



Village View

We serve our community with good news!

Proudly Serving Chicagoland for 48 Years

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 15 | Number 23 | December 07, 2021

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip Adjusts Rate For Waste Collection



Village of Alsip Boat Launch, 127th Street and Laramie, Alsip, IL

by Jan Glaz

On November 15th, at the Village of Alsip's second regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting, Mayor John Ryan requested and the board agreed to approve an ordinance amending rates and charges for garbage and refuse collection services. The new rates approved by the board include e-waste collection starting at \$1.15 per month and increasing by \$0.05 annually, beginning in January of 2022.

In other official business: The Mayor announced his office received

notification from the Secretary of State regarding the April 1, 2020 Census. He stated that Alsip officially has 19,063 inhabitants. In addition, Mayor Ryan reported that Alsip is moving forward replacing the east parking lot at the Alsip Boat Launch, located off of 127th Street and Laramie. The project is in connection with the Morton Arboretum \$260,000 grant for new 'Green Infrastructure'. Ryan concluded, "Over 250 trees will be planted there."

Expenditures approved by the board include: Roof

repair and replacement on village owned property, the Heritage One clubhouse, 11949 S. Ridgeway, in an amount of \$19,418.00. In regard to the (CBA) Collective Bargaining Agreement (legal contract between the village and the union representing employees) trustees agreed to holiday pay in the amount of \$55,883.40; an educational stipend request in the amount of \$14,100.00; and the first half of pay, an amount of \$4,125.00, for the Shift Commander and Assistant Shift Commander.

Moraine Valley Community College Makes Significant Impact to Regional Economy

Moraine Valley Community College is a sound investment for both students and taxpayers, according to a 2021 economic impact study conducted by the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University. The college contributes to the vitality of its service area educationally, culturally, civically and economically. These activities represent significant economic contributions by increasing workers' earning potential and generating additional tax revenues.

A Moraine Valley education increases earnings for graduates. This analysis focuses on a student who completes within two years, is in their early 20s and does not work during their time in school. After completion, the calculations project earnings over a 40-year post-graduation time frame.

- On average, graduates of associate degree programs and long-term certificates who completed their education in 2014 saw a post-completion increase of \$9,240 in earnings over their pre-enrollment wages.

- A Moraine Valley graduate can expect a total lifetime earnings gain of more

than \$570,000 compared to someone not attending community college. The net present value, a metric that estimates the current total value of an investment based on future payments, of earning a Moraine Valley degree is about \$230,833.

- Students graduating in 2009 earned a median of \$52,644 within nine years of completion, representing a 19.2% annual growth rate.

- According to College Navigator, average student loans (\$4,797) for Moraine Valley students tend to be significantly less than national averages (\$6,768). Only 10% of Moraine Valley students take out loans.

At Moraine Valley, students are equipped with the tools, resources and connections to make sound career decisions, plan for their future and find employment. Out of all the students who completed a degree or certificate in 2009, 78.4% were employed one year after graduating, and 90.8% were employed in career jobs after 10 years. Students earning an Associate in Applied Science degree had the highest employment rate with around 94% after 10 years.

The college also enhances the skills of the workforce, boosts the competitiveness of area businesses and adds jobs to the local economy. The college purchases goods and services and invests in building and remodeling. In addition, income earned by employees is spent in the local economy.

- As a major employer and business entity, Moraine Valley generates millions of dollars in local sales and wages and paid over \$28.3 million in wages and benefits to the 518 employees who live within the region.

- For example, in 2020, college wages, salaries and operating expenditures produced an estimated total economic impact of \$84.1 million for the gross state product and 954 jobs.

"We work hard at serving our students and our 26 communities to help them achieve success," said Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, college president. "These findings help demonstrate the significant role we play in helping our students and their communities improve their quality of life and what an excellent investment Moraine Valley is to our taxpayers."

Santa House in Blue Island

Our Santa House is a custom-built Santa-themed home on a mobile platform. The primary function of the Santa House is to provide accessibility to Santa Claus to the community at large. The structure is large enough to comfortably accommodate Santa Claus and his elves and a family of visitors at a time. The house is furnished with a wait-

ing area with seating, coat hooks, Santa's chair, and a Christmas tree.

Blue Island Park District at Memorial Park on December 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm,

12804 S Highland Ave. Blue Island, IL.

John D. Rita Recreation Center on December 18 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at 2805 W 141st St.



Free Virtual Energy Assistance

Join us for our second annual Virtual Energy Assistance Fair!

Tuesday, December 7, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This free event will give you resources that can help during these challenging times. The virtual fair will:

- Connect you with energy efficiency and billing assistance resources.

- Help you uncover free energy-saving home upgrade opportunities. Link you with organizations that provide essential community services Provide you with home safety tips and support.

RSVP here Begin Registration: Nicor Gas Energy Assistance Fair (swoogo.com)



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 19 | Number 23 | December 07, 2021

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Tinley Park Sets Stage For Loyola Care Center

by Jan Glaz

At the November 16th Village of Tinley Park Board of Trustees Meeting trustees adopted a resolution and authorized the execution of a development agreement between the Village of Tinley Park and Loyola University Health Systems for property located at the corner of La-Grange Road and 179th Street. The property is to be rezoned, allowing the lot to be consolidated with the neighboring lot.

The property, 17901 La-Grange Road, will be used to construct a new two story, approximately 72,000 square foot, Loyola Medi-

cine Ambulatory Care Center. Loyola will invest between \$68-\$69 million, and hopes to provide around 130 jobs. The Tinley Park Planning Commission reviewed plans for 50 examination rooms and eight procedure areas. Completion date is slated for 2023.

The new Loyola Medicine Ambulatory Care Center provides for both primary and specialty care and will house a cancer care center, x-ray and imaging unit, laboratory, and pharmacy. Services are expected to include urgent care, cardiology, urology, orthopedic surgery, and pulmonary care.

Board meeting endnote: Mayor Michael Glotz requested the board to consider appointing Stephen Klotz to the position of Fire Service Administrator, and trustees agreed. Stephen has been in the Fire Service industry for over 40 years. He joined the Tinley Park Fire Department in 1993 and has been promoted through the ranks serving as Deputy Chief of Fire Suppression since 2013, Interim Fire Chief in 2016, and Interim Fire Administrator since July of 2021. A swearing in ceremony conducted by Village Clerk, Kristin Thirion, followed the appointment.



Holiday Lights

Holiday lights have been arranged around town to create a whimsical winter wonderland in Orland Park. The Village's wish is that its lights display will offer a

fun-filled, memorable experience within the community that cherishes its small-town traditions. Everything was created to celebrate the season and to invite people to shop, dine and play in Orland Park. Holiday lights line

the main roadways, adorn the Village Center lawn, Crescent Park, Centennial Park and various locations throughout the Village. Share you holiday photos online using #OP-Lights and we will share your photos as well!

Have You Registered For Everbridge Notifications?

In the past, the City of Oak Forest has reached out to citizens via Reverse 911 calls. This has changed to a new system called Everbridge.

The new Everbridge system replaces Reverse 911 to notify citizens, 54% of U.S. households rely entirely on cellphones instead of landline telephones. Critical situations like severe weather and criminal activity require information to be shared quickly and effectively with residents.

It is important that we alert everyone in an emergency whether they choose to receive information via SMS Text, Facebook, smartphone or landline.

Everbridge helps the City of Oak Forest send messages out to the entire town or certain areas of the town where an emergency is taking place such as a water main break. You will have access to make future modifications to your account when needed such

as change of phone number, email, and physical address. If you ever move and do not want any notifications from the City of Oak Forest, you have the ability to delete your account.

Sign-up and create an account today using this link: <https://member.everbridge.net/397890065268844/login>.

Enter a cell phone number for voice and text, landline phone number for voice, email address for notifications, as well as home address. Entering your home address helps the City of Oak Forest send messages to only certain areas of the town that a particular emergency is taking place.

The Everbridge system will keep residents informed with the right message, in the right language at the right time during critical events.

Please sign up today to help us better communicate with you.

Klotz Named New Fire Chief



The Village Board of Tinley Park, recently named Steve Klotz as the Village's new Fire Chief, a role he's been filling in an interim basis since July.

Chief Klotz has been in the fire service industry for more than 40 years and most recently held the position of battalion chief for the

Bedford Park Fire Department. He joined the Village in 1993 and has been serving as deputy chief of fire suppression since 2013.

Chief Klotz was instrumental in converting the volunteer fire department to a part-time organization in 2001. He has worked closely with neighboring communities to set up automatic-aid agreements, overseen the construction and operation of Fire Station 47, served as incident command for numerous fires and large-scale events, and was part of the Unified Command COVID-19 response for the mass vaccination site for the State of Illinois.

Board of Commissioners to Hold Meetings in December

MWRD Board of Commissioners' regular meetings will take place on Thursday, December 16 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Public comments may be made in person at 100 E. Erie Street during the Public Comment period. Everyone is required to wear face masks, and the building will follow state social distancing guidelines.

To protect the health and safety of the public and staff during the pandemic, all individuals attending meetings of the Board of Commissioners are required to provide a gov-

ernment issued photo ID and proof that (1) they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or (2) they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of the start of the Board Meeting.

To view the meeting, visit our website at <https://mwrdr.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>. Electronic comments will not be read during the meeting but will be provided to the Board. If you would like to view the live stream, click the "In Progress" link under the Video Column. This link will only be active when there is a meeting in session.

Two Local toy drives

This year the Village of Orland Park is participating in two local toy drives for the holidays: Toys for Tots and the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation. Toys for Tots collects toys with the assistance of local

community agencies and distributes them to less fortunate children in the community who may not receive toys on Christmas morning otherwise.

The Treasure Chest Foundation collects toys for children diagnosed with cancer who are currently in the hospital. These small gifts have an im-

mense impact on children, especially during the holiday season. Visit any Village facility to participate. Donations for Toys for Tots ends on December 10 and the Treasure Chest Foundation is accepting gifts through December 23.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 23 | December 07, 2021

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

Chicago Ridge Residents Asked to Limit Water Use



Dan Wiegand, Project Manager, Hoerr Construction, Incorporated, 1416 County Road 200 North, Goodfield, IL by Jan Glaz

Beginning in November, 2021, the Village of Chicago Ridge began lining sewers. The Village contracted Hoerr Construction, Inc. located at 1416 County Road 200 North, Goodfield, IL to rehabilitate sanitary sewers with cured-in-place pipe (CIPP). Locations scheduled to be completed in mid-December are Ridge Drive (Sycamore Drive to Forest Lane); Forest Lane (107th Street to Pamela Lane); and Pamela Lane (Forest Lane to Ridgeland Avenue).

CIPP sewer lining is a form of trenchless sewer rehabilitation that requires little or no digging and significantly less time to

complete than other sewer repair methods. CIPP is more cost effective, quicker, safer, and less invasive than the usual method of open cut replacement. The village reported that work will be taking place at different times and locations. Questions regarding health, safety, or odors, can be directed by phone to Project Manager, Dan Wiegand, (309) 208-5161 or email: dwiegand@hoerr.com.

In conjunction with the project, the village stated that there will be a disruption to sanitary services and has requested residents to limit their general water use, which includes the use of toilet, shower, and laundry. For further information please contact: Stanley Barwock, Director of Public Works (708) 425-7700 or email: sbarwock@chicagoridge.org.

On November 16th, at the Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees Meeting, the board agreed to pay the following items: Visu-Sewer of Illinois, an amount of \$31,954.57, for sanitary sewer testing; RJN Group, an amount of \$3,494.41, for sanitary sewer flow monitoring; and Utility Dynamic Corporation, an amount of \$13,185, for LED lighting projects.

Events at Lake Katherine for the Holidays

Holiday Wagon Ride

December 9, 6:00pm-7:00pm or 7:00pm-8:00pm at \$12 per person,

Experience the holiday spirit by enjoying a wagon ride to look at the neighborhood lights and decorations.

Finish off your evening with a craft & a hot beverage. All ages. Limited space remains. Please call 708-361-1873 to check availability.

Fire & Wine

December 16, 7:00pm-

Hurley Encourages Students to Utilize New Safe2Help Illinois Program



To ensure students are aware of all resources available to them, state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, is highlighting the new Safe2Help Illinois program for K-12 students.

"The safety of our children, especially at school, is of the utmost importance," said Hurley. "This program not only gives students and their parents assurance of safety, but also helps to prevent dangerous situations

from happening."

In response to the fatal school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force led a working group made up of law enforcement and educators from around Illinois to identify school safety issues and come up with practical solutions. The Safe2Help hotline was a recommendation from the working group. The Safe2Help hotline is a 24-hour program where students can use a free app, text/phone, or the website (Safe2HelpIL.com) to share school safety issues in a confidential environment. Information obtained by Safe2Help Illinois will remain confidential to ensure student privacy and to protect the integrity of the program. This program is not intended to suspend, expel or punish students;

rather, the goal is to encourage students to "Seek Help Before Harm."

Safe2Help Illinois is available 24/7, and at no cost to all school districts in the state. Once vetted, the information will be shared immediately with local school officials, mental health professionals and/or local law enforcement, depending on the nature of the information. The program also will help local officials by connecting them with mental health resources or other appropriate tools to intervene and help students before they harm themselves or others. For more information, visit: <https://www.safe2helpil.com/>.

"I encourage any students who ever feel unsafe at school to utilize this free and life-saving resource," stated Hurley.

Secretary of State Mobile Drivers Services Facility

Palos Park Village Hall
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The Following Services will be Provided:

- Driver's License Renewal/Correction
- New//Renewal/Correction of State ID
- License Plate Renewal Stickers
- Motor Voter Registration with Renewal of Driver's License/State ID
- Organ Donor Registration with Renewal of Driver's License/State ID
- Free State ID for seniors age 65 and up - otherwise standard fees apply

View Facebook for more information. No appointment necessary.

Join Us For a Live Virtual Tour at 2 p.m. on December 14

At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14, travel back in time to early Chicago to see how we reversed the Chicago River and developed wastewater treatment technology.

Go behind the scenes and under water to see how we transform used water; descend 300 feet into the

Deep Tunnel system; and watch our electrofishing crew at work sampling fish on the Chicago River.

Our virtual tours are free and open to the public. Please register at this Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (mwrdr.org).

9:00pm

\$20 per (18+)adult-No drinks included or \$35 per (21+)adult-2 Alcoholic drinks.

Gather friends and family for a joyous, creative, and relaxing evening at Lake Katherine. You will be

given a piece of wood and wood burning tools to create a unique piece of art for your home, or as a holiday gift. Sip on two glasses of wine while you unwind.

Solstice Night Hike

December 21, 3:45pm-5:00pm at \$10 per person,

Vehicle Stickers Regulations

All vehicles registered and/or housed in the Village of Chicago Ridge (including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, and recreational vehicles) must have a current village vehicle sticker properly affixed and displayed on the windshield. All vehicle stickers shall be valid for a one year period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Half-year rates shall be applicable for vehicle stickers purchased between January 1 and May 31. Half-year rates do not apply to late sticker purchases. For newly-purchased vehicles or new residents, the owner shall have one month from the date of purchase or residency to a buy a vehicle sticker at the regular annual rate. Documentation will be required. Penalties will apply to late purchases. For further information, call the Village Hall at 708-425-7700.

chased between January 1 and May 31. Half-year rates do not apply to late sticker purchases. For newly-purchased vehicles or new residents, the owner shall have one month from the date of purchase or residency to a buy a vehicle sticker at the regular annual rate. Documentation will be required. Penalties will apply to late purchases. For further information, call the Village Hall at 708-425-7700.

Join your community on a walk from the Nature Center to the Children's Forest to observe sunset on the shortest day of the year. Roast marshmallows and

toast with cider!
For more information stop by or call Lake Katherine at 7402 W Lake Katherine Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463, Ph: 708-361-1873 .



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 48 | Number 11 | December 07, 2021

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

Oak Lawn Grants Special Use Permit For Wellness Center



Wellness spa: 5669 W. 95th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Oak Lawn Board of Trustees granted a Special Use Permit to petitioner, Sandra Olmedo, for a wellness center to be located at 5669 W. 95th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois. The building was built back in 1964 to be utilized as a medical office build-

ing, which is in use today. Sandra plans to occupy a vacant space within the existing building. The rear of the property contains a seventeen stall parking lot. Sandra stated, "This location is extremely ideal. The property is just a few minutes from home and from my children's school, which is very important

to me. This will be a quiet spa bringing peace and relaxation, the noise level will always be at a minimum and parking will not be saturated. We are a family owned business and we look forward to being an active part of the Oak Lawn Community." The wellness spa should open sometime in December,

2021, or January, 2022.

In other official business: The Board of Trustees approved "No Parking" on the north and south side of 92nd Street from the corner of Kilpatrick Avenue to the gate on the north side of the street, and the driveway on the south side of the street, as requested by Michelle Dempster; and a "Resident Only Parking" met with board approval on the north side of 94th Street from the corner of Ridgeland Avenue east to the petitioner's, Akrama Cook and Nedan Huma, driveway, approximately 90 feet. A Special Use Permit was granted to Durrell Sheppard, for a two-family residence at 9518 S. 53rd Avenue.

Living Nativity at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church



All Children may participate in the story of the Nativity, with live animals. Come with or without a costume!

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church is having a 2 day Living Nativity on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 7pm each night. The Church is at 10400 South Kostner Ave, Oak Lawn.

Everyone is welcome to come. Hot Chocolate and Cookies after the Nativity.

The Hunt is Over



We're excited to announce that the EP Money Tree has been found! The Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce hid the Money Tree outside a business in Evergreen Park recently unveiled clues at local businesses throughout the morning today.

The hunt ended, when Mark and Jessica Biszewski found the Money Tree ticket hidden under a magnet attached to an air conditioning unit outside Red Wing Shoes at 3347 W. 95th St. Mark is a lifelong Ever-

green Park resident and a police officer for the Village of Evergreen Park. We congratulate the couple on putting the clues together to find the hidden location!

Thanks to everyone who braved the chilly temperatures and freezing drizzle to participate in our first-ever hunt. If you have any feedback on the EP Money Tree Hunt that you would like to share with the chamber, please send an email to Kelly Moroney at kelly@evergreenparkchamber.org.

Hurley Encourages Students to Utilize IL Safe2Help Program

To ensure students are aware of all resources available to them, state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, is highlighting the new Safe2Help Illinois program for K-12 students.

In response to the fatal school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force led a working group made up of law enforcement and educators from around Illinois to identify school safety issues and come up with practical solutions. The Safe2Help hotline is a 24-hour program where students can use a free app, text/phone, or the website (Safe2HelpIL.com) to share school safety issues in a confidential environment. Information obtained by Safe2Help Illinois will remain confidential to ensure stu-

dent privacy and to protect the integrity of the program. This program is not intended to suspend, expel or punish students; rather, the goal is to encourage students to "Seek Help Before Harm."

Safe2Help Illinois is available 24/7, and at no cost to all school districts in the state. Once vetted, the information will be shared immediately with local school officials, mental health professionals and/or local law enforcement, depending on the nature of the information. The program also will help local officials by connecting them with mental health resources or other appropriate tools to intervene and help students before they harm themselves or others. For more information, visit: <https://www.safe2helpil.com/>.



Honoring our Evergreen Park Veterans

The Village of Evergreen Park honored our EP Veterans recently at Senior Luncheon at the Community Center, organized by the EP Senior Council and the Office of Citizens' Services.

Mayor Kelly Burke, Village Clerk Cathy Aparo and Village Trustees were on hand to greet and thank our veterans. Mayor Burke then followed with a State of the Village discussion.

All in all, a very nice afternoon, topped off with a delicious turkey lunch and entertainment by singer Johnny Gray.

Information on any Senior events or activities can be found by calling the OCS at (708) 422-8776.

IDES Prepares for Change to Unemployment Insurance Benefit Banking, Payment Methods

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced that in the coming weeks, unemployment insurance benefit payments will no longer be made by debit card. Beginning December 27, 2021, claimants who defaulted to a debit card option as their preferred method of payment will begin receiving paper checks instead of the benefits being placed on a debit card. The Department will continue to make benefit payments as normal to those claimants who chose to receive them via direct deposit.

To ensure there is no interruption or extended gaps in benefit payments to claimants, IDES has contracted with Chase bank. Benefit payments will be made via paper check rather than a debit card, or via direct deposit to the claimant's banking institution. While claimants will still have access

to remaining funds on their KeyBank debit card, no further payments will be made to those cards beginning December 27. KeyBank debit cards will continue to work normally until the card expires.

Claimants who currently receive benefit payments via debit card are strongly encouraged to switch to direct deposit. Doing so will result in quicker access to benefit payments. Claimants who switch to direct deposit can do so within their IDES account after they have successfully registered with and created an ILogin account. Step-by-step instructions on switching to direct deposit can be found in Direct Deposit Guide on the IDES website at [ides.illinois.gov/payment](https://www.ides.illinois.gov/payment).

Claimants who do not select direct deposit will receive benefit payments via paper check. Paper checks will be mailed to the address associated with

the claimant's account. It is important that claimants who do not enroll in direct deposit have an updated address on their IDES account. Address changes can be made on a claimant's IDES account after they have successfully registered with and created an ILogin account.

IDES will provide more information directly to claimants via email about how this change may impact their benefit payments, detailed instructions about how to switch to direct deposit, and will work with stakeholders to provide information and resources to individuals who currently lack access to a direct deposit option. Information will also be available on the IDES website at [ides.illinois.gov/payment](https://www.ides.illinois.gov/payment).

ILogin is a new identity verification and multi-factor authentication (MFA) solution that has been integrated into the IDES unemployment insurance benefit system. ILogin creates a new, simple, more secure login process for claimants accessing their IDES accounts, including integrating MFA and identity verification software to protect claimants. More information, including how to create a new ILogin account, assistance with forgotten or resetting passwords, and assistance with setting up MFA, can be found on the ILogin FAQ webpage and at [ides.illinois.gov/ilogin](https://www.ides.illinois.gov/ilogin).

Did You Get a Letter?

More than 25,000 letters were mailed to tell Illinois residents that they have unclaimed cash or property that was recently reported to the state treasurer.

The value is significant: \$19 million.

Unclaimed property comes in all forms: unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and uncashed checks are three common examples. The financial institutions, companies and investment firms surrender the valuables to the treasurer's office if the owner has not made an inquiry in several years. The state treasurer is legally required to return the property to the rightful owners no matter how long it takes.

In addition to the U.S. mail, we use several other channels to promote unclaimed property, including neighborhood gatherings, media events, social media posts, and newspaper advertising.

In fact, in the past six years, we have returned \$1.2 billion through 790,000 claims. Even more impressive, we nearly tripled the number of claims processed from 60,750 to 173,900 per year.

And yet, we still have \$3.5 billion to return.

Please check www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH to see if there is money for you. Unclaimed property could be under your name, the name of a business, or even a non-profit.



FROM OUR CURRENT OFFICE:

- ▶ HEAD NORTH on S La Grange Road For 3.7 miles
- ▶ Turn LEFT heading WEST on 167th Street for 1.5 miles
- ▶ Turn RIGHT heading NORTH on 108th Avenue for 300 feet
- ▶ Turn RIGHT into the first driveway heading EAST onto Winterset Drive to arrive at our NEW office location!

Or simply scan the QR CODE BELOW with your smartphone camera to get directions from your current location



NEW ADDRESS:

**10727 WINTERSSET DRIVE
ORLAND PARK, IL 60467**



P: 708.479.8771

E: INFO@DOWLINGRETIREMENT.COM

W: WWW.DOWLINGRETIREMENT.COM

Oak Lawn Village View Newspaper Archive

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

Proud member of following 2021 Chambers

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

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e-mailed to vnnew@sbcglobal.net

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

College Bound Students Can Apply to State Universities

State Rep. Kelly Burke, D-Evergreen Park, is highlighting the recent change by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in partnership with the Illinois General Assembly to add all the state's public universities onto the Common App platform.

Future students and their families can find more information and complete an application at the Common App website, www.commonapp.org, which provides resources and answers to frequently asked

questions, along with participating schools with the application. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and its partners also offer free support for students who need help in completing their college and financial aid applications. Low-income Common App applicants can also apply for a fee waiver.

"The Common App is a great tool to allow students to apply to multiple state universities in Illinois, creating greater opportunities for them." said Burke.

Try This Treat

(NAPSI)—Here's an exotic twist that transforms everyday cheesecake into something sophisticated, elegant and worthy of your holiday table. Pureed sweet potatoes, five spice powder and candied ginger star in a dessert that's easy to make and can be enjoyed year-round. The sweetpotatoes not only provide luscious



texture and flavor, they prevent the cake from cracking—so it's deliciously decadent and practically foolproof. Give it a try.

Sweetpotato Cheesecake with Gingered Whipped Cream

- Serves 10 to 12
- 8 oz gingersnap cookies
- 4 tbsp butter, melted, plus more for pan
- 3 8-oz packages cream cheese
- 1 ¼ c sugar
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp Chinese five-spice or pumpkin pie spice blend
- ¾ tsp salt
- 3 large eggs
- 3 c orange-fleshed sweetpotato puree
- ½ c sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 c whipped cream
- ¼ c chopped candied ginger

Preheat oven to 350° F. Butter bottom and sides of 9-in springform pan. In food processor, pulse cookies until finely ground. Add butter and pulse until blended. Transfer to prepared pan and press into bottom. Bake 10 minutes. Set aside to cool. Use an electric mixer to combine cream cheese, sugar, ground ginger, spice blend and salt, beating until smooth. Beat in eggs. Add sweetpotato puree, sour cream and vanilla, beating just until smooth. Pour mixture into cooled crust. Place springform pan inside larger pan and pour very hot tap water into larger pan, to reach 1 inch up springform pan. Bake until edges are set and center is slightly wobbly, 45 to 50 minutes. Remove springform pan from larger pan and cool to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled. Fold candied ginger into whipped cream. Serve cheesecake with gingered whipped cream.

To learn more you can visit www.casweetpotatoes.com.

Pop Up New Traditions This Holiday Season

The taste of peppermint and white chocolate make this the perfect holiday popcorn to share or mix—and making this treat can be a great way to celebrate the holidays at home.

(NAPSI)—Although the holiday season may be a little different this year for families, you don't have



to say goodbye to fun and good cheer.

Wrap them up beautifully and do contactless drop-off to spread some tasteful cheer among all your friends and family—and give yourself and your immediate family a good time making them, too.

Here's one recipe to try:

White Chocolate Peppermint Popcorn Bark

5 cups popped popcorn
12 ounces white chocolate baking chips, chopped
white chocolate or white candy coating

1 cup crushed hard candy peppermints

Cover a baking pan

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with foil or wax paper; set aside. Place popcorn in a large bowl; set aside. Melt chocolate in a double boiler over barely simmering water, stirring until smooth OR melt according to package directions. Stir in crushed peppermints after chocolate is melted. Pour chocolate mixture over popcorn and stir to coat. Spread onto prepared pan; allow to cool completely. When chocolate is cooled and set, break into chunks for serving. Store in an air-tight container at room temperature.

Variation: White Chocolate Popcorn Crunch

Omit candy peppermints. Mix 1/2 cup dried sweetened v cranberries and 1/2 cup sliced almonds with the popcorn. Pour chocolate over the mixture after it is melted.

The recipe can be seen at: <https://www.popcorn.org/Recipes/Details/white-chocolate-peppermint-popcorn-bark>.

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Rockin' At The "V" New Year's Eve Party



Our Rockin' At The "V" New Year's Eve Party is back this year. The cost is \$15 per person which gets you in the door you will receive a wrist band which allows you to sample all the delicious appetizers, finger foods and desserts that will be available that evening you will get some party favors for the night and a champagne toast at midnight.

We encourage everyone attending to donate a little something to our buffet table. We will have a Cash Bar available for all your refreshment needs. We will also be playing great music for you to dance to all night long.

If you would like to reserve a table in your name, the cost is \$10. Your reserved table must be oc-

cupied by 9pm that night or it will revert to open seating. There are only 150 tickets available once they are sold that's it. Anyone without a wrist band on will not be allowed in the hall. So, don't wait or hesitate to get them right away. Everyone is welcome to join us. VFW BREMEN POST #2791 at 17147 Oak Park Ave. Tinley Park Il. or call, 708-532-2333.

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Two Local Toy Drives

This year the Village of Orland Park is participating in two local toy drives for the holidays: Toys for Tots and the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation. Toys for Tots collects toys with the assistance of local community agencies and distributes them to less fortunate children in the community who may not receive toys on Christmas morning otherwise.

The Treasure Chest Foundation collects toys for children diagnosed with cancer who are currently in the hospital. These small gifts have an immense impact on children, especially during the holiday season. Visit any Village facility to participate.

Donations for Toys for Tots ends on December 10 and the Treasure Chest Foundation is accepting gifts through December 23.

Winterfest Event

For our Winterfest event, December 11th, we would like to feature a cookie walk/ cookie crawl as part of our event. We would like to offer the opportunity to participate in this event to local chamber businesses. Any business may have a table along the route of the event in exchange for providing 600 to 800 cookies. These may be any shape/size/ or variety as long as the ingredients can be disclosed in the event of any allergies. In addition, we would like to provide either small bags or tins for the participants to collect cookies, if anyone is interested in donating or providing those.

They may include your logo and we're up for anything, as long as it is food safe and appropriate for a small amount of cookies.

Please contact Meg, mgiera@burbankparkdistrict.org for any additional information or ideas, she would love to discuss with anyone interested! The event is Saturday, December 11th from 12 - 3pm.

I have provided a couple links to information about cookie walks if anyone is unfamiliar.

<https://mamasmust-haves.com/what-is-a-cookie-crawl/>

<https://www.changetheworldrva.org/christmas-cookie-walk>

30th Annual Cookie Walk

The United Methodist Church of Evergreen Park are having their 30th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 11th at 9 a.m. to noon. All fancy Christmas cookies are 12# per pound. Everyone is invited.

First United Methodist Church at 9358 S. Homan, Evergreen Park or call for information 708-422-8451.

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Mercy Circle named one of 'Chicago's Top Workplaces'



Mercy Circle has been selected among the top 100 workplaces in Chicago for small businesses employing between 100 and 249 people, making this the second consecutive year the continuing care retirement community in Chicago's Mt. Greenwood neighborhood has earned this designation.

"We are particularly proud of earning this distinction again this year, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic," says Frances Lachowicz, executive director of Mercy Circle. "As a faith-based, not-for-profit senior living community, we work with a vulnerable community and have faced 20 months of significant challenges. It hasn't been easy, but we are proud of the myriad of ways our team worked together to protect our community." In fact, Mercy Circle was among Chicago's first continuing care retirement communities to mandate vaccines for its staff.

Organized by the Chicago Tribune, "Chicago's

Top Workplaces" honors companies with "a people-centered culture." To be considered, organizations had to first be nominated by an employee. After that, employees completed a workplace satisfaction survey. Companies were ranked based on employee responses.

"There is a powerful spirit among the staff here and a commitment to working together as a team," says Lachowicz. "New employees and residents are impressed by our friendly and welcoming staff. That spirit is vital to our community's success. There is a direct correlation between the happiness of our staff and residents' happiness."

Those wishing to join the winning team at Mercy Circle may have the opportunity. The community is currently hiring licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants and dining servers.

In recruiting new employees, Lachowicz says "Attitude is everything. We look for staff members who are positive; demonstrate a willing spirit; and share our commitment to safety, service and collaboration."

For more information or to schedule a private appointment, please call 773-253-3600 or visit MercyCircle.org.

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Drury Lane Theatre Presents Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn

Drury Lane Theatre rings in the holiday season with Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn, based on the classic Academy Award winning film from Universal Pictures. The stage adaptation features music and lyrics by Irving Berlin and a book by Gordon Greenberg and Chad Hodge. Drury Lane's production of Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn runs, Now through January 9, 2022, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.

The cast of Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn includes Adrian Aguilar (Jim Hardy), Erica Stephan (Linda Mason), Darilyn Burtley (Lila Dixon), Drew Humphrey (Ted Hanover), Danielle Davis (Louise), Honey West (Danni Reed), Lily Kocourek (Charlie Winslow at certain performances), Nicole Scimeca (Charlie Winslow at certain performances). The Ensemble is rounded out by Jessica Blair, Joe Capstick, Leon Evans, Marisa Fee, Danielle Jackman, Mandy Modic, Gray Randolph, Ayana Strutz, Edward Tolve, and Arik Vega.

Based on the classic film, Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn follows retired song-and-dance man Jim's efforts to

bring entertainment to his small Connecticut town. With the help of talented schoolteacher Linda, he turns his farmhouse into an inn and puts on spectacular shows celebrating all the holidays. This joyous, family friendly musical features thrilling dance numbers, laugh out loud comedy, and a parade of Irving Berlin's hit songs, including the Academy Award-winning "White Christmas."

Single Tickets: \$59 to \$74 and Dining and show packages are available. Box Office: 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace or call (630) 530-0111 on Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm or visit DruryLaneTheatre.com. For more information about Season and Subscription.

Holiday Afternoon Tea
Indulge in Holiday Afternoon Tea while our live harpist plays your favorite carols. Keep warm with seasonal teas, enjoy unlimited champagne, and take your pick of enticing desserts. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.

Every Saturday, Now to December 18. Seating at 1 pm, \$55* per person.
Brunch with Santa

From eggnog and bottomless mimosas to homemade doughnuts and hand carved ham, enjoy all of your holiday favorites at Brunch with Santa. Make your memories last with a family photo around our dazzling 20 foot Christmas tree before seeing our production of Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn.

Every Sunday, Now to December 19, Seating from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, \$70* per Adult, \$40 per Child 3 to 12, Children under 3 are FREE

Christmas Day Brunch

After the presents are open, take a break and let Drury Lane take care of the cooking. Start with a freshly made omelet or hand-carved turkey, and finish with warm vanilla bread pudding drizzled with caramel-bourbon sauce. On December 25, 2021, Seating from 10:30 am to 2 pm, \$75* per Adult, \$40* per Child 3 to 12, Children under 3 are FREE.

New Year's Eve Dinner

Celebrate the last night of 2021 with a decadent multi-course dinner, then enjoy our live music and bar until 1 AM.

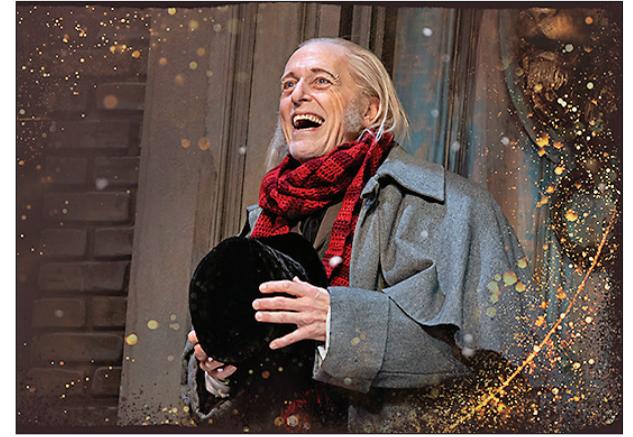
December 31, 2021, Seating's at 5 pm and 10 pm, \$80* per person for the 5 pm seating, \$75* per person for the 10 pm seating. *Prices do not include tax or service fee. *

Goodman Theatre Presents Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

By Annette Dixon

The anticipation of seeing Larry Yando 13th times was exhilarating, especially knowing he will be portraying the infamous Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol at the Goodman Theatre. Scrooge, of course, is who we came to see and what would happen in the Past, Present, and Future for Mr. Scrooge. Larry whisked around the stage in a brisk manner, especially when flying in unison with Ghost of Christmas Past, Lucky Stiff. So happy to see Paris Strickland, as Emily Cratchit, who for the past five years portrayed Tiny Tim and Thomas J. Cox as Bob Cratchit.

As the comments and compliments were expen-



Larry Yando as Scrooge Photo by Liz Lauren

ed during intermission, a woman came up to me and we started talking, she mentioned that this was an annual event on opening night for her and her children and grandchildren. Now, they are taking her to see it. I was happy for her and I mentioned I took my grandson, for the first time and he was very intense and enjoyed every moment of the play, he is 24. A Christmas Carol will be appearing in Goodman's Albert Theatre until December 31, 2021. It is a two and a half hour perfect family holiday treat and it is directed by Award Winning Professor, Director Jessica Thebus, whose work is very admirable.

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Help on March 8 or 9 (or both) and get exclusive VIP Pre-Sale access on April 1st before the sale is open to the public! Only these amazing volunteers can shop early for brand-new houseware items at a fraction of their original price!

All help is appreciated, but volunteers must be at least 18 years old and can bend, kneel, and lift 25lbs. Transportation provided.

Questions? Contact Adam, Volunteer Manager:
730.6208 or aharold@sertomacentre.org

Featuring thousands of name-brand decor and houseware items straight from the 2022 Inspired Home Show at McCormick Place. Items include names like Oyster, Sunbeam, Gibson, and Cordon Bleu

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Joffrey Ballet Presents Nutcracker

The Joffrey Ballet's critically-acclaimed reimagined classic, The Nutcracker, by Tony Award®-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, is certain to be a highlight of the Joffrey's first-ever season at the historic Lyric Opera House, 20 North Upper Wacker Drive, in 26 performances, December 4 - 26, 2021. Plus, signature scenes from the production will be projected on the world's largest canvases, Art on theMart, for the second year in partnership with Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. The digital art projection, designed by local production studio The Mill with music arranged by Joffrey Assistant Conduc-

tor & Company Pianist Michael Moricz, will be displayed on theMART's 2.5-acre river-façade. It can be viewed nightly for free from the 'Jetty' section of the Chicago Riverwalk on Wacker Drive between Wells Street and Franklin Street from now to December 30, 2021, in two airings, at 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. More information can be found at artonthemart.com/ programming.

"The Nutcracker is a celebration of the optimistic spirit that allowed Chicago to rise from the ashes of the Great Chicago Fire and produce the World's Columbian Exposition 128 years ago," said Ashley Wheeler, The Mary B. Galvin Artistic Di-

rector. "We are thrilled to be able to present one of the world's most beloved holiday traditions at the Lyric Opera House for the first time and celebrate the tenacity that enables Chicagoans to overcome even the most extraordinary challenges."

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

Schedule

The Joffrey Ballet performs The Nutcracker, Saturday, December 4 through Sunday, December 26, 2021. The full schedule is as follows: Thursday, December 9 at 7:00pm; Friday, Dec.10 at 7:00pm; Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm; Sunday, Dec. 12 at 1:00pm and

6:00 pm; Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7:00pm; Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm; Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm; Sunday, Dec 19 at 1:00pm and 6:00pm; Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm; Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm; Thursday, Dec. 23 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm; Friday, Dec. 24 at 2:00pm; and Sunday, Dec. 26 at 1:00pm and 6:00pm.

Single tickets start at \$35 and are available for purchase at The Joffrey Ballet's official Box Office located in the lobby of Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph Street and by telephone at 312.386.8905, or online at joffrey.org. Connect with the Joffrey on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

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Reigning Team MVP Caitlyn Sierzega Aims to Lead Spartans to Success

Written By Brain Frangel-la, OLCHS Staff Writer

Last year as a junior Caitlyn Sierzega led the Oak Lawn Community High School girls bowling team to a solid season and earned the team's Most Valuable Player award. This year, she is back and looking for more.

In the Spartans first match of the year, Sierzega led the way with the highest pin totals on the team by bowling a 211 and a 222. Her efforts pushed the team to victory over Lemont.

"Caitlyn received the MVP award last season,



Caitlyn Sierzega

and though it is early in our season, she has demonstrated that she will be a star player yet again this year," head coach Jen Faro said.

Check out our website at www.vvnew.com

Spartan Bowlers Roll Single Game Record to Defeat Rival Reavis



Written By Brain Frangel-la, OLCHS Staff Writer

Trailing rival Reavis by 73 pins after game one, things didn't look too bright for the Oak Lawn

Community High School boys bowling team. However, the Spartans rallied in game two and shot an astronomical 1,283 to defeat the Rams, 2,324-2149. The huge game of 1,283 set

an OLCHS single-game record and according to the Illinois High School Association website, it was the third highest single-game team total in Illinois state history.

In game two Ramiro Garcia led the way bowling a 273. He was followed by Steven Hebel with a 259 and Domas Rasymas with a 257. Logan Wendt and Sam Bergamo each bowled a 247. It was an incredible accomplishment. At one point each bowler had six to seven strikes in a row.

"It was an amazing night for the Spartans," head coach Kevin Walery said. "Everyone was throwing strikes and having fun. It was a total team effort."

The victory improved their overall record to 9-1 and their record in the South Suburban Conference to 7-0. The Spartans head to the Oak Forest Invitational this weekend.

Fritz Swims With Passion and Desire to Repeat as Champion

Written by Brain Frangel-la, OLCHS Staff Writer

Just because the high school boys swim season ended last year didn't mean that Oak Lawn Community High School's Luke Fritz was done swimming for the year. Fritz continued to swim club throughout the summer and year-round. Now he returns to the Spartan pool with high hopes of repeating as South Suburban Conference Red individual champion.

The senior captain is also looking to find success at the Illinois High School Association Sectional meet.



Luke Fritz

"In addition to providing leadership to the team, Luke pushes and encourages his teammates to be better swimmers," said head coach Ben Reiff.

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Cyclone Volleyball Wraps Up Season in Playoffs With Individual Honors

The Moraine Valley Community College volleyball team was happy to have a more regular season than last year competing into the playoffs and four players earning honors. They still had to contend with precautions due to COVID-19, resulting in the team being unable to compete in one tri-match and rescheduling a couple matches, but they played a tight schedule and finished 15-6 overall and 5-2 in the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference. Their third place finish in conference

was not where they typically land, but some injuries and absences lent to a less consistent team flow. Cyclones started their run in the playoffs with a quick defeat of Elgin Community College in the quarterfinals, but a loss the next day to Carl Sandburg College in the semifinals ended the season. "The 2021 season brought a lot of success, but it also came with many challenges and a few tough losses. COVID-19 limited the match schedule, but we focused on a competitive atmosphere in practice to prepare for the matches that we were able to play," said Head Coach Lauren Lorenz, who completed her sixth season leading the program. "We dealt with injuries periodically and unfortunately did not go into regionals or the confer-



ence championship at full strength. Despite that, we found a lot of success." Playing a part in the successes of the team were sophomore setter Nicole Ramirez (Lincoln-Way Central) and freshman middle hitter Abby Sarich (Mother McAuley). Both were named to the All-Conference first team and All-Region team. Sarich also was nominated for All-American honors. She averaged 5.2 points per set, which ranked her No. 8 in the NJCAA Division II. She also was 16th for kills per set with 4.05. Sopho-

more middle Takiyah Clark (Rich Central) and freshman outside hitter Jaelyn Donald (Thornton Fractional South) earned All-Conference second team honors while Donald additionally was named to the All-Region team. "The growth and tenacity that this team showed was very impressive," Lorenz said. "With key players returning and new recruits coming in, the 2022 season looks to be very promising!" For updates on Cyclone Athletics, visit mv-cyclones.com.

While Away In the Winter Protect Your Pipes and Water Meter from Freezing

A frozen pipe and water meter will crack and become an open source of continuous water flow into your home. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of the thousands of gallons of water that will flow into your home plus the cost of the replacement meter. Sufficient heat is necessary to protect the water meter and water pipes. If you turn down your heat, check that the lower temperature allows for sufficient heat in the area where your water meter is located to protect it and pipes from

freezing. You can also wrap the exposed pipes and water meter with insulation available at most hardware stores. Another way to protect your home is to locate the inside water shut off valve before the water meter and close it down and drain all the water from your pipes. There is a fee of \$100.00 for shutting off water at your buffalo box. This is a low cost compared to the cost of a broken pipe or water meter. Call 708-671-3721 to arrange for water shut off at your home.

Obituary

HELEN CUPRISIN

We are sad to inform you that Helen Cuprisin, long time member of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce and owner of Alphabet Soup passed away on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. At the Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home at 5570 W. 95th Street, Oak Lawn, IL Funeral was at St. Joseph Orthodox Church in Wheaton and then to Evergreen Cemetery, Evergreen Park, IL

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