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Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 17 | Number 1 | January 3, 2023

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood



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Kari K. Steele, Chicago Region Trees initiative, Mayor of Village of Alsip

Protecting the Calumet Region for 100 Years

We recognized this century of service, innovation and ingenuity during our 10th Annual Sustainability Summit held at the Ford Calumet Environmental Center at Big Marsh Park recently where we highlighted the 100th

Anniversary of the Calumet WRP and Cal-Sag Channel and blazed a new trail of history by installing our first Community Partnership Council (CPC).

The Calumet CPC will engage with nearby communities to provide feedback on our efforts to be a good neighbor.

The Sustainability Summit was held in person for the first time in three years, growing the MWRD's network of community leaders, water professionals and environmental experts to educate and engage partners and stakeholders on how they can sustainably manage water and recover resources effectively.

We honored the Village of Alsip and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative for revitalizing an asphalt lot into a fertile and attractive space using MWRD EQ Biosolids Compost.

We also honored the Village of Elmwood Park and the Village of Brookfield with Sustainable Landscaping Awards for green infrastructure installations that help manage stormwater while improving public spaces.

2022 Crestwood Christmas Decorating Winners

The Christmas lights in Crestwood are fantastic this year! There were so many decorated houses, it was very difficult to choose the winners!

1st Place: The Payton Family at 13600 S. Laramie; 2nd Place: The Werley Family at 12825 Carriage Lane, Unit 3B; 3rd Place Tie: The Gorney Family at 4951 W. 135th Pl. and the Bafia Family at 4945 W. 135th Pl.; Congratulations to all of the 2022 Contest Winners!

Honorable Mentions: 5212 W. 137th Place; 12955 E. Playfield Dr.; 12801 S. Central Ave; 5249 Arbor Lane; 5335 Arbor Lane; 13336 S. LeClaire Ave; 5531 W. 131st St; 5040 W. 137th St and 5409 W 137th St.



Second Presbyterian Church

Second Presbyterian Church is a diverse, inclusive, engaging, and passionate community of faith. It hosts its annual Winter Coat Drive during the months of December through March. Donations of new or gently used clothes, socks, sweatshirts, hoodies, sweaters, coats, gloves, caps, scarves and mittens will be distributed to our Lunch Bag Program and neighbors who are in need.

For more information, please visit the church website at: 2ndpresbyterian.org. 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616 or call (312) 225-4951.

Alsip Park District presents Family Bingo

Are you ready for another Bingo at the Alsip Park District? If the answer is yes, then sign up today! Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 10am to 12, Noon. Cost for resi-

dents is \$15 and Nonresidents is \$19. We will play 15 games of bingo for a variety of gift cards and prizes. Pizza and soda will also be enjoyed.

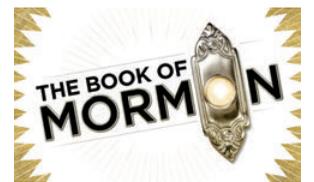
Bingo is at the Apollo

Recreation Center, Dance Room, at 12521 South Kostner Ave, Alsip, IL. For more information call 708-389-1003. Everyone is welcome, hope to see you.

Broadway in Chicago presents, The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon is playing at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, March 28 through April 16, 2023.

Entertainment Weekly says, "Grade A, the funniest musical of all time." Jimmy Fallon of The Tonight Show



comedy follows the adventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway across the world to spread the Good Word. With standing room only productions in London, on Broadway, and across North America. The Book of Mormon has truly become an international sensation. Contains explicit language.

All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket. We suggest you wear a mask.

For tickets visit our website <https://thebookof-mormontour.com> or call. Groups of 10+ please call 866.302.0995.

Cadillac Palace Theatre is at 151 West Randolph Street, Chicago.



The New York Times calls it "the best musical of this century." The Washington Post says, "it is the kind of evening that restores your faith in musicals" And

calls it "Genius, Brilliant, Phenomenal." It's The Book of Mormon, the nine-time Tony Award winning Best Musical.

This outrageous musical



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 21 | Number 1 | January 3, 2023

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

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Metra daily commuter parking fee to increase January 1



As a reminder, the daily parking fee at all Mokena commuter parking facilities will increase to \$2, effective January 2023.

For commuters' convenience, wheels are in motion to add a more convenient mobile app payment option by the end of the first quarter of 2023.

Village offers Christmas Tree, wreath and light recycling



Live Christmas tree and wreath collection in the Village of Orland Park will be offered by Waste Management, the Village's waste collector. During the first two full weeks of January, the weeks of January 2 and January 9, Waste Management customers can place Christmas trees and wreaths at the curb on their regular garbage collection day for pickup.

Residents must remove all decorations and leave the tree and wreaths unbagged at the curb on their regular garbage pick-up days. Trees six feet or taller must be cut in half.

No longer needed or working holiday lights, LED lights and cords are being collected for recycling through January 25, 2023.

Unbagged lights and cords may be dropped off for recycling at: Village Hall, 14700 S. Ravinia Avenue; Sportsplex, 11351 W. 159th Street; Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center, 14650 S. Ravinia Avenue; Orland Park Health & Fitness, 15430 West Avenue and Cultural Center 14760 Park Lane.

Questions about the live tree recycling can be directed to Waste Management at (800)964-8988, inquiries regarding light recycling can be directed to the Village at (708)403-6100.

Village adopts property tax levy

The Tinley Park Village Board adopted a property tax levy request for Tax Year 2022 in the combined amount of \$31,064,543 covering the Village and Tinley Park Public Library. This amount represents a net 3% increase over the previous year's extended tax levy dollars.

The Village Board also approved tax levy abatements for the coming tax year. The Village's required 2022 levies to pay outstanding bonds and interest payments due in the upcoming calendar year (2023) are being reduced by more than \$1.3 million, which directly translates into reduced property taxes. The Village's tax abatements benefit both homeowners and businesses.

This represents the 41st year of the Village's program of abating taxes for bond payments. The total amounts abated repre-

sent 79% of the total debt service on the Village's outstanding bonds payable in 2023.

If the Village didn't have alternate sources to pay the debt service on these bond issues, the tax levy would be more than \$1.3 million higher than was approved and would add an estimated \$0.89 to the Village tax rate at an EAV of \$1.556 billion.

The below table reflects the approximate annual

of the current year. On average over this period, the annual savings through these abatements is between \$130 and \$300 depending on home value. Over the 10-year period, homeowners with homes valued similar to those shown on the table have received and benefited from cumulative savings of between \$1,300 and \$3,000 as a result of these abatements, which have totaled more than

Market	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$275,000	\$300,000	\$350,000
Assessed	\$34,000	\$50,000	\$66,000	\$77,000	\$90,000
2013	212	283	389	425	495
2014	206	275	378	413	482
2015	236	314	432	471	550
2016	232	309	425	463	541
2017	92	122	168	183	214
2018	93	124	171	186	217
2019	65	87	120	131	152
2020	60	80	110	120	140
2021	39	51	71	77	90
2022	44	59	81	88	103
Total	\$1,279	\$1,704	\$2,345	\$2,557	\$2,984
Average	\$128	\$170	\$235	\$256	\$298

"rebate savings" for a cross section of home values over the past 10 years, inclusive

\$34.8 million dollars for the past 10 years alone (tax years 2013 to 2022).

Oak Forest Police Department makes firearm safety kits available through partnership with Project ChildSafe



The Oak Forest Police Department is providing free firearm safety kits to local residents through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, the nationwide firearms safety education program. The safety kits, which include a gun lock are available at the front desk of the police department, while supplies last.

Project ChildSafe, a program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation has distributed more than 38

million firearm safety kits throughout the country since 2003. The program receives support from the firearms industry, federal and state grants and from public donations.

"We encourage residents to pick up a Project ChildSafe safety kit so that they can securely store their firearm," said Oak Forest Police Chief Jason Reid. "Each kit contains a safety curriculum and a cable-style gun lock. The locks fit on most types of

handguns, rifles and shotguns. The goal is to prevent a child or any other unauthorized person from accessing a firearm in your home."

By partnering with Project ChildSafe, the Oak Forest Police Department is participating in a national effort to promote firearms safety education to all gun owners. Project ChildSafe distributes gun lock safety kits to all 50 states and the five U.S. territories.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 24 | Number 1 | January 3, 2023

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



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Rep. Newman secures \$23,536,540 for local projects in final government funding package

U.S. Representative Marie Newman announced \$23,536,540 in Community Project Funding that she previously secured for Illinois's 3rd District in House spending bills has been included in the final fiscal year 2023 appropriations government funding package. This funding responds

directly to some of the most pressing needs across the southwest side and suburbs.

"I am so proud of the work we did to secure the Community Project Funding bill that I know meets long overdue community needs across Illinois's 3rd District," Rep. Newman said. "I want to thank our local community partners who work so tirelessly to serve our communities every day. These investments will increase access to critical health care services, expand educational and workforce opportunities for students, and continue modernizing our transportation and infrastructure systems to address flooding and congestion."

Rep. Newman championed funding for some of the projects that will directly benefit the residents of Illinois's 3rd District. These projects include:

\$500,000 for the Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL for arts education, including equipment and supplies; \$4,000,000 for the Cook County Environmental Infrastructure; \$250,000 for the Cultivate Collective Southwest Chicago Sustainability Hub; \$500,000 for the Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL for non-destructive testing training, including equipment; \$1,500,000 for the Mosque Foundation Community Center Facility Improvement and Expansion Project; \$7,000,000 for the Orland Park 143rd Street Widening (West Avenue to Southwest Highway); \$840,000 for the Pace 95th Street Transit Signal Priority; \$100,000 for the Pathlights Human Services, Palos Heights, IL for expanding access to and delivery of meals for seniors; \$3,558,960 for the Roberts Road Drainage Improvements; \$106,885 for the Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL for facilities and equipment; \$500,000 for the The Bridge Teen Center, Orland Park, IL for afterschool programs and \$95,000 for the UCAN, Chicago, IL for behavioral health and supportive services for youth, including equipment.

The twelve-bill government funding package will create good-paying American jobs, grow opportunities for the middle class and small businesses, and provide a lifeline for working families. Taken together, the funding for Illinois's 3rd District and the funding increases for critical government programs will continue to reverse decades of disinvestment and neglect in our communities.

The funding will last until the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2023. A full list and summary of Rep. Newman's projects can be found at her House website.

Chicago's boating event of the year returns to McCormick Place

Cruising into the Windy City Jan. 11 to 15, the 2023 Discover® Boating Chicago Boat Show, in partnership with Progressive® Insurance, this nearly century-old tradition is returning after a two-year hiatus. As one of Chicago's most iconic events and a Midwest boating destination, the 2023 Chicago Boat Show is ready to welcome boating enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds to discover why life is better on the water.

The Discover Boating Chicago Boat Show hosts everything needed for a fun day on the water -- from sales on hundreds of the newest power boats and latest in boating products, to fishing gear, accessories and marine electronics. The event, which transforms McCormick Place into a boating marketplace and nautical oasis in the middle of winter, is the ideal place to explore and plan for your next boating adventure.

Guests may enjoy the ultimate in summer vibes as the event takes the boat show experience to the next level with on-water thrills, celebrity chef, cocktail and mocktail demos at the #BoatAppetit mainstage, and interactive areas. Attendees can kick back with their crew and enjoy live DJ sets and wake sport demos, virtual boat rides, sandcastle sculpting, and beach games as they discover the best of boating, surrounded by hundreds of the hottest new boats on the market today. Attendees may also enter to win the Ultimate DB Experience Sweepstakes and shop limited edition 2023 Discover Boating Gear.

Highlights of the 2023 Discover Boating Chicago Boat Show include several opportunities to "test the waters" indoors, a variety of educational experiences for new boaters, and fun and entertainment for all ages. McCormick Place, 2301 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60616.

Wednesday, January 11: 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, January 12 and Friday, January 13: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, January 14: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 15: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at ChicagoBoatShow.com; \$15 for adults; children 12 years old and younger are free. Tickets are \$10 on Wednesday, January 11 for Seniors (62 & older). On Thursday, January 12, tickets are \$5 after 5 p.m. and guests will be treated to other \$5 specials such as food and beverage items.

For more information, please visit www.ChicagoBoatShow.com or connect on Facebook and Instagram. #ChiBoatShow #DiscoverBoating



2023 Wood Chip Delivery List in Palos Park

The 2023 Wood Chip Delivery sign up begins on January 2023 only through voice mail messages received after 8:00 am. The Village voice mail system will answer multiple calls at the same time. The wood chip delivery list for the 2023 chipping season will be generated in the order your call is received.

Call (708) 671-3721 and leave a voice mail with the following information:

Name (please spell your name); Address; Phone # for PW to contact you before delivery and if you would like 1 or 2 loads (1 load = 8 yards).

The phone number you provide is very important. If we are not able to reach you on the phone number provided, we will not deliver wood chips. If your phone number changes before or during wood chip season, please contact Public Works



(708) 671-3721 to update your information.

Due to the high demand for wood chips each property will be limited to 2 truckloads (8 yards per truck load) per delivery. Once you receive your delivery of wood chips, you can call (708) 671-3721 to be placed on the wood chip list again to receive additional



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 49 | Number 13 | January 3, 2023

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

2023 Installation of Commissioners



(From L to R): MWRD Commissioners Yumeka Brown, Patricia Theresa Flynn, Mariyana Spyropoulos and Daniel Pogorzelski

On December 2022 the MWRD held its annual installation of commissioner's ceremony. The Board welcomed three new commissioners: Yumeka Brown, Patricia Theresa Flynn and Daniel Pogorzelski along with returning Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos were formally sworn in office.

Congratulations Commissioners and thank you for your service!

Library's New 3D Printer needs a name

Thanks to a generous donation to Evergreen Park Public Library by OSF Little Company of Mary and OSF Innovation, now you can! This fall, the Library unboxed their new Prusa i3 MK3, and is excited to start offering orientations and lessons for the public soon. 3D printers are a manufacturing technology which build 3-dimensional objects by laying down successive layers of a plastic material. "The practical applications for this printer are endless!" said Frank Murray, Director of Evergreen Park Public Library. "We are excited to receive this sponsorship from OSF and look forward to offering our community classes to learn and get inspired."

Now that the Library has this new technology, they need your help in giving the printer a name! Put on your creative thinking cap and head over to evergreenparklibrary.org or tinyurl.com/3Dnamecontest where you can submit names for consideration.



The contest is open through Wednesday, January 11, and the winning name will be announced on Saturday, January 14 at Evergreen Park Public Library when the Library and OSF Innovation will be throwing a 3D Printer Launch party. The public is invited to learn about all of the cool stuff 3D printers can create, see the Library's new printer in action, and

experience 3D printed heart molds provided by the OSF Innovation team on Saturday, January 14, 1-3 p.m. The person who submits the winning name will receive a customized item made on the printer. If you would like to be notified of upcoming orientations and classes, email jenna.harte-wisniewski@evergreenparklibrary.org. Visit the Library at 9400 S Troy Avenue to see the printer and examples of 3D printed objects.

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Donation to Evergreen Park Library from Beverly Ride On



Beverly Ride On Spin Studio rolled into Evergreen Park Public Library with a \$2000 donation to Evergreen Park Public Library's Stacks Social Club in recognition of the Library's commitment to serving teens and young adults with disabilities. "We chose to fundraise for Stacks Social Club because the Evergreen Park Library is creating opportunities for social connections in the community that will

improve the quality of life for teens and post-high school young adults with autism and other disabilities," said Beverly Ride On owner Jenny Moody. This generous donation allows Evergreen Park Public Library to expand programming and library services and close the recreational gap experienced by teens and young adults with disabilities. "Jenny Moody and her team at Beverly Ride On handed

us the opportunity to raise the Stacks Social Club to a new level of service. These funds are an investment in a full year of meaningful, impactful recreational programs," said Young Adult Services Coordinator Mary Black.

To learn more about Stacks Social Club at Evergreen Park Public Library or volunteer, contact Mary Black at blackm@evergreenparklibrary.org.

Oak Lawn Public Library announces January events



The Oak Lawn Public Library is pleased to announce ongoing and upcoming events that will take place from Jan. 16-31, 2023. Please note that all programs are listed in the library's quarterly newsletter which was delivered to Oak Lawn households.

Adult & Teen Programs: Movie showing: "BlackKklansman" (2018) Monday, Jan. 16 from 6:15-8:30 p.m. A Black detective sets out to infiltrate the Colorado chapter of the Ku Klux Klan with the help of his Jewish colleague during the 1970s civil rights movement. Rated R, 135 minutes.

Technology programs: Online Tools for Travel Planning Thursday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.; Getting Started with Spreadsheets Monday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.; Smartphone Tips and Tricks Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. Google Apps and the Cloud Thursday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m.; Friends Film Screening: "Elvis" (2022) Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 2-5 p.m. A look at the life of the legendary rock and roll star, Elvis Presley. Rated PG-13, 159 minutes.; Beginner Saturdays, Jan. 19 & 26 at 9:30 a.m. This half-hour class presents a fun review of common English vocabulary.

Book discussion groups: Mysteries in the Morning: "In the Woods" by Tana French Friday, Jan. 20 at 9:30 a.m. and Refreshing Reads: "Half Life" by Jillian Cantor Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Avenue Flower Shop & Wine Bar, 10632 S. Cicero Ave.

Versiti Blood Drive Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: The Versiti Blood Drive Bus will be coming to the library. Call 1-800-7TO-GIVE or visit donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/auth/signing to sign up to donate. Please help us reach our goal to collect 14 donations and help supply 87 local hospitals! Be sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Sunday with Friends Concert: Clarence Goodman: Chicago, city of big songs Sunday, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.

Clarence Goodman presents an hour of songs about Chicago along with stories about the songs.

Chicagoland Sports Trivia Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 6:30-8 p.m.: Join sports fan Dave Tabel for a fun evening of trivia and prizes! Wear your favorite Chicago team sports jersey and get a free cone from Andy's Frozen Custard. The champion walks away with a grand prize gift certificate to Fry the Coop.

Youth Programs: Game & Puzzle Swap (all ages, all day) Tuesday, Jan. 3 through Sunday, Jan. 8 Bring in a gently used game or puzzle to swap for another. You will receive a coupon for each item you bring in. Redeem the coupon for another game or puzzle any time before Jan. 8.

Craft-A-Palooza (all ages, all day) Tuesday, Jan. 3 through Saturday, Jan. 7. Ring in the New Year and join us for our Craft-A-Palooza week. Come back for a favorite or a new-to-you craft. All while supplies last.

License plate fees for low-income older drivers, persons with disabilities to drop in 2023



Eligible older adults and persons with disabilities will see their annual license plate renewal fee reduced by more than half in the new year, the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) announced Wednesday. Under Public Act 102-0807, which takes effect Jan. 1, drivers who qualify for IDoA's Benefit Access Program will pay only \$10 for their license plate stickers, a decrease from \$24 currently.

"During this time of high inflation, many older adults are finding it increasingly difficult to cover everyday expenses," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta. "This income-based discount on license plate renewals is welcome news for older drivers, helping them save money and keep their vehicle registration current."

"The lower annual license plate renewal fee for qualifying seniors will help them

keep more of their hard-earned money in their bank accounts to spend on other things, such as prescription medicine," said Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White. "I applaud the Illinois General Assembly for this new law, and especially the sponsors, State Rep. Cyril Nichols (D-Burbank) and State Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Plainfield)."

The Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program determines eligibility for a license plate discount from the Secretary of State's office and free transit on fixed route systems in Illinois. To qualify, residents must be at least 65 years of age or 16 years of age and disabled, as well as meet income requirements. For a household containing one person, the annual income cap is \$33,562.

To apply for the Benefit Access Program online, please visit <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/benefitsac->

[cess.html](https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/programs). For assistance with the online application, older adults can call IDoA's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

Those with specific questions about the price reduction, or about their vehicle's registration status, are encouraged to contact the Illinois Secretary of State's office at 800-252-8980.

IDoA serves and advocates for older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life. For information about the Department's programs and services for older adults and persons with disabilities, visit

<https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/programs> or contact the Senior Help Line toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

From the Desk of the President Kari K. Steele



As a chemist and environmentalist, the ability to work on behalf of all Cook County residents to resolve flooding issues, achieve clean water and develop and maintain a green environment is an honor and a privilege.

Our mission at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD or "The District") is to protect the health and safety of the public in its service area, protect the quality of the water supply source (Lake Michigan), improve the quality of water in watercourses in its service area, protect businesses and homes from flood damages, and manage water as a vital resource for its service area. The District's service area is 883.5 square miles of Cook County, Illinois. The District is committed to achieving the highest standards of excellence in fulfilling its mission.

If you have questions about our services, contact my office at 312-751-5694, visit our website at MWRD.org or send me an email at kari.steele@mwrld.org.

Wishing you Peace, Love and Clean Water.

Kari K. Steele, President, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Palos Park Police Foundation

Donations to the Palos Park Police Foundation, 100% goes to PPPD.

PPPF License Plates Holders are available at PPPD with any donation.

The Palos Park Police Foundation is dedicated to preventing crime, saving lives, and making our community a better and safer place to live and work, by assisting the Police Department with resources not available from the Village. The Foundation is the major source of private support for the PPPD.

The Foundation was formed in 2010 to help fund urgently needed programs and equipment for the Palos Park Police Department.

The Police Foundation is a vital resource for the people of our community to work in a collaborative partnership. It is businesses and individuals working with police officers to enrich and support our community, making it

a better place for all. Police departments nationwide are juggling budget cuts and the reality is that cuts can have an impact on our operational abilities. The need for the Police Foundation as a source of private financial support for the PPPD has



never been greater. Their work serves as an integral partner in the successes of the Department.

Moraine Valley Board of Trustees seeks applications for vacancies

The Moraine Valley Community College Board of Trustees seeks qualified candidates to fill two vacancies on the board until April 2025. The vacancies were created by the resignations of Bernadette Barrett, who resigned Dec. 4, 2022, and Kimberly Hastings Cristelli, who resigned Dec. 16, 2022.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the college district for at least one year. Trustees serve without pay.

Interested residents should submit a cover letter stating their qualifications and reasons for serving on the board, and a resume. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, Jan. 6, 2023. The Board of Trustees will review all applications in confidence after Jan. 6, 2023. Applicants selected for interviews will meet with the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the board room located in Building D, Room D219.

Applicants may submit their materials by email to president@morainevalley.edu or by mail to: Moraine Valley Community College, President's Office, 9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills, IL 60465-0937.

The enchantment of ZooLights continues into January

Although the holiday season comes to a close as the year ends, ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ will continue to shine brightly for a few more days. We're taking the fun into 2023, and you're invited to join us! Enjoy the beauty and brilliance of 2.5 million lights, hundreds of illuminated displays, and more seasonal excitement through Sunday, January 8.

Enjoy a brisk walk through the zoo, warm up as you view the indoor animal exhibits, take pictures at some of the fun photo ops, and get seasonal treats at pop-up bar Snowy's Spirits & S'more. Tickets cost \$5 Tuesdays-Sundays and Mondays are free. Everyone requires a ticket to enter.

Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 North Clark, Chicago, Illinois. Call for tickets, Email events@lpzoo.org or call 312-742-2000.



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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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.

Cooking Corner

Twice-Baked California Sweetpotatoes



Nutritious and delicious, there are endless ways to enjoy California Sweetpotatoes.

(NAPSI)—Trying to incorporate more healthy foods into your cooking repertoire? Think California Sweetpotatoes. Nutritious and delicious, California Sweetpotatoes are filled with plenty of vitamins and minerals, loaded with fiber and are heart healthy to boot.

There are endless ways, classic and creative, to enjoy California Sweetpotatoes. Take these Twice-Baked Sweetpotatoes, for example. They make an excellent side or even main dish—hello Meatless Monday—and, since California Sweetpotatoes are available year-round, you can switch things up with seasonal ingredients.

If you like getting creative in the kitchen, you'll love using California Sweetpotatoes as a canvas for just about anything—savory and sweet.

Twice-Baked California Sweetpotatoes, Serves 4: 4 yellow/white-fleshed sweetpotatoes, about 12 oz each; 1/3 c sour cream; 3 T butter, room temperature, plus 1 T melted butter; 1/2 c shredded Jack or mozzarella cheese; 1/4 c chopped fresh chives, divided; Salt and pepper to taste; 1 large egg, lightly beaten and 1/4 t paprika.

Preheat oven to 400°F. Pierce sweetpotatoes with a fork, arrange on a rimmed baking sheet and bake until tender, about 1 hour (see note). Set aside until cool enough to handle, about 10 minutes. Cut 1/2 off top of each sweetpotato. Scoop flesh (including from tops) into a large bowl, leaving about 1/4-in on skins. Add sour cream and room temperature butter and mash. Stir in cheese, 3/4 of chives and salt and pepper to taste. Stir in egg.

Fill sweetpotato shells with sweetpotato mixture, using a spoon or spatula to leave a textured surface. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with paprika. Return to baking sheet and bake until browned on top, 20 to 25 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining chives and serve.

Note: If you love baked sweetpotatoes but not how long they take to make, try this trick: microwave them on high for four minutes, then bake at 400°F until tender, 10 to 20 minutes. Or omit the oven altogether and simply microwave your sweetpotatoes until tender, six to eight minutes depending on their size.

For more recipes and information, visit www.casweetpotatoes.com.

A Sweet and Savory Side



Any meal will be better with these creamy, cheesy, scalloped sweet potatoes.

(NAPS)—Here's a delicious twist on an old favorite: creamy, cheesy, scalloped sweet potatoes, an easy-to-make casserole that will wow everyone at the table. High in fiber and loaded with vitamins and minerals, California sweet potatoes add just a hint of sweetness to this rich and savory dish. Serve it next

to your Easter ham, your Thanksgiving turkey or with a store-bought roasted chicken on a regular old Wednesday night. Deliciously indulgent, it'll be your new favorite side dish.

Creamy, cheesy, scalloped sweet potatoes serves 8 to 10.

1 1/2 pounds each orange-fleshed and yellow/white-fleshed sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices, divided; 2 cups shredded Gruyère cheese, divided; 2 1/2 cups heavy cream; 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme; 1 1/2 teaspoons each salt and pepper; 1 teaspoon dry mustard; 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg; and 1/4 teaspoon each garlic and onion powder.

Preheat oven to 400° F. Oil 9-by-13-inch baking pan or 2 1/2 to 3-quart casserole dish. Layer half of sweet potatoes in dish, mixing colors. Sprinkle with half of cheese. Add remaining sweet potatoes and set aside. In small saucepan over medium-high heat, combine cream with herbs and spices. Cook until bubbles appear at edges of saucepan. Pour cream mixture over sweet potatoes. Sprinkle with remaining cheese, cover loosely and bake until almost tender, about 45 minutes. Uncover and continue baking until tender, about 15 minutes.

Learn More: for more recipes, nutritional info and tips, go to www.casweetpotatoes.com.

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Employees again donate a record amount to the Moraine Valley Foundation



Moraine Valley Community College faculty and staff have donated a record amount of money to the Moraine Valley Foundation for the third consecutive year. During this

year's Employee Giving Campaign, they contributed \$90,500 to help support student scholarships, student emergency funds and special college projects.

More than 620 employees made contributions, with 96% of full-time faculty members donating. This year's campaign, entitled "Unstoppable," raised the largest amount of money since the campaign began over 10 years ago.

"We are thrilled such a high number of employees donated to the campaign. Having 96% of our full-time faculty contribute is truly a testament to their dedication to their students," said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Moraine Valley Foundation. "It is rare to see this level of participation in an employee giving campaign, and it is inspiring to see the staff and faculty increase their contributions each year to support the work we do in the Foundation."

For information on donating to the Moraine Valley Foundation, contact McGreal at mcgrealc2@morainevalley.edu.

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More information is available in the Canteen during normal business hours



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Palos Township Committeeman Robert Maloney attended a luncheon at Flossmoor Station Restaurant with Tammy Duckworth. Who is a retired Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel serving as United States Senator from Illinois.

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*Average annual savings of new customers surveyed in 2021 who reported auto savings when switching to Allstate. In most states, prices vary based on how you buy. Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates: 2775 Sanders Rd Northbrook IL. © 2022 Allstate Insurance Co.

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The Complete Maus, Art Spiegelman

by Lorraine Schmall
 The Complete Maus is a banned book, and has been on verboten lists for more than two decades. The first nationwide book ban was laid against Uncle Tom's Cabin, second in popularity only to the Bible, whose depiction of the enslaved Tom may have been spurious, but whose unabashed description of slavery as evil, murderous and soul-crushing disturbed too many people to leave it alone.

This January, the McCann County, Tennessee school board put the kibosh on Maus "because of its unnecessary use of profanity and nudity and its depiction of violence and suicide." Maus portrayed "people being hanged, and children being killed." How else would the Holocaust look, one wonders? But also, in January, the Chicago Public Library picked Maus for its 2022 city-wide program, One Book, One Chicago, encouraging broad reading and discussion of a text that, like most banned books, is deeply disturbing. Spiegelman won a Pulitzer Prize for Maus, surprising for two reasons: it's a 300-page



comic book, and it's an inside story about the extermination of 6 million Jewish children, women and men.

The author draws himself onto the pages of the book, interviewing his father, Vladek, about his experiences as a Polish Jew and a Holocaust survivor. Spiegelman claims he did not set out to describe the "indescribable" truth of ethnic cleansing; he just wanted an answer: "How did I get to be born when both of my parents were supposed to be dead?" Father and son are estranged; Spiegelman says they did not suffer a generation gap, but rather a generation chasm.

The author confesses, "I feel so inadequate trying to reconstruct a reality that was worse than my darkest dreams." Some of what he learned of his father was disheartening. Vladek was always a hustler and a skinflint. His skepticism and his street smarts,

Valentine's Day-Super Bowl Weekend at VFW Post 2791

The weekend of February 11th & 12th will be a busy one at VFW Post 2791 Starting with our 7th Annual Valentines Day Dinner Dance on Saturday the 11th doors will open at 4:30 Cocktail Hour starts at 5pm followed by dinner at 6pm and dancing afterwards. Tickets are \$25 ea. (Cash Only) and there are only 150 available. You can reserve a table in your name by purchasing 8 tickets. There will be a great meal provided by Little Joe's Catering plus Bakery & Coffee is included. All other refreshments and cocktails can be purchased at our cash bar.

On Sunday the 12th will be our Annual Super Bowl Party which this year will be closed to the public and will be a private event. A purchased ticket will be required for entry. The cost of the ticket will be \$30 which will include a full catered meal and open bar from 4:30 till the end of the game. The deadline to purchase your tickets will be February 5th. The VFW is located at 17147 So. Oak Park Ave. Tinley Park and is open from noon to closed 7 days a week. Call for info at 708-532-2333.

maybe his amorality, kept him alive. Vladek tells his son: "If you want to live, it's good to be friendly." But friendships were transactional: "Friends? If you lock them together in a room with no food for a week...Then you could see what it is, friends!"

Despite having a deeply religious upbringing, Vladek said of Auschwitz: "But here God didn't come. We were all on our own." He takes no credit for being alive: "It wasn't the best people who survived, nor did the best ones die. It was random!" Maus, German for mouse, was the most common of the unflattering surnames imposed

on Jews by government officials in 18th and 19th century Europe. The NYT calls Spiegelman's Maus "an epic story in tiny pictures" of Jews as mice, Germans as cats and Poles as pigs.

Spiegelman told an audience last month at the Chicago Public Library that he used simple black-and-white hatched animal drawings "so the drama would be in our heads, not on the page." It certainly was in mine. As was the fear. And the anger. And the sadness. And the guilt, as Vladek concludes: "Maybe everyone has to feel guilty. Everyone! Forever!" Read it and weep, before its year ends.

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Theatre

Mercury Theater Chicago opens 2023 Season with *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*

Mercury Theater Artistic Director Christopher Chase Carter, Managing Director Kristi J. Martens and Executive Producers L. Walter Stearns and Eugene Dizon announce the first production of the 2023 Season, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, directed by Christopher Chase Carter and Alexis J. Roston, written by Lanie Robertson, and starring Alexis J. Roston as Billie Holiday and Nygel D. Robinson as Jimmy. *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* runs January 27 to March 26, 2023 in the intimate Venus Cabaret Theater at Mercury Theater Chicago, 3745 N. Southport Avenue.

Turn back the clock to 1959 for an intimate cabaret performance with the greatest jazz vocalist of all time, Billie Holiday. More than a dozen musical numbers are interlaced with salty, often humorous reminiscences revealing a portrait of the lady and her music. With a distinctive sense of musical structure and a deep knowledge of jazz and blues, she developed a singing style that was deeply moving. She left behind a body of work as great as any vocalist before or since.

Tickets for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, priced \$60-\$70 for single tickets and \$259-\$299 for premium tables, are on sale now at the box office, 3745 N. Southport Avenue in Chicago, www.mercurytheaterchicago.com. Premium Tables for up are available and include a bottle of sparkling wine, selected by the in-house sommelier. Each party of up to 4 people is seated at its own table.



Alexis J. Roston as Billie Holiday ©Klose2u Photography LLC

The Auditorium Theatre presents *Step Afrika!*



Photo by Jati Lindsey

Step Afrika! the world's first professional dance company dedicated to the dance tradition of stepping, makes its Auditorium Theatre debut on Saturday, January 14, at 7:30pm. Blending stepping with traditional Southern African dances and an array of contemporary

dance and art forms, *Step Afrika!* presents a cohesive, and compelling artistic experience complete with songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation.

The program concludes with a piece titled *Chicago*, a percussive symphony using body percussion and up to 5 complex poly-

rhythms performed simultaneously to narrate a percussive dance "story." Inspired by a summer spent in the Windy City.

The Auditorium Theatre is located at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago.

Tickets are \$30 to \$60, to purchase *Step Afrika!* Auditorium Theatre .

The Auditorium Theatre 2022-23 Season is made possible in part with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. The Auditorium's official hotel partner is the Palmer House Hilton.

For current health safety information, please visit AuditoriumTheatre.org/visit/safety.

Black Ensemble Theater announces the 2023 Season of Excellence: *Rejuvenation*

The Season will begin with a tribute to one of the most successful groups in the history of music, the recipients of 7 Grammy Awards—Earth Wind and Fire. The second play of the season, *The Real Housewives of Motown* will give us an intimate look of the lives behind the historical Motown Sound and deliver some of that powerful Motown music. Chaka Khan, Chaka Khan – the name is so musically powerful that you have to say it twice and her story demonstrates the strength and tenacity that it takes to reach the top.

Tickets at www.blackensemble.org, (773) 769-4451 or at Black Ensemble Theater Box Office, 4450 N. Clark Street in Chicago. The performances are on Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Saturdays at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Regular tickets are \$55.00.

Goodman's Owen Theatre presents "*the ripple the wave that carried me home*"

January 13 through February 12, 2023 in the Goodman's Owen Theatre presents "*the ripple the wave that carried me home*". By Christina Anderson, Directed by Jackson Gay.

Janice's parents are prominent activists fighting for the integration of public swimming pools in 1960s Kansas. As injustice penetrates the



warm bubble of her childhood, Janice grows apart from her family and starts a new life far away. When she receives a call asking her to speak at a ceremony honoring her father, she must decide whether she's ready to reckon with her political inheritance, and a past she has tried to forget.

For tickets and infor-

mation Goodman Theatre Official Site of the Tony Award® winning Goodman Theatre Tickets, Performance Calendar and Information.

Contact the box office at 312.443.3800 (12 noon to 5 pm, daily).

Goodman Theatre is at 170 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60601.

The Factotum at the Harris Theater

Experience Lyric Opera of Chicago's world premiere of *The Factotum*, conceived by Will Liverman and DJ King Rico, February 3 - 12, 2023 at the Harris Theater is at 205 West Randolph Street, Chicago.

The *Factotum* riffs on *The Barber of Seville* and is centered on the lives of the owners of a Black barbershop on Chicago's South Side. Liverman and Rico's genre-bending score remixes classical singing with gospel, funk, rap, hip-hop, classic barbershop quartet, and R&B to create a soul opera unlike any other.

The *Factotum* is the first of two world premieres in Lyric's 2022/23 Season. You are invited to experience Liverman and Rico's vision for a new kind of opera in the city that inspired its creation, and which it celebrates.

For tickets visit <https://www.lyricopera.org/shows/upcoming/2022-23/the-factotum>.



Porchlight Music Theatre announces *Chicago Sings Broadway Pop* at House of Blues Chicago



(L to R) Mackenzie Maples, Eilish Morse-O'Rourke and Claire McConnell in the Color and Light Lounge at Chicago Sings Stephen Sondheim presented by Porchlight Music Theatre, May 23 at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to announce Chicago Sings Broadway Pop, its annual fundraising concert, Monday, March 27, 2023 at the House of Blues Chicago, 329 N Dearborn St, directed by Porchlight's Artistic Director Michael Weber+. This concert includes live performances

by Chicago music theatre's best loved artists, the presentation of the 2023 Guy Adkins Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Music Theatre in Chicago and more. Chicago Sings Broadway Pop offers attendees two ways for patrons to participate in this unforgettable night: the "One Night Only"

Experience, which includes seating on the main floor or in the boxes of the House of Blues and access to the VIP cocktail hour before the performance and the "Oh, What a Night" Experience, hosted by the Porchlight Young Professionals, which includes seating in the balconies of the venue. Tickets and sponsorships will be available for beginning Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023 at 12 p.m. CST at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org.

In 2023, Chicago Sings Broadway Pop celebrates these Broadway musicals with an eclectic night of songs from such shows as *Chess*, *Dreamgirls*, *Jersey Boys*, *Mamma Mia!*, 9 to 5 and others.

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employee or employee of a utility company; saying a water or electricity problem needs to be checked; or telling residents, a family member asked them to come by to do work.

We would like to remind residents to be suspicious of strangers that arrive uninvited to your property. Ask for identification and a phone number that can be called for verification. Most importantly, never hesitate to contact the Police department.

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'Above and beyond' fits as Leon's season mantra

Written by Brian Frangella, OLCCHS Staff Writer

It's one thing to be the fastest runner for the Oak Lawn Community High School boy's cross country team. It's another thing to be the inspirational leader of the Spartans. Andrew Leon has been both for head coach Marty Chappetto this season.

"Andrew has been the top runner for the cross-

country team all season," Chappetto said. "He has taken the initiative as a young captain to be a student of the sport. He can contribute outside of just his skills as a runner. He goes above and beyond what his coaches tell him to do. He is always motivating the team to take a step to the next level with him."



Oak Lawn Varsity Cheerleading Squad

Oak Lawn cheerleading squad advances to ICCA Championship

Written by Brian Frangella, OLCCHS Staff Writer

The Oak Lawn Community High School cheerleaders recently competed at Marian Catholic, and the Spartans came out with spirits soaring. The varsity squad earned second place, and the junior varsity squad took third. Both teams qualified for the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association Championships coming up on Jan. 21 and 22 in Springfield, Ill.

"Both of the squads hit that mat giving everything they had," said head coach Maria Vanderwarren. "They were determined, that is for sure, and it paid off. They had the crowd on their feet, and they were very energizing. Both performances were outstanding, and I am proud and honored to coach such great athletes."

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 up, you decide if you want to receive emergency, non-emergency or weather-related notifications. First responders will be aware of important information you have provided that will help them address your emergency. Please sign up today at Smart911.com.



Oak Lawn Junior Varsity Cheerleading Squad

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Obituary

Edward "Uppy" Kahmark age 79; loving father of Jeffery Kahmark; dear son of the late Edmund and the late Rose Kahmark; fond brother of the late Rose Mancuso; proud uncle of Vince Mancuso, Nick Mancuso, and Lisa Craig; cherished friend of John and Laura Karlow; also survived by other relatives and many friends. Uppy was raised in the Brighton Park neighborhood of Chicago. He attended Shields Grammar School, and Kelly High School. He owned and ran a successful trucking business, Shippers Choice. Uppy's interests included high speed motorcycle and snow mobile racing. He had a one-track mind and that track had to be the fastest. Uppy was a generous and caring person who was always there for family and friends. We will miss you Eddie, bless you on your new journey. Funeral was at Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park. Information 708-499-3223 or www.KosaryFuneralHome.com.



"You Are Not Alone"

Did you know more than one in three elderly Americans describe themselves as lonely, and the holidays can be especially isolating for them?

The Palos Park Police Department wants to remind residents about the "You Are Not Alone" program which assists Palos Park Senior Citizens who may be home alone during the day or live alone.

The program is geared towards Palos Park Senior Citizens who are self-sufficient but would welcome a Palos Park officer to check

on them on a regular basis.

The premise of the "You Are Not Alone" program is for Palos Park Police Officers to check on senior residents periodically and make sure that they are not in need of immediate medical care, that their home is secure, that their utilities are working, and that they are not being victimized by scams/ruses.

Any Palos Park Senior interested in participating in the program is encouraged to call Chief Joe Miller or Officer Deb Legatzke at 708-671- 3770.

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UPDATED ILLINOIS SMOKE ALARM LAW - Effective January 1, 2023 -

In 2017, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance worked with the General Assembly to pass a law which will require Illinois residents to replace their old smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term, 10-year sealed battery beginning January 1, 2023. This would apply to residents that are still using alarms with removable batteries or alarms that are not hardwired.



What is the Updated Illinois Smoke Alarm Law?

- Since 1988, all dwellings in Illinois have been required to have smoke alarms.
- In 2017, Public Act 100-0200 was passed to update the Illinois Smoke Detector Act to reflect advances in alarm technology.
- Come January 1, 2023, any new smoke alarm being installed within a single or multi-family home are required to be featured with a 10-year sealed battery.
- Smoke alarms in single or multi-family homes prior to January 1, 2023 may remain in place until they exceed 10 years from their manufactured date, fails to respond to operability tests, or otherwise malfunctions.

Exemptions

- Homes built after 1988 that already have hardwired smoke alarms.
- Homes with wireless integrated alarms that use low-power radio frequency communications, Wi-Fi, or other Wireless Local Area Networking capability.

To view the Illinois law in its entirety, visit www.IFSA.org/smoke-alarm-law

BENEFIT OF 10-YEAR SEALED BATTERIES

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