

## ADDISON Suburban Life

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## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



Photo Provided

# AT alumni come home

Anna Banuelos (left), Edwin Regalado, Luis Ramirez and Javier Rodriguez -- Addison Trail High School alumni from the Class of 2013 -- visit their alma mater Dec. 20 for the school's Young Alumni Day.

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■ **LAST WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION:** What do you most look forward to in winter after the holiday season?

**75 PERCENT:** Spring  
**13 PERCENT:** The Super Bowl  
**9 PERCENT:** Winter sports and activities  
**3 PERCENT:** Valentine's Day

■ **THIS WEEK'S WEB POLL QUESTION:** What do you think about the new medical marijuana law in Illinois? Vote online at [mysurbanlife.com](http://mysurbanlife.com).

## District 205 embraces behavioral support

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive, schoolwide approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture necessary for all students to achieve social, emotional and academic success. As a Multi-Tiered System of Support model, PBIS provides staff with a problem-solving process and a continuum of support to enhance the capacity of schools to effectively educate all students.

PBIS is a decision-making framework that guides selection, integration and implementation of evidence-based behavioral practices for improving academic and behavior outcomes for all students. Key PBIS components at the schoolwide level include: Behavioral expectations are defined and taught; appropriate behaviors are acknowledged; behavioral errors are corrected proactively; program evaluations and adaptations are made by a team; administrators provide active and ongoing support.

Implemented in over 18,000 schools nationally, the PBIS model is in place in more than 1,700 schools in Illinois. An essential component of the PBIS process is active data-based decision making. Schoolwide Information System (SWIS) is a highly-regarded data management system. It is used to access data to guide efforts around schoolwide implementation and students' behavioral outcomes. SWIS data is used for building-based action planning around schoolwide needs, as well as to determine which students need additional supports. Elmhurst 205 has opted out of sharing information with other districts.

PBIS is a systems change process and takes approximately three to five years to develop and implement. District 205 is in the second year of PBIS implementation in the middle schools, in the first year at the elementary schools. York Community High School has initiated their planning year.

Emerson Elementary School recently held a celebration of reaching their PBIS goal. Since the beginning of school, students were "caught being good" and earned SOAR tickets leading to the reward of an all-school dance party. They filled the jar in both October and November.

In October, members of the Churchville Middle School CHAMPS/PBIS team presented their poster project titled "Churchville Chargers: Charging Up Positive Support" at the National PBIS Leadership Forum. Additionally, school social worker Megan McCarthy was selected to co-present, along with Jennifer Phillips of SASED and Kevin Moore of the University of Oregon, on the application of a Positive Family Support model.

*Meg Schnoor is the District 205 assistant superintendent for student services.*



**COMMUNITY VOICE**  
**Meg Schnoor**



Photo provided  
Addison Trail theatre students visited Marklund in Bloomingdale on Dec. 14 to help with the school's holiday show.



Students from Addison Trail High School's theatre program took time during the holidays to step out of the spotlight and give students with special needs center stage. The AT students helped with the holiday show at Marklund in Bloomingdale, which serves people of all ages with serious and profound developmental disabilities and special health care needs. They assisted with the Marklund students' lines and helped them open gifts after the show.



There's nothing quite like the smell of fresh bread. Good luck to Forno Palese Baking Co., 396 N. Wood Dale Road in Wood Dale, which recently opened its doors. In addition to the fresh breads, the bakery features sandwiches, soups and salads.

### Write to us

We want to hear from you. Letters must be no more than 300 words. They must include your first and last name, town and a phone number for verification. We may edit them for clarity, accuracy and style. Email letters to [letters@mysurbanlife.com](mailto:letters@mysurbanlife.com). The deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday for the following week's paper.

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# YEAR IN REVIEW



photo: Independent archives

## Hubner reaches 300<sup>th</sup> victory

In June, the Independent learned that Addison Trail social studies teacher and boys volleyball head coach Tom Hubner had earned his 300th win at Addison Trail during a non-conference match against Elgin High School. Through the years, Hubner's teams have taken home four West Suburban Gold Conference Championship titles. He also has experienced three times when his teams won 30 matches in a season and 10 times when his teams won 20 matches in a season. During his 14-year career at Addison Trail, only one team did not earn a winning season. Hubner's win-loss record at ATHS is 301 wins and 152 losses. In his career, he has had 377 wins and 166 losses.



photo: Independent archives

## ATHS hosts "Go Pink or Go Home" Walk

Pictured with Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka (center) are participants of the school's second annual "Go Pink or Go Home" Walk on Thursday, October 3, 2013, at Addison Trail, kicking off a month-long campaign dedicated to breast cancer awareness. More than 250 students, faculty and parents participated and more than \$1,000 was raised to support those in the local community.

photo: Independent archives

## Daisy Scouts put a new face on Wesley School...

In the spring and early summer of 2013, Daisy Girl Scout Troops 51021 and 51029, pictured here, went on a Leadership Journey called "Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden," part of the "It's Your World - Change It!" series. On July 1, 2013, members of Daisy Troops 51021 and 51029 gathered in front of Wesley School in Addison on the final day of planting.



## Kline Creek Farm to showcase ice harvest in January

**Weather permitting, visitors will help cut and transport ice blocks**

WHEATON — The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to learn about old-fashioned refrigeration during "Ice Harvest" Jan. 23, 25, 26 and 30 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Kline Creek Farm, its 1890s living-history farm at 1N600 County Farm Road in West Chicago.

If weather allows, visitors can join Kline Creek Farm employees and volunteers on Timber Lake to see how farmers scored and cut ice into blocks. They can even lend a hand by using the farm's large 1890s saws and ice-breaker bars. Visitors can then see how properly stacking and insulating the ice in the icehouse allows the blocks to stay frozen for months — without electricity.

"Kline Creek Farm is one of the few places in Chicagoland that cuts and stores ice the old-fashioned way. For many visitors, seeing the labor that was required during the coldest time of year to make sure foods remained chilled through the hottest is a real eye-opener," says Keith McClow, the manager of Kline Creek Farm.

Registration is not needed to attend the free "Ice Harvest" programs, but McClow encourages visitors to call the farm the morning of each at 630-876-5900 to ensure conditions will allow cutting that day.

In addition to "Ice Harvest," Kline Creek Farm will offer smaller ice-cutting demonstrations Feb. 1, weather permitting, at the District's free "Wonders of Winter" event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mayslake Peabody Estate at 1717 W. 31st Street in Oak Brook.

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# Suburban Life

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**JESSICA  
BIANCHI**

York  
Junior | Basketball

### Why Bianchi was selected:

**Bianchi was an all-tournament selection and helped lead the Dukes to the Oswego East Holiday Classic Tournament title.**

York junior guard Jessica Bianchi has emerged as a key player for the Dukes this season. She averaged 12 points per game during the Oswego East Holiday Classic Tournament to help the team win the tournament title with four wins. She scored 20 points in the final, and more recently was one of five York players to score seven points or more in a 53-32 win over IC Catholic. Bianchi, the Oak Trust Credit Union Athlete of the Week, talked with Suburban Life sports reporter Dan Santaromita about the tournament title and the outlook for 2014.

### What changed for your team during the tournament?

Our first half of the game against Harlem, it was a slow start and our coach wanted us to press and move more and show more energy. We started getting steals and layups, and the rest of the tournament we started to press and that really got us pumped. Our defense is really helping us, and a lot of teams were talking about how our man-to-man press is really good.

### What are your goals for the rest of the year?

We had a rough start, especially with conference too, but we've been talking about winning the rest of our conference games. We're not letting down. Our conference is really competitive. We want to win all our conference games and go farther in the playoffs than last year, when we were second in the regional.

### How big was it to win the holiday tournament?

That really boosted our confidence, especially after we had a rough start for our season. We really connected during that tournament. After that tournament we won the game against IC, so we're really in sync now.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by



## Airborne to ascend to tournament title



The Elmhurst Airborne fifth grade boys Green team were tournament champs at the fourth annual Elmhurst Airborne Roundball Winter Classic on Jan. 4 and 5. A total of 122 teams competed in 183 games. The tournament supported the Elmhurst Airborne travel basketball club and also was a fundraiser for a local food pantry. Spectators were asked to bring a nonperishable food item or donate \$1 at the door. Members of the team are (front row, from left) Tyler Frank, Boyd Puckett, Michael Hilgart, (middle row) Michael Connell, Brennan Wright, Matthew Milani, Tommy Ryan, Frederick Levins, Denton Rohde, and (back row) coaches Mike Milani, Bill Ryan and Steve Hilgart.

Photo provided

## PREP ROUNDUP

### Broncos hit the road looking for win over Guerin

#### SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Montini's boys basketball team lost a pair of home games last weekend. Marian Central defeated the Broncos 78-67 on Jan. 3, and Reavis left Lombard with a 62-53 victory a day later. Montini returns to action at 7 p.m. today against host Guerin.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL Montini

The Lady Broncos had no trouble with Rosary on Jan. 3. Montini cruised to a 75-28 victory. Next up is a game against St. Edward on Jan. 14.

#### Addison Trail

The Blazers picked up their first West Suburban Gold win of the season on Saturday. AT beat Leyden 51-39 with 17 points coming from Connie Barkoulies and 13 from Rachel Baumgartner. The Blazers are now 4-13 and 1-5 in the Gold and host Hinsdale South in a WSG game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

#### BOYS BASKETBALL Willowbrook

The Warriors were scheduled to play Hoffman Estates on Tuesday, but the game was postponed because of cold weather.

They play at West Suburban Gold rival Downers Grove South at 7:30 p.m. today.

#### Willowbrook

The Warriors had Tuesday's scheduled game against

Glenbard East postponed due to the cold weather that closed both schools, but they did pick up a big West Suburban Gold win on Saturday. Molly Krawczykowski had 18 points to lead the Warriors against Hinsdale South. Olivia Domin scored 10 points. Melissa Rader dominated the glass with a game-high 15 rebounds to go with nine points.

#### WRESTLING Montini

The Broncos traveled up to Kaukauna, Wis., for the Cheesehead Invitational and won the tournament. Montini had three individual champions: Tommy Pawelski (113 pounds), Chris Garcia (136) and Edgar Ruano (220). Jake Turk was second at 182 pounds.

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A COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION





# Pezzopane playing plenty for Augustana women

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

High schools are just getting back in the swing of things for the new year after a slow weekend of high school sports. However, college teams don't slow down during the holidays, giving area basketball products a chance to showcase their talents for their college basketball teams.

## Former Blazer playing at Augustana

Marissa Pezzopane, an Addison Trail grad, is a regular for the Augustana women's team. Pezzopane, a sophomore forward, has made five starts and played in all 12 games while putting up 10 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. She also leads the Vikings in blocks, with 15 on the season.

## Sharpshooter Miller leads Knox

Willowbrook grad Eric Miller is the only player to have started all 12 games for Knox College this year. The senior point guard leads the Prairie Fire with 18 made 3-pointers and is scoring 10 points per game.

## Sterling a part of high-flying North Central

The North Central College women's basketball team is averaging 97.7 points per game, and Willowbrook grad Anita Sterling is part of the Cardinals' deep rotation. North Central plays up-tempo and rotates a lot of players, meaning Sterling has seen playing time right away as a freshman. She has played in all 12 games with three starts and is averaging 5.2 points and 4.8 rebounds per game.

## York duo getting it done at D-I programs

Former York stars Will Sullivan and David Cohn are carrying the Dukes' flag well for their Division I colleges. Sullivan, a junior guard at Miami University in Ohio, has made six starts and is scoring 7.7 points per game. He leads the Redhawks with 13 3-pointers made.

Cohn is seeing action as a freshman at Colorado State. He is getting sixth-man min-



Photo provided by Augustana College Athletics

Addison Trail graduate Marissa Pezzopane is part of the regular rotation at Augustana. The sophomore forward has played in all 12 games this season and is averaging 10 points and 5.8 rebounds per game.

utes as the most used reserve on the team. Cohn is averaging 5.7 points per game and is 14-for-29 on 3-pointers this season.

## Glenbard East pair starting for Roosevelt

Tyree York and Kevin Priebe have reunited at the college level. The former Glenbard East standouts are both starting for Roosevelt, an NAIA school in Chicago. York, a junior, is fourth on the team with 12.8 points per game and is one of just three players to start all 16 games so far. Priebe, a sophomore, is second on Lakers at 13.5 points per game

and third with 5.1 rebounds per contest.

## Harvey making early impact at Benedictine

Last year, Tahron Harvey helped Glenbard East to a successful season. He hasn't had much trouble adjusting to the college game. As a freshman guard at Benedictine, Harvey has become a regular in the starting lineup and is one of the top stat-getters on the squad. He leads the team with 3.4 assists per game, is third in rebounds (4.6) and fourth in points (11.7).

## Miller back on the floor

After transferring from

Northern Illinois, where he played the 2011-12 season, Zach Miller sat out last year and received a medical redshirt at Hillsdale College. The former Glenbard East star has returned to action this season for the Division II school in Michigan. Miller missed the first eight games of the season, but played the next five, all wins for the Chargers. He has scored 15 points while playing in 12.8 minutes per game.

## Local flavor sparking North Central men

The North Central College men's basketball team has a lot of local talent on its roster.

Sophomore guard Evan Feindley (York) has come off the bench in 11 games, scoring 3.5 points per game. IC Catholic grad Brian Harvey, another sophomore, has played in one game off the bench. Glenbard East grad Jack Merrithey was a key reserve and came in off the bench for the first five games of the season, but is no longer on the roster.

## Bruno, three Reaber sisters playing for IWU

The Reaber sisters - Taylor, Kasey and Brittney - had various high school experiences, but have all wound up at Illinois Wesleyan. Taylor, a senior, and Brittney, a freshman, graduated from IC Catholic. Kasey, a junior, graduated from Montini. All three are currently playing basketball at Illinois Wesleyan University.

With the Titans this season, Kasey has started all 12 games so far and is averaging 7.9 points and 3.9 rebounds per game. Taylor is also seeing regular minutes, good for 14.4 minutes, 4.3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game. Brittney has played in just one game so far, but has time to catch up to her older sisters' production.

Willowbrook grad Angela Bruno is also a freshman on the team and has come off the bench in six games.

## Johnson sisters reunited at Wisconsin

Michala and Malayna Johnson both dominated while at Montini. Michala transferred to Wisconsin after two years at Connecticut and sat out last season for the transfer. As a redshirt junior she leads the Badgers in scoring (16.1 points per game) and rebounds (8.2) before Thursday's game at Michigan.

Malayna has come off the bench in 10 games as a freshman.

## Seberger looking for strong senior season

Illinois State senior guard Alison Seberger (Montini, Geneva) has made seven starts in 12 games for the Redbirds. She is averaging 4.2 points per game and 3.6 rebounds, which is second best on the team.

## YEAR IN REVIEW



DYLAN DOMEK

# Dylan Domek passes away Aug. 30, 2013

## Young man who missed his graduation from AT succumbs to injuries from accident

By Dee Longfellow  
For The Addison Independent

ADDISON — In September of 2013, the Addison Independent had the sad task of reporting that Dylan Domek, a 2013 Addison Trail senior who missed his high school graduation due to an accident, had passed away on August 30. Dylan's funeral was held on Thursday, September 5, 2013, at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Addison.

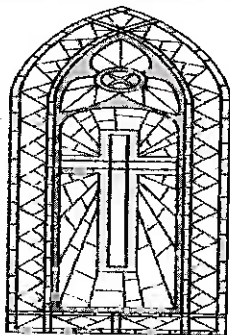
Dylan, 19, was set to graduate with the rest of his class at ATHS before he was hit by a car while running across Lake Shore Drive

in downtown Chicago early in the morning of Sunday, June 9, 2013. According to reports, Dylan and friends had stepped over a guardrail and attempted to run across the northbound lanes in the 1300 block of North Lake Shore Drive, when Dylan was struck by a late-model BMW325, injuring his head and legs. He was taken to Northwestern Hospital in critical condition.

Since the accident, several fundraisers were held to help his family with medical bills and other expenses. On Saturday, August 30, Dylan passed away as a result of his injuries.

A linebacker for the Addison Trail football team, Dylan was known as a leader and key contributor to the team. Sadly, he had to miss his high school graduation.

The Addison Trail Football Team wore stickers with Dylan's #44 on their helmets to honor him and all he meant to Addison Trail.



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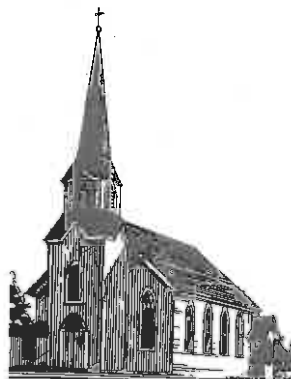
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# Willowbrook girls basketball team defeats Hinsdale South

## Warriors run conference record to 5-0

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team remained perfect in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play after a recent 58-38 victory over Hinsdale South.

The win moved the Warriors to 14-2 overall and 5-0 in WSC Gold action.

Molly Krawczykowski led the Warriors with 18 points on the strength of 11-for-11 shooting. Olivia Domin added 10 points.

Melissa Rader had nine points, five

steals and a team-high 15 rebounds. Lauren Carroll had seven points, while Josie Zabran had six rebounds. Danielle Velasquez had four assists. Alyssa Rensing had two blocked shots.

Earlier, the Warriors went 3-1 at the Wheaton North tournament. Willowbrook scored wins over Elgin (75-31), Elk Grove (47-45) and St. Charles East (67-54). The Warriors' lone loss in the tournament was to Glenbrook South (62-40).

In the win over St. Charles East, Willowbrook led 17-14 after the first quarter and 37-35 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored St. Charles East 16-12 in the third quarter and 14-7 in the fourth quarter.

Krawczykowski led the Warriors

with 20 points. She shot 7-for-9 from the free-throw line and had two steals. Domin had 13 points and four assists. She hit two 3-pointers. Rader added 11 points and Zabran had nine points.

In the win over Elk Grove, the two teams played to a 5-5 tie after the first quarter. Willowbrook led 19-17 at halftime. Elk Grove outscored Willowbrook 11-4 in the third quarter, but the Warriors came back and held a 24-16 edge in the fourth quarter.

Through 16 games, Krawczykowski was leading the team in scoring at 15.3 points per game. Domin was next at 8.4 points. Rader was averaging 7.1 points. Carroll was averaging 5.3 points and Sam Schmidt was averaging 5.0 points.

Jada Stills was leading the team in

rebounding at 5.7 per game. Rader was averaging 5.6 rebounds per game, while Schmidt was at 5.4 a game.

Domin was tops in assists with 53. Krawczykowski was leading in blocked shots with eight. Krawczykowski, Domin and Rader each had a team-best 32 steals.

Domin was leading the team in 3-pointers with 25. Allison Torres had 12 three-pointers.

As a team, Willowbrook was shooting 44 percent from the field.

The Warriors played neighbor Glenbard East Tuesday. Willowbrook returns to conference play Friday at home against Downers Grove South and then heads to Leyden on Saturday for a conference matinee.

# Fenton girls basketball team finishes third at Holiday Tournament

## Bison ready to tackle second half of the season

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Fenton girls basketball team ended 2013 on a high note.

The Bison finished third at the St. Viator tournament with a 2-2 record. Fenton defeated Leyden in the third-place game.

"We were up and down in the tournament," said Fenton coach Tim Anderson. "It's not probably how we would have liked to have done it."

Fenton ran into a tough Regina team in its first game of the tournament.

"We lost to Regina in the first game and they are pretty good," said Anderson. "They beat us by 21. We were down 0-0 in the first quarter. We didn't play well and they are pretty good."

Fenton rebounded to record a win over Northside Prep.

"We had beat them at the Thanksgiving tournament and

this was the day after Christmas," said Anderson. "We didn't shoot well, but we made a lot of free throws and won by 11. We shot 18 percent (from the field). We were getting good shots, but didn't make them. We were able to hang in there and play good defense and ended up coming out on top."

The Bison then dropped a contest to Glenbrook North in their third game of the tournament.

"Glenbrook North had lost to Regina and Northside," said Anderson. "Again, we didn't shoot well. We shot 18 percent again. Glenbrook took advantage. Everybody has shooting nights where the ball doesn't go in. The key was to make sure the girls weren't getting down on themselves and starting to hang their heads. We lost by four."

However, Fenton was able to advance into the third-place game on the basis of winning a tiebreaker.

"The first thing out of my mouth after that game was what are the tiebreakers," said Anderson. "We had three 1-2

teams so the tiebreaker was points allowed. I told the girls offense wins games and defense wins trophies. By virtue of the tiebreaker, which ended up being our defense that played pretty well, we got into the third-place game. I thought we would go 2-1 and get into the third-place game, but it didn't work out that way."

Fenton downed Leyden in the third-place contest in a rematch of a game from earlier in the season.

"We lost to them the first game of the season by five points," said Anderson. "We ended up beating Leyden by 11 this time. Our defense won it. We held them to nine points in the first half. Leyden has a good girl who is quick and fast as any player I've seen in a long time. She had 24 points the first time against us. This time, she took one shot in the first half. We had her bottled up and that was by design. We played well and ended the tournament well."

Fenton played three games in a four-day stretch recently against Chicago Taft, St. Viator and conference foe Glenbard

South. The St. Viator game was part of the ongoing Fenton tournament.

"Those are some good teams," said Anderson late last week. "St. Viator beat Regina to win the tournament and Glenbard South is doing terrific. Those games will be good character tests for us. This is a very busy month for us. When I was doing our schedule and looked at January I said, 'Oh, my goodness.' We're packed with games. Our tournament has some good teams with Viator, Chicago Latin and Lake Forest Academy, plus we have to play Riverside-Brookfield and Glenbard South. We'll see what we are made of."

Fenton standout Tina Guarino was named to the all-tournament team at St. Viator.

"This was her third year in a row making all-tournament there," said Anderson. "The last game against Leyden she had her lowest scoring output, but probably played her best game of the year. Against Glenbrook she had 15 points and set a school record with 13 steals. Glenbrook had 35 turnovers and one offensive rebounds

and we lost by four. Tina had a great game against them."

Guarino had three points, six assists and seven steals against zero turnovers versus Leyden.

"Tina is doing it all for us," said Anderson. "I'm so proud of her."

Anderson also lauded the play of Dana Fritz and Rachael Leschewski.

"Dana had a nice tournament and probably could have made the all-tournament team," said Anderson. "Her and Tina defensively are a force. Rachael had 15 points against Leyden. She had a nice last game."

Fenton was 10-4 overall after the St. Viator tournament and sported a 4-2 mark in Metro Suburban Conference play through six contests.

"If you asked me at the beginning of the season if we would be 10-4 right now, I'd be pleasantly surprised," said Anderson. "We easily could be 12-2. The only teams that beat us convincingly were R-B and Regina. I'm really happy for the girls. We're looking forward to the second half of the season."

# Willowbrook-Addison Trail Fall sports awards announced

## More than 80 student-athletes earn all-academic recognition

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

There were no shortage of superlatives during the fall sports seasons at district 88 schools Addison Trail and Willowbrook.

At Willowbrook, the boys cross-country team placed third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division. Mike Caron and Jimmy Funteas Jr. earned all-conference honors. Ed Gar-

ner, Nick Turek and Wil Unseth were all-academic award-winners. Funteas was named the team MVP.

The Willowbrook football team placed second in the WSC Gold. Brian Johnson, Hayden Adams, Jeremy Barnes, Devin Childress, Joe Catanese, Adrian Abrams, Jimmy Marcello, Christian Chavez and Irwin Leon-Cervantes were named to the all-WSC Gold team.

Adams, Chris Villafuerte, Johnson, Mark Lundine, Shelly Williams, Jake DePaul, Matt Ebeling, Leon-Cervantes and Abrams earned all-conference academic accolades.

Johnson was named the WSC Gold player of the year, while Adams was

the team MVP. Johnson earned all-state special mention and IHSFCA honorable mention honors.

Adams was named to the Champaign News-Gazette all-state team and also earned academic all-state honors along with Johnson and Abrams.

Tito Cabral and Dylan Jones were all-WSC Gold picks in boys soccer. Cabral was the team MVP. Rockas Dubinas, Mark Rodriguez, Jonathon Cruz, Don Torres and Jones were named all-conference academic recipients.

Mark Fratto was an all-WSC Gold choice in boys golf. He shared team MVP honors with Mike Malito. Fratto, Malito, Gregg Danielson, Sean Keefe,

Alex Sousa, Tyler Vavrek and Matt Gaslamis were named to the all-conference academic team.

Mia Railing and Joanna Conley earned all-conference honors in girls volleyball. Michelle Herz, Maggie McNamara and Conley were all-academic selections. Conley was the team MVP.

The girls tennis team placed third in conference. Katherine Hinman, Stefanie Grant, Audrey Ding, Janine Johnson, Amanda Wendt and Kallie Jurgerson were all-conference picks. Hinman, Grant, Ding and Johnson were all-academic choices. Hinman was the team MVP.

See AWARDS, Page 18



# Parks and Recreation offering new programs

**VILLA PARK** — Parks and Recreation is offering several new programs throughout the upcoming months.

## Weight Loss Challenge

Sign up now for the next Weight Loss Challenge session which runs each Thursday between Jan. 9 and March 20, at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood Ave.

Classes begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately an hour. Proper nutrition coaching by members of CL Nutrition will include information on meal replacement options, how to improve eating habits and learn exactly how many calories a day your body burns, plus much more information to help you lose weight and keep it off. Each week participants will weigh-in and consult with coaches.

Depending on the number of participants previous first place winners have received more than \$500. (Note: first-, second- and third-place win-

ners are determined by their percentage of weight-loss, not pounds lost.)

The fee is \$49 for residents; \$52 for non-residents for the session. For more information, call (630) 834-8970 or (630) 834-8525 or visit [vprd.org](http://vprd.org).

## Your Place for seniors

Area seniors are invited to stop in at Your Place located at the Villa Park Recreation Department's Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood Ave.

Join in a game of Pinochle, bridge, canasta, a board game or whatever game is being played the day you stop in to socialize. Your Place is a drop-in program on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday's hours are 1-2:30 p.m.

The Pinochle card group, which meets Monday and Friday, always welcomes new players. They will help you brush-up on your skills or teach you the game. For more information call (630) 834-8525.

Please note that Your Place is not available on the second Thursday of each month.

## Rubber Band Creations

Kids ages 5-10 can join the latest craze of making rubber band bracelets. Rubber Band Creations will be held from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 10-24 at the Iowa Community Center. The fee is \$20. Participants will be able to make bracelets at their own pace and try new designs while hanging out with friends. Staff will be on hand to help participants and challenge them with new design ideas. Pre-registration is required.

## Mall Trip

Grab your gift cards and join the Recreation Department for a shopping trip to Yorktown Shopping Center on Monday, Jan. 20 which is a day off of school. Kids ages 6-10 can join this Mall Trip. Drop off is at 10 a.m. and pick-up is at 2 p.m. at a predetermined mall entrance. The fee is \$9

per person. Pre-registration is required.

## Life Size Battleship

Parks and Recreation is turning the Iowa Community Center gym into a Life Size Battleship board game for the day on Friday, Jan. 17. Kids ages 5-12 can spend their day off of school brushing up on their Battleship board game skills before working together in teams playing an oversized version of this popular game.

After all battleships have been sunk, the kids will enjoy a pizza lunch. Life Size Battleship will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The fee is \$9 per person; pre-registration is required.

## Gymnastics Team

Parks and Recreation offers a variety of gymnastics classes in cooperation with the Addison Park District. Classes are available for all ages and skill levels.

New to the program is a recreational gymnastics team. Par-

ticipants from the Advanced/Pre-Team gymnastics class can try out for the team; participants in other classes need instructor approval. The team, for ages 10-and-up, is scheduled to work out twice a week in the gymnastics room at Addison Trail High School. The team goal is to compete in the Illinois Park District Gymnastics Conference. The team fee is \$135. For more information, call (630) 834-8970.

## Revel in Fairytales

Fairytales have long captured the imaginations of children. A class offered by the Recreation Department called Revel in Fairytales will let kids ages 4-6 use their imagination to have their fairytale dreams come true through class activities like singing, dancing, dressing up and making special treasures and keepsakes in a world of magic. Revel in Fairytales will be held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays Jan. 14-March 4. The fee is \$43; \$32 sibling.

## VILLA PARK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Saturday, January 11 "Hard Water Classic" ice fishing tourney

From noon-3 p.m., the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites ice-fishing enthusiasts to test their skills and compete for prizes at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on Butterfield Road, ¼-mile west of Winfield Road. Info: call (630) 876-5931.

### Friday, January 17 WBHS hosts Academy Awards night

Willowbrook High School will honor the WB and AT students with special needs and their fellow classmates who performed in "High School Musical Jr." earlier this year during a red-carpet Academy Awards-style night. Guests are encouraged to bring cameras at 6:45 p.m. to take photos of the "celebrities" as they walk the red carpet. Free and open to the public.

### Monday, January 20 Trip to Yorktown Mall

Join the Villa Park Recreation Department for a shopping trip to Yorktown Shopping Center on Monday, Jan. 20, which is a day off of school. Kids ages 6-10 can join this trip. Drop off is at 10 a.m. and pick-up is at 2 p.m. at a predetermined mall entrance. Fee: \$9 per person and pre-registration is required.

Info: Call (630) 834-8525 or visit [vprd.org](http://vprd.org).

### Thursday, January 23 Coffee, conversation with Rep. Conroy

From 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Funky Java, located at 40 S. Villa Ave., join State Rep. Deb Conroy (D-Villa Park) is inviting residents to a Coffee Shop Stop to discuss state issues. Info: contact Rep. Conroy's constituent services office at (630) 415-3520 or RepDebConroy@gmail.com.

### Friday, January 31 Food Wars Challenge for Charity

In conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week, St. Pius X Parish School in Lombard will be hosting the Food Wars Challenge for Charity. The event will be held in the school's Social Center at 601 S. Westmore Ave. Info: (630) 627-2353.

### Ongoing events...

#### Early childhood classes

From mid-January into March, the Park District is offering a variety of classes for toddlers and preschoolers to keep them busy this winter at the Iowa Community Center, 228 N. Iowa Ave. Toddlers ages 18-36 months with a parent can choose from these classes: Exploring Toddler.

Color Wheel, Alphabet Art, Little Chefs and Little Scientists. Costs: Varies from class to class. Info: Call (630) 834-8525 or visit [vprd.org](http://vprd.org).

### Your Place for Seniors

On Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Tuesday's hours are 1-2:30 p.m.) except for the second Thursday of the month at the Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department's Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood Ave., area seniors are invited to stop in at Your Place. Join in a game of Pinochle, bridge, canasta, a board game or whatever game is being played the day you stop in to socialize.

Info: call (630) 834-8525.

### VPD's Reader's Theater Group

If you love to socialize and would like the chance to perform without having to memorize scripts or lyrics you will want to join the Readers' Theatre Group. The group meets for rehearsal each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration required. Info: Jenny Casale at 630-834-8525.

### VFW Bingo

The Villa Park VFW hosts Bingo every Tuesday from 5:30-10 p.m.

### St. James Farm Forest Preserve

Throughout the winter,

the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to explore St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Over three miles of trails lead visitors on foot, bicycle, snowshoe, cross-country ski and horseback through this 612-acre forest preserve, which also features a pond with largemouth bass, bluegills and catfish for catch-and-release fishing.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: [QuestPublishing@aol.com](mailto:QuestPublishing@aol.com). Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

## OBITUARIES

### Marion R. Alessi, 85

Marion R. Alessi, nee Kruse, of Villa Park, passed away at her Villa Park home on January 2, 2014, at the age of 85. Beloved wife of the late Joseph J., loving mother of Bob Alessi, Cathie Salameh, Sue (David) Ornelas, Jennifer (Bob) Cortese and Kim Moore, proud grandmother of Ryan, Jamie (A.J.) Belille, Jessica and Michael, great grandmother of Jaxson. Long time member of Trinity Lutheran Church Villa Park. Funeral services were held on Monday Jan. 6, 2014, at Steuerle Funeral Home 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. Interment Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery, Oakbrook Terrace. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit [steuerlefh.com](http://steuerlefh.com) for more information.

### Barbara L. Cassidy, 46

Barbara L. Cassidy, nee Hamlin, of Northlake, formerly of Villa Park, passed away at Westlake Hospital on January 1, 2014, at the age of 46. Beloved wife of Ronnie, loving mother of Jaclyn Cassidy and Ronald (Laurie) Cassidy, dear grandmother of Aiden Cassidy, loving daughter of Ronald and Sharon Hamlin, dear sister of Sherry (Bob) Perez and Ginger (John) Riccio, dear daughter in law of Shirley and Michael Niblick, fond aunt to many. Services and interment private. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit [steuerlefh.com](http://steuerlefh.com) for more information.



## Warrior Project...

STUDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS from Willowbrook High School help area families in need each holiday season through the Warrior Project, which is sponsored by the Willowbrook Student Council. The Warrior Project provides gifts for children and families who might otherwise not receive them. In the recent holiday season, the project sponsored 40 children through the York Township Food Pantry. Willowbrook students and staff members collected gifts and brought them to the food pantry. The Willowbrook Athletic Booster Club and the Lauren Kiefer Memorial Foundation also made donations to the food pantry on behalf of the Warrior Project. The photo on the right shows (left to right) Willowbrook seniors Omer Raza, Samantha Witkowski and Mira Staykova. The three students joined with others to bring the holiday gifts to the food pantry.



# VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 55 No. 2

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Price 60¢

## Mother Nature rings in 2014 with a powerful punch

The first week of 2014 brought two significant snowstorms and a blast of brutally cold temperatures to Villa Park and the surrounding area. The extreme weather closed area schools at the beginning of the week and delayed refuse pickup in the village.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the storm of Jan. 1-2 delivered 10.9 inches of snow to the service's official recording site at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The storm of Saturday and Sunday dumped another 11.7 inches of snow at O'Hare. Then came the bone-chilling cold, which, according to the NWS, produced Monday's low temperature at the airport—16 degrees below zero—shortly before 8 a.m. Chicago's official temperature stood at 11 below zero by Monday evening.

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Chicago (official records date back to 1871) is 27 degrees below zero on Jan. 20, 1985.

The NWS forecast called for warmer temperatures beginning with today's predicted high of 15 degrees, followed by Thursday's high of 26 degrees. Friday's forecast calls for more precipitation—rain—with a high temperature of 38 degrees.

This week's dangerous weather conditions extended the winter vacations of area students, who were supposed to end a two-week break and return to school on Monday, Jan. 6. Classes at Willowbrook High School, as well as District 45 and other area grade schools, were cancelled on Monday and Tuesday.

The cold weather led to the activation of the village's designated warming center—the Villa Park Public Library, located at 305 S. Ardmore Ave.

All refuse, recycling and holiday tree pickup in Villa Park for the week of Jan. 6 was delayed by one day because of the cold weather. Monday's pickup was pushed back to Tuesday, while Tuesday's pickup was moved to Wednesday, etc.

Holiday tree collection takes place through Jan. 17. Residents who have a real holiday tree should set it out following the normal pickup schedule for refuse collection. Trees may not be in a bag and must have all ornaments, lights, tinsel and tree stands removed.



### A harsh beginning to the new year...

Photos by Chris Fox

MOTORISTS TRAVELING THROUGH Villa Park and the surrounding area dealt with snow, poor road conditions and subzero temperatures during the first week of 2014. The above photo, taken Sunday afternoon, shows an eastward view of Roosevelt Road from the Villa Oaks Shopping Center, just west of Ardmore Avenue. The alert on the billboard advises motorists of a winter storm warning issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). The winter storm warning remained in effect until 6 p.m. on Sunday. A wind chill warning was in effect until noon on Tuesday. The wind chill warning forecast wind chills between 30 and 50 degrees below zero. The official temperature at O'Hare International Airport reached 16 degrees below zero on Monday morning. The photos below show Monday afternoon temperature readings in Villa Park. The Community Bank of DuPage sign at 2 W. Roosevelt Road indicates a temperature of 14 below zero. The nearby sign at Villa Park Fire Station No. 3 at 1440 S. Ardmore Avenue provides a slightly balmy figure of 7 below zero.





## Village releases information on snow and ice control on streets

The Village of Villa Park recently issued this release and list of arterial streets. For more information, call the public works department at 630-834-8505.

The Village of Villa Park's Public Works Department is responsible for snow and ice control on all streets within the village's corporate limits. Exceptions are North Avenue, Roosevelt Road and Route 83 (maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation) and Villa Avenue north of North Avenue (DuPage County).

The public works department's snow plowing operations start upon the accumulation of the first 2 inches of snow. Refer to the list [right], which indicates the arterial streets. No parking is permitted on these "snow route" streets after a snowfall of 2 inches or more until after the storm has ended and all the snow route streets have been completely cleared. Violators will be subject to ticketing and/or towing.

The village revised its salting policy for secondary streets several years ago due to skyrocketing salt prices, and to control the

cost of manpower and equipment. The village does not routinely salt secondary streets unless warranted due to icy conditions. Snow plowing begins after the accumulation of 2 inches of snow during normal business hours (4 inches at night). Secondary stop intersections are salted on an as-needed basis.

We urge motorists to use caution when navigating secondary streets. All residents are within two blocks of main arterial streets that will be plowed and salted for safe travel. When a 2-inch or more snow accumulation is predicted, please keep garbage cans 4 feet back from the curb to eliminate or prevent garbage spills. In the case of a major storm (when snowfall is predicted to exceed 8 inches) it may only be possible to keep a center lane open on secondary streets for emergency vehicles until the snowfall stops.

On-street parking is a major factor preventing effective snow removal. Therefore, the village is enlisting the residents' cooperation in planning ahead to remove their cars from the street when 2 inches or more of snowfall occurs.

### ARTERIAL STREETS

These arterial streets and highways are those that are cleared first by snow-plowing crews. Villa Park residents are advised to use these routes in preference to other local streets.

STREET	FROM	TO
SUNSET	Lincoln	Harvard
PLEASANT	Westwood	Westmore
VERMONT	Westmore	Villa
PLYMOUTH	Westmore	Villa
ST. CHARLES	Westmore	Route 83
SCHOOL	Addison	Ardmore
HIGHLAND	Ardmore	Route 83
WASHINGTON	Addison	Route 83
MADISON	Addison	Route 83
JACKSON	Addison	Summit
WESTMORE	Terrace	North Avenue
ADDISON	St. Charles	Sidney
HARVARD	St. Charles	Jackson
ARDMORE	North Avenue	13th Street
SUMMIT	Kennilworth	Harrison
VILLA	North Avenue	Roosevelt

## Villa Park Youth Baseball registration begins Saturday

Villa Park Youth Baseball (VPYB) is holding registration for the 2014 season on Saturday, Jan. 11, and Saturday, Jan. 18. Registration will take place from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa Ave.

VPYB is open to boys and girls between the ages of 5-19. All baseball registrants must be at least 5 years old and no older than 19 years old as of Sept. 1, 2014. All girls fastpitch softball registrants must be at least 7 years old and no older than 18 as of Jan. 1, 2014.

A parent or legal guardian of each player must attend registration to sign the registration form and parent code of ethics. All VPYB players from last year must attend one of this month's registration sessions to re-register.

VPYB offers the following baseball levels: T-ball (ages 5-6), Farm (7-8), Minor (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18). The softball levels include the 8-and-under division, as well as fastpitch levels for 10-and-under, 12-and-under, 14-and-under and 18-and-under.

The baseball fees per player are: \$40 for T-ball, \$75 for Farm, \$80 for Minor and Bronco, \$130 for Pony, \$120 for Colt and Palomino. The softball fees are: \$70 for 8-and-under, \$80 for 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 14-and-

under and \$90 for 18-and-under. A discount of \$10 applies to a second child in the same family. A discount of \$25 will be applied to the registration fee of a third child in the same family.

All new players to the league must present their birth certificates at registration.

Late registration causes many problems in organizing the VPYB's teams for the season. After Jan. 19, a late fee of \$25 will be charged, and registration will be subject to availability.

T-ball participants will receive a baseball cap and jersey. Farm, Minor and Bronco players will receive a baseball cap, jersey and pants. Softball participants will receive a visor, jersey and pants. Pony, Colt and Palomino uniforms vary. All participants keep their uniforms.

This year's fundraiser is a sale of World's Finest Chocolate candy bars for \$1 each. Each player must sell four boxes of candy. Participants in the T-ball level are only required to sell only one box. The player who sells the most candy will receive a \$300 gift card. Additional fundraising information will be available at registration.

For more information, visit the VPYB Web site at [vpyb.webs.com](http://vpyb.webs.com), or send an e-mail to [dac@vpyb.com](mailto:dac@vpyb.com).



### District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL senior Alex Bardesi (above, right) of Villa Park was his school's recipient of the District 88's Best award for the month of December. Bardesi, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Dec. 16. Each month of the school year, the board of education presents the District 88's Best award to students from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The award recognizes students for their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. According to a news release provided by District 88, Bardesi "has been able to turn his life around and direct his charismatic personality into a force that has impacted the entire school." Willowbrook social worker Erik Engel noted two of Bardesi's contributions to the school. "To me, his two greatest legacies will be his involvement in a musical and the Happiness Movement," said Engel. The musical Engel referred to was "High School Musical Jr.," which featured District 88 students in all of the performing roles. Bardesi rehearsed and performed with those students throughout the summer and early fall. According to the news release, the Happiness Movement at Willowbrook consists of 20 to 30 students who Bardesi has motivated to perform acts of kindness and encourage the recipients to "pay it forward" to others. Bardesi plans to apply to Northwestern University to study social work or psychology, with the hope of becoming a school social worker or psychologist.

Questions? Comments?  
[vpreview@lbvpr.com](mailto:vpreview@lbvpr.com)



### The spirit of giving...

THE VILLA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT receives an anonymous donation each year. The department uses the funds to shop for holiday gifts for local families in need. Police receive assistance from social services groups to produce a list of recipients. Members of the department, joined by some of their own family members, headed to the Villa Park Target store at 50 E. North Ave., to select the gifts, making sure they matched what every child, parent or grandparent on the list requested. More than one dozen shoppers picked out hundreds of gifts with the several thousand dollars from the anonymous donation. The bags of gifts were transported to the police department, where they were wrapped and labeled for delivery. The above left photo shows Villa Park Police Officer Timothy Walsh finishing up the wrapping of one of the holiday gifts. While the gifts included several toys, most of the presents were clothing items or baby supplies, including diapers. On the weekend just before Christmas, the members of the police department, along with Santa Claus (Officer Bryan Hruby), set out in vehicles including the Villa Park Mobile Command Center and personally delivered the gifts. The above right photo shows Villa Park Police Officer Kordell Kitching joining Santa to make a delivery.



Photos by Al Stasch





## Year in Review, 2013 --

### NEDSRA's Jr. Bulls take on Chicago Skyhawks

Members of the Jr. Bulls and Chicago Skyhawks participated in NEDSRA's 19th Annual Jr. Bulls Home Tournament for the 2012-13 wheelchair basketball season. The tournament took place Feb. 16, 2013, at Addison Trail. "This was a fun opportunity for us to help out in our own community," said Edgar Palomino, Addison Trail student and President of Interact Club. "I've really enjoyed volunteering at this event. It's amazing to see these kids play hard out there!" Find more Year In Review photos elsewhere in this issue.

## Addison Trail continues football readers program

ADDISON -- For more than eight years, Addison Trail football players have connected with their community through a reading program called the Blazer Football Reading Program, where players visit elementary schools and volunteer to read to students.

"Last year we wanted to grow the program," said Addison Trail Football Head Coach Paul Parpet Jr. "Once a month, we would send five athletes to each of the six local elementary schools. We tried to send the same athletes from week to week, so the kids could get familiar with the same faces."

The Blazer Football Reading

Program now takes place on the first three Fridays of the month from September to December and February to May.

This year, the Addison Trail Blazers are taking advantage of their resource period. With that period, players are able to travel to the elementary schools and still have a break during their lunch period.

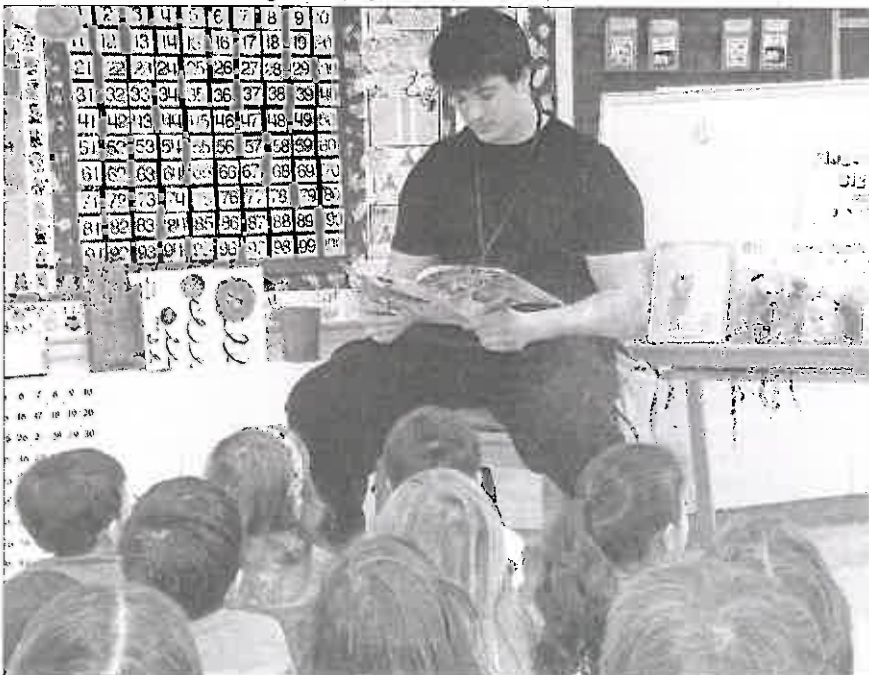
"Using resource time for this project made it easier to recruit athletes to participate because they still have some personal time in their day during their lunch period," Parpet said. "It's a win-win for everyone. The schools enjoy having the football players visit, and the vol-

unteers enjoy having a set time each month."

The athletes also have added Indian Trail Junior High School and Addison Trail's Link 1 class to their list of places to visit. Because those students are older, the focus is more about socializing, interacting and playing games.

"This is a perfect opportunity for our athletes to act as role models for those students," Parpet said. "It has a bit of a big brother feeling to it, and we look forward to growing and developing in that area."

For more information about the program, contact Parpet at 630-458-4507



courtesy photo

## AT expands Blazer Football Reading Program

Pictured is Addison Trail junior Anthony Nasti as he reads "Moose's Loose Tooth" to a Wesley Elementary School kindergarten class as part of the Blazer Football Reading Program.

# Addison Community Calendar

## Saturday, January 11

### "Hard Water Classic" ice fishing tourney

From noon-3 p.m., the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites ice-fishing enthusiasts to test their skills and compete for prizes at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on Butterfield Road, ¼-mile west of Winfield Road. Info: call (630) 876-5931.

## Sunday, January 19

### Wedding & Special Event Expo

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Alta Villa Banquets, the second annual Wedding & Special Event Expo, hosted by the Addison Chamber of Commerce, will be held. This Expo will highlight all aspects of business services relating to special events: Weddings, anniversaries, showers, birthdays, christenings, prom, quinciniera. Admission: Free. Info: (630) 543-4300 or email: addison-chamber@sbcglobal.net

## Wednesday, January 22

### "Shape of Addison" town hall meeting

From 7 to 9 p.m., Itasca Bank will present the 7th annual "Shape of Addison" Town Hall Meeting in the Village Hall Board Room, at 1 Friendship Plaza. Officials from throughout the Village and the school districts will attend. Addison Community Television (Comcast Channel 6 or U-Verse Channel 99) will air meeting live; viewers may call in questions during the broadcast. E-mail questions can be sent either before or during the meeting to ShapeOfAddison@addisonadvantage.org

## Friday, January 31

### Food Wars Challenge for Charity

In conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week, St.

Pius X Parish School in Lombard will be hosting the Food Wars Challenge for Charity. The event will be held in the school's Social Center at 601 S. Westmore Ave. Info: (630) 627-2353.

## Ongoing events...

- Active Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Addison Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. for lunch at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. To find out more about special events, programs, trips and club membership, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275.

- Throughout the winter, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to explore St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Over three miles of trails lead visitors on foot, bicycle, snowshoe, cross-country ski and horseback through this 612-acre forest preserve, which also features a pond with largemouth bass, bluegills and catfish for catch-and-release fishing.

- The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites trail trekkers to explore Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on snowshoes this winter with new rental operations at the west division offices at 29W400 Mack Road and the tubing hill at Mount Hoy. Fee: \$5 for two hours or \$10 for the whole day and will be available when at least three inches of snow covers the ground through Feb. 28. Info: call the west division offices at (630) 876-5931.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: [QuestPublishing@aol.com](mailto:QuestPublishing@aol.com). Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

## Ready to stop lying about your loved one's addiction?

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## ATHS alum competes in Iditarod... Charley Bejna pursued passion for dog-sledding

ADDISON -- When Charley Bejna first visited Alaska in 1991, he never could have guessed that more than 20 years later, he would be preparing for the most grueling dog sledding race in the U.S.

Bejna, a 1991 alumnus from Addison Trail, was registered to participate in the annual long-distance Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March, 2013. He and a team of 12 to 16 dogs covered more than 1,000 miles in about two weeks time.

Bejna's passion for dog sledding began in 1991 during a trip to Alaska with his father. Since then, Bejna has observed the Iditarod in 2006 and rode with fellow "Iditarider" Bruce Linton during the ceremonial start of the 2007 Iditarod race. The following year, Bejna had the opportunity to drive a team of dogs around a training course, and from that point on, he knew he wanted to train and run dogs.

"Dogs have always been a part of my family," he said. "There's no wonder why I immediately became interested in the Iditarod."

Bejna began training and

entered his first race, the Willow-Tug 300, in 2011. He finished in 17<sup>th</sup> place with all 14 dogs he started with. That race confirmed his passion, and he decided to participate in more races.

"The training is pretty extensive," he said. "We begin training each September or October and start out running about 3 miles and work the team up from there. I try to get the team to 50-plus-mile runs during most days of the week."

He admits this year's training has been more difficult than prior years because of a lack of snow, poor trail conditions and warm weather.

"Training the dogs is extremely important," he said. "This is where I really get to see which dogs do well in different positions and which ones need more time to fit in with the team."

Bejna still calls Addison home, as he has owned and operated Charley's Landscaping Company in Addison for the past 20 years. He splits the year between Addison and his home in Wasilla, Alaska.



photo: Independent archives

### Year in Review - Happy Birthday, Dr. Suess!

Army Trail kindergarteners in Ms. Velez's class celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, 2013, by making Cat in the Hat hats and spending extra time reading books. As a further tribute to Dr. Seuss, the students dined on green eggs and ham -- although "I do not like them, Sam I Am!"



photo: Independent archives

### ATHS alum takes part in Iditarod

Pictured is Charley Bejna, a 1991 alumnus from Addison Trail who participated in the annual long-distance Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March, 2013.



photos: Independent archives

### Valentine's Day comes to Ardmore School

Preschoolers and kindergarten students at Ardmore School celebrated Valentine's Day in 2013 week by making heart-themed craft projects.



photo: Independent archives

### Year in Review 2013: At District 4's Winter art show...

This student showed off her art at the artist's reception held at the District 4 Winter Art Show, which opened last week at the Addison Center for the Arts gallery last January. More than 200 pieces of artwork, created by students from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade were on display at the gallery located inside Addison Trail High School.



# Addison Trail, police department holds mock drill

ADDISON — At District 88, the safety and health of students and staff is the No. 1 priority.

As part of that commitment to safety, the district, in coordination with local officials and agencies, conducted a mock active-shooter drill Friday, March 1, 2013, at Addison Trail. The drill featured a full demonstration of an active-shooter scenario to help ensure District 88 is equipped to maintain the safety of students

and staff during an emergency.

District 88 conducts several fire, tornado, lockdown and evacuation drills throughout the year to make sure it is prepared to handle crisis situations. The district works closely with local officials to coordinate those drills, so procedures are in place and are ready to be implemented.

District 88 values security highly and works daily to keep students and staff members safe.



photo: Independent archives

## Year in Review 2013 -

### Preparing for the mock shooter drill...

Local officials prepared for the mock active-shooter drill held on March 1, 2013, at Addison Trail High School. The drill featured a full demonstration of an active-shooter scenario to help ensure District 88 is equipped to maintain the safety of students and staff during an emergency.



photo: Independent archives

## These boys can rap!

Who knew these boys could "rap?" These two Indian Trail students attempted to wrap a gift in unison — one using his left hand, the other using the right. It was one of the 60-second challenges as part of the school's Positive Behavior Inventions and Supports (PBIS) celebration in January 2013.



photo: Independent archives

## Year in Review - May

### Fullerton holds Walk-a-Thon for Earth Day

In May, Fullerton School students participated in a Walk-a-Thon on Earth Day, where each class spent time walking around the school grounds. The Walk-a-Thon was a fundraiser which had students collected donations to help replace some of the trees that were lost on the school grounds during the big summer storm on July 1. Parents and family members were encouraged to join the students in their Earth Day walk.

## DISTRICT 88 FENTON-SPORTS REPORT

### Fenton wrestlers take fourth at Sterling; Willowbrook bowlers defeat Hinsdale Central

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Fenton wrestling team proved less can be quite effective.

The Bison finished fourth out of 12 teams at the recent Sterling invitational despite only having seven wrestlers compete.

Jiven Delgado won the 113-pound championship. He improved to 10-2. Antoine Bess won the title at 120 and moved to 9-3.

Alex Cowan took second in a competitive 126-pound bracket and ran his record to 8-2.

Oscar Ledezma took third at 138 and improved to 7-3. Juan Alfaro took fourth at 182 pounds and moved to 7-4. He won the Weiss invitational at Fenton a week earlier.

Eric Loergan was 6-2 with five pins through is first eight matches at 195. Phil Espinoza was 4-0 (all pins) through his first four matches at 220 pounds.

Fenton recently competed in the Whitlatch tournament at Hinsdale Central, which is considered the second-toughest event in Illinois. Coach Brian Hastings said two teams ranked in the Top 5 were at the tournament along with some teams ranked in the Top 10 in Illinois.

Fenton was 5-2 through its first seven dual meets of the season.

Willowbrook wrestling

The Willowbrook wrestling team was slowed by injury and illness at the start of the season.

"We are off to a slow start due to these issues," said Willowbrook coach Bryan Murphy. "We have had to forfeit four or five weights in most of our meets so far."

Willowbrook recently finished fifth at the Hoffman Estates tournament, despite missing four wrestlers.

Murphy is thrilled with the contributions being made from those in the lineup.

"The highlights are we have several top wrestlers and two who will make a run at a state title or high place," he said.

Senior Jake Kroeger was 4-0 through his first four matches at 182. He had been out due to illness. Kroeger pinned the No. 5-ranked wrestler in the state in the Hoffman Estates finals. He scored the pin in 37 seconds. Kroeger also placed third at preseason nationals in Iowa just prior to the start of the high-school season.

Sophomore Matt Rowland was off to a 21-0 start at 152. He scored an overtime victory over the No. 6-ranked wrestler in the state at Hoffman Estates.

Junior Christian Chavez placed third at Hoffman Estates at 220 and was off to a 16-4 start.

The Warriors competed in the

tough Dvorak tournament in Rockford at the end of December. Willowbrook was 0-2 in its first two West Suburban Conference Gold Division duals. Murphy was hopeful the team would be back at full strength toward the end of December.

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team will be lead this season by the likes of Addison Trail students Jason Sechan (fly, sprints), Kevin Grygo (breaststroke, sprints) and David Jez (freestyle), and Willowbrook students R.L. Aldridge (sprint freestyle) and Ethan Wallace (backstroke, freestyle). Sechan, Aldridge, Grygo and Jez are seniors. Wallace is a sophomore.

"We are a team that has a lot of room to improve," said AT-Willowbrook coach Kirk Ziemke. "We lost some amazing swimmers from last year's team who will be difficult to replace. We're in the midst of working very hard to improve our fitness levels. These guys have potential. They are tough swimmers and I like that. We might struggle early, but we'll surprise the heck out of some people at the end of the season. It's going to be a fun year."

Willowbrook girls bowling

The Willowbrook girls bowling team placed in the top half at the 30-team Streamwood invitational. The Warriors qualified for the championship bracket thanks to a strong first round.

The Warriors also recently secured their first West Suburban Conference win of the season against Hinsdale Central.

"It was a great team effort," said Willowbrook coach Bill Eufrazio.

Seniors Beckie Anton, Tina Nowak and Jill Liebe all are

ranked among the Top 30 bowlers in the WSC. Anton's 248 high game ranks fifth in the conference, while Nowak's 601 series ranks sixth.

Eufrazio noted seniors Rebecca Cisneros, Sara Kottke and Amy Kottlinek continue to make key contributions at the varsity level, while senior Cattalena Hammond provides "excellent leadership for our younger team members," Eufrazio said.

Sophomore Kelly Conley and freshman Jordan Tiberi continue to bowl well and lead a group of talented newcomers, Eufrazio said.

"The skills of all the young ladies continue to improve," said Eufrazio. "They are coachable and continue to support one another."

Willowbrook competed in the Lisle and Reavis invitationals over the holiday break.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team dropped a recent 38-32 non-conference game to Sycamore.

Sycamore led 18-9 after the first quarter and 22-18 at halftime.

Molly Krawczykowski led Willowbrook with 14 points. Olivia Domin had six points. Danielle Velasquez had five points. Lauren

Carroll scored four points.

Through the team's first 10 games, Krawczykowski was leading the team in scoring at 15.3 points per game. She also had 25 steals. Domin was averaging 8.1 points and had 13 three-pointers to go with 37 assists and 25 steals. Melissa Rader was averaging 7.6 points; while Sam Schmidt was averaging 6.2 points and 6.3 rebounds. Jada Stills was the team's leading rebounder at 6.6 per game. Alyssa Ressleringer was averaging 5.1 rebounds per game. Willowbrook won its first 10 games of the season.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
DUPAGE COUNTY - WHEATON,  
ILLINOIS

RESIDENTIAL

U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Trust 2006-CW1

PLAINTIFF

Vs.  
Francisco Deharo a/k/a Francisco De Haro; et al.

DEFENDANTS

2012 CH 004121  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF  
REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 10/23/2013, John Zaruba, the Sheriff of DuPage County, Illinois will on 1/28/14 at the hour of 10:00AM at DuPage County Sheriff's Office 501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of DuPage and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 1 IN BLOCK 6 IN HIGHVIEW SUBDIVISION UNIT NUMBER 2, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LYING SOUTH OF ARMY TRAIL ROAD, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SURVEY THEREOF RECORDED APRIL 27, 1957, AS DOCUMENT 840314, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN 03-28-108-001

Improved with Single Family Home COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 125 N. Lincoln Avenue, Addison, IL 60101

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosures takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgages will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgages will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-170(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-11-36555.

1578940

(Published in the Addison/Villa Park Independent Dec. 19, 26 2013, & Jan. 2, 2014)

145264

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE  
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
DUPAGE COUNTY - WHEATON,  
ILLINOIS

RESIDENTIAL

JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. f/k/a JPMorgan Chase Bank

PLAINTIFF

Vs.  
Ronald B. Gonzales; et al.

DEFENDANTS

2010 CH 007028  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 10/26/2012, John Zaruba, the Sheriff of DuPage County, Illinois will on 1/28/14 at the hour of 10:00AM at DuPage County Sheriff's Office 501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of DuPage and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 21 IN STONEMILL ESTATES, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 22, 1989

AS DOCUMENT NUMBER R89-60222, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
PIN 03-20-422-002

Improved with Residential

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 447 N. Kevin Drive, Addison, IL 60101

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosures takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgages will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgages will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

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IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-170(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-10-42874.

1578939

(Published in the Addison/Villa Park Independent Dec. 19, 26, 2013 & Jan. 2, 2014)

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# Willowbrook girls gymnastics team improving Warriors score recent win over Morton

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

Willowbrook girls gymnastics coach Annette Nocek

likes where her team is headed.

"We've been doing quite well lately," she said recently.

ly. "We're starting to hit our stride, which is a beautiful thing."

Willowbrook

recently

scored a West Suburban Conference Gold Division win over Morton. The Warriors scored a 131.05 on the var-

sity level. Willowbrook won all three levels of competition.

Cassidy McFarlane led the Warriors with a 35.3 in the all-around, which was a personal high. McFarlane went 9.0 on beam and bars.

"Those are awesome scores for Cassidy," said Nocek.

Riley McFarlane had an 8.6 on beam and on vault.

"Riley is doing quite well," said Nocek.

Sierra Rago scored 8.9 on vault, while Gloria Johnson scored 7.9 on floor and 7.8 on bars.

"Gloria did well on floor exercise," said Nocek.

The win moved Willowbrook to 2-1 in WSC Gold action. The Warriors also downed Leyden and lost to Downers Grove South.

"We've been building and that's the cool thing," said Nocek. "It's a tough season. It's a long season where the majority of our meets are in December. We're pacing the girls. We still have stuff in our back pocket that we haven't done yet. We're still climbing. We'll keep going up and debut new things. There will be times when we hold back and there will be times when we put in everything."

Nocek was looking forward to the holiday break.

"The break will allow us to concentrate on our skills instead of the rules," she said. "We had two meets in a week and three the week before that. It's taxing. In January we have one meet a week. It's much different. Our goal as coaches is to keep the girls healthy when there are so many meets in a row."

Nocek has seen widespread improvements on the varsity level.

"The McFarlane sisters are doing really well," she said. "Sierra and Gloria and Stephania Enescu have been hard at work on new things. Our varsity is developing nicely. We're working on improving a few tenths here and a few tenths there. The girls are responding well."

Willowbrook returns to action Jan. 9.

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\* Courtesy of Civic Economics study, 2008



# VILLA PARK INDEPENDENT

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1

PUBLISHED BY ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING LLC

JANUARY 2, 2014

## Villa Park -- Year in Review

By Paul DelGuidice  
For The Villa Park Independent

Villa Park will celebrate its Centennial in August of 2014, an exciting milestone in the history of the town. A look back over the past 12 months in The Garden Village reveals plenty of interesting events for the 99th year since Ardmore and Villa combined.

From a hotly-contested local election that garnered national attention (and embarrassment) to the reopening of the VFW, 2013 had its ups and downs. Forward progress was exemplified by construction of a new skate park and progress on some long-awaited street repairs. The passage of a long-debated electronic sign ordinance, famous new owners for a local business and community events revealed the constant thread that runs through Villa Park: The people who live, work and raise their families there and who make the town special.

Winter of our "content"

The year began with Villa Park's own Village President Thomas Cullerton being sworn into office as Illinois State Senator, (D-23) in Springfield on January 9. Cullerton stayed on as Villa Park Village President until April, juggling both elected positions. He was the first Democrat ever elected to the Illinois Senate in DuPage County.

The main priority, according to Cullerton, was for the State of Illinois to 'get its fiscal house in order' by encouraging busi-

ness growth and new development. Keys to this recovery, according to Cullerton, were pension reform and stemming the tide of companies leaving the state "in droves." At the local level, Cullerton and the Board of Trustees once again lobbied for a bond referendum question on the April 9th ballot to finance street and sewer infrastructure repairs.

The Pension Reform question was settled in Springfield late in 2013 (with Cullerton casting a 'no' vote on the final plan) but the bond issue (and subsequent property tax hikes to pay for the bonds) was rejected by Villa Park voters.

The condition of Villa Park's two public pools once again was brought to the forefront as the Board of Trustees approved an engineering study to ascertain the condition of the aging pools. Both Jefferson and Lufkin pools have experienced maintenance issues over the last several years.

"Lufkin Pool (on South Ardmore Ave.) is more than 50 years old," said Parks Supervisor Marlon Hummel. "We fixed the liner with a 'Band-Aid' solution for around \$1,000, but there is no telling when more costly repairs will be needed."

Spring forward? Or backward!

With a hotly-contested municipal election nearing, lewd pictures of former Chief of Police and candidate for the Village President's seat John Heidelberg surfaced on the Internet.

News crews from across Illinois and the nation jumped on the prurient story. Voters, who already had a tough decision ahead of them on Election Day, overwhelmingly cast their ballots for Village Trustee Deborah Bullwinkel and her slate of candidates. Incumbent John Davis and Bob Taglia kept their Board seats. Bob Wagner, who briefly served as a Trustee in the 90's and more recently on the Library Board, also won.

Mother Nature once again showed her ugly side by dumping 10 inches of rain within a 24-hour period from April 17-18. School closures and flash flood warnings were issued. Extra trash pick-ups were scheduled and once again the volunteer spirit of Villa Park residents helped many families get through a difficult time.

Summertime and the living is... easy?

The Villa Park VFW Post #2801 held a grand reopening ceremony on the first day of June. The Post closed in May 2012 after a basement fire caused several injuries as well as smoke and water damage to the building on the weekend of Memorial Day. The repairs were delayed due to insurance issues, but with the help of volunteers and donations from local businesses, the building at 39 E. St. Charles Rd. was remodeled and back serving to its veterans, Bingo players and the community at large.

"The community and busi-

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 5



photo: Independent archives

### Year in Review - QB Johnson leads Warriors to playoffs...

In October, Willowbrook High School quarterback Brian Johnson, pictured here, led the Warriors to a playoff berth. It was just one of many highlights of 2013 in Villa Park. More photos inside this issue.

### INSIDE:

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**(630) 832-3160**  
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# Community Calendar

## Friday, January 3

Library presents Magic show, workshop

Children in grades 1-8 are invited to the Villa Park Library for The Magic of Gary Kantor including a workshop where you will learn a collection of magic tricks. Receive supplies to perform at home. Registration is required, as space is limited. Call 630-834-1176 or visit vppl.info

## Saturday, January 4

Coffee with the Village Board

At 9 a.m., the next Coffee with the Board meeting will take place at Villa Park Village Hall.

## Wednesday, January 8

Boys Hip Hop class

From Jan. 8-Feb. 12, Parks and Recreation is offering a new session of the popular Boys Hip Hop class taught by the very popular Coach Josh from All Star Sports. Ages 7-9 will meet 4:45 p.m. and ages 10-12 will meet 4:45-5:30 p.m. Fee: \$55 for the six-week session. Info: call (630) 834-8525.

## Saturday, January 11

"Hard Water Classic"

ice fishing tourney

From noon-3 p.m., the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites ice-fishing enthusiasts to test their skills and compete for prizes at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on Butterfield Road, ¼-mile west of Winfield Road. Info: call (630) 876-5931.

## Friday, January 17

WBHS hosts Academy Awards night

Willowbrook High School will honor the WB and AT students with special needs and their fellow classmates who performed in "High School Musical Jr." earlier this year during a red-carpet Academy Awards-style night. Guests are encouraged to bring cameras

at 6:45 p.m. to take photos of the "celebrities" as they walk the red carpet. Free and open to the public.

## Friday, January 31

• Food Wars Challenge for Charity

In conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week, St. Pius X Parish School in Lombard will be hosting the Food Wars Challenge for Charity. The event will be held in the school's Social Center at 601 S. Westmore Ave. Info: (630) 627-2353.

## Ongoing events...

VPRD's Reader's Theater Group

• If you love to socialize and would like the chance to perform without having to memorize scripts or lyrics you will want to join the Readers' Theatre Group. The group meets for rehearsal each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration required. Info: Jenny Casale at 630-834-8525.

VFW Bingo

• The Villa Park VFW hosts Bingo every Tuesday from 5:30-10 p.m.

St. James Farm Forest Preserve

• Throughout the winter, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to explore St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Over three miles of trails lead visitors on foot, bicycle, snowshoe, cross-country ski and horseback through this 612-acre forest preserve, which also features a pond with largemouth bass, bluegills and catfish for catch-and-release fishing.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: [QuestPublishing@aol.com](mailto:QuestPublishing@aol.com). Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



Submitted photo

From left to right: Willowbrook student Omer Raza, teacher Jamie Gourley, students Samantha Witkowski, Mira Staykova, teacher Brandon Murphy and York Township Supervisor John W. Valle.

## 'Warrior Project,' Kiefer Foundation adopt families for Christmas

VILLA PARK—Students and faculty members of Willowbrook High School, representing the Willowbrook Student Council "Warrior Project" and the "Lauren Kiefer Memorial Foundation," recently delivered Christmas presents, and cash to the York Township Food Pantry "Adopt A Family" Christmas gift program.

The combined contribution was more than enough to adopt 17 families, with 40 children. Every year, York Township brings together families, with local individuals, companies and organizations, such as the "Warrior Project" and the "Lauren Kiefer Memorial Foundation," who wish to help at Christmas time.

York Township Supervisor John W. Valle said, "I want to thank the 'Warrior Project' and the 'Lauren Kiefer Memorial Foundation' for their ongoing support. Year after year the students, faculty and Foundation members support our efforts to make the holidays happier for York Township residents."

## OBITUARIES

### Jane Carter, 89

Jane M. Carter, nee Fetz, of Villa Park, passed away at her home in Villa Park on December 14, 2013, at the age of 89. Beloved wife of the late Charles J. Loving mother of James Carter, Bonni Ponticelli and the late Charles H. Proud grandmother of Sam, Kelly, Megan, Amber, Jessica and Michael. Great grandmother of Clara and Aviana. Fond sister of Don Fetz, Claire Reilly and the late Henry Fetz. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Service have already been held. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit [steuerlefh.com](http://steuerlefh.com) for more information.

### Michael Orlando, 59

Michael R. Orlando, of Columbia, SC., formerly of Villa Park,

passed away in South Carolina on December 20, 2013 at the age of 59. Beloved son of Barbara Orlando and the late Robert Orlando, loving brother of Pamela (Robert) English, Gregory (Judi) Orlando, Steven (the late Kimberly) Orlando, GERALYN Sychowski and Daniel Orlando; dear nephew of Joan Orlando, Mary Longenecker, Agnes Miller and Angela Orlando; loving uncle of Gary, Michele, Douglas, Evan, Jasmine and Ryker. Dear cousin and friend to many. Funeral Mass was held at St. Alexander's Church in Villa Park on Saturday Dec 28, 2013. Interment private. The family requests no flowers; donations may be made to St. Alexander's School. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit [steuerlefh.com](http://steuerlefh.com) for more information.

## Parks and Recreation classes

### Variety of gymnastics classes being offered

VILLA PARK—Parks and Recreation offers a variety of gymnastics classes in a cooperative with the Addison Park District.

Classes are available for all ages and skill levels.

New to the program is a recreational gymnastics team. Participants from the Advanced/Pre-Team gymnastics class can tryout for the team; participants in other classes need instructor approval.

The team fee is \$135. For more information call (630) 834-8970.

The team, for ages 10-and-up, is scheduled to work out twice a week in the gymnastics

room at Addison Trail High School. Its goal is to compete in the Illinois Park District Gymnastics Conference.

### Rubber band bracelets class Jan. 10-24

Parks and Recreation is holding a class that will give kids ages 5-12 the chance to join in the latest craze of making rubber band bracelets. Rubber Band Creations will be held from 6-8 pm. Jan. 10-24 at the Iowa Community Center. The fee is \$20.

Participants will be able to make bracelets at their own pace and try new designs while hanging out with friends. Staff will be on hand to help participants and challenge them with

new design ideas.

### Life Size Battleship board game Jan. 17

Parks and Recreation is turning the Iowa Community Center gym into a Life Size

Battleship board game for the day on Friday, Jan. 17. Kids ages 5-12 can brush up on their battleship board game skills before working together in teams playing an oversized version of this popular game.

After all battleships have been sunk, the kids will enjoy a pizza lunch. Life Size Battleship will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fee is \$9 per person; pre-registration is required.

# More scenes from 2013 Year in Review...



all photos: Independent archives

## Year in Review - January

Thomas Cullerton (D23-Villa Park) was sworn in as the first-ever Democrat from DuPage County to be elected to the Illinois State Senate. He finished his term as Villa Park Village President before handing the gavel to Deb Bullwinkel.



## Year in Review - April

From April 17-18, torrential rains caused flooding across Villa Park and the entire west suburban area, as Mother Nature dumped 10 inches of rain within a 24-hour period.



## Year in Review - December

Families enjoyed S'mores, caroling, food and visits with Santa at the annual Chamber of Commerce Joyful Traditions celebration.



## Year in Review - June

The VFW Post #2801 reopened after a fire causing injuries as well as smoke and water damage took place on Memorial Day weekend of May, 2012. Repairs were delayed due to insurance issues, but volunteers and donations were able to have the Post back in action in June of 2013.



## Year in Review - September

Lou Manfredini, WGN radio's "Mr. Fix-it," purchased and reopened the Villa Park Ace Hardware. Manfredini hosted a grand opening in October, when he broadcasted his show live from the location.



## Show Choir gives special performance

Villa Park's Parks and Recreation recently held a Snowflake Brunch for children in the Recreation Department's preschool and their families. A highlight of the brunch was a performance by Willowbrook High School's Show Choir, which delighted the kids and parents.



Submitted photos





photo provided

### WBHS JV cheerleaders to compete at ICCA championships

The Willowbrook Junior Varsity Girls Cheerleading Team has qualified for the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) Championships, which take place in Springfield on January 5, 2014. Pictured are (back row, from left) Kennedy Gebel, Olivia Eder, Coach Jessica Sibigroth, Paulina Kapica, Emily Iozzo, Jackie Peterson, Brianna Kozi, Jodie Bush, Wendy Grote, Megan Talan, Jocie Trausch, Melisa Cavka, Courtney Cager, Alexa Reich, (front row, from left) Amanda Thomas, Jess Taylor, Katelyn Schultz, Jayme Martinez, Heather Gruber, Aliese Psaras, Rachel Vogt and Melanie Feliciano.

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# ATHS theater students visit Marklund

**Help special needs kids with holiday program**

ADDISON — On Dec. 14, 12 Addison Trail Theatre students traveled to Marklund in Bloomingdale to help with the school's holiday show.

Marklund is a nonprofit organization that serves infants, children, teens and adults with serious and profound developmental disabilities and special health care needs. Addison Trail students set up chairs and tables and were paired with a student from the facility. They also helped students get on stage, press a button that said their lines, took students to see Santa and assisted with opening presents.

This was the first time Addison Trail students had gone to Marklund and they look forward to participating again.

"It was an eye-opening experience," said Addison Trail senior Morgan Pirtle.

Addison Trail Theatre Director Anna Jakubka Court said it was an unforgettable



photo provided

## ATHS actors roll out red carpet for those with special needs

On December 14, 12 Addison Trail Theatre students traveled to Marklund in Bloomingdale to help with the school's holiday show. Pictured are (back row, from left): Addison Trail sophomore Megan Koch, senior Megan Lobner, senior Kala Keller, sophomore Courtney Cechini, senior Brenda Sybolt, senior Marina Maric, senior Maggie O'Brien; (front row): senior Emily Rosenquist, senior Morgan Pirtle, senior Alex Ramirez, senior Emily Quick and senior Kiana Ongbueco.

opportunity.

"We try to help our students complete community ser-

vice projects, but sometimes they do not see the direct impact they are making," she

said. "After volunteering at Marklund, our students were able to work one on one with

another kid and see how much they were brightening their day."

## Addison Trail senior signs to play softball for Cardinal Stritch University

ADDISON — Addison Trail senior Danielle Ciaglia has signed with the softball team at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Ciaglia, who has been playing softball since she was 5 years old, will play third base for the Wolves. She has been on the Addison Trail Softball Team since her sophomore year and was named All-Conference last year. Ciaglia also leads the team in homeruns and runs batted in (RBI).

"I'm truly thankful for all who have helped me through the years, including my parents, friends, coaches and teammates," Ciaglia said. "With their support, they each have helped prepare me for the next chapter in my life."

Mark Olson, Addison Trail Varsity Softball Coach, said Ciaglia has a bright future in the sport.

"(Ciaglia) has grown so much as a softball player on and off the field," he said. "She will be a great asset to the Cardinal Stritch Wolves."

Pictured at right, surrounded by her family, is Addison Trail senior Danielle Ciaglia signing her letter of intent to play third base for the Wolves softball team at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee.



photo provided



photos provided

## Two Addison Trail student-athletes are honored for their accomplishments

Pictured are Addison Trail juniors Jaavion Bradley (above) and Mat Gontarek, (below) who were recently honored for their accomplishments on the football field and in the classroom. Bradley has been named to the Daily Herald All-Area Team, and junior Matt Gontarek has received a Daily Herald All-Area Honorable Mention.







## ATHS recognizes Students of First Semester...

photos provided

Pictured are the 14 Addison Trail students who were named Students of First Semester for the 2013-14 school year on Dec. 17, along with the staff members who presented them. The students are pictured in the order listed below, starting from the top left. For Art: junior Daniella Gonzalez, presented by teacher Maria Ramon; CTE business: senior Kacper Mierzejewski, presented by teacher Michael Maaske; CTE family and consumer science: sophomore Alexis Ward, presented by teacher Amy Murphy; CTE industry and technology: senior Brandon Sheehan, presented by teacher Keith Santini; English: senior Cecilia Alvarado, presented by teacher Katie Prast; ESL: sophomore Alondra Flores, presented by teacher Patricia Vendegna; Math: senior Ellis Catic, presented by Math Department Chair Jason Bugajsky and teacher Stacey Puccini; Music: senior Emily Rosenquist, presented by Band Director Mark Corey; Physical education: freshman Manuel Hernandez, presented by teacher Kallie Haney; Reading: sophomore Andrea Ocana, presented by teacher Karen Madej; Science: senior Mireya Rodriguez, presented by teacher Nicholas Pingel; Social studies: sophomore Nicole Pudlo, presented by teacher Laura Magnavite; Special education: junior Angelo Stewart, presented by teacher Jessica Jensen; and World languages: junior Brianna Sitkowski, presented by teacher Enza Spilotro.

photo provided

## AT musicians perform at Top Students breakfast

Addison Trail students (right) provide entertainment during the Students of First Semester breakfast on Dec. 17. They are (from left) senior Caelainn Barry, senior Nicole Levonyak, senior Ivette Silva and sophomore Arthur Lee.



## AT names Hector Sanchez Rios as December's 88's Best honoree

**ADDISON** — Hector Sanchez Rios has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition. Sanchez Rios, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 16 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Sanchez Rios has shown tremendous academic growth during his four years of high school. He has transformed from a freshman who had just entered the United States barely knowing English to a senior who is enrolled in three Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

In Mexico, Sanchez Rios's family had everything they needed — jobs, money and a home. But his parents risked everything they had and came to the U.S. for a better chance to provide a quality education and a safer environment for their children. Sanchez Rios was enrolled in the ESL program at Addison Trail and just two years later, enrolled in core courses.

“Sanchez Rios was always a pretty quiet kid in my class, but was always very diligent in his studies. His work ethic will take him wherever he wants to go.”

— Jim Ziebka

“I had Sanchez Rios when he was a freshman, and he was a very timid and quiet student his freshman year,” said Itzel Carranza, ESL/bilingual math teacher at Addison Trail. “He didn’t know much English and didn’t seem very confident in himself. Now when I see him in the halls, he is lively and speaking a lot of English! He has clearly grown to be more confident in himself, in speaking English and in his academics. Sanchez Rios is an exceptional mathematician and an enthusiastic Rubik’s Cube solver!”

Jim Ziebka with the ESL/bilingual Reading Department at Addison Trail agreed.

“Sanchez Rios was always a pretty quiet kid in my class, but was always very diligent in his studies,” he said. “His work ethic will take him wherever he wants to go.”

Sanchez Rios has worked hard to learn the English language and studies hard for himself and his family. His passion in math and science, along with his drive to learn English, has taken him far. He credits his family for giving up so much in Mexico to move here, so he could grow up in a safer environment and receive a quality education. He said they have taught him to always try his best and that education is the key to success.

Sanchez Rios plans to attend DeVry University to study business or engineering.

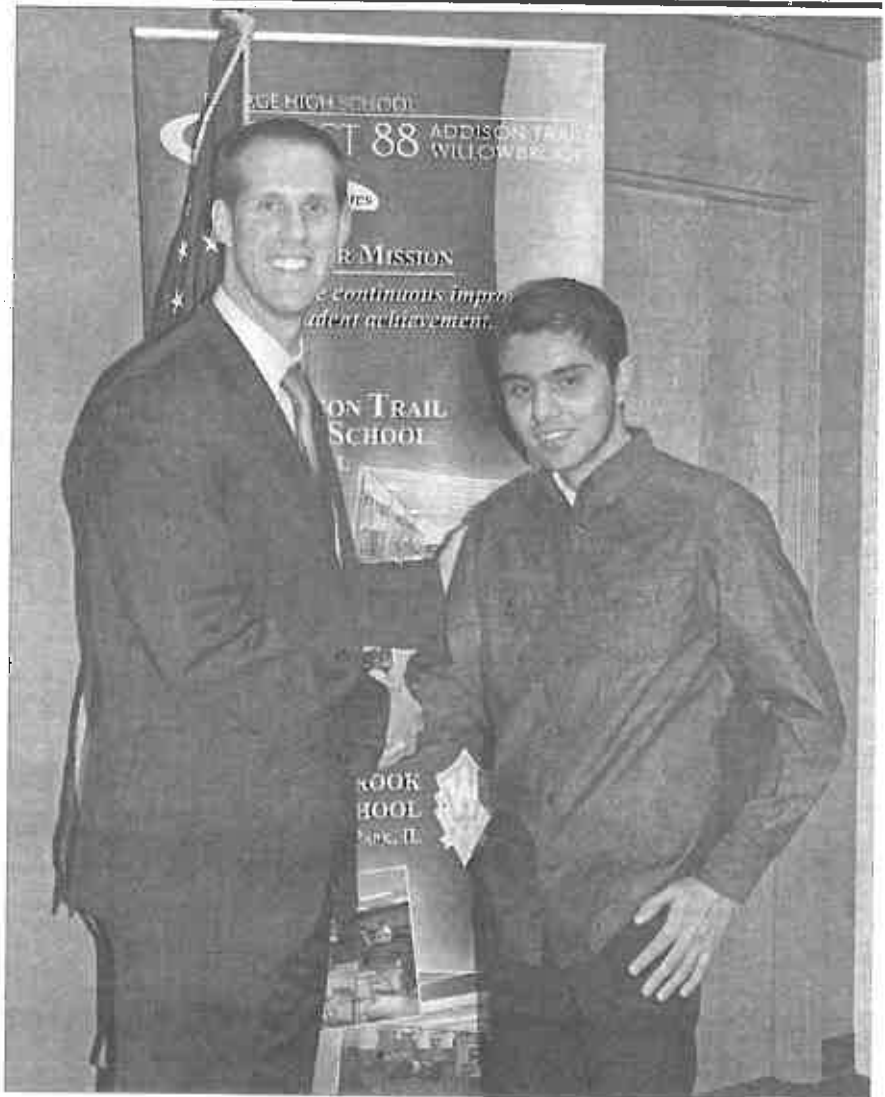


photo provided

## Sanchez Rios named 88's Best for December

Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Adam Cibulka is Hector Sanchez Rios, Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Tuesday, December 31

#### Fund-raiser for girl, 10, with brain stem tumor

From 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fitz's Spare Keys in Elmhurst will be hosting a New Year's Eve fund-raiser for the Spedale Family and 10-year-old Kira Spedale, who was diagnosed with a brain stem tumor earlier this year. Info: facebook.com/events/525786084184387/

### Saturday, January 11

#### "Hard Water Classic" ice fishing tourney

From noon-3 p.m., the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites ice-fishing enthusiasts to test their skills and compete for prizes at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on Butterfield Road, ¼-mile west of Winfield Road. Info: call (630) 876-5931.

### Sunday, January 19

#### Wedding & Special Event Expo

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Alta Villa Banquets, the second annual Wedding & Special Event Expo, hosted by the Addison Chamber of Commerce, will be held. This Expo will highlight all aspects of business services relating to special events: Weddings, anniversaries,

showers, birthdays, christenings, prom, quinciniera. Admission: Free. Info: (630) 543-4300 or email: addisonchamber@sbeglobal.net

### Wednesday, January 22

#### "Shape of Addison" town hall meeting

From 7 to 9 p.m., Itasca Bank will present the 7th annual "Shape of Addison" Town Hall Meeting in the Village Hall Board Room, at 1 Friendship Plaza. Officials from throughout the Village and the school districts will attend. Addison Community Television (Comcast Channel 6 or U-Verse Channel 99) will air meeting live; viewers may call in questions during the broadcast. E-mail questions can be sent either before or during the meeting to ShapeOfAddison@addisonadvantage.org

### Friday, January 31

#### Food Wars Challenge for Charity

In conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week, St. Pius X Parish School in Lombard will be hosting the Food Wars Challenge for Charity. The event will be held in the school's Social Center at 601

S. Westmore Ave. Info: (630) 627-2353.

#### Ongoing events...

- Active Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Addison Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. for lunch at Community Rec Center, 120'E. Oak Street. To find out more about special events, programs, trips and club membership, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275.

- Throughout the winter, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to explore St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Over three miles of trails lead visitors on foot, bicycle, snowshoe, cross-country ski and horseback through this 612-acre forest preserve, which also features a pond with large-mouth bass, bluegills and catfish for catch-and-release fishing.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: QuestPublishing@aol.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



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## Addison Trail boys basketball team moving forward

**Blazers went  
3-1 during  
recent four-  
game stretch**By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team had some good momentum heading into the holidays.

The Blazers went 5-5 overall and went 3-1 during a recent four-game stretch. The Blazers lost 63-62 to Wheaton North in the first game of the Addison Trail tournament. The team downed Leyden 68-58 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play and then was awarded a forfeit victory in its second game of the tournament after its opponent did not show up. Addison Trail also scored a 10 point win over Stagg.

"We're playing pretty well right now," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons.

The Wheaton North game came down to the last seconds.

"We were up by two points with four seconds left and Wheaton North hit a 3-pointer to win the game at the buzzer," said Lyons.

The Blazers scored a big 71-61 win over a Stagg team that came in with an impressive resume.

"Stagg was 8-0," said Lyons. "It was a nice win for us. We're putting full games together for the most part. Even against Wheaton North we played one of our more complete games of the year. We did enough there to take the lead late in the game and they hit a tough shot at the buzzer to beat us. We put four quarters together against Leyden and it was the same thing against Stagg."

Lyons said during this recent stretch that the team has shown signs of strengthening as the games wore on.

"I like the fact we are building leads in games and are composing ourselves when teams make runs against us," he said. "We're happy that we are winning games. We are putting the ball in the basket with some degree of consistency. We're in the 60s pretty much every game. We need to take care of some things on the defensive end more than we have been."

Lyons also likes the wide-spread production he has seen from his roster.

"We're getting contributions

"We'll see some tough teams there, but we feel confident where we're at right now. We are getting better."

— Addison Trail coach  
Brendan Lyons

from a variety of guys, which is great," the coach said.

Veteran James Pupillo is the team's leading scorer. He's at close to 21 points per game.

"James is doing a fantastic job of not only creating for himself but for other people on the team," said Lyons. "It allows guys coming off the double teams to be open."

Pupillo had 26 points, seven assists, six rebounds and six steals in the Wheaton North game.

"James played as good of an all-around game as you could," said Lyons.

Pupillo also had 20 points and five assists in the Stagg game.

"Offensively we're starting to get a feel for who we are and who we can be," said Lyons.

Lyons added that Joe Kurucar has been shooting the ball well. He had 17 points against Stagg. That scoring output featured five 3-pointers.

Ronald Duling also has been a big factor.

"Ronald has been very critical for us," said Lyons. "He's been scoring and defending for us."

Tyler Gilliam has provided a key spark off the bench for the Blazers.

"Tyler came off the bench and had 12 points in each game against Leyden and Stagg," said Lyons. "We're usually playing eight guys and getting contributions from everybody on both ends of the floor."

Addison Trail wrapped up play in its own tournament against Lake Park last week. The Blazers have headed south and are playing in a tournament at Centralia this week.

"It's an overnight trip. That's something new for us," said Lyons. "We'll see some tough teams there, but we feel confident where we're at right now. We are getting better."

## Fun Days coming to Iowa Community Center

VILLA PARK — Fridays are Fun Days at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa.

Children ages 4-6 are invited to bring their lunch to a monthly themed based day of fun. Activities will include arts and crafts, pretend play and outdoor play on the new Iowa Community Center grounds.

Sign up for all the Fun Days or just the ones you want. Friday Fun-Day is held 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 24, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 25. The fee is \$13; \$10 sibling.

## Parks and Recreation offering Revel in Fairytales class for kids

VILLA PARK — Parks and Recreation is offering a special class all about fairy tales.

Kids ages 4-6 will use their imagination and let their fairytale dreams come true through class activities like singing, dancing, dressing up and making special treasures and keepsakes in a world of magic.

Revel in Fairytales will be held Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Jan. 14-March 4. The fee is \$43; \$32 sibling.

## Childrens' gymnastics classes get under way Jan. 6

VILLA PARK — Parks and Recreation is offering a new session of gymnastics classes for children of all ages and skill levels starting the week of Jan. 6.

A variety of classes are available including Parent/Tot, youth, beginning, intermediate and advanced. For a complete listing of class days, times and fees call (630) 834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

Classes are offered in conjunction with the Addison Park District and held at Addison's facility at 120 E. Oak in Addison.

## New session of sports classes for kids ages 2-10 upcoming

VILLA PARK — Parks and Recreation's is holding a new session of sports classes for children ages 2-10 to keep them active this winter.

A variety of classes are available, all taught by the popular coaches of All Star Sports. Kids can choose from T-Ball, Soccer, Hockey, Basketball and a parent and child super sports class.

For a complete listing of class times and dates, visit vprd.org or call (630) 834-8970. All these sports classes meet at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa.

## Classes for toddlers, preschool children starting in mid-January

VILLA PARK — Parks and Recreation is offering a variety of classes for toddlers and preschoolers to keep them busy this winter.

Toddlers ages 18-36 months with a parent can choose from these classes:

- Exploring Toddler, Thursdays 9:15-10:15 a.m., Jan. 16-March 6. Parents and their toddler will have a great time moving and exploring and the children will explore colors, read stories, enjoy gym time and mingle with the other toddlers and parents.

- Color Wheel: will be held Tuesdays, 9:15-10 a.m., Jan. 14-March 4. Spend quality time together while the child learns their colors and creates artwork each week.

- Alphabet Art will introduce toddlers to letter recognition through the use of arts and crafts. This class is offered Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Jan. 15-March 5.

- Preschoolers ages 4-6 have several classes to choose from including Little Chefs which runs Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 15-March 5. Little foodies will eat up this fun cooking class where a new recipe will be prepared and enjoyed each week. Little Scientists, Wednesdays, 12:45-1:30 p.m., Jan. 15-March 5, will give kids the chance to try a new science experiment each week.



photo provided

## Willowbrook hosts annual Art Alumni Day

On Dec. 16, 18 Willowbrook alumni and former staff members came to the school for Willowbrook's annual Art Alumni Day. Students were able to speak with alumni and learn about their college and career success and see their artwork. A variety of mediums were showcased such as canvas work, ceramics, fashion design, filmmaking, architecture, glassblowing and more. Pictured are (top row, left photo): Willowbrook alums Kandace McVickar; (top row, right photo): Nick Marchese; (bottom row, left photo): alumni Rachel Murray (back turned) and Toni Ellis with WB junior Emma Bjorklund; (bottom row, right photo): alumna Breanne Kanak.

## Willowbrook names December recipient of 88's Best recognition

VILLA PARK — Alex Bardesi has been named as Willowbrook's December recipient of 88's Best recognition. Bardesi, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 16 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

As an incoming ninth-grader, Bardesi had a rough start at Willowbrook, and his tremendous energy was not channeled in a positive direction. But he has been able to turn his life around and direct his charismatic personality into a force that has impacted the entire school.

"Although I did not know Bardesi back when he was underperforming in school, he is honest and transparent about his past," said Erik Engel, Willowbrook social worker. "One day he wandered into the Young Men's lunch group I lead and he never looked back. He continues to be a dominant force of positive influence and assertive action through that group. It is well known he is involved in multiple extracurricular activities while maintaining high grades."

"To me, his two greatest legacies will be his involvement in a musical and The Happiness Movement, which is some 20 to 30 students he has motivated to perform kind acts and encourage recipients to pay it forward to others."



photo provided

Pictured here with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause is Alex Bardesi (right), Willowbrook's December recipient of 88's Best recognition.

The musical he was involved with was 'High School Musical Jr.' which involved District 88 students with special needs in all of the performing roles. His job was to rehearse and perform with the students on stage throughout the summer and early fall. He was one of only two students (senior Addie Maggard was the other) who helped put together one of the most memorable shows and experiences in the history of Willowbrook.

"The beautiful thing about Bardesi is he truly gets it. He could easily receive multiple awards for his many achievements, but he is not motivat-

ed by notoriety. He does it to serve others, make them happy and engage in a meaningful relationship. Selflessness like that is amazingly rare in an adolescent. His story is doubly amazing because it is the story of improvement. But he didn't go from underperforming at a zero up to mediocrity at a five — he went from a negative 10 to a positive 10. I look forward to how he will blow our minds as an adult. He will surely continue improving himself and the rest of us as a result."

Assistant Principal Sam Bentsen echoed Engel's sentiments.

"Bardesi has had the biggest turnaround out of any student I have ever seen," he said. "He went from attending multiple outplacements to straight A's when he returned to Willowbrook. His academic and behavioral improvement is enough to be a District 88's Best, but his positive attitude and commitment to service in a wide variety of areas is perhaps even more impressive. Bardesi is an example to any student who has ever struggled that you can determine your own future — and Bardesi's looks very bright."

With the hope of becoming a school social worker or psychologist, Bardesi plans to apply to study at Northwestern University.



# Willowbrook hosts Alumni Day

VILLA PARK — On Dec. 20, Willowbrook hosted its annual Alumni Day, where alumni from the last five years were invited back to the school.

Alumni who attended the event visited with friends and former teachers, coaches and staff members, toured the school and enjoyed refreshments.

"Alumni Day is a great chance to see former students we have not talked to in a while and a way to see those with whom we do keep up," said teacher Cristy Hebreard. "It's great to see how successful they are in school and the careers they have already started."



photo provided

## WB Speech Team continues successful season

VILLA PARK — On Dec. 4, the Willowbrook Speech Team finished in 7th place at the Naperville Central High School tournament. In DDA, freshman Rachel Bonarek and sophomore Mariana Martens finished in 5th place. In HI, junior Alex Lapinski finished in 2nd place. In INF, senior Marjoux Ziss finished in 5th place. In DEC, senior Colleen Shelton finished in 2nd place. In RS, Lapinski finished in 2nd place.

## WBHS friends reconnect on Alumni Day

Pictured are Willowbrook alumni from the class of 2012 (from left) Rhian Whitehurst, Katera Berent, Jack Rosenwinkel, Brian Dornacher, Willowbrook teacher Cristy Hebreard, Taylor Kampert and Lauren Flaherty. They stopped by Willowbrook on Dec. 20 for the school's Alumni Day.

## WB Academy Awards-style event will honor students with special needs

### WBHS to honor special needs actors on red carpet

### Lifetime Award to be presented in honor of deceased student

VILLA PARK — On Friday, January 17, Willowbrook High School will honor the WB and AT students with special needs

and their fellow classmates who performed in "High School Musical Jr." earlier this year during a red-carpet Academy Awards-style night. Guests are encouraged to bring cameras at 6:45 p.m. to take photos of the "celebrities" as they walk the red carpet.

On Aug. 29, special needs students and their classmates brought the Disney classic to life on stage. The students will now be honored and recognized as part of the Willowbrook Academy Awards.

The awards night will be presented by The Darnell Holt Showcase in honor of former Willowbrook student Darnell Holt, who died tragically on January 17, 2012. The Academy Awards event will take place on that date in order to celebrate his life. Darnell will be honored that evening with a Lifetime Achievement Award that will showcase entertainment and videos of students sharing fond memories of him.

This event is free and the public is invited.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Tuesday, Dec. 31**

**Fundraiser for girl, 10, with brain tumor**

From 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fitz's Spare Keys in Elmhurst will be hosting New Year's Eve fund-raiser for the Spedale Family and 10-year-old Kira Spedale, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this year. Info: [facebook.com/events/525786084184387/](http://facebook.com/events/525786084184387/)

**Friday, January 3**

**Library presents Magic show, workshop**

Children in grades 1-8 are invited to the Villa Park Library for The Magic of Gary Kantor including a workshop where you will learn a collection of magic tricks. Receive supplies to perform at home. Registration is required, as space is limited. Call 630-834-1176 or visit [vppl.info](http://vppl.info)

**Saturday, January 4**

**Coffee with the Village Board**

At 9 a.m., the next Coffee with the Board meeting will take place at Villa Park Village Hall.

**Wednesday, January 8**

**Boys Hip Hop class**

From Jan. 8-Feb. 12, Parks and Recreation is offering a new session of the popular Boys Hip Hop class taught by the very popular Coach Josh from All Star Sports. Ages 7-9 will meet 4-4:45 p.m. and ages 10-12 will meet 4:45-5:30 p.m. Fee: \$55 for the six-week session. Info: call (630) 834-8525.

**Saturday, January 11**

**"Hard Water Classic" ice fishing tourney**

From noon-3 p.m., the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites ice-fishing enthusiasts to test their skills and compete for prizes at **Blackwell Forest Preserve** in Warrenville on Butterfield Road, ¼-mile west of Winfield Road. Info: call (630) 876-5931.

**Friday, January 17**

**WBHS hosts**

**Academy Awards night**

Willowbrook High School will honor

the WB and AT students with special needs and their fellow classmates who performed in "High School Musical Jr." earlier this year during a red-carpet Academy Awards-style night. Guests are encouraged to bring cameras at 6:45 p.m. to take photos of the "celebrities" as they walk the red carpet. Free and open to the public.

**Friday, January 31**

**• Food Wars Challenge for Charity**

In conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week, St. Pius X Parish School in Lombard will be hosting the Food Wars Challenge for Charity. The event will be held in the school's Social Center at 601 S. Westmore Ave. Info: (630) 627-2353.

**Ongoing events...**

**VPRD's Reader's Theater Group**

• If you love to socialize and would like the chance to perform without having to memorize scripts or lyrics you

will want to join the Readers' Theatre Group. The group meets for rehearsal each Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Recreation Building, 320 E. Wildwood. Free; no registration required. Info: Jenny Casale at 630-834-8525.

**VFW Bingo**

• The Villa Park VFW hosts Bingo every Tuesday from 5:30-10 p.m.

**St. James Farm Forest Preserve**

• Throughout the winter, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites visitors to explore St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville. Over three miles of trails lead visitors on foot, bicycle, snowshoe, cross-country ski and horseback through this 612-acre forest preserve, which also features a pond with largemouth bass, bluegills and catfish for catch-and-release fishing.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: [QuestPublishing@aol.com](mailto:QuestPublishing@aol.com). Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.