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Village View

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Volume 16 | Number 3 | February 1, 2022

B-MAC EDITION

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip Participates in Nationwide Opioid Settlements

by Jan Glaz

On January 17th at the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees meeting, Trustee David Perretta, introduced an ordinance that met with unanimous approval: Authorizing the Village of Alsip to opt-in and participate in the settlements of 'Nationwide Opioid Litigation' against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen and against one manufacturer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and its Parent Company, Johnson & Johnson, and to authorize attorney Gary Perlman to execute all Participation and Settlement Documents on behalf of the Village of Alsip.

Prior to board approval, Trustee Perretta presented an overview of the opioid settlements. "There are two proposed nationwide settlement agreements.



Village of Alsip Trustee,
David Perretta

The proposed settlements require the pharmaceutical distributors to pay billions of dollars to abate the opioid epidemic, specifically, the settlements require the distributors to pay up to \$21 billion dollars over eighteen years and for Janssen Pharmaceuticals to pay up to \$5 billion dollars over no more than nine years, for a total of \$26 billion dollars of the settlement amount.

"Of the settlement amount approximately \$22.7 billion

dollars are earmarked for use by participating States and Subdivisions to mediate and abate the impact of the opioid crisis. Each of the settlements have two key steps. First, each State decides whether to participate in the settlements. The State of Illinois joined both settlements. Second, the Subdivisions in each participating State must decide whether to participate. The more subdivisions that participate the greater the amount of funds that flow to that State and its participating Subdivisions. Any Subdivision that doesn't participate cannot share in any of the settlement funds. Alsip Mayor, John Ryan, commented, "It's our commitment to support what the State's interests may be and if we don't opt-in there's that much less of a chance of making a case - if and when its ever settled."

State of Illinois Reminds Residents to Claim Valuable Tax Benefits

With thousands of Illinoisans missing out on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and state Earned Tax Credit (ETC) each tax season, Governor JB Pritzker is reminding qualifying taxpayers to take advantage of these benefits.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit is a huge benefit and puts thousands of dollars in the pockets of low to moderate income families each year," Governor JB Pritzker said. "Even if an individual does not owe any taxes, they may still be eligible for the credit and receive critical funding that

can be used for bills and necessities."

To be eligible for EITC, taxpayers must meet certain income and residency qualifications and file a tax return, even if they do not owe any tax or are not required to file. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recommends that all workers who earned around \$57,414, or less learn about EITC eligibility and use the EITC Assistant to find out if they qualify.

EITC can result in up to a \$6,728 refund when a taxpayer files a return and has qualifying children. Workers with no qualifying

children may be eligible for a smaller credit, up to \$1,502. According to the IRS, the average EITC credited for 2021 was \$2,411.

Taxpayers must be eligible for federal EITC to receive state EITC. Anyone eligible for the federal EITC also automatically qualifies for the Illinois EITC, which is a refundable tax credit worth up to 18 percent of a taxpayer's federal claim. Despite that, in 2021, more than 74,800 Illinoisans claimed a federal EITC credit without also claiming the state EITC, leaving over \$29.8 million unclaimed.

TEATRO ZINZANNI Brings a Brand-New Cirque, Comedy & Cabaret Production To Chicago's Theatre District

TEATRO ZINZANNI is excited to announce the opening of their brand-new production at the Spiegeltent ZaZou, located on the 14th floor of the Cambria Hotel Chicago Loop (32 W. Randolph). The whirlwind of live comedy, music and cirque served with a multi-course gourmet feast is back! Randolph Entertainment LLC presents a new international cast of characters performing astounding acts and bringing audience members a unique, immersive dining and live entertainment experience. Tickets are on sale for shows through August 14, 2022, at ZinZanni.com/Chicago. For groups of 10+, call Broadway In Chicago Groups at 312-977-1710.

TEATRO ZINZANNI brings to Chicago an international cast of premier entertainers for this engagement. Founder Norm Langill is the artistic



director of the production, and the menu is designed by Chicago's own Debbie Sharpe - The Goddess of The Goddess and Grocer. The included multi-course gourmet feast features multiple entrée selections, including vegan options. A fabulous à la carte cocktail menu, wine & beer list and special occasion treats round out the dining experience.

Individual tickets, which include a multi-course

meal, are on sale now and range in price from \$109 to \$264. Front Row VIP tickets are available at a premium price. Limited à la carte "show-only" tickets will also be available for \$69. Individual tickets will be available by visiting zinzanni.com/Chicago or by calling (312) 488-0900.

For further information, visit ZinZanni.com/chicago/safety or contact our Customer Service at chi-info@zinzanni.com.

Skate at Memorial Park's Ice Rink!



Figure, hockey player, or amateur, no matter your level or style, Blue Island Park District invites you to hit the ice for a while at Memorial Park's Ice Rink!

Dig out your skates! It's time to hit the ice at Blue Island Park District's ice rink, opening this winter at Memorial Park! Our rink features a proven system that makes the most out of

perfect ice skating weather and conditions and is adorned with ambient lighting and seating designed to provide the perfect winter evening in Blue Island.

Skating is free of charge! Access is open to the public during regular hours of operation.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.

Memorial Park's Ice Rink is located at: Memorial Park, 12804 S. Highland Ave., Blue Island, IL.



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 20 | Number 3 | February 1, 2022

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Mokena Weighs Purchase of Street Sweeper

by Jan Glaz

At a recent Village of Mokena Board of Trustees Meeting, Jim Kulesa, head of the Mokena Public Works Department, reported the village's street sweeper needed repair and informed the board that the estimate to fix the sweeper would be approximately \$20,000. "A street sweeper has many uses besides street maintenance and curb/gutter control, it's also used for block parties, auto crashes, and parade cleanups."

The village took possession of their current street sweeper on November 8, 2007. The average life span of a sweeper is 10 years. The benefit of purchasing and owning a street sweeper is that it will always be available when needed. Jim stated, "Research conducted by the University of Michigan showed that when dry solids, such as leaves and debris, accumulates, it leads to leaks of phosphorus and nitrogen into storm

water systems and ponds." Trustees took action and approved a capital expenditure for the purchase of a new Elgin Crosswind sweeper in the amount of \$336,109.00.

New to Mokena: Village Administrator, John Tomaszoski, announced new 2022 businesses: Health Nutz Natural Foods, vitamins and essential oils, 19610 LaGrange Rd., 708-479-7578; Ear To Hear Healthcare, 11041 Front Street, 708-995-7256; Body Fountain, meditation, yoga & body treatments, 19070 S. Everett Boulevard, 708-408-1771; Three Point Healthcare, physical therapy, behavioral & nutrition services, 19807 S. LaGrange Rd., 708-938-3378.

Patterson Dental Group, family dental services, 19721 S. Wolf Rd., 708-479-5865; Hedges Clinic, 21205 S. Owens Rd., 815-469-2121; Absolute Vision Care, 20006 S. Wolf Rd.,



Village of Mokena, Village Administrator, John Tomaszoski

708-478-1022; Images Med Spa, medical & cosmetic services, 19070 Everett Boulevard, 708-479-4488; Nutrition Hub, juice shop, nutrition products & health coaching, 18700 S. Wolf Rd., 708-441-9633; Beyers Chiropractor Clinic, 10012 W. 190th Place, 708-478-0690; and Zap! Taco, comic book-themed restaurant & bar, 19711 Mokena Street, 708-719-3900.

Moraine Valley FitRec to Host Indoor Triathlon/Duathlon



Run, swim and bike through an indoor triathlon or duathlon on Sunday, Feb. 27, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Moraine Valley Community College Health, Fitness & Recreation Center (FitRec), 9000 W. College Parkway, in Palos Hills.

Beginners, amateurs and elite athletes are all encouraged to compete in this indoor event that includes a 10-minute swim, 20-minute

bike and 15-minute run for the triathlon, and a 15-minute run, 20-minute bike and 15-minute run for the duathlon. Each activity has different transition times, but a volunteer will tally each competitor's distances. Start times will be designated during registration.

Winners will be determined by distance, and medals will be awarded following the event. Race results will be posted on the FitRec website. Spectators are only allowed in designated areas of the facility.

All participants must abide

by current FitRec facility policies that align with COVID-19 mandates during the event, which includes all users over the age of 5 must be vaccinated to enter the building.

Anyone 12 and older can participate. Registration is \$30 for FitRec members, \$45 for nonmembers and \$20 for Moraine Valley students. For more information, visit www.morainevalley.edu/fitrec or contact Ellen Papan, assistant director of Fitness and Wellness Services, (708) 608-4029 or papane@morainevalley.edu.

City Names Gary Kasper Fire Chief

The Oak Forest City Council recently named Gary Kasper as the city's new fire chief. Kasper has been with the department for more than 20 years, most recently serving as deputy fire chief.

Kasper has been a catalyst for change within the fire department – implementing new policies and procedures, enhancing training techniques, improving service delivery, and maintaining accreditation and accountability.



He has worked with the community on fire prevention education, collaborated with other city agencies to devise a disaster mitigation

plan, and created a training matrix system to help fire-fighters build and enhance their skills.

Kasper is a member of several professional organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Illinois Association of Fire Chiefs, and MABAS 24 Chiefs' Association. He also recently completed the chief fire officer certification course provided by the Illinois Association of Fire Chiefs.

Partake in this year's Tinley Park Irish Parade

The Village would like to cordially invite you to participate in this year's Tinley Park Irish Parade, which will step off at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 6 along Oak Park Avenue. Lineup begins at 11:30 a.m. at Central Middle School.

The cost to enter is \$15 for veterans' groups, schools and nonprofits; \$50 for Tinley Park busi-

nesses; \$100 for non-Tinley Park businesses and political groups; and \$200 for unions and large corporations. Entries are expected to display the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, whether it's through floats, music, decor, costuming or accessories.

Fill out the parade entry form on the Village website and return it by Tuesday,



Feb. 25 to marketing@tinleypark.org. Apply today and help us make this year's Irish Parade the best it's ever been!

Stephen Chlebek Promoted to Police Sergeant

Stephen Chlebek, an almost 19-year veteran of the Mokena Police Department (MPD), was promoted recently to the position of Police Sergeant.

Hired in early 2003 as a patrol officer, Sergeant Chlebek has also worked as a detective, and is trained as both a lead homicide investigator and a sexual assault

investigator. He has further served as a field training officer and as an evidence technician, and in membership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System. Over the course of his career with the MPD, he has received numerous awards, including two Life-Saving Awards, one Letter of Meritorious

Duty, twenty-four Letters of Distinguished Duty, and eleven Letters of Exceptional Duty.

Sergeant Chlebek's promotion follows the recent retirement of MPD Sergeant Michael Keller, who himself served and protected the community loyally and admirably for many years.

S.A.L.T. meeting to feature Chief Walsh

The first Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) meeting of the year will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7 in the training room at the Tinley Park Police Department, 7850 W. 183rd St.

The afternoon's guest presenters will be Tinley Park Police Chief Matthew Walsh, as well as Deputy



Chiefs Thomas Tilton and Lawrence Rafferty. The meeting is open to residents age 55 and older, and face masks are required.

For more information, visit the S.A.L.T. page on the Village's website.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 23 | Number 3 | February 1, 2022

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

City of Palos Heights spotlights TV Channel 4

by Jan Glaz



Ron Jankowski, Executive Producer of City of Palos Heights TV - Channel 4

On January 18th at the City of Palos Heights Council Meeting, Mayor Robert Straz, introduced Ron Jankowski, Executive Producer of Palos Heights TV - Channel 4. The channel, run by a team of volunteers and engineer Carl Germann, began back in June of 1999. It provides coverage for government transparency, economic development, local business promotions, grand openings, financial news and other functions. Yohan

Fernando, Comcast Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs, recently sent a letter in recognition of the channel's success.

Ron Jankowski provided an update: "2021 was a record breaking year. Our team worked 2,100 hours, we hosted 240 shows, exceeding 620 hours, originating from the studio in Palos Heights. We are now, for the first time, able to provide live broadcasts away from City Hall. We can go all around the south suburban area, in fact, we traveled all the way to Hickory Hills for a live broadcast.

"Our channel covers non-profit organizations, colleges, and many other social service agencies. The program we have set up here at Palos Heights TV - Channel 4 is probably the best in the State of Illinois." Ron said the channel is always in need of volun-

teers. Interested parties can contact Ron Jankowski at 708-480-3013 or visit the City of Palos Heights website: www.palosheights.org.

Council meeting endnotes: The city is going out to bid for the 2022 roadway program for (Shadow Creek Drive to Ridgeland Avenue, Pinehurst Drive, Pinehurst Court, Westgate Avenue from Highland Drive to the end of the cul-de-sac, McIntosh Drive, and Oak Lane and 69th Avenue from 122nd to 123rd).

Aldermen agreed to pay Morris Engineering Services \$18,503.50 for services and approved the purchase of property located at 12303 South 71st Court in the amount of \$210,000.00 and authorized Mayor Straz to execute the contract and any and all other pertinent documents for said purchase.

story on stage at TEATRO ZINZANNI... at the finest fine diner in the Chicago Loop, the chef, Madame Z (Chicago's own Bethany Thomas) and head waiter, Doily (Kevin Kent), have assembled a hardworking restaurant crew of unemployed circus artists from around the world. An old friend comes roaring up on his motorcycle - Phénix (Cunio) - ready to bring their dreams to life. What will they wish for?

Guests are invited to remember their own wishes and dreams in this latest TEATRO ZINZANNI CHICAGO production.

TEATRO ZINZANNI brings to Chicago an international cast of premier entertainers for this engagement. Founder Norm Langill is the artistic director of the production, and the menu is designed by Chicago's own Debbie Sharpe - The

Goddess of The Goddess and Grocer. The included multi-course gourmet feast features multiple entrée selections, including vegan options. A fabulous à la carte cocktail menu, wine & beer list and special occasion treats round out the dining experience.

Ticket Information

Individual tickets, which include a multi-course meal, are on sale now and range in price from \$109 to \$264. Front Row VIP tickets are available at a premium price. Limited à la carte "show-only" tickets will also be available for \$69. Individual tickets will be available by visiting zinzanni.com/Chicago or by calling (312) 488-0900. Tickets are available now for groups of 10 or more by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at (312) 977-1710 or emailing GroupSales@BroadwayInChicago.com.

Covid Protocol

TEATRO ZINZANNI has worked hard to ensure that its patrons have a safe and magical experience. They have enhanced air handling and filtration and incorporated new sanitization technologies. A strong health protocol is in place mandating vaccination for all staff and performers.

In order to continue providing a safe and magical experience, TEATRO ZINZANNI CHICAGO requires visitors to show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. All guests 5 years or older will need to show proof in the form of the CDC card, a clear photocopy of this card, or a clear mobile phone photo, and guests 16 years or older must show a matching government-issued ID. For further information, visit ZinZanni.com/chicago/safety or contact our Customer Service at chi-info@zinzanni.com.

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through August 14, 2022, at ZinZanni.com/Chicago. For groups of 10+, call Broadway In Chicago Groups at 312-977-1710.

It has been a long couple of years of dreams delayed and hopes dashed, but it's time to move from "What if?" to "Let's find out!" The new

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To be eligible for EITC, taxpayers must meet certain income and residency qualifications and file a tax return,

even if they do not owe any tax or are not required to file. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recommends that all workers who earned around \$57,414, or less learn about EITC eligibility and use the EITC Assistant to find out if they qualify.

"A family's eligibility can change year to year, so we continue to urge all working taxpayers to check their eligibility status and be sure to claim both the state and federal credits to maximize savings," said IDOR Director David Harris.

EITC can result in up to a \$6,728 refund when a taxpayer files a return and has qualifying children. Workers with no qualifying children may be eligible for a smaller credit, up to \$1,502. According to the IRS, the

average EITC credited for 2021 was \$2,411.

Taxpayers must be eligible for federal EITC to receive state EITC. Anyone eligible for the federal EITC also automatically qualifies for the Illinois EITC, which is a refundable tax credit worth up to 18 percent of a taxpayer's federal claim. Despite that, in 2021, more than 74,800 Illinoisans claimed a federal EITC credit without also claiming the state EITC, leaving over \$29.8 million unclaimed.

In recent years, the Pritzker Administration and IDOR commenced a new outreach initiative to increase state participation by targeting taxpayers who qualified for the EITC credit but failed to claim the credit on their Illinois returns.



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 48 | Number 15 | February 1, 2022

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

Oak Lawn Cites Rise in Squatter Crimes

by Jan Glaz



Thomas E. Phelan
Village of Oak Lawn
Village Manager,
Trustee Thomas Phelan

At the Village of Oak Lawn's first regularly scheduled January Board of Trustees Meeting, Village Manager, Thomas Phelan, addressed the rise in crime and lawlessness that's occurring everywhere. Phelan reported, "We're seeing squatters moving into homes in Oak Lawn. When I say moving in, we have incidents now because it's so lenient, our government, courts and politicians, of anti-authority people, that squatters are throwing their belongings into a place and claiming they live there."

"In the past to establish residency you had to provide proper identification. It takes weeks or months trying to remove unwarranted people from these residences. The squatters are targeting houses that are on tax roles for sale, or homes that are in foreclosure. I want to spread the word to our populace, the media, websites and elsewhere to use the "see something, say something" rule. It's never been more important than now. If you see homes near you without activity for a given time, or too much activity, various people, too many comings and goings at all hours, please report it."

"A couple of weeks ago we had an incident and luckily the police were able to stop it quickly. Squatter homes are used to establish footholds to deal drugs and other types of criminal activities."

Keep an eye on one another and on our neighborhood blocks for any suspicious activity. Contact the village, fire, police and dispatch, we will react quickly!"

Oak Lawn Village President, Terry Vorderer, commented, "The legislation that's out there basically empowers criminals. It's more evident to me that the things going on in our society, police officers, daily putting their lives on the line are disrespected and getting shot. Yet, we have not heard any of our politicians, not one, whether state, federal, or even our governor, come out and say we need to reexamine and rethink what we're doing. It's time that we the people of Oak Lawn stand up with one another and say that we want our police to have every bit of the power they need to hold non-law-abiding people accountable."

Ridgeland School District 122 Announces the Construction of a New Fine Arts Building

Nancy Havlin

The former Party City building located near Ridgeland and 95th Street has been purchased, utilizing grant funds, by Ridgeland School District 122 and is currently being renovated to become a new Fine Arts building for students. Having the new Fine Arts building will allow the District to accomplish quite a few tasks for the Simmons Middle School community. The current band and art rooms are being moved to the Fine Arts building in order to provide more classroom space for students in



the main school.

Students will also be able to enjoy additional encore course experiences at the middle school, with the new addition of a Family and Consumer Science classroom, where students will learn basic cooking skills and home economics. A General Music Classroom is also being added. Allowing students, a multitude of opportunities opens up student choice and allows

for these adolescents to have exposure to many other options prior to making choices at the high schools. Currently, beyond their core classes, the students at Simmons Middle School have encores in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Communication and Media Arts, Research and Communications, General Art, and Constitutional Studies for the 7th graders. Ridgeland School District is excited to be able to provide these new learning experiences for the students in the community.

Dr. Scott Friedman to Receive the 2022 NASPA Doris Michiko Ching Award for Excellence

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) has selected Dr. Scott Friedman, dean of Student Engagement at Moraine Valley Community College, as the recipient for the 2022 Doris Michiko Ching Award for Excellence. NASPA recognizes individuals who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession.

The Doris Michiko Ching Award for Excellence is named after the first woman of color and first Asian Pacific Islander to be elected chair of the NASPA board of directors. The award criteria require nominees to be an active individual NASPA member and hold professional responsibility for the direction of student affairs functional areas. Additionally, they must have a record of innovative programming that has impacted the campus environment. Volunteer service to NASPA via leadership roles at the state, regional, national or international levels is also required along with colleague and superior



recommendations.

This past year, Friedman oversaw student affairs and helped academic advisors with over 50,000 student contacts. Friedman also oversees Orientation and Transfer Student operations. He currently is working with the Illinois Equity in Attainment Initiative to further advance Moraine Valley's racial and socio-economic inclusion practices at a systemic level and is the author of the campus's Equity Plan. Friedman also volunteers with multiple professional organizations such as NASPA and The Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD).

"As an active member of NASPA for over a decade,

it is an incredible honor to receive the 2022 Doris Michiko Ching Award for Excellence as a Student Affairs Professional. I was quite surprised when I was notified. I feel so fortunate to work for an institution that values service to professional organizations and has allowed me opportunities to continue my engagement with NASPA," Friedman said.

Moraine Valley President Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, academic advisor Dan Cristman and multiple colleagues nominated Friedman for this award not only because of his professional achievements but because of his character as well. "Dr. Friedman is a valuable administrator who has upheld the college's core values, college's mission and has provided excellent leadership for academic advising throughout the college," said Dr. Chet Shaw, dean of Student Services.

Friedman and the other annual award recipients will be honored in March as part of the 2022 NASPA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

St. Gerald School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

St. Gerald Catholic School in Oak Lawn will celebrate the 49th annual Catholic Schools week, Jan. 30 - Feb. 5 and share in activities aligned with the theme of Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence and Service. The annual celebration begins with Mass and continues throughout the week with other activities for students, faculty and staff. In place of an in-person

open house showcasing the school and activities, the school is relying on modern technology creating virtual open houses, and social media highlighting what the students love about St. Gerald School. Private Tours designed for individual families are available by visiting the school.stgerald.com or calling the school office at 708-422-0121.

The heart and soul of St. Gerald School is our Catholic identity. We are looking for families eager to be a part of our Christ centered education. We are open to all religions. We educate students to learn, to lead, to serve and to succeed. For more about St. Gerald School, visit school.stgerald.com and set up a Private Tour today!

The New 464 Area Code is Coming to the Illinois 708 Area Code Region

With new telephone numbers in Chicago's southern suburbs in high demand, the <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/approved> the implementation of the new 464 area code to overlay the existing 708 area code region. The 708 area code serves most of western and southern Cook County and eastern and southern Will County, including cities and communities such as Alsip, Beecher, Bellwood, Berwyn, Blue Island, Bridgeview, Broadview, Burbank, Calumet City, Chicago Heights, Chicago Ridge, Country Club Hills, Crest Hill, Crete, Dolton, Elmwood Park, Evergreen Park, Flossmoor, Forest Park, Glenwood, Harvey, Harwood Heights, Hazel Crest, Hickory Hills, Homewood, Justice, La Grange, Lansing, Lyons, Markham, Matteson, Maywood, Melrose Park, Midlothian, Mokena, Norridge, Northlake, Oak



Forest, Oak Lawn, Oak Park, Orland Park, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Park Forest, Richton Park, River Forest, River Grove, Riverdale, South Holland, Steger, Tinley Park, Westchester, Western Springs and Worth

Starting on January 21, 2022, customers in the 708-area code overlay region may be assigned a number in the new 464 area code when they request new service or an additional line. The 464-area code will co-exist everywhere in this region with the 708-area code. Customers receiving a 464-area code will be required to dial 1+ the area code and phone number for all local calls, just as customers with telephone

numbers from the 708-area code do today.

Telephone customers should know the following key facts about the 464-area code overlay:

Telephone numbers, including current area code, will not change.

The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.

What is a local call now will remain a local call.

Customers in the overlay region will continue to dial 1+10 digits for local calls within and between the overlay area codes, and 1+10 digits for long distance calls.

Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 911, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 if those are currently available in their community.

Customers should continue to identify their telephone number as a 10-digit number (3-digit area code + 7-digit telephone number), and include the area code when giving the number to friends, family, business associates and customers, etc.

Customers should ensure that all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment recognize the new 464 area code as a valid area code and should continue to store or program telephone numbers as 10-digit numbers. Some examples include but are not limited to: stored telephone numbers in contact lists in wireless or cordless phones, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, medical alert devices, safety alarm security systems and gates, ankle monitors, and or other similar equipment. Customers should also ensure their websites, personal and business stationery and printed checks, advertising materials, contact information, and personal or pet ID tags include the area code.

For more information, please contact your local telephone service provider or visit the Illinois Commission website at <https://www.icc.illinois.gov>.



Assessor's Office Refunds \$15 Million To Cook County Neighborhoods

More than a thousand non-eligible persons' benefits removed.

In figures released today, Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi announced the collection of more than \$15 million dollars over the past three years from people receiving tax exemptions for which they were not eligible. The office collected the funds from taxpayers who did not meet the state eligibility requirements and from estates of those who were recently deceased.

Of the \$5.1 million collected in 2021, \$3.5 million was refunded back to communities in Cook County to pay for services such as schools, parks, libraries, and first responders.

"As the Cook County Assessor, one of my most important jobs is to ensure property tax savings exemptions only go to those who qualify," said Assessor Kaegi. "Since the beginning of my administration, our Erroneous Exemptions Investigations Department has done this work at

no cost to Cook County taxpayers. The refunds they've collected contribute to lowering property taxes for residents and business owners."

Automatic renewals of exemptions over the last two years helped ease the administrative burden on homeowners during the height of the pandemic. To ensure that only qualified households received property tax savings, the Erroneous Investigation Exemption (EEI) Department conducted extensive audits. As a result of these audits, the EEI department recovered more than \$1.4 million over the past three years, including more than 300 exemptions that would have otherwise been received on behalf of deceased individuals.

Since Assessor Kaegi took office in 2019, the Erroneous Exemptions Investigations department has operated at a surplus at no cost to Cook County taxpayers. The cost of salaries and investigations conducted

by the department is paid through late fees and penalties charged to those who received exemptions for which they were not qualified. Common findings are households that no longer meet the income requirements or receive exemptions on dual properties. Any surplus funds are used to pay for the operations of the department in the following year.

Automatic renewal of exemptions will be granted again this year and the EEI department will continue its rigorous audits to ensure that only those who qualify continue to receive exemptions. In March and April, homeowners who may no longer qualify for exemptions will be mailed letters informing them that they must reapply. In the event that a homeowner discovers that they are no longer eligible, they can also fill out a waiver form, removing the exemption. For more information, visit, cookcountyassessor.com/erroneous-exemptions.

Oak Lawn Village View Newspaper Archive

Explore digitized microfilm from the Oak Lawn Village View. Papers range from 1973 to 2013 and are hosted by the Internet Archive. Look at the Oak Lawn Library website at <https://www.olpl.org>.

Proud member of following 2021 Chambers

- | | |
|--|--|
| Alsip Chamber of Commerce
www.alsipchamber.org | Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce
www.evergreenparkchamber.org |
| Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association
www.bpcia.org | The Hills Chamber of Commerce
www.thehillschamber.org |
| Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry
www.blueislandchamber.org | Justice Chamber of Commerce
www.villageofjustice.org |
| The Burbank Chamber of Commerce
www.burbankchamber.com | Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce
www.oc-chamber.org |
| Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitchicagosouthland.com | Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce
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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.

2022 Illinois Tax Filing Season

The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) has begun accepting 2021 state individual income tax returns on January 24, 2022, the same date that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) begins accepting federal individual income tax returns.

"We encourage taxpayers to file their taxes electronically and choose direct deposit, as early as possible in the tax season, to ensure the fastest processing and issuance of any refunds," said IDOR Director David Harris. "Taxpayers may file their electronic returns for free with MyTax Illinois, our free online account management program. Electronic filing is also available through third party software or with most tax preparers."

If a taxpayer electronically files an error-free return, they should receive a direct deposit refund in approximately four weeks. Last year, IDOR

received 5,609,000 electronically filed returns. 88% of returns were filed electronically, while 12% were filed using paper returns.

The 2022 tax filing deadline is Monday, April 18. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker recently announced, however, that victims of severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes beginning December 10, 2021 have until May 16, 2022, to file various individual and business tax returns and make income tax payments.

IDOR works to safeguard and protect taxpayers from identity theft and will continue to coordinate with the IRS and other states to strengthen protections. Taxpayers are encouraged to do their part by protecting their personal information and staying alert to phone scams or phishing emails.

"We remain highly committed to protecting

taxpayers' information and by verifying information on tax returns before issuing refunds, IDOR prevented over \$56 million in fraudulent or erroneous refunds from being issued in the last year alone," Harris said.

In addition to free filing of Form IL-1040 through MyTax Illinois, individuals may also utilize the site to make payments, respond to department inquiries, and check the status of their refunds using the Where's My Refund? link. Taxpayers may also look up IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments made, and (when necessary) amounts reported on Form 1099-G with MyTax Illinois.

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2022 tax season, please visit IDOR's website at: tax.illinois.gov.

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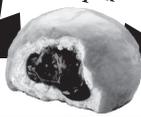
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**Tinley Park Farmers Market
 Coming June 4**

The Tinley Park Farmers Market is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and enjoys the distinction of being the longest continuous farmers market in the south and southwest suburbs.



This year, the market will be refocused on food and plant products and will run from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays from June 4 to October 15 in Zabrocki Plaza. If you or someone you know is interested in selling produce and plants at the event, we'd love to hear from you!

The Tinley Park Farmers Market is the perfect place to get your product directly into customers' hands, all in a popular, easily accessible location in Downtown Tinley that's already a summer destination due to the string of fun events and rows of first-class shops,

bars and restaurants. The convenient time of day and weekend accessibility only lends to its popularity!

To participate, fill out the Part I Application at Tinley-Park.org/EventPartners and return it to marketing@tinleypark.org by Tuesday, Feb. 15. As part of the 25th anniversary celebration, the Village is offering a \$50 discount on the \$450 application fee to anyone who applies before Tuesday, Feb. 15! Once accepted, vendors will be asked to submit their Part II Application (including payment) by Tuesday, March 15.

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Enjoy Super Bowl LVI at the VFW

Come and enjoy the Super Bowl LVI on Sunday February 13th at VFW Post 2791 in Tinley Park.

The tickets are \$25 each and allow you to drink and eat from 15 minutes before game time until 15 minutes after the game has ended. We will have food available and domestic & Imported beer as well as soda, water and drinks such as White Claw. There will be bean

bag tournaments going on in our Banquet Hall prior to game time which you can participate in. We have plenty of Wide Screen TV's and ample seating so don't sit at home, come on down and enjoy the day with the rest of our VFW family. If you have any question you can stop by or call us. We are located at 17147 So. Oak Park Ave and our phone number is 708-532-2333.

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Theatre

Moulin Rouge! The Musical – a Tony Awards Winner



The producers of *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* and Broadway In Chicago announced that due to the rapidly changing COVID landscape, the North American tour will now launch at Broadway In Chicago's James M. Nederlander Theatre with performances beginning Saturday, March 19, 2022 through Saturday, May 14, 2022. The change in engagement dates have allowed the producers to make the pro-active decision to slightly delay the start of the rehearsal and production period due to the fast-moving Omicron variant. Patrons currently with tickets between February 26 through March 18, 2022, will be notified by email with their new date.

Pop the champagne, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* is the winner of 10 Tony Awards®, including Best Musical!

Enter a world of splendor and romance, of eye-popping excess, of glitz, grandeur, and glory! A world where Bohemians and aristocrats rub elbows and revel in electrifying enchantment. Welcome to *Moulin Rouge! The Musical!* Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film comes to life onstage, remixed in a new musical mash-up extravaganza. Directed by Tony Award® winner Alex Timbers, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* is a theatrical celebration of Truth, Beauty, Freedom, and, above all, Love. With a book by Tony Award® winner John Logan; music supervision, orchestrations, and arrangements by Tony Award® winner Justin Levine; and choreography by Tony Award® winner Sonya Tayeh, *Moulin Rouge!* is more than a musical, it is a state of mind.

All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket. *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* is recommended for ages 12 and older.

All audience members are all required to be masked and show proof of full vaccination. For those with exemptions including children under 5, medical or religious exemptions proof of a negative COVID

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra Presents New World Symphony and Double Concerto

On Sunday, March 6, 2022, the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David L. Crane, presents "New World Symphony and Double Concerto". Pieces to be performed are the Egmont Overture by Beethoven, Double Concerto by Brahms, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 ("New World").

Two world-class musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will be performing the Double Concerto, Baird Dodge and John Sharp.

Baird Dodge joined the second violin section in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1996. In 2002, he was appointed principal second violin by Daniel Barenboim. After studying violin and viola from an early age, Dodge attended the precollege division of the Juilliard School. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Swarthmore College in 1990 and a master's degree in music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1994. His teachers have included Helen Kwalwasser, Gregory Fulkerson and Joyce Robbins. An avid chamber

musician, Dodge has collaborated with such artists as Daniel Barenboim, Isidore Cohen and Ida Kavafian. He also has appeared as a guest artist with the Chicago and Colorado string quartets. He has performed at the Bravo! Colorado Festival, Taos Chamber Music Festival, Marlboro Music Festival and on Music from Marlboro tour

Appointed as one of the youngest principal cellists in the history of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, John Sharp has served in that position during the tenures of Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink and Riccardo Muti. A top prize winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, he has appeared as soloist many times with the CSO. He and his wife, violinist Liba Shacht, often perform together as a duo and

in chamber music concerts, and have appeared in France, Spain and throughout the United States. Born in Texas, Sharp studied the cello with Lev Aronson and later with Lynn Harrell at the Juilliard School. Previously he has played in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and served as principal cello of the Cincinnati Symphony. He is currently a professor of cello at Roosevelt University.

Mr. Dodge and Mr. Sharp are generously co-sponsored by the Beverly Foundation for the Performing Arts, Kathleen Tobin, Founder and President. The concert is located at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights. Concert begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday March 6, 2022. Ticket prices are \$7.00 for students, \$18.00 to \$23.00 for seniors, adults \$23.00

to \$28.00, children 10 and under are free. In accordance with Trinity Christian College current policy, all attendees must always be masked indoors regardless of vaccination status. The not-for-profit Southwest Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1964 and serves audiences throughout the south and southwest suburban communities. Learn more at southwestsymphony.com, call 708-802-0686, email southwestsymphony@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook and Instagram. This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

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February 18th Lunch Show

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Love Potion #9, Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Stupid Cupid, Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Pop Go-Go the 60's

April 8th Lunch Show

The name says it all! We're putting on our go-go boots & feelin' groovy with the pop tunes of the 60's!
Downtown, R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Boots, Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow

LIVin' It Up! Olivia Newton-John Tribute

*June 10th Dinner Show & *October 14th Dinner Show

From her early hits to her "Sandy" tunes from Grease and beyond, this show is an entertaining must-see for any Olivia Newton-John fan!
Let Me Be There, I Honestly Love You, Hopelessly Devoted To You, Physical



Nifty 50's & 60's

August 25th Lunch Show

Join us for some fun with the jukebox gems of the 50's & 60's!
Sincerely, Jailhouse Rock, Put Your Head On My Shoulder, Sh-Boom, Wake Up Little Susie

Sweet Reminders of Christmas

December 8th Lunch Show & December 9th Lunch Show

The magic of the season comes alive with familiar cheerful sounds celebrating "the most wonderful time of the year!" Santa Baby, Suzy Snowflake, Silver Bells, Winter Wonderland

Reservation price of \$45 (or \$41 for parties of 15 or more) INCLUDES ENTIRE EVENT: Four pieces of the famous White Fence Farm chicken with all the fixin's including homemade corn fritters, baked potato, cottage cheese, kidney bean salad, cole slaw, pickled beets, coffee, tea or soft drink beverage, tax, gratuity and the fun show! All shows are lunch shows, with lunch served at 11:30 and show to follow, with the exception of Olivia Newton-John Tribute show 6/10 and 10/14. *Denotes dinner shows, with dinner served at 6:00 and show to follow.

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Health And Well-Being Tips For Shedding Those Pandemic Pounds



Enjoying the abundant fresh fruits and vegetables of the season can help you emerge from the pandemic fit and healthy.

(NAPS) Living may be easier during the warmer weather seasons but that doesn't mean your wellness goals should be swept under the rug. To help, GOLO, the pioneering wellness solutions company, has a range of healthy suggestions for the summer, whether you're at home, road tripping with friends and family, or grilling in your backyard.

Develop an action plan: Use this time as an opportunity to develop a nutritionally balanced meal plan that focuses on real, whole foods that charge your metabolism and help you feel energized.

A structured meal plan can help you lose weight and get healthier. For example, the company's Metabolic Plan focuses on repairing metabolic health with whole foods that are affordable, simple to prepare and easy to find in a restaurant or convenience store.

It's effective because: You stay fuller longer and don't have to fight with hunger and cravings

You can eat delicious foods that you want to eat—you are in control

There's no diet isolation. You eat the same foods as your family and friends

Don't be afraid to rock out at your cookout: The truth is everyone enjoys a good backyard cookout. The key is to make sure that

you're enjoying the tastes of the season without having a detrimental effect on your healthy eating plan.

Burn off pandemic pounds: It's essential to take advantage of the warmer weather to exercise away those pandemic pounds that many people packed on over the past year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adults do at least 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) to 300 minutes (5 hours) a week of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) to 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity. Preferably, aerobic activity should be spread throughout the week.

Adults should also do muscle-strengthening activities of moderate or greater intensity and that involve all major muscle groups on 2 or more days a week, as these activities provide additional health benefits.

Switching up your seasonal fitness regimen can be key to staying motivated and consistent when building new, healthier habits.

Learn More
 Visit www.golo.com for further facts and tips.

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No Need to 'Warm Up' Modern Vehicles in Cold Weather

(NAPS) When the weather is cold, many motorists wonder if they need to let their vehicle "warm up" or idle before driving. In fact, today's modern cars are ready to drive in cold temperatures without excessive idling.

The idea of idling before driving dates back to when cars were built with carburetors. With new fuel-injection technology, complex computer systems and thinner synthetic oils, drivers don't need to warm up their cars before hitting the road.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "When a car idles for more than 30 seconds, it has several negative effects, such as increasing air pollution unnecessarily, wasting fuel and money and causing excessive wear or even damaging a car's engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs and the exhaust system. Contrary to popular belief, idling isn't an effective way to warm up most car engines."

"Unless you are trying to defrost the windshield or warm the interior of your car, idling is not required for today's vehicles," said Rich White, executive director, Car



Care Council. "In most cases, idling longer than 30 seconds is unnecessary, even on the coldest days. The best way to warm up your car's engine is to drive gently at the start. Remember, a vehicle gets zero miles per gallon when idling and the result is lower fuel economy and wasted money."

The Car Care Council has a free 80-page Car Care Guide for motorists that features several pages of fuel economy and environmental awareness tips. Available in English and Spanish, the popular guide uses easy-to-understand, everyday language rather than technical automotive jargon and fits easily in a glove box.

The non-profit Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.

To order a free copy of the popular Car Care Guide, visit the council's consumer education website at www.carcare.org.

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Andrews Soars for OLCHS Competitive Cheer Team

by Brain Frangella, OLCHS Staff Writer

There are so many intricate moves to watch as a competitive dance team performs in competition, but there is no doubt that the flyers are the ones who grab the attention of the crowd. For the Oak Lawn Community High School cheer team, Rachel Andrews is one of those show-stopping flyers.

Andrews, who has been a member of the varsity team since her freshman year, is one of those athletes always working to improve and perfect her craft. This determination plays a huge role in the team's success at competition.

"Over the years she has grown immensely," said



head Cheer coach Maria Vanderwarren. "She is focused, determined, and has a very good attitude. Rachel has pushed herself as a flyer and has advanced her skills as needed, especially for our competition season. She does not give up, and we are fortunate to have her on our competition mat."

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Obituary

Timothy Scolan age 76 passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday January 26, 2022; beloved husband of the late Peggy nee Hofer; loving father of Michelle (Patrick) Walsh and Paul Scolan; proud grandfather of Jennifer, Nicole, Laura, Matt, and Sara; cherished brother of Susan (Ken) Shinkus and Thomas (Terry) Scolan; fond brother-in-law of Nicholas (Lee) Hofer; also survived by nieces and nephews.

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Timothy was a Eucharistic minister at Queen of Martyrs Church and Little Co. of Mary Hospital. He also served as the finance officer for the American Legion Post #854. He will be most remembered for his good sense of humor and his love for his family.

Memorial donations in Timothy's name to Wounded Warriors at www.woundedwarriorproject.org would be greatly appreciated. Per Timothy's request, the service will be for family members only.

Interment private at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL; arrangement entrusted to Kosary Funeral Home 708-499-3223 or KosaryFuneralHome.com.

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Retirement Facts and Figures Building a Stronger Retirement



(NAPS) With each generation's expected retirement time growing longer and longer, you may need to plan for 20 to 30 years of life after you stop working. And when it comes to ways to save for the future, many Americans think first of the 401(k), the most popular and well-known retirement savings option.

Saving for Your Health

Lesser known—and understood—is another way to save for your future: the Health Savings Account (HSA). With rising health-care costs that can exceed \$10,000 annually during the retirement years, HSAs are gaining more recognition as a smart way to complement 401(k)s and other retirement savings

options by helping you plan and save for health-care costs encountered now and in the future.

The Foundation

Traditional 401(k) plans are popular retirement vehicles for several reasons:

Tax advantages: 401(k) contributions are taken out of your paycheck before federal taxes are withheld, which lowers your taxable income. Contributions are also tax-deferred until you withdraw them.

More control: You can contribute as much as you want to a 401(k) within your plan and IRS limits, and you can change your contribution at any time.

Compound interest: The earlier you start investing in a 401(k), the more time your money has to grow.

It moves with you: The money in your 401(k) belongs to you—even if you change jobs, you can keep your money invested and growing.

Ease of use: 401(k)s are easy to contribute to, with many employers offering automatic payroll deductions.

Add More Stability and Strength with an HSA

If you save in your HSA as well as a 401(k), you can take advantage of three unique benefits:

Triple-tax advantage: No federal taxes on contri-

butions, withdrawals for qualified medical expenses, or investment earnings

Build long-term health-care and retirement savings: Especially with HSA Bank's self-directed investment options

No "use it or lose it": Investment balances carry over from year to year and grow tax-free (just like the HSA cash account)

Save for Expenses

Tax-free HSA fund withdrawals are limited to IRS-qualified medical expenses, but there's a lengthy list of future healthcare costs your HSA can pay for, so your 401(k) funds don't have to. These include everything from acupuncture to a wheelchair and many things in between.

Learn More

For further facts and tips on HSAs and planning your retirement, go to www.hsabank.com.

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