



Proudly Serving
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Village View

We serve our
community with
good news!

B-MAC EDITION

Volume 14 | Number 21 | November 3, 2020

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Lookingglass Theatre Company announces new digital membership

Lookingglass Theatre Company announces the new digital membership: The Secret Passage, which includes exclusive programming of enthralling stories, virtual delights and artist engagement opportunities.

The Secret Passage is a digital membership that reveals a corridor of hidden doors. And behind each door lives an exclusive peek into the Lookingglass process. From mind-expanding artist conversations to first-ever play workshops to archival audio recordings of our former glories to discounts on classes and public Lookingglass events, the perks of the pass will cast you as a true “insider” and a key player in preserving our future.

The Secret Passage memberships are \$50 and are



available at lookingglass-theatre.org. Memberships run through August 2021. The price for new members is \$8 monthly.

Explore some of what will be discovered in The Secret Passage:

“The Jungle Radio Play” by Upton Sinclair, adapted and directed by Ensemble Member David Schwimmer.

“The Master and Margarita Radio Play,” by Mikhail Bulgakov’s adapted by Artistic Director/Ensemble member Heidi Stillman, directed by Heidi Stillman and Ensemble Member David Catlin.

“The Scarlet Letter Radio Play” by Nathaniel Hawthorne, adapted by Ensemble Member Thomas J. Cox.

“Lucy and Charlie’s Hon-eymoon Developmental

Workshop,” a new musical by Artistic Associate Matthew C. Yee

“The Hidden Door: Artist Conversations”: Online conversations featuring exclusive conversations with Ensemble Members David Schwimmer, Kevin Douglas, Mary Zimmerman, Mellon Playwright in Residence J. Nicole Brooks, Anthony Fleming, Kareem Bandy, and David Catlin, among others.

“Live Concerts: Coffeehouse and House Party: The Coffeehouse concert features Artistic Associates Matt Yee and Sully Ratke, with a special appearance by Ensemble Member Kareem Bandy. House Party is an intimate concert by Ensemble Member Kasey Foster and partner Charlie Otto.

Chicago’s largest theater district has new options

The Belmont Theater District (BTD), Chicago’s largest theater district located in the Lakeview West and Lakeview East neighborhoods, is offering a wide variety of entertainment options both in person and online to enjoy this holiday season. Belmont Theater District is funded by Special Service Areas 8, 17 and 27 and maintained by the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce and the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce.

Productions include (in alphabetical order by company name):

(Event details may change without notice, please go to BTDChicago.com for the most up to date listings and information.)

Remy Bumppo Theatre Company: Going Beyond “I Liked It”: How to Talk

and Ask Questions About Art and Theatre

Wednesdays & Fridays, Nov. 11, 13, 18 and 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

RemyBumppo.org

RBTC Core Ensemble Member Greg Matthew Anderson will lead a cross-disciplinary discussion on the philosophy of art and aesthetics with selected readings, anecdotes and insights from Chicago theatre productions—and the occasional special guest. Tools in hand, we’ll dive into the group’s collective experiences with the visual arts, museum exhibits, music, food, architecture, dance—and, of course, theatre!—to learn from one another how to both sharpen our critical eye and become even better fans of this great art form and all art wherever we find it.

The cost is \$60.

CSz Theater Chicago: Virtual ComedySportz

Every Friday and Saturday in December at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Available on Zoom

CSzchicago.com

The ComedySportz you have come to know and love for over 30 years, has gone virtual. Join us in the Zoom Dome, as two teams enter and only one leaves a champion. You decide who wins by voting, and our Virtual Ref keeps the whole match moving and fun. It’s all ages and always different, but always hilarious.

FREE

For more information on the Belmont Theater District, please visit www.BTDChicago.com or follow along on social media via Twitter @BelmontTheaterDistrict, or @BelmontTheaterDistrict on Facebook and Instagram.

Javier Jasso exhibit at South Suburban College

The South Suburban College Art & Design Department presents an exhibition by artist Javier Jasso entitled “Consecutive: Linear, Passenger” in the Dulgar Gallery through December 4, with a Virtual Reception on a date to be announced.

Javier Jasso is a Mexican American artist born in Chicago and raised in Mexico. He lives and works on the Southside of Chicago, Back of the Yards neighborhood. Javier says

he is a metaphorical and literal builder. Many of the materials he uses come from recycled sources such as metal, plaster, plastic, concrete and wood that he collects from his neighborhood, along with ceramic, a medium and practice that he carries with him from his hometown of Alfareros in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The public is welcome to visit the art exhibition and reception at no charge; masks and social distancing

are required. The Dulgar Gallery is on the 1st Floor of SSC’s Main Campus. SSC Galleries are open 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Mondays; 12:30 to 4:30 pm Tuesdays; 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Wednesdays; 12:30 to 4:30 pm Thursdays; and 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Fridays. For more information, please call (708) 596-2000, ext. 2300, visit www.ssc.edu/art, or email etucker@ssc.edu. SSC is at 15800 S. State St., South Holland, Illinois.

It’s not too late to sign up for classes this fall at Moraine Valley Community College

More than 100 late-starting general education classes available this fall at Moraine Valley Community College, and it’s not too late to sign up.

Many late-starting classes offered are general education courses such as General Biology I, Intro to Computer Systems, Composition I, Principles of Macro-Economics, Western Humanities I, Probability and Statistics, General Sociology as well as Air Conditioning Theory, Network Services, Microsoft Excel and Principles of Operations Management. Most of these are

eight weeks long while others are shorter.

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With an annual average cost of \$4,446, attending classes at Moraine Valley can save students up to nearly \$30,000 per year compared to private colleges or universities.

A complete list of credit and noncredit classes can be found in the fall 2020 class schedule online at morainevalley.edu. Tuition is \$131 per credit hour plus fees and books. Registration is ongoing. New students can get started remotely with step-by-step instructions at morainevalley.edu/starting-remotely.



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 18 | Number 21 | November 3, 2020

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

A virtual State of Address for members of Orland Park Chamber of Commerce

by Annette Dixon

The following is a brief summary of Mayor Keith Pekau's address when he recently spoke before several visitors and many virtual listeners. The Mayor had a great slide presentation and followed a uniform procedure. On slide one he spoke about Covid 19 and the flattening of the curve in the village and how much more testing is being done, also the importance of distancing and a mask, especially now with the onset of the flu season.

Police Chief Mitchell spoke about crime and started with violent crimes,

homicide being down -31.5 percent from 2016, burglaries and theft decreased in 2020, but assaults and battery increased due to attacks on police officers and family disputes. More cars are stolen in 2020 due to unlocked cars, please keep your car and belongings safe by following the rules and guideline for good safety measures. "Just remember continue to shop in your community for statistics prove that Orland Square is safer than Oak Brook and other shopping malls. Orland Square has upgraded all their cameras and devices

needed for security, they advise you to keep safe and keep your guard up at all times wherever you go."

Slide three covered taxes and rebates. "We took 44 Million dollar debt off the books and we all know Covid hit us hard. If you are wondering where did the 2016 rebate go, well we invested it in our roads and parks which really needed it. Sixty-Seven Million dollars is designated for day to day operations. We are decreasing the Mayor and Clerk's salary also trustees' salaries for 2021, the decrease will bring them

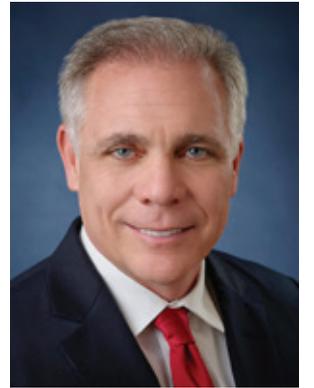
down to the 2005 pay scale. We are all working together for the residents."

"Another investment cost is the pension funds for the Police and Illinois Municipal Retirement which increased 8% this year, but we can't do anything about that for that needs to be fixed at State level. With the employees taking an early retirement and 31% fixed out until 2023, we were able to borrow at 2% and use for capital expenditures. There are roads and parks to maintain for example, Golf Road run about 250 acres and needs some replacements,

there are 64 parks and we have been evaluating a cost for a 5 year period.

Slide four was used to inform the residents of the Small Share Back program for Small Businesses. There is an incentive program to fill the empty spaces. "We still help business because of our reserve. We took action when things were good so we would be secure in emergencies, like Covid 19. As far as Technology, you will see a great change for improvement in the Village in the next 18 months."

Slide five was about the Chicago South Interstate



Alliance, Will County Corridor, composes of a five mile corridor, ideal for developments with Mayors from three suburbs which includes, Mokena, Orland Park, and Tinley Park. They have Ozinga, Panduit, and one more, there is a sketch available by calling Orland Park Village Hall.

Orland Park to Host Veterans Day Ceremony November 11

The Orland Park community is invited to join the Village as we honor of all who have served our country.

The Village of Orland Park will host their annual Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Names newly added will be unveiled on the granite walls bordering the Village's Veterans Memorial, Ara Pace, Place of Peace, located in the Village Center at 14700 S. Ravinia Ave. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

"The Village's ceremony for Veterans Day is a long-standing tradition that the Village is honored to host," said Mayor Keith Pekau. "It's nice to come together as a community to remember all who have served our country."

Orland Park's veteran's memorial displays the engraved names of veterans, living and deceased, from

across the country who served in all branches and in all wars. It is during the Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies that the newly added veterans' names are announced, and the veterans are recognized.

Veterans to be honored and their names added to the memorial wall are: Alfred R. Brazen, Norberto R. Casarez Sr., John T. Cavanaugh, Terrence Michael Harty, Philip R. Kosiba, Terry Lew Krause, Terrence Lee Martin, Tony Martinez, Robert N. Nicola, Kevin T. O'Brien, Maurice J. O'Connor, William Joseph Rafferty and Terry Vance Watland.

The socially distanced ceremony will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Those interested in virtual participation can view the program on the Village's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/users/villageoforlandpark](https://www.youtube.com/users/villageoforlandpark).



The Village of Orland Park will host their annual Veterans Day ceremony. Photo Credit: Village of Orland Park

Those who are subscribed to the Village's YouTube channel will be automatically notified of the live broadcast. A recording will be posted on the Village's social media accounts, cable access channel (Comcast channel 4 and AT&T U-Verse channel 99) and YouTube channel after the live viewing.

This year's ceremony will begin with the Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Orland Memorial Post 111 and Orland-Palos Reber-Tesmond VFW Memorial Post 2604.

The Pledge of Allegiance will follow before resident Shannon Gallagher performs our national anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner.

Dale Carver of the Orland Park Veterans Commission will give a welcome before a blessing by Reverend Don Borling, Pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park.

Mayor Pekau will read aloud the names of the 13 veterans newly engraved on the wall.

Questions about the ceremony may be directed to Darryl Wertheim at 708/403-6115.

Serratore wins volunteer award

Tinley Park resident Gregory Serratore, 90, recently won the 2020 Illinois TRIAD Senior Citizen Volunteer Award, which is designed to encourage public safety agencies to honor and recognize senior citizens as vital members of their department and as essential community liaisons.

Greg has volunteered for the Tinley Wish Program, a nonprofit managed by the Tinley Park Police and Fire departments that raises money for families in need. He also was on the Crime Prevention Committee and worked as a volunteer for National Night Out and the Discover Tinley event.

Greg is a member of Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.), a 2015 graduate of the Citizens Police Academy, and a member and former treasurer of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

Greg and his wife Ann have been married 70 years and are the parents of four



children, 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is an Army veteran who served for two years in the Korean War. His careers include 25 years with the Santa Fe Railroad Dining and Sleeping Car Departments, 16 years as the Human Resource Manager of World's Finest Chocolate, and as a business manager for St Mary Star of the Sea parish. He is now retired.

The Illinois State TRIAD's mission is to bring together committed public safety personnel, legal representatives, elderly rights advocates and senior citizens for crime prevention and safety education throughout the state.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 21 | Number 21 | November 3, 2020

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

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Chicago Ridge Honor Wall will honor military

Chicago Ridge wants to recognize village residents serving in the military and is asking for help to gather an accurate representation. The village has constructed a glass case to be displayed in the atrium of the Eugene L. Siegel Municipal Complex, 10455 Ridgeland Avenue, to recognize and honor soldiers from Chi-

cago Ridge on active duty. The case will include photos and information about each soldier.

“They are out there defending and serving our country and they should be recognized,” Tokar said. “We would like to recognize these people with a nice space in the atrium to honor them.”

You can drop off 5 by 7-inch photos of soldiers at Village Hall. Please include the following information: soldier’s name; serving branch of the military; and information about who they are, where they are stationed, and when they are returning home.

For more information call 708-425-7700.

‘Beyond the Nutcracker’ to spread cheer in-person and online

Ballet 5:8 is thrilled to present a series of live “Beyond the Nutcracker Experience” performances featuring a mix of live and recorded dancing, plus brand-new interactive elements. Limited, customized seating in the flexible black-box space will seat household groups together, with at least six feet of distance between groups and masks required. Meanwhile, the first-ever made-for-film version of “Beyond the Nutcracker” will premiere online December 11, available for streaming worldwide through January 1. Ticketing information for live and online performances is available by calling 312-725-4752 or at ballet58.org/nutcracker.

Twenty-four hour live



“Beyond the Nutcracker Experience” performances will be held in Ballet 5:8’s Black Box theater in its Orland Park studios, which has been newly renovated with additional lighting, backdrops, and seating pods for audience members. The “Experience” will feature excerpts from the magical “Beyond the Nutcracker,” following Emma, her Uncle Abrahms, and the angel Anastasis on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that leads to the story of the first Christmas. Audience members will explore an interactive exhibit featuring the eight countries in “Beyond the Nutcracker.”

Ballet 5:8’s signature take on “The Nutcracker” will also premiere online for the first time ever, available for both short-term rental and purchase worldwide. The online version will include the entire “Beyond the Nutcracker” ballet, featuring original choreography by Artistic Director Julianna Rubio Slager, performed by the students from Ballet 5:8 School of the Arts and esteemed guests from the Ballet 5:8 professional company. Filmed cinematically especially for the premiere, the online version will be filmed immersively and more in-depth than a simple full-stage camera view.

Not too late to sign up for fall classes at MVCC

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SUBURBAN EDITION

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

New theatre marquee in front of the Oak View Center

In February 2020, the Oak Lawn Park District Community Theatre, 4625 W. 110th St., was renamed the Erica Heilmann Theater in dedication to the late Erica Heilmann, a devoted member of the theater community.

The marquee was purchased through private funds raised in her name and was generously donated

to the Oak Lawn Park District to promote future shows. Since the theatre itself is a renovation of an older building, the marquee was designed to reflect the classic theatre signs that are seen in downtown Chicago and on Broadway.

We can't wait to display our upcoming productions on the marquee for everyone to see!



Library budget reduces property tax levy

The reduced level of service at the Oak Lawn Public Library has provided the Library Board and the Library's management team an opportunity to closely evaluate how the Library dedicates its resources in serving its patrons. The resulting efficiencies and resource reallocations discovered has allowed the Board to reduce next year's real estate tax levy by 5% in an effort to alleviate the burden on our local taxpayers and still provide the Library services they need to make it through this pandemic.

Since the Library closed its doors on March 14th, the Board and staff have sought ways to responsibly and safely begin an incremental return to service for our patrons. Over the last several months, we have instituted curbside pickup, grab and go checkout, provided limited capacity in our computer center and re-opened our stacks for limited browsing. We will hopefully begin allowing students access to a study room and widely dispersed tables. Thus, providing our local students with an opportunity

for a safe and efficient space to meet and do their homework. Our hours are currently reduced by 22%. Our foot traffic is down approximately 70%. Our book circulation is down 50%. However, as one would expect, the use of our on-line resources through our website are up over 28%. We have adjusted our budget to reflect the shifting needs of our patrons. We have also allocated increased resources for cleaning and PPE. Unfortunately, there is a union organizing effort underway that has forced us to reallocate resources from patron services to allow for potentially substantial legal fees. Our budget assumes a return to full service at mid-year, provided circumstances allow.

We are sure that many of you have enjoyed the extensive social media outreach done by many members of our team. There is also a large contingent of full and part-time staff who have continued to serve our patrons behind the scenes, both on-site and remotely from home. The Board is eternally grateful and most

appreciative of those team members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty during this pandemic. Accordingly, the Board has reallocated funds originally intended for a blanket COLA increase to a system of merit raises that recognize those deeply valued contributions to our institution and its patrons.

Although our levy reduction may appear to be minimal, our budget consists of largely fixed costs. Thus, any savings found required a considerable amount of critical thinking and deep discussion. With this levy reduction, the Library Board and staff have taken the ethical stance to reduce the financial strain on our taxpayers during this difficult time. The staff and Library Board of Trustees encourage all of our residents to maintain social distancing when possible and "mask up" when necessary. Reducing our local positivity rate is essential in our efforts to bring back additional Library hours and services while we strive to protect the health of our patrons and staff.

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From the Mayor of Evergreen Park

Friends, you hear from me when things are going well, and you'll hear from me when things are not going so well.

As you can see, the Covid numbers are growing. Now's the time where we really have to buckle down again and tighten up what we do and how we do it. Some things don't change; the easiest way to slow the spread of this virus is to wear a mask. Whether it is a simple paper mask, or the more elaborate and creative ones that you see... wearing a mask is the number one protection against transmitting or being infected by the virus. We've been doing it; let's keep it



Mayor James Sexton

I read on social media, which rings so true; those restaurants and businesses that have sponsored your community events? They are calling in a favor. Please use their carryout and delivery options if you are able to do so. I know the "green" is thin these days, but please keep the green in Evergreen.

As of now, there are no changes to any Village programs, events or hours of operation.

Folks, it'll be awhile before things get back to normal, but we are going to get through this together.

Mayor James Sexton
Village of Evergreen Park

up. I won't reiterate the news, but large gatherings need to be avoided. Close gatherings need to be avoided. Keep six feet apart and keep washing your hands. To repurpose something,

A little article for the Veterans who have served in Vietnam

While visiting Vietnam, in the French Quarter I stayed at Indochina Hotel 1, close to the Cathedral. There wasn't much to do alone so I went to see a war museum which I wasn't proud of because I thought they glamorize their success. Vietnam Asian American war display was appalling in which pictures were shown by the museum of bombs shot down the American tanks, planes, and helicopters, the Vietnamese never accepted the French rule.

By 1930 the Vietnamese Nationalist Party staged the first significant armed uprising against the French. They didn't fare too well so now that left a three way struggle to ensue, which included the communist party.

French military disaster at Dien Bien Phu in May 1954 and the conference at Geneva marked the end of the eight year war and French Colonial rule in Indochina. In December of 1961, President of South Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem requested assistance from the United States and President Kennedy sent military advisors to South Vietnam. Hanoi has a rich history with French influence such as a built in wall around the tower which was built in 1885 to protect Hanoi City. It had cannons, turrets, and was very antique. The modern building housed all the information on all the wars, which started with China's Han dynasty. They ruled Vietnam for a thousand years.

So, with all the invasions, I'm sure the inbred behavior comes from suspicion of the invaders and I guess they have a right to their behavior. If I sound like I am pro-military, I am. I am proud of each and every service person in all of the wars, even in the cold war. Village View Newspapers, Annette Dixon has a memorial brick at the Lansing Memorial and is a Lifetime Member of the Vietnam Veterans and the POW Organizations.

Proud member of following Chambers

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

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Owner/Editor/Publisher Annette Dixon

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e-mailed to vnnew@sbcglobal.net

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

Hoyne Savings Bank and Loomis Federal Savings and Loan Association announce completion of merger

Hoyne Savings Bank, an Illinois-chartered savings bank ("Hoyne") a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hoyne Financial Corporation, which in turn is wholly owned by Hoyne Savings, MHC, and Loomis Federal Savings and Loan Association, a federally-chartered savings and loan association ("Loomis"), today announced the completion of the merger of Loomis with and into Hoyne. Loomis' banking business will now be operated as a division of Hoyne Savings Bank. With the completion of the merger, the combined institution has consolidated assets of approximately \$510 million, \$90 million in equity and operates a network

of nine branches throughout the Chicagoland area.

"We are pleased to welcome Loomis' customers and employees to our Bank," said Steven F. Rosenbaum, Hoyne Savings Bank's President & CEO. "We are excited to expand our footprint in the greater Chicagoland market. We look forward to providing our new customers with continued exceptional service and banking products, supported by our growing team that now includes Loomis' banking professionals."

David Opas, the President of Loomis Federal Savings and Loan Association, will become a member of the Boards of

Directors of Hoyne Savings Bank, Hoyne Savings, MHC and Hoyne Financial Corporation.

"The Board and Management of Loomis are delighted to have successfully completed this strategic merger with Hoyne Savings Bank. We look forward to continuing to serve our customers with expanded products and the friendly service they have come to expect," stated David Opas, President & CEO of Loomis Federal Savings.

This partnership combines two mutual organizations with very similar cultures and core values. The merger also allows the combined savings bank to offer enhanced benefits

such as increased lending capacity, a larger network of branches, and continue each bank's legacy of providing customer service built on relationships of trust, integrity and personalized service. This merger represents a strong financial, strategic and cultural fit and bolsters both banks' capacity and presence in the Chicago marketplace.

The law firm of Luse Gorman, PC acted as legal counsel for Hoyne Savings Bank. The law firm of Vedder Price P.C. acted as legal counsel for Loomis Federal Savings and Loan Association. Financial advisory services for the transaction were provided by RP Financial.

Village Board meeting highlights

The Tinley Park Village Board held its regular meeting Tuesday at Village Hall. Highlights include:

New Commander and Officers: Clerk Thirion conducted swearing-in ceremonies for Cmdr. Tim Poulous (pictured) and new police officers Ahmad Allan and Kyle Heneghan.

Business Spotlight: The Village Board recognized Los 3 Burritos, 8005 W. 183rd St., Tinley Park, as part of the Village's Business Spotlight series. Watch the presentation on the Village's YouTube page.

Bullying Prevention:



The Village Board passed a proclamation declaring last month, as Bullying and Cyberbully Prevention Month in Tinley Park. This is part of a nationwide effort to curb bullying and cyberbullying.

Watch the entire meeting on the Village's YouTube page or on Tinley TV, which broadcasts on Comcast Channel 4 and U-verse Channel 99.

Pappas: See your property tax bill grow over 20 years at cookcountytreasurer.com

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas today released an unprecedented study of property taxes that shows the county's tax bills virtually doubling over 20 years, an increase that is nearly triple the rise in the cost of living index.

"The Pappas Study" is a painstaking examination of tax bills on Cook County's 1.7 million parcels of property that shows the increase of total taxes over the past 20 years, and allows taxpayers to see the increases in bills on their homes, businesses and land.

The study is posted on cookcountytreasurer.com with a research tool allowing owners to see "how local governments taxed property and people have paid the tax bill" over two decades, Pappas said.

"This website tool gives taxpayers a sobering reminder of what they have paid every year going back 20 years," she said. "In the midst of the pandemic and a recession, local governments should take their foot off the gas pedal and stop raising property taxes."

While the cost of living has risen just 36 percent over 20 years, the findings

of the Pappas Study include:

In all of Cook County, total taxes billed increased 99 percent, from \$7.85 billion to \$15.58 billion.

In suburban Cook County, total taxes on residential properties jumped 116 percent, from \$2.45 billion to \$5.29 billion, and total taxes on commercial properties rose 53 percent, from \$2.15 billion to \$3.30 billion.

"Because the study lets us see what government has done in the past, we might be able to chart a better, less costly future," Pappas said. "Government cannot just raise taxes and hope for the best."

Cook County has 2,200 local government agencies, such as school districts, townships, parks, libraries, public health and safety agencies. The study analyzes total property taxes billed in the county's 135 cities and villages by those 2,200 agencies.

"Has it been worth it?" Pappas said. "There's no longer any ignoring that question in a pandemic, not from homeowners who pay the taxes and not from the local officials who raise the taxes."

USO Midway Center still open

USO Midway Center is currently operating on limited hours as a "Grab n' Go" center to ensure the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and military.

Located in Concourse C, USO of Illinois' Midway Center is a "Home Away from Home" for traveling military and their families. All amenities are offered free, daily, to active duty, guard and reserve military and their dependents, and Retired military members.

The center offers convenience on-the-go, with computers, printer and free WI-FI access. USO Midway's kitchenette is stocked with snacks and beverages, and has a compact lounge area with a big screen TV, as well as books and magazines, movies, board games, and a XBOX gaming system. For those traveling with children, there is access to a children's play area and games.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Orland Park WWII Vet Meets "Ike" in Manila

As part of the ongoing "Preserving Our Heritage" initiative, the following feature highlights 93 year old WWII veteran, James Cole. Cole was born and raised in Shady Grove, PA, and attended North Union H.S. Shortly after graduation he and two buddies decided to enlist in the service as the war was raging and allied troops had just landed on the shores of Normandy, France during the invasion of Europe. Since Cole was but 17 years old, the U.S. assigned him to a specialized training program, as he attended Penn State University and the University of Pittsburg for six months. In April, 1945 he completed basic training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, Gunner School with the Army Air Corps.

In December 1945, Cole Shipped to Manila in the Philippine's Fort McKinley and shockingly experienced the carnage and massive destruction caused during the allied victory during the Battle of Manila. "The Pearl of the Orient" has been laid to waste caused directly by Japanese war crimes and unnecessary devastation, with over 100,000 Filipino citizens killed, bayoneted, shot, burned and beheaded. As a result of these war crimes, commanding Japanese general, Yamashita was sentenced to death by

hanging on February 23, 1946.

On a more pleasant note, Cole recalls an event that puts a big smile on his face. During a visit to Manila by General Eisenhower, "Ike" decided to inspect the ranks and mingle with the troops. As "Ike" approached Cole's position in formation he thought what an honor it is to walk past him. But to Cole's surprise "Ike" stopped and faced him and asked "How are you getting along here son"? Cole responded "Sir, I'd like to know why the officers eat better than the rest of the troops". "Ike" laughed and proceeded to invite Cole to dine with him at the officer's mess hall later in the day. Cole explained "I never took him up on the offer 'cause I was concerned of the possible repercussions".

Jim Cole was part of the U.S. Strategic Air Force (USASTAF) whose mission was to coordinate strategic bombing of Japan during the upcoming invasion of Japan during the upcoming allied invasion. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9), 1945 brought Japan to their knees. Japan accepted the Potsdam Declaration the following day and the terms of an unconditional surrender ending WWII.

On December 6, 1945, the USASTAF was deacti-

vated and along with Jim Cole assigned to the Pacific Air Command U.S. Army (PACUSA) and re-assigned to Tokyo, Japan in June, 1946, as part of the Japanese Occupational Forces. Cole recognized that McArthur's Occupational Forces proved critical to the world and Japan as we know it today. Many historians claim that the success of this occupation gave rise to Japan's current status amongst industrialized nations. Japan elected a democratic government, passed its constitution which rejected war "as a sovereign right of the nation". Staff Sgt. Jim Cole was discharged at Ft. Dix, NJ in December, 1946.

Cole has lived in Orland Park for 43 years, serving on his townhouse board of directors throughout that period. He enjoys reading, especially autobiographies with one of his favorites being Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He cherishes his friendship with Tony Marino, a fellow WWII veteran he met some 50 years ago at St. Julie's parish. They have so much in common; making each other laugh, share driving to doctor visits, being there for each other during many other daily tasks. "Jim was a perfect fit to be featured because of his deep conviction that describing and teaching American history falls much too short of his



James Cole

expectations", said Ken McClory, Legion Post #615 member, who heads up this "Preserving Our Heritage" initiative. "It includes the kind of stuff you won't read about in school history books." It is very appropriate that at this time both Jim Cole and Tony Marino recently became active members of the Tinley Park America Legion Post #615. They are content in life and proud of their country. The Tinley American Legion takes great pride in their legacy, honoring them as one of their own. Lastly, their contribution to the "Preserving Our Heritage" initiative is to be considered stimulating and outstanding.

Military and Discount Card

The Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office is now offering all those who served and continue to serve the ability to register online for the Cook County Military and Discount Card at the Recorder of Deeds website at www.cookrecorder.com/veteran-services. The on-

line registration allows active-duty personnel, veterans, guard members and reservists to register from the comfort of their home.

For more information, contact the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Veterans Service Office at 312-603-5788.



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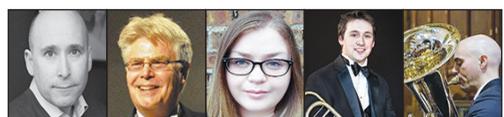
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Orland Twp. partners with Silver Cross Hospital

Orland Township is proud to announce the addition of Silver Cross Hospital to the Township's Well-

ness Program, according to the office of Township Supervisor Paul O'Grady.

Board-certified doctors from Silver Cross Medical Group will now accept Orland Township Wellness Program vouchers for physicals at a discounted rate of \$75.

Orland Township's Well-

ness Program provides residents with quality services at a low cost. Residents must purchase vouchers in-person at the Township office, 14807 S. Ravinia Ave., Orland Park and then make an appointment directly with the provider.

"Preventive care is key to good health and well-

being," said Supervisor O'Grady. "We are happy to welcome the doctors of Silver Cross Medical Group to the Wellness Program and bring more, quality medical services to our residents."

Silver Cross Medical Group doctors participating in the Township's Well-

ness Program are: Dr. Farooq Hussain, Dr. Reshma Relwani, Dr. Omar Akhtar and Dr. Tiffany Groen

All the doctors' offices are located at the Silver Cross Hospital complex, 1890 Silver Cross Blvd., New Lenox. Direct contact information, including phone numbers, is listed on the Orland Township vouchers.

For more information on Orland Township's Wellness Program, including other available medical screenings and fees, visit orlandtownship.org or call (708) 403-4222.

So Dear God Please, Please Answer My Prayer And Send Me Somebody Who Will Really Care..... That Is, Dear God, If You're Really There!

'Prayer of a Stray,' author unknown

Dear God Please Send Me Somebody Who'll Care!
I'm Tired of Running, I'm Sick With Despair.
My Body is Aching, It's So Racked With Pain,
And Dear God I Pray As I Run In The Rain.
That Someone Will Love Me And Give Me A Home.
A Warm Cozy Bed And A Big Juicy Bone.
My Last Owner Tied Me All Day In The Yard
Sometimes With No Water And God That Was Hard!
So I Chewed My Leash God And I Ran Away
To Rummage In Garbage And Live As A Stray.
But Now God I'm Tired And Hungry And Cold.
And I'm So Afraid That I'll Never Grow Old.
They've Chased Me With Sticks And Hit Me With Stones
While I Run The Streets Just Looking For Bones!
I'm Not Really Bad God, Please Help Me If You Can,



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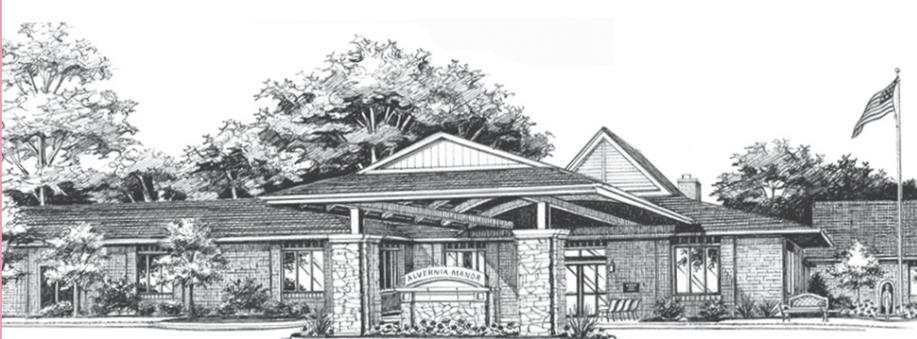
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Treats for Troops

The Oak Lawn Park District's Ice Arena will hold its 10th Annual Treats for Troops collection until Saturday, November 7th, 2020.

Participants of the Ice Arena's Rising Stars Skating School will decorate treat bags and collect Halloween candy to be sent to the troops.

The public is also encouraged to participate by dropping off bags of candy to the Ice Arena, 9320 S. Kenton Ave, by Saturday, November 7th.

If you wish, you may also



include a handwritten note in your bag and include the change for postage.

Last year over 800 pounds of treats were col-

lected.

For more information on donating to the troops, please contact 708-857-5173.

USO Midway opens facility for Navy grads

The USO will be opening a new facility at Midway International Airport to support the Navy Sailors graduating from Recruit Training Command Great Lakes. This facility will act as a resource for sailors arriving at 2 am to Midway International Airport after graduation to fly to their next duty station.

Midway International Airport security does not open until 4am, which leaves many graduates stuck for several hours in the airport's lobby. USO of Illinois recognized the need for a space to ensure these graduates and their families have a comfortable place to wait. A room was designated in baggage claim with the support of Midway International Airport management.

The USO Midway baggage claim space will allow sailors to charge their phones, have something to drink, and watch TV. This room is only for graduating sailors



and will only be open until the last sailors passes through security. This new resource will make their time here much more comfortable.

Oak Lawn Man to Make 350th Blood Donation

William (Bill) Ward made his 350th blood donation at the Vitalant Donation Center in Oak Lawn recently. Bill has been making blood donations since the 1980s. In fact, he's donated at the Oak Lawn center (formerly known as LifeSource) since 1999.

Bill makes regular platelet donations which are an automated blood donation which only removes the platelet component from the blood. Platelets are tiny cells that help your blood clot when you are bleeding

and constantly fix tears in your circulatory system. When platelets are low, serious or life-threatening bleeding can occur. About 50% of platelet donations are used to help cancer patients who are undergoing chemotherapy, but they are also used in surgery and during traumas. Platelets are so perishable they can only be stored for up to 5 days, this means there is a constant need for this delicate blood component.

Vitalant Oak Lawn Donor Center is at 9517 S. Cicero Ave. Make an appointment to donate at www.Vitalant.org. Learn more about platelet donation at Vitalant.org/platelets.

P.L.O.W.S Council on Aging

Founded in 1975, P.L.O.W.S is South Suburban Cook County's premier leader and connection to aging information and resources. A 501(c)3 human service organization, they provide comprehensive community services to 16,000+ individuals in 20 communities within Palos, Lemont, Orland and Worth Townships.

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Solutions to puzzles for October 20, 2020 issue

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Discover Catholic Schools Week With St. Benedict School

St. Benedict wants you to see the excellent education that our Catholic School has to offer as we participate in Discover Catholic Schools Week; Sunday, November 8 through Saturday, November 14.

"Discover Catholic

Schools" is a week designated to help schools connect with prospective families, donors, educators and other community members. During this week, we plan to showcase why St. Benedict School is a great place for families and their children.

January 31 to February 6, 2021 will still be the traditional Celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Stay tuned to our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram to discover more about St. Benedict School!

St. Benedict School is

now enrolling! We offer a safe, socially distant 5-day in person and virtual learning option. Would you like a virtual tour? Feel free to contact our Marketing Director, Ms. Bri Bridges at bbridges@stbenbi.org, or visit us online at stbenbi.org.

Let's Draw Together

Children age 3 and up and their special guest is welcome to join the Oak Lawn Park District for an afternoon of drawing fun on Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Let's Draw Together event.

Enjoy an hour from 4-5 pm learning to draw, winning raffle prizes and spending time with loved ones. This event is at the



Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St. Fee is \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Each participant in the household must register. Call 708-857-2200 or visit itolparks.com.



Turkey Shoot at Oak Lawn park

The Oak Lawn Park District's Annual Turkey Shoot will be held on Sunday, November 15th, at the

Community Pavilion located at 9401 S. Oak Park Ave.

This family-friendly event will take place from 11:00am-12:00pm. Each participating team will receive 10 free throws for

a chance to win a prize. 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 younger children. There will be raffle prizes for all children. Parents may compete with more than one child.

This event is \$10 for

residents and \$20 for non-residents. Please register in advance at www.olparks.com. The registration code is 216101.

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

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In some cases, tree removal may be required. The remaining tree stumps are treated with an approved herbicide to prevent future regrowth. Herbicide will be applied by state-licensed applicators.

All work is performed by trained, qualified arborists. For more information visit ComEd.com/trees or call (800) Edison-1.

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R.I.P.

Charles Theodore Woodfall; 94 of Evergreen Park; passed away in is home October 12, 2020. Born in Charleston, IL; he was a U.S. Army Veteran of WWII. Charles fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a Purple Heart recipient. He was married to the late Thelma nee Strough for 52 years. Charles is survived by his three children; Joan (the late Larry) Wolfe, Steve (Laura) Woodfall and Janet Woodfall as well as a granddaughter, Stefanie Woodfall and many nieces and nephews. Charles spent his life in the dairy industry and upon retiring pursued his passion for hunting and fishing. He was a fiercely independent man as well as an avid outdoorsman. Charles was a long-time member of the Chicago Bow Hunters and the Free Masons of IL Lodge #1171. Arrangements entrusted to Kosary Funeral Home

(708) 499-3223 or kosary-funeralhome.com

Dorothy E. Viravec nee Balling age 74; beloved wife of Richard; loving mother of Amber (Kevin) Wilken and Steven (Jamie) Viravec; cherished grandmother of Riley, Zachary, Steven, Paul and Destiny; fond sister of Marilyn (Glen) Johnson, Edward (Barbara) Balling and James (Mary) Balling; also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Visitation 5 pm to 8:30 pm Thursday October 22, 2020 at Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park; Funeral Service same day at 7:30 pm Interment Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery 708-499-3223 or kosary-funeralhome.com

Kenneth Kudla age 53 dear brother of Cheryl (William) Pisano, Joseph P. (Pattie) Kudla, Gregory (Susan) Kudla and Jennifer (Kevin) Piotrowski; cherished son of the late Joseph E. and the late

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Carolyn Joyce Kudla; dear nephew of Aunt Linda and the late Uncle Walt Kosary; loving Uncle and Great Uncle of many; also survived by other relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers memorials to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org appreciated. Visitation Friday October 16, 2020 2 pm to 8 pm at Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park where Funeral will be held Saturday October 17th at 11:00 am (708) 499-3223 or kosary-funeralhome.com.

Lynnet "Joan" Heady nee Redmond age 89 of Spring Hill, Florida and former resident of Evergreen Park, IL; beloved wife of the late John; loving mother of John Michael "Mike" and Terry William Heady; cherished daughter of the late William and the late Ann Redmond; dear sister of the late Terry Redmond. Joan was born in Epsom Surrey, England and was a LPN at Little Co. of Mary Hospital. Visitation was at Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie,

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Evergreen Park. Funeral Chapel to St. Bernadette Church for Mass of Christian Burial at Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (708) 499-3223 or kosary-funeralhome.com.

Harry Louis Gerc age 95; beloved husband of the late Vivienne; loving father of Ruth (Fred) Knipper, John (Sharon) Gerc and Joan (Craig) Krzewina; cherished PaPa of eleven grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren; fond brother in law of William Jarvis; WW II Navy Veteran, retired Evergreen Park Fireman and member of Evergreen Park American Legion Post #854. Visitation at Kosary Funeral Home 9837 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park. Funeral from Chapel to Queen of Martyrs Church for Mass of Christian Burial at Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (708) 499-3223 or kosary-funeralhome.com.



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