

## Winning ticket...

SOMEONE PURCHASED a winning Lucky Day Lotto ticket worth \$750,000 last week at Villa Park's Ardmore Station Liquors, located at 332 S. Ardmore Ave. The winning quick-pick ticket matched all five numbers (6-8-9-10-33) in Thursday's midday drawing. Two winners will share the \$1.5 million jackpot prize. According to the Illinois Lottery, the other winning \$750,000 ticket was bought at a Jewel store in Oak Lawn. Each of the stores that sold the winning ticket will receive a bonus of \$7,500—1 percent of the prize amount. The photo on the right shows store owner Sunny Patel (right) and his sister-in-law Arpita Patel (left) at the counter of Ardmore Station Liquors on Monday afternoon. Sunny Patel said that the winner is a store regular and frequent lottery player who learned of his jackpot when he visited the business on Friday. "He was speechless," said Patel of the reaction of the winner, who is a retired man. The lucky winner will be able to claim his prize at one of the Illinois Lottery's five prize centers. The two nearest centers are in Chicago and Des Plaines. In addition to the jackpot winners, more than 35,000 players won prizes ranging from \$1 to \$200 in Thursday's Lucky Day Lotto drawing. Lucky Day Lotto drawings are held twice a day, seven days a week. For more information, visit the Illinois Lottery's Web site at [illinoislottery.com](http://illinoislottery.com).

Photo by Chris Fox



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# VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 57 No. 10

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Price 60¢

## Weekend fire damages vehicles, downs power lines

Villa Park firefighters responded to Saturday's midday fire at Kevin's Auto and Diesel Repair, located at 119 W. Home Ave. The business is just west of the Villa Park Police Department at 40 S. Ardmore Ave.

According to Villa Park Fire Chief Ron Rakosnik, the call of the fire came in at about 11:53 a.m. Crews from Fire Station 81 at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave. and Fire Station 82 at 102 W. Plymouth St. responded to the scene.

"Employees were transferring some oil from one container to another," said Rakosnik, who stated that the fire originated outside the rear of the business, which backs up to the Great Western Trail. "Something happened that sparked and ignited the oil. They [the

employees] ran into the shop to get fire extinguishers and make sure everyone was out of the building."

Rakosnik said three employees who had been working with the oil were unable to put the fire out with extinguishers. The chief said the fire crews had the fire under control about 30 minutes after arriving at the scene.

None of the three employees were injured, Rakosnik said. Paramedics evaluated the employees, each of whom refused to be transported to a hospital. No firefighters were injured.

According to Villa Park Police Detective Sgt. Bill Lyons, the fire damaged eight vehicles. He said one of those vehicles was

completely destroyed. Lyons added that at least one of the eight damaged vehicles belonged to an employee of the business. He was unsure if the destroyed vehicle belonged to an employee or a customer.

In responding to the scene, Rakosnik said the smoke from the fire was visible from Roosevelt Road and Route 83. He said the fire never spread to the inside of the one-story brick building, but it did cause some minor damage to the roof.

"The bricks on the outside of the building were so hot," Rakosnik said. "The were still steaming about 45 minutes after the fire had been extinguished."

The fire did bring down some power lines

located behind the business.

"That made the incident more challenging," the chief said. "We always treat power lines as being live."

The Villa Park Fire Department informed ComEd of the downed power lines, and a crew from the utility responded to the scene within about 20 minutes, Rakosnik said.

Fire departments from Elmhurst, Lombard, Oakbrook Terrace and York Center provided assistance in fighting the fire. The incident was upgraded to a special alarm, which brought in crews from other municipalities to man Villa Park's fire stations. A crew from Oak Brook responded to Fire Station 81, while a crew from Addison manned Fire Station 82.



## Saturday fire in Villa Park...

SATURDAY'S FIRE outside of Kevin's Auto and Diesel Repair damaged eight vehicles outside of the business. The above photo, taken from video provided by Villa Park Police Detective Sgt. Bill Lyons, shows the fire behind the business, which is located at 118 W. Home Ave. The fire reportedly began when employees were transferring oil from one container to another. According to Lyons, one of the eight damaged vehicles was completely destroyed. The fire also brought down nearby power lines outside of the business, which backs up to the Great Western Trail. No one was injured in the incident.



## Lombard's Lilac Court...

Photo by Steve Spoden

THE FIVE MEMBERS OF LOMBARD'S 2016 LILAC COURT were chosen on Saturday. The members of this year's court (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Princess Emily Robicheaux and Princess Hadley Hill; (back row) Princess Grace Ludwig, Princess Isabella Ledonne and Princess Madelynn Richardt. Ledonne and Richardt attend Willowbrook High School. Ledonne is a sophomore. Richardt is a senior.



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photos courtesy of ATHS junior Guadalupe Herrera

## Addison Trail hosts Special Olympics Senior Night

Members of the Addison Trail Special Olympics Basketball Team who are seniors are recognized during the team's Senior Night game on Feb. 23. Each was individually invited to step forward for a salute to their efforts. Pictured are (top row, from left) Alejandro Bueno, Johnny Rodriguez; (bottom row, from left): Aleks Iskali and Austin Vitello.



## Addison Police issues warning for St. Patrick's Day

### Residents urged to keep streets safe, don't drink and drive

ADDISON — Widely-celebrated across the country, St. Patrick's Day can be one of the deadliest holidays, due to the number of drunk and impaired drivers on the road.

Drunk driving kills more than 10,000 people each year in the U.S. and almost every single one of those deaths could be prevented. On March 3, the Addison Police Department announced it would be conducting special patrols over St. Patrick's Day to crack down on drunk drivers.

"The Addison Police will be on patrol this St. Patrick's Day, so make sure you obey the law," said Police Sergeant Roger Saran. "Don't drink and drive and don't let your friends do it either."

"Before celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year, decide whether you'll drink or you'll drive. If you choose to drink, designate a sober, reliable driver to get you home safely from the party. If you're planning on driving, don't drink. The last thing you want is to ride to jail with a cop."

In addition to looking for drunk drivers, Addison officers will be stepping up seatbelt enforcement, particularly at night when seatbelt usage rates are lowest.

Tips for hosting a St. Patrick's Day party:

- Remember, you can be held liable and could be prosecuted, if someone you serve is involved in a drunk-driving crash.
- Make sure all of your

guests designate a sober driver in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.

For more information, call 630-543-4100.

## Easter Egg Hunt, Pancake Breakfast this Saturday

ADDISON — The Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast will be held from 8-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 12 at Community Park, with the egg hunt starting at 10:30 sharp.

The breakfast menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, milk, orange juice and coffee.

The Easter Egg Hunt is free for kids 10 years of age and younger. Arrive early as the Egg Hunt begins promptly at 10:30 a.m. and ends just minutes later. Donations to the Addison Kiwanis Club for the pancake breakfast will be accepted at the door.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast is being sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, Oxford Bank, Addison Fire Protection District #1, Quality Fabricators, Inc. and Sunrise Electrical Supply. Info: Call 630-233-7275 or go to [addisonparks.org](http://addisonparks.org).



## Institute Day features program on inclusion at District 4, Addison Trail

**Led in part by author of book on multi-racial schools**

**ADDISON** — Teachers and support staff from four area school districts met at Addison Trail High School on Friday, March 4 for Institute Day. Activities focused on "Working Together for Inclusion, Equity and Excellence."

Nearly 1,200 staff members from DuPage High School District 88 and the three elementary school districts that feed into Addison Trail and Willowbrook High Schools—Addison District 4, DuPage District 45, and Salt Creek District

48—began the day with Gary Howard introducing the topics of cultural competence and effectiveness in the practice of culturally responsive teaching and leadership. Howard is the author of *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools*.

After the opening session, break-out sessions were led by District 88 facilitators. These sessions gave participants the opportunity to work in smaller groups to discuss diversity issues that occur in their individual schools. The participants returned to the auditorium for a closing session which focused on principles of culturally responsive teaching, including student feedback on what does and doesn't work in the classroom.



Pictured are staff members at Fullerton School taking part in a discussion as part of the recent Institute Day, led by author Gary Howard who wrote the book *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools*. Topics of inclusion and equity were discussed in hopes of fostering culturally responsive teaching and leadership



Above: Teachers and staff from Stone School hold a small group discussion at Institute Day on Friday, March 4. More than 1,200 people from District 4 and Addison Trail High School learned about "culturally responsive teaching and leadership."

Right: Pictured are staff members at Fullerton School taking part in a discussion as part of the recent Institute Day, led by author Gary Howard who wrote the book *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools*. Topics of inclusion and equity were discussed in hopes of fostering culturally responsive teaching and leadership.



photo provided

Three performers rehearse a scene from Addison Trail's upcoming spring play, "Charley's Aunt." Pictured are (from left) junior Max Dziabis playing Lord Fancourt Babberley, senior Michael Bellino as Charley Wykeham and senior Cab Callaway in the part of Jack Chesney. The show will be performed on March 17, 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. plus a 2 p.m. performance on March 19. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$5/students and children ages 3-12; \$3 with an Activity Pass; free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card.

## Addison Trail to present spring play, 'Charley's Aunt'

**ADDISON** — The 2016-17 school year will mark Addison Trail's 50th anniversary, and Addison Trail Theatre is starting the celebration this spring by bringing back one of the school's earliest plays to the stage.

From March 17 to 19, the school will present "Charley's Aunt," a farce performed in three acts.

"This show is full of mistaken identities, which is always fun to work with," said Anna Jakubka, Addison Trail Theatre Director. "The audience can look forward to pure entertainment and tons of laughs — and a lot of British accents."

"Charley's Aunt" is set in the late 1800s and tells the story of Charley Wykeham and his friend Jack Chesney, two college students at Oxford University. They fall in love with two young women, and Charley decides to introduce them to his rich aunt, Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez. But when Charley gets word his aunt has been delayed, he and Jack quickly devise a plan with another friend, Lord Fancourt Babberley ("Babbs") — and hilarity ensues.

Senior Michael Bellino plays Charley and said he's looking forward to his last performance at Addison Trail. He said the biggest challenge with "Charley's Aunt" is the length of the play, but he has enjoyed getting

into character.

Senior Cab Callaway plays Jack and said audience members can expect to feel like they're part of the show, as the play will be performed in the round (meaning guests will be placed on all four sides of the stage).

"It's a smaller cast and stage area, so it allows for more natural movement and blocking," Cab said. "The set design also is unique, and there's a lot of interesting use of floor space."

Junior Max Dziabis portrays Babbs and said it is his favorite role to date.

"He's incredibly charismatic," he said of Babbs. "Once he enters the picture, the story starts to revolve around him."

Dziabis added those who come to see the show won't be disappointed.

"It will be spectacular," Dziabis said. "Audiences are guaranteed to have a good time enjoying a silly — yet witty — story."

"Charley's Aunt" will be performed March 17, 18 & 19 at 7 p.m., as well as 2 p.m. on Mar. 19 in the auditorium at Addison Trail High School, 213 No. Lombard Rd. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$5/students and children ages 3-12; \$3 with an Activity Pass; free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets, call 630-628-3365, or e-mail at theatre88@gmail.com.



# Addison Trail's annual Mr. AT competition returns

**Michael Bellino accepts the crown for 2016**

ADDISON — On Feb. 20, 10 senior boys competed in Addison Trail's annual Mr. AT event.

The theme this year was "America's Next Top Mr. AT." During the competition, contestants participated in a group dance, performed a talent, demonstrated their Blazer Pride in a Blazer Wear portion, escorted a parent/guardian in a formalwear segment and responded during the question-and-answer section.

The event featured special guest Joseph Conforti (AT alumnus from the class of 2015) and was hosted by seniors Destenye Davis, Jazmin Fernandez and Zyrena Santos. Mr. AT was planned by seniors Clarisa Bueno and Alondra Estrada.

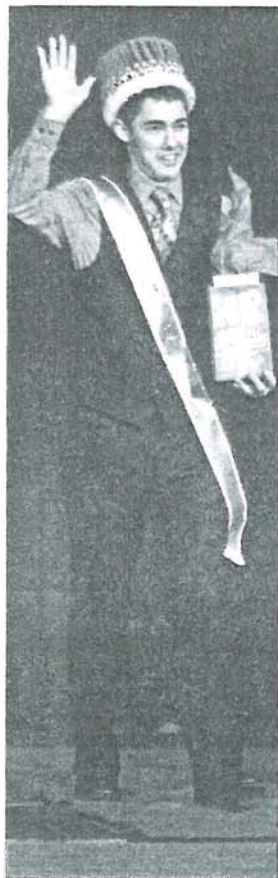
Michael Bellino was crowned Mr. AT 2016, and Anthony Paladino was Mr. Runner-up.



The Mr. AT 2016 contestants perform a group dance during the event, which took place on Feb. 20 at Addison Trail. all photos courtesy of HR Imaging



Pictured are (from left) Addison Trail seniors Destenye Davis, Jazmin Fernandez and Zyrena Santos, who hosted the Mr. AT event on Feb. 20.



On Feb. 20, Addison Trail hosted its annual Mr. AT event, which is a fun talent competition for senior boys. Pictured is Michael Bellino, who was crowned Mr. AT 2016.

## There's Gold in your Garbage!

**Addison Women's Club welcomes composting expert**

ADDISON — At their meeting on Thursday, March 3, members of the Women's Club of Addison enjoyed a program by Cindy Crosby, writer, editor, speaker, naturalist and instructor at the Morton Arboretum, who presented "There's Gold in Your Garbage." Crosby is an ardent supporter of composting materials from your kitchen and garden to produce nutrient-rich soil to improve your plants and vegetables. Audience members were encouraged to participate by each suggesting an item of kitchen waste and having the group determine whether that item should or should not be composted. Crosby also pre-



CINDY CROSBY

sented methods and equipment that can be used to transform leftovers and yard waste into good news for plants.

For more information about the Women's Club of Addison, contact Karen at 630-878-6305.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 10**

**Addison Art Guild welcomes Arlene Tilghman**

At 7:30 p.m., the Addison Art Guild will host Arlene Tilghman as the speaker at its next meeting at Addison Village Hall, One Friendship Plaza, room 1301. Her program will be on the Art of Byzantine Iconography. Guests welcome. Free and open to the public. Info: 630-543-4100.

**Saturday, March 12**

**Easter Egg Hunt, Pancake Breakfast**

The Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast will be held from 8-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 12 at Community Park, with the egg hunt starting at 10:30 sharp. The breakfast menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, milk, orange juice and coffee. It is free for kids 10 years of age and younger. The Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast is being sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, Oxford Bank, Addison Fire Protection District #1, Quality Fabricators, Inc. and Sunrise Electrical Supply. Info: Call 630-233-7275 or go to [addisonparks.org](http://addisonparks.org)

**Tuesday, March 15**

**The Presidential and Illinois State Primary Election Day—don't forget to vote!**

**Thurs.-Sat.,**

**March 17, 18 & 19**

**AT performs "Charley's Aunt" as spring play**

"Charley's Aunt" will be performed in the auditorium at Addison Trail High School, 213 No. Lombard Rd. Curtain times are 7 p.m. each evening, plus there will be a 2 p.m. matinee performance on Sat., Mar. 19. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$5/students and children ages 3-12; \$3 with an Activity Pass; free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets, call 630-628-3365, or e-mail

[at.theatre88@gmail.com](mailto:at.theatre88@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, March 23**  
**Ladies Night at the Golf Dome**

From 7-9 p.m., ladies are invited to the Golf Dome, 880 W. Lake St., for an evening of pampering, instruction and indulgence. Your per-time fee includes: two hours of unlimited ball hitting, use of the short game area, PGA/LPGA or USGTF certified golf instruction, light appetizers and refreshments (soda, water or wine). Due to the popularity of these clinics, RSVP is requested. You must register by 12 noon two days prior to the event. Info: [addisonparks.org](http://addisonparks.org) or call 630-233-7275.

**Ongoing events**

• **ACA hosts photography of William North**

Now through March 19, the Addison Center for the Arts is displaying "Simple Elegance: Photographs by William North," at its gallery located inside Addison Trail High School on the north side (enter Door #4). Free and open to the public, gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 1-4 p.m. Private showings are available by appointment. Info: 630-458-4500.

• **Widows or Widowers**

**(W.C.W.) meet each month**

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs will meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or [wov.cfsites.org](http://wov.cfsites.org).

• **Active Adults Senior Club**

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from noon-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street.



## SPORTS

MARCH 10, 2016 • 18

## Addison Trail boys basketball team wraps up season

## Grygo named to all-WSC Gold Division team

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team saw its 2015-2016 season come to a close after a 62-48 loss to District 88 neighbor Willowbrook in the quarterfinals of the Class 4A Benet Academy regional in Lisle.

"It was not a good performance for us," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons.

The teams had split the two regular-season conference meetings.

Addison Trail led the playoff game by two at halftime and was up by six points late in the third quarter.

"We fell apart in the fourth quarter," said Lyons. "They started knocking down shots and we turned the ball over."

Addison Trail had 21 turnovers in the contest.

"We couldn't get anything going," said Lyons. "We led 38-32 at one point and they closed the game on a 30-10 run. We didn't like going out like that."

Jack Kalbas led the Blazers with 15 points. Eric Grygo added eight points and 14 rebounds.

"Eric was scoring consistently for us early and then we couldn't get him the ball," said Lyons. "They picked up their pressure game and we turned the ball over. It was tough getting the ball inside to him."

The Blazers finished the season with a 14-15 record.

"We had some close games go our way and some that didn't go our way. We can't lament about it."

— Coach Brendan Lyons

"We figured we would be right about here," said Lyons. "We had some close games go our way and some that didn't go our way. We can't lament about it."

Addison Trail graduates seven seniors in Grygo, Ryan Zygowicz, Zach Novak, Nick Conrad, Nick Fugarino, Mike Tkaczyk and Jon Gonzalez. Five of the seniors were with the program all four years.

"Our seven seniors all were all-academic selections," said Lyons. "Everybody had a GPA of 3.8 or better. We're losing a great group of players."

Grygo also earned all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division honors.

"This is a group of players that had a lot of success for us," said Lyons. "They won more than 60 games in their four years here and continued to set the bar higher. We always have talked about continuing to rise. This is three years in a row with double-digit victories. Hopefully the guys coming back and the guys coming up will continue to step up and continue on an upward trend. The bar has been set higher for the future classes. We've turned the corner here and now it's the challenge of the seniors in each group to surpass what has been set before them."

Lyons noted the program's lower levels had productive years as well.

"Our lower levels were competitive this year," he said. "What I like seeing is guys are getting better. Our sophomore team faced some struggles and came back and beat some good teams. I also liked what I saw at the freshman level. We kept 28 kids, which is good to see. Now we'll see who puts in the work over the summer and what that translates into."

## Willowbrook boys basketball team splits playoff games

## Degnan advances in 3-point contest; Zabran girls basketball team's leading scorer

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys basketball team split a pair of recent games at the Class 4A Benet Academy regional in Lisle.

Willowbrook opened the playoffs with a 63-48 win over District 88 neighbor Addison Trail. It was the third meeting of the season between the two teams (Willowbrook won two of those contests).

Willowbrook was the No. 17 seed in the Class 4A East Aurora sectional, while Addison Trail was the No. 16 seed.

The Warriors then dropped a 56-46 decision to No. 1 seed Benet Academy. Ethan Schuemer led Willowbrook with 12 points. Matt Meyers added nine points.

## Degnan advances

At the Benet Academy regional Willowbrook's Billy Degnan advanced to the sectional round of the Class 4A state 3-point shooting contest. Degnan will compete this week at the East Aurora sectional for a chance to go to the state finals in Peoria next week.

## Zabran leads Willowbrook girls basketball

Josie Zabran was the Willowbrook girls basketball team's leading scorer this season at 14.0 points per game. Zabran also led the team in rebounds at 9.3 per game (4.5 offensive rebounds per game). She also had 29 steals.

Danielle Velasquez averaged 9.2 points per game for the Warriors to go with 3.9 rebounds, 2.6 assists (60 total assists) and 1.9 steals (43 steals) per game.

Alyssa Spada also averaged 9.2 points to go with 4.7 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game. Spada had 22 steals as well.

Kaylin Konrath averaged 8.1 points per game and 7.3 rebounds to go with 21 steals. Grace Chantos averaged 2.6 rebounds and 2.8 assists (66 total assists), while logging 21 steals.

Zabran shot 47 percent from the field, while Konrath shot 42 percent. Velasquez led the team in 3-pointers made with 22. Spada had 12 three-pointers and shot 66 percent from the free-throw line. Velasquez shot 65 percent from the free-throw line (76 made free throws), while Zabran shot 61 percent from the free-throw line (82 made free throws).

Velasquez led the team in charges taken with 27 and deflections with 33. Zabran logged 11 double-double games (double figures in two statistical categories), while Milena Sogura led the team in blocked shots with 13.

## Addison Trail boys basketball team advances three in 3-point contest

## Fenton boys basketball team wraps up season

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team will be well-represented in the state 3-point shooting contest at the Class 4A East Aurora sectional.

The Blazers advanced three competitors to the sectional level out of the recent Class 4A Benet Academy regional in Lisle.

Stevan Jones, Jack Kalbas and Bobby Daniels all will compete in the sectional portion of the Class 4A state 3-point shooting contest this week at East Aurora where berths in the state finals in Peoria will be on the line.

## Fenton boys basketball

The Fenton boys basketball team concluded its season after a 70-67 loss to Chicago Schurz in quarterfinal action of the Class 4A Chicago Whitney Young regional.

Fenton was the No. 20 seed in the

Class 4A Riverside-Brookfield sectional, while Schurz was the No. 13 seed. Schurz then lost 72-42 to No. 4 seed Whitney Young in the semifinals. Whitney Young went on to win the regional title.

## Addison Trail boys track

The Addison Trail boys track team won a recent triangular meet at Glenbard North.

Addison Trail won with 81 points. Glenbard North was second with 60 points, while Streamwood was third with 27 points.

Sophomore Marco Flores won the 800 run, while senior Darius Perez won the 400 dash. Senior Stefano Favuzzi won the 200 dash.

Junior Chris Purdy won the long jump, while junior Demetrio Cervantes won the 1,600 run.

Addison Trail also was successful in the relays. The Blazers won the 3,200 relay. That team featured Flores, Nick Czorniak, Demetrio Cervantes and Julio Cervantes.

The Blazers also won the 1,600 relay with team members Flores, Darius Perez, Jose Chavez and Ryan Baig.



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

VILLA PARK — Kevin Miller has been named as Willowbrook's February recipient of 88's Best recognition for his outstanding service work. Miller, a senior, was recognized during the Feb. 22 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

As a student, Kevin has consistently demonstrated high levels of performance and achievement, including completing Honors and Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level coursework and earning honor roll status each semester of his high school career. He is a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, English Honor Society and Civitas (Willowbrook's Social Studies Honor Society). Kevin also has been recognized with the Outstanding Freshmen and the Human

Relations awards and was named as an Honorable Mention in the Daily Herald Leadership Team program.

Kevin's contributions to Willowbrook and the community are further evidenced by his leadership in Blue Crew, New Beginnings and Relay For Life. He also is a member of Marching Band and is Captain of the Boys Basketball Team.

He not only participates in Habitat for Humanity and volunteers for his church, but also he and other varsity athletes recently volunteered to shovel driveways for community members. Kevin also organized a National Hug Day event at Willowbrook to promote kindness among students, amassing more than 700 hugs throughout the day.

"Miller is one of the most

kind, caring and sensitive students I have ever met," said Megan Graham, science teacher. "He makes all of us around him a better person. Miller is compelled to 'do the right thing,' no matter what is going on around him."

Band Director Jonathan Bogue agreed.

"Miller is a multi-talented natural leader, who just happens to be one of the nicest and funniest students here at Willowbrook," he said. "If he's not helping younger students on the Marching Band field, he's prepping for a basketball game or making a room of people laugh. Miller has a strong moral compass and always seems to do the right thing."

Brett Blair, English Department Chair, said Brian's service and dedication to the school are what make him stand out.

"Miller is one of the kindest, most giving young people I have met in my career at Willowbrook," Blair said. "For four years, I have had students and colleagues speak of the 'infamous' Kevin Miller. At the end of last year, I had the good fortune of meeting him. He immediately greets you with the most genuine grin that exudes his intent — to help whomever he can, whenever he can. His service to the school really is the pride of a Warrior."

While still deciding on which college/university to attend, Kevin plans to major in physical therapy.

"Smiles. Hugs. Positivity. Selflessness. Integrity. Intelligence. Miller makes you want to be a better person, whether it be as an athlete, a student, an extracurricular student or a human," said Cristy Hebreard, world language teacher. "I am very envious of the university

Miller will choose to attend. They get him, and we lose him. I am so proud of the young man he has become and cannot wait to watch what he does in this world. I promise you ... he will change it. Congrats, Miller. You are the Warrior we all need."

### Community invited to St. Patrick's Day at VP VFW

*Day includes sandwiches; then corned beef and cabbage for dinner*

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park VFW Post #2801, located at 39 W. St. Charles Road, will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17. Guests are urged to stop by for corned beef and all the fixings.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be phone-in for carry-out service, then from 3-7 p.m., the bar will be open and seating will be available for dining in. Sandwiches are \$8, a corned beef and cabbage dinner is \$10. For more information, call 630-834-5051.

## Tom Cullerton helps streamline services through Transform Illinois

*Initiative shifts mosquito abatement from county to township government*

SPRINGFIELD — To mirror the success seen in DuPage County, State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) has introduced a series of initiatives to streamline and remove redundancies in local government.

"DuPage County has been a leader in government consolidation," he said. "It's time to spread our success throughout Illinois. We need to continue to look for ways to save valuable taxpayer dollars."

Cullerton acknowledges that Illinois has more than 7,000 government entities that were developed decades ago. His first two initiatives to stream-

line state government are:

Government consolidation report (Senate Bill 2994): Requires all Illinois county boards to submit a report to the General Assembly recommending units of government that may be dissolved or consolidated.

"This was the first step DuPage County took in its government consolidation efforts," he said. "Through this model, the county is projected to save taxpayers more than \$100 million over the next 20 years."

Mosquito abatement (Senate Bill 2323): Dissolves all mosquito abatement districts in DuPage County and trans-

fers their duties to townships. Mosquito abatement districts manage mosquito populations and the economic and environmental impact they have on communities.

As a member of Transform Illinois, Cullerton has been working with all levels of government to find ways to streamline and improve the delivery of government services in communities across Illinois.

"It's important that we continue to find ways to make sure government is working for the citizens of Illinois," he said. "Government needs to evolve with the needs of the people."

Transform Illinois is a collaboration between local elected officials, civic organizations and research institutions dedicated to promoting and supporting local government efficiency efforts.



courtesy photo  
Pictured here with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause is Kevin Miller (right), who was named as Willowbrook's February recipient of 88's Best recognition.

## Village recognized for financial reporting

VILLA PARK — According to a release issued by the Government Financial Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA), the Village of Villa Park has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a "significant accomplishment" by a government and its management, the release said.

The GFOA is a not-for-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.



# Music in our schools key part of educating the 'whole child'

By Mark Corey, president Illinois Music Education Association

March is "Music in our Schools" month, a celebration of the many ways that music education deeply impacts children. This year is special as current and future changes in education policy will have profound positive effects for music education. The Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) looks forward to the impact these policies will have on our students.

Music is an essential part of our lives. It is both a universal language and humanity's original form of communication. In a society that increasingly perceives education as job preparation, it is easy to overlook the importance of the study of music. Career readiness is essential to fulfilling physiological and safety needs in the Maslow hierarchy, while music and the arts seek to fulfill higher order needs in the areas of esteem and self-actualization.

The study of music uniquely engages all students to realize the creative process to communicate the composer's intent. In music, students are continuously critically adjusting their performance in collaboration with their peers. An education that includes music has the potential to not only prepare our students for the [21st century](#), but to be creative citizens with an understanding and appreciation for the human condition.

The ILMEA's core mission is to advocate for universal access to comprehensive music education,



Members of the All State ILMEA Chorus perform "Cindy".

to deliver exemplary professional development for educators, and to provide outstanding musical experiences for all Illinois learners as facilitated by licensed music educators. ILMEA is affiliated with the National Association for Music Education which promotes a similar mission on the national level. It is important that IASA members realize that the ILMEA is here to support their efforts to provide a well-rounded education in Illinois schools.

ILMEA's premiere student musical experience for Illinois students is the festival series, which begins with more than 25,000 student musicians auditioning for placement in our regional festivals and the All-State Festival held annually in January at the Peoria Civic Center. This festival coincides with our premiere professional development event, the Illinois Music

## More about the Illinois Music Education Association



Mark Corey is currently President of the Illinois Music Education Association and has taught for 25 years, the past 21 at Addison Trail High School in Addison. Also, he is an adjunct professor at Elmhurst College and an active performing musician.

The [Illinois Music Education Association \(ILMEA\)](#) has more than 5,300 members. The Illinois Music Education Conference (IMEC), which was held in January in Peoria, was attended by more than 10,500 educators, students and parents.

ILMEA is one of the few organizations outside of schools and regional offices of education that is certified by ISBE to provide music specific professional development in Illinois.







**Athens High School students perform the song "Public Enemy" from "Anything Goes".**

Education Conference. This year, music educators from across Illinois participated in 330 professional development sessions. This conference is one of the largest providers of music education professional development in the state. ILMEA also provides professional development year round for the Regional Offices of Education, school districts and ILMEA sponsored events.

As the leading advocate for music education in Illinois, ILMEA believes strongly that a well-rounded education includes music for every child. This belief is now a reality with the recent passage of the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#). In ESSA, the term "core subjects" is replaced with a list of subjects to be included in a "well-rounded education" that now specifically includes music. This represents the federal government's recognition of the importance of music education for all children.

In Illinois, ILMEA leadership and members were tasked with adapting the recently released National Core Arts Standards to create the [Illinois Learning Standards for Music](#). These standards were recently presented to the Illinois State Board of

Education. When these standards are ratified, ILMEA will be there to provide resources to teachers and administrators to assist with the implementation of these standards.

March is "Music in Our Schools" month and many music teachers across Illinois are celebrating this event through concerts and programs that promote awareness of music education. This year, music teachers will be elated as they look to an educational landscape that acknowledges the benefits and importance of music. Please join us in this celebration of music education for all children in Illinois.



**Members of the Homewood-Flossmoor Marching Band perform in a local parade.**