



Proudly Serving
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Village View

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community with
good news!

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 16 | Number 16 | August 16, 2022

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood



Dr. DeWitt Scott

Housing Authority exposes young people to college

Last month, Moraine Valley Community College hosted over 100 students involved in the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) Friends of the Forest Preserve program, which offers a summer program to expose young HACC residents to new experiences.

Moraine Valley forged a partnership with HACC just before the pandemic that mostly involved virtual information sessions. The Friends of the Forest Preserve program extended that to include visiting the college campus.

The group of 120 high school and some college students came to campus recently. They were welcomed by Andy Sarata, Moraine Valley director of Admissions and Recruitment, before having a brief presentation about college prep and admission, and the importance of making goals by Dr. DeWitt Scott, Moraine Valley student support specialist. They also went on a campus tour.

"I was excited to see potential students from the group on our campus learning about preparing for college and beyond. It was great having them tour our beautiful campus and learn about our programs," Sarata said. "My hope is they realize all Moraine Valley has to offer and make us their choice for college. We want to continue this partnership with HACC and the Friends of the Forest Preserve so future students will be able to have the same engaging experience."

For information on applying to Moraine Valley, touring campus or learning about college programs, visit morainevalley.edu/admissions.



Sign up for Smart911 today!

The City of Blue Island is pleased to announce implementation of its 911 RAVE high-speed notification system. The RAVE system provides the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire City within minutes.

A recorded message is delivered describing the critical situations from evacuations to missing child alerts.

The RAVE notification system has the capability of providing emergency information to landlines or cell phones via text messages and e-mail messages to those residents that may or

may not be home at the time of an emergency. All businesses should register, as well as all residents who have unlisted phone numbers or have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cellular phone or VoIP phone as their primary number. Once you've signed

EPA Awards \$60,000 to Friends of the Chicago River

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$60,000 grant to Friends of the Chicago River as part of the Environmental Education Grants Program.

"When we equip communities with the right tools to raise awareness and advance environmental education, it benefits everybody," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "This funding will empower students and teachers in schools, and support community members in underserved and overburdened areas as we work together to tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and deliver on our mission of protecting human health and the environment for all."

Friends of the Chicago River will use their grant funds to conduct outreach and programming with school districts, and host both teacher workshops and stewardship field trips

with the goal of gaining a deeper appreciation of the Chicago-Calumet River watershed.

"This environmental education grant increases our ability to provide K-12 teachers the training and personalized assistance they need to immerse students in the turbulent history, evolving ecology, and improving health of the Chicago-Calumet River system," said Mark Hauser, ecology outreach manager of Friends of the Chicago River and head of its Chicago River Schools Network.

In 2022, 34 organizations received over \$3.2 million in funding for projects under the Environmental Education Grants Program. The funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and is provided to organizations that supply environmental education activities and programs. This year's grantees will conduct project activities in 24 states, including Puerto

Friends of the Chicago River



Rico.

Since 1992, EPA has distributed between \$2 million and \$3.5 million in EE grant funding each year, for a total of over \$88.3 million supporting more than 3,890 projects. The program traditionally provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate or disseminate environmental education practices, methods or techniques. For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/education>.

To learn more about current and past award winners, or to apply for future EE grant competitions, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>. This website will be updated as additional grants are awarded.



Mrs. Kimberly Leonard

St. Walter-St. Benedict School

We are proud to announce that our interim principal for the 2022-23 school year is Mrs. Kimberly Leonard. Mrs. Leonard offers thirteen years of experience in the classroom, serves as a school board member in her community, has experience in school budgets, finance, hiring, teacher evaluation, student and family engagement, strategic planning, and is deeply rooted in her Catholic faith.

Mrs. Leonard is completing her Master of Science in Education in Educational Administration at Northern Illinois University. She has been part of the St. Walter-St. Benedict teaching staff for four years. She looks forward to growing together as a school community and is deeply committed to our Catholic Identity.

Welcome Mrs. Leonard!



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 20 | Number 16 | August 16, 2022

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park



Oak Forest approves senior housing community

The City Council has approved a plan by Care-free Development, LLC to develop, construct, and operate a senior housing community to serve independent, moderate-income

seniors at 4758 W. 151st Street. The proposed development will be a three-story structure containing 41 one-bedroom and 14 two-bedroom units for a total of 55 apartments. The project's

residential common areas will include a spacious lobby, community area, warming kitchen, and dining room as well as a health center, lounge, and library. Construction is expected to begin next year.

Humphrey House Fundraiser Planned for Aug 27



John Humphrey House located at 9830 W. 144th Place in Orland Park.

The Village of Orland Park will host the inaugural Humphrey House Fundraiser on Saturday, August 27 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the John Humphrey House located at 9830 W. 144th Place in Orland Park.

The Humphrey home was built in 1881 by Illinois Senator John Humphrey. It was the second home built in Orland Park and is listed on

the National Register of Historic Places. Humphrey, a native of Wisbech, England, arrived with his family in 1848 to the area that would become Orland Park.

Orland Park History Museum Curator Sarah Stasukewicz will host the event at the historic Humphrey House that will showcase many important restorations and unique historical pieces.

All guests must be at least 21 years of age to attend. Ticket price is \$50, and all proceeds will directly benefit the upkeep and restoration of the Humphrey House.

To register, visit orlandpark.org/register. For more information, call (708) 873-1622 or visit orlandpark.org/museum.

Oak Forest resident recognized for 75 years of membership

Oak Forest resident Jim Watson (third from left), who served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II was recognized recently, for 75 years of continuous membership in the American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans service organi-

zation devoted to mutual helpfulness.

Watson, who recently celebrated his 93rd birthday is a member of the Oak Forest Veterans and Crime Prevention Commissions as well as a longtime Rotarian spearheading the Oak Forest Rotary Club's successful blood drive program.



Congrats to this year's Tinley Park 'Benches' winners

The Village of Tinley Park announced the winners of its annual Benches on the Avenue public art program during recent Music in the Plaza concert.

Winners included: Best Portrayal of Theme: Nick and Jennifer Schulien (The Dog Walker's Day Off); Most Creative: Cody Heiden and Juan Lopez (Welcome to Borneo); Best 3D Bench: Tim O'Brien (Wednesday's Morning); Best Use of Materials: Dante DiBartolo, Allen Jebens, Tom Liston, Bob Renaud, Terry Nugent and Neal Keselica (Coral Reef: Colorful Ocean Home); Best Individual Artist: Nicole Simpson (I Like Birds); Best Group/Family Project: Angela Simpson and Mike Schultz and family (It Came from the Sea); Best New Artist: Tinley Park Public Library Teens (Woodland Reading Adventure) and Judges' Choice: Samantha Cook and Marty Rose (Savannah Cats).



Many thanks to this year's Benches on the Avenue judges, which included Mary Kay Campbell (Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce), Deacon Ed Pluchar (St. Julie's Church), Sherrie Ordaz (previous Benches artist), Carol Friel (Memorial School) and Lisa Molloy (Crisis Center for South Suburbia).

Visit TinleyPark.org/Benches to learn more about this year's Benches on the Avenue and to watch videos of select participants.

Brian Benton is Mokena's permanent Police Chief.



Chief Benton played a key role in advancing plans for a new public safety facility for the community northeast of the intersection of 191st Street and 104th Avenue. Ground was broken last month, and construction on the new facility is well underway.

Mr. Benton came to the Village last August having already accumulated a broad wealth of experience in law enforcement and law enforcement management. Over a 28-plus year career with the Joliet Police Department, Mr. Benton rose from Patrol Officer up through the ranks of the municipal organization, moving into management after seventeen years. He

held the position of Police Chief his final five years on the job, where he managed over 300 employees.

Possessing a formal education that includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal/Social Justice and a Master of Science degree in Public Safety Administration, both from Lewis University, Mr. Benton is additionally a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff & Command and holds several law enforcement and emergency services management certifications. He became a Certified Police Chief in affiliation with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police in 2017.

After serving almost a year as Interim Chief, Mr. Benton's appointment to the post by Mayor Frank Fleischer was unanimously ratified by your Mokena Village Board at its August meeting.

Chief Benton was later sworn in by Village Clerk Melissa Martini.

Among other achievements over the past year,



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 23 | Number 16 | August 16, 2022

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

From The Desk of Robert E. Maloney, Palos Township Assessor second installment tax bills to be issued later than normal

For most of the last decade, Cook County's second installment tax bills were issued at the end of June and were due by August 1. But for the 2021 taxes (paid in 2022), the issuance and due dates of second installment tax bills are expected to be much later than normal. It is not yet clear when the second installment bills will be issued, but estimates range from mid- to late-fall of 2022, with the due dates coming thirty days after the bills are issued.

Before second installment tax bills can be issued, all Cook County assessment appeals must be resolved, first by the Cook County Assessor's office and then by the Cook County Board of Review. Unfortunately, this year there were compatibility problems between a new computer system used by the Assessor's office and an older system used by the Board of Review. These compatibility problems led to significant delays in the transmission of data between the county appeal agencies, and the result is that second installment bills will be late.

Taxpayers may appreciate that the second installment of 2021 tax bills will not be due until sometime toward the end of 2022. But taxpayers should be aware that they will have far less time to prepare for the first installment of 2022 taxes, which should be due around March 1, 2023. There may be just a few months between the payment deadlines for these two bills.

In addition, the delays in issuance of the tax bills may create difficulties for public schools, municipalities, and other local taxing districts that depend on property tax revenue. Taxing districts with large fund balances may be able to handle the delays in tax bills, but some districts with smaller fund balances may have to borrow money to meet payroll and cover other expenses.

If there are any further questions or if you would like updates, please contact Heather Malloy at 708-598-4449 or assessor@palostownship.org.



Robert E. Maloney

South Suburban College partners to offer free manufacturing skills and training bootcamp

The South Suburban College (SSC) Department of Continuing, Corporate, and Community (C3) Education and the Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC) have partnered to offer a free Manufacturing Skills and Training Bootcamp. This 2-week accelerated bootcamp program is especially helpful for those who have been in the work-force before, but are currently or were recently unemployed, and are looking to kick-start a career in the growing manufacturing sector.

Nancy Burrows, a CAIC program coordinator stated, "Many people who work in manufacturing are retiring. Companies are seeking people with a myriad of skills who are eager to advance. We are

hopeful that this partnership between the CAIC and SSC will help address the needs of our communities."

Students who complete the Manufacturing Skills and Training Bootcamp earn the National Safety Council forklift certification. They will also receive safety training. Participants will go on a plant tour, interview with potential employers and can connect with college representatives as well.

The Manufacturing Skills and Training Bootcamp begins on Monday, September 12, 2022 and ends on Friday, September 23, 2022. It runs weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program will take place at the South Suburban College Oak Forest Center, located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois



Former student adjusts a hydraulic instrumentation module.

60452. Seating is limited and registration is required.

More information is available at: calumetareaindustrial.com/bridge-program. Contact Nancy Burrows at (773) 517-3708 or email nancy@calumetareaindustrial.com for additional details or to register. Gervaise Edwards, Manager of C3 at SSC, can also be reached at (708) 210-5723 or via email at ggedwards@ssc.edu.

Super Saturday registration event for fall classes at Moraine Valley

Moraine Valley Community College is holding its Super Saturday registration event on Saturday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Building S and U on the main campus, 9000 W. College Parkway in Palos Hills. Fall classes start Monday, Aug. 22 and later.

Staff from student services departments will be available to answer questions and help students register. The following offices will be open for walk-in and remote assistance: Academic Advising, Admissions, Cashier's Office, Center for Disability Services, Counseling and Career

Development Center, Financial Aid, International Student Affairs, Multicultural Student Affairs, Registration, Testing Services, TRIO Student Support Services and the Veterans Resource Center.

Appointments are required for placement tests. Visitors are required to park in lots S1 and S2, and enter through the east doors of Building U. All are encouraged to wear a mask and maintain a 3-foot distance from others. For more information, visit morainevalley.edu/events/super-saturday-2/.

Traffic Alert Palos Park Autumn in the Park Parade

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 123rd street (McCarthy Road) will be closed between 96th Ave (Rt45) and 80th Ave. from 9am until 1pm for the Palos Park Parade and Autumn in the Park which will be on the Village Green at 8901 W 123rd street. Please adjust your plans accordingly.

Alternative routes for east west traffic will be Rt 83, 119th street and 131st Street. North & South streets, 80th open, 86th closed, 87th & 88th closed at 123rd. 81st, 82nd, 83rd, Mohawk, and 93rd Ave. closed at 123rd as



well. Plan to come out enjoy the parade and all the festivities on the Village Green too! The parade starts at 11 am.

Dan Polk, Police Commissioner

Mayor Mahoney proclaims August 21 through September 17 Palos Park Woman's Club 120th Anniversary Month

The Palos Park Woman's Club would like to thank Mayor Mahoney and the Village of Palos Park for this honor.

On August 21, 2022, the Palos Park Woman's Club will kick off a yearlong celebration with an anniversary social at the Palos Park Recreation Center in honor of the 120th meeting of the club. The first meeting was held at the home of Mary Gray. Today, it is better known as The Original Plush Horse. Watch for purple, yellow, and white ribbons to show up in the community in celebration of the month. In 1902, Sadie Johnson suggested the colors of the flowers which she saw growing in profusion among the trees; purple for the wild asters, yellow for the goldenrod and white for the wild white daisies. Stop in at the Plush Horse and ask for the "1902" ice cream during the month, an ice cream especially created for the club's anniversary. Follow "PPWC is 120" <https://www.facebook.com/PPWCis120> on Facebook to learn more about upcoming events and history of the Club. Palos Park Woman's Club was established 1902 and has been serving the community for over 120 years. "With malice toward none, and charity for All."



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 49 | Number 4 | August 16, 2022

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

“Party in the Park” a success

Clear blue skies, temps in the 70s, with all good things shining down on Circle Park as the Village of Evergreen Park hosted a “Party In The Park” recently, complete with food trucks, music by Beverly Records, a sweets table and a refreshment bar hosted by our Village Trustees.

Happy crowds of Evergreen Park residents came out to enjoy the evening and the surround-



ings in this historic park; did you know that, over a century ago, in a much simpler time, this park (known as Wolf’s Grove) was the recrea-tional center of the Village?

Many thanks to the Evergreen Park residents who supported the event, and thank you to Mayor Burke, Clerk Cathy Aparo, the Village Trustees, Sue Kerwin, the Community Center Staff, our Street Department, EPPD, EPFD; and to EP Community Engagement/Coordinator Stacy Schuble for organizing such a memorable community experience.

ings in this historic park; did you know that, over a century ago, in a much simpler time, this park (known as Wolf’s Grove) was the recrea-tional center of the Village?

Super Senior Event offered at Worth Township

The Illinois Secretary of State’s Office will be hosting a Super Senior Event on Thursday September 15th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Township Hall located at 116001 South Pulaski Road in Alsip, Illinois.

The event will offer seniors an opportunity to take advantage of some programs offered by the Secretary

of State’s Office without having to visit a Driver’s Facility. For instance, residents may renew, replace, or correct a Driver’s License or State ID card right at the Township Hall. Renewals of a driver’s license or ID card require a current valid driver’s license. If one is looking to apply for a duplicate or corrected card of any kind,

two forms of identification are required. For information about acceptable forms of identification, please call 217-782-7044 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

For more information, please call the Senior Department at their direct line 708-972-7854 or contact them by email: seniors@worthtownship.com.

Evergreen Park concerts

Rick Lindy and The Wild Ones Band:

The next summer Evergreen Park concert takes place on Sunday, August 21st at Klein Park at 6:00pm. This lineup will offer high energy that captivates audiences of all ages. Performing Rock and Roll hits of the 1950’s, 60’s and 70’s, as well as Surf, Rock-a-billy, and original songs.

The Evergreen Park Recreation Department hosts FREE concerts at 91st & Rockwell, in the park throughout the summer. Pack your picnic basket, bring your blankets or lawn chairs, and treat your family and friends to some outstanding entertainment.

Labor Day Celebration, Concert & Fireworks:

Make plans to join us this Labor Day at the Rich Daniels & The City Lights Orchestra concert at 50-Acre Park (91st & Rockwell) on Monday, September 5 at 5:00pm. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Fireworks will follow the concert at dusk. This event is presented by the Evergreen Park Recreation Department.

Justice Village Hall meetings for August and September 2022

Please remember that our Village Hall of Justice Committee and Board Meetings are open to the public under the Open

Meetings Act so all are invited to attend. Committee meetings are somewhat less formal and gives the Village Board a forum to discuss

village business. Board Meetings are more formal where items are voted upon by the entire board for approval. At each meeting,



IDPH Offering a Back-to-School shipment of 1 million free COVID-19 Rapid Tests for Illinois K-12 public schools

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today it is providing a one-time bulk shipment of 1 million over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to K-12 public school districts outside of Chicago for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. The tests will be provided free of charge.

The tests are being offered upon request and are intended to supplement testing at school districts for the duration of the upcoming school year. Only one request is

permitted per district. The tests will be delivered to a single hub location in the district. Districts will then be responsible for distributing the tests to their local schools. The number of tests distributed will be based on the size of the district.

The OTC tests are intended to be distributed or to be administered in the following ways:

Providing tests to students with COVID-19 symptoms for at-home use, including the testing of family members or close contacts; testing of those who may have been exposed

while in school; and testing in alignment with the Illinois Test to Stay (T2S) program.

The tests are not intended to be used for regular screening purposes. IDPH continues to provide free weekly screening testing through SHIELD-IL and the Midwest Coordinating Center.

For more information about the State of Illinois’s efforts to protect school children and teachers from COVID-19, go to: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance.html>.

Hurley backs plan to secure financial assistance for families of fallen first responders

State Rep. Fran Hurley is supporting an initiative from the comptroller that will guarantee full funding for survivor benefits for first responders killed in the line of duty, ending the existing possibility of a family being forced to wait for support because funds were exhausted during the state budget’s fiscal year.

“It’s unacceptable for bureaucratic hurdles to get in the way of providing grieving families the support they deserve and are owed,” Hurley said. “This proposal is a commonsense measure that cleans up our laws and will ensure families receive the critical support needed in their most difficult hour.”

Hurley is a chief cosponsor of House Bill 5785, known

as the “Gold Star and Fallen Heroes Family Support Act.” The proposal creates a continuing appropriation for line of duty awards when the existing appropriation is insufficient to cover all claims in a fiscal year. The existing Line of Duty Compensation Act provides a death benefit for claims filed within a year of death of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic, armed forces member and other state employees killed in the line of duty. Existing law also provides a burial benefit for law enforcement and firefighters killed in service.

Benefit amounts are currently \$375,475 and are provided to the surviving spouse or next of kin. The

amount given increases by the Consumer Price Index each year.

Under current practice, if funds for the benefit run out due to greater than anticipated need, the General Assembly is required to pass a supplemental appropriation. This situation occurred this past year, which resulted in a delay of support for a family of a fallen law enforcement officer. Under the plan Hurley is backing, this kind of delay would never happen again.

“Our first responders are there for us and our families in our greatest time of need, the least we can do is make sure we can help their family if the worst happens,” Hurley said.

attendees are afforded the opportunity to address the Village Board with their

comments or concerns. Committee Meetings: Aug. 17, Sept. 7, and Sept. 21,

2022; Board Meetings: Aug. 22, Sept. 12, and Sept. 26, 2022.

Closures Scheduled on Roberts Road and 87th Street



Road closures, including weekend full intersection closures with detours, will be scheduled on Roberts Road and 87th Street during the next two weeks to accommodate mainline bridge beam placement as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project. Overnight lane closures will also be scheduled on southbound I-294 during this time to complete the work.

The temporary closures are necessary to safely accommodate the placement of bridge beams on I-294 over Roberts Road and 87th Street and will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on local road traffic. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers to each of the overnight closures and detours. Up-to-date closure information will be posted on the Tollway website in the Daily Construction Alert. All work is weather dependent.

No left turns will be permitted from southbound Roberts Road onto eastbound 87th Street from Monday, August 15, to Monday, August 29.

During the weekend of August 20, full closures of both 87th Street and Roberts Road intersections will be needed, and detours will be posted. The closures are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 20 with the roadway reopening by 11 a.m. the following

morning, and at 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 21, with the roadway reopening by 6 a.m. the following morning.

During the closures posted detours will reroute Roberts Road traffic via 95th Street, 88th Avenue/Cork Avenue and 79th Street, and 87th Street traffic will be rerouted via Cork Avenue, 95th Street and Harlem Avenue.

To accommodate bridge replacement work, traffic is currently reduced in both directions on Roberts Road and 87th Street. Traffic will remain in this configuration through 2022 for bridge work.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

In 2022, the Illinois Tollway is continuing work on southern section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95th Street, which includes rebuilding and widening the roadway to five lanes in both directions, including construction of new I-294 bridges over I-55, Flag Creek, 87th Street and Roberts Road, as well as reconstructing shoulders including adding Flex Lanes. This mainline work is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

Mail ballot applications now available for suburban Cook County voters for November gubernatorial election

Suburban Cook County voters may now apply for their Mail Ballots in the November 8, 2022, Gubernatorial Election through the Cook County Clerk's Office website, according to the Office of Clerk Karen A. Yarbrough.

Any registered suburban Cook County voter may request a Mail Ballot using the online application at cookcountyclerk.com/VoteByMail. Ballots will be mailed to those who have applied in September - in advance of the November 8 election.

"What makes the process even more accessible is the ability to request your ballot online. Voters can take their time and research candidates and referenda before casting their vote for our democracy."

Voters may also download, print, and sign a paper application to mail into the Clerk's Office to request a Mail Ballot. The completed Mail Ballot Application should be sent to: Cook County Clerk's Office, Mail Voting Unit, 69 W. Washington St., Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60602.

The deadline to apply for a Mail Ballot is November 3. Ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day, November 8, and be received at the Cook County Clerk's office within 14 days of Election Day.

The Mail Ballot Application can be completed on computers, smartphones, or tablets. Simply visit cookcountyclerk.com/VoteByMail from an internet-connected device.

To complete an online Mail Ballot Application, a voter will need: email address. (An email will be sent to confirm the application before processing can be completed.); Illinois driver's license or state identification number; last four digits of the voter's Social Security Number and address where the ballot should be mailed.

Completed ballots must be returned via U.S. mail, or dropped off at Election Drop Box locations at suburban Early Voting sites, which open at more than 50 sites across the county on October 24.

Suburban Cook County voters can always check their voter registration and Mail Ballot status as well as other voter information at cookcountyclerk.com/VoterInfo.

Questions can be directed to 312.603.0946 or mail. voting@cookcountyclerk.com



by Annette Dixon

Thank you to Steve Bilski (22) years, Charles Noetzel (7) years, and our substitute (14) years. They have worked through Covid, huge gas prices. Extreme Heat, horrific storms, and yes blizzards, it's coming. As the old saying goes, come rain or shine the paper must get out. Yes, we do get it out and I must say in 40 years we never missed a delivery. In 15 years, it was a free paper and still carried the same tradition of that of our subscriber years.

This is why I want to thank you publicly for all you have done to bring the paper to the public and to remind them you are inde-

An Open Letter to the Delivery Staff

pendent workers earning a medium wage and doing a great job.

I appreciate your work and hope you will be available for the duration of Village View. I pride myself for your service even though I am strict about delivery. You are the main source of getting the paper out there to the public and I can count one hand how many complaints we had in two and a half years. Not bad I would say!

From the bottom of my heart, I hope your day will come when the people you deliver to will pat you on the back and say Thanks for delivering the papers for our customers, we surely appreciate it and you.

If you would like to receive a 2022 Media kit, email us at vvnew@sbcglobal.net. Fax 708-221-6663
You can also fill out our Contact Form on our website at www.vvnew.com or just call 708-425-1910.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Chateau Bu-Sché



AT THE INTERSECTION OF 115TH & CICERO AND ADJACENT TO CHICAGO • 11535 S. CICERO AVE., ALSIP, ILLINOIS

This 26,000 sq. ft. multi-use facility sits atop an ornately landscaped 11.5 acre parcel with 325 on-site parking spots.

The elegant event venue which hosted hundreds of thousands of guests over the past 45 years was recently closed due to the ownership retiring. Potential uses include car dealership, event space, restaurant, senior housing, various medical uses, training, office, hotel, business incubator, educational uses, and much more.

**Previously Valued to \$12,500,000
Suggested Opening Bid \$2,500,000**

On-site Inspections noon to 2pm on August 24, 30, and September 8 and by appointment.



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Rick Levin & Associates, Inc. | since 1991
312.440.2000 | www.ricklevin.com

IN CONJUNCTION WITH JBS ADVISORS

Check out our website at www.vvnew.com

Proud member of following 2022 Chambers

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

Oak Lawn Village View Newspaper Archive

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

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



Orland Township announces Back-To-School health fair

We hope to get everyone ready to get back to school this August by holding annual Back-To-School Health Fair, proudly presented by Supervisor Paul O'Grady and the Board of Trustees! This fair is on Saturday, August 20, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m, held at Orland Township; at 14807 S. Ravinia Ave., Orland Park, IL.

"Making sure our youth return to school healthy and ready to learn is vital to our community," said Supervisor O'Grady. "Support for our schoolchildren, parents, and teachers needs to be easily accessible. We hope to provide that and even more at our Back-To-School Health Fair this August."

Admission to the health fair is free. School physicals (sports and health) will be available for \$35 for Township residents (\$45 for non-residents) and proof of residency required. Appointments are required and can be made by calling (708) 403-4222

Free services include: Dental Screenings & Eye Exams; Hair Cuts provided by Salon Evangelos; School Supplies*; and Food & Beverages.

*Qualifying resident families can receive school supplies from the Orland Township Food Pantry. (Bring State ID / driver's license, last 2 pay stubs, and school bus route / letter from school for each child.)

Immunizations will be available for those who meet the



following requirements: Must have an up-to-date U.S. immunization record; Medicaid Title XIX (19)*; Native American or Alaska Native and Underinsured (must show policy) or uninsured. Appointments are required and can be made by calling (708) 403-4222.

*Please note: Orland Township no longer accepts Medicaid Title XXI (21). Residents will be charged a \$10 admission fee per vaccine.

(Anyone who meets the above requirements but lives outside of Orland Township will be charged a \$20 administration fee per vaccine – cash or credit only.)

There will be plenty of activities and attendees to keep everyone entertained during the Back-to-School Health Fair, including: School Bus Safety & The Vegetation Transportation presented by American School Bus Company.

The Secretary of State Mobile Unit will also be onsite for students to utilize; child's birth certificate/passport, social security card, and driver's license/ID of the parent (or guardian) is required to issue State ID's.

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Dear STL Families,

Dear STL Families,
We are excited to welcome everyone back next week! The Class of 2026 kicks the 2022-2023 school year off with Freshman Orientation on Monday and Tuesday with all grades returning on Wednesday, August 17th.

There are a few important forms that will be going out over the next few days that should be reviewed before the start of the year. Please take time with your student(s) to review the Student-Parent Handbook at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hAGu5BRsTHoRB>

BXD3Mq1DMJifjBuDiYx/view this weekend and complete the online form. This online form must be submitted by next Friday, August 19th. If you have multiple students at St. Laurence, please complete a separate form for each student.

Here is the address to the form at Payment Forms <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/xUHQal5l>

Have a wonderful weekend and GO VIKINGS!!!

Kristy Kane, Principal, St. Laurence High School, 708-458-6900 ext. 218, kkane@stlaurence.com

Cultural Humility Healing with Music Therapy

There are many ways Music Therapy can heal and soothe patients. It can help patients on hospice care reminisce and find closure. Music Therapy can also help with Cultural healing. Cultural Humility is a relatively recent popularized phrase that is intended to bring depth and context to the practice of critical self-reflection and institutional accountability in anti-oppressive ways. Music Therapy plays a role in finding Cultural Humility. But what does this mean? How does Cultural Humility look in any sort of embodied

practice? And how does an Embodied sense of Cultural Humility connect with broader constructs of Care, Healing, or Justice? How does Music Therapy help bring peace and understanding in Cultural Humility?

Let us arrange a demonstration or interview with Russell Hilliard, who can answer any your questions on how music can help with Cultural humility healing.

AccentCare has many examples of this therapy. The staff is very passionate about this care instrument. Visit our website www.accentcare.com.

Send your press releases and color photo's to vvnew@sbcglobal.net

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American Pie

Sunday, Aug. 28
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Fred & Friends

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Visit our Websites to Learn About This and Other Scandinavian Park Events at www.vasaparkil.com and www.scandinaviandayil.com

Summer in the park at Blue Island Park District

Memorial Park Pool
The Blue Island Park District—Memorial Park Pool passes are available for the 2022 season. Pool passes can be used to participate in lap swim, public swim and splash pad for unlimited visits throughout the 2022 summer season.

Afternoon Swim 12 pm to 5 pm; Evening Swim 6 pm to 8:30 pm, pool number: (708) 385-2275.

Senior Luncheon: Senior Luncheon join us on Tuesday, August 16 at 12:00pm. Our guests will receive a delicious catered lunch, participate in games for a chance to win fabulous prizes, and more. Registration is free for Blue Island residents over the age of 55.

There's still time to register! Stop by Memorial Park Field House for in-Person registration or register online at blueislandparks.org/portfolio_page/senior-luncheon-and-bingo.

Daddy Daughter Night: Calling all Dads & Daughters! You're invited to a date night you will never forget. The night is full of music, dancing, food, and games. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on this fun filled night! You must pre-register for this event, there will be no registration taken at the door. Event Information: October 7, 2022 at 6:pm.

Register online at https://blueislandparks.org/portfolio_page/daddy-daughter-date-night/

Blue Island Park District or call 708-385-3304 www.blueislandparks.org.

Calvary Oak Lawn Food Pantry

Open on the 1st Saturday of each month.

Donation Drop-off: 8 am to 12 pm, Pick-up: 10 am to 13 pm.

If you or someone you know needs support from our food pantry, or if you'd like to give time/resources to our ministry, contact us at:

FoodPantryOakLawn@thisiscalvary.org

Calvary Church Oak Lawn, 10056 Central Ave, Oak Lawn, IL 708-422-0790.

Moraine Valley honors first certified culinarians

Moraine Valley Community College honored its first group of students to be named certified culinarians by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) at a reception held in the college's Table 67 restaurant. Each recipient was awarded a special diploma and a patch to wear on their chef's jacket from the ACF.

Moraine Valley students who complete their culinary arts associate degree and hold a student membership in the ACF can apply for the certified culinarian certification.

Panos Hadjimitsos, assistant dean of Moraine Valley's Science, Business and Computer Technology Department, said he handled the application process, and the college paid the membership and other fees for the students who qualified for the certifi-

cation and chose to participate as an added value to the Culinary Arts Program.

Dean Eliacostas, program coordinator for the Culinary Arts Program noted the certification shows employers students have successfully completed a high-quality culinary arts program.

Moraine Valley is one of only six colleges in Illinois, whose culinary arts program is accredited by the ACF. To gain this accreditation, the program was evaluated by the federation to ensure it meets a rigorous set of industry standards.

Christopher Bizarro said he thought it was great the college offered this bonus for him and his fellow graduates.

"I appreciated that the school did this because a certification is good to add to your resume," he said.



Snapshots

OF COMING EVENTS

Farmers Market Continues!

Every Thursday at Yukich Field 7am-1pm until October 28

CITY LIGHTS ORCHESTRA

Free Concert in the Park

Monday, September 5, 5pm at 50-Acre Park followed by Fireworks!

MEMORIES TO GO

Village-wide Garage Sale

Saturday, September 10 9am-2pm at Yukich Field

OKTOBERFEST

Family Friendly Event

Saturday, October 8 2pm-9pm Community Center

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Saturday, October 15 11am-4pm Senior Center

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Theatre

Broadway in Chicago premieres The Devil Wears Prada The Musical

by Annette Dixon

The highly reviewed pre-Broadway World premiere has been given rave reviews not only because it is a Musical, but the entire cast brought this production together with many restraints prior to opening night. Keep your eyes on Taylor Iman Jones, (Andy Sachs), she is an outstanding actor, dancer, singer and I'm lost for words describing what I saw opening night with her. She has a great future in Musicals.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA, THE MUSICAL stars Tony Award winner Beth Leavel as Miranda Priestly, Taylor Iman Jones as Andy Sachs, Javier Muñoz as Nigel Owens, Christiana Cole as Lauren Hunter, Megan Masako Haley as Emily Charlton, Tiffany Mann as Kayla Ward, Michael Tacconi as Nate Angstrom, and Christian Thompson as Christian Thompson.

The ensemble includes Kyle Brown, JoJo Carmichael, Olivia Cipolla, Tyrone Davis, Jr., Audrey Douglass, Hannah Douglass, Madison Fendley, Cailen Fu, Michael Samarie George, Henry Gottfried, Marya Grandy, Jessie Hooker-Bailey, Liana Hunt, Amber Jackson, Chris Jarosz, Carlos A. Jimenez, Nikka Graff Lanzarone, Anthony Murphy, Jim Ortlieb, Johnathan Rice, Sawyer Smith, Terrance Spencer, and CJ Tyson.

The new musical features an all-star creative team led by Tony, Grammy and Academy Award winner Elton John, Tony Award winning director Anna D. Shapiro, with lyrics by singer-songwriter Shaina Taub, and a book by Kate Wetherhead, music supervision by Nadia DiGiallonardo, and choreography by James Alsup.

For more information visit <https://www.broadwayinchicago.com/show/prada>.

The Joffrey Ballet presents Beyond Borders

The Joffrey Ballet begins its 2022-23 season with Beyond Borders, a mixed repertory program that pays tribute to the Joffrey's maverick legacy with works by artists of its past and present. It includes a second original work commissioned from choreographer Chanel DaSilva, in addition to favorite works by critically acclaimed choreographer Liam Scarlett and Joffrey cofounder Gerald Arpino. Beyond Borders will be presented at the historic Lyric Opera House, 20 North Upper Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago, in ten performances only, from October 12-23, 2022.

Joffrey co-founder Arpino's Suite Saint-Saëns weaves classical movement with the late choreographer's signature neo-classical style of speed, energy, and quality. With its

liting score, this American masterwork was once described by choreographer Agnes DeMille as like "standing in a flight of meteors."

DaSilva returns with a second original creation, following her powerful company debut in 2021 with Swing Low. One of the most in-demand artists working today, DaSilva brings her storytelling prowess back to Chicago for another world premiere created with the artists of the Joffrey.

Scarlett takes inspiration from the great Baroque era artist Caravaggio in this hypnotic performance of stylistic sensualism and elegance. His dynamic technique provides elements of bright rays of light and darkening shadows. Illuminated under the subtle glow of intricate chandeliers, with chic costumes designed by the late choreogra-



Fiddler on the Roof's Golde - Debbie Gravitte and Tevye - Steven Skybell

Fiddler on the Roof at the Lyric Opera

The North American premiere of a bold new production of Fiddler on the Roof comes to Chicago's biggest stage September 17 to October 7, 2022. Audiences are invited to experience Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick's Broadway classic on a musical and theatrical scale only Lyric Opera of Chicago can offer.

A new Fiddler arrives in Chicago. Following the success of the production at its critically acclaimed 2017 premiere at the Komische Oper Berlin, innovative director Barrie Kosky ties this version of Fiddler on the Roof to his Jewish ancestry and heritage, centering tradition in every aspect of his thrillingly theatrical production. Accomplished conductor Kimberly Grigsby (Broadway's Spring Awakening and Flying Over Sunset) makes her Lyric debut revitalizing the celebrated music of Fiddler with the incomparable Lyric Opera Orchestra.

The traditional Fiddler

pher himself, Vespertine puts a modern twist on the romantic era of the late 18th century.

The shows performances are: Wednesday, October 12 at 7:30 pm; Friday, October 14 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, October 15 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 pm; Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 pm;

you know but seen and heard like never before. More than 50 years after its premiere, Fiddler on the Roof remains a story that still resonates with audiences of today. While the musical has always explored themes of tradition, family, and love, Kosky's brave direction offers an even closer look into how communities like Anatevka are still struggling in today's world. This widely acclaimed production is supported by a massive ensemble of nearly 100 musical and dramatic artists, paving the way for audiences to enjoy another boldly unique musical theater experience that has become a Lyric Opera of Chicago signature.

There are 11 performances of Fiddler on the Roof: September 17, 18 matinee, 22, 23, 24, 28 matinee, 29 matinee, 30, and October 2 matinee, 6, and 7, 2022.

For updated information about Lyric's ongoing health and safety protocols, visit lyricopera.org/safety.

Friday, October 21 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, October 22 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, October 23 at 2:00 pm.

Single tickets start at \$36 and are available for purchase at Lyric Opera Box Office located at 20 N. Upper Wacker Dr. and by telephone at 312.386.8905, or online at joffrey.org.



Getting to know the Irish

by Tina Butler-Leonard

Who is Roma Downey-Burnett? She is an Irish actress, producer and New York Times best-selling author. She has also performed on Broadway! She is from Co. Derry like Seamus Heaney, the writer (poet). (The Maiden city-her walls were never breached) Downey is from the bogside district. (where Catholic people live). Downey is a "Smile Ambassador" for the non-profit organization Operation Smile which provides surgeries for children around the world who were born with cleft lip and palate.

She is married to Mark Burnett, a television producer. She has starred in several different TV series & TV movies, The Bible, Touched by an Angel, Borrowed Hearts, Second Honeymoon. Downey is the author of several books including, Unexpected Blessings, Box of Butterflies, Love is a family, The Story of God and All of Us. The TV show Touched by an Angel ran from 1994-2003. They say some ways an angel could be communicating with you is through a ringing in your right ear (or it could be tinnitus), you find coins on the road or if you see random white feathers.

Downey supported Martin McGuinness for president but of course he lost to Michael D. Higgins. So, our angel is also political which is a good thing.

Downey & Burnett gave the keynote address at the national prayer breakfast held in DC. By President Obama. Variety magazine recognized Downey & Burnett as trailblazers and listed Downey as one of Variety's "100 most Powerful Women in Hollywood". The Hollywood Reporter included the couple in their "Most influential People of 2013. As a couple they even had their own TV network, Light TV which was religion based, but sadly only last a few years. Most of their work revolves around a religious nature and faith and that doesn't appeal to everyone. However, it is a nice alternative to have than the violent style genre that does appeal to so many viewers.

Downey has a Doctor of Art honorary degree from Ulster University and honorary Doctorate from NYACK College (Christian college in NY) She has a degree in spiritual psychology from Santa Monica University. She was appointed officer of the Order of the British Empire. (OBE) Downey won Emmys and a Golden Globe. I have to include that Downey was on SNL about 25 years ago, my dad watches Saturday Night Live religiously, I'm sure he saw that episode. I admire Downey for all the inspirational work she has down. Faith of any kind I think gives meaning & purpose in our lives and contributes to our well-being.

I need to close this month on a very tragic note. Chicago has lost a very good man, a husband, a son, a Police Sergeant. Our dear friend Carla lost her husband Andrew. He took his own life tragically. I want to remember him for his service to the community and as a loving husband to Carla. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in America. Every life is unique and valuable. I don't think anyone deserves to be remembered for a single decision, however imperfect. Andy was friendly, responsible, observant, courageous and loved Carla. "The more you trust and believe in angels the more they will pour their blessings upon you" Denise Linn.

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guide you in all your ways" Psalm 91:11.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" Hebrews 13:2.

Gaelic for the Month:

Angel – aingeal; smile – meangadh; TV – teilifis; and blessings – beannachtai.

Irish prayer for the departed:

"Death is nothing at all I have only slipped away in the next room. Whatever we were to each other that we still are. Laugh my darling as we always laughed, smile, think of me, pray for me" May Andrew Rest in Peace.

For questions, please email: Molanive@yahoo.com.

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Obituary

Gerald P. "Jerry" Bilski, age 82, passed away unexpectedly on August 5, 2022. U.S. Army Veteran. Beloved husband of the late Barbara Bilski, nee Madura (2018). Loving father of the late Donna Lyn Bilski (2021) and the late Cheryl S. Roessler (2019). Preceded in death by his siblings, Walter (late Adeline) Bilski, Lorraine (late Paul) Hervey, John "Johnny" Bilski and Thomas "Tommy" Bilski. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Friend to all. Jerry split his time between Illinois and Florida where he enjoyed spending time at the beach, playing horse-shoes, bowling and tending to his flowers.

Visitation Sunday, August 14, 2022 from 2-5 p.m. Funeral Service Monday, August 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at Colonial Chapel, 15525 S. 73rd Ave. (155th/Wheeler Dr. & Harlem) Orland Park, IL. A live stream of the service will be available. Please visit Jerry's obituary on Colonial Chapel's website at colonialchapel.com to view the live-stream of the service. Interment Good Shepherd Cemetery, Orland Park, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Bethshan Association, 12927 South Monitor Avenue., Palos Heights, IL 60463 are appreciated.

Express your thoughts and condolences at www.colonialchapel.com 708-532-5400.

Scandinavian Day Festival is Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022

Come enjoy the 42nd Scandinavian Day Festival at Vasa Park, Route 31, South Elgin, Illinois on Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome! The cost is only \$10 per person. Children 12 and under are free!

Many years have passed, and the festival has evolved but it remains loyal to its roots, the heritage of the five Nordic countries, including Sweden. The Scandinavian Park, Inc. NFP Board achieved its mission to bring the Scandinavian community together last year when 1,400 people visited the Festival, and with your support.

The Scandinavian Day Festival planning team has a great entertainment line-up including the ever-popular ABBA Salute and we invite you to support our vendors who prepare those delicious Scandinavian foods and an assortment of Scandinavian goods for you.

Please note that pets are not allowed at the Scandinavian Park due to safety reasons. Trained service dogs are always welcome. Please no outside food, drinks or coolers.

Scandinavian Park, Inc., NFP's VASA Park is located at 35W217 Route 31, S. Elgin, IL. Please call 847-695-6720 or visit www.scandinaviandayil.com for more information.

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Sponsored by: St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Guild

A Memorial for Rita McElroy

by Annette Dixon
RIP RITA McELROY

Many heartbreaks took place since the 2020 Covid began, but Rita during those days and 2022 remained herself, as to who and what she was as a person. Rita mentioned that her father taught her the secret of life, which was to respect and treat everyone equally. In her eyes that meant regardless of race, color, or status, we are all equal. She lived her life just that way. Even during Covid, she continued to see her daughter, Beth Kirkwood and family on the patio and distancing. Another outing would be with her son David, every Tuesday evening for dinner, at their favorite restaurant. Edward, the oldest, would call her and they would meet whenever possible. Rita was always there for her children, regardless of their status or age.

While living at the age of 95 is not easy, she considered herself in great health and living alone was easy, age was no factor for her. Just last year, she was at an Oak Lawn Board Meeting requesting a stop sign for an intersection, her residents were there for support. She

stated too many children cross that street and the cars are speeding without a stop, by the way, her first accident in 70 years was at that corner.

What disturbed Rita mostly, was to be the only one left alive, but would shrug it off with, I'm lucky to have my children, family and friends. She really wanted to tell me she missed Ed so much, for he was her life, but that wasn't her personality. Rita was very self-sufficient, worked in the office they maintained in their home, but Ed also had an office downtown Chicago. She prided herself by staying busy after Ed downsize to the one home office. Rita enjoyed the daily excitement of entertaining and when she had enough of that, she would read a good book. She was quite a reader. Rita had a wonderful life with her husband. Like she told me many times, when she married Ed, he gave her an own checking account. At every function or event, Ed would say, "let's give an applause to my bride Rita, mother of 3. Yes, they were always best friends, and I am sure they both are happy together.



Kate Brueggemann

Kate Brueggemann to Lead Chicago Zoological Society Development Efforts

The Chicago Zoological Society, which operates the world-famous Brookfield Zoo, has announced the appointment of Kate Brueggemann as their new Senior Vice President of Development, effective September 15. Her appointment completes an extensive search for a successor to Cindy Zeigler, who led the Society's philanthropic and development efforts and spearheaded significant changes in the fundraising program over the past 14 years.

"We are absolutely delighted Ms. Brueggemann has accepted this top leadership role within our organization," said President and CEO, Dr. Mike Adkesson. "Kate has a proven track record of success in the Chicago philanthropic community and has demonstrated a genuine commitment to the teams she has led. She brings a positive energy and passion for our mission and conservation work of the Chicago Zoological Society, as well as an eagerness to commit to the significant, multi-year capital campaign we envision ahead of our centennial celebration in 2034. She is a welcome addition to our team, and we look forward to working together to move the organization into an exciting future."

"To be chosen as the Senior Vice President of Development of a world-renowned institution of the significance of the Chicago Zoological Society is an absolute honor," Ms. Brueggemann said. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to lead their development and philanthropic efforts. Brookfield Zoo has a rich history of success in animal care and conservation. It is one of Chicagoland's top cultural institutions and touches the lives of millions of people each year. I am excited to join the team and look forward to supporting the work of the Society and building upon its successes."

Kate is a Certified Fundraising Executive and holds a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Missouri. In her new role at Brookfield Zoo, she will oversee efforts to raise mission, capital, and annual funds through individual giving, foundations, grants, corporate gifts, government contributions, special events, the Society's membership program, and more.

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WWII Veteran Larry Jensen "Preserving Our Heritage"

by Ken McClory
As part of the Tinley Park American Legion Post 615 "Preserving Our Heritage" Initiative we look this month at the stories and revelations of the valor and sacrifice of Larry Jensen. This feature includes the kind of stuff you won't read about in school history books. Jensen was born on the South Side of Chicago on 77th St. and Prairie Ave. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 17 while attending Tilden Tech High School and volunteered for a specialized Army training program. Immediately after graduation, the Army sent Jensen to college at The University

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of Chicago and he attended aviation training at a Stagfield Squash court near a racket court where scientists secretly experimented with nuclear fission and the Manhattan Project. He was afterward assigned to the 346th College of Training Detachment in Moorehead, MN. He schooled there for six months attending the Air Corps Cadet Program at Moorehead College earning two years of college credits. Jensen was next sent to Fargo, North Dakota for flight instruction training, moving on to St. Louis's Scottfield, completing advanced flight training, flying the Boeing Stearman open-cockpit Biplane. This iconic trainer plane was constructed of wood, fabric and tubular steel, over building the aircraft to tolerate loads many times greater than it would ever see in combat.

It is extremely significant to mention non-combat flying was very hazardous during training in the United States and it should not be forgotten that 15,000 young

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men died in training without ever leaving The States. Their sacrifice was as real and memorable as those lost in the combat during WWII. One of Jensen's worst days in WWII was his attempting to absorb the emotional shock of the loss of numerous high school buddies during combat in the Battle of the Bulge. From October 1943 to the Spring of 1945 Jensen completed a high standard of pilot training and was battle ready. He was assigned to the 3rd Air Corps, a B-17 pilot trained for bombardment, fighter and recon operations. The B-17 was a versatile aircraft noted for its ability to absorb battle damage, still reach its target and bring its crew home safely.

Jensen's next assignment flew him to London as a B-17 pilot prepared for battle in the Pacific Theater. At the same time, the desperate need for B-29 super fortress pilots demanded he fly back to the United States, training as a B-29 pilot. The B-29 was one of WWII's most technologically advanced airplanes; it included guns that could

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be fired by remote control with pressurized crew areas, increased range, bomb load and defensive capabilities. In the summer of 1945 President Truman authorized the use of the worlds' first atomic bomb caused by Japan's intent to inflict massive casualties and destruction in an attempt to break America's resolve.

Who could have known on June 2nd, 1945, that only six weeks separated the War in the Pacific from the blinding flashes over Hiroshima and Nagasaki leading to (V-J Day) Victory in Japan and the end of WWII. Larry Jensen was honorably discharged on June 16th, 1946, and took a government contracted job in Greenland working 12 hours a day 7 days a week. At the age of 20 and in a 9-month period he had earned \$9,000.00 and returned to America and used the money to build his home in Flossmoor, IL.

In September of 2009 he attended The Honor Flight to Washington D.C. and said it was the greatest experience of his life, except for of course his marriage to his loving wife, Mary Therese McGeehan. Jensen said, "I



WWII Veteran Larry Jensen

loved my Air Corps journey, flying, my flight crews and the camaraderie and feeling of Patriotism connected to our WWII victory." Jensen will be 96 on September 22nd.

Ken McClory is a Tinley Park American Legion Post 615 member who authored the feature and is currently taking the lead in his Posts "Preserving Our Heritage" initiative. Special thanks to Larry Jensen's daughter, Trish Kuhn, who resides in Orland Park for her valuable contribution to her father's legacy. With that being said, McClory is motivated to move forward with this initiative and welcomes other WWII Veterans to share their experiences of War. Contact Ken McClory at 708-214-3385 for more info regarding future features.

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