



Proudly Serving  
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# Village View

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community with  
good news!*

## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 15 | Number 9 | May 4, 2021

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

### Steppenwolf announces artistic leadership transition

Steppenwolf Theatre Company recently shared that Anna D. Shapiro, who has served as Artistic Director since 2015, will step down from this role when her contract expires in August 2021.

Over the last several months, Shapiro has been working with her fellow Steppenwolf ensemble members, a group of 49 visionary actors, directors and playwrights who call Steppenwolf home, on a succession plan for when her contract expires at the end of the summer. Shapiro remains an active member of the Steppenwolf ensemble (which she joined in 2005) as she is slated to direct both ensemble member Rajiv Joseph's "King James" and ensemble member Tracy Letts' virtual play, "The Stretch," as part of the 2021/22 Steppenwolf Comeback Season announced last week.

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stages. With our new building at last complete and our Comeback 2021/22 Season announced, the time is right to share this transition publicly," said Shapiro.

In keeping with Steppenwolf tradition, and in accordance with its founding documents, it is the responsibility of the 49 ensemble members to select the next artistic director.

"Anna is a beloved member of our ensemble, and a treasure for our theatre. Her contributions to the legacy of this theatre have been nothing short of remarkable. We have an opportunity in this moment to evaluate what we need to help us keep thrilling existing audiences and grow new theater lovers as we joyfully reopen our doors to live performance. We will take the appropriate time to thoughtfully answer those questions as we determine the best next steps for artistic direction at Steppenwolf," shared co-founding ensemble member Jeff Perry.

During Anna's tenure, she led a multimillion-dollar



fundraising effort that made possible the realization of Steppenwolf's new 50,000 sq. ft. campus on Halsted Street. With Anna's leadership, the company broke ground on the building in 2019 and the walls continued to rise during the pandemic with a grand opening slated for Fall 2021. Featuring a new 400-seat Round Theater (one of its kind in Chicago), an education center, breathtaking city views, and new bars for community and socializing, the campus is a home for the ensemble and a physical manifestation of the company's promise to the City of Chicago, that Steppenwolf will continue its legacy of creation and service for generations to come.

For more information, visit [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org).

### Black arts group to hold dance workshops

Sponsored by the African American Arts Alliance (AAAA), several Black dance companies of Chicago will partner for a Black United Audition for dancers and choreographers. The free Black Dance Focus on You + Black Dance United Auditions events will include a series of resource-sharing panels and workshops by dance professionals, before giving

artists the opportunity to audition for the companies for access to performance, workshop, and intensive opportunities.

Black Dance Focus on You will include two panel/workshops designed to prepare dancers for the upcoming auditions, along with resources/workshops for choreographers who want to advance their careers. All events will be

held virtually via Zoom.

The Black Dance United Audition events will begin with audition preparedness panel discussions on May 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. The auditions will be held on May 26 and June 2 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Auditions are open to all adults (18+), but some experience is recommended. Registration is required at [www.aaaachicago.org](http://www.aaaachicago.org).

### Greetings from the Mayor of Blue Island

As I write this column, I want to congratulate everyone for adhering to all COVID-19 guidelines. We all need to count our blessings and recognize what is essential in our lives.

I am happy to announce that the following projects are in the process of completion in our City. The reopening of the medical campus formerly known as Metro South by Veterans' Services will provide medical services to the public and to Veterans. Also, it will be a new source of much-needed jobs for our area. Veterans Services is scheduled to regain control of its facility from the State of Illinois, either by May or June 2021. The current plans are urgent care, medical and dental offices, and surgical rooms for outpatient services. Similarly, in the pavilion building across the street, Premier Physicians Medical Group will be offering general doctor's appointments and other medical services.

The renovation of the Western and Ashland Avenue bridges is proceeding as scheduled. It will be completed by the end of 2021 or 2022. Both bridges will be eventually painted "Blue Island Blue" once the work is completed and funding

is made available. Kedzie Avenue from 119th Street South to 135th Street is being renovated, including the Kedzie Avenue Bridge overpass. I want to thank the Southwest Conference of Mayors for providing funding for this much-needed project.

The remediation and demolition of the area by 119th and Vincennes is proceeding as scheduled. As you know, this site, along with the adjoining 88 acres of vacant land parcels, is prime development for retail stores on the frontage of 119th Street and Vincennes Avenue and a community Art Center that should be dedicated to residents and immigrant families that lived in this area many, many years ago; warehousing, light industry, and recreational facilities will be built in the remaining areas. We are pleased and honored that the Cook County government funded the demolition and remediation of 119th and Vincennes and granting the City 4 million dollars to construct Division Street from 119th Street South to 123rd Street for heavy truck traffic.

The implementation of the Blue Island streetscape design and plan from 119th

Street and Western Avenue South to 135th Street will include new pavement, curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, ornate street lighting, benches, bike racks, planters, garbage receptacles, etc. the above-listed items will be placed as soon as funds are available.

On behalf of all of us here at City Hall, I encourage all of us to "Shop Local Shop Blue Island" and to continue to "Think Outside the Loop" and to "Think BIGG" (Blue Island Going Green).

My personal and professional inspiration comes from the late President Kennedy, who stated, and I quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Thank you to all the men and women who served in our armed forces, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I never forgot you and never will. May God Bless Blue Island and all of you now and forever. Thank you for allowing me to guide you during these past eight years and 20 years as an Alderman. Pray for me as I will pray for you. God Bless America. God Bless Blue Island.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Domingo Vargas

### Metra Adding Weekday and Weekend Trains

Fulfilling its promise to reimagine and restore service as vaccination numbers increase and workers return to job sites, Metra is adding weekday and weekend trains to the Metra Electric Line beginning Monday, May 10.

Metra is adding four trains to Electric Line's

weekday schedule, four trains to the weekend schedule, and adjusting the schedules and/or stopping patterns of seven additional trains. These changes are being driven by ridership patterns and to add reverse commute options for workers at the new Amazon facility in University

Park. On weekends, Metra will also be providing additional express trains to shorten trip times to and from the suburbs.

Please view the full Metra Electric Line schedule for arrival and departure information for these trains at intermediate stations on our website [metrarail.com](http://metrarail.com).



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## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 19 | Number 9 | May 4, 2021

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park



### Volunteers hit the streets for Cleanup Day

Volunteers gathered recently to participate in Tinley Park Cleanup Day. During the event, 16 volunteers donated more than 80 hours of their time to remove 1,200 pounds of

garbage and debris from about five miles of roadway.

Volunteers included students and staff from School District 230, members of the Tinley Park

Environmental Enhancement Commission and Public Works Department staff. Many thanks to Frank Hillegonds from NuWay Disposal for donating the dumpster!

### John Keating Selected as Chief of Police

The Village of Mokena has a new Chief of Police.

Mokena Village Board ratified Mayor Frank Fleischer's appointment of John Keating to the position of Chief of Police.

Mr. Keating will take the helm of the Mokena Police Department May 10, replacing Interim Chief Tim McCarthy, whose last day in the post was this past Monday. Commander Randal Stumpf is serving

as Interim Chief until Mr. Keating officially comes on board.

The selection and hiring of Mr. Keating is the culmination of a nationwide recruitment that ultimately attracted 39 candidates. Mr. Keating possesses 30+ years of leadership experience in law enforcement, including over 29 years of employment with the Orland Park Police Department, where he

rose through the ranks to Commander of the organization's Criminal Investigations Division. Most recently, he served as an Investigator with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Among a variety of educational attainments, Mr. Keating is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI National Academy.

### Mokena's seasonal watering regulations in effect

We will initially operate under the standard summer GREEN ZONE regulations, which are as follows:

Watering is allowed on odd/even days of the month based on the last digit of your address.

Watering is allowed on odd/even days of the month based on the last digit of your address. Water only from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. For easy zone identification, signs will be posted throughout the Village

which will be color-coded in green, yellow, orange or red. An explanation of the zone colors has been provided to the right. From May 15 and will remain in effect until September 15.

Special exemptions to watering restrictions are allowed for residents establishing new lawns. To be eligible for the exemptions, a permit is needed from the Village Hall's

Community Development Department.

If you would like to be notified in the event of a change in the watering zone, register for a "watering update" at the e-Notifications heading on our website at [www.mokena.org](http://www.mokena.org). If you would like additional information on seasonal watering regulations, please call us at (708) 479-3900.

### Tutor has scholarship named in his honor

The Jeff Williams Tutor's Scholarship has been established at Moraine Valley Community College to help students who have received tutoring while at the college. The scholarship's donor, Darlene Williams, worked with the Moraine Valley Foundation to create it as a tribute to her late husband, Jeff Williams, who served as a tutor at the college for nearly 10 years.

"Jeff was a high school special education teacher, and he cared about education. His specialty was English," Darlene said. Before retiring, he worked in the Chicago public school system, spending most of his career at Kenwood Academy High School. Later, he followed his wife, who had joined the staff at Moraine Valley's Tutoring Center after her retirement, and became a tutor in the areas of reading and writing. "Jeff had certain kids who often came back to him because he knew how to deal with students with special needs," Darlene said.

Because of COVID-19, the family was unable to have a funeral for Jeff. The scholarship seemed like a nice way to honor him because of his strong commitment to education and for helping struggling students. "His life stood for that, so it seemed logical to me. I think he would have been proud of it," Darlene



said.

She described her husband as someone with a wide variety of interests. "He played guitar. He loved theater, English history and a crazy mix of rock-and-roll, which is an unusual mix." In addition, he was a voracious reader who participated in his local library's summer reading program each year and generally won the prize for completing the most books. "It was a badge of honor for him," she joked.

The \$1,000 to \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to students who have received tutoring while at Moraine Valley, have taken development math or English classes and are enrolled in one of the college's career programs. It can be used for tuition, fees and textbooks. Darlene noted she and her

husband worked with several students who faced financial issues, so she hopes the scholarship will help someone like them. "People are really struggling right now," she said.

Darlene explained that she and her father-in-law will be involved in choosing the scholarship recipient, and she feels this has helped them in their grieving process. She thinks others may find comfort in establishing a memorial scholarship for a loved one and said, "If you want to put a positive action on a negative experience, this is a perfect way to do it."

For more information on creating a scholarship at Moraine Valley, contact Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Moraine Valley Foundation, at [mcgreal2@morainevalley.edu](mailto:mcgreal2@morainevalley.edu).

### Water and Sewer Rates Increase in Oak Forest

An increase in water and sewer rates for the City of Oak Forest will begin on May 1, 2021 to cover the cost of operations as well as a 3.3% increase from its suppliers, the City of Chi-

cago and the Village of Oak Lawn. According to city revenue policies, the city's water and sewer fund must be self-supporting.

Tier 1 water volume rate will increase to \$9.81 per

1,000 gallons (\$0.54 increase); Tier 2 water volume rate will increase to \$11.02 per 1,000 gallons (\$0.61 increase); and sewer rate will increase to \$2.18 per 1,000 gallons (\$0.02 increase).



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## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 9 | May 4, 2021

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

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In keeping with Steppenwolf tradition, and in accordance with its founding documents, it is the responsibility of the 49 ensemble members to select the next artistic director.

"Anna is a beloved member of our ensemble, and a treasure for our theatre. Her contributions to the legacy of this theatre have been nothing short of remarkable. We have an opportunity in this moment to evaluate what we need to help us keep thrilling existing audiences and grow new theater lovers as we joyfully reopen our doors to live performance. We will take the appropriate time to thoughtfully answer those questions as we determine the best next steps for artistic direction at Steppenwolf," said co-founding ensemble member Jeff Perry.

During Anna's tenure, she led a multimillion-dollar fundraising effort that made possible the realization of Steppenwolf's new 50,000 sq. ft. campus on Halsted Street. With Anna's leadership, the company broke ground on the building in 2019 and the walls continued to rise during



the pandemic with a grand opening slated for Fall 2021. Featuring a new 400-seat Round Theater (one of its kind in Chicago), an education center, breathtaking city views, and new bars for community and socializing, the campus is a home for the ensemble and a physical manifestation of the company's promise to the City of Chicago, that Steppenwolf will continue its legacy of creation and service for generations to come.

"We are deeply grateful for Anna's leadership these past six years. She had very big and bold priorities when she took over artistic direction for Steppenwolf, and she accomplished a great deal during her tenure, leaving the theater's artistic foundation in a strong place and ready for the next chapter of our history," said Board Chair Eric Lefkofsky.

For more information, visit [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org).

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### Palos Heights Library is now fine free

The Palos Heights Public Library wants to ensure that access to valuable lifelong learning resources is not affected by overdue fines.

How will it work? Everyone will start with a clean slate: Existing overdue fines have been removed from Palos Heights library cards. All bills for lost or

damaged items remain on a patron's record.

Fine free is for overdue fines only: Patrons will still need to reimburse the library for lost or damaged materials.

Due dates will still apply: Patrons will have 14 days from the due date to return an item before their library

card is blocked.

Fine free applies to any item checked out at the Palos Heights Public Library: All materials checked out when visiting other libraries are subject to their library policies and fines.

Visit, or revisit, the library, 12501 S. 71st Ave., to see what we have to offer!

### In-Home Shots for Suburban Cook County

The Cook County Department of Public Health has partnered with organizations that can provide in-home vaccination to those who qualify.

To qualify for this pro-

gram, you must be 65 or older or have a disability or use adaptive equipment (like a ventilator, crutches, a walker or wheelchair) AND be unable to leave your home because it is too dif-

ficult and live in Suburban Cook County.

Sign up by calling our hotline: 833-308-1988

Hotline hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.



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## SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 47 | Number 21 | May 4, 2021

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

### Sign up for 4-Person Golf Scramble in Oak Lawn

Register today for the Oak Lawn Park District Stony Creek Golf Course's Memorial Day Golf Scramble. Grab your clubs for a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start May 31.

This is a four-person scramble open to all golfers looking to have fun! The fee is \$50 per player and includes green fee, cart fee, range balls, lunch, and prizes.

The entry deadline is May 28. For more information, contact 708-857-2433.



Mayor Sexton accepts a plaque from EPCC members, including (from left) EPCC Director Percy Allen of M.E.P. Exterminating; EPCC First Vice President Laura Shallow of World Data Systems/St. Xavier University; and EPCC President Maria Cantu-Dougala of First Midwest Bank.

### Farewell to Mayor Sexton

The chamber was able to express their appreciation to Mayor James Sexton at his last Village Board Meeting. We are truly grateful for his many years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

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### Hickory Hills' Arbor Day food drive a success

Thanks to all who donated to our city food drive to benefit a local food pantry. Each donor received a beautiful plant and some pollinator seeds. Thanks to our city community affairs committee, local elected officials and public works department who organized and helped the event run smoothly.

Due to the pandemic,

we have changed our annual Arbor Day, celebration to an event that celebrates our environment and helps those in need in our community. Special thanks to Alderman Debbie Ferrero, Public Works Director Sue Lehr and the city's Community Affairs Committee volunteers for their creativity in helping modify this event so that

it can safely benefit the earth and people in need. All food donations were donated to the Elsie's Food Pantry which serves local needy residents and families.

I also would like to thank our Hickory Hills Jewel-Osco who have been collecting food donations for the local food shelter.

Stay safe. Mayor Mike

### Village of Justice vehicle stickers on sale

Residents and businesses of the Village of Justice may purchase their 2021/2022 Vehicle Stickers effective May 2021.

Anyone who lives in the Village of Justice or houses a vehicle in the village for more than 50% of the time, is required to purchase a sticker. Village vehicle stickers assist our Police Department when patrolling our neighborhood.

Please refer to the Schedule of Fees for pricing:

Passenger Cars, Ambulances, Hearses and RV's: \$35.00

Motorcycles: \$20.00

Senior Citizens (Passenger Cars, Truck B, RV's): \$10.00

Note: Senior Citizens may purchase more than one sticker at the discounted price of \$10.00 if proof of senior status and a valid registration card showing the vehicle is registered to a senior resident of the village is provided. In order to

receive the senior rate, one of the registered owners must be 62 years of age by June 30, 2021

Handicapped Vehicles (With Plates): \$15.00

Antique Cars (With Plates): \$5.00

Disabled Veterans, Municipally Owned, CV (Charitable Vehicles): \$0.00

Buy online (passenger vehicles only), by mail or in person at Village Hall, 7800 Archer Road.

## Deadline to get REAL ID extended, Jesse White reminds public



Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is reminding the public that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023. With the extended federal deadline of REAL ID, current Illinois driver's licenses and ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports until May 3, 2023.

"I applaud the decision by DHS to extend the REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023, 19 months past the old deadline of Oct. 1, 2021," said White. "This is the proper and necessary action in response to the pandemic."

DHS cited that it extended the deadline due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the impact the virus is having on the general public and driver's license and ID card-issuing agencies nationwide. White, along with other

state and business leaders from around the country, had called on DHS to extend the deadline.

As a reminder, White has expanded online services and encourages the public to visit his office's website at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) instead of visiting a Driver Services facility. Many transactions can be conducted online, including purchasing license plate stickers, obtaining duplicate driver's licenses or ID cards, and renewing standard driver's licenses or ID cards for those who are eligible.

In addition, White has extended all driver's license and ID card expiration dates until Aug 1, 2021. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits.

## Monthly child benefit payments

In a Senate Finance Committee hearing recently, IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig confirmed to committee members that the newly expanded Child Tax Credit will, in fact, be distributed to parents on a monthly basis, beginning in July.

The newly expanded Child Tax Credit, a provision of the American Rescue Plan, will send American families annual benefits totaling \$3,000 per child ages 6 to 17 and \$3,600 per child under 6. Parents will receive monthly checks of \$300 per month for each qualifying child age 5 and under, and up to \$250 per month for each child between the ages of 6 and 17 from July 1 to December 1, before receiving the remaining six months of the Child Benefit in January 2022. The credit will also be fully refundable.

The news was received with excitement from advocates for universal basic income, as the tax credit's monthly advance payments would be experienced by its recipients in a fashion similar to how Americans would receive a basic income.

"It's particularly difficult to overstate the significance of this news," said Liam DeClive-Lowe, Executive Director of Humanity Forward. "We received acknowledgement from

the federal government today that American parents will be the beneficiaries of what is essentially the largest basic income pilot ever designed."

Leaders on Capitol Hill have already expressed a strong interest in making this new Child Benefit a permanent part of federal tax policy.

"If we can eradicate child poverty, it will be good for these kids and their families, but (also) for all of America," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

Early estimates expect that the benefit will reduce child poverty in America by over half, a statistic which has strengthened the case to make monthly checks to parents last longer than the one year appropriated for in the American Rescue Plan.

Humanity Forward is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization dedicated to building bipartisan coalitions to advance the economic interests and policy priorities of the American people.

If you are interested in covering Humanity Forward's work advocating for direct cash relief, or to hear what we have to say about this one-in-a-half-century policy revolution, please contact our press secretary Greg Nasif at [press@move-humanityforward.com](mailto:press@move-humanityforward.com) or 804-742-2076.

## Chicago Ridge plans Honor Wall for veterans

Chicago Ridge wants to recognize village residents serving in the military and is asking for help to gather an accurate representation. The village has constructed a glass case to be displayed in the atrium of the Eugene L. Siegel Municipal Complex, 10455 Ridgeland Avenue, to recognize and honor soldiers from Chicago Ridge on active duty. The case will include photos and information about each soldier.

"They are out there defending and serving our country and they should be recognized," Tokar said.

"We would like to recognize these people with a nice space in the atrium to honor them."

You can drop off 5 by 7-inch photos of soldiers at Village Hall. Please include the following information:

- Soldier's name
- Serving branch of the military

Information about who they are, where they are stationed, and when they are returning home

Village of Chicago Ridge  
10455 S. Ridgeland Ave.  
Chicago Ridge, Illinois 60415  
Ph: 708-425-7700



### THANK YOU

*For your VOTE of Confidence and Support the past Election. I pledge to provide you with "Leadership You Can Count On"*

**Palos Township Assessor**  
**ROBERT E. MALONEY**  
10802 S. Robert Rd., Palos Hills, IL

## Goodbye from Justice Trustee Henry (Hank) D. Oszakiewski

I believe in personal community service. I was fortunate to begin my own community service in Justice, back in 1993 as a Zoning Board Commissioner, serving under 5 Justice Mayors (Rusch, Mack, Van Allen, Sparr, and Wasowicz. When elected as Trustee in April 2013, I resigned my Zoning Board commission and continued my service as village trustee. I proudly spent 28 years of uninterrupted community service to the residents and businesses of Justice. Almost 3 decades! The time went by way too fast!

I enjoyed meeting new people, listened to hundreds of zoning petitions, village concerns, and proposed ordinance and resolution changes and focused on rendering fair opinions and honorable decisions. Now, I am happy to see younger people are starting to take an interest in our community. I wish Stan and Gabe, as our future trustees, and Dave, as our future clerk, the best, as they will soon begin their own personal community service next month.

In partnership together, we have all achieved many positives over the years.

Working together with respectful attitudes, listening to each other's opinions, valuing diversity of ideas, seeking consensus, and recognizing each other's contributions will be beneficial for Justice residents and businesses. So, let's talk about the future of Justice, since our residents are rightly concerned about future decisions, because those are the ones that really matter to us.

Concerning those future decisions, focus on developing an effective response

to share with your constituents.

Think about this: What will we do with the \$1.53 million we will receive from the federal government as part of the Covid-19 relief to us? We want to use it wisely.

How can we work together in the future, for the benefit of our residents and business owners, even though we might have disagreed in the past?

How will our successors evaluate our decisions?

In closing, I thank our residents for electing me for 8 years of service as trustee.

I thank the mayor and all the trustees and clerks I serviced with during my 2 terms.

I thank our department heads I worked with, for listening to me and whom I supported.

I thank our businesses for their commitment to Justice residents and our elected officials.

I thank our other community organizations (as I supported them in their programs) the Justice Public Library, the Justice Senior Club, the Justice Chamber of Commerce, the Justice Park District and the Park District Seniors, Rosary Hill Home, and the Justice Lions Club. Continued success to them. They all need our continued support.

Finally, I thank my family, my wife Holly and my son Brian for supporting me in my community service efforts. I spent many hours away from family life in support of village life! I appreciate their valuing my efforts.

Thank you, all.  
Hank Oszakiewski  
Village of Justice Trustee  
April 26, 2021

### 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<br><a href="http://www.alsipchamber.org">www.alsipchamber.org</a>                            | <a href="http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com">www.visitchicagosouthland.com</a>   |
| Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association<br><a href="http://www.bpcia.org">www.bpcia.org</a>                       | Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.evergreenparkchamber.org">www.evergreenparkchamber.org</a>         |
| Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry<br><a href="http://www.blueislandchamber.org">www.blueislandchamber.org</a> | The Hills Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.thehillschamber.org">www.thehillschamber.org</a>                        |
| The Burbank Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.burbankchamber.com">www.burbankchamber.com</a>                  | Justice Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.villageofjustice.org">www.villageofjustice.org</a>                        |
| Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau   | Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.oc-chamber.org">www.oc-chamber.org</a> |
|  | Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.oaklawnchamber.com">www.oaklawnchamber.com</a>                           |

### Village View Publication, Inc.

708-425-1910

Fax: 708-221-6663

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[www.vvnew.com](http://www.vvnew.com)

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Owner/Editor/Publisher Annette Dixon

Published on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Press releases and ads are to be e-mailed to [vnnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

## Grilled California Sweetpotatoes

(NAPS) The next time you're firing up the outdoor grill (or indoor grill pan, for that matter), throw on a sweetpotato or two. An easy, healthy side dish with a huge wow factor, grilled sweetpotatoes are nutrient rich, high in fiber and absolutely delicious. And they go great with burgers, steaks, chops, chicken or pretty much anything off the grill.

Start with this basic recipe, and if you're feeling creative, try different shapes, sweetpotato coins or steak fries, for example. Or add your favorite herbs and spices, such as chopped fresh rosemary, thyme, cinnamon or smoked paprika.

### Grilled Sweetpotatoes

Serves 3 or 4

#### Ingredients:

1 lb orange- or yellow/white-fleshed sweetpotatoes, cut lengthwise into 3/4-inch wedges

1 1/2 Tbsp olive oil

1 tsp salt, plus more for sprinkling

#### Instructions:

Heat a grill or grill pan to medium-high. Meanwhile,



Grilling? Add grilled sweetpotatoes to the menu. They go great with burgers, steaks, chops, chicken, you name it!

in a large bowl, combine sweetpotatoes, oil and salt. Arrange sweetpotatoes on the grill or grill pan and cook until lightly charred and tender, 6 to 8 minutes, turning halfway through. Sprinkle with more salt and serve.

For more recipes, nutritional information and tips for cooking with California sweetpotatoes, go to [www.casweetpotatoes.com](http://www.casweetpotatoes.com).

## Celebrate Mother's Day

The perfect high-style destination for the art loving moms out there, Fulton Market Kitchen, 311 N. Sangamon, is accepting reservations for their delicious Sunday brunch this Mother's Day. With new 4-star Executive Chef Jonathan Harootunian at the helm, the vibrant restaurant has rolled out an all-new menu to enjoy including a variety of refined, seasonal dishes and locally sourced cocktails. To make a reservation, please visit [www.fultonmarketkitchen.com](http://www.fultonmarketkitchen.com).

Toast to mom over the city's best view of Lake Michigan at the buzzed-about new Lirica, 900 E. Grand Ave., on Navy Pier. Lakefront views and Latin-American inspired fare create the perfect symphony at this hot spot, which features an open-kitchen concept, floor-to-ceiling windows

and a spacious 150-seat outdoor patio right on the water. Make a reservation at [www.liricarestaurant.com](http://www.liricarestaurant.com).

City Cruises announced its Chicago port will be offering specialty cruises celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9. Mom, grandmother, aunt, or any Mom figure you hold near and dear to you, will be swept off their feet this upcoming holiday with an exclusive brunch or dinner cruise aboard the signature glass Odyssey Chicago River vessel, paired with a selection of specialty cocktails and city views to make them swoon. All cruises depart at the Chicago River Esplanade, right in front of the NBC Tower on the River (north side) or 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive. For more info or to buy tickets, visit [cityexperiences.com](http://cityexperiences.com) or call (888) 957-2634.

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*Make your Reservation your Early*

## Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 10:30am to 2:00pm**

### All You Can Eat

*Culinary Delights Served Buffet Style*

such as Peel & Eat Shrimp, Bourbon Maple Chicken, Waffles, **Bottomless Mimosas** plus Much More!

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*All prices are subject to 18% gratuity and applicable taxes*

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## Discover hidden gems in the Sauk-Calumet Region

It's almost summer, and the good weather is upon us, so many will be looking for new places to hike, bike and kayak in the south region.

The Sauk-Calumet Sierra Club Group wants to remedy that situation through its May program, "Hidden Gems of the Sauk-Calumet Region." We will be sharing pics of natural areas in or near Will, Kankakee, Grundy, Kendall and southern Cook counties. Some of

the sites already taken are, Raccoon Grove, Messenger Woods, Sagawau Canyon, the Indiana Dunes, Iroquois Woods and Black Partridge Woods.

This program will be held online on the Zoom platform on Monday, May 10th at 7:15 pm. To join us for the meeting, please RSVP to Lois at - [lois.lauer@illinois.sierraclub.org](mailto:lois.lauer@illinois.sierraclub.org). She will send you the link to join the program. Please RSVP by Saturday, May 8th.

## Evergreen Park Farmers Market opens Thursday

Join us for another great season at Yukich Field, 89th and Kedzie, Evergreen Park.

The Farmers Market will open up Thursday, May 6, and every Thursday from 7am-1pm. Everyone is welcome.



Photo by Katie Gustafson

## Cruise Nights returning at Tinley Park, VFW Post 2791

Cruise Nights is back again this summer at the VFW Post 2791 at 17147 Oak Park Ave. Tinley Park or call, 708-532-2333. Every Tuesday (weather permitting) from June 1st to August 31st the Village of Tinley Park and VFW Post 2791 will be hosting Cruise Nights, which will begin at 5pm and go on till dusk. Great looking Vintage Cars will be parked out on our side street and on the east side of Oak Park Ave.

We will also again be selling those very cool

looking Cruise Night T-Shirts so stop by our tents.

The "V" will again have a delicious food menu for you to pick from which you can eat outside or come into our Banquet Hall and have a seat at one of our tables. You can get any kind of refreshment you'd like inside in our spacious Canteen. It's just a great way to spend a Tuesday evening for you and your family. Leave your food in the freezer and just come on by and enjoy being outside again.

## Justice holding garage sale

The Village of Justice Spring Village Wide Spring Garage Sales will be held on Friday, May 14th, Saturday, May 15th, and Sunday, May 16th, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Free permits are available at Village Hall at 7800 Archer Road, Justice.

A list of participants will be available online or can be picked up at Village Hall on Thursday, May 13th.

## Burbank to trim trees

If a property owner wants their tree to be trimmed, they can make a request to have the Burbank Public Works Department trim their parkway trees. The Public Works Department only trims parkway trees for public safety or the health of the tree. This can be initiated either by the Public Works Department or by property owner request.

The Department will only trim trees that are on the Pub-

lic Right of Way (also known as the Parkway). The City does not permit private contractors or other agencies to trim City trees.

Upon request, the Public Works Department offers cut logs and wood chips, to any local resident.

For trimming or wood chips, please contact us at the Public Works Department, 5700 W. 75th Place Burbank, IL 60459 (708) 924-7390.

## Pre-K Screenings in Dist. 144

The Prairie-Hills Elementary School District 144 Early Childhood Educational Staff will be conducting Pre-Kindergarten Child-Find Screenings for children ages 3 to 5.

All preschoolers who reside in District 144 are eligible to attend the screening free of charge. Children

who may experience possible delays in development will be recommended for further evaluations.

Screenings will be conducted virtually May 10-12 at 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. by appointment only.

To schedule, call (708) 331-3364 between 8:15 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

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**Saturday, May 22, 2021**  
 4:00 to 7:00pm  
 4100 W. 127th Street, Alsip

Chicagoland first-responders showcase their best dishes and compete for the 2021 Heroes Cook-Off Trophy.

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

**TICKETS ONLINE**  
[sertomacentre.org/bigevent2021](http://sertomacentre.org/bigevent2021)  
**\$20** curbside pickup or in-person  
 Includes sample portions of each competing entree  
**Kids 4-12 \$10, 3 & under are free**

**Additional items available onsite:**  
 • Beer & Wine Cash Bar from Pollyanna Brewery  
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New Canteen Hours Noon to Close Daily  
**Public Welcome for 2021**

**VFW Blood Drive**  
 Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9am to 1pm  
 You can sign up in advance at the Post Walk-ins are also welcome

**Cruise Nights Returns, every Tuesday weather permitting**  
 Starting June 1<sup>st</sup> thru August 31<sup>st</sup>, 5pm till dusk  
 Food & Tee Shirts will be available in out Tents out front

**Our New Queen Of Hearts Drawing Is Back Each Wednesday**  
 Queen of Hearts \$7 Dinners have returned w/Covid Restrictions

**Our Award-Winning Banquet Hall is back open and available for you to book parties for any occasion - Stop by and check it out**  
 Stop in to watch all your favorite sporting events in our friendly and comfortable Canteen, which also has Video Gaming with some great new games

## Sertoma Centre Brings Home Heroes Cook-Off

Sertoma Centre, Inc. will be hosting its 18th annual Big Event Heroes Cook-Off on Saturday, May 22, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. For the first time, this culinary competition between lo-

cal first responders will be held at Sertoma's Martha Polacek Facility, 4100 W. 127th Street, Alsip. Guests can support this fundraiser by attending in-person for the whole experience or opt for socially distanced curbside pick-up. Either option provides guests with taste-size portions of all the delicious competing dishes to sample and vote on for their favorite.

Guest judges include Toni Preckwinkle, president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Fran Hurlley, Illinois State Representative, Bill Cunningham, Illinois State Senator, John D. Ryan, Mayor of Alsip, and Tom Grotovsky, the Unforgettable Chef.

First-responder chefs from all over Chicagoland are meticulously fine-tuning their dishes. We read-

ily await the unveiling of our culinary contestant's submissions and expect to see a variety of fan favorites like BBQ ribs, pork tenderloin, chili, and sweet heat chicken. These delicious dishes will pair nicely with Pollyanna Brewery's wide selection of craft beers and unique wines that will be on sale (curbside guests with proper ID can also take-home beverages of

their choosing). Add in the live music and fun for the kids, and you have Sertoma's Big Event.

Traditionally held off-site, Sertoma decided to bring the Big Event Heroes Cook-off home to host in our own amply spaced, warehouse-sized facility. We are eager to welcome the community back to this favorite event after such a long quarantine,

and this location allows for all COVID safety protocols to be in place. We want our guests and our Sertoma Consumers to enjoy a safe environment.

Tickets, directions, and event information can be found at [sertomacentre.org/bigevent2021](http://sertomacentre.org/bigevent2021).

Proceeds from the 2021 Big Event will benefit the individuals with disabilities Sertoma supports.

## Pickleball and tennis free at Oak Lawn Park District

Enjoy a game of Pickleball or work on improving your tennis skills through drills and classes at the Oak Lawn Park District Racquet, Fitness & Gymnastics Center.

Tennis drill and class information can be found at <https://www.olparks.com/parks-facilities/racquet-fitness-gymnastics-center>.

Pickleball drop-in play is available Monday through Friday from 6:00am-



3:00pm with a fee of \$5 per player.

The Racquet Center is located at 10444 S. Central Ave., Oak Lawn, IL

60453. For more information, please email Nick at [nmagro@olparks.com](mailto:nmagro@olparks.com) or call 708-857-2215.

## Blood drive coming to Oak Lawn next week

The next blood drive date at Calvary Oak Lawn at 10056 Central Ave, is Monday, May 10. Appointments are available from 3 to 6:45 p.m., and can be made over

the phone 1-800-7TO-GIVE or at [www.versiti.org](http://www.versiti.org).

Donors must be at least 16 years old (parental consent needed for 16-year-old), weighing 110 pounds

or more, and in general good health for donation.

If you have recently received a Covid vaccination, you must wait 48 hours to donate blood.



### TIME TO MAKE PLANS AND CELEBRATE LIFE!

Join **Sweet Reminder** for a fun afternoon with a delicious lunch and unique musical experience down memory lane that'll make your heart sing!

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**Sweet Reminders of Christmas** - The magic of the holiday season comes alive with cheerful sounds and light-hearted fun in each festive song celebrating "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" *Santa Baby, Suzy Snowflake, Sisters (from White Christmas), Winter Wonderland* **December 10**

Reservation price \$41 ea. or \$38 for parties of 15 or more. **INCLUDES ENTIRE EVENT:** Delicious 4-piece chicken meal with all the fixin's: baked potato, homemade corn fritters, kidney bean salad, cottage cheese, coleslaw, coffee or tea beverage, dessert, tax, gratuity, and the show! Lunch served 11:30, Show to follow. Appropriate spacing for seating will be followed in helping keep everyone safe and healthy. Masks will be worn while entering and getting up from table. **MUST CALL TO RESERVE SEATING: 630-375-9717 | [www.sweetreminder.net](http://www.sweetreminder.net)**

## Worth Township Free Food Distribution Day

Worth Township is holding another drive-thru emergency free food distribution on WEDNESDAY, May 5th, 2021. Boxes of food will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis beginning at 2 p.m.

in the parking lot of the Township Hall at 11601 S. Pulaski Road in Alsip.

Worth Township is working with the Chicago-based non-profit organization Economic Strategies Development Corpora-

tion, which has partnered with many companies and organizations to distribute prepackaged free produce and non-perishable goods to thousands of families across the Chicagoland area.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
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- residence  
73. Money in Myanmar  
74. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
- DOWN
1. Undesirable roommate
  2. Medley
  3. Grannies, in UK
  4. Tattooed
  5. Universe
  6. Panache
  7. \*Most 2021 Oscar nominations for one film, #9
- Across
8. Secret storage
  9. Stole fur
  10. One opposed
  11. Indian restaurant staple
  12. U.S. customary unit of force, pl.
  15. Soaked
  20. DNA and RNA
  22. Argonaut's propeller
  24. Shared work surface at an office
  25. \*Sasha Baron Cohen's "Subsequent Moviefilm" role
  26. Be sorry for one's wickedness
27. Pita, in UK
  29. \*Like Roberto Benigni's fictional son
  31. Husband to a widow, e.g.
  32. Checked out
  33. Stradivari competitor
  34. \*\*Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
  36. Poker ante
  38. \*\*Nomadland" director
  42. Shadow
  45. \*The Trial of the Chicago 7" screenwriter
  49. Greek "t"
  51. Sandwich sausage
  54. Necklace lock
  56. Radio receiver
  57. Nutritious leafy green
  58. Got A+
  59. Ice on a window
  60. Happening soon, old fashioned
  61. Caffeine-containing nut tree
  62. Editing arrow
  63. Chinese monetary unit
  64. Friend in war
  67. \*Nominee for Billie Holiday role

## Statepoint Crossword

Theme: The Oscars

### ACROSS

1. Hedgehog of video games
6. And so forth, acronym
9. \*Oscar-nominated black and white movie
13. Treeless plain
14. Grazing field
15. Moses' mountain
16. Sty sounds
17. Nelson Mandela's org.

18. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
19. \*Posthumous nominee
21. \*Anthony of "The Father"
23. "What's up, \_\_\_?"
24. Huge pile
25. Protestant denom.
28. Feed storage cylinder
30. Load again
35. Relating to ear
37. Flighty one
39. Proclaimed true without

### proof

40. Musician David Lee
41. Ascetic holy Hindu
43. Eastern European
44. Plural of #10 Down
46. 500 sheets
47. Looking for aliens org.
48. Kitchen whistler
50. Wails
52. Bad-mouth
53. Medieval torture device

55. Pied Piper follower
57. Politburo hat fur
61. \*Daniel of "Judas and the Black Messiah"
65. Raspberry drupelets
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare
68. Void, as in marriage
69. Defective car
70. Given name of Jack Kerouac's Paradise
71. \_\_\_ of Honor
72. Adam and Eve's first

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(NAPSI) Whether you are receiving Social Security benefits or retirement is years away, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has a free and secure online tool you want to check out today. According to SSA, more than 55 million people have already created their own online

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my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

You can create your account in about 15 minutes. Why should you create an account? Your personal my Social Security account puts you in control of your Social Security information and benefits, and provides you immediate access to get or request assistance from SSA without calling Social Security or scheduling an appointment. Check out below what you can do whether you do or don't receive benefits.

If you are not receiving benefits:

A my Social Security account provides personalized tools, tailored for you. You can: request a replacement Social Security card

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(in most states), estimate future benefits, view estimates for spouse's benefits, view your Social Security Statement to verify your earnings history and see benefits estimates, print proof that you do not receive benefits, apply for benefits, and check the status of your application or appeal.

Your personal earnings

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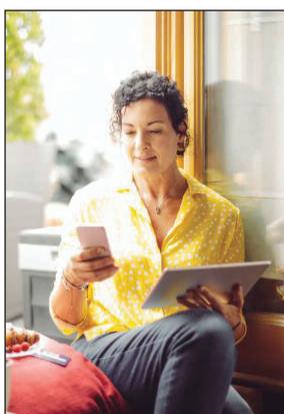
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history and estimates of future benefits are great resources to help you plan for retirement. Working and paying Social Security taxes on those earnings is how you build Social Security credits to become

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eligible for Social Security retirement and disability benefits. If you have a financial planner, don't forget to discuss how you can use the information in your Social Security Statement to help you plan and know what to expect when you are ready to retire.

When you do receive benefits:

Your personal my Social Security account gives you access to many Social Security services from the comfort of your home or

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on the go.

You can: request a replacement Social Security card (in most states) or Medicare card, print your benefit verification letter, change your address, set up or change your direct deposit, print your Social Security 1099 (SSA-1099) for tax purposes, and opt-out of mailed notices for those available online.

With a my Social Security account, you are no longer limited to phone, mail or an in-person appointment to get help from Social Security. The system safely protects your personal information, so you can access your account from anywhere.

Visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) today to sign up and take advantage of what you can do online with Social Security.

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