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# Village View

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## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 24 | December 17, 2019

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood



Village of Alsip Heritage I and Heritage II Apartments, 3715 W. 123rd Place in Alsip.

### Alsip revises lease agreement regarding cannabis

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting held on December 2nd Trustee, Christine McLawhorn, brought forth a motion that met with approval authorizing the Alsip Village Attorney to develop language for incorporation into standard Heritage I and Heritage II lease agreements. The Village owned property is located at 3715 W. 123rd Place in Alsip, IL.

Trustee McLawhorn stated the language to be along the lines, "The tenant shall not and shall not

permit anyone to smoke or cultivate cannabis or any other federally prohibited substance in any part of the premises, the common areas or the property of which they form part of. Failure to comply will result in a 1st offense - written warning; 2nd offense - a \$500 fine, and the 3rd offense will result in termination of the lease and eviction." For additional Heritage I and Heritage II apartment leasing information please call 708-388-8914 or visit: [www.apartmenthomeliving.com](http://www.apartmenthomeliving.com)

### Blue Island's historic landmark and district requirements

The owner of any landmark property or property located within a Historic District is required to receive a COA before a building permit is issued.

The COA indicates that the HPC has reviewed (and

authorizes) plans for exterior alteration, construction, demolition in whole or in part, and/or the relocation of a Landmark or property, structure, site or object within a Historic District. The COA is in no way a substitute for a building permit, and all projects must comply with City building code.

An applicant must directly submit to the Commission an application for a COA. The HPC Chair will make the necessary ar-

rangements so that a complete application is on the agenda of the next Commission meeting. Once the HPC approves a COA, the applicant submits the approved certificate to the Building & Zoning Department for permit approval subject to building code.

COA applications are available online at [http://www.blueisland.org/wp-content/uploads/BIHPC\\_COA.pdf](http://www.blueisland.org/wp-content/uploads/BIHPC_COA.pdf) in the Building & Zoning Department, or from the Chair of the HPC.

### Grant allows for solar panels installation at Moraine Valley

Green energy is being incorporated more into curriculum after students helped install solar panels at Moraine Valley Community College. The panels were purchased with funds from a \$5,000 grant from the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN).

Students taking Air Conditioning Theory and Basic Electrical Controls this semester helped install the solar voltaic unit, power cabinets, batteries and wiring under the supervision of Tom Varnotta, adjunct instructor of Heating and Air Conditioning, and Steve Brasel, Mechanical Technologies department chair.

The equipment was installed on a shelf and in the windows of the tools and supplies room in the college's technology build-

ing (Building T). The solar power apparatus will be incorporated into the learning outcomes and lesson plans for HAC-105 (Air Conditioning Theory), HAC-111 (Basic Electrical Controls), HAC-150 (Advanced Electrical Controls) and HAC-165 (Sustainable Energy).

Moraine Valley received the IGEN grant to implement educational programming around energy efficiency, yielding this project. The panels will not only help teach students, but also supply 120-volt power to some new refrigeration training boards rather than plugging into the college's electrical power supply.

"This was a great project that the students really enjoyed to install, wire and program. It gives them a firsthand experience why solar power is becoming such a big part of our industry through sustainability," Brasel said. "It's great to see the theory of sustainable energy put into practical use."

### Ring in 2020 in Blue Island

Join the City of Blue Island as we "Rock Around The Clock" to ring in 2020 with a fireworks display and music. It will be Dec. 31 at 11:30 p.m. at Western Avenue and Vermont Street.

For more information, visit the city's website at [blueisland.org](http://blueisland.org).

### Pictures with Santa

Santa will be at the John D. Rita Recreation Center



on Saturday, December 21st. Have your picture taken with Santa, as this is his last stop in Blue Island before the big night! Look for the Blue Island Park District's Santa House!

Santa will visit the John D. Rita Recreation Center, 2805 W. 141st St., Blue Island, from 6 to 9 p.m. that day.

### Steppenwolf in rehearsals for Dance Nation

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is now in rehearsals with Pulitzer Prize Finalist Dance Nation by Clare Barron, directed and choreographed by Lee Sunday Evans. Steppenwolf's production features ensemble members Audrey Francis (The Moms/Vanessa), Tim Hopper (Dance Teacher Pat), Caroline Neff (Zuzu), and Karen Rodriguez (Amina) with Ariana Burks (Sofia), Adithi Chandrashekhar (Connie), Shanésia Davis (Ashlee), Torrey Hanson (Luke) and Ellen Maddow (Maeve).

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# Village View

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## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

Volume 13 | Number 24 | December 17, 2019

### Oak Forest sells Gateway properties

by Jan Glaz

The City of Oak Forest has authorized an agreement for the sale of city-owned property consisting of four Gateway parcels at 15820 S. Cicero and 4960 W. 159th Street to North Mark Construction LLC. The lots are sold in pairs for \$100,000 each.

Travis Bandstra, the City's Economic & Community Development Director, reported that North Mark Construction plans consist of building four stories, 114 total units across two new buildings comprised of a mix of studios, and one and two bedroom units. The first level would consist of parking and common space.

Bandstra stated that the developer will have until April 1, 2020 to perform due diligence that includes developing concepts, soil

testing, securing financing, construction cost estimates, and market studies. If the developers proceed beyond April 1st the \$25,000 in earnest money becomes non-refundable. Regarding Broker commissions, the City has offered a 10% commission to Tim Tynan of "eXp Realty" for procuring the developer with commissions paid on each pair of scheduled closings at a price of \$100,000.00.

In other official news: Oak Forest Fire Chief, Patrick Duffy, requested the city's board of trustees to approve an ordinance disposing of a 1993 Luverne Commander III-ST fire engine due to its age and condition and the board agreed. Chief Duffy commented that the engine has not been used for the year and that a new engine is due to arrive later in January.

### Orland Park addresses cannabis intoxication

by Jan Glaz

The Board of Trustees in the Village of Orland Park voted to renew a purchase agreement for 'Quantitative Narcotics and Cannabinoid Testing and Expedited Examinations' on December 2nd. Officials stated that in 2016 the Illinois State Legislation passed a law establishing a legal level of cannabis intoxication for 'Driving Under the Influence' arrest. Statutory quantitative testing is now required to determine levels of concentration of an offender's whole blood and/or urine to determine intoxication.

The Orland Park Police Department had, in the past, entered into a contract with the University of Illinois Chicago "Analytical Forensic Testing Laboratory" (AFTL). The contract has been approved for renewal because the Illinois State Police Crime Laboratory still does not have the ability to conduct quantitative analysis and has not purchased forensic equipment that satisfies the State of Illinois statutory requirement.

The University of Illinois Chicago AFTL is fully accredited to conduct quantitative testing for cannabis (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration) within a maximum of 21 days and can conduct testing for other narcotics as well. It has been reported that rush requests

are honored and can be completed by the AFTL in 24 hours.

Effective January 2020 the University's AFTL will charge \$180.00 per sample, a \$5.00 increase from 2019, for cannabinoid quantitation in either blood or urine; alcohol concentration testing will be \$80.00 an increase of \$5.00. Additional quantitative testing of blood is quoted at \$100.00 each. Orland Park stated that the maximum funds requested annually is an account in the amount of \$5,000. The Police Department would expend funds from the 'State

Asset Forfeiture Account' #027-2800-432990.

New & Noteworthy: There's something new this year in Orland Park. A children's "New Year's Celebration". The festivities will be held on Saturday, December 28th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Franklin Loebe Center, 14650 Ravinia Avenue. The party is for children ages 3 to 10 years old accompanied by a paying adult. Cost is \$15 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Spaces are going fast! For further information call 708-403-7275 or visit: <http://ow.ly/AuGI50xb3TY>.

\$223,00.00 with the Village matching an amount of \$20,000 to be used for the Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Technology System Project."

In other official business: Trustee Diane Galante motioned, and trustees agreed, to approve an ordinance reducing (abating) a portion of the Village of Tinley Park Tax Year 2019 property taxes extended for Surface Shields, Inc., located at 8451 183rd Place. Galante reported that back in July of 2017, the Village board adopted an inducement agreement with Surface Shields, Inc. to locate its manufacturing facility in Tinley Park.

Under the agreement the Village agreed to abate 50% of the property taxes for a period of 4 years, if the company met certain criteria. Surface Shields met the required benchmarks and is eligible for a tax reduction. This is the 2nd year of abatements under the inducement agreement.

Meeting highlight: Village Clerk, Kristin Thirion, conducted a swearing ceremony for two new Tinley Park police officers, Troy White-Meyer and Ronald Fugger. Both officers were showered with a round of applause, congratulations, and well wishes from all present at the board meeting.



Tinley Park Police Chief Matthew Walsh, left, and Tinley Park Village Clerk Kristin Thirion pose with newly sworn in Police Officers Troy White-Meyer, second left, and Ronald Fugger.

### Tinley Park awarded \$223,000 grant

by Jan Glaz

On December 3rd the Village of Tinley Park adopted a resolution introduced by Trustee, William Brennan, for a sub-award agreement between Tinley Park and the County of Cook in regard to emergency management and regional security. Brennan stated that Tinley Park's Emergency Management Agency applied for an 'Urban Area

Security Initiative' (UASI) grant through Cook County's Emergency Management, administered by the State of Illinois Emergency Management Agency, back in April of 2019.

Trustee Brennan concluded, "The grant program is designed to assist high-threat, high density urban areas in their efforts to build, sustain, and deliver capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Tinley Park was awarded a grant in the amount of

### Mokena Elected Officials granted salary increase

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Mokena Board of Trustees Meeting held on December 9th the Board of Trustees voted to adopt an ordinance adjusting the compensation levels of Mokena's Elected Officials. John Tomasoski, Village Administrator, provided details in regard to the ordinance.

Tomasoski stated that compensation levels of Mokena's Elected Officials have not been evaluated and adjusted since the year 2000. The current adjustment takes into consideration the Village's population growth, duties and time commitments associated with the positions and compensation levels of elected officials in similar-sized south/southwest Chicagoland suburbs.

The Elected Official salary increases were posted as follows: Village President current salary of \$7,500 is adjusted to \$12,500; Liquor

Commissioner current salary of \$1,800 is adjusted to \$2,500; Village Trustee current salary of \$4,200 is adjusted to \$7,500; and Village Clerk current salary of \$4,800 will be adjusted to \$6,000.

Administrator Tomasoski concluded, "The existing salaries of the Village President/Liquor Commissioner, Village Clerk, and three Trustee seats up for election in April of 2021 will be impacted during the Village's Fiscal Year 2021 budget. The salaries of the remaining three Trustee seats up for election in April of 2023 will be impacted thereafter."

Questions or additional information pertaining to the adopted ordinance adjusting the compensation levels of Mokena's Elected Officials may be addressed to John Tomasoski, Village Administrator, at 708-479-3900.

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Volume 20 | Number 24 | December 17, 2019

## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

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

### Palos Heights delivers holiday warning

by Jan Glaz

City of Palos Heights 4th Ward Alderman, Jerry McGovern, addressed the City Council Meeting held on December 3rd and stressed the importance of added diligence regarding public safety during the holiday season. "his shopping season when returning to your car have your car keys in hand ready to go and as soon as you enter your car lock your door, start your engine, and leave.

"When returning to your car with packages make sure you immediately put the items inside your trunk or out of sight. Christmas shopping is also a wonderful shopping season for for thieves, especially when they see valuable purchases in the back of an SUV, and use caution as thieves will try to trick you. As an example, one person may ask you to help them with something and when you turn away for a minute another person will take your purchases."

In other official news: 4th Ward Alderman, Michael McGrogan, requested and Aldermen agreed to adopt an ordinance providing for the "Tax Levy for the City of Palos Heights for the period beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$9,712,875.00". Aldermen also passed a "Resolution Proportionately Reducing all Levies except City Corporate, Library Corporate, and Police Pension".

Expenses approved by the city council include: Payment to 'Trane' for a boiler replacement unit in



City of Palos Heights 4th Ward Alderman, Jerry McGovern

the amount of \$68,299.50; the purchase of a John Deere Gator for Lake Katherine in the amount of \$16,853.19 from Shorewood Home & Auto; purchase and installation of replacement exterior doors for the City Hall electrical room in the amount of \$5,029.50, by Hobbs Overhead Door Company; purchase of new tire changing equipment from Sam's Tech Supply in the amount of \$8,295; and the replacement of damaged fencing on College Drive and 75th Avenue in the amount of \$5,986, from K-Brothers Fence, Inc.

### Hurley invites residents to community events

As the New Year quickly approaches, state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, is inviting local residents to her upcoming community events throughout the month of January to meet with her and members of her staff to share their thoughts about issues they are concerned about or for help accessing state-related services.

"While I have worked to pass significant reforms to get our state back on track, there are still many challenges facing Illinois," said Hurley. "I encourage local residents to stop by one of

### The Holiday Shoppe is open in Palos Park

The Holiday Shoppe is open now through Saturday for your last-minute Christmas shopping.

Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We'll deck the halls with silk scarves, quilted purses, jewelry, fused glass dishes, picture frames, pen sets, and many more fine crafts. You're sure to find something for everyone on your list, and best of all, you'll be supporting local artists!

The shop is at McCord Gallery and Cultural Center, 602 W. Creek Road in Palos Park. Call 708-671-0648 for more information.

my upcoming community events to share their perspective on important issues facing our state, or to share ideas for legislation that could help move our state forward."

During the month of January, Hurley is hosting the following free community events:

Extended office hours on Jan. 13 from 5 to 6 p.m. at her district office, located at 10400 S. Western Ave.

Senior Tech Tuesday on Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at her district office.

Coffee and Conversation on Jan. 18 from 9 to 10 a.m. at Starbucks, located at 7202 W. 119th Pl. in Palos Heights.

Satellite office hours on Jan. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Worth Public Library, located at 6917 W. 111th St.

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



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Moraine Valley Community College. The panels were purchased with funds from a \$5,000 grant from the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN).

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### Steppenwolf in rehearsals for Dance Nation

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is now in rehearsals with Pulitzer Prize Finalist Dance Nation by Clare Barron, directed and choreographed by Lee Sunday Evans. Steppenwolf's production features ensemble members Audrey Francis (The Moms/Vanessa), Tim Hopper (Dance Teacher Pat), Caroline Neff (Zuzu), and Karen Rodriguez (Amina) with Ariana Burks (Sofia), Adithi Chandrashekhar (Connie), Shanésia Davis (Ashlee), Torrey Hanson (Luke) and Ellen Maddow (Maeve). A success-driven pre-teen dance troupe finds themselves trying to understand their ambition, insecurities, changing bodies, rivalries and friendships while exploring the desires, confusion and sometimes feral nature of adolescence.

Dance Nation opening is Thursday and the production runs through Feb. 2 in the Upstairs Theatre at 1650 N Halsted Street, Chicago, IL. Single tickets (\$20 to \$94) can be got at the Audience Services at 312-335-1650 or [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org). Classic and Flex Memberships are currently available for the 2019/20 Season. To purchase a Membership and secure the best seats at the lowest prices, contact Audience Services at 312-335-1650 or [steppenwolf.org/memberships](http://steppenwolf.org/memberships).

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# Village View

## SUBURBAN EDITION

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Volume 46 | Number 12 | December 17, 2019

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



Bethania Cemetery, 7701 South Archer Road, Justice IL

## Justice recognizes Bethania Cemetery

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Justice recently conducted a ceremony of recognition in honor of Bethania Cemetery's 125th Anniversary. Bethania Cemetery, a non-profit organization, is located at 7701 South Archer Road. Founded in 1894, it is one of the oldest cemeteries in the area. The first interment, a 10-day old infant, occurred on July 22, 1894.

Today, Bethania's original 'Historic Bell' from the year 1894 is tolled whenever a funeral procession passes through the cemetery gates and past the century-old administration building.

Although Bethania is a Christian Cemetery, it is recognized for serving families of all religions, cultures, and walks of life with compassion and integrity.

Bethania Cemetery has numerous undeveloped acres to provide a place of beauty and excellence for future generations. Randy Liese is Bethania Cemetery's current Superintendent, 708-458-2270, the website address is [www.bethaniacemetery.com](http://www.bethaniacemetery.com).

In other official business: On December 9th, Trustee Frances Mills, requested approval for a quote from 'First Com-

munications' for a new telephone system for the Justice Building Department, Public Works, and Economic Development Department.

"The agreement," stated Trustee Mills, "would create a monthly cost of \$522.11 plus tax and a one-time set up fee of \$250.00. The item was postponed at this time and may be revisited at a subsequent meeting of the board of trustees. A new business, home occupation, license was granted for 'Tatry Construction' operating a home office for a painting business located at 8047 W. 82nd Street, Justice, IL.

fiscal year beginning Nov 1, 2018 and ending Oct 31, 2019.

The following business licenses were approved: Christ Centered Church of Chicago at 2823-2825 W. 87th St. for additional office space for counseling services; Snipes at 9518 S. Western Ave for sales of footwear and apparel. Dales Barber Shop at 3572 W. 95th St. was also approved. The mayor shared a story

about being in Dale's father's Evergreen Park barbershop when his son was a little boy. He was playing around and blew out the air-conditioning in the shop. Dale's dad didn't yell at his son or him but the mayor has always felt bad about blowing out the air-conditioner on the hottest day of the year. The mayor welcomes Dale's Barbershop back into Evergreen Park.

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Satellite office hours on Jan. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Worth Public Library, located at 6917 W. 111th St.

"Hearing the concerns of local residents helps me be a strong voice for our families in Springfield, and there are a wide variety of free services available through my office, including help with applications for professional licensure and veterans' benefits," continued Hurley. "I encourage local residents to stop by one of my upcoming community events to share their perspective on important issues facing our state, or to share ideas for legislation that could help move our state forward."

For more information, contact Hurley's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or [RepFranHurley@gmail.com](mailto:RepFranHurley@gmail.com).

## Evergreen Park mayor happy with Walk and Talk police program

by Matt Mayer

At the past brief Evergreen Park Board of Trustees meeting, Mayor James Sexton praised a program developed by the police department called Walk and Talk. The police officers have been going door to door visiting businesses in the

outdoor Plaza from 9700 S. Western Ave to 95th St. The fact that police officers stop and talk to each business owner and their staff is well liked by both the businesses and the mayor and board members. Businesses are appreciative of the extra attention from police officers and are getting to know them by name. Sexton also thanked Police Chief Michael Saunders and Deputy Police Chief Peter Donovan for their input into the program.

"Since the program be-

gan, retail theft reports have been quite low. The police are doing a good job and businesses and shoppers appreciate the extra attention during the holiday season when retail theft goes up," said Sexton.

During the business portion of the meeting, the board approved an ordinance levying taxes for the Evergreen Park Library for the fiscal year which began Jan 1, 2019 and ends Dec 31, 2019 as well as an ordinance levying taxes for general corporate purposes for

"While I have worked to pass significant reforms to get our state back on track, there are still many challenges facing Illinois," said Hurley. "I encourage local residents to stop by one of my upcoming community events to share their perspective on important issues facing our state, or to share ideas for legislation that could help move our state forward."

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Extended office hours

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## Past and present Tinley Park mayors visit Budingen, Germany

Mayor Jacob Vandenberg, Village Manager Dave Niemeyer, former Mayor Edward J. Zabrocki and members of the Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission recently traveled to Budingen, Germany to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the two communities.

At a formal recognition ceremony on Dec. 6, Mayor Vandenberg and Budingen Burgermeister (Mayor) Erich Spamer reaffirmed their mutual commitment to strengthening understanding, cooperation and friendship between Tinley Park and Budingen.

"As I reflect back on the 30th Anniversary Jubilee of the Tinley-Budingen Sister Cities partnership and my recent trip to Budingen, I'm



A delegation of Tinley Park officials, including former Mayor Edward J. Zabrocki, second left, and Mayor Jacob Vandenberg, right, visited sister city Budingen, Germany, and its "burgermeister" (mayor), Erich Spamer, this month.

reminded that now more than ever that unity, trust and friendship must be the bedrock of our commit-

ment to community," Vandenberg said. "What started off as a 'trip' quickly transformed into a formative, powerful experience for all involved."

"The friendship between our two villages is something very special," Zabrocki said. "It represents people of two different languages and cultures coming together with the common goal of understanding each other. Sadly, this is something very missing in our world today. I wish we could take that positive relationship and sprinkle it around the world for all to enjoy!"

The Village encourages residents to explore the work of the Sister Cities Commission and all of its commissions, and look for ways to get involved!

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

**August (O'Neill) Deuser for Illinois Senate in 2020**  
[www.deuser.us](http://www.deuser.us)



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**God Bless Our Vets!**

## Committeeman August Deuser is running for state Senate

August (O'Neill) Deuser is the Committeeman for the 2nd Precinct in Mokena. August received 83,000 votes when ran against Bobby Rush for Congress. Most of his votes came from southern Cook and Will Counties. August was a third generation police officer before he went back to school to earn his

education degree from the University of Illinois. August taught students with emotional conditions for 25 years. He has his Masters in Education from Lewis University.

His wife of 38 years and their two sons also graduated from Lewis University. Visit his website, deuser.us. Vote for BIG IRISH on March 17.

savings range from \$9 billion to \$25 billion.

## Download your property tax bill

Next year's First Installment Cook County property tax bills are available on cookcountytreasurer.com, three months before the due date, Treasurer Maria Pappas said.

Tax Year 2019 First Installment taxes, due March 3, are 55% of the previous year's total tax, Pappas said. Property owners should consult with a tax professional about income tax deductions.

"By knowing now what the tax bill is, homeowners can decide whether to pay next year's taxes before December 31," Pappas said.

You may look up your tax bill with your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN). The website is the most convenient way to pay.

To make a payment, go to cookcountytreasurer.com:

- Select the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free"

- Enter your address or PIN

- There is no fee if you pay from your bank account

The treasurer's office accepts partial payments. But all taxes must be paid by the due date to avoid the interest charge of 1.5% per month mandated by Illinois law.

## Lipinski urges congressional leaders to protect patients from surprise medical bills

U.S. Representatives Dan Lipinski (IL-3), Mike Gallagher (WI-8), Cindy Axne (IA-3), and Abigail Spanberger (VA-7) recently called on House and Senate leadership to consider legislation that would put an end to the expensive surprise medical

bills patients receive when they are unable to select a healthcare provider and receive out-of-network care. The members, in a letter to the legislative leaders, also indicated their preference for ending surprise medical bills though proposals

that concurrently maximize savings to healthcare consumers, lower insurance premiums, and provide for meaningful deficit reduction to the federal government.

Surprise medical bills are especially common after a patient visits the emergency room, or after a patient receives treatment from an out-of-network physician at an in-network hospital. According to a recent analysis by the Health Care Cost Institute, 16.5% of emergency room visits nationally in 2017 included out-of-net-

work claims from emergency medicine specialists.

"Congress can and should take action right now to help protect patient from surprise billing," the members wrote. "First, we can take the patient out of the middle of payment disputes between insurers and out-of-network providers. Secondly, we can resolve the market failures that have led to surprise billing in the first place and provide for a mechanism for providers and insurers to resolve payment conflicts in a transparent, predictable

way."

Several different proposals have been introduced to address this issue, including legislation from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) that bans surprise billing and requires insurers to reimburse out-of-network providers at the same rate as the median payment for in-network providers.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), of the surprise billing-ending proposals that reduce the deficit,

**Happy Holidays & a Prosperous New Years**

from the Village View Publications, Inc. & Staff

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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.

# HOLIDAY SPECIAL

## FREE BONU\$ DOLLAR\$



Spend \$20 Receive \$22  
Spend \$50 Receive \$60  
Spend \$100 Receive \$130  
Now through New Year's Day



**125 lb Giant Load Washer**  
**FREE Soap, Bleach & Fabric Softener**

**For the person  
who has  
everything,  
give a**

**Soap Opera Laundromat  
GIFT CARD**

Available at [SoapOperaLaundromats.com](http://SoapOperaLaundromats.com)



### Drop-Off Laundry

We will  
Wash, Dry, Fold  
Your Clothes for only

**\$1.25**  
lb



### DECEMBER SPECIAL

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## Fun and games at Greenhill Public Library

**Board Games and Mug Cakes:** Come to the Library to make a yummy mug cake! Enjoy your delicious creation while playing board games with your friends. Ages 10-17. Limit 30. 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6.

**Bingo:** Join us for an evening of action-packed bingo excitement! Winners will receive gift cards and other prizes! Light refreshments will be served. Ages 18 and up. Limit 75. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. .

**3D Snowflake Art:** Skill Level: Easy. Learn how to make your own wall art! We will learn how to construct a three-dimensional snowflake and mount it to wooden pallets. All supplies will be provided. Patrons are limited to registering for only one session. Ages 16 and up. Limit 20 per session. 2 or 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

**Passport Pals:** Come to the Library and explore the world! Every month we will travel to a new country to learn about their history and culture. Children ages 7 and up. Limit 25. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10

**Chocolate Desserts with Chef Maddox:** Chef Maddox returns to demonstrate how to make delicious desserts featuring chocolate! Recipes and samples provided. Ages 16 and up. Limit 75. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. Register at [greenhillslibrary.org](http://greenhillslibrary.org).

**History of the Chicago Auto Show:** Relive the debuts of the legendary vehicles during a fast-paced, highly visual presentation on the history of the Chicago Auto Show presented by Mitch Franklin. Mitch has spent many years covering the automotive industry as well as the auto show circuit, and he has written several books on the subject. Ryba's Fudge, the official confection of the Chicago Auto Show since the late 1950s, will be served. Ages 16 and up. Limit 90. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Register online at [greenhillslibrary.org](http://greenhillslibrary.org)

Green Hills Public Library is at 10331 S. Interlochen Drive, Palos Hills. Call 708-598-8446 or visit [greenhillslibrary.org](http://greenhillslibrary.org) to learn more.



## Palos Heights community rallies for crisis center

Palos Heights business owner Scott Farrow wanted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his company, United Insurance Services Ltd. He threw a huge party, turned it into a fundraiser and unveiled a brand new box truck which he donated to the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. The Crisis Center supports adults and children who are victims of domestic violence through a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, education and outreach programs.

"The truck was an answer to our prayers," said Lorri Nagle, Director of Development at the Crisis Center. "We were using an old cargo van to transport donations and furniture, and that vehicle was on its last legs." Staff and volunteers at the Crisis Center quickly learned that while the new truck opened up many opportunities to transport donations and help victims move to safe

housing, the threshold of the truck was nearly four feet of the ground making it challenging to load and unload it.

Maintenance staff at the Crisis center suggested a lift gate be installed and initial inquiries put the tab at over \$4,000. The Center's tight budget could not absorb the expense so Nagle began reaching out to local civic clubs for support and the "Lift Me Up Campaign" was born.

Bill Paglia, President of Orland Park/Palos Rotary, was the first to ask how their club could help. Soon after, Paglia connected Nagle to other local civic clubs including Moraine Valley Rotary and the Orland Park Kiwanis Club. "We were happy to help lead the campaign and encourage others to support it too. It's what Rotary is all about and our club has been supporting the Crisis Center for many years," said Paglia. Finally, Scott Farrow, the donor of the truck, stepped in with

a donation and the fund-raising campaign for the project was complete.

Kiwanis member Scott Kallemy, of Kallemy Collision, helped by negotiating the cost of the lift and installation. "Scott came to the rescue as we really didn't have the knowledge we needed to choose the right lift gate. With his guidance we got the right lift and a great price too," said Nagle.

Today, the Crisis Center truck, featuring its new lift gate, can be seen traveling through the south suburbs carrying donations and furniture to and from the agency's Neat Repeats Resale shops in Worth and Orland Park, new client homes, and the agency's other sites.

The Crisis Center has been a beacon of hope and educated more than 60,000 people over the past 40 years. To learn more about the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, visit [www.crisisctr.org](http://www.crisisctr.org).

## Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash

Enjoy Your 2019 Holiday season at VFW Post 2791.

As Willie Wonka says we all know to be true, "so little time so much to do". Take some time out, catch your breath from your Christmas shopping and Christmas and New Year's decorating and stop by the "V". We have a great holiday atmosphere and you can enjoy a little holiday refreshment with family and friends.

Don't forget to get your tickets for our back by popular demand "Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash". Everyone had such a great time we just had to do it again. \$10 gets you in the door and for another \$10 you can reserve a full table.

Even though we will have some food for everyone to enjoy we ask that you bring something (Appetizers, Finger Foods and Desserts) to add to the feast. Last year everyone was so generous it made for an outstanding event. We will have a countdown at Midnight, Champagne Toast

and sing Auld Lang Syne together. You can enjoy the entire evening in a friendly and safe atmosphere. We have parking out front and across the street as well.

## MVCC offers sex harassment training

Effective Jan. 1, sexual harassment training is required for everyone who holds various Illinois professional licenses. Moraine Valley Community College training is \$25 and offered for social workers, public accountants, professional counselors, massage therapists, nursing home administrators, occupational therapists and nurses.

Training times are 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29; 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22; 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25; 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18; and 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

To register, email [communityeducation@morainevalley.edu](mailto:communityeducation@morainevalley.edu) or call (708) 974-5735.

### St. Bernadette Parish

9343 S. Francisco Ave.  
Evergreen Park, IL  
708-422-8995

#### Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Mass

*Caroling begins around 20 minutes before the start of Mass*

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

*Caroling begins around 20 minutes before the start of Midnight Mass*

8:30 a.m. Morning Mass • 10:30 a.m. Morning Mass

Wednesday, January 1 -

New Year's Day/Solemnity of Mary

10:30 a.m. Mass



## Bingo Every Sunday!

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Bonanza Starts at 6:30

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# The Blake Hotel unveils a Winter Garden at their Rooftop Restaurant and Bar in New Haven

High George, the rooftop restaurant and bar at The Blake Hotel has been transformed into a Winter Garden with a magical culinary adventure and experience for guests and patrons this season. RMS Companies, the owner of The Blake Hotel and award-winning chefs, Tyler Anderson and Ashley Flagg have designed a venue for guests to enjoy new winter dishes along with hot cocktails created by renowned master mixologist and partner, Tim Cabral.

New winter items include: Cheese fondue for

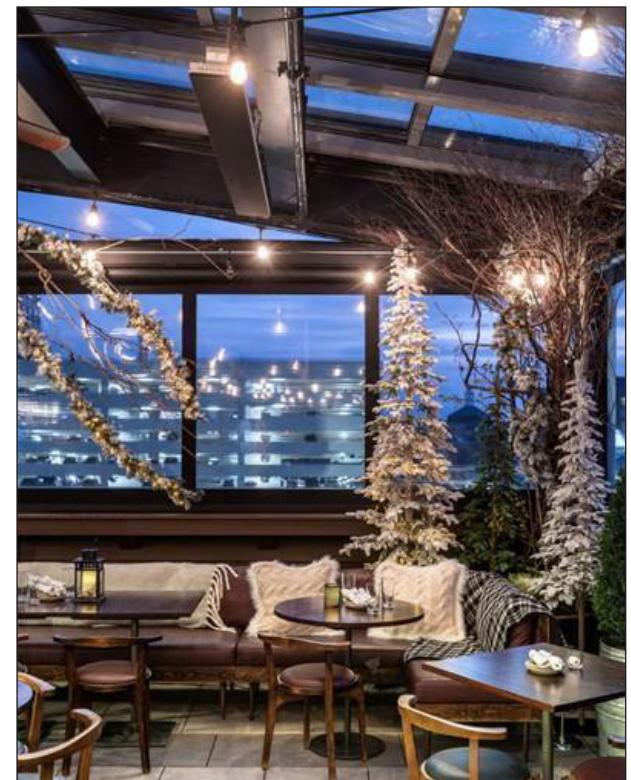
two, charcuterie, melted raclette cheese, butternut bisque, mushroom skewers, chicken schnitzel, kale and apple salad and dark chocolate fondue for dessert. Seasonal cocktails have been categorized as Double Black Diamond, Some Like it Hot and Bunny Slopes and include: Spiked Lodge Hot Chocolate, Grand Central Cider, a Hot Toddy Pot (1½ servings) Mulled Wine and House Made Mulled Cider.

The rooftop space is decorated with snow covered pine trees and branches, twinkling lights, cozy win-

ter blankets and pillows, lanterns and candle-lit tables. High George is open Wednesday through Saturdays, 5 p.m. to closing, happy hour specials occur 5-7 p.m. and special chef pop-ups on selected weekends will often include Sundays.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer our popular rooftop restaurant and bar to guests throughout the winter months," said Tom Sullivan, General Manager of The Blake Hotel. "The initial response to the design and food and beverage offerings has been overwhelming."

Tyler Anderson, Executive Chef of High George and Hamilton Park, both located inside the Connecticut based boutique hotel stated, "Rooftops are well sought after as a destination, so we look forward to offering a unique opportunity for people to meet and enjoy our culinary experiences in our different spaces." For more information and to "Stay in the Know" individuals and groups interested may call the hotel directly at (203) 390-5352 and sign up for the hotel newsletter at [www.blakenewhavenhaven.com](http://www.blakenewhavenhaven.com)



## Give your Keto diet a kick

(NAPS) When you're looking to add some excitement and variety to your Keto routine, Lindsay Olives are the answer. Loaded with antioxidants, healthful fats and important phytonutrients, olives add a nutritious boost and savory goodness to just about anything.

You can change up your meal routine with these olive-rich, Keto-friendly ideas:

1. Enjoy a portable afternoon snack: Pack a handful of pistachios or almonds in a snack bag and grab a Lindsay Snack and Go! olive cup. Olives—such as Black Ripe or Pimento Stuffed—are great for satisfying hunger.

2. Create a crowd-worthy appetizer: Thread mozzarella balls, salami, prosciutto and black and green olives on bamboo skewers for a salty and delicious appetizer.

3. Work up a wonderful weekday breakfast or weekend brunch: Scramble two eggs in Lindsay EVOO and mix in a teaspoon or two of sliced or chopped olives and a handful of shredded cheddar cheese. When finished, garnish with chopped chives.

4. Prepare a phenomenal dinner (with leftovers for lunch): Try this recipe for Taco-Stuffed Spaghetti Squash.

**Ingredients**  
Virgin Olive Oil, separated  
1 cup diced red onion  
3 cloves garlic  
1 lb. ground chicken  
1 14 oz. can diced tomatoes  
1 teaspoon cumin  
2 teaspoon chili powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
12.25 oz. can Lindsay California Black Sliced Olives  
2 limes, 1 for wedges  
1½ cup Monterey jack cheese  
1 avocado, diced  
1 large tomato, diced  
1 jalapeño, sliced  
½ cup Lindsay California Black Medium Olives



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place whole squash into microwave and cook for 3 minutes. This makes it easier to cut in half. When done, cut in half and scrape out the seeds. Drizzle 1 teaspoon oil over each half and rub it around until the whole inside is coated. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Then place squash halves on a parchment-lined baking sheet center down, so it lays flat. Bake for 50 minutes.

Meanwhile, dice onion and mince the jalapeño and garlic. Heat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Pour 2 teaspoons of oil into the pan, then add the

chicken, ¾ cup onion and garlic. Cook until chicken is cooked through. Add tomatoes, cumin, chili powder and salt to chicken mixture. Stir to combine, bringing mixture to a boil. Cook uncovered for 15 minutes to reduce the liquid, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Stir in the olives and juice from the lime.

When the squash is done, scrape the inside with a fork to release from edge, creating a little nest in each half. Put ¼ of the chicken mixture in each half. Put ¼ cup

cheese over the top of each half, then place back into the oven for 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Top with sliced avocado, diced tomatoes, onions, jalapeño, whole olives and a lime wedge.

### Grilled sweet potatoes

(NAPS) The next time you're firing up the outdoor grill (or indoor grill pan, for that matter), throw on a sweet potato or two. An easy, healthy side dish with a huge wow factor, grilled sweet potatoes are nutrient

rich, high in fiber and absolutely delicious. And they go great with burgers, steaks, chops, chicken or pretty much anything off the grill.

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

### Ingredients

1 lb orange- or yellow/white-fleshed sweet pota-

toes, cut lengthwise into 3/4-inch wedges  
1½ tbsp olive oil  
1 tsp salt, plus more for sprinkling

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

Serves 3 or 4.

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Sunday 1 pm - 10 pm • Closed Tuesday

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### Ingredients

2 lb. spaghetti squash  
2 tablespoons Lindsay Extra



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM

## The Center holding holiday services

**Yule Log Service Sunday Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.:** The Yule Log Service is a family-friendly evening at The Center, featuring Christmas carols, scripture, stories, and a variety of old-fashioned traditions. The highlight of each service is the lighting of the huge log and the opportunity for each participant to throw his or her own twig into the fire, symbolizing a fresh start for the new year. Special music by The Center Singers, the Christmas scripture from Luke 2 read by Chris Hopkins, and the "Night Before Christmas" poem read by Megan Wells make the Yule Log Service a night of warm fellowship, good cheer, and Christmas spirit. In order to make the experience both wonderful and safe, there is an attendance limit and so advance tickets are required. The tickets are actually name tags, so that they can be worn at the Yule Log Service. Those interested are encouraged to get nametags early to insure a place in this wonderful and traditional Christmas evening. \$10 advance tickets required, available at the Lodge. The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park.

**Children's Christmas Eve Service Tuesday Dec. 24, 3 p.m.:** This is one of two services at The Center on Christmas Eve. This earlier of the two services is geared toward families with young children. All are welcome to bring their families to celebrate the birth of Christ in our world. Please note: The separate service geared towards adults (and older children) takes place at 4:30 p.m. in the Lodge,



Families attend the Christmas Eve Kids' Service at The Center last year.

which is located on the west side of Southwest Highway. There are no chapel services at The Center on Christmas Day. The Anderson Center, 12700 Southwest Hwy (east side of the Highway), Palos Park.

**Candlelight Communion Service Tuesday Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.:** This

is the later of two services at The Center on Christmas Eve. The Great Hall of the Lodge will be aglow with candles, scripture, communion, and song at this service for adults and older children. This is a celebration of Christ in our world. There are no chapel services at The Center on Christmas Day. The Cen-

## Congrats, girls, on your tree-trim win!



Congratulations to Jr. Girl Scout Troop 60315 for taking first place in the 2019 Oak Forest Trim-a-Tree contest. Visit the photo album on Facebook and see all the amazing trees from this year's participants.



ter, 12700 Southwest Hwy (west side of the Highway), Palos Park. 708-361-3650

that should be taken during the holidays.

## Celebrate at St. Damian

St. Damian Catholic Church, 5300 155th St. in Oak Forest, is holding several Masses for the holidays.

Christmas Eve Masses will be at 3 p.m., 3:15 p.m. (Shaw Hall), 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and midnight.

Christmas Day Masses will be at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

A New Year's Eve Mass will be held at 5 p.m. and New Year's Day Masses will be at 9 and 10:30 a.m.



The Tinley Park Fire Department is urging residents to keep fire safety in mind this holiday season.

## Keep the wreath red!

**Johnson-Phelps VFW Post #5220**  
9514 S. 52nd Ave., Oak Lawn, IL • 708-423-5220  
*New Years Eve Party*  
**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m. till 1:00 a.m.**

Dinner ~ Open Bar ~ Music by:  
D.J. Mike "The Italian Stallion"  
**Champagne Fountain**  
Donation: \$40 per person  
*Please purchase tickets by Friday, December 27, 2019*

The Tinley Park Fire Department urges everyone to help "Keep the Wreath Red" through Jan. 2.

The fire department has placed a wreath illuminated with red bulbs in front of Fire Station No. 46, 17355 S. 68th Court; Fire Station No. 48, 9191 W. 175th St.; and Fire Station No. 49, 7801 W. 191st St.

If a fire occurs during the holiday season in which holiday decorations are determined to be involved, one of the red bulbs will be changed to a white bulb. This will serve as a reminder of the safety precautions

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*Proceeds from Neat Repeats support the Crisis Center for South Suburbia*

# US AT THE VILLAGE VIEW



## Library gets early Christmas gift

The Friends of the Orland Park Public Library presented checks of \$10,000 and \$2,000 to the Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Avenue.

The \$10,000 was the winter donation to library programming. The \$2,000 check was a special donation in the name of a former library trustee who had passed away, Jay Parker.

"Mr. Parker was a board member for over 25 years, and he was a voracious reader," said Friends Treasurer Mary Ann Ahl.

Ahl is a former library

board member herself. Now, she serves on the board of the Friends of the Orland Park Public Library. Ahl asked event attendees to consider joining the Friends.

"We are grateful for the Friends' continued support," said Library Director Weimar.

The Friends and library representatives will meet after the library renovation to determine what is to be done with the \$2,000. The Friends will likely dedicate a shelf or bench at the library in Jay Parker's name.



Friends Treasurer Mary Ann Ahl presented checks for \$10,000 and \$2,000 to Library Director Mary Weimar.

**Happy (almost) New Year!**  
Would you like our 2020 Media Kit?  
Email the Village View at [vvnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vvnew@sbcglobal.net) or call 708-425-1910.



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Merry Christmas And  
A Happy And Healthy New Year*



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Trustee Karen Kreis

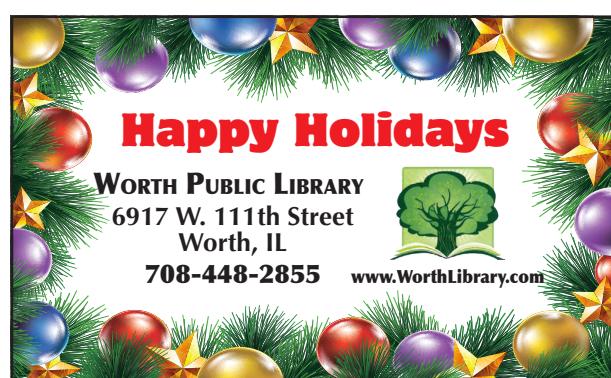


**Happy Holidays**

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May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year!



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Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88<sup>th</sup> Ave., Justice  
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## New way to save all shelter pets

(NAPS) The lives of nearly 733,000 cats and dogs could be saved with the help of caring humans and an innovative Web-based platform introduced this week by Best Friends Animal Society.

Envisioned as a tool to help animal lovers help their communities save more pets, the new community lifesaving dashboard combines groundbreaking data visualization technology with the most comprehensive data set on animal welfare ever published.

Two years in the making, the tool crowdsources, validates and translates complex data about the dogs and cats in U.S. shelters. It brings an unprecedented level of transparency to the animal welfare movement, unlocking new opportunities for saving pets by providing a detailed picture showing precisely — on a city, state and community level — where cats and dogs need to be saved.

For the first time, anyone with a smartphone or computer will be able to easily access his or her community's snapshot of how many cats and dogs need to be saved and find tools to help individual shelters save more pets. The organization used independent research, government data and even FOIA requests to create the most comprehensive data set on animal welfare ever pub-

lished.

Best Friends CEO Julie Castle says the investment in data was necessary to achieve the organization's goal of bringing the whole country no-kill by 2025.

"Up until two years ago, we didn't even know how many shelters existed," she said. "How can you possibly save all the animals if you don't even know how many need to be saved?" With this data in hand, our goal to save every savable pet by 2025 is finally within reach."

Visit [BestFriends.org/2025](http://BestFriends.org/2025).

## State Rep. Rita offers anti-drug presentation

During the first week of December, state Rep. Robert Rita's staff presented "Elementary School Students in the Drug World" for the third through eighth graders at Wendell Smith Elementary School.

"It's my goal to provide additional resources and opportunities to educate our children about the pitfalls of using drugs," Rita said.

The goals of the presentation were: why elementary school students use and don't use drugs, what happens to elementary school students' brains when they use drugs, how fast can elementary school students become addicted to drugs and how elementary school students can discuss drug use with someone

Ms. Laura Rose stated



School counselor Laura Rose and special assistant Danny Romeo

said: "The presentation was entertaining, informative, and interactive. We will definitely have them back!"

"We have to understand that children as young as 8 to 12 years old are starting to experiment with drugs. Let us use every opportunity to educate our children about the dangers of drug use at that young age," stressed Mr. Danny Romeo

The presentation is suitable for high school, middle school, and elementary school students.

To schedule a presentation, call (708) 396-2822 or email [dromeo.28ilstaterep@gmail.com](mailto:dromeo.28ilstaterep@gmail.com). The presentation is about an hour.

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## Book Review

There There by Tommy Orange, (Knopf 2018)

By Lorraine Schmall

It's impossible to read There There by Tommy Orange without holding your breath. The drumbeat of doom begins on page one. Orange's genius is in making us very quickly care about his characters, a dozen urban Native Americans, ranging from young teenagers to grandparents, almost all family, who speed purposefully but heedlessly toward the "Big Oakland Powwow" with headdresses and old beaus and 3D guns, into the maws of sadness and loss. There are times when we can't tell if we are reading or watching a movie. Orange has one young, nerdy Native fly his drone over the Powwow from his nearby yard to make our view of the events infinitely more intimate and frightening.

Unsure if the characters are more Twelve Apostles (with a Judas among them) or the Dirty Dozen, Orange describes them with such compassion, so swiftly and precisely, we keep hoping they can be saved. There are women among them, and spiritual leaders, and reformed alcoholics and proud parents — all of whom have life stories that are, at once, rife with tragedy and brimming with triumph. Orange lets us peek at their childhoods and then moves them each to the time just before the Powwow. As urban "Indians and Native Americans, American Indians and Native American Indians, North American Indians, Natives, NDNs (or) Ind'ins," they have various degrees of connection to their culture, which is invariably centered on the reservations. We see where they've been and why they're going, and ultimately discover what happens to them in Oakland.

The book is more than a gripping drama: It is an education. In his "prologue" and "interlude," Orange provides us with irrefutable facts about what it means, and has meant, to be Native in this country. While paying homage to the strength, resilience, religion and intuition of his father's people, he offers brutal examples from our history of violence against them. "We are our memory," he says of his ancestors, and writes about their near-annihilation by invaders both human and biological. Even now, Natives are significantly more likely to die from suicide, tuberculosis, alcoholism, car crashes, sexual assault and other crimes than their non-Native peers. We learn that most Natives — 70% — live in cities, and become homogenized while remaining "different." Orange told NPR: "For Native writers there's a kind of burden to set the record straight because it's been told wrong so long." Tommy Orange tells his truth, wrapped up in a story we can't put down.

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## Entertainment Theater By Your Entertainment Concierge Richard Gore

The Holidays are a great time for entertainment. Some of our recommendations for this special time of the year for all to enjoy are: Midsummer Flight's fifth annual holiday production of Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night" running to December 22 in the Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Dr., Chicago for reservations ([www.midsommerflight.com](http://www.midsommerflight.com)). This beautiful, and intimate production among the flowers and greenery is staged in present day modern dress with delightful music, as part of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Night Out in the Parks.

Whenever we talk about Shakespeare, we have to talk about our incredible Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier (312-595-5600). "Romeo and Juliet" running until December 22 with a brilliant cast of 25, is a timeless tale of love and tragedy. Also, for the Holiday season, "Q Brothers Christmas Carol" runs until December 23.

Black Ensemble Theatre's "The Other Cinderella" runs until January 19 at 4450 N. Clark Street, Chicago (773-769-4491). This hit show has now reached its 43rd Anniversary and it still is not only an amazingly wonderful show, but it gets better all the time with lots of great music, dance, songs and laughs.

Porchlight Music Theatre 773-777-9884, will present a Chicago Holiday hit "The Ruffians' Burning Bluebeard" at the Ruth Page Center for the Performing Arts 1016 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, running until December 27. In its eighth year, an annual tradition for many, the play is inspired by the true story of the infamous Iroquois Theatre Fire in 1908. The vaudevillian musical includes lots of clowning, tumbling and acrobatics.

Some other wonderful shows for a Holiday outing might be:

Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre will perform "Working" running through January 26, at the Howard Street Theatre 721 Howard Street, Evanston, Illinois (773-347-1109). The musical is based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book of interviews with American workers. Seven songwriters provide the music including Stephen Schwartz, James Taylor and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Music Theater Works 600 Emerson St. Evanston (847-920-5360) will present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" running December 21-31. An updated version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's first big hit, staged with a full orchestra.

The House Theatre of Chicago Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of their hit production of The Nutcracker. The company's Ballet-Free Adaptation of the Holiday Classic will run through December 29 at The Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division Street, Chicago (773-769-3832). This new adaption sparkles, as it unveils a new family portrait, redesigned puppets, fresh sets, costumes, new original songs and dialogue in honor of a decade of this special family tradition.

Theatre at the Center 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana, (219-836-3255) presents Irving Berlin's White Christmas running through December 22. This family favorite gives a warm and fuzzy feeling to all in the audience and is a wonderful way to usher in the holiday season. So, get your jingle on and get ready to sing along.

HO! HO! HO! Ho ping a wonderful Holiday Season for you and yours.

## Ukrainian ballet brings 'Romeo & Juliet,' "Swan Lake" to us

The National Ballet Theatre of Odessa, is proud to announce two performances coming to Chicagoland in January. Featuring 55 of Ukraine's top performers, "Romeo & Juliet" will be performed at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. in Chicago, Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m., and "Swan Lake" will be performed at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. "Romeo & Juliet" tickets are \$55-\$85 and are available by calling the box office at 312-334-7777 or through [harris-theater-chicago.org](http://harris-theater-chicago.org). "Swan Lake" tickets are \$38-\$68 and are available by calling 847-673-6300 or by visiting [northshorecenter.org](http://northshorecenter.org).

"Romeo & Juliet" is a ballet performed in two acts, set to the music of composer Sergei Prokofiev, choreographed by Michael Lavrovsky, directed by Elena Baranovskaya and produced by Garri Sevoian. The full-scale production is based on the Shakespeare's tragedy of two doomed young lovers. The principal dancers are Olena Dobrianyska as Juliet and Sergii Dotenko as Romeo.

"Swan Lake" is a ballet in four acts, with one intermission, also set to the music of Prokofiev. The script is based on the scenario by Vladimir Begichev and Vasiliy Geltser, directed by Elena Baranovskaya, and choreographed by Marius Petipa, Alexander Gorsky, Lev Ivanov, Konstantin Sergeyev and Yuri Grigorovich. The story follows a young prince as he tries to free the beautiful swan maiden from an evil spell.

## Steppenwolf hosts 2 dynamic storefront theaters

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is proud to host two bold visiting companies as part of LookOut, a year-round series that presents the work of artists and companies across genre and form. Steppenwolf's 1700



The National Ballet Theatre of Odessa will put on "Swan Lake" Sunday in Skokie.

Theatre will be the home to two productions from impressive Chicago storefront theatres next year: First Floor Theater and Definition Theatre.

First up is First Floor Theater's Chicago premiere of the wonderfully strange production of Plano (February 16 through March 28) by Will Arbery, directed by Steppenwolf ensemble

member Audrey Francis.

Next is Definition Theatre's brash and uproarious production of WHITE (April 17 through May 24) by Definition Theatre ensemble member James Ijames, directed by Tasia A. Jones. This show will coincide with Steppenwolf's bold and inventive main stage production of James Ijames's The Most Spec-

tacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington (April 2 through May 17).

Tickets are on sale now through Audiences Services (1650 N Halsted), 312-335-1650 and [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org). Steppenwolf RED Card holders may use their ticket credits toward Plano and WHITE. Prices vary. For information, visit [steppenwolf.org/lookout](http://steppenwolf.org/lookout).



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Looking for a place for your Directory? Use Page 10! Call 708-425-1910 or visit [vvnew.com](http://vvnew.com).

## 6 quick tips for winter driving

(NAPS) When it comes to winter car care, many motorists tend to think of antifreeze and batteries—but vehicles need extra attention in winter, especially when the temperatures drop.

"Making sure your vehicle is properly prepared for all of winter's elements will help you avoid the aggravation of an unplanned road emergency," says Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council.

The nonprofit Car Care Council offers six quick tips to help your vehicle perform at its best during cold weather months:

1. Keep the gas tank at least half full; this decreases the chance of moisture forming in the gas lines and possibly freezing.

2. Check the tire pressure, including the spare, as tires can lose pressure when temperatures drop. Consider special tires if snow and ice are a problem in your area.

3. Have the exhaust system checked for carbon monoxide leaks, which can



Vehicles require extra care to keep running smoothly in the winter.

be especially dangerous during cold weather driving when windows are closed.

4. Allow your car a little more time to warm up when temperatures are below freezing, so that the oil in the engine and transmission circulate and get warm.

5. Change to low-viscosity oil in winter as it will flow more easily between moving parts when it is cold. Drivers in sub-zero temperatures should drop their oil weight from 10-W30 to 5-W30, as thickened oil can make it hard to start the car.

6. Consider using cold weather washer fluid and special winter windshield blades if you live in a place with especially harsh winter conditions.

Drivers should also stock an emergency kit with an

ice scraper and snowbrush, jumper cables, flashlight, blanket, extra clothes, bottled water, dry food snacks and needed medication. In addition, the Car Care Council recommends a thorough vehicle inspection by a trusted professional service technician, as winter magnifies existing problems such as pings, hard starts, sluggish performance or rough idling.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. To order a free copy of the popular Car Care Guide, visit the council's consumer education website at [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).

## Santa's safety suggestions for people, pets and packages

(NAPS) It's near the time to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. The U.S. Postal Service has long been known as a Santa's helper, and we take this role seriously. Here are some tips to help keep people, pets and packages safe.

**People:** Last year, 18,684 Postal Service employees experienced a slip, trip or fall. Carriers are encouraged by the Postal Service to wear proper footwear, avoid areas of patchy snow or ice, avoid wet leaves and mud or cracked or uneven surfaces.

Postal customers also have safety responsibilities.

Last year, 6,000 Postal Service employees and 4.5 million Americans were attacked by dogs. Here's what you can do to help:

1. If a carrier delivers mail to your door, keep the family dog secured.

2. Children and other family members should not take mail directly from carriers in the presence of the family dog, who may perceive the carrier as a threat.



Postal canine mascot  
Killian Cashew Brennan is "pawsing" to share a "ruff" statistic.

3. If a carrier feels threatened by a dog, or if a dog is loose or unleashed, the owner may be asked to pick up mail at a Post Office until the pet has been restrained.

**Packages:** The Postal Inspection Service is asking for your help to keep your mail and packages safe. Here are a few tips:

1. Don't leave your delivered mail and packages

and/or iconic landmarks in the world. Those who are interested can fill out an application form [https://cms6.revize.com/revize/tinleypark/document\\_center/Benches%20on%20the%20Avenue/2020%20Call%20to%20Artists.pdf](https://cms6.revize.com/revize/tinleypark/document_center/Benches%20on%20the%20Avenue/2020%20Call%20to%20Artists.pdf) and submit it by Jan. 31 with a design sign for review.

For more information, please contact Joanne Carroll at [jcarroll@tinleypark.org](mailto:jcarroll@tinleypark.org) or (708) 444-5031.

unattended.

2. Going out of town? Hold your mail at your local Post Office using the USPS Hold Mail service on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

3. Customize the delivery by authorizing the carrier to leave it in a specified location. Visit [usps.com](http://usps.com), enter the tracking number in Track a Package, and select Delivery Instructions.

4. Secure the shipment using USPS Special Services by requiring a signature at the time of delivery.

5. For your most valuable packages, opt for Registered Mail service, which receives special handling from mailing to delivery, with documentation at each step.

6. If you have a home security camera system, ensure it captures activity at your front door and mailbox, and alert your local Postal Inspectors of package thefts.

For more great tips you can use during the holidays, and year-round, visit: [usps.gov](http://usps.gov).

The Postal Service wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

**Attorney****HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

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**Seniors have a lot to smile about**

(NAPS) Healthy teeth and gums are an important part of overall well-being. However, as people age, they become more prone to gum disease and other oral health problems. With regular dental check-ups and proper care, your smile may never get old.

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To help keep your smile healthy and strong, the American Dental Association offers these additional tips:

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Brush and floss, or clean your dentures, daily.

Watch for changes in your mouth. Your risk for oral cancer increases as you age. If you see any changes in your mouth, it's important to get them checked out by a dentist or doctor.

Talk to your dentist or doctor about dry mouth. Dry mouth can make it hard to eat, swallow, or talk. It can also lead to tooth decay or infection.

Practice healthy habits such as eating a balanced diet, limiting sugary foods and drinks, and avoiding cigarettes and other tobacco products.

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**Make money  
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(NAPS) If you're ever thinking about investing in a second home or listing your property as a vacation rental, you'll be in good company. New research on the global second-home market reveals for the second straight year that more homeowners are buying a second home to use as a vacation rental rather than for their own use. Just under half of surveyed homeowners reported buying a second home primarily for use as a short-term rental.

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

Any internet, no matter the speed, is the most important feature to homeowners planning to buy a second home. After internet access, U.S. homeowners consider central air conditioning to be most important, whereas Greek, Portuguese and Italian homeowners believe having a balcony or terrace is essential, and British homeowners want access to a swimming pool.

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

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

If you're curious to see how much you could make by renting out a second home, you can use the company's rent potential calculator to estimate the rental income of your house. There are a variety of resources and tools to help you get started at [www.vrbo.com/lyp](http://www.vrbo.com/lyp).

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# Christmas

12.25.19

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