed all expectations. The TPHS staff's incredible generosity and community spirit have resulted in a staggering \$2,000 in donations! The funds will go towards creating a significant con-tribution to Project Fire Buddies, which provides crucial support to families facing challenges similar to that of Frankie, Brazel's son, who battles Cerebral Palsy, HIE, Epilepsy, and CVI.

"Frankie was born 2 months early and suffered brain damage. We made the hard decision as a family



Lauren Brazel (left) and Shannon Gormley (right). Photo courtesy of Lauren Brazel.

to enter my son into palliative/hospice care to ensure the time we have with him is spent giving him the comfort he deserves," Brazel said. "Project Fire Buddies has done so much for our family, and we wanted to be able to give back."

The TPHS staff's commitment to the cause goes beyond monetary contributions. The athletic teams have joined the initiative by contributing swag items that were included in the raffle baskets. TPHS is proud to announce that they donated not one but two baskets for the gala!

Brazel and Gormly are both passionate supporters of Project Fire Buddies and expressed their gratitude for the organization's unwavering support. In particular, Brazel highlighted the invaluable assistance provided by the New Lenox Fire Department and the Fire Buddies program, which has been instrumental in ensuring the well-being of their family.

"We were recommended to become a Fire Buddy from Oak Forest High School grad, Erin DeVris," Brazel said. "The New Lenox Fire Department has been able to provide our whole family with the support we need, as well as build a relationship with my other two children so that they are comfortable should we need first responders in our home." For more information, please visit https://www.bhsd228.

Green Road at Chicago Gaelic Park in March

Green Road is playing on Saturday, March 9th 2024.

Get ready for a Celtic journey as Green Road, the sensational Irish Folk and Ballad band from Co. Wexford, takes the stage at Chicago Gaelic Park on March 9th. Immerse yourself in the enchanting melodies that blend traditional Irish tunes with American folk and Bluegrass, making it a perfect celebration for Saint Patrick's Day.

Chicago Gaelic Park is at 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois 60452. You can get tickets at https://tickets.chicagogaelicpark.com/events/chicagogaelicpark/982042.

Irish Parade coming March 3rd to Tinley Park

Green and good times will abound when the 24th annual Tinley Park Irish Parade steps off at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 3 along Oak Park Avenue in Downtown Tinley. Come see more than 80 floats, community groups, local schools, businesses, and performance groups show off their Irish spirit!

WGN reporter Brónagh Tumulty will be the Irish Parade Grand Marshal, and Jeff Keane and John Tadla from Andrew High School will return to announce the parade from the balcony of Primal Cut Steakhouse. A sensory-friendly quiet zone will be located at the start of the parade at 179th Street to White Egret Court for those who want to enjoy the parade without the noise.

Also be sure to stop by Teehan's Tavern, 17329 S. Oak Park Ave., to help them celebrate their last day of operation before the old



Irish Parade Bagpipers. Courtesy Village of Tinley Park.

structure comes down and a near-replica is built in its place as part of the Harmony Square Plaza development.

Orland Township's Senior American Idol to be Held in March

Join Orland Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady and the Board of Trustees for an exciting evening filled with dinner, dancing, and live entertainment at the upcoming 2024 Orland Township Senior American Idol! This competition will showcase 11 talented contestants who will compete for the coveted title of this year's Senior American Idol.

The contestants will sing their favorite songs over three rounds, aiming to impress the judges, win over the audience, and win the highest score to move on to the final round. Audience members can support their favorite singers by contributing to their designated ballot boxes with donations,

adding extra points. Funds collected will go towards the Orland Township Scholarship Foundation, directly benefiting local youth in the community.

"We are so excited to be hosting the Orland Township Senior American Idol competition again this year," said Supervisor O'Grady. "This is a great opportunity for our community's seniors to showcase their talent and passion for singing. I encourage everybody to come out and experience this fantastic event!"

Tickets are \$30 and include a plated dinner and access to a cash bar. The competition will take place on Thursday, March 7 at Georgios Banquets, 8800



Mark Bateman and Orland Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady. Courtesy Orland township.

W. 159th St., Orland Park. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. The singing competition will commence after dinner. Tickets must be purchased in advance at Orland Township, 14807 S. Ravinia Ave., in Orland Park.

For more information on programs, services, and events being held at Orland Township, visit the website, orlandtownship.org, or call (708) 403-4222.

After 50 years at Goodman Theatre, Roche Schulfer to retire

Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees announces the retirement of Executive Director/ CEO Roche Schulfer at the end of the current 2023/2024 Season, his 50th year at the Goodman. At the same time, the Board has named current Managing Director/COO John Collins as the Goodman's new Executive Director starting September 1, 2024.

Watercolor Landscape Workshop at McCord

Have you ever wanted to instructor. No experience capture the fall colors against the blue sky, or light reflected off an old barn? Well, this is your chance to capture that scene in watercolor. Students will see a demonstration of a fall scene painted step by step by the instructor, then paint the scene themselves with the help of the

Sierra, Gershwin

& Tchaikovsky at

Ozinga Chapel

in Palos Heights

Illinois Philharmonic

Orchestra performs at the

1,100 seat, state of the art

Ozinga Chapel concert

venue on the grounds of

Trinity Christian College,

6601 West College Dr. in

On Saturday, February 24,

2024, 7:30 pm, Sean Chen,

whom Wayne Lee Gay takes

center stage for what is sure

to be a standout perfor-

mance of Gershwin's Piano

Palos Heights, Ilinois.

is necessary. Minimum of 8 students is required. All supplies needed are provided for this workshop.

Instructor Phyllis Kozlowski will be holding a demo and workshop on Saturday, February 24 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at McCord Gallery & Cultural Center 9602 W. Creek Road, Palos Park, IL 60459.

Fee is \$70 Member and \$75 Non-Member. The Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday is closed. For more information go to mccordgallery.org or call 708-671-0648.



Sean Chen. Courtesy Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra.

Concerto in F.

Also slated for the evening is Kiskadee, a new commission by Arlene Sierra, whose work, is performed as part of the Virginia B. Toulmin

Orchestral Commissions Program through the League of American Or-

For more information go to ipomusic.org.

Peggy A. Montes receives 2024 **Unsung Heroine Award**

Each year in honor of Women's History Month, Cook County presents the Peggy A. Monte's Unsung Heroine Award to 18 women whose contributions to their communities, families, and professional endeavors have been vital but seldomly recognized. We are honored that this year's 17th District Award Winner is our own Arlene Adams!

Arlene is a very active member of our community on the board with McCord Gallery and Cultural Center, a member of Garden Guild I, a member of Palos Park Woman's Club, active with Palos Park Village Players, Palos Fine Arts, and more!

On behalf of Cook County Commissioner Sean Morrison and the entire Village of Palos Park congratulations to Arlene Adams for receiving the 2024, 17th District Peggy A. Monte's Unsung Heroine Award!



Peggy A. Montes with Mayor Milovich-Walters. Courtesy Cook County Commissioner Morrison.

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents The Romantics

On Sunday, March 3, 2024, the Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents The Romantics, under the direction of David L. Crane

Three pieces will be featured at this concert, Smetana's The Moldau, Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring Michael Finlay on the piano.

Michael Finlay is an award-winning concert pianist and chamber musician, most recently invited to perform at the Dame Myra Hess series in Chicago and the Metropolitan Detroit Musician's League in Michigan. He is a 2022 prizewinner of The

American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award. He maintains an active performing schedule with recent performances in Catania (Italy), Montreal, Toronto, Austin, San Antonio, Denver, and Atlanta. His performances have been broadcast on classical radio stations in Austin, Cleveland, Baltimore, and Montreal. An avid chamber musician, Finlay has performed with members of the Cleveland, Chicago, and Montreal Symphony orchestras as well as with members of the Catalyst, Kontras, and Koerner quartets.

The concert is located at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601



Michael Finlay, Piano. Courtesy Southwest Symphony Orchestra.

West College Drive, Palos Heights.

Concert begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday March 3, 2024. Ticket prices are \$7.00 for students, \$20.00 to \$25.00 for seniors, adults \$25.00 to \$30.00, children 10 and under are free.

Tickets are available in advance and at the door. Learn more at southwestsymphony.com, call 708-802-0686 or email southwestsymphony@ gmail.com.

South Suburban College's Highway Construction Careers Training Program to Begin in March

The Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at South Suburban College (SSC) is preparing for its upcoming free, short-term program. Students Emanuel Medina and Donald Elmore III, showcased here during concrete pouring activities, are progressing towards journeyman status. Both students successfully completed the program and are slated to commence their apprenticeships in the spring. Medina has secured acceptance into the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 134 Communications Apprenticeship and is set to commence coursework this month.

The program entails a rigorous 450-hour curriculum aimed at equipping participants with the requisite skills for entry into the highway construction trades. Classes are held Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Orientation & Testing for the next class is February 27 to 29th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. and classes are scheduled to begin March 25th, 2024. For more information contact Rebecca Garcia at (708) 225-6004 or email hcctp@ssc.edu. To register, first, please visit our website www.ssc.edu/hcctp, or visit our office located at the Oak Forest Center of South Suburban College.



Students Emanuel Medina and Donald Elmore III. Courtesy of



A group of employees from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office recently started a mentorship program with students from Richards High School who participate in Youth and Government. Courtesy Cook County State's Attorney Office.

Cook County State's Attorney Office mentors Richards students

Recently Rachael Dovgin, the faculty sponsor for Youth and Government at Richards High School, created a partnership with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office to mentor her students.

The group, known as Women, visited the Richards campus to mentor female students interested in pursuing careers in law and other professions.

Amy Linman, a former student of Dovgin who participated in Youth and Government as a student, today works in the State's Attorney Office. She reached out to offer help to Richards students.

"The evening began with a question and answer

panel in which students were given advice about the professional world, and then transitioned into individual partnerships for discussion. The students will be able to keep this connection throughout their college and post-college careers, offering them support and guidance along those paths," Dovgin said.

Village Of Evergreen Park awarded grant

Evergreen Park has been awarded a \$30,000 grant to replace trees on public property lost to the invasive emerald ash borer.

Funding for this project was provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service Eastern Region and are administered by The Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI).

"We proposed an ambitious project to purchase and plant 200 parkway trees to help strengthen our urban tree canopy," said

Gavin Yeaman, Assistant Director of Public Works. "Urban trees are critical infrastructure for our Village, and we are proud to have received this grant from Morton Arboretum."

The grant funds will be used to purchase and install trees native to Illinois. The trees will be planted in Village parkways throughout the neighborhoods when requested by residents. Busier streets, where the canopy needs assistance, will also be targeted.

The grant funding helps communities plant a diversity of trees and empowers Evergreen Park to enhance its tree preservation to better protect mature trees in the Village.

An aggressive pest, the emerald ash borer can cause widespread tree damage in communities if left unmanaged.

"Emerald ash borer prevention and mitigation will help strengthen the health of our urban forests," said CRTI Interim Director Melissa Custic. "From storm water management to improved air quality, trees benefit us all. Projects like this are imperative to support urban forests."

For more information, visit https://chicagorti.org.

Get Behind the Vest Events

Look at this amazing quilt made by our very own 19th Ward resident, Jean Ricker! Jean has generously donated this custom handmade quilt to the 10th Annual Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast! Her kindness and talent are reflected in this work of art. This handmade quilt is approximately 6.5' x 6.5' and is constructed of CPD t-shirts sewn together.

Raffle tickets can be purchased. Donate to 2024 Pancake Breakfast Quilt at cpdmemorial.org for \$20 for 5 tickets and



Jean Ricker. Courtesy CPE Memorial Foundation.

you will be automatically entered in the drawing. In addition, raffle tickets will be available at the event on February 25th at Saint John Fisher School, at 10234 S. Washtenaw, Chicago 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. The drawing will be held on Monday, February 26th in the 19th Ward Office and the winner will be contacted by phone. The pancake Breakfast is \$5.00 per person or \$25.00 per family.

Black Ensemble Theater opens 2024 with The Time Machine: A Tribute to the '80s

Black Ensemble Theater's Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor announces the The Time Machine: A Tribute to the '80s, written and directed by Producing Managing Director Daryl D. Brooks. The production opens the 2024 Season of Affirmation: Protection, Leadership and Power, and runs February 24 to April 14, 2024.

Join us as the Black Ensemble Theater takes you back to a time when the music was eclectic and eccentric, the 1980s! With hits from Prince, Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam, Morris Day and many more, including a Hip Hop medley that will make you wanna jump up and pop lock. This is one musical journey that you don't want to miss!

Tickets are available at www.blackensemble.org, or call (773) 769-4451 and, at the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office, 4450 North Clark Street in Chicago, Illinois. Performances are Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$56.50 to \$66.50 (fees included).

EPCHS Teacher named to Illinois Teacher of the Year Cohort

Evergreen Park Community High School is pleased to announce that science teacher Bryn Zingrebe has been named to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Teacher of the Year Cohort as its 2024 Outstanding Early Career Educator.

Zingrebe is one of 15 teachers statewide selected to the cohort, the ISBE announced recently, "These 15 teachers have displayed unparalleled excellence, service, and leadership within and beyond their classrooms," said State



Bryn Zingrebe. Courtesy Evergreen Park Community H.S.

Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tony Sanders. "Each of these teachers has a powerful story and message to share, and I am proud to recognize their efforts and provide a platform to elevate their voices."

The ISBE annually selects Regional Teachers of the Year, an Outstanding Early Career Educator and Bilingual, Special Education and Early Childhood Teachers of the Year to be members of the Illinois Teachers of the Year Cohort. ISBE received a record number of nominations and applications for the cohort in 2024.

A committee of administrators, teachers, educational service personnel, student support personnel and past Illinois Teacher of the Year winners selected this year's awardees.

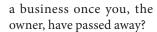
Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker added that cohort members like Zingrebe "have demonstrated unwavering commitment to their communities and the young people they serve."

Knowing when you need an Estate Plan

The decision to develop an Estate Plan really depends on more than the potential size of an estate and can be appropriate for just about anyone. Estate planning can be a neglected part of financial planning. It's easy to delay answering uncomfortable questions. An Estate Plan goes much further than a Will and not only deals with the distribution of assets and legacy wishes, but it may help you and your loved ones pay substantially less in taxes, fees, and court costs.

Here are a few triggers for when you need an Estate Plan in place.

- The arrival of children This can shape the need for and scope of an Estate Plan.
- Estate size and state of residence Does the value of the estate exceed the estate tax exclusion?
- Probate and privacy concerns An Estate Plan helps to minimize the probate process and its expenses, delays, and loss of privacy.
- Preparation for becoming incapacitated This is critical documentation in an Estate Plan.
- Philanthropic goals There are a number of ways to incorporate philanthropic goals into an Estate Plan.
 - Business succession Includes how best to plan for



- Life stages Estate Planning at various milestones throughout your lifetime
- Special circumstances

- Two of the most common special circumstances that may affect Estate Planning decisions are blended families and families with special needs.

Once you have a sense of what's in your estate, think about how to establish an Estate Plan that provides peace of mind, but most importantly, protects your assets and your family after you're gone.

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



Hosted by the Internet Archive. Look at the Oak Lawn Library website at https://www.olpl.org.

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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

We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community.

Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.



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Homemade Pierogi in Time for Easter

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection at 15050 Central Ave., Oak Forest, Ilinois, will have homemade Pierogi back by popular demand in time for Easter on March 23 from 10

am until 2 pm and March 24 from noon until 3 pm.

There will be six flavors sold by the half dozen for \$8.00, potato, Kraut, meat, spinach, sweet cheese and blueberry. No pre-

orders and first come, first served. Cash, check or Zelle payments only accepted. There will also be a special holiday bake sale.

Call 708-687-2170 for more information

St. Benedict Fish Fry in Blue Island

St. Mary Magdalene Parish at 2339 York Street, Blue Island, Illinois is having a Fish Fry hosted by the Women's Club. February 23, March 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024. This is Cash only. The Adult Dinner is \$12.00. You will

be served 2 fried fillets or 1 foil of 2 baked fillets with fries, tartar sauce, coleslaw, beets, and rye bread, Lemonade, and coffee. An extra Fried Fillet is \$3.00, 2 extra Fried Fillets is \$6.00. A child's meal is \$5.00 with fries only for

The lunch is 11 am to 1 pm, dinner is 4 pm until 7 pm or until we run out. Dine In and Carry Out. Delivery is available in selected area. We hope to see you there! Call 708-385-9266 for more information.

Bremen High **School District** 228 to host Senior Citizen's breakfast

The Annual Senior Citizen's Breakfast is coming back to Bremen High School District 228 for the first time since 2019!

This year, the event will take place on Wednesday, March 20th. Those interested can choose to attend at any one of our four schools: Bremen, Tinley Park, Hillcrest or Oak Forest High School.

Students and staff have planned a very special day for attendees.

Please RSVP to the school of your choice as



Senior Citizen's Breakfast. Courtesy of Bremen H.S. District 228.

soon as possible and no later than Tuesday, March 5th, as this is a very popular event. Addresses and RSVP information can be found

Bremen High School: 15203 Pulaski Road, Midlothian, IL 60445. RSVP at 708-371-3600, Ext.

Tinley Park High School: 6111 W. 175th Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477. RSVP at 708-532-1900, Ext. 8203.

Hillcrest High School: 17401 Pulaski Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478. RSVP at 708-799-7000, Ext. 4805.

Oak Forest High School: 15201 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452. RSVP at 708-687-0500, Ext. 8305.

Please do not arrive at the event prior to 8:45 a.m. We look forward to having you as our guest!

Free Family Concert Offered at Orland Park Public Library

Families are invited to visit the library on Saturday, March 9 at 2 pm for high energy, interactive musical play with farm animal puppets, Miss Jamie, and Erik Mando. This event is aimed at ages 2 through 8 and their caregivers, but the whole family is welcome. Patrons are not required to register for this program.



Miss Jamie and Erik Mando. Photo Erik Mando Studio.

Miss Jamie's Farm is a popular music show for young kids and their families, sharing values from life down on the farm with songs both new and familiar. Sing, dance, laugh and learn with Miss Jamie and her farm puppet friends.

The Orland Park Public Library is located at 14921 S. Ravinia Ave in Orland Park, Illinois. The library serves the residents of the Village of Orland Park. Please call (708)

428-5100 with questions.





11 am Family Parade at 151st Street & Central Avenue. Steps off at 151st street, South to Park District Hunt for the \$1,000 golden ticket along parade route sponsored by

Visit our bars & restaurants all day! 708-687-4600 www.oc-chamber.org















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The Matchbox Magic Flute Cast. Courtesy of Goodman Theatre.

The Matchbox Magic Flute is at Goodman Theatre

Goodman Theatre Manilow Resident Director Mary Zimmerman's newest production, The Matchbox Magic Flute, has extended its run. The Tony Award-winning director's world-premiere-in-miniature adaptation of Mozart's magical family-friendly opera features a 15-member company and marks Zimmerman's 18th production over a three-decade Goodman artistic affiliation.

Recommended for audiences aged 8+, The Matchbox Magic Flute appears now through March 17, 2024. Tickets are \$25 to \$90; and are available at GoodmanTheatre.org/Flute or by phone at 312-443-3800.

Acclaimed actor David Payne brings *Churchill* to Chicago

Emery Entertainment, Inc. and Broadway In Chicago are excited to announce that Churchill, starring acclaimed actor David Payne, will play a strictly limited engagement at Broadway In Chicago's Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place 175 E. Chestnut St. from April 3 to April 7, 2024. Tickets for all shows are now on sale, priced at \$75.00. Please visit BroadwayInChicago.com for more details.



David Payne as Churchill. Courtesy Broadway In Chicago.



MOMIX ALICE at the Auditorium Theatre

Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 PM at the Auditorium Theatre at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago. iKnown internationally for presenting works of astounding inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX, a company of dancer-illusionists founded and directed by Moses Pendleton, marks its long-awaited return to the Auditorium Theatre. Audiences are



MOMIX Alice Caterpillar. Photo by Equilibre Monaco.

invited to travel down the rabbit hole, MOMIXstyle, with Pendleton's ALICE, inspired by Alice in Wonderland. As Alice's body grows and shrinks and grows again, Pendleton's dancers extend themselves by means of props, ropes, and other dancers, sharing a family-friendly journey that is magical, mysterious, fun, eccentric and much more. Tickets start at \$30. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit AuditoriumTheatre.

Sif Itona Westerberg, A Tale of Today

by Annette Dixon

The Driehaus Museum at 40 East Erie, Chicago was a home in the late 19th Century and contains an array of artifacts in perfect fashion to compliment the décor of this beautiful home turned into a museum. It is open to the public and they are expanding the museum to occupy the annexed building, which will be finished next year. At the present time the elevator to the second floor is inoperative, there are stairs. Tours are available for the asking, plus the cost of an entry fee.

Curator Stephanie Cristello is a Chicago based contemporary art curator writer who has served as director worldwide; she was a Guest Curator at Kunsthal Aarhud, Denmark and the Malmo Art Museum, Sweden. Stephanie leads a tour of A Tale of Today, Sif Itona Westerberg: Twin Flame, Double Ruin. Tour started February 17, 2:30 to 3:30 pm, until March 15, tickets are available for \$20 which includes, museum admission.

Sif Itona Westerberg takes inspiration from "the Ancient Greek myth of



Sif Itona Westerberg Accendance. Courtesy Driehaus Museum.

soulmates—a single body that was divided into two parts, fated to forever yearn and search for its reflection. Westerberg transforms common industrial materials such as aerated concrete into delicate sensitive surfaces engraved with the retelling of mythological narratives relevant to the current moment." This exhibit will be on view at the Driehaus until April 14, 2024.

Broadway in Chicago presents *Mrs*. *Doubtfire*

Mrs. Doubtfire is playing at James M. Nederlander Theatre at 24 W. Randolph St. Chicago, IL 60603. Parking is at 20 E. Randolph St. Chicago.

The show dates are February 27 to March 10, 2024. This show is suitable for ages 8 and up. All persons entering the theater, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

Everyone's favorite Scottish nanny is headed to Chicago! Rob McClure will reprise his Tony-nominated Broadway performance on tour alongside co-star (and real wife!) Maggie Lakis in this internationally acclaimed hit musical



Rob McClure as Daniel Hillard. Courtesy of Broadway in Chicago.

critics call "wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny" (Manchester Evening News) and "a feel-good, family-friendly comedy that delivers" (The Hollywood Reporter). Based on the beloved film and directed by four-time Tony Award* winner Jerry Zaks, Mrs. Doubtfire tells the hysterical and heartfelt

story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids. It's "the lovable, bighearted musical comedy we need right now".

Visit Mrs. Doubtfire Play Chicago Hilarious Family Fun Onstage (broadwayinchicago.com) for tickets and seating chart. For more information call (312) 977-1700



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Sign Up for Summer Camp at Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo Summer Camp registration opens soon. Conservation Camp, for kids PreK through Grade 5, runs June 10 to August 6. Zoo Crew, for Grades 6 to 8, runs between July 8 to August 16. These camps allow young people to explore wildlife and the natural world through fun weekly sessions.

Donor Club members can sign their children up today. Registration for Safari-level members begins Thursday, February 22, at 10 a.m. Other zoo members and the general public may register starting February 29 at 10 a.m.

Go to https://www.lpzoo.org/youth-programs/zoo-camps/summer-conservation-camp/ for more information or contact us at camp@lpzoo.org or 312-742-2056.

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NAMI Family and Friends Seminar

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 10 to 12 noon at the Bremen Township Senior Complex at 15350 Oak Park Ave., Oak Forest Illinois. NAMI Family and Friends will have a free 90 minute seminar that informs people who have loved ones with a mental health condition or experiencing difficulty with mental health how best to support them. It is also an opportunity to meet other

people in similar situations and gain community support.

Register: namisouthsub-urbsofchicago@gmail.com.

Flash Fiction with Kathleen Rooney

This is for all you aspiring writers out there, on Thursday, Feb 22, 2024, at 6:30 pm, on Zoom, through Evergreen Park Public Library 9400 South

Troy Ave., Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805, 708-422-8522.

Through brief in-class readings, students will see how such tiny stories can

pack a huge punch.

After discussing how these narratives-in-miniature are structured, as well as what they can teach us about longer forms, students will have the chance to do in-class exercises and will walk out with rough drafts of a couple of very short stories that they can continue to hone.

Smith Village residents and St. Cajetan students honor veterans

Intergenerational cupids shared respect and caring for 40 veterans in the Road Home program at Rush University Medical Center. The eighth annual Valentines for Vets program was held recently at Smith Village. Residents of Smith Village and student council members from St. Cajetan School created Valentine's Day gifts for veterans.

This year, each veteran received a dreamcatcher. Students and seniors created the iconic woven web within a metal hoop. They also made encouraging cards sharing their thanks to veterans for their service.

"This community is so grateful to the veterans and the

sacrifices they made for our country," says Illinois State Representative Mary Gill. "This demonstration of caring and support is really inspiring."

All gifts were given to veterans in the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center. The Road Home Program is dedicated to the mental health and wellness of veterans, service members, members of the National Guard, reservists, and their families. This free



Illinois State Representative Mary Gill (from left) joins Saint Cajetan School Student Council Treasurer Rose Connolly (7th grade), Smith Village resident Martha Bell, Saint Cajetan School Student Council President Owen Butler (8th grade) and Modie Lavin, USMC Gold Star Mother and Family Outreach Coordinator for the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center. Photo Marc Monaghan.

program specializes in healing the invisible wounds of war, including PTSD, that resist traditional methods of treatment. The Road Home Program is nationally recognized for an intensive two-week outpatient program that draws service members from around the country. To date, more than 3,000 have benefited from treatment in the Road Home Program.

"The veterans can't stop smiling when they receive the gifts from the Smith Village residents and St. Cajetan students," says Modie Lavin, USMC Gold Star Mother and Family Outreach Coordinator for the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center. "Their thoughtfulness of the handmade gift and cards is so moving. It reminds them the community remembers and cares about them."

For more information about Smith Village, 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.



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Eileen O'Neill. Courtesy Oak

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New children's book released

Samantha Clohessy (Quero) is a local author residing in the south suburbs with her husband and daughter. They are looking forward to expanding their family in the coming years.

Samantha just released her new children's book, My Dad the Fireman. Samantha's husband, Daniel has been a fireman for the past 14 years and currently works in the Village of Bedford Park and the Village of Evergreen Park.

My Dad, the Fireman is a heartwarming story about a child who admires their dad's work as a firefighter and learns what it truly means to be a hero. 32-pages of beautiful, hand-painted illustrations bring this book to life, and the children in your life are sure to enjoy it.

You can purchase My Dad, the Fireman on Etsy at samclohessybooks.etsy.com

Spartans shine at scholastic art and writing awards

by Jennifer Jepsen, OLCHS Staff Writer

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program is a nationally recognized competition in which won a silver key in film and animation. Eli O'Grady won a gold key (a top award) in drawing and illustration. Eileen O'Neill won a silver key in digital art. Shelbylyn Dykstra won two honorable mentions for photography. Art teacher Ailysh Cooper said, "Participation in an art competition requires skill and bravery. We are so proud of our students who sent in artwork to be judged and





Mustang Welding team. Courtesy Evergreen Park Community H.S.

Evergreen Park sweeps high school welding competition

The welding team at Evergreen Park Community High School pulled off a sweep at the high school welding competition hosted by Moraine Valley Community College recently.

The group of nine Mustang students not only finished in first place in the Division 1 competition against three other schools, but also swept the top three individual awards handed out at the competition.

Zach Gumban finished in first place overall, winning a \$1,000 educational scholarship. It's the second year

in a row in which Gumban has finished first in the Moraine Valley competition.

Diego Abonce finished second overall, winning a \$500 educational scholarship and Aidan Brunner finished third, winning \$300 worth of welding gear.



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Architectural Artifacts Inc. will close after 37 years in Chicago

After a 37-year legacy in the heart of Chicago, the iconic Architectural Artifacts Inc. is set to embark on its next thrilling adventure in Round Top, Texas, the newfound capital of antiques in America. Founder Stuart Grannen has acquired an original 1880's cowboy saloon, dance hall,



Courtesy Architectural Artifacts

farmhouse, and three acres of land in Round Top, establishing a new home for the renowned and treasured Chicago store. Architectural Artifacts will close its doors in Chicago on April 15th. In his 37 years in Chicago, Grannen has sold over 100,000 items, from a Louis Sullivan designed elevator surround from the Chicago Stock Exchange to a complete terra cotta facade from the Sheridan Theatre to a granite folly from St Andrews, Scotland to marble tables and benches from the Bank of France.

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Architectural Artifacts, 1065 N. Orleans, is a world of lost treasures from original fireplace mantels, stained and beveled glass, period lighting, garden furnishings, cast and wrought iron, gargoyles and griffins, carved stone, church artifacts, decorative tile, American and European furniture, and industrial furnishings. For more information, visit www.architecturalartifacts.com or call (773) 348-0622.

Oak Lawn's Mclain wins regional title in Wrestling

OLCHS Staff Writer

It may just be her firstyear wrestling at Oak Lawn Community High School, but Charvelle Mclain is quickly making a name for

by Brian Frangella, herself. Her first year has seen a ton of success, and she is looking for more.

She finished the season with a record of 19-2. She had a victory at the Bengal Bash. However, the best was

vet to come.

Mclain became Oak Lawn's first female wrestler to earn all-conference honors at the South Suburban Conference meet. Then, she went on to

win the title at the Illinois High School Association Regional meet with a comefrom-behind pin.

"Charvelle has emerged as an exceptional talent," head coach David Early said. "She has a never-quit attitude. Off the mat, she leads by example, maintaining perfect attendance and inspiring her teammates with her dedication and leadership."



Charvelle Mclain. Courtesy Oak Lawn Community H.S.

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Being 55+ has its advantages

(NAPSI)—The 55-plus crowd is more active than ever, continuing to stay in the workforce longer, growing in numbers—to the tune of 73 million and counting-and exerting an even greater economic impact. In fact, 55+ers are responsible for over half of U.S. consumer spending, according to AARP, contributing to the huge upsurge in online spending during the pandemic.

If you are one of these lucky ones—as in 55 or older—you may not realize that you are actually the envy of many. People in this age group can save thousands of dollars a year on everyday goods and services so make sure you know about ALL of the discounts available to you.

Whether planning for long-term savings for retirement or for shortterm expenses like a postpandemic vacation, saving money is front and center in today's world. The good news is that there are so many great discounts created just for you that it makes it easy to save tons by paying attention to

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New wireless phone plans mean money savings and include

where you're spending your money each month.

Here are some "55 and over" discounts to be on the lookout for-that you might not know about:

- Auto insurance: Insurance companies sometimes offer discounts for good drivers over a certain
- Travel: It's almost time to travel again so be sure to check for age-related discounts with major airlines, hotel chains, and rental car companies.
- Restaurants: Over 55? Ask about special days, nights or menu items at your favorite fast-food or fancy restaurant-even if it's takeout.
- Wireless plans: Make sure that you are on a discounted 55+ plan-a failsafe way to save money each month.

Given that 55+ consumers are spending 30% more time on mobile devices than they did a year ago, having an affordable wireless plan that provides unlimited text, talk and data with additional valuable perks is huge. Take a look at T-Mobile's 55+ plans

that it offers to customers across the United States. Verizon and AT&T, on the other hand, only offer 55+ plans for customers who live in Florida (even though 92% of people in the United States who are 55 and older live outside of Florida). And T-Mobile recently announced that customers on a Magenta 55+ or Magenta MAX 55+ plan can have up to four voice lines on their account.

Always pay attention to details when considering your choice in wireless plans.

T-Mobile's Magenta 55+ and Magenta MAX 55+ plans offer unlimited text, talk and data combined

- A guaranteed monthly rate that includes taxes and fees in the plan price—your price stays the same each month.
- Netflix on Us-Magenta 55+ plan includes Netflix on Us for families and its Magenta MAX 55+ plan includes Netflix Basic with one line or Netflix Standard with two lines.
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The Oak Forest Fleadh showcases our community spirit, promotes local businesses, and brings new people to our area. It has become our signature

We can't wait to #fleadharoundtown on March

Green Hills Public Library District March events

Eid Clothing Drive

We need your help in filling our racks with clothing for men, women, and children over the age of 3 that would be appropriate for celebrating Eid for our Eid Clothing Bazaar. Starting March 1, and going through March 30, we will be accepting gently used clothing items at the Youth Services

Writer's Critique Group Whether you are a published writer, or an aspiring writer please join us for a discussion, feedback, and improvement suggestions of a member's works. Join us on March 9 from 10 am to 12 pm. Ages 18 and up.

Community Mosaic Project

Mosaic artist, Sonata Kazimieraitiene, will host community workshops for all ages to create ceramic pieces to be included in a new mosaic in the Library. Workshops dates and times are March 12, 13, 14, and 15

from 11 am to 6 pm.

English Conversation Group

This program offers adult English language learners the opportunity to practice conversational English in a relaxed, fun way on March 14 at 7 pm.

Clarence Goodman Presents: Women for All Seasons: Six Chicagoans Who Changed the World

In honor of Women's History Month, join historian Clarence Goodman to learn about six Chicago women who changed the world on March 19 at 6:30 pm. Ages 18 and up.

Yoga for Self-Care

Come to the library for a yoga class that will include yoga poses, breathing exercises, and meditations on March 23 at 10:15 am.

Green Hills Public Library District is at 10331 S. Interlochen Drive, Palos Hills, Illinois 60465.

For more information you can call 708-598-8446 or go to greenhillslibrary.

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