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Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 21 | November 5, 2019

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood



Village of Midlothian Mayor, Gary L'Heureux, presents donation to the Midlothian Luminaria Fund.

Midlothian complies with Cook County Hazard reduction plan

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Midlothian adopted a resolution "Update of the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan" at the Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 23rd. Developing a hazard mitigation plan is a required condition for federal disaster grant assistance. By completing the process Midlothian joins other communities that are in compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act passed by the U.S. Congress on October 10, 2000.

A Mitigation Plan provides the legal framework for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) mitigation planning requirements for state, local and tribal governments and is a condition of grant assistance that places emphasis on the need for pre-disaster reduction of potential hazards.

Because the perfor-

mance period for the Hazard Mitigation Plan is 5 years, the Village's plan adopted in 2014, became due for an update in 2019. Updating ensures a continuing and responsive plan addressing the needs and capabilities of partner jurisdictions when addressing and reducing risk from all hazards through identifying resources and providing strategies. For additional information and an annex of participating municipalities please visit: cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org

Board meeting highlight: Midlothian Mayor, Gary L'Heureux, presented a check written to the Midlothian Luminaria Fund. The Luminaria Fund assists individuals who are in need from surrounding communities. The check, \$5,900.00, represents proceeds from the "2019 Midlothian Char-

ity Golf Outing". Mayor L'Heureux announced, "I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it another successful event this year."

Update on Metro South in Blue Island

New Rep. Rita legislation to re-purpose the hospital in Springfield.

Recently the Illinois House voted 74-35 to support Senate Bill 115, new legislation from state Rep. Bob Rita (D-Blue Island) to help repurpose Metro-South Medical Center in Blue Island after its recent closure.

The legislation Rep. Rita is pushing ahead with in the ongoing fall veto session in Springfield would allow the hospital to reopen as a freestanding emergency center with a properly licensed and qualified health care provider, and ensure the new provider could utilize \$7.8 million in state funds that were already allocated to MetroSouth as part of the state's program to help hospitals transition to different facilities.

Rita told colleagues he is encouraged by conversations with several medical providers after Metro-South's recent closure about ensuring the community's most important health care needs are met, and this legislation will help move that forward.

"This is something that's very important to my district. This is funding that could actually be used to open up this freestanding emergency room and provide some services that the

community needs, versus leaving an empty structure and creating a health care desert for low-income and working families," Rita said in urging passage of the bill on the House floor.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration when the veto session restarts on Nov. 12.

Alsip considers cannabis opportunity

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 21st Alsip Mayor, John Ryan, reported that he attended a legislative meeting at the South Suburban Mayors and Managers offices earlier that morning. Ryan stated, "I want to clarify that we've been having a lot of discussions in regard to the legal sale of recreational cannabis that the State of Illinois has approved beginning on January 1, 2020."

According to the State of Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax-Act authorizing the legal sale of recreational cannabis the first state licenses for cannabis business establishments are anticipated to be issued January 1, 2020 to organizations already operating existing medical dispensaries. The licenses will permit expansion of medical dispensaries into retail sales of recreational cannabis. Under Section 55-25 (paragraph 5) of the Act, Illinois municipalities may enact an ordinance to "opt-out" and prohibit cannabis business establishments from locating in their jurisdiction by the adoption

of a local ordinance.

Mayor Ryan concluded, "The option is not whether to opt-in but whether the Village wants to opt-out. We will have additional discussions at our next committee meeting so that we can bring the issue to the board of trustees in November of trustees in November for an official vote if opting out of the opportunity, and more important, how we're going to zone cannabis establishments if we do allow it."

Board approvals before the meeting adjourned include: Approval to purchase (36) new parkway trees through the Suburban Tree Consortium in an amount not to exceed \$12,342.00 for the fall 2019 planting season; and to have a concrete pad with electricity installed at the Veteran's Plaza to be utilized at Christmas or any other event displays at a cost not to exceed \$5,500.00.



Check out our website at
www.vvnew.com



Blue Island Santa's Train Ride

Trips depart: Blue Island, Vermont Street Metra Station at 2300 W. Grove Street, Blue Island, IL 60406. Sponsor: Blue Island Park District, blueislandparks.org.

Registration required, tickets are on sale now, call (708) 385-3304. Cost: \$15 Residents; \$25 Non-residents.

Children in Blue Island can take the train trip to the South Pole to find Santa Claus. Mrs. Claus will be on the train both ways and Santa will be with the kids on the return trip. There will be holiday songs, treats and a memorable experience for everyone. Don't forget your camera, you'll want pictures of the kids with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Please call for the 2019 dates, if you have any questions call the Blue Island Park District at 708-385-3304.

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Village View

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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 17 | Number 21 | November 5, 2019

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park



Village of Tinley Park 80th Avenue Train Station.

Tinley Park solidifies contract for License Plate Readers

by Jan Glaz

Officials in Tinley Park recently entered into a contract between the Village of Tinley Park and Minute-man Security Technologies, 8200 W. 185th Street, Tinley Park, IL, for Automatic License Plate Readers. Trustee William Brennan reported that the Village has been awarded grant money from the Department of Homeland Security for intersection readers at a reimbursable amount of \$223,000.00.

The Village is upgrading its Automatic License Plate Readers at the intersections of 183rd & Harlem Avenue and 191st & Harlem Avenue to improve previously installed software and will add (2) Automatic License Plate Readers to the East and Westbound lanes of 191st & Harlem. Tinley Park is also interested in adding the license plate readers at other locations - 167th Street & Trail View Court, with two East and Westbound, and 183rd & Ridgeland, with (4) in all directions.

Trustee Brennan disclosed that the project

came in under budget. Funds for the Automatic License Plate Readers are budgeted at \$453,182.00, the contract amount (Minute-man Security Technologies) \$242,559.25, and the grant reimbursement \$223,000.00.

In other official business: The board of trustees adopted a resolution for a contract between the Village and F.H. Paschen for the 80th Avenue Train Station staircases, railings, paver replacements/repair project. The contract award to F.H. Paschen is in the amount of \$1,002,184.84.

Trustees authorized a resolution for the Village Attorney to apply to the Circuit Court of Cook County for an order authorizing the demolition or repair of a dangerous/abandoned building located at 6627 W. 173rd Place, Tinley Park IL. The building has been a nuisance since October 15, 2015. The owner is unable to place the property in a safe state and currently the property cannot be occupied.

Veterans Day Ceremony

The Village of Tinley Park and the Tinley Park Veterans Commission will host the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at the Gen. Patrick E. Rea Veterans Plaza, which sits adjacent to the south entrance of the 80th Avenue Metra train station, 18001 S. 80th Ave., Tinley Park.

Honor the men and women who have served the United States with patriotic music, short speeches, a gun salute and more.

Oak Forest decision on Recreational Cannabis Facilities

On November 6, 2019, the Oak Forest Planning and Zoning Commission will consider zoning regulations for recreational cannabis facilities. This review is related to the recently passed Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act that legalizes the recreational use, retail sales, and production of cannabis by adults.

This new state law impacts all area communities and takes effect on January 1, 2020 with licenses for dispensaries anticipated to be awarded by the State of Illinois later in 2020. The City has been approached by businesses with interest in applying for state licenses to operate cannabis dispensaries in Oak For-

est. In response, the City is seeking to proactively draft land use regulations that govern where in the City's commercial and industrial districts these facilities can locate.

The Mayor and City Council invite interested residents to attend this pub-

lic hearing on Wednesday, November 6th at 7pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Any questions about this meeting or potential regulations can be directed to Paul Ruane, Community Planner for Oak Forest at 708.444.4848 or at pruane@oak-forest.org.

Your Ad is Important to us!



Two Appeal Seminars for Bremen Township

Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak will be holding a property tax appeal seminar at the Oak Forest Village Hall, for taxpayers seeking to appeal their 2019 property tax assessments. Bremen Township opens for appeal November 4 through December 3, 2019.

The seminar is co-sponsored by Bremen Township Assessor Willie Jones, Tinley Park Mayor Jacob Vandenberg, Mayor Oak Forest Mayor Hank Kuspa, Taxpayer Advocate Guy Gattone, and Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller. The hour long session will educate taxpayers

on how to file a successful tax appeal.

The seminar includes a presentation by Commissioner Dan Patlak explaining the appeal procedure at the Board of Review. Before the end of the evening, taxpayers will have an opportunity to work with staff from the Board of Review to address their specific questions and concerns.

This event is free to the public, and there is no fee to appeal at the Board of Review. Taxpayers are asked to bring a copy of their most recent tax bill. No reservation is required. Taxpayers may file an appeal online by visit-

ing the Board of Review website: www.cookcountyboardofreview.com. Alternatively, appeal forms also may be picked up at the Board of Review located at 118 N. Clark Street, Room 601, Chicago, IL, local township offices, or print form available on the Board website.

Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Tinley Park Village Hall, 16250 S. Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477 at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, November 25, 2019 at Oak Forest Village Hall, 15440 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452 at 6:00 p.m.

United States Census

The Village of Tinley Park will join municipalities across the country in taking part in the 2020 United States Census, which officially begins with National Census Day on April 1, 2020. The data collected helps determine the number of seats Illinois has in the U.S. House of Representatives and the amount of federal funds received for such things as schools, senior centers and public works projects. It also is the basis for many state revenue payments, such as income tax and motor fuel tax.

Village Hall is located at 16250 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park. Please visit TinleyPark.org/Census for more information.

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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 20 | Number 21 | November 5, 2019

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



Standing far left, City of Palos Heights resident addresses Palos Heights City Council.

Palos Heights resident seeks sidewalks

by Jan Glaz

On October 15th a Palos Heights resident approached the City Council to inquire about sidewalks. The resident, Mary, complained, "For 42 years we've been inquiring about sidewalks and each year, probably, even the Mayor's children have asked for sidewalks. Today I'm stating my opinion and asking the City Council if you've looked into this."

City of Palos Heights Mayor, Robert Straz, promptly replied, "One of the problems, especially in the old section of town, is the surface water drainage system. The City would have to put in all new sewers. That cost would have to be passed on to each individual homeowner plus the cost for sidewalks in front of their house. Over the years the City has put sidewalks down on our major thoroughfares."

The resident pleaded, "Will you please add sidewalks to 127th Street and stoplights, there's nothing between Harlem Avenue and Ridgeland Avenue." The Mayor informed the resident that the area she

suggested was a state highway and the City does not have jurisdiction to place sidewalks or stoplights on a state right-of-way. Mayor Straz concluded, "There are continuous sidewalks on the north side of 127th Street, but my complaint is, and has been, that many people will walk on the south side where there is no sidewalk."

In other official news: Aldermen agreed to use 'Economy Disposal Services' for the demolition of property located at 13040 S. Cypress Lane in the amount of \$14,200.00. The city council authorized the sale of a 2007 Chevrolet Impala utilized by the City's Recreation Department to Currie Motors Commercial Center in the amount of \$1,800.00 and approved the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Recreation Department purchased through the 'Suburban Purchasing Cooperative' from Currie Motors Commercial Center in the amount of \$22,923.00 (minus a trade-in of \$1,800.00 for a final cost of \$21,123.00).

Vote for Chicago Ridge's Water Tower

Voting is now open to select 2019 Tnemec's Tank of the Year award. The Chicago Ridge Water Tower is up for consideration. Below is a link to cast your vote. The winner of the popular vote will be crowned this year's People's Choice winner and will be considered along with 11 other committee-determined water tanks for the official Tank of the Year prize.

Vote here at <http://tankoftheyear.tnemec.com/>.



New Executive Director at McCord

The Board of Directors of the McCord Gallery and Cultural Center are pleased to announce Rene Leyva has been named Executive Director.

Rene joins McCord from the Palos Park Library where he served as Public Service and Marketing Manager. Rene holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and Art History from Governor's State University and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Dominican University. He also serves as a Trustee in the Frankfort Library District. Rene brings a unique understanding of the community and a creative perspective for the future of McCord. We look forward to working with him.

He succeeds Lynne Terr who is retiring and has been instrumental to the growth and success of McCord these past 10+ years. Lynne has provided invaluable leadership that has helped make McCord a treasure of the Southwest suburbs. She will assist with the transition.

For more information about our course schedule, please call 708-671-0648 or visit us online at www.mccordgallery.org.

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents Orchestra Musicians' Bucket List

On Sunday, November 10, 2019, the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David L. Crane, presents "Orchestra Musicians' Bucket List".

This concert consists of pieces that were chosen by the Southwest Symphony Musicians. They represent their best loved pieces and/or those that they always wanted to play. Join them as they share their bucket list with you. Perhaps some of these are your favorite pieces or will become your

favorites!

Pieces to be performed are Overture to Candide by Bernstein, Lieutenant Kije Suite by Prokofiev, Finlandia by Sibelius, Poet and Peasant Overture by von Suppe, Capriccio Espagnol by Rimsky-Korsakov and Berceuse & Finale from "Firebird Suite" by Stravinsky.

The concert is located at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights.

Concert begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday November 10, 2019.

Ticket prices are \$7.00 for students, \$18.00 to \$23.00 for seniors, adults \$23.00 to \$28.00, children 10 and under are free.

The not for profit Southwest Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1964 and serves audiences throughout the south and southwest suburban communities. Learn more at southwestsymphony.com, call 708-802-0686, email southwestsymphony@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook and Instagram. This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.



Lipinski honors area Seniors at Awards Banquet

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) announced the winners of the 2019 Senior Citizen of the Year Award during a special program recently at Prime Time in Hickory Hills. The winners were chosen based on their contributions to their communities in the Third Congressional District.

"These men and women dedicate countless hours to make their communities great places to live," Rep. Lipinski said. "We owe them

so much for their efforts and I'm proud to recognize them for the great work that they do."

The 2019 Senior Citizen of the Year Award winners are: Thaddeus "Ted" Bojanowski, Summit; Jerry Capps, Romeoville; Orella M. Good, Justice; Audrey Heitman, Tinley Park; Jeanine Jasica, Western Springs; William R. Kuda, Chicago; Carole Mitchell, Bridgeview; Larry Mitchell, Bridgeview; Patrick O'Connor, Palos Hills;

Jan Posch, Willow Springs; Frank Przytula, Burbank; Gregory Serratore, Tinley Park; Sue Solcani, Chicago; Laura Wells, Palos Park; Charles Wells, Palos Park.

To be eligible for the award, a senior must be nominated by the leader of an organization or an official from their community. Several hundred seniors have been nominated since the program's inception.

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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 46 | Number 9 | November 5, 2019

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



“Los Comales” restaurant soon to be located at 9206 S. Western Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL.

Evergreen Park partners with Prochamps

by Jan Glaz

Abandon and foreclosed real estate has an adverse effect on property values. Crime, dumping, unkept yards, vandalism, and trash are a few results of faulty property. To address the problem and to promote neighborhood health, safety and welfare the Village of Evergreen Park entered into a contract with Prochamps.

To partner with Prochamps the Village had to pass an ordinance requiring foreclosing banks to register properties upon notice of default; to provide pertinent information in regard to the properties; and to pay a registration fee.

Utilizing bank information for default properties, Prochamps researches,

identifies, tracks and contacts responsible parties. There is zero cost to the Village because Prochamps shares in the bank registration fees, with the majority of the fee money going back to the community. Officials in Evergreen Park encourage residents to register complaints about defaulted properties by visiting www.prochamps.com.

New & Noteworthy: The Village of Evergreen Park approved a Business Regulation Certificate for “Los Comales” to operate a full service restaurant with a drive-up to be located at 9206 S. Western Avenue. The restaurant is not asking for a liquor license at this time.

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Scholarships awarded to Moraine Valley students

More than 200 scholarships were awarded to local students for the 2019-20 school year through the Foundation at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills.

“We are overjoyed to provide financial assistance to these deserving students,” said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Foundation. “Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our students are inspired and able to keep moving forward to meet their educational goals. We are extremely appreciative of their generosity.”

To see a complete list of scholarship recipients by town, go to morainevalley.edu/scholarshipawards.

We count on your ads

Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony in Evergreen Park to honor local Vietnam Veterans and their families

Leading health and well-being company Humana is hosting a Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony in Evergreen Park just before Veterans Day.

All who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War period, from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, and regardless of duty location, are invited to attend and

receive a special lapel pin as a lasting memento of the nation’s gratitude.

The congressionally-authorized Vietnam War Commemoration initiative was established by the U.S. Department of Defense to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Humana, which provides

health benefits to six million U.S. service men and women and dependents, is an approved Commemorative Partner. Local Vietnam veterans and/or their families interested in participating in the Evergreen Park ceremony are asked to RSVP to Humana at 708-930-1290.

On Friday, November 8, 2019 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Presenting of Colors and National Anthem * Pinning Ceremony * Retiring the Colors

At Humana community location in Evergreen Park Evergreen Plaza, 9522 S Western Avenue (SW corner of 95th & S. Western Ave.) Between David’s Bridal and Planet Fitness.



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Letter to the Editor

Small businesses are the real free market life blood of this great country. Currently there are thousands of large corporate lobbyists influencing congress to write laws to their advantage. Middle class and small business owners don't have access to congress thru thousands of lobbyists, so they get stuck footing the bill for roads and services that large corporations use but don't pay for through low or no taxation.

When people say we must cave to the whims of large corporate's or the businesses will flee to other shores, I say let them go.

There will always be great American entrepreneurs who will gladly fill that gap. Small businesses are the real job creators and future of this great nation.

Small business account for 64% of new jobs created, and small businesses grow faster than their large counterparts. So we as Americans need to put more faith (and investment) in the small businesses and stop this misdirected awe of large

corporations.
Margaret Prieto



Village agrees to settle class action water meter complaint

The Village of Tinley Park, recently agreed to settle a Class Action Complaint that was filed in 2015 alleging that the Severn Trent water meters previously installed throughout Tinley Park engaged in spinning. The claim contended that, because of the spinning, customers paid for water they did not actually consume.

For more information about the settlement agreement, and for eligible customers to file a claim online, please go to TinleyMeterClassAction.com. Claims must be filed no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.

Customers will need to know their water account numbers before filing a claim. Account

numbers are included on each customer's water bill, as shown in this example, [https://cms6.revize.com/revize/tinleypark/docu-](https://cms6.revize.com/revize/tinleypark/document_center/News%20and%20Events/Sample%20Water%20Bill%202019.pdf)

[ment_center/News%20and%20Events/Sample%20Water%20Bill%202019.pdf](https://cms6.revize.com/revize/tinleypark/document_center/News%20and%20Events/Sample%20Water%20Bill%202019.pdf). For more information, please call (844) 332-8672.

How the U.S. Shale Oil Boom made a Middle East War less likely

by Merrill Matthews

It looks like the decade-old U.S. shale oil boom may keep us out of war.

Recall that when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, then-President George H.W. Bush led a coalition of countries against Iraq. Kuwait was quickly liberated.

Since Kuwait had not been a strong U.S. ally, accusations immediately emerged that oil was the real motive behind the war.

Whether oil was THE motive driving the U.S. effort, both access to it and the fear of rising oil prices almost certainly played a role -- because the U.S. economy and military readiness depended on importing middle-eastern oil.

No more, and you can thank the shale oil boom for that.

Of course, the recent drone or missile attack on Saudi Arabian oil processing facilities, which knocked out about 5 million barrels of production, wasn't a Kuwait-style invasion, but it's the kind of action that could lead to war.

If it does, trying to contain Iran's expansionist mischief-making and support for terrorism, not access to oil, would likely be the primary reason.

While access to foreign-produced oil is still important, it's simply not the economic threat it used to be. And you can see that in the impact on oil prices.

After the recent attack oil prices initially spiked, but markets often overreact and then settle down. And that's what happened. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil jumped from nearly \$55 a barrel on Friday, Sept. 13, to nearly \$63 on Monday, but has since declined to about \$58 per barrel.

What does that mean for consumers? Not a lot.

Prior to the attack the

average nationwide cost for a gallon of gasoline was about \$2.55. Analysts suggest gasoline prices could rise by ... wait for it ... 25 cents a gallon.

But EIA says the current price is down nearly 30 cents from a year ago. So if gasoline prices do spike 25 cents, it would put us about where we were last September, when there was no major confrontation in the Middle East.

What the shale boom has done is free the United States from dependency on middle-eastern oil. In August 1990, when Hussein invaded Kuwait, the United States was producing about 7 million barrels of oil per day. Today, we're producing 12.4 million barrels per day.

Yes, we still import some crude oil, mostly from Canada.

Which raises an important point: Our current challenge isn't trying to find foreign sources for oil, but getting U.S. production from the wellhead to the refinery. And the most efficient and least expensive way of transporting oil to refineries is by pipelines.

That's why one of President Trump's responses to the attack on Saudi oil production was to urge the relevant U.S. agencies to expedite the pipeline approval process.

Environmentalists hoping to limit, if not end, U.S. oil production have taken to challenging pipeline construction, e.g., the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines. Oil that can't be transported to refineries is oil that can't be consumed.

The recent attack on the Saudi facilities demonstrates, yet again, access to energy is a critical national security issue. Fortunately, a threat to peace in the Middle East, troublesome as that is, isn't a threat to

Margo McDermed, the 37th District State Republican Rep. endorses August (O'Neill) Deuser for State Senate in 2020 for the 19th District. Ed Ronkowski, the former Will County Republican Chairman also endorses

August (O'Neill) Deuser for Illinois Senate in 2020
www.deuser.us

Pro-Life & Pro-Second Amendment **God Bless Our Vets!**

the American economy and national security.

Merrill Matthews is a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innova-

tion in Dallas, Texas. Follow him on Twitter @MerrillMatthews. This piece originally ran in Washington Examiner.



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, center, with Jo Ann Serpico.

Maria Pappas appoints Jo Ann Serpico Honorary Cook County Deputy Treasurer

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas has commissioned Jo Ann Serpico as an Honorary Cook County Deputy Treasurer in recognition of her longtime activism in the Italian community.

"Without Jo Ann's contributions over many years, the Italian community would not be as vibrant as it is today," Pappas said when presenting Serpico with her commission at a ceremony attended by about 20 community leaders. "Jo Ann's accomplishments are remarkable without any doubt," Pappas added.

As an Honorary Deputy Treasurer, Serpico will act as Pappas' representative in the community. In part, she will encourage homeowners to use cookcountytreasurer.com to apply for available refunds and missing property tax exemptions. There is \$79 million in available refunds and \$44 million in unclaimed exemptions for senior citizens.

A top priority for Pappas

for many years has been to help property owners whose first language is not English. On her website, she has posted brochures with key property tax information that are translated into 24 languages. Brochures in Italian have been downloaded more than 10,000 times.

Serpico is executive director of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans since 2010. The Civic Committee represents Italian American groups in the Chicago area at all levels of government. In addition, the Civic Committee has awarded over \$250,000 in scholarships to students of Italian heritage.

Maria Pappas honors Jo Ann Serpico for her leadership in the Italian community recently. In recognition of Serpico's longtime commitment to the community, the Consul General of Italy in Chicago, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, in 2018 awarded her the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia.

Proud member of following Chambers

Alsip Chamber of Commerce www.alsipchamber.org	Justice Chamber of Commerce www.villageofjustice.org
Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association www.bpcia.org	Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce www.oc-chamber.org
Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry www.blueislandchamber.org	Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce www.oaklawnchamber.com
The Burbank Chamber of Commerce www.burbankchamber.com	Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce www.orlandparkchamber.org
Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce www.evergreenparkchamber.org	Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce www.tinleychamber.org
The Hills Chamber of Commerce www.thehillschamber.org	United Business Association of Midway www.ubam.org

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

Grand Opening

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in celebration of
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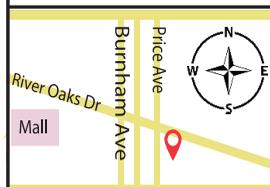
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Vietnam War, by providing them an all-expense-paid day of honor in Washington DC to visit their memorials. Once a month between April and October, we fly approximately 110 humble heroes for a day filled with camaraderie, memories and appreciation. To date we have flown over 8,000 veterans.

We ask for your support at our Annual Bourbon Street Fundraiser at 3359 West 115th Street, Merriotte Park, IL., on November 10, 2019 From 3pm to 7pm. Your donation would be a part of our Silent Auction or Raffle baskets. We expect at least 2000 Honor Flight Chicago supporters to join us for an afternoon which includes a catered buffet, live entertainment, special guests and opportunities to support HFC through various game activities. Our last fundraiser brought in almost \$90,000. Our goal for this event is to raise \$120,000, enough to fund one flight in our 2020 season. We are a 501[c][3] non profit.

Thank you for considering our donation request. We look forward to hearing from you. To purchase tickets go to Honorflightchicago.org. Advanced tickets are \$40 for adults, and \$20 for youth [under 21] or tickets at the door are \$50 for adults and \$25 for youth [under 21].

For more information contact, Nancy Staiger, Co Chair Bourbon Street Event at nstaiger@honor-flightchicago.org or John J. Mrozek D.D.S., P.C., Co Chair Bourbon Street Event at smilesaver@comcast.net.

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Complimentary Housecleaning for Veterans

HAYS Cleaning is offering the Helping Our Heroes promotion and will gift 3 free hours of residential cleaning to local veterans, active military, spouses, and their parents. From November 11, 2019, through December 11, 2019, call 708-598-3819 or email mary@hayscleaning.com to schedule your appointment for services; cleaning must be completed by December 31, 2019.

Program History: The Helping Our Heroes program was created by Mary and Art James, owners of HAYS Cleaning, Inc. Art James is a disabled Vietnam Veteran. Mary and Art, along with HAYS Cleaning, Inc., wanted to Help Our Heroes, to Pay It Forward. Their desire to give back launched the Helping Our Heroes program in 2010 for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. In the past 9 years, HAYS Cleaning has provided over 250 hours of complimentary cleaning

services for area veterans, active military, their spouses and parents.

Contact information: Mary and Art James can be contacted online at either www.hayscleaning.com or www.helpingourheroes.com. Calls may be directed to the HAYS Cleaning office at 708-598-3819; email inquires to mary@hayscleaning.com. HAYS Cleaning is located at 9428 S. 78th Ct, in Hickory Hills, Illinois.

Dentists to treat Veterans in need in their offices

The 6,000-plus dentists of the Illinois State Dental Society want to show veterans that we care about their smiles. Throughout the month of November, many Illinois State Dental Society dentists have reserved appointment times in their offices to salute Illinois veterans.

Under the Illinois Dentists Salute initiative, participating dentists will provide critically needed dental services for the selfless men and women who have served our country, at no cost to the veteran! Illinois veterans are eligible to receive no-cost treatment at participating dental offices. The dentist will determine priority treatment for the veteran patient.

Visit the Illinois Dentists Salute page at ISDS.org for a list of participating dental offices. Call and schedule

your appointment today!

The dentists of the Illinois State Dental Society salute our veterans for their service and sacrifice. If you have questions on Illinois Dentists Salute, contact Pam Cuffle at 217/525-1406.

League of Women Voters of Palos Orland Area to host

Meeting on Immigration Update: Who are the immigrants, where do they come from and why are they seeking refuge in the United States? What about the families and their children? Mr. Ed Pratt, Director of Strategy & Development for the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants will be the featured speaker for this meeting. Mr. Pratt will share an update on the state of immigration in the country as well as some stories of the immigrants he has met in his work. The meeting will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Palos Heights Library, 12501 S. 71st Avenue. This Meeting Is Open To The Public.

The League of Women Voters of the Palos Orland Area is a non-partisan organization which includes members in approximately fifteen south suburbs, including Palos Heights, Palos Park, Palos Hills, Orland Park, Evergreen Park, Worth, Hickory Hills, Homer Glen, Oak Lawn, Mokena, Lemont, Lockport, Tinley Park, Frankfort and New Lenox.

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Public Welcome

Veterans Day Monday Celebration November 11th
 10am-noon at the 80th Ave. Metra station in Tinley Park

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Smith Village hosts holiday vendor fair November 15

Smith Village resident Leslie Rokaitis (right), who creates Christmas ornaments with silver spoons, will be among a dozen vendors featuring great gifts for holiday shoppers during Smith Village's holiday fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15. Neighbors are welcomed to join residents in Smith Village's Community Hall, at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly-Morgan Park neighborhood.



elle, Fannie May Candies and Margie Blisset accessories. Fat Tommy's Donut Cart will serve fresh donuts.

Shoppers also can purchase items from Ce'Le Sway Accessories, Sweet Freaks, Rose's Gift Tags, Thirty-One Handbags, Mary O'Connor's Bare Scrubs, wreaths by Dani-

For more information, contact Bridget Murphy at Smith Village 773-474-7300.

Lipinski introduces Legislation to help First Responders with mounting Healthcare Costs in Retirement

Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) this week introduced legislation to help public safety employees with the mounting healthcare costs they face in retirement. Lipinski's bill, H.R. 4897, would double from \$3,000 to \$6,000 the amount of money retired public service employees are allowed to allocate from their pensions toward health or long-term care insurance premiums

on an annual pre-tax basis. In 2006, Congress enacted and the President signed into law the Pension Protection Act, which included an important provision for local public safety officers known as the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act. Specifically, the HELPS provision allowed firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders to

allocate up to \$3,000 annually from their pensions toward healthcare costs. The \$3,000 HELPS limit has remained flat since enactment, eroding the value of the benefit even as healthcare expenses continue to grow faster than inflation. Lipinski's bill would double the limit.

Earlier this year, Lipinski looked out for the interests of working families across the country by voting to pass the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act, which would cut the 40% excise tax levied on certain employer health insurance plans that is set to go into effect in 2022.

PLOWS Council on Aging November events

November 12, Advocacy & Benefits in Worth Township.

One-on-one appointments from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our professionals can help you or another qualified older adult apply for benefits and learn about services such as: Medicare Savings program, SNAP, Senior Health Insurance, Benefits Access program and Medicare Part D. These individual appointments help older adults 60+ years old and people with disabilities 18-59 years old. The appointments take place at Worth Township, 11601 South Pulaski Road in Al-

sip. Pre-registration and an appointment is required by calling PLOWS Council on Aging at 708-361-0219.

November 13, Memory Café.

A Memory Café is a social gathering for people living with dementia and other forms of cognitive impairment and their care partners. The Café is

held the second Wednesday of every month from 10:30 am to 11:30 am, at the Community Nutrition Network Site in Home-town. There is no charge for the event and a complimentary lunch will be provided. Registration required by calling PLOWS Council on Aging at 708-361-0219.

November 6th, Joy of a Healthy Mouth-Information Seminar. 10 am, free.

November 18th, Cholesterol & HA1C testing. 8:30 to 12 noon. Fees Apply.

November 19th, Healthy Heart Screening 9 to 12 noon. Fees Apply.

November 21st, Bingo 10am. Please call to Register for all events.

Evergreen Park Senior Council Luncheon and Program

Please join us as we welcome and honor our veterans. Our luncheon will be held on Thursday, November 21st. We welcome Mayor James Sexton who will be giving the "State of the Village" address. The Mayor will also assist in honoring the veterans in attendance.

After our roast turkey feast, we will welcome one of our favorites, Johnny Gray. He will entertain us with his country western and patriotic music.

This meeting and program will be held at the

new Community Center at 11:00 am. The charge for the luncheon is \$7.00. Tickets must be purchased by Monday, November 18, 2019 at the Community Center, 3450 W. 97th St.

While we are honoring all veterans, Evergreen Park veterans will not be charged for their meal. Reservations are a MUST. Questions?? 708 422-8776.

Canned good donations for the E.P. Village Pantry are always appreciated. Please check expiration dates on all canned goods before donating.

We count on your ads

Senior Luncheon

Thursday, December 5, 2019, OFHS Madrigal Singers.

Back by popular demand! The Oak Forest High School Madrigal Singers, in period costume, will regale you with their harmonies singing seasonal songs!

New location! Join us at the Oak Forest Park District, 15660 Central Avenue. Doors open at 10 am. Presentation at 11 am. After the presentation, luncheon will be served. Tickets cost \$5.00. Bingo will follow the luncheon.

Tickets are available at City Hall (15540 S. Central; 708-687-4050) or can be purchased at the door on the day of the event. Hope to see you there!

Palos Township Health Service Programs

Palos Township Health Service, located at 10802 S. Roberts Road, Palos Town-

ship Health Service, 708-598-2441. November Events

Plan your future

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

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America's Wartime Sweethearts- The Andrews Sisters

Andrews Sisters Musical Revue



In honor of Veteran's Day, Sweet Reminders is celebrating the toe-tappin' hits of America's Wartime Sweethearts, The Andrews Sisters!
Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, Beer Barrel Polka & Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy

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Visit www.sweetreminder.net for more shows.

Oak Lawn Park District Community Theatre Production of "Hello Dolly"

Tickets are available for the Oak Lawn Park District Community Theatre's production of "Hello Dolly."

The production will run at the Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St., on Friday, November 15th, Saturday, November 16th, Friday, November 22nd, and Saturday, November 23rd at 7:30pm. It will also run on Sunday,

November 17th and Sunday, November 24th, at 3:00pm.

Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$22 for children, 12 and under, and seniors, 60 and over. Tickets are available at the Oak View Center, by phone at 708-857-2200, or online at www.showtix4u.com.

For more information, please call 708-857-2200.

Louis S. Viverito Senior Center to host Love Boat Cruise Party

Haynes will lead a "Love Boat Cruise Party" at 10am on Friday, November 15 at the Louis S. Viverito Senior Center located at 7745 S. Leamington Ave. in Burbank. Everyone is invited to enjoy a final day of summer, cruise-ship style. Attendees are encouraged to wear their most festive island clothing.

The morning will kick off with the "Love Boat" theme song and a welcome from the cruise director. Islands jams and classics like "Margaretville" will set a festive mood. In addition to live music, guests will learn dances like the meringue, the rumba and line dancing.

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cruise ship experience," Haynes said. "Everyone has such a blast, and there is something for everyone, regardless of their mobility."

To register for lunch and the party please call, (708) 636-8850.

Advertise in our Black Friday & Small Business Saturday Sales issue November 19th

Veterans Day in Tinley Park

Veterans Day is on Monday November 11th and for those of you that can attend it will be cel-

ebrated at the 80th Ave. train station in Tinley Park starting at 10 am. It is a wonderfully patriotic

and touching ceremony. So if you are able we ask that you please attend and celebrate together with all of us fellow veterans and families.



Che Apalache brings its unique musical blend to Moraine Valley

Che Apalache, a four-man string band, showcases its mix of bluegrass with South American music on Saturday, Nov. 16, in the Dorothy Menker Theater at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Parkway.

Tickets for the show, which will start at 7:30 p.m., are \$30, \$25 for seniors and free for children and students. Those who qualify for free admission must acquire a ticket to reserve a seat.

The group, based in Buenos Aires, features members from Argentina, Mexico and the United States who together created a style they call Latingrass. Their song list ranges from vivid Latin rhythms to a cappella mountain gospel songs sung in four-part harmony.

Front man Joe Troop, originally from North Carolina, started the group after returning from Japan, Spain, Argentina and other countries, infusing bluegrass tunes with his own experience and mixing folk songs with Latin beats and other influences.

For tickets and additional details, call the Box Office at (708) 974-5500 or visit morainevalley.edu/fpac.

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Berceuse & Finale from "Firebird Suite"	Stravinsky



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Trattoria Gianni on 1711 N. Halsted St. is across the street from Steppenwolf Theater and near Royal George Theatre. Surely, Lincoln Park is noted for their excellent restaurants, but Trattoria Gianni has been in the neighborhood for 31 years and welcomed by the neighborhood associations.

My palate for Italian cuisine is usually very precise for liking southern Italian cooking since my ancestors came from Salerno, Italy and Molise, Italy. I know when a good restaurant has that flavor in their favorite dishes that represent my native culture. Trattoria Gianni's menu features a diverse selection of regional Italian cuisine augmented with superb daily specials and an array of food with starters of antipasti such as Arancini Siciliani. Polpette di Vitello Insalate

Tagliatelle Salsiccia e Ricotta
Risotto alla Fiorentina
Petto di Pollo Ripieno
Rosticciana
Salmone al Vino Bianco
Tilapia alla Livornese
Branzino alla Griglia

Tailgate Central

All you football fans out there, come join us at VFW Post 2791 at 17147 Oak Park Ave, Tinley Park. Which has become "Tailgate Central" each week as we support and cheer on our Chicago Bears! We have a family friendly atmosphere, multiple wide-screens, great sound and ample seating. Depending on the start time to each we will have food available during halftime or sooner. Each week we also have terrific drink specials for you to enjoy. Stop on by to support, cheer and celebrate all the great plays or complain & criticize

as we replay the missed opportunities. Most fans come each week because even if the final score is not to your liking you would have had a wonderful and

fun experience. See you at Kickoff!

For more information visit our website at <http://www.vfw2791.org> or call us 708-532-2333.

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation Making a Difference with annual Caritas Benefit

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation invites you to attend their 67th Annual Caritas Benefit, a black tie event, at the Bolingbrook Golf Club in Bolingbrook, Illinois, on November 16, 2019. This special event will celebrate St. Coletta's 70th year while supporting programs and services for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Andy Avalos, Meteorologist at NBC Chicago, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation is delighted to honor two Humanitas recipients. Awards will be presented to the Kennedy Family for their rich history and connection to St. Coletta's and the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. School (Chris Kennedy will accept the award on behalf of the Kennedy family) and to Chef Fred Ferrara for his decades-long service and commitment to St. Coletta's and individuals with special needs. The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi will receive the Platinum Award for 70 years of lead-

ership that has transformed the lives of thousands of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The evening will begin at 6 pm with cocktails followed by dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions, and a cash prize raffle drawing. Guests can look forward to over 65 silent auction items which will include unique, one-of-a-kind artwork created by participants at St. Coletta's, staycations and activities for the family, theatre tickets and comedy shows, sporting events and wine tastings in your home. The Live Auction will grab the attention of those who love to golf with a chance to play at the coveted Rich Harvest Farms, along with other amazing experiences.

Individual tickets for the event are available for \$200 or a table for ten can be purchased for \$1,800. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling the Foundation office at 708-342-5246 or visiting our website at www.stcolettail.org.

Veterans Day Breakfast

Ald. Matt O'Shea, State Sen. Bill Cunningham, State Rep. Fran Hurley, from the 19th Ward and Mount Greenwood Com-

munity and Business Association will host the 19th Ward Veterans Day Breakfast honoring veterans and currently serving members

of the U.S. military Fri., Nov. 8, at 9 to 11 a.m., Barraco's, 3047 W. 111th St. Sweet Reminder will per-

Family Time Magazine hosts Annual Autism Seminar in Chicagoland Area

First-class speakers and cutting-edge exhibitors will be at the Family Time Magazine's 12th Annual Autism and Special Needs seminar on Saturday, November 16. The event will be held at the Moraine Valley Community College in Building M, Conference and Business Center in Palos Hills from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendor booths can be visited from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and speakers will be giving presentations from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attendees will hear from speakers and learn from vendors offering unique resources for families with children and loved ones with autism and other developmental disabilities. A wide variety of knowledge will be covered at the event including the latest research, revolutionary therapies, strategies for coping, networking opportunities, Q&A sessions with the experts and much more. Allergy-free cleansing products, toys, fitness classes and allergen-free food and supplements will be available to purchase.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Peter J. Smith, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at UChicago Medicine, and a highly respected advocate for children with complex medical needs, neurodevelopment disabilities, developmental delays and disorders and behav-

form hits of yesterday. Free. Information and reservations call Margie Olsen, 773-238-8766.

ioral difficulties. He will speak on "The Evolution of 'Expert' Thought in ASD" at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Smith will be joined by expert speakers that will present throughout the day from the Neuropsychology Autism Initiative, The Neuroconnection, Rush University Medical Center, Autism Home Support, Advocate Children's Hospital, and other autism specialists. View the full schedule of speakers and the event program at www.familytimemagazine.com/autism-special-needs-seminar/

Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are still available and are an ideal opportunity for doctors, therapists, organizations and businesses. For more information on these opportunities, call 815-806-8844 or e-mail caroline@familytimemagazine.com.

This seminar is approved for Early Intervention Training Credit and offers Continuing Education Units and Continuing Professional Development Units. For more information on the cost and the approved CEU's and CPDU's available, visit the or the Moraine Valley and Prairie State booths at the seminar.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.familytimemagazine.com> or Eventbrite.

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Tinley Park Community Band Spaghetti Dinner

The Tinley Park Community Band, under the direction of Barbara Abarro, will be hosting their 22nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, November 16th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at the Tinley Park Community Church, 7939 W. 167th St., Tinley Park, IL 60477.

Dinner includes spaghetti with marinara or meat sauce, salad, garlic bread (all you can eat). You also get dessert, lemonade and coffee. Meatballs can be purchased for \$.50 each or three for \$1.00. Meals to go also available.

The afternoon will feature live music by various members of the band, raffle prizes, and split-the-pot. Fun for the whole family!

Tickets purchased in advance are \$6 per person or \$20 per family, limit of five. Tickets purchased at the door are \$7 per person and \$25 per family, limit of five.

For more information, contact us at 708-620-7701 www.tinleyband.org www.facebook.com/tinleyband, or tinleyband@gmail.com. Tinley Park Community Band, PO Box 562, Tinley Park, IL 60477.

Oak Lawn Park District's Annual Turkey Shoot

The Oak Lawn Park District will host its 25th Annual Turkey Shoot on Sunday, November 17th, at the Community Pavilion located at 9401 S. Oak Park Ave. This family-friendly event will take place from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

Each participating team will receive 10 free throws

for a chance to win a turkey to gobble up for Thanksgiving dinner. Teams will consist of one parent and child, ages 4 and up, and be divided into appropriate age groups. The team who makes the most shots in each division will win.

Mini-basketballs and nets will be available for

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younger children. There will be raffle prizes for all children. Parents may compete with more than one child.

This event is free for residents. The fee for non-residents is \$6. Please register in advance at www.olparks.com. The registration code is 216101.

For more information, please contact 708-857-2420.



Eric Kallenborn
Spartans Welcomes Teacher Eric Kallenborn

Oak Lawn Community High School welcomes

its new Fine Arts Department Chair and English teacher Eric Kallenborn. Eric teaches English I and Literary Expressions and is currently working on his teaching endorsement in art. Eric attended DePaul University, Moraine Valley Community College and Governors State University. He has two M.A. degrees: one in English and one in administration. In the past Eric has coached speech, group interpretation and chess as well as co-founding a Game Club and Improv Team. Eric has curated programming and presented at educational and comic/pop culture conventions, specializing in bringing comics, pop culture, and gamification to education.

In his short time as a Spartan, Eric says the staff has been amazingly helpful and supportive. He hopes to create a graphic novel course that works to create a yearly comic based on a student-chosen theme. His goal is for the comic to be published by an in-house publishing house called Spartan Press.



Rebecca Makkai, The Great Believers (Random House 2018)

by Lorraine Schmall

Chicagoan Rebecca Makkai begins *The Great Believers* with a memorial after-party demanded by a young Nico Marcus, who threatened to impale his friends “not in a good way” if they sat around sobbing when he succumbed to AIDs. At his funeral mass in Highland Park, where none of his circle, nor his devoted sister, nor his long-time lover, were welcomed to pray, his family members talked about Nico “as if he died in adolescence.” Nico’s friends, some of whom fled, others who sped, and others, like Nico, who’d been exiled to Chicago because they were gay, grieved in Boystown with gallows humor and glib jibes, Cuba Libres and callous references to casual sex. They swore not to care about the families and communities and world that didn’t care about them: Too bad “if there were sandwiches laid out in some church vestibule; most of them were going to waste.”

As were thousands of young men across the country, and too many to count in Chicago’s north side community, at first a haven where gay men could be themselves, but later a waystation to their graves. In the early 80’s when there was no treatment for HIV infection, hundreds were “already sick, hiding the lesions on their arms but not their faces, coughing horribly, growing thin, waiting to get worse, or lying in the hospital, or flown home to die near their parents, to be written up in their local papers as having died of pneumonia.” Reagan was president, the Moral Majority spread fear, condemnation and blame, and these mostly young people caught by the virus were left to care for themselves.

Makkai writes about the usual stuff of young love and lust, fear and ambition, jealousy and uncertainty that was not unlike those of their heterosexual peers, except in one brutal way: their “usual dramas suddenly can carry a fatal charge.” The book is about loyalty, Nico’s sister becomes “Saint Fiona” the “patron saint of Boystown” and her energy and dedication to her brother and his friends change her life forever. It’s about loss: not just of young people but of many of their mothers, who’d already abandoned, forgotten, or simply didn’t know how to care for them. It’s about political movements and medical improvements. It’s about competition and wealthy benefactors and an old lady who lives in Door County. It’s about art and cults and the lost generation in 1920’s Paris. It’s about Chicago. It’s as long as *Moby Dick*, and just as epic. It’s won a bevy of prizes; it’s worth your perseverance. It’s history.

McAuley to host Holiday Market

Mother McAuley will hold a Holiday Market on Friday, November 15 from 6 pm to 9 pm. The event will take place at the school, located at 3737 W. 99th Street in Chicago.

Featuring artisans, appetizers and holiday cheer, the Holiday Market is the perfect opportunity to shop for gifts for family

and friends, home décor and goods, festive decorations, decadent food creations and other unique items.

The entry fee is \$8 per person. Complimentary appetizers will be provided and drinks will be available for purchase.

Visit mothermcauley.org to for more information.

“N” Written by David Alex directed by TaRon Patton

by Annette Dixon

The title doesn't do this play justice, maybe the title could have been No N For Me because for at least 60 minutes, this play wasn't indicating anything about the N word. It was more about the integration of individuals who patterned their own identity with one another, in other words they will select who they want to associate. Race did come into the picture several times, but that is what made the story a story.

Some individuals like to emphasize the N word, mainly black people. So that means white people cannot use this word, for fear they may be called racists. What I enjoyed about the play is David Alex's writing style and his presentation of moral issues, that normally are not in very many plays.

Ryan Smetana, who plays the character Eddy, should certainly be considered for a Jeff Award for his ability

to get the message across and for using his voice interpretation. Eddy was the main character along with Mrs. Page, Stacie Dublin, who also should be nominated for a Jeff Award. These two individuals worked well together and the play was wholesome and meaningful. Many playwrights would have taken the liberty to use the N word, so that in retrospect, may be why the play is named N. You can be the judge and find out for yourself. I highly recommend this play and hope to see many extensions, so that many more people can view N.

At the present time this play can be seen at Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets are \$25, and \$15 for Senior and Students and are available until November 17. Ticket are available by calling 773-404-7336 or on-line at greenhousetheater.org.

Chicago Premiere Kentucky by writer Leah Nanako Winkler

Kentucky is a play directed by The Gift Theatre Ensemble Member Chika Ike, who also serves as director of the 4802 New Play Development Residency, Hiro, Emjoy Gaivno, enjoys being a self-made successful New York, 30 year old single, returns home in Kentucky to discourage her 22 year old sister from getting married. But her sister, Hannah Toriumi doesn't buy into the undermining behavior of Hiro. Two sisters, eccentric parents a chatty cat, and a born-again wedding, has the audience waiting for the climax. It was at the end of the play, you realized Hiro is so much like her father, a father she wanted to forget.

Playwright, Leah Nanako Winkler, gives the audience what we need and that is pure theatrical entertainment, without the mention of race, but yet the stereotypes are evident, and the diverse staging is explicit. Through humor, music and movement, "This is what makes Leah an incredibly exciting voice in American theatre."

Kentucky, can be seen until Nov. 16 at Theatre Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. in Chicago, tickets are available at theatrewit.org or by calling 773-975-8150.

“I Am Going To Die Alone and I Am Not Afraid”, Devised by The Ensemble, Directed by Anna Gelman

by Kathryn Moery

A diversely talented six member ensemble dressed in combat-like khaki jumpsuits brings the audience through the stages of the Nazi suppression of the Jews during the Holocaust in the world premiere of “I

Am Going To Die Alone and I Am Not Afraid “. The ceiling above the stage and seating area is striped with discarded clothes on lines memorializing the stripped victims of the gas chambers. Using a mix of staging, ranging from the dark

style of the show “Cabaret” to the chanting of Jewish religious ritual, the show portrays how members of the Nazi resistance stood up to their captors in the concentration camps.

The story unfolds through a series of precisely timed and choreographed scenes depicting the shouting rise of the Nazi tyranny, the crashing entrapment of the ghetto Jews, the wailing horrors of the concentration camps, and the joyous sounds of liberation. The stories of a Jewish mother trying to reunite with her young son and a boy, indentured into Hitler's youth army, trying to free his Jewish lover, are poignantly woven throughout the scenes. Throughout the 60 minute show, the narrative suggests a thinly veiled comparison of what happened in Germany during this dark moment in history to the racial tension and immigrant suppression in our current political climate, and, fittingly, closes with the words, “I'm telling you so you won't forget”.

The show runs through December 6 at Prop Thtr, 3502 North Elston, Chicago. Tickets are \$20 (student discounts available) at www.propthtr.org.

Dead Man Walking presented by Lyric Opera Chicago

Based on the New York Times bestseller by Sister Helen Prejean, which also inspired the Academy-Award winning film of the same name, in Dead Man Walking a young couple is brutally killed and the convicted murderer, Joseph De Rocher (bass-baritone Ryan McKinny/Lyric debut), awaits his fate on death row. A nun, Sister Helen Prejean (soprano Patricia Racette), becomes his pen pal and eventually his spiritual adviser. As their friendship develops, Sister Helen meets with De Rocher's desperate mother (mezzo-soprano Susan Graham) and also with the parents of the murdered teenagers, all grappling with issues of life and death, faith and the true meaning of forgiveness.

November 2 was opening night for Dead Man Walking, the powerful opera by

composer Jake Heggie and librettist-playwright Terrence McNally. will have six performances in November until the 22nd of this month at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago. Tickets start at \$39 and are available at lyricopera.org/dmw or by calling 312-827-5600.

The Joffrey Ballet The Nutcracker

The Joffrey's reimagined classic marks its fourth year as Chicago's favorite holiday tradition. Wheel-don's turn-of-the-century tale opens on Christmas Eve, 1892, mere months before the grand opening of the 1893 World's Fair, as young Marie and her mother prepare for a festive potluck celebration. The magic of the season takes hold when a visit from the charming Great Impresario sets off a whirlwind journey of romance

and adventure through a dreamlike World's Fair.

A ballet in two acts set to Tchaikovsky's classic score, The Nutcracker features an award-winning creative team, including Tony Award-nominated set and costume designer Julian Crouch, Caldecott Medal Award-winning author Brian Selznick, Obie and Drama Desk award-winning puppeteer

Basil Twist, Tony Award-winning lighting designer Natasha Katz and Tony Award-winning projection designer Ben Pearcy.

Choreography: © Christopher Wheeldon, Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Event Information: November 30-December 29. Individual tickets start at \$35 and are available online here or by phone at 312.341.2300.

My Life Is A Country Song Book, Music & Lyrics by Co-Artistic Director Anthony Whitaker

New American Folk Theatre is pleased to present the world premiere musical My Life Is A Country Song by Co-Artistic Director Anthony Whitaker, the story of a woman starting her life over after a failed and abusive marriage in early 1980s South Carolina. Directed by Company Member Sarah Gise* with music direction by Joey Harbert, this new musical features a score inspired by country music of the late '70s and early '80s and explores how family and chosen family can save us from ourselves.

My Life Is A Country Song will play a limited three-week run November 1-21, 2019 at Chief O'Neill's Pub & Restaurant, 3471 N. Elston Ave. in Chicago. Tickets can be purchased online at newamericanfolktheatre.org.

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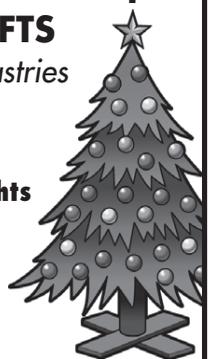
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with burgers, steaks, chops, chicken or pretty much anything off the grill.

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Death Notice

Jaime Dominguez, age 56 of Chicago, IL passed away on October 27, 2019. Dedicated husband of Veronica; adored father of Christine Brazill, Vanessa (Erik) Malaban, Monica, James, Alexander, and Gina Dominguez; proud grandfather to his three grandsons; Owen, Zachary, and Gavin.

Preceded in death by his sister Maria Meraz and mother Josephine Dominguez. Jaime will forever be remembered for his lively spirit and jokester manner. He was a Motown enthusiast and all season devoted Chicago Bears fan. Throughout his years he loved to camp and be active with his children. He then became the proudest grandpa. His memory will stay alive and he will be forever missed by many.

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10:00AM

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