



Proudly Serving  
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# Village View

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## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 15 | Number 1 | January 5, 2021

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

### Illinois Tollway Extends Its Popular Toll Violation Relief Program Through June 30

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tion notices at the reduced \$3 rate.

Responding to the strong public response to the existing violation relief program, the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors voted recently to continue the program.

"We're giving our customers more time to take advantage of this program to resolve their outstanding unpaid tolls and fines at a dramatically reduced cost that aligns with the

new fees instituted as part of our TOLLING 2020 reforms," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "By extending this program, we're hopeful that anyone who was unable to take advantage of this relief is able to do so in the coming months."

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Previously, a \$20 fine was assessed for each unpaid toll if left unpaid. That penalty escalates by another \$50 if the notice remained unpaid for an additional 60 days. For example, a single trip with five unpaid tolls could cost a passenger vehi-

cle owner more than \$100. That same customer now receives an initial notice with only a \$15 invoice fee, in addition to unpaid tolls, and will have 60 days to pay before those fees increase.

Customers looking to pay unpaid tolls and violations or wanting to learn more about TOLLING 2020, including the new notice guidelines, should visit the Illinois Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### ICC OKs ComEd's rate decrease for customers

The Illinois Commerce Commission recently approved ComEd's request for a \$14 million decrease in delivery service charges in 2021 compared with rates in effect this past January. The approval comes after an eight-month proceeding in which regulators, the Illinois attorney general, the Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers, the Citizens Utility Board and others review the costs and investments that determine customer rates. It marks

ComEd's fifth rate decrease in the past 10 years.

The new delivery rate will lower residential customer bills by about \$1 per month. This will result in an average monthly bill of close to \$82, which is lower than customer bills in 2008. Energy supply charges account for almost half of the monthly residential bill, and ComEd does not mark up or profit on these costs.

"Families and businesses need to be able to count on reliable energy at this un-

certain time, and they need to have confidence that we're doing everything we can to keep our costs low and bills manageable," said CEO Joe Dominguez. "I'm proud that we're able to provide a third rate decrease in a row during this public health crisis. The 6,000 women and men of ComEd have worked to implement smart grid investments that are consistently providing record reliability, efficiencies and savings that we pass on to our customers."

### Governor announces reduced CCAP co-pay

Following the recent launch of a new initiative to direct additional funds to support childcare providers in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Gov. JB Pritzker has announced that parents in the program will pay a maximum of \$1.25 in monthly co-pays. CCAP provides low-income families with access to high-quality childcare throughout Illinois and the reduced rates will provide financial relief to

families across the state as Illinois continues to feel the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The lower rates are applicable in January and February.

"Our lives are full of so many unknowns right now, and childcare service providers and working parents know that all too well," Pritzker said. "That's why my administration is stepping in to help the providers and families enrolled in the state's Child Care Assistance Program

secure a little more stability and flexibility just as we did in the spring. To lift some of the burden on parents, the parent co-pay for all families in the program will be reduced to just \$1.25 per month in the first two months of the new year."

Support for eligible families includes paying for all eligible days of childcare regardless of the child's attendance. As of last month, 98,000 children were enrolled in CCAP.



Danny Burstein as Harold Zidler

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Visit [moulinrougemusical.com](http://moulinrougemusical.com) for more.

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Spring classes are online, virtual or hybrid, the latter meaning instruction is online as well as face-to-face. Moraine Valley is nearly doubling the number of hybrid classes offered this semester. Students will have to wear a mask and use an online health assessment app while on campus. Students also can borrow iPads and laptops for classes and use free Wi-Fi in some college parking lots.

A complete list of credit and noncredit classes can be found in the spring 2021 class schedule online at [morainevalley.edu](http://morainevalley.edu). Tuition is \$131 per credit hour plus fees and books. New students can visit [morainevalley.edu/starting-remotely](http://morainevalley.edu/starting-remotely).



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## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 19 | Number 1 | January 5, 2021

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

### Tinley Park Winter Dining Grant available to help expand seating amid coronavirus pandemic

The Village is offering its Winter Dining Grant to help businesses comply with public health requirements while expanding their seating capacity

through the winter months. Applicants may be reimbursed for as much as \$5,000 for the purchase or rental of barriers, outdoor coverings, heating equip-

ment, lighting equipment, outdoor furniture and other costs associated with outdoor dining. A \$1,000 owner investment is required. Expenses previous-

ly incurred starting Aug. 1, 2020 may be considered for reimbursement with proof of purchase.

Interested business owners can submit an appli-

cation with supporting documents to [pcordero@tinleypark.org](mailto:pcordero@tinleypark.org). Community Development Department staff will confirm receipt within one business day. If

the grant is approved, the Village will schedule an inspection.

To apply or for more information, please visit [www.tinleypark.org](http://www.tinleypark.org).

### Congrats, Oak Forest Police Sgt. Thomas Lynch

The City of Oak Forest is pleased to announce that the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) has honored Sgt. Thomas Lynch by being designated as a Certified Eligible Police Chief through the Association's Police Chief Certification Program. This designation signifies that Lynch has met the highest standards of competency and conduct for his profession.



ing these requirements, they are allowed to proceed with the certification examination, which tests their knowledge of managerial concepts, modern policing concepts, law and leading cases, and budgeting principles. Candidates who demonstrate their mastery in these areas must then face a panel of their peers, consisting of three active Illinois Police Chiefs.

To be eligible for consideration, those interested in pursuing certification must first meet the ILACP's criteria for experience, education, professional membership, and community involvement. In the first phase of the process, candidates must demonstrate extensive law enforcement experience, including command and executive posts, a solid educational background that encompasses continuing education and training, and an active participation in relevant professional and community organizations. After meet-

During the structured interview, the panel questions and evaluates the candidate in the areas of leadership, management, public relations, verbal communication and ethics. Only those who have successfully completed all phases of the assessment process are granted the

distinction of a Certified Eligible Police Chief in Illinois. Sergeant Lynch is among only a select few Illinois police command staff able to meet the stringent requirements of the program since its inception in 1998.

Illinois is the only state in the U.S. that offers a Police Chief Certification Program based on an extensive, legally validated examination process. The ILACP, in conjunction with Stanard & Associates, Inc., a Chicago-based public safety consulting firm, oversaw a rigorous development and review process that involved police chiefs from across the state. The program is designed to recognize those law enforcement professionals who excel in all facets of the police chief function. To maintain certification status, police command staff must meet on-going requirements and apply for re-certification every 5 years.

Jason J. Reid  
Chief of Police



### Assistant State's Attorney receives Civilian Service Award

Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow announced recently that Assistant State's Attorney Mike Casson has been presented with the Will County Sheriff Department's Civilian Service Award. Casson's contributions include the key role he played in two significant cases, one involving child luring, and the other involving aggravated kidnappings and armed robberies in New Lenox and Frankfort that received broad media attention.

"Assistant State's Attorney Mike Casson is known for his commitment, perseverance, and extensive knowledge on a wide range of legal issues including those involving the complexities of our ever-advancing technologies," Glasgow said. "As this Award from the Sheriff's Department makes clear, Mike is not only valuable to our Office, but to the

broader law enforcement community."

Will County Deputy Chief Dan Jungles presented the award, which is typically is presented at the Sheriff Department's annual banquet, which was cancelled this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Casson has served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Will County since 2004. He currently serves as Deputy Chief of Complaints & Supervisor of Computer Crimes.

"It is a great honor to receive this award from the Sheriff's Department," Casson said. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with our law enforcement community and contribute to our criminal justice system. I'm also extremely grateful to State's Attorney Glasgow for the many and varied opportunities he has given me, and to my colleagues for the continued support"

### Mokena Police Chief retires

Steve Vaccaro began his service as Police Chief in March 2014, coming to Mokena from Tinley Park, where he started his public safety career as a full-time patrol officer in 1990 and ultimately worked his way up to the position of Deputy Chief of Police. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business (Management) from DePaul University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from DeVry University; he also graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Chief Vaccaro worked diligently with his staff and fellow officers to provide the high standard of public safety expected by residents of the Mokena community. While serving the Village, Chief Vaccaro obtained emergency preparedness certification through the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System agency, implemented an automated license plate reader system to prevent neighborhood crime, engaged with other law enforcement communities to maximize resources, facilitated the Village's transition to a consolidated dispatch center, and was an ardent supporter of Special Olympics, participating in the "Cops on Top" program to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Illinois.

### Oak Forest Christmas tree pick up available

Wondering where to put your live Christmas tree now that the holidays are over? Homewood Disposal will dispose of your live Christmas tree at no extra charge. Christmas tree removal is part of your curb-

side service.

Please put your tree out for removal on your regularly scheduled residential trash pickup day. If the tree is taller than 6 feet, please cut it in half before you put it out.

We encourage you to dispose of your Christmas tree within first few weeks of January. Even a well-watered tree will dry out eventually and can become a fire hazard. Start your new year off with a safe home.



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## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 1 | January 5, 2021

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

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### Chicago Ridge has new garbage service

By now residents should have received a letter from Flood Brothers as well as 3 new garbage cans that were delivered this past week.

The 1st Flood Brothers pick-up will begin the week of January. Your service day will remain the same and recycling pickup will now be every week.

Now, what to do with your old cans, Starting January, ALL residents should place their EMP-

TY blue and gray Waste Mgmt. cans in the normal garbage pick-up location for removal by Waste Mgmt. The collection process may take a couple of days so please be patient. The Green recycling can is yours to keep and use as an extra recycling can. If you do not want it please call the Village Hall or text your address to 708-270-3231 and put the can out on January 7th. It will be picked up by Public Works on either the 7th, 8th or

9th. As a reminder please do not place waste in these cans.

If you have not received new cans or the letter from Flood Brothers, please contact the Village Hall to leave your name and address.

On behalf of myself and my family, our Village Clerk and the Board of Trustees we would like to wish all of you and your families a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mayor Charles E. Tokar

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## SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 47 | Number 13 | January 5, 2021

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

### Oak Lawn's 2021 e-waste recycling program

Drop-off dates for Oak Lawn's e-waste recycling program are: Saturday, January 9; Saturday, April 10; Saturday, July 10; and Saturday, October. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to noon. Bring unwanted electronics to the quarterly electronic recycling collection.

This is a drive-through event where volunteers will help unload items from your vehicle. Please note that there is a \$35

charge per TV and monitor. Payment will be accepted on site with an electronic debit or credit card reader. Available to Oak Lawn residents only. Proof of residency is required.

**Prohibited Items:** Radioactive materials (smoke detectors) Hazardous waste (oil, antifreeze, paint) Non-electronics (tires, wood, insulation) Corrosives (batteries) Fluorescent lights Air condi-

tioners.

**Acceptable Items:** Televisions VCRs or DVDs, Computers, Monitors, Printers, Keyboards, Inkjet Toner Cartridges, Laptops, Video Game Consoles Internet or Music Devices, Cameras, Cell Phones, Telephone Equipment, Speakers or stereo systems, Microwaves, Holiday lights.

The drop-off location is the Public Works Building, 5550 West 98th Street



(98th Street and Central) Lawn 9446 S. Raymond (708) 499-7756 www.oaklawn-il.gov.

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Officers Nadeen Halim and Layla Khalil load collected coats for distribution.

### FSCAB spreads holiday cheer

Members of the Freshman and Sophomore Class Advisory Board (FSCAB) created holiday decorations for Grace Point Place in Oak Lawn. Students met virtually and created decorations on their iPads and computers. The decorations were printed up and delivered to Grace Point Place, a memory care facility that serves people with dementia.

FSCAB members also collected over 100 newly and lightly used winter coats this year for the annual coat drive. The coats were donated for distribution in the Chicagoland area.

### Oak Lawn library hires new director

The Oak Lawn Public Library is pleased to announce the hiring of a new director, Carol Williams. Carol will begin on January 11. She currently works as assistant director at the Hammond Public Library in Hammond, Indiana. Carol has worked at the Hammond

Public Library for 17 years in increasing positions of leadership. Her intimate knowledge of public libraries includes positions as a page, circulation clerk, cataloger, youth librarian, trainer, department head, and assistant director.

Carol holds an undergraduate degree from Purdue University in Professional Writing, and a Masters in Library Science from Indiana University with a Masters Certificate

in Non-profit Management. Carol's leadership background includes budgeting and a strong knowledge in unionization. She served eight years as steward, two years as vice-president, and four years as president of AFSCME Local #1448.

"I believe that libraries play an important role in a community. They are free and open to all. They provide access to technology and learning op-

portunities. They allow expansion and realization of thoughts, ideas and dreams. The only constant in libraries is change. We change with time, technology, media formats and public demands. But what always remains the same is staff commitment to provide the best service possible and the ability to produce unbiased information for all individuals to make up their own minds."

# Report finds Illinois places 11th largest tax burden on residents

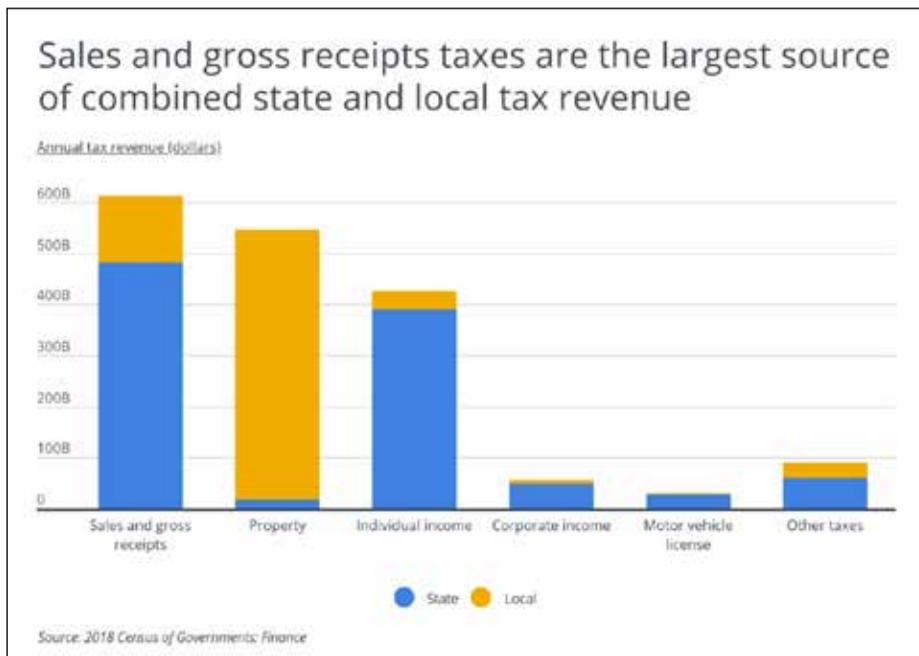
What is the landscape of taxes in America going into 2021? The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was signed into law in 2017 by President Donald Trump, reduced personal income tax rates for most people across the nation. However, that same piece of tax legislation also put a cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions. Formerly, taxpayers who itemize could deduct the total amount of state and local taxes paid from their federal tax return, which significantly reduced an individual's federal tax burden. But the new tax code caps SALT deductions at \$10,000, a change that has made living in high-tax states even more expensive for high earners.

The three largest types of state and local taxes that impact residents in those states are sales, property, and individual income taxes. Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, Americans paid \$1,869 in sales taxes, \$1,301 in income taxes, and \$1,672 in property taxes per capita in 2018. Combined, this equates to \$4,842 per capita, or approximately

8.9% of per capita income. But, the total amount of taxes paid and the allocation of those taxes across sales, income, and property vary widely by state.

While most states rely heavily on these three sources of taxes, many of the lowest-tax states for residents generate tax revenue in ways that do not financially burden those residents in a direct way. For example, North Dakota had the highest tax revenue growth of any state in 2019; the state accomplished this through high severance taxes on the extraction of oil, natural gas, and other natural resources. When compared to other states, North Dakota shifts the tax burden on residents to oil and gas companies operating in the state. Similarly, Alaska collects no individual income tax and also boasts relatively low sales taxes. The state generates the bulk of its revenue (as high as 70% in some years) through the taxation of oil and natural gas production, while keeping taxes on individual residents low.

To identify the states with the largest and smallest tax burdens for residents, researchers at HireAHelper



used data from the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to calculate the total annual property, income, and sales taxes collected in each state as a percentage of the state's total annual personal income.

Across all 50 states and District of Columbia, the combined property, income, and sales taxes as a percentage of personal income ranges from a low of 5.04% annually in Alaska to a high of 12.80% in New York. States with the highest tax burdens tend to be located in the Northeastern region of the country, whereas states with the lowest tax burden are located in the South.

The analysis found that in Illinois, property, income, and sales taxes for residents amount to about 9.48% of income. On average, residents spend about \$5,410 annually on these taxes. Out of all U.S. states and the District of Columbia, Illinois places the 11th largest tax burden on its residents. Here is a summary of the data for Illinois:

- Property, income, and sales taxes as a percentage of income: 9.48%
- Annual property, income, and sales taxes per person: \$5,410
- Property taxes as a percentage of income: 3.98%
- Income taxes as a percentage of income: 2.10%
- Sales taxes as a percent-

age of income: 3.39%

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

- Property, income, and sales taxes as a percentage of income: 8.88%
  - Annual property, income, and sales taxes per person: \$4,842
  - Property taxes as a percentage of income: 3.07%
  - Income taxes as a percentage of income: 2.39%
  - Sales taxes as a percentage of income: 3.43%
- For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on HireAHelper's website: [www.hireahelper.com/lifestyle/states-with-largest-and-smallest-tax-burden](http://www.hireahelper.com/lifestyle/states-with-largest-and-smallest-tax-burden).

# Illinois minimum wage increases to \$11 an hour

Illinois' minimum wage increased to \$11 an hour on Friday, January 1 2021. The Illinois Department of Labor is encouraging employees to watch their paychecks to ensure that time worked in 2021 is paid at the new rate.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation into law in 2019 providing a path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Minimum wage earners received two increases in 2020 to \$9.25 an hour on January 1 followed by an increase to \$10 an hour on July 1. The minimum wage will continue to increase an additional \$1 an hour each January 1 until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025.

Prior to the 2020 increases, the last time Illinois increased its minimum wage was more than a decade ago in 2010 when it was raised to \$8.25. Cook County has a higher minimum wage than the state, currently \$13 an hour. The current city of Chicago minimum wage is \$13.50 an hour for small employers (4 to 20 employees) and \$14 an hour for large employers (21 or more employees).

The new law maintains provisions for employers to count gratuities to offset wages for workers such as food servers who regularly earn tips. Tipped employees may be paid 60 percent of the hourly minimum wage. These workers must still earn the minimum wage after receiving tips or the employer must make up the difference.

Workers who are under 18 years old and work fewer than 650 hours in a year will earn a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour beginning January 1. The youth minimum wage rate will gradually rise to \$13 an hour by 2025.

Employees with problems regarding the minimum wage can file a complaint with IDOL at the following link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Pages/Complaints.aspx> or call 312-793-2800.

## Tinley Park business licenses due for renewal

The Village of Tinley Park requires that all businesses in Tinley Park have a valid business license. Village business licenses are issued on a calendar-year basis. The license must be renewed by Jan. 31 of each year.

Also required is a Change of Use/Owner permit for businesses acquiring a previously occupied commercial or industrial space, or acquiring an existing business or property. Before a lease or sale is complete, a Change of Use/Owner permit application must

be completed and returned to the Building/Planning Department for review to ensure the basic zoning criteria has been met, and an inspection will be performed to make sure the space is up to current code. A certificate of occupancy and business license cannot be issued until this process is completed.

Penalty for Failure to Obtain/Renew Licenses: Any licensee who fails to pay the fees and charges for a license or permit by January 31 shall be charged a penalty. Said penalty shall

be paid at the time of obtaining the license. The Village also may take action to force the business to cease operation if license is not obtained. This penalty structure is not applicable to contractors.

Liquor License Information: For information on acquiring a liquor license for your business, please contact the office of the Liquor Commissioner at (708) 444-5021.

For more information and application visit our website at Business License ([tinleypark.org](http://tinleypark.org)).

**Proud member of following 2021 Chambers**

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Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau	Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.oc-chamber.org">www.oc-chamber.org</a>
	Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.oaklawnchamber.com">www.oaklawnchamber.com</a>

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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.

**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/>

## Oak Lawn library reopens

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave, reopened to the public on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 for limited "Grab and Go" services. As before, we are offering early hours from 10-11 a.m. for seniors and those with disabilities, and then to the general public at 11 a.m. The Computer Center will be open, and we will offer two walk-up computers on the second floor. All Study and Meeting Rooms are closed. No donations are being accepted at this time. All book and material returns should be deposited in the three book drops outside the Library building. The Library requires all patrons to wear masks and



practice social distancing.

Library hours: (senior hours from 10-11 a.m. Every day)

Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sundays: closed

Curbside service is offered during all hours the Library is open. We are also offering a variety of

virtual programs, events, and resources, please visit [www.olpl.org](http://www.olpl.org) to learn more.

The Library is closely following Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's Tier 3 pandemic guidelines and is constantly monitoring local COVID-19 case numbers. If numbers spike, we will announce another closing.

## Hurley-backed law caps out-of-pocket insulin cost

To make lifesaving medication more affordable for diabetic Illinoisans, state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, recently supported a new measure to cap out-of-pocket insulin costs.

This new law took effect this month.

"There are many residents of our state who rely on insulin for their livelihood, but insulin prices have soared exponentially in recent years," said Hurley. "Nobody should have to choose between paying

for their medication or putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their head."

Hurley supported Senate Bill 667 which caps the co-pay for insulin at \$100 for a 30-day supply. There are 1.3 million adult diabetics in Illinois, many of whom regularly rely on insulin to maintain their health. According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), insulin prices tripled between 2002 and 2013, and the average price of insulin has

increased by 64% since Jan. 2014.

"I am proud to have supported this new law, which proves Illinois to be a leader in providing relief from outrageous prescription drug costs," continued Hurley. "I will continue working to build a stronger Illinois and for access to affordable health care."

For more information, contact Hurley's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or [RepFranHurley@gmail.com](mailto:RepFranHurley@gmail.com).

## A note from St. Lawrence's president

Dear St. Lawrence Community,

I want to thank you once again for an amazing year! Your support allowed us to achieve so much. As we say farewell to 2020, I wanted to review our top ten accomplishments of the year (in chronological order):

1. Immediate transition to asynchronous learning in the Spring: St. Lawrence was the only school in the area that maintained a normal school schedule during quarantine.

2. In-Person graduation for the Class of 2020: We held THREE separate outside graduations in order to adhere to health and safety regulations. This allowed us to provide our graduates a proper send off and their families a memory that they will hold onto forever.

3. Grade school summer camps: We were able to train over 300 total grade school students and did so in a safe environment: we did not have a single COVID case among our camp attendees and instructors.

4. High level training for student-athletes: 100% of our student-athletes had the opportunity to maintain their workout program at STL because of our Sports Performance Team.

5. Service to those marginalized by poverty and injustice: We created a working Task Force to build upon our school culture and raised nearly \$300k from our generous alumni and friends for our families negatively impacted by COVID.

6. Introduction of our hybrid model: We created 8 cohorts in order to maximize in-person learning and minimize COVID cases at STL. As a result, we never had to quarantine an entire cohort. A special thanks to our resilient teachers who quickly adjusted to the needs of our students!

7. Continued recruitment of future Viking families: Our admissions team adjusted all events in order to make sure they could safely show our great school to all prospective families who wanted to learn more. This included creating more personal tours and working more evenings and weekends. The hard work resulted in our third consecutive year of over 300 testers! STL will maintain one of the only growing school populations in the area and surpass 850 students next year!

8. Execution of the most successful fundraising efforts and Giving Tuesday in school history: Our development team raised over \$100k in one day and had over 360 participants! They continued to execute

all alumni events in a safe manner and are on track for the largest fundraising year, all during a pandemic.

9. Successful completion of International Baccalaureate World School certification: It's official! Our IB Diploma Program will launch in Fall 2021. Special congratulations to Director of Strategic Development Pete Lotus and all IB teachers for their hard work throughout the application and candidacy process.

10. Preparation to bring our students back to 100% in-person learning at a safe time in the Spring: Our leadership team remains committed to the wellbeing of our students, teachers and families as we plan for the future!

None of these achievements would be possible without our faith and trust in God and the continued support and outreach from our community.

In closing, please be on the lookout for STL! We will come out stronger than ever before because of our amazing family (faculty, teachers, students, parents and alumni) who came together for one purpose: to live our lives as freely and safely as possible. Let's all pray for a year of joy and peace in 2021.

God Bless,  
Joseph A. Martinez '99  
President, St. Lawrence High School

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## P.A.W.S. seeks donations

The People's Animal Welfare Society of Tinley Park is a no-kill animal shelter dedicated to the protection of domestic animals and the prevention of animal cruelty in the surrounding communities. They provide shelter to abandoned, lost and relinquished pets. They provide humane education in animal care to the communities. They strive to prevent overpopulation by offering spay/neuter programs, rather than through the use of euthanasia. They are dedicated to finding safe and permanent new homes for our domestic animals, as well as helping the public choose the right companions for their families. Do-

nations can benefit animals in different ways. Please visit [www.pawstinleypark.org](http://www.pawstinleypark.org).

Supplies for the Animals: Dogs: Evangers Canned Food; Science Diet Dry Food (Puppy, Maintenance, Lamb and Rice, Small Bites, etc.) Buckle Collars of all sizes; 4 foot and 6-foot Nylon Leashes; Kongs. Cats: KMR Kitten Formula, Purina Friskies Canned Food (no fish), Science Diet Dry Food (Kitten, Maintenance, Light, Senior, etc.) Kitty Toys. Bedding: Twin and Full size blankets; Bath Towels.

Donations should be turned in at the Kaptur Administrative Center (8999 123rd St.) by Friday, Jan. 8.

## Lupus support group hosts author

Speaker & author Donna Oram, author of "When Lupus Throws You for A Loop" will participate in a Lupus Spoons support group on Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A support group is run by and for people with a common life situation and comprised of people willing to talk freely and to trust openly in the good will of other group mem-

bers. A support group provides a source of information, a place to be yourself and is open to the public.

For additional information, please contact Taurian Jackson at 312-542-0002.

Meeting dates and times are subject to change and notifications will be provided by the volunteer support group leader directly to participants.

## Palos Twp. Health Service

Palos Township is holding two health events in January.

On Jan. 25, Cholesterol and Hemoglobin A1C testing. 8:30 a.m. to noon. Fees

Apply

On Jan 26, Hearing Screening. 9 a.m. to noon. Free.

Please call 708-598-2441 to register for all events.

## Brookfield Zoo continuing 'Bringing the Zoo to You' Facebook Live Chats

Chicago Zoological Society's animal care staff will once again present its "Bringing the Zoo to You" Facebook Live chats on Mondays through Fridays while Brookfield Zoo is closed in January and February. The weekday chats are a way to keep the zoo and its amazing animals connected to the public during its temporary closure before reopening to guests on March 1. The chats became popular when the zoo was previously closed earlier in 2020 from mid-March through June to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Beginning Monday, January 4, and continuing through February, each weekday at 11 a.m.,



An upcoming chat will be about Humboldt penguins.

animal care specialists at Brookfield Zoo will share interesting and fun facts about many of the animals as well as answer questions from viewers. Upcoming educational and entertaining chats will feature an update on Pis-

tachio, a Kemp's ridley sea turtle who arrived at the zoo this fall of 2020; Humboldt penguins; North American river otters; snow leopards; Raisin, a Hoffman's two-toed sloth; and orangutans, to name just a few.

Those who cannot tune in at 11 a.m. can access "Bringing the Zoo to You" videos on Brookfield Zoo's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In addition to the live chats, the Chicago Zoological Society's education staff is producing weekly videos called "Bringing the Play Zoo to You," which are geared towards young children. Play partners will present a different theme each week that highlights ways kids can explore nature, learn about animals, and do fun activities from home. Posted on Brookfield Zoo's Facebook page and YouTube channel every Thursday, each of the videos are available in both English and Spanish.

## Everbridge replaces reverse 911 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 Emergency Alerts.

By going to the Everbridge website Oak Forest, Public, Sign In ([everbridge.net](http://everbridge.net)), you can sign-up and create an account. 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, such as a water main break, for example.

Creating an account will also give you access to make future modifications to your account when needed, such as change of phone number, email, and home address.

Additionally, if you ever move and do not want any notifications from the City of Oak Forest, you have the ability to delete account.

Everbridge is a valuable tool for the city and for citizens who want to be informed.

## Together We Cope Food Drive

Together We Cope (TWC) is a homeless prevention agency based in Tinley Park. TWC serves 27 communities in 4 townships including Palos Township. The mission is to bridge the gap for southland residents in

temporary crisis. TWC feeds nearly 5,000 people a month and distributes personal care products that are not covered by the food stamp program. Visit [www.togetherwecope.org](http://www.togetherwecope.org) for more information. Many faces a challenge every week. There are more requests than donations.

There are plenty of items needed. If you don't see anything you care to donate on this list, please take a look at the larger list of items on the Together We Cope website.

Donations should be turned in at the Kaptur Administrative Center (8999 123rd St.) by Friday, Jan. 8.

Please sign up today!

Palos Township Health Service Events is at 10802 S. Roberts Road. Call 708-598-2441.

## Nicor Energy Assistance Programs

As COVID-19 continues to impact communities across the country, Nicor Gas knows it can be a stressful and even confusing time for many of their customers.

Whether you're a homeowner or trying to run your business, Nicor Gas wants to make sure you have all the information you need to stay safe and healthy during this time.

There is a lot of information that can be found about energy assistance programs. You can find accurate and up-to-date information on [nicorgas.com](http://nicorgas.com).

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## Moraine Valley International Student Ambassadors donate toys and clothes to charities

Students from the Moraine Valley Community College International Student Ambassadors donated toys to the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation in Orland Park and socks to We Care of Grundy County in Morris, Illinois.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, student organizations were unable to meet or fundraise as normal this semester. However, the International Student Ambassadors had funds previously saved and wanted to give back to those in need.

"This semester, they wanted to focus on activities that would be educational, an opportunity for cross-cultural exchange where they could give back to the community," said Nereida Encina, Moraine Valley international student services specialist and International Student Ambassadors co-advisor.

The students purchased Barbies, Play-Doh, cards, stuffed animals and little

cars for the Treasure Chest Foundation. Prior to the donation, the charity hadn't received as many contributions because of the pandemic.

"The lady to whom we gave the toys was really happy. They showed us the place, and they have a big warehouse. It felt good to give back to them. We hope all the kids that receive the toys are happy as well," said Nicolette Pena Lara, International Student Ambassador from Mexico.

"We as an organization knew that it was our responsibility to give back to the community," added Chinny Ebisi, International Student Ambassador from Nigeria.

In addition to donating locally, one student ambassador, who takes classes from Saudi Arabia and intends to eventually study on campus, decided to give back where he lives and donated food to people in need.

"I think it was a great opportunity for our stu-



Phuong Tran, left, and Chinny Ebisi helped donate toys and socks to area charities.

dent ambassadors to demonstrate their appreciation to the community that has been their home away from home, and to these organizations that have supported those in need for years," Encina said. "We are extremely proud that the students were able to put a smile on those kids' faces and to people in need this holiday season.

We also are delighted that our ambassadors learned about different organizations within the community and the support services they offer. The fact that one student was able to give back to his own community, across the world from us, shows that Moraine Valley and our student impact is worldwide."

## Holiday Toy Drive in Oak Lawn

For the past twenty-four years, the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation has pursued its mission of providing comfort and distraction from painful procedures to children and teens fighting cancer by providing toys, gifts and gift cards. When a child must endure the rigors of cancer treatment, there is little anyone can do to take away the pain. However, thanks to the efforts of this unique Foundation, there are treasure chests filled with donated toys, gifts and gift cards at 61 nationwide treatment centers including Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL. Last year more than 14,400 children with cancer benefited from this vital program every month.

The Foundation needs our help in order to keep

the treasure chests full for the brave children and teens fighting cancer. We are asking families to donate to the City of Oak Forest Holiday Toy Drive. All donations will be used for the treasure chest program. Toys and gifts in all shapes, sizes and varieties are welcomed, although we do request that no stuffed animals be donated.

Toys, gifts for teens or gift cards in increments of \$5.00 may be dropped off at City Hall through January 8, 2021. At City of Oak Forest, 15440 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL

On behalf of the City of Oak Forest and the children and teens who benefit from the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation, we thank you in advance for your generous donation.



## Tinley Park puts out Call to Artists

Are you an artist who's itching to create? Why not submit a design for the Village's 2021 Benches on the Avenue public art program?

Next year's benches will be themed "Album Cover Tour" and will feature some of the most iconic and memorable record art of all time. The Village is looking for artists to create unique, imaginative, three-dimensional designs that are kid- and family-friendly. All genres and eras of music are welcome, and portrayals

should be vibrant, colorful and include some degree of three-dimensional art.

Benches on the Avenue will run from May to October in Downtown Tinley. Each bench will be sponsored by a local business or individual who will take possession of it at the end of the season. Anyone with an imagination and a bit of artistic creativity can submit an entry!

Learn more on the Village website at [TinleyPark.org/Benches](http://TinleyPark.org/Benches).



## 'Come Home, Indio' by Jim Terry

Lorraine Schmall  
Dearborn Park

After the fall of Rome, when Visigoths and Vikings marauded and pillaged the western world, books were painstakingly created and copied by monks, whose gorgeous calligraphy and illustrations were not only text but art.

Fortunately, that practice is not lost.

Like a 5th Century disciple of St. Benedict, Chicagoan Jim Terry, in his graphic memoir in black and white, "Come Home, Indio," exemplifies that same pain of monastic creation: "two fingers hold the pen, but the whole-body toils."

Terry, who was chosen to create the first cover for Marvel Comic's Indigenous Voices, shares his life in a mixed medium that is both agonizing and uplifting. His professional colleagues said Terry "knocked it out of the park artistically."

Nor does his prose disappoint.

His story is compelling: Jim's parents came from radically different worlds, though separated by only a few hundred miles, and consequently, Terry felt like a "half-breed imposter." His dad was an angry Irish American bass-player from Chicago's suburbs. His mother was a conflicted feminist and repository of the "old ways" of her Ho-Chunk heritage, who'd been raised on a reservation in the Wisconsin Dells where tourists came to watch dances, buy trinkets, and experience "Indian" culture. After their marriage fell apart, and his mom married another white man, Terry and his sister uneasily split their time between parents.

Terry's art shows that, though his family members loved him, they were complex people often knocked off their feed by their addictions. Terry eventually suffers from his own poor choices and bloody-bad DNA. The potent combination of his text and his art creates such bathos that we feel, for a time, that we are living his life.

It is a slim book but not a fast read, because "Indio" beckons us into his heart, psyche and soul. We are drawn in to his drawings: his mother and father and step-father with little bubbles over their heads, puffing on cigarettes, sundry beer cans about, tears or scowls plastering their faces; two tiny figures, lying on the floor in near-darkness, pulling back the curtains to see if their parents were finally coming home; a 10-year-old slumped in his school desk, a frown on his face, while his teachers praised Columbus or Pilgrims or Andrew ("Indian killer") Jackson; an older Jim Terry, kneeling in despair, or giving thanks, or praying for guidance; awe-inspired drawings of people and images on the Standing Rock Reservation.

Sentimental but searing, this is no Christmas book, but it's a fine (belated) Christmas gift. Support local art.

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Theme: International Menu

- ACROSS
- Arithmetic operation
  - Romantic getaway destination
  - "Hold on!"
  - Foolish
  - Unit of electrical resistance
  - Ann Patchett's novel "Bel \_\_\_\_"
  - Parallel grooves
  - New Zealand's bygone bird
  - Daisy-like bloom
  - \*En \_\_\_\_, cooked and served in individual pot
  - \*Raw fish
  - Like Second Testament
  - Archipelago unit
  - Fool's Day mo.

- "Days" in Havana
- Just one of TV's "American \_\_\_\_"
- Russian mountain range
- Urban haze
- Spiral-horned African antelope
- Aggressive remark
- 10 percent to charity, e.g.
- Milk choice
- Burnt \_\_\_\_
- "Nobody \_\_\_\_ It Better"
- London art museum
- Evening party
- Boll weevil, e.g.
- Dianne Feinstein, abbr.
- Windmill blade
- "... \_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
- \*It's battered and fried
- \*Cheese and potato dumplings
- Loudspeaker noise

**CROSSWORD**

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66. Sheep sound
68. Frank Wright's middle name
69. Atones, archaic
70. Days of \_\_\_\_
71. Containing fat
72. Cut the crop
73. College degrees
74. Stainless material
- DOWN
- Catchall abbr.
  - Gung-ho about
  - DEA agent
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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- Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
- \*With jus
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- In the thick of
- Benign lump
- New Zealand parrots
- Like NCAA's eight
- \*Japanese noodle soup
- Suggestive look
- \*Clarified butter
- Ruhr's industrial center
- "The Dean Martin Show" and "The Carol Burnett Show"
- Lobe locale
- Ogres of the Norse
- Bigwig in the Orient
- Approval of the audience
- Tow rope alternative
- River in Bohemia
- Comedian Rudolph
- "Dead Poets Society" school, e.g.
- Cowboy's prods
- Apple leftover
- Jekyll's alter ego
- Bucolic poem
- \*\_\_\_\_ mode

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**Social engagement**

(NAPSI) Maintaining social connections and staying mentally and physically active is key to reducing social isolation and loneliness among older adults, particularly now during the COVID-19 national health crisis. There are many opportunities for older adults and caregivers to remain engaged and connected to their family, friends and community with and without technology during the pandemic. Here are a few suggestions all of us might consider during this time:

- Reach out. Try to call a family member or friend every day, write them a note or send a card.
- Stay active, mentally and physically. Move more and sit less. Engage in physical activity such as a walk or online group exercise classes.
- Flex your brain. Draw a sketch, write a poem or short story, or start journaling.
- Create connections using technology. Use online tools to connect with friends and family. Attend virtual events and concerts or tour museums from home. Read a book online.

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No need to 'warm up' modern vehicles

(NAPS) When the weather is cold, many motorists wonder if they need to let their vehicle "warm up" or idle before driving. In fact, today's modern cars are ready to drive in the cold without excessive idling. The idea of idling before driving dates back to when cars were built with carburetors. With new fuel-injection technology, complex computer systems and thinner synthetic oils, drivers don't need to warm up their cars before hitting the road. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "When a car idles for more than 30 seconds, it has several negative effects, such as increasing air pollution unnecessarily, wasting fuel and money and causing excessive wear or even damaging a car's engine components, in-

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cluding cylinders, spark plugs and the exhaust system. Contrary to popular belief, idling isn't an effective way to warm up most car engines." "Unless you are trying to defrost the windshield or warm the interior of your car, idling is not required for today's vehicles," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "In most cases, idling longer than 30 seconds is unnecessary, even on the coldest days. The best way to warm up your car's engine is to drive gently at the start. Remember, a vehicle gets zero miles per gallon when idling and the result is lower fuel economy and wasted money." The Car Care Council

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**Six Steps To Help Students**

(NAPSI) Getting into college can seem complicated, even overwhelming, but help is available. To support students and families, the College Board (the creator of the SAT and Advanced Placement) has launched a first-of-its-kind national scholarship program that serves as a simple college planning guide for all students. It explains what to do and when to do it. These College Board Opportunity Scholarships lay out six simple steps that all students can take to get into college. Completing each step will earn a chance for a scholarship; completing all six will earn students a chance to win \$40,000 for their college education. These six steps help students plan by making a good starter college list, help them prepare so they can take their best shot and help them pay for college:

1. Build a College List: Students get started by exploring colleges they're interested in.
2. Practice for the SAT: Students use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy to help them get ready for test day.
3. Improve SAT Scores:

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Students show how practice pays off by improving their SAT score.

4. Strengthen College Lists: Students make sure their college list is a mix of academic safety, fit and reach schools.
5. Complete the FAFSA: Students fill out the free government form to apply for financial aid.
6. Apply to Colleges: Students apply to the schools they want to attend. One thing that makes these scholarships different from other programs is that they're about how much students grow, not how high they score. They don't require an essay or an application and don't have a minimum GPA or SAT score requirement. Instead, the program rewards all students' efforts and actions on their way to college. The more effort students put in and actions they complete, the more chances they have to earn a college scholarship. The College Board is investing \$25 million over five years. A total of \$5 million is available for each graduating class, beginning with the class of 2020. All students are invited.

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