



Proudly Serving Chicagoland for 48 Years

# Village View

We serve our community with good news!

## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 15 | Number 24 | December 21, 2021

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

### Rock Around The Clock



Join the City of Blue Island for their annual celebration to ring in the new year on Friday, December 31, 2021 at 11:30 pm, on corner of Vermont & Western Ave, Blue

Island. Complete with music, ball drop and fireworks! After the event, continue the revelry along Western and Olde Western Avenue.

### Midlothian Tackles Lack of Firefighters

by Jan Glaz

At the Village of Midlothian Board of Trustees Meeting, December 8th, Trustee Donald Killelea read a letter from Midlothian Fire Chief, Stephen Hotwagner, requesting the board authorize a letter directed to the Fire and Police Commission requesting notification of the next eligible, full-time, firefighter applicant. Killelea reported an injury and disability of a full-time firefighter made

the situation to replace the position an emergency.

Trustee Killelea stated, "Basically the village is striving just to keep minimum manning at the fire stations. We're using overtime like it's going out of style. In addition, there's another firefighter considering retirement in the spring. We have to figure this out by January. This is not only Midlothian, every town seems to have the same problem, and it's sort of frightening."



Village of Midlothian Trustee, Donald Killelea

Midlothian Mayor, Gary L'Heureux, commented, "It's a very, very, serious issue and it seems to be getting worse in all public service trades. In Chicago and other municipalities,

### Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas Posts First Installment Property Tax Bills

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"During the holiday season, it's good to think about what bills will come due in the new year," Pappas said. "My office is committed to helping

taxpayers keep their homes and seeing these bills early allows people to think ahead about their budgets."

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Search \$84 million in available refunds.

Check if you are missing out on \$34 million in property tax exemptions, which lower your tax bill.

Read the Pappas Studies, a series of research projects that includes a 20-year history of Cook County property taxes.

### BIG Thank You

Village of Alsip would like to give a BIG Thank you, to the American Lawmen for donating 29 bicycles, 2 Harley Davidson big wheels, and 20 filled, black construction bags filled with toys, to the Worth Township facilities at 116th & Pulaski recently. American Lawmen have been donating toys to Worth Township for years, but



every year they go over and beyond, and this-year was no exception!!!!

Great Job and Thank you for your endless support and generosity!!!

Public service pays quite well, so it's not the pay. I implore everyone out there, please join the ranks of public service and become a fireman and police officer!"

In other official news: An Ordinance #2087 met with full board approval in regard to repealing and renaming the municipal code to 'Create Community Involvement

Liaison Committees'. In part, the ordinance states that Community Liaison Committees are established for the purpose of providing increased participation of residents and the business community to enhance the quality of life in the village.

Upon application to, and approval of the Village Clerk, qualified resident members

of the economic development committee that serve for the entire one-year term shall be eligible to receive one complimentary Village of Midlothian Vehicle License sticker for each year of service, as compensation. For further information please contact the Village of Midlothian, 14801 S. Pulaski Road (708) 389-0200, or visit: [www.villageofmidlothian.net](http://www.villageofmidlothian.net)



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## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 19 | Number 24 | December 21, 2021

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

### Tinley Park Cites First Merchant Bank

by Jan Glaz

On December 7th officials in the Village of Tinley Park adopted a Resolution declaring First Merchants Bank a public nuisance per violation of the village's zoning ordinance which prohibits construction of freestanding signs in the public right-of-way: An existing drive-thru sign is in the way of the construction of a public sidewalk at 7231 171st Street.

The case was generated when a new 7-Eleven building began construction. First Merchants Bank had an ATM sign in the parkway preventing 7-Eleven from connecting the sidewalk to the current curb out to the West. The sign was constructed in the Cook County R.O.W. without a permit. Tinley Park does not have any

record of a sign permit in their files.

On November 4, 2021, the village's Zoning Administrator provided written notice of violations to the property owner, First Merchants Bank, to a mailing address in Indiana to have them remove the sign within 10 days after such notice.

First Merchants Bank refused to remove the structure or otherwise comply with Tinley Park's Zoning Code. The Corporate Authorities of the Village of Tinley Park, in the best interest of the village and its residents, will exercise its right to require removal of the sign at the owner's expense.

In other official news: Trustees agreed to abate 50% of Surface Shields, Inc., 8451 183rd Place, Tinley



First Merchants Bank ATM sign, located at 7231 171st St., Tinley Park, Illinois

Park, IL property taxes. The abatement is in regard to an inducement agreement between the village and Surface Shields, Inc. when the Company decided to locate in the village. Under the inducement agreement the Company had to meet or exceed certain benchmarks for a period of four years. Surface Shields has met the requirements. This is the fourth and final year of abatements under the inducement agreement.

### Loyola Medicine Holds Groundbreaking for New Ambulatory Care Facility



Village officials recently joined representatives from Loyola Medicine for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new 70,000 square-foot ambulatory care center at 179th Street and

LaGrange Road.

"We couldn't be more excited that Loyola Medicine has chosen Tinley Park for its brand-new center," Mayor Michael Glotz said. "Not only is it an honor

to have such a respected and esteemed medical establishment in town, it will be great to have access to that kind of quality care right here in our own back yard."

The facility will be an

### Oak Forest News

Deputy Chief Dominic D'Ambrosio has been designated as a certified eligible police chief through the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) Police Chief Certification Program. This designation signifies that Deputy Chief D'Ambrosio has met the highest standards of competency and conduct for his profession.

To be eligible for consideration, those interested in pursuing certification must first meet the association's criteria for experience, education, professional membership, and community involvement. In the first phase of the process, candidates must demonstrate extensive law enforcement experience, including command and executive posts, a solid educational background that encompasses continuing education and training, and an active participation in relevant professional and community organizations. After meeting these requirements, they are

allowed to proceed with the certification examination, which tests their knowledge of managerial concepts, modern policing concepts, law and leading cases, and budgeting principles. Candidates who demonstrate their mastery in these areas must then face a panel of their peers, consisting of three active Illinois police chiefs. During the structured interview, the panel questions and evaluates the candidate in the areas of leadership, management, public relations, verbal communication and ethics.

Only those who have successfully completed all phases of the assessment process are granted the distinction of a certified eligible police chief in Illinois. Deputy Chief D'Ambrosio is among only a select few Illinois police command staff able to meet the stringent requirements of the program since its inception in 1998.

Illinois is the only state in the United States that



currently offers a police chief certification program based on an extensive, legally validated examination process. The association, in conjunction with Stanard & Associates, Inc., a Chicago-based public safety consulting firm, oversaw a rigorous development and review process that involved police chiefs from across the state. The program is designed to recognize those law enforcement professionals who excel in all facets of the police chief function. To maintain certification status, police command staff must meet on-going requirements and apply for re-certification every five years.

### Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas Posts First Installment Property Tax Bills

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ambulatory care center for primary care and a range of medical specialties including orthopedic surgery, oncology, cardiology, pulmonary medicine, urology, audiology and general surgery.

The new facility is expected to employ as many as 130 people and will serve about 1,500 patients per week. The anticipated working hours will be from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

weekends. The center is slated to open in 2023.

See a photo gallery of the groundbreaking ceremony on the Village website at <https://www.tinley.org/>.



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## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 24 | December 21, 2021

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

### Chicago Ridge Introduces New Businesses

by Jan Glaz

At the December 7th Village of Chicago Ridge Board of Trustees Meeting trustees discussed and voted to welcome a host of new businesses: PMR heating & Cooling, Inc., 10030 Andersen Avenue, Unit C; Mohammed ABJ Omar d/b/a Signzilla Printing, Inc., 10317-B Oxford Avenue; Almalkeya Inc. d/b/a Exclusive Beauty Supply, 205 Commons Drive; Randa's Gaming Café, LLC, 10602 Ridgeland Avenue; M&K Quality Truck Sales of Joliet, LLC d/b/a M&K Truck Center, 6301- 101st Street, and Schoolbelles, 10139 Harlem Avenue.

The Chicago Ridge Fire Department promoted two Captains and two Lieutenants. Swearing in ceremonies were held for Captain Christopher Schmelzer; Captain Steve Trnka; Lieutenant Joe Bandy; and Lieutenant Brian Weinstein. Congratulations and rounds of applause followed each promotion ceremony.

In other Board Meeting news: Trustees proclaimed the week of January 23 to 29th as 'School Choice Week'. School Choice is a nonprofit charitable effort to develop and provide free, practical, and unbiased school resources for Illinois families, allowing every family to choose the K-12 educational options that best fit their children.

The options include all forms of education, from

traditional public schools to public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies and homeschooling. Each January during awareness week schools and home-school groups partner with community organizations to plan school fairs, parent information sessions, open houses and other events. For more information please visit: <https://schoolchoice-week.com/states/illinois>.



Standing left to right: Chicago Ridge Fire Chief, William E. Bonnar Junior; Chicago Ridge Fire Captain, Steve Trnka; and Chicago Ridge Village Clerk, Barbara M. Harrison

### Mc Cord Gallery Award winning artist



Congratulations to artist Bob Palmerton, his award-winning pastel painting "Winter's Breath" was chosen for our Winter 2022 Newsletter cover! "Winter's Breath" won an award in

the Pastels Chicago 2021 National Juried Open Exhibition that we hosted this year.

As a landscape artist, I take advantage of all that nature offers me. Each of

my pastel paintings is an interpretation of the landscape created with equal ingredients of contemplation and artist's supplies! I trust that you will enjoy viewing my pastel art. My goal is to encourage you to spend more time appreciating nature and the varied landscapes that it presents.

Bob's blog presents frequent updates on pastel painting techniques and features newly completed paintings and special offers. ([palmertonimages.com](http://palmertonimages.com)).

McCord Gallery & Cultural Center, 9602 W. Creek Road, Palos Park, IL

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### Moraine Valley Speech and Debate Team has Success this Fall

The Moraine Valley Community College Speech and Debate Team had a successful fall semester, winning first place twice and taking third once, as they returned to in-person competition.

Earlier this month, Moraine Valley finished in first place overall at the Elgin Community College competition. Moraine Valley also hosted an on-campus tournament recently, where 20 colleges and universities from around the country participated.

Moraine Valley students on the team include Naail

Chaudhry, of Orland Park; Ameet Dhaliwal, of Orland Hills; Alexis Lyons, of Orland Park; Aidan McGuire, of Mokena; Chayse Mueller, of Hickory Hills; Robert Murillo, of Chicago; Oswaldo Ocampo, of Burbank; Eliza Perkovich, of Hickory Hills; Itzel Rojas, of Oak Lawn; Cameron Spencer, of Oak Forest; and Eli Zwiesler, of Chicago Ridge.

"The students are not taking this opportunity for granted. I think they appreciate the ability to connect with their team, their coaches and competition so

much more now. This is one of the tightest family unit teams we have had in quite some time," said John Nash, Moraine Valley communications professor and co-coach of the team. "Overall, I am pleased with how well the team did. They are all mostly first-year students, and they won two tournaments. However, what I am truly happy about is how much they are learning about themselves and about communication in general."

The team will continue their season on Jan. 7 and 8 with a tournament hosted by Phi Rho Pi Region IV.



### Grand Opening for a.c.e. therapies

Recently, a.c.e. therapies held their grand opening and ribbon cutting for their fourth location in the Chicagoland area!

The office a.c.e. therapies work with children

and young adults on the Autism spectrum, individuals dealing with behavioral issues and disabilities to help them gain independence using ABA therapy.

For more information

visit their website <https://ace-therapies.com> or call 708-792-0715. Or stop by our office at 7440 West College Drive, Suite #201, Palos Heights, Illinois.



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## SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 48 | Number 12 | December 21, 2021

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

### Oak Lawn Requests Residents Support

by Jan Glaz

At a recent Board of Trustees Meeting Oak Lawn Trustee, Alex Olejniczak, addressed the issue of flooding and revealed the creation of a 'Comprehensive Master Water Plan'. "The flood plan will not only help Oak Lawn's problem, but will also address flooding that occurs in eleven other communities," said Olejniczak. The village hopes that funds required for the plan will come from the recently passed \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, slated to deliver \$550 billion dollars of new federal investments in America's infrastructure over a period of five years.

Trustee Olejniczak concluded, "If we get funded, and we feel confident we will,

this project will take between 3 and 7 years to complete and once it's complete, it will reduce our flood plain and flood plains throughout the surrounding communities. This comprehensive flood plan is the best I, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), the Army Core of Engineers, the county, and the state has ever seen!

"The plan needs around \$46 million dollars, plus support from all our local representatives. What I would ask the residents of the Village of Oak Lawn is to please contact your representatives and let them know this something that will benefit a long list of municipalities." For more information in



Village of Oak Lawn Trustee,  
Alex Olejniczak

regard to the flood plain and the master plan visit: [www.oaklawn-il.gov](http://www.oaklawn-il.gov).

In other official news: Oak Lawn trustees agreed to grant a 'special use permit' for a two-family residence in a C-1 district located at 9518 S. 53rd Street; and approved a request for the Fire and Police Commission to hire (4) firefighters/paramedics from their current eligibility list, due to (4) retirements.

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### State of Illinois Utility Assistance Program

Covid has affected us all. Many have either lost their jobs or have been hit with a significant loss of income, which made utility bill payments very daunting. When the pandemic began in March of 2020, the Village of Evergreen Park suspended all late water bill penalties and temporarily discontinued shutoffs.

The Pritzker Administration, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), is leveraging federal ARPA

funds to help Illinois family's access and afford home energy assistance and other essential services during COVID-19. Building on the State's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, the State's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) budget authorizes an expansion of the LIHEAP and CSBG programs for eligible Illinoisans seeking assistance to cover costs of utility bills, rent, temporary shelter, food, and

other household necessities.

This means that there may now be help for those in need to receive some assistance, not only with the water bills, but any other utilities.

If you are looking for help paying your water bill, you will be requested to check "Water/Sewer Bill Assistance". Or if you have any questions, you will be able to call them at 1-833-711-0374, and they can provide translation services if necessary.

### New Year's Eve Party

The Johnson-Phelps VFW will be hosting a New Year's Eve Party, on Friday, December 31st., 2021, at 7pm until 1am at 9514 S. 52nd. Ave., Oak Lawn,

IL. The cost is \$45.00 per person includes, Sit down Dinner, Open Bar, and Champagne Fountain., Party Favors, Music by DJ Mike "The Italian Stallion".

For Tickets call-708-423-5220. **Tickets will not be available at the door.** Deadline to purchase tickets is Dec.27th.,2021. Everyone is welcome.

### Spartans Named State Scholars

Written by Jennifer Jepsen, OLCCHS Staff Writer

Every year The Illinois Students Assistance Commission acknowledges its state scholars. State Scholar acknowledgement is a non-monetary award. Each State Scholar designee receives a congratulatory letter and Certificate of Achievement from ISAC, and can download an official Illinois State Scholar badge to display on their online profiles and social media platforms, as well as share with their high school counselors, colleges, employers, family members and others.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission congratulates the following Oak Lawn

Community High School students for their exceptional academic achievement: Yusra Abdelrahman, Reem Al-Adwan, Bianca Bafia, Ava Cipriani, Mary Teresa Concannon, Ethan Delk, Zaid Elayyan, Elviz Elmazi, Elliott Flores, Lucas Fritz, Indel Garcia, Sathya Halewicz, Adriana Hall, Hedaya Hasan, Steven Hebel, Jessica Kasprzak, Damian Komperda, Alyssa Librizzi, Sarah Lindsay, Camille Listowski, Emma Mathews, Taleb Mreziqi, Jianna Nazifi, Amal Perumbully, Emily Pietrzak, Bianca Ravesloot, Islam Shehata, Isabella Smykowski, Abigail Sodaro, John Unger, Soleil Wallack, Chae Rin West, Ashari Williams, and Jeneen

Yassin.

ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow said, "Congratulations to all of the Illinois State Scholars for their hard work and commitment inside and outside of the classroom. In the past two years students and families have faced unprecedented difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; from financial and personal ordeals to all of the challenges of remote learning. The achievements of these students are a credit to their perseverance and resilience, and to the support and encouragement of their families, principals, teachers, mentors, counselors, and others invested in their growth and success."

## Jesse White Extends Driver's License and ID Card Expiration Dates until March 31, 2022

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that expiration dates for driver's licenses and ID cards have been extended an additional three months, from Jan. 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits. White noted this will be the final extension.

"During the pandemic, my office has continued to serve the public, including face-to-face transactions, in a safe and responsible manner," said White. "This extension is necessary as my office continues to address the heavy customer volume caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through expanded online services and the introduction of appointments at select Driver Services facilities."

Public Act 102-678

authorizes the Secretary of State's office to extend driver's license and ID card expiration dates to March 31, 2022.

Throughout the pandemic, White's office has launched a diversified effort to address the heavy customer demand at facilities caused by the ongoing pandemic by requiring appointments at select facilities and expanding online services. These efforts include:

Requiring appointments at select Driver Services facilities for behind-the-wheel road tests, REAL IDs, standard driver's licenses and ID cards. Customers may visit [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov) for a list of participating facilities, as well as to schedule an appointment. New appointment slots will be available each day at [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov).

Expanding remote renewal for driver's license and ID

card holders. Since fall, the office has been mailing letters to eligible customers with expired driver's licenses and ID cards requiring them to renew online, by phone or by mail. The office estimates that this will eliminate the need for approximately 1 million people to visit a facility.

Urging the public to consider using online services at [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov) instead of visiting a facility for transactions such as purchasing license plate stickers, obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card, and renewing driver's licenses and ID cards, including REAL IDs, for those who are eligible.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.



## Hurley Alerts Landlords and Renters

To assist landlords and tenants who have experienced financial hardship over the last year, state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, is encouraging the second open application period for the Illinois Rental Payment Program (ILRPP), which will be open until Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022.

"Many families are still

struggling to make ends meet after the many obstacles we have faced over the last two years," said Hurley. "It is important that our state continues to support those who need help as we work to rebuild our economy and help residents get back to work."

The ILRPP is open to all Illinois landlords and tenants who meet certain eligibility requirements. Some of the program's requirements for renters include having an unpaid rent balance and having a household income that is not greater than 80% of their area's median income. Renters may apply for ILRPP assistance even if they received emergency rental assistance in the past or another unit of government provided them with federal rental assistance. However, they may not receive more than 18 months of total combined assistance, regardless of

the source.

Approved applicants can receive one-time grants of up to \$25,000 in assistance through the program. To apply, housing providers and tenants can submit a joint application together, and grants will be paid directly to the landlords. If the landlord chooses not to participate in the program, tenants may receive payments directly to make rental payments. To apply or view a complete list of eligibility requirements, individuals can visit [www.illinoishousinghelp.org](http://www.illinoishousinghelp.org).

"With the upcoming holidays and the cold winter weather it is so important that people are able to remain in their homes without putting financial burden on landlords," continued Hurley. "I encourage landlords and renters who are struggling to consider applying for free rental assistance."

### Oak Lawn Village View Newspaper Archive

Explore digitized microfilm from the Oak Lawn Village View. Papers range from 1973 to 2013 and are hosted by the Internet Archive. Look at the Oak Lawn Library website at <https://www.olpl.org>.

**Happy Holidays & a Prosperous New Years**  
from the Village View Publications, Inc. & Staff  
Annette Dixon, Linda Steiner, Steve Bilski, Charlie Noetzel & Brandon Gillespie

## City Council Approves 2.5 Percent Tax Levy Increase

The Oak Forest City Council approved the 2021 tax levy of \$11,568,103, resulting in a 2.5 percent increase from last year. As a result, an average homeowner can expect the city's portion of the real estate tax to go up approximately \$34.

The tax levy calculation requires a \$1.1 million increase in property taxes

due to fiscal year 2022 operating expenses, capital projects, and authorized full-time personnel, which remains at 124. Realizing that many residents and business owners are still recovering from the pandemic, the city is using \$800,000 of general fund reserves to close the gap and keep the tax levy as low as possible.

"We understand that increasing the levy while property values are not growing is difficult for many households and businesses," said Mayor Hank Kuspa. "That is why we are minimizing the tax levy through alternative resources."

Using reserves is a one-time solution made possible due to the current fiscal

year, state-shared revenues that are \$775,000 higher than budgeted. The Illinois Municipal League cites increased spending from three rounds of stimulus checks and advances of the child tax credit for the increased revenues. The city still meets its fund balance policy after the \$800,000 withdrawal.

## Oak Forest Hires Edmond Cage as Economic and Community Development Director

The City of Oak Forest has hired Edmond Cage as economic and community development director. Cage's appointment was approved by the City Council.

"We are very excited to

welcome Ed to our team," said City Administrator Tim Kristin. "I believe his energy, creativity, intelligence, and strong people skills make him ideal for this role."

Most recently, Cage

served as the community development director for the City of Wood Dale where he worked to bring national and global companies to town, including Amazon, Starbucks, Nippon Express, and Duravant Manufacturing. In addition to attracting new businesses, Cage implemented a commercial occupancy program, supervised the adoption of a new comprehensive plan, enhanced building and development applications, and developed improved flow charts for the zoning variation, special use,



and zoning amendment processes. He also established a geographic information systems analyst position to improve efficiency on projects and data collection.

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Published on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Press releases and ads are to be e-mailed to [vvnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vvnew@sbcglobal.net)

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

### Proud member of following 2021 Chambers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Alsip Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.alsipchamber.org">www.alsipchamber.org</a>  | Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.evergreenparkchamber.org">www.evergreenparkchamber.org</a>         |
| Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association<br><a href="http://www.bpcia.org">www.bpcia.org</a>                                   | The Hills Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.thehillschamber.org">www.thehillschamber.org</a>                        |
| Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry<br><a href="http://www.blueislandchamber.org">www.blueislandchamber.org</a>             | Justice Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.villageofjustice.org">www.villageofjustice.org</a>                        |
| The Burbank Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.burbankchamber.com">www.burbankchamber.com</a>                              | Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.oc-chamber.org">www.oc-chamber.org</a> |
| Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau<br><a href="http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com">www.visitchicagosouthland.com</a> | Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.oaklawnchamber.com">www.oaklawnchamber.com</a>                           |
|  | Palos Area Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.palosareachamber.org">www.palosareachamber.org</a>                     |

## Tinley Home wins ABC7's Light Fight 2021

A Tinley Park family recently took home bragging rights by winning ABC7's Great Chicago Light Fight 2021!

The home at 7414 W. 162nd Place was decorated by homeowner Scott O'Connor over the course of several weeks and utilizes more than 80,000 lights. This is the second win for Scott, as his home also won Best Use of Music in the Village's recent Holiday House Decorating Contest. ABC7 asked viewers

to submit videos of their homes for consideration and then vote on their favorites. The O'Connor home beat out four other finalists from Schaumburg, Mount Prospect, Carol Stream and Naperville to take the crown. Scott and his family recently to accept the award.

"I just want to congratulate the O'Connors for bringing joy and the holiday spirit to our residents," Tinley Park Mayor Michael Glotz said. "It's a wonderful addition to the

many beautifully decorated homes across Tinley Park."

Scott is asking visitors to his display to make donations to Together We Cope, a Tinley Park nonprofit organization that provides resources to families in temporary crisis, enabling them to stay in their homes.

A video of the interview with the O'Connors, Mayor Glotz and Village Manager Pat Carr is now playing on the Village's YouTube page and on Tinley Park Television.



**Happy Holidays**

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## Christmas Eve Service at Oak Lawn and Orland Park

Please join us on Friday, December 24th as we celebrate the birth of our Savior together! You're invited to join us for our 6 pm to 7 pm services. Calvary Church 10056 Central Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

You're invited to join us at one of our three services happening on Christmas Eve at 1 pm, 3 pm, or 5 pm services. Calvary Church 16100 104th Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois.

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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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TRUSTEES  
Elaine C. Davenport John "Jack" Lind Roger W. Meslar  
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## Leaving a Legacy

As this year comes to an end and CEO-elect Megan Ross, Ph.D., takes flight as the new President and CEO, we give a sincere thank you to Kevin Bell for serving as Lincoln Park Zoo's President and CEO for the last 26 years. Bell,

whose passion for wildlife was sparked by growing up in the Bronx Zoo, has worked at Lincoln Park Zoo for the past 45 years and has impacted the zoo world significantly. Discover the legacy he leaves behind.



*Happy Holidays  
from all of us at  
the Village View  
Newspaper!*



## Pat's Pantry Creates Christmas Cheer

Kathy Turney (L), founder of Pat's Pantry, shares festive Christmas placemats with Mercy Circle resident Tim Hickey (R). The Mt. Greenwood food pantry, which feeds 50 families each

week, asked Mt. Greenwood Elementary School students to color a variety of Christmas scenes, which she laminated, for assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation and skilled nursing care

residents at the continuing care retirement community in Chicago's Mt. Greenwood neighborhood.

Turney founded Pat's Pantry to honor the memory of her son Patrick Turney, who died unexpectedly in September 2019 at age 23. Patrick was nicknamed "the Mayor of Mt. Greenwood" for his outgoing personality and commitment to the community.

For more information about Mercy Circle or to schedule a private appointment, please call 773-253-3600 or visit [MercyCircle.org](http://MercyCircle.org). To support Pat's Pantry, contact Turney at (708) 955-1784 or [cavallonekathleen@gmail.com](mailto:cavallonekathleen@gmail.com).

## Ring in the New Year

Gather your flock of friends and head to Zoo Year's Eve for a countdown to 2022! Hours are Friday, Dec 31, 2021, 9:00 pm to Sat, Jan 1, 2022, 1:00 am. This special ticketed event will take place under the glow of ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ in one of Chicago's most beautiful parks. At this adults-only event (21+ only), guests can enjoy millions of dazzling lights and cash bars (beer, wine, champagne and spirits), plus a DJ, games, giveaways, and more!

Animal buildings will be



open, so there will be plenty of spots to warm up and enjoy the zoo. Take a break from the usual spot and start a new tradition: spend New Year's Eve at Lincoln Park Zoo!

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Stroll around the zoo under the glow ZooLights;  
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Complimentary Admission to the Light Maze;

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Plenty of spaces to stroll, sit, and sip with friends and family!

**FREE TICKETS:**

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ticket and some cash for spreading the word? Email [Ambassadors@RiverNorthFests.com](mailto:Ambassadors@RiverNorthFests.com) for more info!

To buy tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zoo-years-eve-at-lincoln-park-zoo-tickets-205227981417?aff=lpzzoomail121621>.

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The Daniel Capuano Ice Rink at Yukich Field is open for the season (pending the weather).

For updated Rink hours, ([evergreenpark-ill.com](http://evergreenpark-ill.com)), or call the Rec Dept at 708-229-3373. The Rink is also available for private parties.

If you would like to receive a 2022 Media kit, email us at [vvnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vvnew@sbcglobal.net).  
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Jarred Webb and Kelly O'Sullivan in *The Play That Goes Wrong* Chicago Company. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

## THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Broadway In Chicago is pleased to announce the opening of *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG*. The Tony Award®-winning hit comedy returns to Chicago for a limited engagement at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place (175 E. Chestnut) with a cast of local Chicagoans. Tickets are on sale now for performances through January 30, 2022, at [www.BroadwayInChicago.com](http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com).

What would happen if Sherlock Holmes and

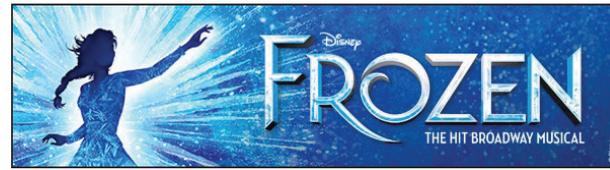
Monty Python had an illegitimate Broadway baby? Co-written by Mischief Theatre company members Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG* is a riotous comedy about the theatre. The play introduces the 'Cornley University Drama Society,' whose members are attempting to put on a 1920s murder mystery, but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong... does, as the accident-prone thespians battle on against all odds to get to their final curtain call.

Design, [Broadway.com's](http://Broadway.com's)

Audience Choice Award for Best Play, and the Theater Fans Choice Award for Best Play.

Performances are on Tuesday through Friday at 7:30 PM (with a Wednesday matinee at 2:00 PM on December 22, December 29, January 5, January 12, and January 26), Saturdays at 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM, and Sundays at 2:00 PM (with 7:30 PM evening shows on December 19, December 26, January 2 and January 23). There will be one Monday performance on December 27 at 7:30 p.m. There will be one performance on Friday, December 24 at 2:00 p.m. There will be no shows on Saturday, December 25 and Saturday, January 1.

Individual tickets for *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG* are now on sale and range from \$35.00 to \$85.00 with a select number of premium tickets available. Tickets are available now for groups of 10 or more by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at (312) 977-1710 or emailing [GroupSales@BroadwayInChicago.com](mailto:GroupSales@BroadwayInChicago.com).



From the producer of *The Lion King* and *Aladdin*, Disney's *Frozen*, the Tony®-nominated Best Musical, is currently playing an exclusive 10-week premiere engagement at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, with performances through January 22, 2022, only.

*Frozen* stars Caroline Bowman as "Elsa" and Caroline Innerbichler as "Anna," the sisters at the heart of the joy-filled musical. Joining them are principal cast members Austin Colby as "Hans," F. Michael Haynie as "Olaf," Mason Reeves as "Kristoff," Jeremy Morse as "Weselton," Collin Baja and Evan Strand alternating as "Sven," as well as Natalia Artigas ("Young Elsa"), Olivia Jones ("Young Anna"), Arwen Monzon-Sanders ("Young Elsa") and real-life sisters Natalie Grace Chan ("Young Elsa") and Victoria Hope Chan ("Young Anna").

*Frozen* has been created for the stage by an award-winning team and features the songs you know and love from the original Oscar®-winning film, plus an expanded score with a dozen new numbers by the film's songwriters, Oscar



Caroline Bowman and Caroline Innerbichler photo by Deenvan Meer

winner Kristen Anderson-Lopez and EGOT winner Robert Lopez. Joining them on a creative team that has won a cumulative 16 Tony Awards are Oscar winner Jennifer Lee (book), Tony and Olivier Award winner Michael

Grandage (director), and Tony winner Rob Ashford (choreographer).

**TICKET INFORMATION:** Individual tickets for Disney's *FROZEN* are on sale now. Ticket prices range from \$33 \$179 plus a select number of premium tickets are available. Tickets are available for groups of 10 or more by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at (312) 977-1710 or emailing [GroupSales@](mailto:GroupSales@)

[BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.com). For more information or tickets, visit [www.BroadwayInChicago.com](http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com).

For information, visit [FrozenTheMusical.com/Tour](http://FrozenTheMusical.com/Tour) – Follow *Frozen* on Facebook and Instagram.

## Soloists Announced for Sir Andrew Davis Conducts Beethoven 9

Anthony Freud, Lyric Opera of Chicago's president, general director, and CEO, is pleased to announce the four soloists who will perform in the Sir Andrew Davis Conducts Beethoven 9 concert on Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7pm. Bass-baritone Eric Owens and tenor Matthew Polenzani, an alumnus of Lyric's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, will appear along with two current members of the Ryan Opera Center Ensemble, soprano Mathilda Edge and mezzo-soprano Kathleen Felty.

The concert celebrates Sir Andrew Davis's two-decade tenure as Lyric's music director with one of his favorite works, never previously performed at Lyric: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, the "Choral," one of music's most exalted hymns to the human spirit. Sir

Andrew will conduct the four soloists along with the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus. "All of us at Lyric are thrilled to welcome Sir Andrew Davis back to the podium for a towering work never before done on Lyric's stage," says Freud. "This will be a very special performance experience."

The concert will begin with a new choral work by Sir Andrew's son, the composer Ed Frazier Davis, commissioned by Lyric. The evening is dedicated to the memory of Lady Gianna Rolandi Davis, Sir Andrew's wife and Ed's mother, who was the longtime director of the Ryan Opera Center.

Tickets are on sale now.

Sir Andrew Davis served as music director and principal conductor of Lyric Opera of Chicago from 2000 through the 2020/21 Season. Since his

debut engagement in the 1987/88 Season, he has led 690 opera performances plus nine special concerts at Lyric, as well as the majority of Lyric's free concerts in Millennium Park. The vast repertoire that he has led at Lyric encompasses operas by Berg, Berlioz, Bizet, Britten, Dvořák, Gilbert and Sullivan, Gounod, Janáček, Lehár, López, Massenet, Mozart, Mussorgsky, Poulenc, Puccini, Rossini, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Wagner, and Weinberg. A native of Hertfordshire, England, he was created a Commander of the British Empire in 1992 and was designated a Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours List in 1999. For more information on the Sir Andrew Davis Conducts Beethoven 9 concert, visit [lyricopera.org/beethoven](http://lyricopera.org/beethoven).

## Steppenwolf Theatre Company opens Liz and Eric Lefkofsky Arts and Education Center

Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the nation's premier ensemble theater company, opened recently its trailblazing new 50,000 square foot theater building and education center, the Liz and Eric Lefkofsky Arts and Education Center. Designed by world-renowned architect Gordon Gill FAIA of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, with theater design and acoustics by Charcoalblue and construction by Norcon, the expanded Steppenwolf campus is a cultural nexus for Chicago, offering bold and ambitious opportunities for creative expression, social exchange, unparalleled accessibility, and arts-driven learning for Chicago youth in *The Loft*, Steppenwolf's first-ever dedicated education space. The expanded Steppenwolf campus also features bright new lobbies

and two new full-service bars for socializing designed by fc STUDIO, inc.

Opening to the public this month as in-person performances return to Steppenwolf; the Liz and Eric Lefkofsky Arts and Education Center is the largest new permanent cultural asset to open in the City of Chicago in 2021. The \$54 million new building is part of Steppenwolf's multi-phase \$73 million Building on Excellence expansion campaign.

"What an extraordinary day this is for our company and Chicago. This multi-phase campus expansion is over two decades in the making and is a manifestation of Steppenwolf's core values of ensemble, innovation and cultural citizenship. Formed by an ensemble of young actors who wanted to create courageous work, nearly 50 years later our expanded

campus builds on the company's infamous beginnings and ensures a future for the continued artistic growth of the ensemble and space for tens of thousands of Chicagoland teens to experience transformative arts education. We are investing in this expansion of our artistic home in Chicago to serve our extraordinary city and support the work of generative and diverse theater artists for generations to come," shares Executive Director E. Brooke Flanagan.

"It's rare to find a group of people who are so invested in not just the function of the building, but the emotional life and equity of the space. One of my proudest moments in the design is that arguably the most primary space is given to the students, which speaks volumes to the company, its ideals and its future," adds Gill.

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## Illinois Tollway Approves 2022 Budget

The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors has approved a balanced 2022 Budget with \$1.49 billion in revenue allocated to fund maintenance and operations, debt service transfers and capital investments for the 294-mile system.

The 2022 Budget will allow the Tollway to commit \$1.49 billion in capital spending, including funding for the 11th year of the agency's 15-year, \$14 billion Move Illinois capital program.

"Consistent with the Tollway's long-term financial plan, the 2022 Budget accommodates expenditures to maintain roadway and customer service activities," said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman and CEO Will Evans. "This spending plan ensures the Tollway has the resources necessary to further improve the governance, accountability, safety and security of the organization while investing heavily in the technology necessary for the future of the tolling industry."

In 2022 estimated revenues include \$1.48 billion from tolls and evasion recovery, \$3 million from investment income and \$11 million from concessions and miscellaneous revenue. The Tollway also plans to issue \$400 million in new bonds in 2022 to provide funding for new and future capital program investments.

The 2022 Budget allocates nearly \$1.08 billion for direct funding and debt service on capital investments, as well as \$411 million for maintenance and operations.

Annual maintenance and operations activities including an Information Technology budget of \$37.5 million, \$39.8 million for State Police and security services, as well as \$102.3 million for Operations and Business Systems to providing customer service, support and enhancements.

"The Illinois Tollway remains dedicated to strong fiscal management of day-to-day operations as the

## Savaglio Raises Game at Both Ends of Floor for Lady Spartans

Written by OLCHS Staff Writer, Brian Frangella

Rose Savaglio is usually assigned to guard one of the top two scoring threats of opponents for the Oak Lawn Community High School girls basketball team. And this year she is living up to that task and holding those opponents below their season averages. Now, she is adding big offense to her resume on the court as well. It's a deadly combination that is leading the Spartans to success.



Savaglio scored 12 points and had four steals in victory over Riverside-Brookfield on Monday, and she scored seven points with four steals in a road win at Lemont in

agency continues to both recover and continue to mitigate from the global COVID-19 pandemic," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "In addition, this 2022 Budget will allow us to continue to deliver the largest capital program in the agency's history and to provide safe and efficient daily service to our customers."

The Tollway's 2022 Capital Program calls for

investing \$1.49 billion in 2021 with \$296.8 million budgeted for systemwide roadway and bridge repairs to keep the existing Tollway system in good repair, as well as along with funding for key projects including:

\$439.9 million to continue planning and construction for the new I-490 Tollway and new interchanges connecting to the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the Illinois

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## Big Man Lawrence Buries Game-Winning Shot at Tinley Park

Written by OLCHS Staff Writer, Brian Frangella

With just seven seconds remaining and trailing by one point in the game at Tinley Park Tuesday night, the Oak Lawn Community High School boys basketball team had just one chance left for a road win. It took three perfect passes down the court and a short jump-shot from Davion Lawrence at the buzzer to seal the deal. The Spartans walked away with a thrilling 65-64 South Suburban Conference victory.

In the win at Tinley, he was 5-for-5 from the free-throw line to go along with the game-winning shot. Lawrence has emerged as an alpha on the team as he leads the Spartans in both scoring and rebounding. He is averaging 13.7 points per game and 8.3 boards. He is



shooting an impressive 54 percent from the field and 72 percent at the free-throw line. He is adding 2.5 assists a game as well.

"He is a very good and willing passer out of the post, which makes our team more difficult to guard," said head coach Jason Rhodes. "We're very proud of the development he has made already this year and look forward to his continued improvement this season."

South Suburban Conference play last Friday. In beating Lemont, Savaglio held their second-leading scorer to just three points. She also had 10 points, four rebounds, four assists, and two steals in a conference victory over Tinley Park.

"Rose has been crucial in leading the team, to a 10-2

overall record thus far," head girls basketball coach Mark Sevedge said. "She has been a constant leader in practice being loud, communicating, and showing her teammates how to continuously work hard to get better. As only a junior, Rose is really starting to establish herself as a leader of our program."

Route 390 Tollway, as well as providing direct access in and out of O'Hare International Airport as part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project.

\$690.1 million to continue design and reconstruction work for the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

\$46.2 million to complete construction of the I-294/I-57 Interchange.

The 2022 Budget includes a total \$1.49 billion in

projected revenue, an increase of 5.4 percent over 2021. This includes \$1.48 billion from evasion recovery and tolls, including an annual commercial truck toll rate increase previously approved by the Tollway Board in 2008. There is no toll increase planned for passenger vehicles.

The 2022 Budget is posted on the Illinois Tollway website www.illinoistollway.com for public viewing.

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**Membership  
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American Legion Central Park Post 1028 is conducting a membership recruiting All You Can Eat Breakfast on Friday February 11, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at Les Brothers Restaurant, 87th & Ridgeland, Oak Lawn. Veterans of any era are invited to join free of dues for the first year. Bring a fellow veteran and if that veteran also joins, free of dues the first year, you earn a \$50 gift card. Verification of veteran status is required at the door (DD-214) with honorable or general discharge.

RSVP with number of guests by January 5, 2022.

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McCord Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of Amos Alonzo Stagg High School Students' Artworks! The McCord Gallery is honored to provide the space to display up and coming artists in our community.

We invite you to come and see their talents on display. Join us for the reception on **Friday, January 21 from 6-8 pm.** Free and open to the public! McCord Gallery & Cultural Center, 9602 W. Creek Road, Palos Park.

**'Keep the Wreath Red'  
this Holiday**

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

The Fire Department has placed a wreath illuminated with red bulbs in front of each of the four fire stations. 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 that should be taken during the holidays. Have a fire-safe holiday season!

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**Obituary**

Kathleen Whirity (nee) Gade passed away on December 7th 2021. Beloved Wife of William J. Whirity Jr; Dear Mother of Jaime (Dan) Farrell and Katie (Seth) Wiselogel; Beloved "Nonnie" to Avery, Gemma, Billy, Danny, Jack, Silas and Vada; Fond Sister to Tim Gade, Alice (Staffan) Brandt, Bill (Diane) Gade and Tom Gade; Dear sister-in-law to Joe and Karen Whirity; Terry and Linda Whirity; Patsy and Chris Sojka; Marie and Tim Kennedy; Glenn Whirity; Mike and the late Darlene Frost; Marty and Kerry Whirity; Dear Aunt to many.

Kathy was the devoted wife of Bill. They spent their 45 years of marriage at their home in Mt. Greenwood where they lovingly raised two daughters, Jaime and Katie. Kathy was a homemaker but welcomed children into her home to babysit for almost 30 years. Kathy loved the kids she cared for and considered them family, often maintaining relationships with them long after they moved on to school.

Kathy always had a special talent for writing. She was a published author, and also shared a family life column in the

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Mt. Greenwood Express. She proudly submitted several of her stories to Chicken Soup for the Soul and was elated each time her articles were accepted into the book. Another gift Kathy had been crocheting. Anyone who knew and loved Kathy was likely the recipient of a scarf, blanket, or in recent times – a mask! One of her favorite things to crochet was headbands for the newborns at the hospital.

What made Kathy happiest were her grandkids and attending as many sporting events as possible. The cheering section will be a little quieter now and Kathy will be deeply missed. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Christmas without Cancer.

For info 708-422-2700 or www.curleyfuneralhome.com

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