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# Village View

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## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 14 | Number 14 | July 21, 2020

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

### Midlothian struggles to complete 2020 Census

by Jan Glaz

During the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees meeting held on July 8th Trustee Karen Kreis reported that neighboring communities are in the high 70's in regard to completing their 2020 Census. Midlothian is brainstorming ideas in an effort to entice and to reach residents who have not responded to the Census.

"The Midlothian Library is helping. I have items to offer, Census 2020 T-shirts, hats and coloring books for children. We're trying to 'get the word out' because Midlothian is coming to the wire and we're only about 70% complete," commented Kreis. Trustee Kreis added that she had 200 face-masks available for free distribution

to residents.

Trustee, Carl Ivan, motioned a request and the board agreed to spend \$1,616.38 for Census mailer inserts to be placed in Village water bills. Trustee Ivan stated, "I'm conducting a social media campaign for the Census that includes family appropriate updates on a weekly basis to our social media. It will include a mailing for the next three months using the attached 'Census Facts' documents with English on one side and Spanish on the other and using our water billing as the platform for the mailing.

"There are 4,750 pieces to be mailed to cover the months of August, September and October water bills. The mailings are on white paper, double-



Left to right, Village of Midlothian Trustee, Carl Ivan and Village of Midlothian Mayor, Gary L'Heureux

sided, using colored ink at a cost of \$1,568.88, plus an amount of \$47.50 for insertion (\$0.01 per piece x 4,750 pieces) that will be billed at actual piece count for a grand total cost of \$1,615.38."

Trustee Kreis informed the board that the 2020 Census would have been promoted at Midlothian's annual events, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic all events have been cancelled to at least the month of October. Trustee Kreis asked Mayor,

Gary L'Heureux, and the board of trustees to please brainstorm ideas in an effort to reach people who have not completed the 2020 Census.

In other official news: The Board of Trustees voted to adopt the Village of Midlothian Budget for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year. Budgeted revenues totaled at \$25,747,075.00; budgeted expenses totaled at \$27,804,350.00. Expenses are in excess of revenue, at a difference of (\$2,574,853.00).

### Alsip cites new budget cuts

by Jan Glaz

Village of Alsip Mayor, John Ryan, announced plans to reduce the Village Budget. The Mayor made note of the decision at the board of trustees meeting held on June 6th. Ryan previously reported that the Covid-19 health crisis triggered massive economic disruption and that the State of Illinois general revenue funds will be revised down \$2.7 billion in 2020 and \$4.6 billion in fiscal year 2021.

Ryan stated, "This means Alsip's budget will need to be reduced as well. The new budget will

eliminate most new purchases for all Village services and a much needed asphalt replacement for all Village properties. Alsip must reduce its spending and anticipate less revenues next year. The Board of Trustees will qualify and approve the 'reduced 2021 budget.'

Meeting approvals: Mayor Ryan introduced a motion and trustees voted to approve Alsip businesses an extension of due date for Video Gaming Licensing to make installment payments for

90 days (approximately \$3000.00 per establishment) as COVID-19 hampered their ability to make their payments when originally due on May 1, 2020. The extension is only being offered in this calendar year.

The board granted a Special Use Permit authorizing the repair and storage of trucks and trailers for the property located at 12400 S. Cicero Avenue; and approved a Special Use Permit authorizing the repair and storage of trucks and trailers for the property

located at 3843 West 128th Place.

Noteworthy news: The Alsip Fire Department has been awarded a 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$62,000 to provide Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies for nine South Suburban Fire Departments including Alsip. The grant will provide 2,250 complete sets of PPE for Emergency Medical Services workers to be distributed to nine South Suburban Fire Departments.

### Blue Island Cooling locations

With the extreme heat of summer upon us, temporary cooling locations in Blue Island are open to the public including: The Meadows Golf Club, 2802 123rd St., Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St., John D. Rita Recreational Center,

2805 W 141st St., and Salvation Army, 2900 Burr Oak Ave.

Please feel free to utilize these cooling centers if needed and be sure to check on your friends and elderly neighbors during the extreme heat.

### Golfers can swing by fore the Moraine Valley Foundation's annual golf outing

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation will host its 39th annual golf outing on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in Lemont. All proceeds will fund student scholarships. Last year, the event sold out, and the Foundation raised \$38,000.

Tickets are \$195 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, and food and beverages throughout the day. Registration opens at 7 a.m., with start time at 8:30 a.m. After a day of golf, participants can enjoy food, beverages and activities at the socially distanced golfers return celebration.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to host one of our first in-person fundraising events since the start of the pandemic. Each year, this is our largest fundraiser to raise money for scholarships," said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Foundation. "We are excited to spend the day with our supporters and raise much-needed funds for our scholarship program."

New this year is a virtual golf ticket, which includes 18 holes of golf and food

vouchers golfers can use at their leisure at Cog Hill. The scores of virtual golf ticket holders and foursomes will be combined with all golfers for the virtual awards ceremony, which will be held at noon on Thursday, Oct. 8. The virtual golf ticket will be valid from Sept. 1 to Oct. 5, 2020, and golfers can use it on Course No. 1 or Course No 3. This year's silent auction also will be virtual and will be open from Sept 1 to 15, 2020.

This golf outing is presented by Live Right Senior Care. Additional sponsors include Platinum, UPS; Gold, DKA, Legat Architects and PepsiCo; Bronze, Heide Wealth Management Group and KI; and Supporting Sponsor, First Midwest Bank. Beary Landscaping is the exclusive Beverage Cart Sponsor, and Kingston Tile Company is a Game Sponsor.

To purchase tickets for the outing and additional information, visit morainevalley.edu/foundation/golf-outing. Additional inquiries can be directed to Lisa Rispoli at (708) 608-4178 or rispolil2@morainevalley.edu.



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## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 14 | July 21, 2020

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

### Mokena introduces Village Garden Walk

by Jan Glaz

On July 18th the Mokena Chamber of Commerce held a first ever fundraiser event the “Garden Walk” comprised of 8 beautiful residential gardens, each with their own unique personality. Village of Mokena Mayor, Frank Fleischer, announced the Garden Walk at the Village of Mokena Board of Trustees Meeting held on July 13th.

“I am donating one free ticket to the first 15 people to call the chamber office at 708-479-2468 and purchase at least one ticket for our ‘first ever’ Garden Walk,” stated the Mayor, and added, “Everyone will be required to sign a hold harmless waiver upon picking up a map.”

The Garden Walk is initiated as a fundraising event this year because most of Mokena’s regular fundraiser’s have been cancelled due to the Illinois Phase I and Phase II Coronavirus

gathering restrictions. The tickets sold for \$18.00 in advance, and \$20.00 at the Chamber of Commerce, located at 11104 Front Street. The first ever Garden Walk is sure to become an annual event.

In other official news: Trustees approved a contractual agreement between the Village and “Wipfli, LLP” to conduct the annual audit of the Village’s financial statements for the fiscal year 2020; and agreed to appoint Mr. John Kelly, an attorney with the firm of Ottosen, DiNolfo, Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. to represent the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners for the purpose of addressing the appeal filed by Christopher Carlson and to authorize the Village President, Frank A. Fleischer, to execute the same.

The Mokena Community Park District announced that registration is open for



Mokena Chamber of Commerce, 11104 Front Street, Mokena IL.

the Village’s Fall Youth Soccer League grade 4 through grade 8. All state and national guidelines will be adhered to. Please check the Park Districts online bro-

chure and catalog for days and times at: <https://secure.rec1.com/mokena-community-park-district>

### Avocado Theory opens in Tinley Park

by Jan Glaz

On July 7th Tinley Park Trustee, Michael Mueller, introduced a request from petitioner and property owner, Krupal Patel, on behalf of Avocado Theory Inc. to redevelop and to expand an existing structure located at 17302 Oak Park Avenue (formally Electric Blue Entertainment) and the board of trustees agreed.

Patel’s proposal will allow for the structure to be reutilized as a mixed-use building. Krupal Patel plans to locate the restaurant, Avocado Theory, on the first-floor and a one-bedroom apartment will be constructed on the second-floor. Mr. Patel is an entrepreneur who sells guacamole at the Tinley Park Farmers Market. He chose the location due to his success at the market.

Patel originally planned to move into the building with just minor exterior work and a covered patio addition. After working with an architect it soon became evident that the building needed significant renovation and more space. The existing building has a total of approximately 1,142 sq. ft. of floor area with a small second-floor space. The interior of the structure is dated circa 1913.

The newly proposed building will be a total of 3,516 sq. ft. including an enclosed patio with roll-up doors, and a second-floor residential unit. The business will include a variety of avocado based fresh, and healthy foods, for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant also plans to have catering for parties.

The board of trustees also approved an Ordinance for a Special Use Permit to allow Delta Sonic Car Wash System, Inc. to expand structures at their existing site, which includes a fuel station, car wash, convenience store, and interior detail center, located at 6800 159th Street.

In other official news: The Village of Tinley Park reminds residents that the ‘Second Installment Cook County Property Tax Bills’ are due August 3rd. Property owners can pay without interest through October 1st as well as start partial payments and avoid one large payment on October 1st. To download a copy of your tax bill or to make a payment, please visit the county treasurer’s website: [www.cookcountytreasurer.com](http://www.cookcountytreasurer.com), and select the blue box labeled “Pay Online for Free”, then search by property address or enter your Property Index Number (PIN). There is no fee if you pay from your bank account.

### Oak Forest supports tax reduction for Fleet Care

by Jan Glaz

On July 14th, Oak Forest Economic and Community Development Director, Travis Bandstra, requested and the City Council agreed to support a renewal application to the Cook County Assessor for a Class 8 Property Tax Incentive Application for Fleet Care, Inc., located at 4234 West 166th Street.

Lawrence Plofsky, property owner, petitioned for the renewal as a necessity for continued occupancy of the property. Bandstra reported the applicant purchased the property in 2011;

was granted Class 8 status and relocated his heavy-duty truck towing and repair business to the location.

Oak Forest city staff reported that Fleet Care, Inc. hosts eight full-time and one part-time employee. The business site is in good condition and does not require any significant new investment and seeing it is a renewal request, no additional investment is planned.

The market value of the property is \$373,290.00. The estimated property tax bill for the assessed value

without Class 8 incentive is estimated at \$93,322.00; with Class 8 incentive \$37,239.99. Property Tax without Class 8 incentive is estimated at \$44,794.00; with Class 8 incentive \$18,040.00.

Fleet Care, Inc. is family owned and operated, has over 50 years’ experience providing 24 hour, seven day, 365 days a year, high quality heavy duty truck wrecker, towing and repair services. For additional information please visit their website at <https://www.fleetcaretowing.com/>

In other official news: Aldermen approved an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) replacement unit in the Sally Port located in the Oak Forest Police Department side of City Hall. The UPS unit that provides backup power to the Police Dispatch room and other important outlets throughout the building required immediate attention. The unit is at the end of its 5 year life span and has no monitoring system. The UPS will be replaced with the same unit purchased recently for the Server/Radio room.

### Residents invited to tax appeal seminar

Join Village Clerk Kristin Thirion and Trustees Michael Glotz and Michael Mueller for a free property tax seminar hosted by Frankfort Township

Assessor Joseph Kral at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 29 in the Kallsen Center at Tinley Park Village Hall, 16250 S. Oak Park Ave. Attendees will be able to learn more about the steps required to navigate the tax appeal process. Please enter on the north side of the building.



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## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 21 | Number 14 | July 21, 2020

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

### OSF HealthCare announces new medical center president

OSF HealthCare is pleased to announce Kathleen Kinsella has been named president of OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center in Evergreen Park.



Kathleen Kinsella

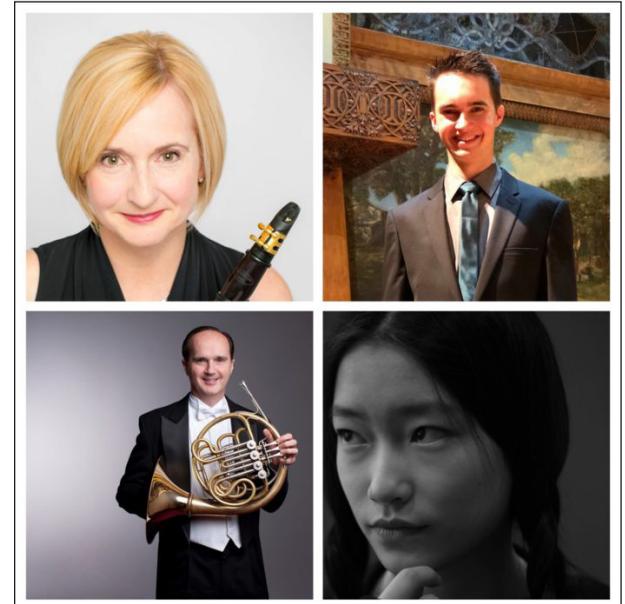
Kinsella has served as the hospital's chief operating officer since 2018 where she was responsible for operational issues with a focus safety and positive clinical outcomes for patients. She was instrumental in facilitating the successful transi-

tion of Little Company of Mary to OSF HealthCare in February.

Has more than 30 years health care experience in ambulatory and hospital medicine consulting and implementing solutions for operational, financial, quality and regulatory issues in varied professional environments. She received her Bachelor of Science in occupational health and safety education from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a Master of Science in health care administration from the University of St. Francis.

"Kathleen is a shining example of our Mission to serve with the greatest care and love and I am thrilled to welcome her into her new role as president of OSF Little Company of Mary," said AJ Querciagrossa, chief executive officer, Metro Region, OSF HealthCare.

Kinsella takes over for John Hanlon, M.D., who is retiring after a nearly 40-year career, the last two years as president of OSF Little Company of Mary.



Susan Warner, clarinet; David Griffin, horn; Henry Griffin, baritone; and Tian Qin, piano.

### McCord to host Popovich watercolor exhibit

McCord Gallery and Cultural Center is excited to announce that award-winning artist, Dale L Popovich, IWS will be having a one-person show titled, "The Lure of Nature: Studies in Watercolor" by Dale L Popovich. The exhibition runs from August 3 to September 4. A reception will be held on Friday, August 7, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Due to the COVID-19 virus, there will also be a virtual opening reception on Facebook Live at 4 pm, where the artist will walk the viewers through the gallery explaining his work in depth. The gallery will be taking purchase requests.

Popovich is a nationally known watercolor artist and art instructor who is passionate about capturing the American landscape's raw beauty with the fluid stroke of a brush. In this exhibition, he will share with the viewer his love of nature and watercolors. The viewer will get a glimpse into his think-

ing process with loose and fluid studies of his work. Studies are the preliminary process an artist goes through before creating final studio paintings. This practice quickly gets the artist's vision down on paper using as few brushstrokes as possible. Popovich efficiently filters out the visual "noise" around him to focus on a subject's essentials. His paintings reflect a certain purity of perception, and this "way of seeing" is the hallmark of his paintings.

Later this year on October 23, 24, and 25, 2020, Popovich will be holding a 3-full day watercolor workshop at McCord Gallery titled The Lure of Nature in Watercolor. He will share his 40 plus years of professional teaching, knowledge, and techniques for beginners and intermediates. His unique step-by-step instruction in transparent watercolor, focusing on large patterns of light and dark using scenes from nature, will allow students to watch,

go back and recreate what was just painted. Students will learn how to build a painting from start to finish while gaining a deeper understanding of the techniques, properties, and tools of transparent watercolor.

Dale will cover all four seasons to explore color temperature, intensity and value. Students will complete five paintings with a critique on the last day. A supply list and photo references will be supplied. Students will leave with new confidence, ability, and understanding.

The workshop fee is \$400 for three days. Only a few spots are remaining. Please call (708) 671-0648 to reserve your spot today.

For information, contact:

McCord Gallery & Cultural Center  
9602 West Creek Road  
P. O. Box 668  
Palos Park, Illinois  
708-671-0648

The website is <http://www.mccordgallery.org>.



### Scholarship honors friend

A new memorial scholarship is being offered for the 2020-21 academic year to a student studying culinary arts at Moraine Valley Community College. The scholarship, created by former faculty members Sharon Fritz and Lenette Staudinger, will honor the memory of their longtime friend, Anne Fuelling.

"Anne was a retired teacher. To have a scholarship in her name really honors her teaching legacy, and that means a lot to me," said her husband, Tom Fuelling.

The scholarship will be awarded to a culinary arts students who maintains a 2.5 GPA, demonstrates financial need and completes an essay describing their educational and career goals.

### 2020 season of IMF's Rush Hour Concerts announced

The International Music Foundation (IMF) is pleased to present the 2020 season of Rush Hour Concerts. Beginning July and continuing every Tuesday through September 22, join IMF for free weekly classical music performances streaming live online at <https://imfchicago.org/programs/rush-hour-concerts/>.

Rush Hour Concerts is an IMF summer program founded by Deborah Sobol, a concert pianist and civic leader, in the Summer of 2000. Rush Hour Concerts revamps the traditional classical music concert format by presenting short, high-quality chamber music performances in an intimate and informal setting, accessible to all. Each free half-hour concert is performed by world-class musicians from Chicago ensembles including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and numerous independent chamber music groups. In previous years Rush Hour

Concerts have taken place as live performances at St. James Cathedral, however, due to COVID-19 and in an effort to prioritize the safety of Chicagoans and visitors alike, IMF has opted to stream this season's Rush Hour Concerts online.

Rush Hour Concert performances will stream live on Tuesdays beginning at 5:45PM at <https://imfchicago.org/programs/rush-hour-concerts/>. Additionally, the performances will also be available on IMF's Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/rushhourconcerts>.

"I'm thrilled that we are able to bring virtual Rush Hour Concerts to our loyal Chicago audience as well as audiences worldwide this summer. This year we are featuring some of Chicago's best classical musicians in performances of great time-honored masterpieces along with exciting newer works for chamber ensembles," said Mark Riggelman, executive director.



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## SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 47 | Number 2 | July 21, 2020

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

### Justice trustee voices tavern concern

by Jan Glaz

Officials in the Village of Justice passed a motion 4-2 to issue a business license to Artillery LLC, located at 8507 S. 88th Avenue, to operate as a tavern, contingent on the location passing all inspections. Trustee, Ed Rusch Jr., and Trustee, Henry Oszakiewski, voted against the move.

Trustee Rusch previously voiced concern stating, in part, "I truly believe the board supports the establishment of a strong business community but the question is: Will the makeup of a strong business community be better

served with the creation of another bar disguised as a food serving, liquor serving establishment, all for the purpose of wanting gaming to subsidize a bar?"

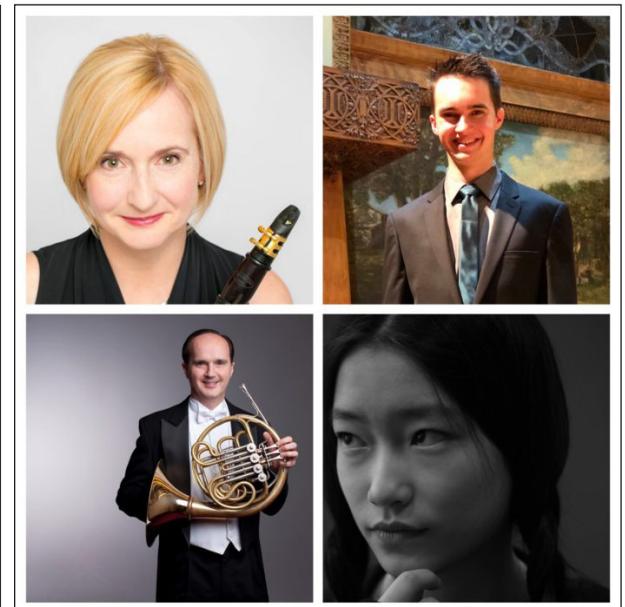
"The license request is to establish a bar, not a tavern, a bar that is approximately 150 feet of another bar. The petitioner's proposal is to acquire a liquor license to be able to apply for another gaming license. For the sake of sound, proper, representation of economic development, I encourage the board to vote no on the creation of an additional liquor license."

In regard to Artillery LLC, Trustee Melanie Kuban requested and the board approved 4-2 an Ordinance 2020-25 Amending Chapter 3, Business Regulations, Article IV, Alcoholic Liquor, by Amending Section 3-88, Number of Licenses. Trustee, Ed Rusch Jr. and Trustee Henry Oszakiewski voted against the move.

Trustees agreed to authorize a home occupation license to Highlander Construction & Design, operating a home office for a construction business located at 7341 Banks Street, in Justice. Two Resolutions

met with approval to apply for the 'Rebuild Illinois Competitive Public Infrastructure Program' for the Marion Drive Drainage Project and for the 75th Street and Cork Avenue Drainage Project.

The State of Illinois has allocated \$25,000,000 in 'Rebuild Illinois' funds to the competitive Public Infrastructure component. A grant ceiling of \$5,000,000 per project has been established. The grant objective is to provide grant funding that can improve economic growth in Illinois communities.



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### St. Laurence names Brian Herman Director of Fine Arts



St. Laurence is excited to name Brian Herman the school's Director of Fine Arts.

Mr. Herman was responsible for the resurrection of the school's drama program, launching the "STL Players" in 2017. Since its inception, the group has attracted more students and grown year over year. As a result, Mr. Herman now directs two performances per school year, one in the winter and one in the spring. Additionally, the group annually participates in the Illinois High School Association's Drama & Group Interpretation competition. On top of the extracurricular activities, Mr. Herman also leads St. Laurence's Drama and Acting elective courses.

"I believe the fine arts are

an integral part of educating the whole child," said Herman. "I am excited to continue to develop and grow programs that inspire our students to display their creativity and sharpen their skills. It is an honor and a privilege to lead the Fine Arts Department at St. Laurence High School."

A resident of Burbank, Mr. Herman earned his Master's of Education in Administration and Supervision from Loyola University Chicago in 2019. He also holds a Master's of Education Reading Specialist from Olivet Nazarene University and a Bachelors of Science in Education from Saint Xavier University.

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Kinsella takes over for John Hanlon, M.D., who is retiring after a nearly 40-year career, the last two years as president of OSF Little Company of Mary.

## Orland Park discontinues After School Pals

by Jan Glaz

On July 6th the Village of Orland Park voted to discontinue an After School Pals (ASP) program at the onset of the Fall 2020 season. Orland Park staff reported that discontinuing the ASP will result in an estimated yearly expense savings of approximately \$99,722 and a revenue loss of \$98,359, based on the average expenses/revenues in years 2017-2019. Currently, District 135 is beginning an after school program known as "STARS" in all District schools beginning fall 2020.

The "STARS" program will run 5 days a week and will be in session on holidays. Enrollment and revenues are likely to decline for the Village's ASP program due to District 135 offering its own in-house program. Since Village staff transported ASP students from District 135 buildings to the Cultural Arts Center the liability to the Village will cease with the termination of ASP program. Participants in the ASP program will be referred to District 135's "STARS" program.

Noteworthy news: Orland Park President, Keith Pekau, and the Board of Trustees, passed a Resolution declaring the Village's 2020 events - September 6, Concerts in the Park; the July 31, August 1, and August 2, Taste of Orland Park; the August 22 and September 12, Centennial Park West Concert Series; the September 19, Brewfest; and the September 26, Great Pumpkin Party (rain date October 3, 2020) will be held with Covid-19 modifications. Specific guidelines for each event will be set

forth by the Recreation Department of the Village of Orland Park.

In addition, Trustees agreed to pass a Resolution regarding free Centennial Park West Concert Series

Tickets for First Responders, Medical Healthcare Workers, and Military Members. Additional tickets to family members of first responders, medical health care workers, and military members will be available at a discounted resident rate of \$50 each for the Concert Series.



MWRD Board of Commissioners

## MWRD supports LGBT and disabled small business policy

After nearly a year of comprehensive research, analysis and inclusive discussion among various stakeholders, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners approved two new policies that will promote opportunities for small business enterprises owned and operated by both members of the LGBT community and persons with disabilities.

Under these policies, LGBT business enterprises (LGBTBE) and business enterprises owned and operated by persons with disabilities (BEPD) will have the opportunity to attend MWRD vendor fairs, events, meetings and other activities that foster business opportunities.

"Action by the MWRD Board of Commissioners marks a continuation of MWRD policies toward inclusion and opportunity," said MWRD Commissioner Marcelino Garcia III. "We are not only establishing new LGBTBE and BEPD policies, but we're also setting up the framework for data collection to ensure we can build a solid policy that creates future generations of opportunity for small business owners looking to join us in protecting our water environment."

For decades, the MWRD has expanded and amended business opportunities for small and disadvantaged business owners. The LGBTBE and BEPD policies are now included in established MWRD policy that assists small business

enterprises that are owned and operated by minorities, women, and veterans. The policy outlines that the MWRD will collect outreach and data to learn more about LGBTBEs and BEPDs in the MWRD's service area, which covers 882 square miles of Cook County and serves 10 million people daily, including 5.25 million residents. The MWRD will also explore an appropriate certification process for LGBTBE and BEPD vendors.

"As a public agency, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District has an obligation to ensure equity and fairness in all of its operations, including procurement," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore.

In February, the MWRD Board of Commissioners and staff held a study session to invite the business community and members of the public to voice their input into crafting inclusive policy.

"The LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois is incredibly proud of the leadership shown by President Commissioner Kari Steele and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District," said Jerome' Holston, director of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, who attended the MWRD study session in February. "With this simple yet significant move, the MWRD has expanded access to business opportunities to both LGBTQ+ and disabled owned businesses, ensuring that even more marginalized communities have chances to compete for MWRD spending."

## A message from the Mayor of Evergreen Park

Hello Friends,

Can you believe we are entering the tail end of July already? And with that, every season, we see everywhere the slogan "Back To School"! That phrase has a little different tone this year, doesn't it? As of this writing, schools are scheduled to be back in session in August.

I want you to be aware that we have had long conversations with our two wonderful school districts. As you know, we as a Village have no governing power over our school districts, as they are their own governing entities. However, we have always had great communication with Superintendent Tom O'Malley at the High School, and now we welcome Dr. Lela A. Bridges Webb and Dr. Margaret Longo as Co-Superintendents of District 124.

They are doing an incredible job preparing the students for a return to school in what will be a very different kind of school year. If you have any questions at all about the safety procedures being put in place to protect our kids, I highly recommend you direct your questions and fears away from social media chat sites and go directly to the schools themselves. I am confident that they will ease your concerns. And in a couple of weeks, I will write a letter here for the kids themselves, from me to them.

As you know, our restaurants and stores are now open to limited capacity. Please continue to use them, for carryout, or dine-in if you feel comfortable doing so. However, we are not out

of the woods yet with this pandemic and may not be for a while. Please practice your social distancing, and above all, wear a mask in a public place. It is not a political issue. It is an issue of protecting yourself, and moreso, the people around you who are doing THE SAME THING out of respect and concern for YOU.

And if you ever witness one of these businesses violating the safety guidelines, as mandated by the Illinois Department of Public Health... let us know immediately. Those violators need to know that if the IDPH comes down on them (and the IDPH has started onsite inspections), those businesses will be shut down until Phase 5. And that will be a long time from now. So, if they think they had it rough from March to June,

well ... you get the picture. Evergreen Park cannot afford to lose them.

However, it doesn't have to be all doom and gloom. We have done very well here through this and I know we will continue to do so. We are in bright days of summer and we are finding ways to enjoy things local, especially outside in our parks, or in the comforts of your back yards.

Lastly ... if you haven't completed your census form, please do so as soon as possible! That will go a long way in helping Evergreen Park continue to grow and be a wonderful place for your family.

Once again ... please have a safe and happy weekend. It's going to be very hot, so please check on your neighbors!

Mayor James Sexton

Check out our website at [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 [vvnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vvnew@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.

## Pappas: Stay home, use website

Homeowners and business people can avoid a trip downtown by taking care of their property taxes at [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com), including making payments, searching for refunds and verifying tax exemptions, Treasurer Maria Pappas said.

"Stay home!" Pappas said. "Millions of people are still staying home and you should, too. Homeowners and business people can conduct all their business on my website."

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. Partial payments are accepted.

In addition to making a payment, property owners may use [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) to search \$75 million in available refunds going back 20 years, apply for a refund, see if you are missing out on \$34 million in senior exemptions, and more.

Any balance due after October 1 will be charged 1.5% per month, as required by law.

**MARIA PAPPAS SAYS**

# **Stay Home**

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- **Search \$75 million in available refunds**
- **Search \$34 million in missing senior exemptions**

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**Due August 3**

**Pay without penalty through October 1**



## Brookfield Zoo's Annual Zoo Run Goes Virtual

Calling all at-home runners, walkers, and outdoor enthusiasts! Brookfield Zoo's annual Zoo Run is going virtual this year. While participants won't be running past rhinos, giraffes, or Brutus and Titus, the zoo's 4-year-old African lions, they can still support the Chicago Zoological Society Animal Care and Conservation Fund at home while running past squirrels, chipmunks, and birds that inhabit neighborhoods.

Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to partic-

ipate in the virtual 5K race presented by Aquafina and Gatorade, and sponsored by DuPage Medical Group. Youngsters, who are 4 to 13 years old, are invited to participate in a virtual 1-mile Kids' Dash.

Participants can go online to register for the virtual race. Participants will receive a running packet in the mail following registration, which includes a numbered bib to be worn during their run or walk. Participants will choose their own course and are encouraged

to explore the local wildlife that lives in their neighborhoods or parks. Once completed, participants have until September 6 to submit their official run time online to see how their stats match up to other runners in the virtual race.

Registration for the virtual 5k is \$40 and includes a moisture-wicking t-shirt featuring the 2020 Zoo Run logo. The fee for the 1-mile Kids' Dash is \$25. Kids also receive a t-shirt featuring the 2020 Zoo Run logo and a numbered bib. To register,



go to [CZS.org/ZooRun](http://CZS.org/ZooRun).

All proceeds from the 2020 virtual Brookfield Zoo Run will benefit the Chicago Zoological Society Animal Care and Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to making a difference for endangered species across the globe.

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## EPCC Summer Golf Outing August 7

We're delighted to bring back our annual Golf Outing! Please purchase your tickets and invite friends and colleagues to this event, our only fundraiser, on Friday, August 7. Golf 9 holes for fun and fabulous prizes, or just join fellow Chamber

members for food and camaraderie!

The Chamber is seeking sponsors as well as players to join us at scenic Fountain Hills in Alsip. Sponsorship is an effective way to promote your business to civic and business leaders in Ev-

ergreen Park. Opportunities are available starting at just \$125!

You don't have to be a Chamber member to participate; all are welcome! For more information visit our website at <https://www.evergreenparkchamber.org/>

## Upcoming Oak Lawn Park District Activities

The Oak Lawn Park District's 2020 Fall Digital Only Program Guide is now available at [www.olparks.com](http://www.olparks.com). Resident registration begins Monday, July 27th. Non-resident registration begins Monday, August 10th.

Drive-In Movie Nights at the Oak Lawn Park District: Join the Oak Lawn Parks District for new Drive-In Movie Nights, formerly known as Summer Movies in the Park.

Residents can register online at [www.olparks.com](http://www.olparks.com)

to see Frozen 2 on Friday, July 24th and/or Jumanji Next Level (PG 13) on Friday, August 14th outdoors of the Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St.

Limited space is available. Admission fee is either \$5 or \$10 per vehicle.

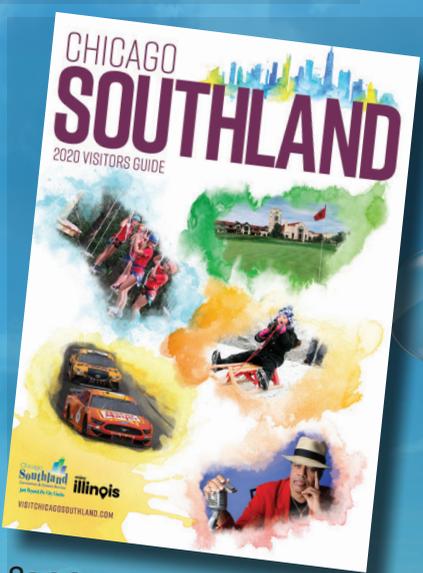
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## State Rep. Hurley Highlights PTSD Awareness Month

To bring attention to the importance of mental health and wellness, State Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, is highlighting Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month and an initiative she recently supported to expand telehealth and mental health services amidst the COVID-19 health crisis.

Hurley has been a continued advocate for mental health and wellness for area residents by regularly hosting Mental Health Mondays throughout the community. Last year, as a part of her

continued work to increase access to mental health resources and support first responders, Hurley passed a legislative package to expand mental health resources available to police officers.

Instrumental in the creation of the First Responders Suicide Prevention Task Force and serves as Co-Chair, and has continually worked with advocates to develop solutions, including Modie Lavin, Senior Family Outreach Coordinator with the Road Home Program, a mental health treatment

program based out of Rush University Medical Center. During the recent emergency special session Hurley also supported Senate Bill 1864, a measure to expand access to telehealth care and mental health care and work toward more affordable insurance for Illinoisans.

I am encouraging residents experiencing anxiety or other mental health issues due to the pandemic or other stressful situations to contact the free Illinois Call4Calm mental health text line by texting TALK to 552-020 to be connected



to a local counselor who can provide information on available resources.

For more information, reach out to Hurley's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or RepFranHurley@gmail.com.

## Stickney Twp. can help answer Medicare, Medicaid questions

Stickney Township as part of the Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) serves as a Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) site to assist older adults and those disabled with Medicare and Medicaid.

See if you qualify for these Medicare cost saving programs: Medicare Part D Extra Help/Low Income Subsidy (LIS); Medicare Savings Programs (helps pay for Medicare Part B premiums and copayments); and Medicaid Assistance

Counseling Provided About: Medicare counseling about Medicare parts A, B, C and D; Medicare Savings Programs; Extra Help & Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs; and Medicaid.

Let Us Assist In: Resolving claim issues; Answering questions about Medicare Summary Notices & Explanation of Benefits letters; and Medicaid Assistance (redeterminations and meeting spenddown)

Stickney Township Office on Aging serves as a member of the Aging and Disability Resource Network for those living within Stickney Township. Due to COVID-19 restrictions office appointments are not available, but all assistance can be completed over the phone for those in need. For assistance or further information please contact Stickney Township at (708) 636-8850.

## Lipinski announces \$212,000 in funding for fire departments

Congressman Lipinski announced recently that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved \$212,445 in funding for the Burbank Fire Department to be used in support of the 11 area fire departments comprising Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 21. The departments in MABAS Division 21 work together to respond to events in any of their respective jurisdictions that overwhelm the capacity of the primary fire department. The funds were provided through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) COVID-19 Supplemental and will allow the 11 local depart-

ments to purchase much needed personal protective equipment (PPE), including facemasks, gloves, and eye protection.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought renewed attention to the dedication and heroism of the brave men and women serving our community as firefighters and first responders," said Rep. Lipinski. "This federal funding allocated by Congress under the CARES Act in late March is designed to give our local heroes the resources they need to continue their important work. In June, I wrote a letter of support to FEMA in support of these 11 local fire departments stressing their importance to our re-

gion."

The PPE purchased using these federal funds will protect first responders and the residents they serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. In their request for funding, the departments indicated that their existing PPE stockpiles had rapidly deteriorated since the beginning

of the pandemic and they lacked the necessary funds to replenish their dwindling reserves.

The 11 fire departments or protection districts are Bedford, Bridgeview, Burbank, Central Stickney, Chicago Ridge, Evergreen Park, Hometown, North Palos, Oak Lawn, Roberts Park and Summit.

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## Vehicle stickers on sale

The 2020-21 Tinley Park vehicle sticker is now on sale.

Residents who choose to buy their stickers at Village Hall will be required to wear face coverings and maintain safe social distancing. The Village Hall lobby floor is marked to designate proper social distancing, which limits the number of patrons to no more than 10 people at one time.

However, the Village strongly urges everyone to mail in their applications and payment to Village Hall or use the drop box located just south of the main entrance instead of coming

in person, as this is the safest and easiest method to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Stickers should be displayed by October 1 and are valid through April 30, 2021. For more information, please call Village Hall at (708) 444-5000 or <http://www.tinleypark.org>.

## Free staycation Bible school

A quarantine-friendly three-day VBS for families at home will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27-29.

Register before July 24 at [www.pilgrimfaith.org/VBS](http://www.pilgrimfaith.org/VBS) or please contact the office 708-422-4200.

## U.S. Postal Service Offers Tips To Stop Dog Attacks On Mail Carriers

(NAPSI) Can you picture a member of your family attacking a mail carrier? Of course, you couldn't, but it happened 5,803 times last year across the nation.

Dearborn, MI, Letter Carrier Tameka Toliver recalls being pinned on a porch by a dog that bit her above her knee. "It happened so fast, even with all my training, I barely had time to react," Toliver told co-workers at an event at the Dearborn Post Office. "I'm still scared when I get close to that house because I remember the attack so vividly. It takes a long time to get over the fear."

When a dog attacks a letter carrier, the dog owner could be held liable for all medical expenses, repayment of lost work hours, replacement of the uniform and other costs, which can run into thousands of dollars. The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority and dedicates a week each year to Dog Bite Awareness. (about.



Contain your canine, keep carriers safe.

[usps.com/what/corporate-social-responsibility/activities/dog-bite-awareness.htm](https://usps.com/what/corporate-social-responsibility/activities/dog-bite-awareness.htm)) Here are four simple tips to prevent dog bite injuries that should be enforced all year round:

**Door Delivery:** If a carrier delivers mail or packages to your front door, place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door. Some dogs burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners should keep the family pet secured. Parents should remind their children and other

family members not to take mail directly from carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may view the person handing mail to a family member as a threatening gesture.

**Electronic Fencing:** Carriers may assume, when they see no physical fence around a property, the property is animal-free. This can be a dangerous mistake. Postal officials request that you keep your dog restrained or inside when the mail is delivered. Although the electronic fence may keep your dog from wandering, it does not protect your Postal Service carrier, who must enter your property to deliver the mail. Even homes with curbside mailboxes may have oversized packages or signature-needed items that require the carrier to approach a doorstep and cross the boundaries of the electronic fence. This poses a serious risk to carrier safety.

**Dog in Yard:** Make sure your dog is properly re-

strained on a leash away from where your mail carrier is delivering the mail. Mail delivery service can be interrupted at an address or neighborhood the carrier deems unsafe because of an unrestrained dog. When service is interrupted at an address or neighborhood, all parties involved will have to pick up mail at their local Post Office. Service will be restored once assurance has been given that the animal will be confined during regular delivery hours.

**Tracking:** Dog owners who have access to postal notification features such as Informed Delivery ([informedelivery.usps.com](http://informedelivery.usps.com)) for letter mail and package tracking are urged to use this as a way to gauge when the carrier is on the way and to ensure the dog is properly restrained. Expecting a postal package delivery on Sunday? Postal officials urge dog owners to restrain their animals on Sundays as well, as more residences are receiving deliveries throughout the weekend.

## Midlothian community garage sale

A list of participating addresses will be available at the Village Hall of Midlothian at 14801 Pulaske Road, Midlothian or on our website at [www.villageofmidlothian.org](http://www.villageofmidlothian.org) on Thursday, July 23, 2020. The community wide Garage Sale is on Saturday, July 25, 2020 from 8am to 5 pm.

For more information or to Register Your Address, please call the Village Hall at 708-389-0200, Option # 6 or email [mkolacki@villageofmidlothian.org](mailto:mkolacki@villageofmidlothian.org). Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Please register no later than Wednesday, July 22nd.

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RV owners are year's surprise financial success story

(NAPSI) Millions of Americans who own an RV have it parked in their driveway or a storage facility for the better part of the year. With many families wary of airplanes and hotels these days, it may be time to consider renting your rig to make some serious cash. According to peer-to-peer RV rental marketplace RVshare, RV bookings have reached unprecedented levels of demand, increasing more than 1,600% since the beginning of April and already tripling 2019 figures. As a result, RV owners are poised to capitalize on the surge of families discovering the unique and adventurous nature of RV travel for the first time. In fact, the average RV owner who rents on the RVshare platform can earn up to \$60,000 a year in rent-

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Jon Gray. "For those who do not own an RV, now may be the time to invest. It's not just pocket change that RV rentals can bring in." You can offset much or all of the cost of RV ownership from rental income. A survey of RV owners found that more than half (51%) are able to cover 76% or more of their RV's financing cost through renting to travelers, with more than a third (35%) covering all or more of their financing cost. RVshare's Earnings Calculator can help evaluate the income potential of renting your RV, and to ease the minds of those new to the practice, RVshare provides

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Age 85, beloved husband of the late Lydia nee Bendik. Loving father of the late Roland. Dear brother of the late Dina Rudys, late Anna Schaefer and the late Otto Pliess. Survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Adolf served in the US Army Reserves. Memorials appreciated to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9000 S. Menard, Oak Lawn, 60453. Interment at Bethania Cemetery. Arrangements by Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park, 708-499-3223.

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