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Village View

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Volume 14 | Number 13 | July 7, 2020

B-MAC EDITION
Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip eyes alternate water source

by Jan Glaz

A motion passed unanimously on June 15th at the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting approving a water supply contract with the Southland Water Agency. The goal of the Southland Water Agency is to build a water system independent from the City of Chicago and their rising water rate costs. Alsip Mayor, John Ryan, asked a representative of the agency, "Since we spoke last are any other communities committed to this program?"

The representative replied, "Not officially, but as of today we've added a series of communities to meet with over the next 10 days: Lansing, Markham, Country

Club Hills, Hazelcrest, Glenwood, Calumet City, Midlothian, and Calumet Park. We're confident that all the communities named will be on board with the program. If communities commit by July 1st they will have a buy-in incentive of \$50,000 for the first 20 million gallons of water, per day.

COVID-19 has delayed our Federal Financing Program applications from July up to the fall. We need a sound application, one with a strong group of communities in the program by July 1st. The Agency's stability of costs are projected to the year 2090 as being below the projected rates from Chicago. The amount Alsip will contribute in the first 3 years will have a turnaround profit of about 4 ½ times. The agency expects that within 8 years, 2027- 2028,

water will be flowing to the communities."

Trustees voted to purchase and install a Pedestal Drop Box on the Village Hall property. This will be utilized as a municipal walk or drive-up secure payment drop box, or for any other utility where security is necessary when payments or documents need to be deposited at the village. The costs for this equipment is approximately \$800.00

New & Noteworthy: Mayor Ryan congratulated Alsip Police Chief, Jay Miller, and Deputy Chief, Shawn Schuldt, for their efforts in implementing the "Alsip Police Bike Patrol Unit". The Bike Patrol will improve community relations plus represent cost savings. "A Bike Patrol at times can offer faster response times because of an incidents locale," stated the Mayor.

Dominguez Movement Lab opening in Crestwood

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Crestwood Board of Trustees authorized the Village Attorney to prepare an Ordinance at the request of Jose Dominguez at the board meeting held on June 18th. The Ordinance will allow for a Special Use Permit to permit a physical fitness center "Dominguez Movement Lab" to open at 13433 Kolmar Lane.

The Movement Lab uses evidence-based treatments making any goal possible. All instructors are fully trained and certi-

fied. The physical fitness center offers a host of individual and group services including, physical therapy treatments, sports/conditioning and training, plus strength/conditioning training. All training, therapy, and conditioning sessions will be held in a small group setting for both adults and children. The Movement Lab will also be selling athletic apparel on the premises.

In other board meeting news, trustees approved a Resolution regarding surface transportation program funding for the Midlothian Turnpike Sidewalk Improvement Project from Central Avenue to Pulaski Road; and a Resolution regarding surface transportation

program funding for the 135th Street Sidewalk Improvement Project from Central Avenue to Kostner Avenue.

Noteworthy news: Officials announced that the Crestwood Recreation & Wellness Center (CRWC), 5331 W. 135th Street, has opened. Currently - by appointment only. The CRWC offers special events, adult and kids programs, varied youth sports, aquatics and swim lessons, a fitness center, massage therapy, and more. If you are a current member of CRWC you can schedule a time slot. Please call 708-371-4810 to obtain your username and password.

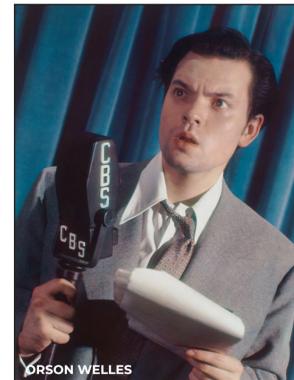
Visit www.crestwoodfitness.com for further information.

War of the Well(e)s looks at infamous broadcast

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Tickets to this virtual presentation are on a pay-what-you-will basis with proceeds shared between the two organizations. Upon purchase online at www.aredorchidtheatre.org, patrons will be supplied with a virtual production program and a link to listen to War of the Well(e)s.

The audio recording will be available through July 31, 2020.

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 13 | July 7, 2020

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Tinley Park amends Village Sexual Harassment Policy

by Jan Glaz

Tinley Park voted to adopt an "Amendment of the Tinley Park Municipal Code Sexual Harassment Policy" on June 16th. Trustee William Brady reported the State of Illinois Public Act 100-0554 became effective on November 16, 2017. The Act required that all government units adopt an ordinance establishing a policy prohibiting sexual harassment by January 15, 2018.

Trustee Brady stated, "Further amendments to that ordinance regarding employment have been made through the enactment of the State of Illinois Public Act 101-0221, known as the "Workplace Transparency Act" which became effective in August of 2019. The Village is amending its policy prohibiting sexual harassment to provide a method of both reporting and investigation of an allegation of sexual harassment made by one elected official against another elected official."

In part, the Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment in the Village of Tinley Park declares: When allegations of sexual harassment made against an elected official of the governmental unit by another elected official of a governmental unit, an elected official may request an 'independent review' of a complaint of sexual harassment by another elected official.

The request is to be made to the Human Resources Director, the Village Man-

ager, or the Chief Elected Official of the Village. The official receiving the request will take immediate action in keeping with the procurement process of the municipality to retain a qualified individual or entity for the 'independent review' of the allegations of violation of the harassment policy. The outcome of the 'independent review' will then be reported to the Village Board of Trustees.

Before the meeting adjourned, trustees adopted a 'Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of a Professional Services Agreement with Alliant/Mesirow for Health Insurance Broker Services.' The present agreement expires on July 14, 2020. The Village has been very pleased with Alliant/Mesirow and will renew the agreement for an additional year. Carrier commission on medical and dental will be 1%, which is a minimal increase, but still lower than standards.

Orland Park offers gift card rebates

by Jan Glaz

Orland Park authorized an Ordinance "Shop Orland Park Economic Development Programs" at the June 15th Board of Trustees Meeting. Officials reported that the Orland Park budget includes \$575,000 as part of the Village's Economic Development Loan Program. Of this amount \$450,000 will be used for gift card rebates. \$10,000.00 for temporary staffing to administer the program, \$40,000 for card printing & mailing, and \$75,000 will be used for marketing and promotional items.

A number of programs

are being proposed to provide a stimulant to the local economy as a result of the COVID-19 recession. Programs cover marketing activities, social media advertising, a dedicated Shop Orland Park website, a Shop Orland Park promotional video, light pole banners, promotional items, and special event coordination.

The Shop Orland Park Incentive Rebate Program is open to residents and nonresidents: Spend \$300, get a \$10 gift card or spend \$500, get a \$30 gift card, to be used at any Orland Park business that accepts Visa. Under the program, anyone submitting receipts at any of the Orland Park retailers, restaurants or hotels during the July shopping period (July 6, 2020 through August 2, 2020) will be eligible for either a \$10 or \$30 Visa gift card.

In addition, under the terms of the program, anyone purchasing a new or used vehicle at a dealership in the Village would be eligible for up to \$525 in Shop Orland Park Visa gift card offer. The rebate would increase incrementally based on the vehicle price.

To claim the Visa gift card, the shopper must submit the original sales receipts along with a completed Shop Orland Park Incentive form and purchases must be made at retail sales tax collecting establishments, in the corporate limits of the Village of Orland Park. There's a limit of one gift certificate per person and the program is based on a first-come-first-serve basis while supplies last. Please contact the Village of Orland Park for further details at: www.orlandpark.org or visit the Orland Park Village Hall, 14700 Ravinia Avenue; or call (708) 403-6100.



Single family residence, 17092 Bonnie Trail West, Oak Forest, IL

Oak Forest grants unique fence request

by Jan Glaz

Oak Forest resident, Krzysztof Mazurek, owner of a single family home located at 17092 Bonnie Trail West, petitioned the City of Oak Forest to construct a fence. Due to how his corner house is situated, the fence would extend into the front yard. The City's zoning code prohibits front yard fences and any variation of the code would need to pass by a majority vote of the City Council. On June 23rd at the City of Oak Forest City Council Meeting, Aldermen agreed to grant permission.

The petitioner purchased the property in 2013 and the existing fence was installed prior to 2007; predating the purchase. Because the

front door of the house faces Jessica Drive, the yard south of the residence on Jessica Drive is considered the front yard. Bonnie Trail West is considered the corner-side yard. The postal address for the property is East on Bonnie Trail West, but the house faces and is accessed from Jessica Drive to the South.

Krzysztof Mazurek plans to replace the entire existing wood fence with a 6' tall vinyl privacy fence, the approved variation allows for the fence along the south property line to extend 11 feet south into the front yard. The City's Planning and Zoning Commission felt the variation to be acceptable because

the location of Mazurek's front door is not consistent with the functionality of the property and would not be detrimental to the home's visibility.

Council meeting postscript: Aldermen authorized the relocation of current equipment and installation of the county and state 800 megahertz (MHz) communication control stations as part of the process of the radio communication tower construction. The cost to move the equipment is \$49,920.00 and enhancements to provide interoperability on the county and state 800 MHz P25 frequencies costs an additional \$17,900.00 for a total cost of \$67,820.00.

Mokena raises water and refuse rates

by Jan Glaz

Village of Mokena adopted Mokena's budget for fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) The new budget considers the cost of providing services to residents and businesses. This includes a \$0.11 per 1000 gallon adjustment for water rates, resulting in a \$.88 per month increase for an average residential customer. John Tomaszoski, Mokena Village Administrator, stated that over the

course of the entire fiscal year, the increase will result in a \$10.56 cost increase for the average household budget.

Administrator Tomaszoski reported a refuse rate increase of \$0.50 per month for townhomes/condos and \$0.56 per month for single family homes. "The budget has again been prepared to continue providing senior citizen households with refuse discounts of approximately \$27 on an annual basis.

"We are continuing the Village's Military Fee Waiver Program for the families of men and wom-

en protecting our freedom and the freedoms of others throughout the world," Tomaszoski concluded. For further information or questions regarding the Village of Mokena Fiscal Year 2021 budget please contact John Tomaszoski, Village Administrator at 708-479-3900.

Meeting endnote: Trustees award a lease contract to "Flock Group, Inc." in the amount of \$24,000 annually to install and support an automated license plate reader (ALPR) camera system in the Mokena community. The lease contract is for a five year period.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 21 | Number 13 | July 7, 2020

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



Palos Heights Farmers Market

Palos Heights records above average Census count

by Jan Glaz

City of Palos Heights Mayor, Robert Straz, announced at the City Council meeting held on June 16th that the City Census 2020 recorded 81.8% of the City's population as responding to the Census. Mayor Straz stated, "That's a fantastic number! The overall State of Illinois Census response is just under 66%. I want to thank everyone for participating, and if you haven't, please do, because it's money per capita from the government to use for the City. It's very important to have everyone counted." Citizens of Palos Heights who have

not yet responded to the 2020 Census can do so online at: <https://my2020census.gov>.

Alderman, Jack Clifford, motioned at the city council approved an agreement with "Kids Around the World, Inc." to donate old playground equipment from Palmer Park, 123rd Street and South 73rd Avenue. Kids Around the World partners with other organizations to establish playgrounds in poverty-stricken communities, restoring the opportunity for kids to enjoy the kind of play that is key to their

physical, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development. For further information about Kids Around the World programs please visit their website at: www.kidsaroundtheworld.com.

Noteworthy news: Mayor Straz announced the opening of the 'Palos Heights Farmers Market'. The market will be open from June 17th to October 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the area of 122nd and Harlem Avenue. Due to Covid-19 there are new Shopper Guidelines that all customers must follow when coming to the Market.

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Palos Heights Library reopening

The Palos Heights Library is excited to welcome Palos Heights patrons back into the building with limited hours and services beginning July 6th.

Our temporary hours will be: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am to 5 pm; Tuesday & Thursday: 11 am

to 7 pm; and Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm.

Extra precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of patrons and staff. All visitors will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Cleaning practices are being increased, and all returned items are being quarantined before being put back into circulation. Services that do not allow for adequate safety and

cleanliness will be limited.

Available services include: material returns and checkouts; curbside pickup; homebound delivery; reference and reader's advisory; copying, faxing, scanning and printing documents (staff-assisted); and computer and WiFi use (one hour per person per day).

Palos Heights Public Library is at 12501 S 71st Ave/ For more information call 708.448.1473.



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 47 | Number 1 | July 7, 2020

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



Evergreen Park's Farmers Market is open

Evergreen Park's Farmer's Market has grown in popularity amongst residents and vendors alike. The 2020 Farmer's Market is open on Thursday's, and will continue through October from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm at Yu-

rich Field, 89th and Kedzie Avenue, Evergreen Park.

Shoppers can find an abundance of fresh fruits, vegetable, flowers, and much more. Twice a season the South Division Credit Union hosts a shred

day allowing residents to shred private documents. Applications for a vendor's permit can be obtained through the Office of Citizen Services at 3450 West 97th Street or by calling (708) 422-8776.

Car stickers for Village of Justice

Residents and businesses of the Village of Justice may purchase their 2020/2021 Vehicle Stickers. Any questions, please feel free to contact us at 708-458-2520. The deadline to purchase your vehicle sticker has been extended until July 31, 2020.

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. It helps them know who resides here to help keep the community safe.

Residents and businesses can purchase a vehicle sticker via online, mail-in payment the drop box lo-

cated at the Justice Village Hall at 7800 Archer Road, Justice.

Important Note: The Justice Police Department does NOT sell vehicle stickers. The online, mail-in and drop box payments must be received by July 15th. Remember to purchase the 2020/2021 vehicle sticker by July 31. If purchased late, vehicle sticker fees double.

New residents and new vehicles: After the renewal season, all licensed motor vehicles are required to display a municipal vehicle sticker within 30 days of becoming a resident or purchasing a vehicle. After 30 days, a 100% penalty will apply. For new residents, proof of residency and a valid registration is required to obtain a village sticker without paying a penalty. For new vehicles, a bill of sale and a valid registration for temporary

or permanent plates is required to obtain a village sticker without paying a penalty. Payment can be made online at www.villageofjustice.org.

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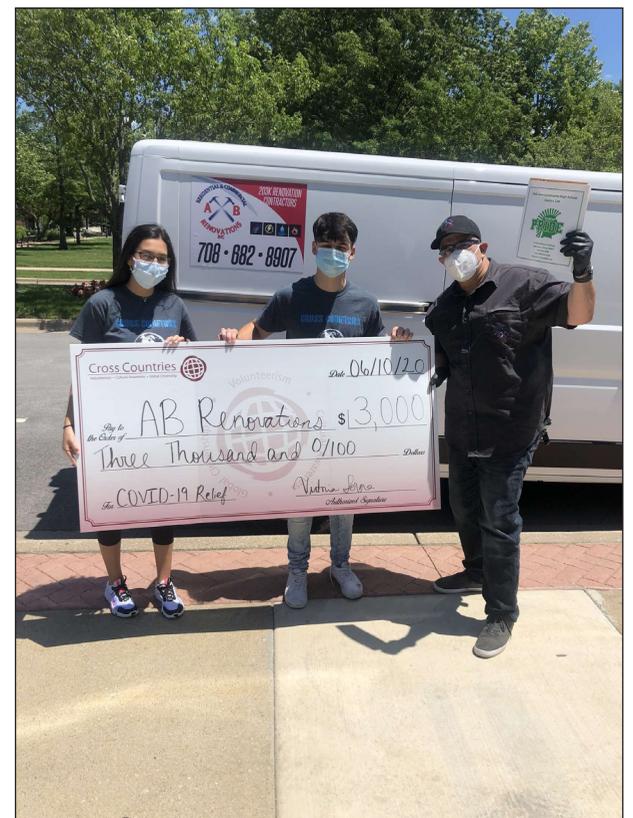
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Oak Lawn 'Cross Countries' Group Organizes Pandemic Relief For Local Businesses

The Oak Lawn Community High School "Cross Countries" organization coordinated a relief effort to benefit local Oak Lawn businesses. Since late April, the "Locked Down... But Not Out" virtual fundraiser has helped to raise money for Oak Lawn residents hit hardest by the global Covid-19 pandemic. This initiative was centered around a GoFundMe campaign in partnership with the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce.

Unfortunately, the local business shutdown has affected many community members and their families. To support employees of these establishments during this difficult time, students from Oak Lawn Community High School undertook an enormous challenge. Although not physically able to meet, they came together to raise money for those in need. These dedicated difference-makers used social media, as well as an effective marketing strategy, to generate just over \$6,000 in donations. The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce then provided a matching gift to bring the overall total to \$12,000.



Local businesses hoping to receive a portion of these proceeds were placed into a blind lottery. From this pool, four establishments were randomly selected. Each was gifted \$3000 to provide their employees with some small measure of comfort and assistance. The Cross Countries Executive Board presented each business owner with their monetary award this past week. Recipients included Style 95 Barber

Shop, Lyla Jewelers, AB Renovations, and Art Clay World USA.

Cross Countries is a student-led service group at Oak Lawn Community High School in Oak Lawn, Illinois. It was established in 2004. The club has raised over \$250,000 to help fund local and global causes, including hospital construction overseas as well as homelessness and special needs awareness right here in our community!

Evergreen Park library reopens

Evergreen Park Public Library, 9400 S Troy, welcomes the community back to the library in July at 10 am, for only Evergreen Park Library Card

Holders.

Seniors and vulnerable individuals are encouraged to visit from 10 to 11 am.

Browse our collection, use computers, scanner, fax, and copier, and reserve study rooms.

Face coverings and social distancing are re-

quired. Curbside pickup and home delivery service continues through the summer.

Library hours are Mon-Fri, 10 am to 6 pm; Sat, 10 am to 2 pm. Or call 708.422.8522 or visit our website at evergreenparklibrary.org or 9400 S. Troy Ave, Evergreen Park, IL.

Orland Park Police Chief Timothy McCarthy announces his retirement

After 26 years of dedicated service to the Village of Orland Park as Chief of Police, Chief Timothy McCarthy has announced to Village officials his intention to retire. Chief McCarthy will retire effective August 1, 2020, allowing ample time for a transition period within the Police Department prior to his departure.

The Chief's efforts have focused on transforming Orland Park's Police Department into a 21st century model with an emphasis on transparency and robust community engagement efforts. Under the Chief's leadership, the Police Department has engaged in a more collaborative approach to village-wide

initiatives such as addressing mental illness through the implementation of the department's nationally recognized Crisis Intervention Team focusing on response to mental health related incidents. In 2017, the Department was the first agency internationally to complete the International Association of Chiefs of Police's One Mind Campaign Pledge to enhance the interaction between law enforcement and those affected by mental illness.

McCarthy and the Orland Park Police Department are actively involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and fundraising for Illinois Special Olympics. The Orland Park

"(Chief McCarthy) will be sorely missed by everyone."

Mayor Keith Pekau

Police Department was the first municipal police agency to receive a certificate of authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration for the use of a drone.

"Chief McCarthy, a long-time Village resident, has faithfully and diligently served the Village as its Chief of Police," said Mayor Keith Pekau. "He has provided steadfast and dependable leadership to the men and women of the Orland Park Police Department throughout

this entire period. I have appreciated and benefitted from his wise counsel since I've joined the Village as Mayor and remain thankful to have served the community alongside the Chief who has always been a consummate professional," said Pekau.

In May 1994, Chief McCarthy was appointed as Chief of Police of the Orland Park Police Department. Prior to that, Chief McCarthy worked for the U.S. Secret Service. His career included eight years

assigned to the Presidential Protective Division in Washington D.C. and 14 years as a criminal investigator in Chicago. On March 30, 1981, McCarthy distinguished himself while protecting President Ronald Reagan when he was shot in the line of duty during an assassination attempt. McCarthy recovered from serious injuries and returned to work. He was promoted to several supervisory positions in the U.S. Secret Service prior to retiring in October 1993 as the Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Field Office.

"While he will be sorely missed by everyone," said Pekau, "I know he is looking forward to spending



Timothy McCarthy

more time with his wife of 47 years, three children, and seven grandchildren while seeking new opportunities to continue to serve his community and his country."

Upon Chief McCarthy's retirement, Deputy Police Chief Joseph Mitchell will be appointed Interim Chief of Police.

Cook County property taxes

Second Installment Cook County property tax bills will start to arrive in mailboxes and property owners have until October 1, 2020, to pay without any late charge, Treasurer Maria Pappas said.

The Second Installment is due August 3, but property owners can pay without any interest charge through October 1, 2020, thanks to an ordinance urged by Pappas and passed by the Board of Commissioners in May.

"Because of the pandemic, many homeowners and business people are juggling their bills, worried that

they will have to let one bill drop," Pappas said. "Now they have extra time without paying extra money in late fees."

Property owners can start making partial payments to avoid one big payment on October 1. Any balance due after that date will be charged 1.5 percent per month, as required by state law.

To download a copy of your tax bill or to make a payment, visit cookcountytreasurer.com, select the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free," and search by property address or enter your Property Index Number (PIN). There is no fee if you pay from your bank account

Second Installment bills include any property tax reassessments and exemptions calculated by the county assessor and tax rates calculated by the county clerk.



Mail ballot application

Due to COVID 19, all 2020 General Election vot-

ers are encouraged to cast a ballot prior to Election Day on November 3, either by mail or during early voting.

Any registered suburban Cook County voter may request a mail ballot using an online application at: www.mailvoting.cook-countyclerk.gov.

Once your application is verified, you will be sent a paper ballot to the mailing address you give. The deadline to apply is five days before an election.

To complete this application, you will need: your driver's license or state identification number or the last four digits of your Social Security Number; the address where you would like your ballot

mailed; and an e-mail addresses.

Please note: Making a false statement to obtain a mail ballot or soliciting someone to do so is considered vote fraud, a criminal offense punishable by up to five years in prison. To report vote fraud, call 312.603.0942.

ComEd announces COVID-19 package to aid customers

To help families and communities recover from

the economic challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, ComEd, the staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) and a broad group of stakeholders worked to develop a comprehensive customer support package.

Customers who are challenged in paying their outstanding balances and electric bills should contact ComEd's customer care team as soon as possible at 800-334-7661, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to take advantage of new and existing assistance options. More information is also available at ComEd.com/CARE.

Deadline for income tax filing, payment is July 15

Today, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is reminding taxpayers that state individual income tax returns and payments are due July 15, the same date set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for federal returns. Taxpayers who have yet to file their 2019 state individual income tax returns must act by July 15 to avoid penalties and interest. Governor JB Pritzker extended the tax filing season three

months from the normal due date of April 15 to help Illinois taxpayers experiencing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The extended income tax deadline is just over a month away and taxpayers still needing to file a return should prepare today," said IDOR Director David Harris. "With the COVID-19 pandemic still causing many households financial difficulties, we encourage taxpayers expecting refunds to file soon and make full use of any credits and deductions legally available to them."

As of June 15, over 4.99 million taxpayers have filed

their state individual income tax returns despite having the extension option; this represents 81% of the total state individual income tax returns the department anticipates. IDOR has successfully processed over 3.3 million refunds to date. As part of a revised revenue estimate released in April, the Governor's Office of Budget and Management projected the extension would defer approximately \$1 billion in general fund revenue to Fiscal Year 2021.

IDOR reminds taxpayers that the fastest, most secure way to receive a refund is to file a tax return electronically and request direct deposit

into a checking or savings account. Taxpayers may file and pay their IL-1040 for free through MyTax Illinois. Taxpayers who have already filed a return can check their status by using the Where's My Refund? link located at www.MyTax.Illinois.Gov.

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2019 tax year, please visit IDOR's website at: tax.illinois.gov. IDOR offices are currently closed to the public; taxpayers needing assistance can contact the department by phone at 800-732-8866 or via email (addresses available at tax.illinois.gov).

Thank you for reading.

This paper is out because of you, the customer.

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e-mailed to vnnew@sbcglobal.net

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

Moraine Valley offers free COVID-19 contract tracer course

Moraine Valley Community College's free, one-week online beginner essentials course introduces you to the role of contact tracers and how they are essential in controlling the spread of COVID-19.

A contact tracer locates COVID-19 patients and

works to identify people with whom they have been in close contact with so they can be located. Tracers coordinate with state and/or federal officials working safely from their home and are not in physical contact with patients.

New sections of the self-

paced class start July 13, July 20 and July 27. The curriculum covers an overview of COVID-19 and its symptoms; COVID-19 testing; contact tracers' roles and responsibilities; communication guidelines and preparing for an interview; and, potential chal-

lenges and how to address them.

For questions about COVID-19 Contact Tracer Beginner Essentials, call (708) 974-5735 or email communityeducation@morainevalley.edu. To register for classes, call (708) 974-2110.



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CPR Class with Mokena Fire Protection District

The Mokena Fire Protection District offers monthly CPR classes for the public. Fee covers books, materials, and instructor fees (non-refundable).

Cost is \$40 for community CPR, and \$50 for healthcare CPR. Certification will be from the American Safety & Health Institute.

Students are instructed in adult, child, & infant CPR and AED. A CPR card is issued to all those who successfully complete the course. The card is valid for 2 years.

Location: Mokena Fire Station #1, 19853 S. Wolf Road

Class Time: 6:00 to 9:30 PM (Monday nights)

To register: online at www.mokenafire.org or at Station # 1 Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Community Blood Drive in Oak Forest

Join the Oak Forest Rotary Blood Drive on Saturday, July 11 at the Oak Forest Park District, 15601 S. Central, in the Community Room from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

To encourage social distancing, please make an appointment at www.versiti.org/IL or call Jody at 630-297-1902. Walk-ins are welcome as the schedule allows.

As per state mandate, please bring a photo ID and please wear a mask or face-covering to the blood drive.

Recovery CR program

Celebrate Recovery (CR) is resuming on Tuesday nights weekly beginning on July 7, 2020, at Calvary Church Oak Lawn, 10056 S. Central Ave., Oak Lawn.

This is a Christian 12-step program based on the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes. Together, we will support each other as we work on our hurts, hang-ups and habits which include among others: anger management, addictions, marital difficulties, control, unforgiveness, poor self-esteem, finances, etc. Featured are weekly lessons or testimonies, large group worship, and small group sharing.

Free.

Temperatures will be taken, masks must be worn, physical distancing is required, and only bottled water is available. For more information call 312-307-0776.



A valued employee retires

We say "Farewell" to Mary Walsh after over 14 years with Tinley Park's park district! She began her career with the district as a substitute teacher prior to joining the Tot Time faculty 14 years ago. For the past six years Mary was the Tot Time Preschool Coordinator.

Mary always had a smile on her face and a positive outlook. She will be greatly missed by all. We thank Mary for her years of service and contributions to the Park District. Best wishes for a happy retirement, Mary!

State minimum wage increases

Illinois' minimum wage will make its second increase this year to \$10 per hour beginning July. The Illinois Department of Labor urges minimum wage earners to make sure their checks reflect the increase.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation passed by the General Assembly providing a path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Minimum wage earners received the first increase of \$1 to \$9.25 per hour Jan. 1.

Prior to the January increase, the last time Illinois increased its minimum wage was a decade ago. In 2010, the minimum wage was raised from \$8 to \$8.25 per hour. Cook County has a higher minimum wage than the state, with the Cook County minimum wage increasing to \$13 per hour beginning July 1, 2020. The City of Chicago minimum wage will also increase July 1, to \$13.50 per hour for small employers (4 to 20 employees) and \$14 per hour for large employers (21 or more employees).

The state's minimum wage is scheduled to increase an additional \$1 per hour each year on January 1 until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2025.

"While IDOL fully expects employers to abide by the new minimum wage, it is important for workers to inspect their checks to make sure they reflect the increase," said Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor.

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 a minimum of 60% of the hourly minimum wage. These workers must still earn the minimum wage after receiving tips.

Workers under 18 and who work fewer than 650 hours in a year earn a minimum wage of \$8 per hour.

Learn more at www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/FLS/Pages/minimum-wage-law.aspx.

Check out our website at vnew.com

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Wiffle Ball tournament returning to Midlothian



The World Wiffle Ball Championship will make its return to Memorial Park in Midlothian this September 19 and 20. In its 41st year, the World Wiffle Ball Championship is the longest running Wiffle Ball tournament in the world.

In 1980, the tournament originated in Mishawaka, Indiana and later called Skokie, Illinois home for several years before settling in the Chicago Southland region, where the game has a large following. Wiffle Ball is played with plastic bats and Wiffle balls on miniature fields. Teams consist of five players and can be made up of players of all ages.

Each participating team is guaranteed to play four preliminary games with qualifying teams advancing to a single-elimination tournament. Last year, nearly 60 teams from 12 different states competed in the tournament, with the World Championship title going to the Cult West Warriors out of South Bend, Indiana after eight innings.

"We are looking forward to welcoming back the World Wiffle Ball Championship to the Chicago Southland area. This tournament is always a fun opportunity for both players and fans," said Jim Garrett, President/CEO of the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau.

This year, the World Wiffle Ball Championship has partnered with Oddball, a new platform that will feature live streams and interviews with players around the country. This also serves as an opportunity to re-introduce the game to adults who haven't played Wiffle Ball since they were children.

"We are thrilled to bring the Championship back to Midlothian this year. We hope to provide everyone who plays with a fun, safe environment to get back in touch with their inner child, have some laughs and maybe get those competitive juices flowing," said Mike Baniak, Commissioner of the World Wiffle Ball Championship. "We are grateful for our partnership with the Chicago Southland CVB, Midlothian Park District and, now, the Oddball platform which all give us the opportunity to help grow the game we love both in Chicagoland and nationwide."

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official destination management and marketing organization for Chicago's 62 south and southwest suburbs. The CVB markets the Chicago Southland region as a meetings and conventions, group tours, sports and leisure event destination. For more information, go to VisitChicagoSouthland.com.

Lincoln Park Zoo has reopened

The Lincoln Park Zoo has reopened to the general public. Reservations are required and available every hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a suggested two-hour limit per visit. Face masks are required, and social distancing measures are encouraged. All indoor habitats are closed. Admission is free. Visit <http://lpzoo.org>.

However, in order to limit capacity and support social distancing, free admission reservations are now required. If you need

to change or cancel your reservation, please use the links provided in your confirmation email.

Zoo members simply enter the first three digits of your member ID to unlock access to members-only days and timeslots. Remember to bring your membership card when you visit. Not a member? Join today at lpzoo.org/membership.

The zoo is following city and state guidelines to ensure the safety of our guests, staff, and animals.



You'll have to make a reservation and wear a face mask, but you can again go see the rhinos at Lincoln Park Zoo.

Throughout the zoo, facial coverings will be required for those over age 2 and medically able, and social distancing will be observed.

Please note upon reopening, grounds only will be open. Most buildings, including animal

buildings, will remain closed until further notice.

If you need help with your reservation, please call 312-742-2000. Lincoln Park Zoo, which is located at 2400 N. Cannon Drive, Chicago, IL 60614.

Burbank Chamber of Commerce awards scholarships

The Burbank Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 John F. Fitzgerald Scholarship awards.

The Chamber provides one scholarship to each of our two high schools in Burbank, St. Laurence and Reavis. The top student from each school who resides in Burbank is provided with a certificate of recognition and a monetary award to help in furthering their education.

The Chamber relies on events throughout the year to help support this endeavor. Three raffles were organized, the 2019 golf outing held last August supports this year's scholarships and the 2020 Membership Drive.

The Chamber also invited sponsors for the Scholarship event which this year we proudly received from McDonald's, 5355 W. 79th St., Burbank. This sponsorship/



donation was added to the financial awards given to the students.

We are thankful that although due to Covid-19, we were unable to hold our annual luncheon that brings together our students, their counselors and representatives from the schools and communities, we were still able to continue the tradition of the scholarships being awarded to these deserving students.

St. Laurence High

School graduate Meagan Hecker was recognized as one of this year's recipients. She is a decorated senior as a 2019 Illinois State Scholar, a member of the "A" Honor Roll and ranked top in her class. In athletics, she was a captain for the girls' basketball and softball teams, an Academic All-Conference Student-Athlete in both sports and All-Conference for Softball. In extracurricular activities, she was the secretary of

the National Honor Society and a senior class representative for Student Council.

Matt Diaz, Reavis High School is also a recipient of the 2020 Scholarship. Matt was the drum major and section leader in the marching band. He was a 4-year member of Jazz band and orchestra pit. He was president of Mathletes where he led his team to two conference championships. He was captain of Scholastic Bowl and President of National Honor Society and science club. He was named all-conference for golf, named an Illinois State Scholar and is co-valedictorian of the class of 2020.

We are proud to present Meagan and Matt with this year's certificates of recognition and scholarship awards and wish them both ongoing success in their educations.

Oak Lawn Park District outdoor fitness classes & splash pads

Oak Lawn Park District Outdoor Fitness classes are being offered at the Community Pavilion and the Oak View Center.

Community Pavilion classes will be held at the Oak Lawn Park District Centennial Park Softball

Fields (9401 S. Oak Park Ave.). The fee for residents is \$8 and non-residents are \$9. Registrants should bring an exercise mat, water bottle, towel, and any weights from home (two water bottles can be used as a substitute for weights).

Oak View Center classes will be held outside of the facility located at 4625 W. 110th St.

For fitness class details, visit www.olparks.com. Registration required. Register online or at the Community Pavilion, 9401 S.

Oak Park Ave., or at the Oak View Center. Please email dscholl@olparks.com with any Community Pavilion fitness questions and email msinkewich@olparks.com with any Oak View Center fitness questions.

Great news! All water features and splash pads are open and running. Memorial Splash Pad will be open on or around July 8th.

Capacity is limited to 50 people and individuals must follow social distancing guidelines as well as all other applicable DCEO and

Illinois Department of Public Health guidance. People not using the water feature must wear a mask.

Centennial Splash Pad is going to remain open and free to the public for the remainder of the summer.

It is on a timer and will turn off at 7pm. Patrons will not have access to the locker rooms or bathrooms at Centennial Aquatic Center.

Please respect social distance guidelines and wear masks when not in the water feature.

Curbside pickup available at Oak Lawn Public Library

The Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. is now offering Curbside Pickup available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Curbside Pickup service is for Oak Lawn residents only, and for only Oak Lawn Public Library-owned materials. Items will be held for seven days. All of our items will be quarantined for three days before being returned to circulation.

To place a hold, visit the OLPL catalog (catalog.olpl.org), or call the Library for assistance.

You will receive a phone call or email notice that your items are available. Do not attempt to pick up items before the notice.

Pickup is at the Cook Avenue Library entrance. Pickup parking spaces will be marked.

When you arrive to pick up your reserved items, please call the number (708) 422-4990 and we will bring your items out to you. During curbside hours you may also text our new curbside communicator at 708-931-9030 to coordinate pickup when you arrive.

Please open your trunk after parking. OLPL staff will place items in your trunk in a brown paper bag with your receipt attached. Staff will ask to confirm your identity with your Library card, valid Driver's License, or Illinois I.D.

The Library is NOT accepting donations of any kind currently. For more information regarding instructions for placing holds and picking up materials, please call 708-422-4990, visit www.olpl.org, or use the Ask a Librarian feature.

"Imagine Your Story" Summer Reading Program 2020

Read every day and log your reading for a chance to win prizes through Saturday, Aug. 15 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427

S. Raymond Ave. For every FIVE days of reading you log, you'll receive a virtual badge and a ticket for a gift card drawing from local businesses. Because social distancing is still be in place this summer, our Summer Reading Program schedule is different. We are starting and stopping later, offering only virtual programming, and Youth Services will offer only virtual logging. Adult and Teen participants may use either paper logs or virtual logging.

For more information, please call 708-422-4990, visit www.olpl.org, or use the Ask a Librarian chat icon.

Cool Jazz on a Hot Afternoon

Take a break from the heat and enjoy some seasonal jazz tunes of summer and sunshine with Petra van Nuis at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 12. Registration required. Email addresses are required so that links to virtual content may be sent to registered participants. For more information, please call 708-422-4990, visit www.olpl.org, or use the Ask a Librarian chat icon.

Hurley encourages nominations for Senior Hall of Fame Awards

To honor the impact local seniors have made on the community, state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, is encouraging residents to nominate a senior they know for the Illinois Department on Aging's (IDoA) 2020 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame Awards.

"There is so much we can learn from the older adults in our lives, including our friends, family members and neighbors," said Hurley. "Their meaningful contributions to our neighborhoods, community and state as a whole deserve recognition, which is a positive way to show our support as so many of us have faced hardship in recent months."

Hurley is encouraging area residents to nominate a senior, and Illinois resident

age 65 or older, they know for the 2020 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame Awards. Nominations are accepted in the following categories: community service, education, labor force and performance/graphic arts. The deadline for nominations is Monday, August 31 and can be submitted by visiting the Illinois Department on Aging's website at www.illinois.gov/aging or by calling the Senior Helpline at 800-252-8966. Nominations can also be submitted directly to Rep. Hurley's office by calling 773-445-8128 or emailing RepFranHurley@gmail.com.

"As our community continues to face difficulty due to the COVID-19 pandemic now would be a great time to help uplift and honor a senior you know," continued Hurley. "Honoring the special seniors in our community is a great way to celebrate and support their legacy and recognize the amount of potential that is in each of us."

OSF HealthCare, Smith Village offer grief support

Two of the Southland's leading sponsors of adult support groups, OSF HealthCare and Smith Village, are joining forces to offer a six-week adult bereavement program available via Zoom. The free program will be presented at 1:00 pm Wednesdays from July 15 through Aug. 19, 2020.

Each week, these hour-long sessions dealing with the loss of a relative, friend or close colleague will be led by three experts: Chaplain Dennis Shelton and social worker Jessica Allison MSW, both of OSF HealthCare, and Diane Morgan, Smith Village social service director of long-term care.

"Deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic have touched many more people than in normal times," said Allison. "We thought addressing this topic from three points of view would be greatly beneficial to survivors."

The first meeting will fo-

cus on the grieving process.

Pre-registration is required to participate in the sessions via Zoom, a video conferencing platform for either computers or mobile telephones. To download the software, go to <https://zoom.en.softonic.com/?ex=MOB-575.6>.

To register for the weekly sessions, please call Jessica Allison at 708-229-6913 or email Jessica at jessica.n.allison@osfhealthcare.org. The meeting ID and password needed to participate will be provided.

OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. The OSF HealthCare Ministry includes 14 hospitals throughout Illinois and Michigan. Smith Village is a life plan community in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago.

Change of dates for Centennial Park West Concert Series

Two concerts will take place this year while one will be moved to next summer

The Village of Orland Park will move forward with plans for the highly anticipated Centennial Park West Concert Series, with some adjustments.

"As a community, we have been through many

changes since March, and each has come with adjustments," said Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau. "As we said from the get-go, we intend to be flexible and adjust as needed when it comes to our summer events and activities."

"With that in mind, and in order to ensure a great time for all, the Village has adjusted the dates of the Centennial Park West Concert Series," said Pekau. "This change is being made so that all concerts can still be enjoyed by everyone while also taking into consideration current Illinois Department of Public Health restrictions and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines."

The new concert schedule is as follows: On August 22, we will welcome Tommy James & the Shondells along with

Ides of March featuring Jim Peterik, The Buckinghams, Cryan' Shames, New Colony Six and Shadows of Knight. Then, on September 12 we bring you Classic Rock headliners Blue Öyster Cult along with Mark Farnier's American Band and The Fabulous Thunderbirds.

The last concert featuring 90's headliners Scott Stapp, Filter and Dishwalla will be scheduled for the summer of 2021; new date is to be announced. This concert will be ticketed as a single concert, separately from the two being held in the upcoming months.

Those who have already purchased tickets should call 708/403-5000 to discuss options for the ticket pricing changes. The general public can visit universe.com to purchase tickets online.



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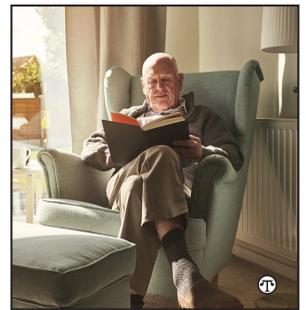
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News for older Americans

(NAPSI) To help the growing numbers of older adults who have questions or need support as the nation weathers the COVID-19 crisis, the Eldercare Locator stands ready to connect people with nearby aging resources available in their communities. Older adults, concerned family members, caregivers and professionals can contact the Eldercare Locator to find information about local aging programs and services that can help address a variety of needs during this national health crisis.

One call to the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116, or a visit to the website at eldercare.acl.gov, can connect you to aging services that can help ensure that older adults can continue to live safely at home during the COVID-19 national health crisis. For more than 20



Older adults and caregivers can contact the Eldercare Locator for information on tools they can use to cope with loneliness and accessing vital nutrition programs during the COVID-19 crisis.

years, the Eldercare Locator has connected older adults, caregivers and the professionals who work with them to local programs that can help meet their needs.

The Eldercare Locator is a free public service of the U.S. Administration for Community Living and is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Find the Eldercare Locator online at eldercare.acl.gov or at 800-677-1116.

Save money and power

(NAPSI) The U.S. Department of Energy estimates 25 to 40 percent of the energy used for heating or cooling a home is wasted. Contaminants in the heating and cooling system cause it to work harder, and shorten its life. Even with filters, the HVAC system still gets dirty through normal use.

A clean system doesn't have to work as hard to maintain the temperature you prefer, it uses less energy and you save money while breathing clean.

So it pays to get your heating and cooling system cleaned regularly. More than just duct cleaning, this involves all the components the air stream touches throughout the system.

According to the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA), proper cleaning of an entire system takes technical skill and attention to detail. That's why it's im-



For healthy air in a healthy home and lower heating and cooling bills, get your HVAC system cleaned.

portant to find a contractor specifically trained and experienced in this type of cleaning. NADCA members possess general liability insurance, are trained and tested regularly, sign on to a code of ethics, and must clean and restore your heating and cooling system in accordance with NADCA standards.

To learn more, visit www.BreathingClean.com. To find a NADCA member nearby, go to <http://nadca.com/en/prosearch/all>.

To see more money-saving ideas, watch the video at <https://youtu.be/hImvx-VyZvQE>.

Pot of Gold Community Garage Sale

Each year over 100 homes participate in this popular event. To get in-

involved with the Pot of Gold Community Garage Sale, in the Village of Worth.

Just register the sale location at the Village Hall by filling out a registration form and pay \$5.00.

The Village will take care of the advertising. Deadline to register is July 6, 2020. No poster or sign advertising your sale shall be placed on any public street, Village parkway, Village sign or light pole.

Garage sale locations will be available July 13, 2020 at the Village Hall and at www.villageofworth.com or call 708-448-1181 The sale is on Friday, July 17, & Saturday, July 18, 2020, from 8am to 4pm.

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rental rather than for their own use. Just under half of surveyed homeowners reported buying a second home primarily for use as a short-term rental.

Regardless of where or why homeowners are buying that second home, they all agree on one thing: Internet access is essential.

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is essential, and British homeowners want access to a swimming pool.

Second-home buyers in the U.S. have also historically been domestically focused. This year, 94% of American second-home owners own a property in the U.S., up from 84% last year. French second-home owners similarly prefer to buy in their own country, with 89% owning homes in France.

More travelers are choosing to stay in vacation rentals instead of hotels or resorts when going on family trips because these offer more space and privacy, better amenities and a chance to stay in some truly unique properties. As a result, the second-home market has changed significantly over the past decade, and homeowners are taking advantage of the opportunity to get income by renting out their property.

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In fact, the average homeowner who rents a second home on Vrbo can earn nearly \$31,000 a year.

"A third of American owners rent their second homes primarily to help cover the cost of the mortgage and taxes, and nearly 40% use rental earnings as a secondary source of income," said Bill Furlong, vice president of Vrbo, Americas. "We've seen many second-home owners turn their property into an income-generating asset by listing it on Vrbo where millions of travelers book vacation rentals each year."

If you're curious to see how much you could make by renting out a second home, you can use the company's rent potential calculator to estimate the rental income of your house. Once you've decided to rent out your home, there are a variety of resources and tools to help you get started, from how to market your rental and attract travelers to your property to optimizing your pricing and bookings, all at www.vrbo.com/lyp.

Renting out your second home can mean extra income for you and your family.

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