

Addison INDEPENDENT



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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

Bensenville Park District considers sale of White Pines property Area near O'Hare sought by redevelopers

By Dee Longfellow

FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

According to a story reported by the Daily Herald last week, developers may have their eyes on the White Pines Golf Club property located at 500 W. Jefferson St. in Bensenville. The club's 260 acres is bordered by Church Road on the west, York Road

on the east, Jefferson Street on its north side and south to Belmont Avenue and dates back to 1928.

As the only public course in the area, it has been a popular place to host weddings, golf outings and charity events for organizations throughout DuPage County.

Joseph Vallez, executive director

of the Bensenville Park District, said Village officials had been occasionally receiving inquiries from developers about the large tract of land for about the past five years, according to the Daily Herald. It was also reported that while no offers have been solicited, the Park District is considering the discussion of a sale.

In August, state lawmakers granted the park district the authority to sell up to 125 acres of the property. Vallez told the Daily Herald that hypothetically, the park district could sell that 125 acres and turn the remaining 135 acres into a "new state-of-the-art recreation facility, be it a soccer facility, baseball, a combina-

tion of both, potentially a new golf course."

"With that remaining land, there's definitely going to be a continued public use with a new recreation facility, if the park district decides to go down that path," Vallez said, insist-

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

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Jersey Mike's collects over \$1,700 for Addison Trail High School

From March 2 to 6, the new Jersey Mike's Subs sandwich shop at 1435 W. Lake St. hosted a fundraiser to support Addison Trail students. Fifteen percent of sales from those days was donated to ATHS. On Thursday, March 10, Jersey Mike's area franchisee owner Jim Shipman (pictured, far right) gave the school with a check for \$1,790. Also pictured here at the presentation are (from left): Addison Trail principal Jack Andrews, senior Lindsay Stevenson, senior Roohana Amin, senior Madelyn Ford, senior Enzo Ciaccia, sophomore Jack DiDomenic, sophomore Maria Zapata, senior Diana Villegas-Hernandez, freshman Anjali Acosta, freshman Juan Juarez and freshman Jackelyn Macedo Hernandez.

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SUBS

Addison Trail nominates 21 staffers for prestigious 'Golden Apple' award

Every school year, Addison Trail students have the opportunity to recognize a teacher or a staff member for going above and beyond and making a difference in their life through the school's Golden Apple program.

Addison Trail's Golden Apple award is given to teachers and staff members who have made a positive impact on students inside the classroom and beyond. On Monday, March 7, 21 staff members were honored with the Golden Apple. The award is one way students can give back to teachers and staff members for all they do. It also is a reminder to staff that their hard work and continuous effort make a difference in student's lives each and every day.

The staff members who were recognized, as well as the pupils who nominated them are as follows:

English teacher Steve Bruns, nominated by senior Sneha Dhandapani; English teacher RJ Butler, nominated by senior Mariangely Velez Capo;

English Learner (EL) teacher Itzel Carranza, nominated by junior Leonardo Diaz Gomez;

English teacher Jessica Clark, nominated by senior Atziri Valbuena; Special education teacher Frederick Crone, nominated by junior Julio Velez;

Physical education teacher Ryan Dini, nominated by senior Mateo Gomez;

Science teacher Carolyn Erwin, nominated by senior Madelyn Ford; Math teacher Michael Galfi, nom-

inated by sophomore Moriah Izabeth Almodovar;

Psychologist Sally Garduno, nominated by junior Lindsey Pham;

Math student teacher Jessica Hilario, nominated by freshman Citlali Cruz Desiderio;

Art teacher Timothy Hockensmith, nominated by junior Kerri Carr and senior Jeff Condado Merino;

Director of Guidance Steve Holland, nominated by junior Alondra Sandoval and senior Nancy Perez;

Science teacher Aaron Jackson, nominated by junior Oscar Meza-Perez;

Vision teacher Jacquelyn Jackson, nominated by sophomore Christopher Catrambone;

Physical education teacher Keith Marston, nominated by senior Rachel Petrbok;

Science teacher Theresa Marzullo, nominated by senior Sara Bojczuk;

English teacher Donald Miller, nominated by sophomore Soha Siddiqui;

Social studies teacher Mark Olson, nominated by junior Brianna Matthews, junior Arianna Carr and sophomore Zachary Morris;

Physical education teacher Jennifer Schulmeister, nominated by sophomore Aniyah Walker; Science teacher Dena Zarou, nominated by sophomore Edhem Planincic;

Reading teacher James Ziebk, nominated by freshman Alyssa Fassilas.

Congratulations to all award recipients.



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail students register to vote

On Wednesday, March 16, members of the League of Women Voters came to Addison Trail to provide students and staff members with the opportunity to register to vote in the upcoming June 28 general primary election. In total, 23 students registered. A law signed by former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn in 2013 allows 17-year-olds to cast a ballot in primary elections, as long as they will be 18 years old by the date of the general election. The next general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Community calendar

Friday, April 8 and April 15 Craft time for littles

From 10-10:45 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for crafts geared toward ages 2-5. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events

Saturday, April 9 • Easter Egg Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Sponsored by the Addison Park District, the breakfast will be held at 9 a.m. and the egg hunt at 10:30 a.m. Location: Community Recreation Center. Please register in advance. Fee: \$15 breakfast and \$6 egg hunt only. Info: addisonparks.org.

• Celebrate National Unicorn Day (for kids)

From 2-2:45 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, make unicorn crafts to celebrate this mythical creature that symbolizes happiness, fantasy, and wonder. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events

Monday, April 11- Friday, April 15

Hive gaming (for teens)

Video games, board games, puzzles, riddles and escape rooms. This week it's game on in the Hive and at the Addison Public Library's Large Meeting Room. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Monday, April 11 How to get organized

From 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom via the

Addison Public Library. Does your productivity suffer because you have too much on your plate? In this webinar, you'll learn how to overcome your organizational challenges by prioritizing your tasks, trying tools like Elon Musk's time-blocking method, and getting the most out of your schedule. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Tuesday, April 12 Job search in the 21st century

From 10-11 a.m. at the Teen Program Room or on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, join the People's Resource Center to learn how a focused job search plan increases the chances of making the job search process more effective. They will identify the 3 parts of a job search plan and teach you strategic job search activities. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Book discussion: 'Crossroads' by Jonathan Franzen

Slating at 7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, it's Dec. 23, 1971. Heavy weather is forecast for Chicago, and each member of the Hildebrandt family is about to face a pivotal moment of moral crisis, seeking a freedom that each of the others threatens to complicate. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Wednesday, April 13 Seed starting indoors

Starting at 11 a.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, College of

DuPage greenhouse supervisor Amy Hull and horticulture lab coordinator Martin Bartz will provide tips and techniques for starting spring vegetables and flower seeds to make sure your garden grows this summer. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Thursday, April 14 Chair yoga

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, certified yoga instructor Marti Lahood will guide you through one of the gentlest forms of yoga, emphasizing breath awareness and relaxation. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events

Friday, April 15 Crafting for the Community Circle

From 10-11 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, join us for a crafting circle with a focus on donating to local organizations. We will be working on no-sew fleece blankets. Registration is required due to limited supplies. Call 630-543-3617 or learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Ongoing events Addison Park District Swim Clinic

This is perfect for children who have passed out of the Dolphins Level in group lessons. Swim Clinic is

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Park District, Chicago Wolves partner for April 23 charity night

Night to benefit the Bensenville Community Foundation

Now hockey fans of all ages and those seeking affordable family entertainment can do something fun while doing some good for the community. The Bensenville Park District has joined forces with the Chicago Wolves to offer a \$26 ticket package that includes a green-level ticket, hot dog, soft drink and knit cap and provides \$4.50 per ticket to benefit the Bensenville Community Foundation.

Tickets purchased for the 7 p.m. game Saturday, April 23, between the Wolves and Milwaukee Admirals through a special website will receive the special pricing and benefits, valued at \$45. The event is open to all. To receive the special offer, purchase tickets at fevo.me/bensenville.

"We are excited to join with Chicago's hottest sports team for a special offer that not only provides a great value to our residents but gives back to the community," said Bensenville Park District Executive Director Joe Vallez. "We thank the Chicago Wolves and Bensenville Community Foundation for partner-

"We thank the Chicago Wolves and Bensenville Community Foundation for partnering with us, and we hope to be able to offer more of these types of events in the future."

—Joe Vallez

ing with us, and we hope to be able to offer more of these types of events in the future."

All Chicago Wolves home games are played at Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, conveniently located near the intersection of Interstates 90 and 294 and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Parking is available on-site. Visit ChicagoWolves.com/gameday for more information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Seniors awarded DuPree Scholarship

Addison Trail seniors (from left): Alicia Lloveras, Madelyn Ford and Emma Walls were recently awarded the Matthew E. DuPree Memorial Scholarship, a \$2,000 award presented in memory of former Addison Trail social studies teacher Matthew DuPree, who worked at District 88 for 32 years. DuPree's goal was to help and encourage students to pursue their life goals through the acquisition of knowledge and skills by furthering their education and attending college whenever possible.

•Calendar (Continued from page 5)

a great way to introduce children to swim team. To qualify to be in swim clinic, your child must be able to swim freestyle and backstroke properly for 50 yards without stopping. In Swim Clinic, they will learn proper starts and finishes, work on making their strokes legal for competition, and get familiar with common drills and games that occur in practice on a swim team. The class will have an emphasis on stroke technique and endurance. Dates: Session 1: April 4-28 or session 2: May 2-26. Times 7-8 p.m. Days: Tuesday and Thursday. Info: addisonparks.org.

Addison Road Warriors Running Club for ages 16 and over

Are you currently a runner or thinking about getting into running? Joining a running club has great advantages for all running abilities. Our club will incorporate various distances, paces, and surfaces to perform your best. It will provide guidance on goal setting, strengthening, flexibility and nutrition geared specifically for runners. Local races will also be targeted in this program. Location: Club Fitness. Info: addisonparks.org.

Open enrollment is ongoing for the Addison Park District Preschool

The Addison Park District preschool program curriculum reflects the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. Visit www.illinoisearlylearning.org for more de-

tails. The Park District helps children develop prekindergarten skills, including letter/name recognition, listening skills, healthy habits, cooperative play, fine motor, and socialization skills. The experiences are both educational and recreational, which aid in social, physical, intellectual, and emotional growth. Registration is taken in-person at the Centennial Rec Center. Call (630) 233-7275 option 3 for registration availability. Visit addisonparks.org for required paperwork due prior to first day of program.

Join the Addison All Star Summer Day Camp Program beginning June 13

Participants will go on supervised hikes, learn to play sports, adventure out to new outdoor places, plant a children's garden, create arts and crafts projects, have fun with dance parties, and will enjoy fitness and movie days. The program will operate in small ratios and groups which will enable participants to receive individual attention in a fun, safe environment. Enroll in a five day a week option or as little as two days a week. Times: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center. Info: addisonparks.org.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: news1@rvpublishing.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is urging the motoring public to focus on the road while driving and to avoid driving distracted. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"With the increased use of technological devices, distracted driving has become a serious problem on the roads throughout our state and the nation," said White. "No driver should be texting while driving."

In an effort to further discourage distracted driving, White has instructed the Secretary of State Police to conduct targeted patrols statewide to crack down on distracted drivers.

"The goal is not to write tickets, but to save lives," said White. "We are reminding the public of the dangers of distracted driving, and police will be issuing tickets to motorists who are driving distracted."

Illinois law prohibits the handheld use of cell phones and electronic devices in vehicles, unless reporting an emergency or while the vehicle is parked.

Texting while driving is considered one of the most deadly forms of distracted driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving accounted for 15% of crashes and claimed the lives of 3,142 motorists in the U.S. in 2019.

Sustainable DuPage 'Zoom & Learn' program series offered in honor of Earth Month

In honor of Earth Month, which is April, Choose DuPage and the DuPage County Environmental Division have partnered to host a virtual series of sustainability-focused "Zoom & Learn" programs.

Featuring fresh topics and guest speakers throughout the month, this series covers topics at the intersection of business, economic development, life, and sustainability, while focusing on the DuPage region.

By bringing together local thought-leaders and influential members of the community, Choose DuPage hopes to spark new connections and fresh thinking as we all work toward a brighter future—for the planet and for DuPage.

To register for any or all of the following programs, please visit choosedupage.com and search Sustainable DuPage Zoom & Learns.

Sustainability in Commercial Construction

Thursday, April 14 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Learn best practices for reducing your environmental footprint in commercial construction and renovation projects.

Speakers include:
John Mlade, LFA, WELL Faculty, LEED Fellow
Director, Sustainable & Healthy Environments
Wight & Company
John Slivicki, Senior Vice President, Materials Recovery Facilities LRS
Katie Kaluzny, Associate Director
Illinois Green Alliance

Recognition in Sustainability

Thursday, April 21 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Learn how your business can achieve recognition and accolades for sustainable practices. We discuss the opportunities that exist and the impact it can have on your business.

Speakers include:
Audrie Hicks Washington, Environmental Protection Specialist
Energy Star Program Lead
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5
Paul Feith, President
Paul Gregory Media, a Certified B Corporation

Incentives and Resources for Sustainable Development

Thursday, April 28 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Learn about the incentives and resources available for energy efficiency, HVAC improvements, renewable energy, and other sustainable development projects, including how to fund your vision.

Speakers include:
AnnaMaria Kowalik, Senior Vice President, Director of Business Development
The Illinois Energy Conservation Authority NFP
Lynette Ng, Outreach Manager
C&I Programs
Resource Innovations
Dave Surina, Community Affairs Manager
Nitor Gas
Mike King, Director Energy Efficiency Program Operations

News from the Arts about town

ACA presents Arts Guild's show

The Addison Center for the Arts (ACA) is presenting the 46th annual Addison Arts Guild's Spring Members Show for spring of 2022 in the ACA Gallery from April 6-29.

There will be an artist's reception held on Saturday, April 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy the AAG's latest show pieces. The entire show is made up of original works of art including paintings in acrylic, oil, watercolor, pastel, alcohol ink, mixed media and sculpture. Items are all available for purchase.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment For the Arts.

The Addison Center for the Arts Gallery is located adjacent to Addison Trail High School at 213 N. Lombard Road. Please enter door No. 4.

For more information, visit soncenterforthearts.org.

Art Guild welcomes Calvert to next meeting

At its next meeting on Thursday, April 14, the Addison Art Guild will feature artist Benjamin Calvert III, who will be giving a lecture and demonstration about his work in blocks and prints beginning at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friends Plaza.

Calvert is a third-generation printmaker, whose works are influenced by nature and life experiences. The process of woodblock relief printmaking is meditation, Calvert says, and the resulting image is reflective of the source.

The medium requires patience, especially since Calvert prints hand-carved and hand-printed oil-based inks. Calvert received his BA from Knox College and MBA from Drake University.

Guests are invited to attend.

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Administration:

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Advertising:

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Shifts in food purchase patterns could be permanent

By Daniel Grant
FARMWEEK

The pandemic greatly accelerated online food purchases and created a new revenue stream for many restaurants in the form of curbside sales.

And now, even as masks come off with the lifting of mandates at many locations around the U.S., those trends in the food industry are expected to continue or even grow.

Andrew Harig, vice president of tax, trade, sustainability and policy for the Food Industry Association, and Hudson Riehle, of the National Restaurant Association, discussed food industry trends during USDA's 98th annual Ag Outlook Forum.

"2021 was one of the most difficult years we've faced, even more so than 2020, with COVID, supply chain disruptions and inflation that carried into 2022," Harig said.

"Consumers are being remarkably resilient. We've seen a big rise in online shopping, but a real anxiousness to get back to stores to select items for themselves."

A recent survey shows consumers' preferred method of shopping is a combination of in-store and online at 35%, followed by 34% in-store only and 28% online. The remaining 3% reported no preference.

These shopping trends are expected to continue with nearly two-thirds of consumers now purchasing at least a portion of their food online. The top influencers of food purchases are good value, product quality and overall price, Harig reported.

Meanwhile, the restaurant industry bounced back last year from tremendous losses in 2020, but nowhere near pre-pandemic levels. Restaurant sales totaled just \$659 billion in 2020 (down from a forecast entering the year of \$899 billion) before recovering to around \$800 billion last year.

"There has been some recovery from the depths of the pandemic," Riehle said. "And (sales) continue to improve, but it looks to be another year of transition."

The food service industry continues to deal with a shift in sales from

in-house to takeout, high food and transportation costs, and a lack of available workers. Wholesale food price inflation jumped 7.8% last year.

Only six states had as many or more food service workers at the end of February compared to pre-pandemic levels, according to Riehle. In Illinois, the number of food service workers is still down about 12% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

"On-premises restaurant dining is still down significantly," Riehle said. "Drive-through, curbside and delivery has been a lifeline to the industry."

Looking ahead, Riehle foresees more streamlining of menus in restaurants to adjust for supply issues along with the use of more technology and more online orders.

"It's going to be a while before we can make adjustments to get the supply side caught up," Harig said. "Really, for the first time, I think a lot of consumers are beginning to realize just how complex the supply chain can be."

And the situation is even more complex now due to drought in South America and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Those two countries account for about 29% of global wheat exports.

"The inflation story is really an energy and food price spike story," Jacob Shapiro, chief strategist for Perch Perspectives, told FarmWeek.

In Europe, for instance, energy prices were up more than 28% year over year and food prices increased more than 5% while other items increased just 2.3%, Shapiro noted.

"The Russia-Ukraine war will only exacerbate that," he said. "Unless (the two sides) reach a settlement soon, expect higher inflation, especially driven by energy and food prices."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Library hosting actor-author Nick Offerman and musician-author Jeff Tweedy

The Villa Park Public Library is joining libraries across the state of Illinois to host actor, author and woodworker Nick Offerman in conversation with musician, author and hiking buddy Jeff Tweedy—coming to us live from the wilderness.

Offerman and Tweedy will discuss Offerman's most recent book, *Where the Deer and the Antelope Play: The Pastoral Observations of One Ignorant American Who Loves to Walk Outside*. The event will be held virtually at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 27.

Offerman is best known for his breakout role as Ron Swanson in the hit TV series *Parks and Recreation*. Offerman has established himself as a well-known and witty actor. He is also a New York Times bestseller. Offerman has authored three other books including "Gumption"; is the co-author of "The Greatest Love Story Ever Told," and publishes "The Donkey Thoughts Substack" news-

letter. In his spare time, he can be found at his L.A. woodshop building hand-crafted items from wood.

Joining him in conversation will be Tweedy, who inspired Offerman to use their walks and conversations in nature to write "Where the Deer and the Antelope Play."

Best known as the founding member and leader of the American rock band Wilco, Tweedy is one of contemporary music's most accomplished songwriters, musicians and performers. He is also the author of two New York Times bestsellers: "Let's Go (So We Can Get Back)" and "How to Write One Song."

Most recently, Tweedy writes and publishes music weekly in his Substack newsletter, "Starship Casual."

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Visit www.vvpl.info to register. For more information, visit www.vvpl.info or call 630-834-1164.



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

Video 'maddness' in Villa Park

If you happened to drive down Highland Avenue on Tuesday, March 15, and saw several scary-looking characters lurking around the Villa Park neighborhood don't worry: It was for a new music video being produced by Grover Pants Productions, featuring local funnyman Matt Kissane (left). "I play a guy dealing with some major sleep deprivation," said Kissane. "I worked on another video last year with Randy [Raatz] and had so much fun we decided to do another one!" Raatz (right), who was a member of such well-known groups as Sex Kitten and The Cliff Johnson Band, has performed with Bob Marley's band The Whalers and was signed to a record deal with music industry giant EMI in the 90s. "Shooting a video with Matt Kissane is like surfing a tsunami since it's almost impossible to keep the camera steady, because you are laughing so hard as he improvises his madness," Raatz said about Kissane. Look for the video soon on Raatz's YouTube channel.

Willowbrook senior named a Coca-Cola Scholar

Willowbrook High School senior Eric Veal Jr. has been named a 2022 Coca-Cola Scholar. There were more than 68,000 applicants for the Coca-Cola Scholarship, with 1,617 chosen as semifinalists and 251 selected as regional finalists; 150 students were named Coca-Cola Scholars. The scholarship winners were chosen for exemplifying superior leadership, service and academics. As a Coca-Cola Scholar, Veal will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship. Veal, who is an inductee of the National Honor Society (NHS), is serving as the president of Willowbrook's NHS chapter during



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

the current school year. He has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll in each semester of his high school career. Veal, who has applied to multiple universities, plans to double major in political science and secondary education, with an emphasis in social studies.

Warriors finish March with a 15-0 victory over Oak Lawn

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's badminton team completed a busy opening stretch of its 2022 season with a 15-0 dual-meet victory over Oak Lawn in Villa Park on March 24.

The Warriors began their season with a 13-2 dual-meet win at Wheaton-Warrenville South on March 14.

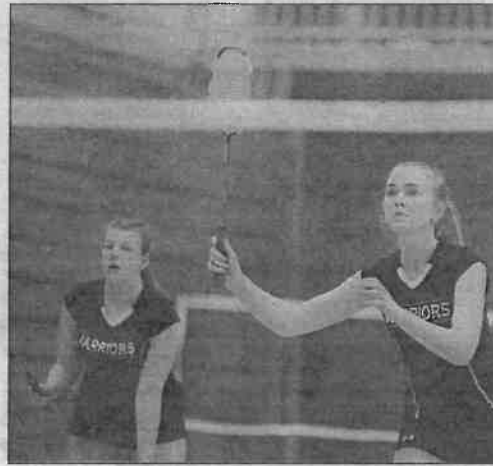
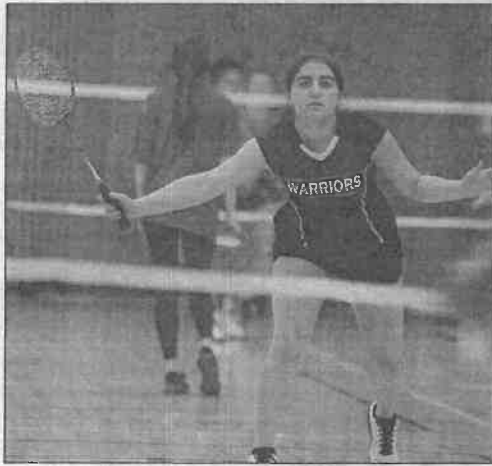
Willowbrook traveled to Downers Grove North for a quad on March 16. The Warriors beat Andrew 8-0, but suffered a 5-3 loss to Downers Grove North and an 8-0 loss to Hinsdale Central.

Willowbrook earned a second-place finish in the team results of the seven-team Shepard Invite on March 19. The Warriors then battled two teams in a March 21 triangular event in Villa Park. Willowbrook beat Oak Forest 8-0 and dropped a 6-2 decision to Glenbard East.

Willowbrook opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with an 11-4 loss in a dual meet at Hinsdale South on March 23.

The Warriors' No. 1 doubles team of seniors Becca Lopez, Egan and Emma Rattana delivered a 21-11, 21-10 win in the March 24 dual meet against Oak Lawn.

Willowbrook's No. 2 doubles team of seniors Allison Harr and Annabelle Romero posted a 21-9, 21-8 victory in the same meet. The Warriors' No. 3 doubles duo of senior Amelia Gesicki and junior Emma



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook badminton team wrapped up the initial segment of its 2022 season with a 15-0 victory over Oak Lawn in a recent dual meet in Villa Park. The Warriors won all 10 singles contests and all five doubles matches in the March 24 competition. One photo (above left) from the dual meet shows senior Annabelle Romero, who teamed with senior Allison Harr at No. 2 doubles. Another photo (above right) shows senior Molly Williams, who joined senior Claire Harr at No. 4 doubles.

Foley prevailed 21-15, 21-16, while the No. 4 doubles tandem of seniors Claire Harr and Molly Williams secured a 21-19, 21-11 win.

Lopez Egan defeated her Oak

Lawn opponent 21-16, 21-8 in the No. 1 singles match. Sophomore Lillian Caron provided a 21-9, 21-8 win in the No. 2 singles contest. Gesicki (No. 3), Allison Harr (No. 4), fresh-

man Abby Schnittker (No. 5), Foley (No. 6), senior Kali Becker (No. 7), junior Nicole Wieringa and junior Adreana Vega (No. 9) also posted victories for the Warriors.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes conference dual meets against Leyden and Morton. The Warriors will also host a four-team meet this Friday and Saturday.

Warriors move to 3-1 with a victory over Maine South

Conference season begins with this week's series against Downers Grove South

The Willowbrook baseball team improved its overall season record to 3-1 with last week's 7-3 win at Maine South. The Warriors scored six runs in the top of the third inning to take a 6-1 lead in the March 29 contest in Park Ridge.

Senior Jake Kutella went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs for Willowbrook in its victory over Maine South. Junior Isaac Sobieszczyk, junior Joey Tumilty and senior Brendan DeMay each drove in one run.

Senior Max Vaisvila, who pitched the first five and one-third innings for the Warriors, earned the victory. Vaisvila allowed four hits and two earned runs. He recorded seven strikeouts and gave up two walks.

Senior Jacob Skinner pitched the

final one and two-third innings for Willowbrook. Skinner didn't give up any hits. He struck out two batters and issued one walk. Skinner helped the Warriors out of a jam in the bottom of the sixth inning by inducing a bases-loaded double play to end the inning.

Willowbrook's games against Batavia, Oak Park/River Forest and Andrew were canceled last week because of poor weather. The Warriors' schedule this week includes the opening three-game series of the West Suburban Gold Conference season.

Willowbrook will battle Downers Grove South in this week's series. Two of the three games will be played in Villa Park.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook coach honored

Prep Insight Magazine and the EAR Sportsmen's Club 4-H recently honored Willowbrook football coach Nick Hildreth as one of the Great Coaches of the Year during the ALL-Access Coaches Award Reception. "You have changed the lives of so many young men by giving them the opportunity to play football and preparing them to go on and play for many colleges and universities," Garret Gosha, Prep Insight Magazine Publisher, said in a press release. "You have changed lives by teaching character and team discipline that will strengthen them forever." Hildreth, a 2000 Willowbrook graduate who was a wide receiver for the Warriors, has been Willowbrook's head football coach for 11 years. Under his leadership, the team has qualified for the IHSA playoffs each season since 2016 (excluding 2020, when there wasn't an IHSA post-season because of the COVID-19 pandemic). Willowbrook has advanced to at least the quarterfinal round of the playoffs in each of the last five full football seasons. Willowbrook won three playoff games in 2019 to advance to the semifinal round of that year's IHSA Class 7A playoffs. The program has won the West Suburban Gold Conference title every year since 2017. "This recognition is a reflection of Coach Hildreth's dedication, his staff and his current and former athletes," said Brandon Murphy, Willowbrook's athletic director. "Coach Hildreth prides himself on his team's culture. He and his staff have created a family-like atmosphere that focuses on relationships with one another, the athletes and the community. Coach Hildreth works relentlessly with a laser-like focus toward success for his athletes on and off the field. This leadership has led to a program that has maintained success for many years and continues to develop leaders after high school. Congratulations, Coach Hildreth. The entire Willowbrook community is proud of what you have accomplished and your future achievements."

Library events

Editor's note: Unless otherwise indicated, information on each of the following events and programs can be found by visiting the library's website at vppl.info or by calling 630-834-1164.

Saturday, April 9 Virtual SAT practice test at the Library

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a virtual SAT Practice Test on Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., proctored by Huntington Learning Center. Students will need

to have a calculator, two pencils, a quiet area, and the ability to download an answer sheet. All registrants must live in or attend a high school in Villa Park or Oakbrook Terrace. The test will begin promptly at 10 a.m. All test-takers will be automatically registered for the virtual SAT Results Follow-Up Session on Thursday, April 10 from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Students will return with results from Saturday's SAT Practice Test to hear a clear explanation of the numbers

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So many items to comment on this week! Villa Park can only use the state money for certain expenses; your roof is not one of them. Joe Biden voted against Clarence Thomas, as did many senators, because he was accused of sexual harassment charges. The U.N. cannot do more than it is doing for Ukraine because they never joined NATO; that would be declaring war on Russia, which doesn't end well for anyone! Students and COVID-19: who wrote that Speak Out? The reason we didn't have sick or hospitalized kids is because we took all those very effective measures to protect our kids. The election is over! The courts have proven that Biden won legally. We had not had so much racial violence in years before the former, disgraced, impeached president talked about "good people on both sides."

All of this hate and vitriol toward President Joe Biden is disturbing. If you want to feed yourself false narratives, you'll be filled with ignorance. Instead, listen to historian Heather Cox interview President Biden from Feb. 25 on YouTube. I did, and found insight into an intelligent and thoughtful leader. He is not impaired. He is engaged, aware and cares deeply for our country. His

knowledge of history is outstanding. He is the direct opposite of our previous president. Trump cares only for his self-interests and wants us divided. President Biden cares about our collective interest and the strength of our nation, and like Lincoln, wants us united.

I'm watching with great interest the developments with Hunter Biden and his laptop. If this was one of Donald Trump's sons, instead of Joe Biden's son, you can bet the left would lose their minds and we would hear about it nonstop from CNN, MSNBC, NPR, CBS, NBC, ABC, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

This week's truism: Government and politicians cannot get things done as efficiently as the private sector. Neither can socialism.

It amuses me to see week after week how all you Trump worshippers think everything would be hunky-dory in this country if your savior was still in the White House. Trump was a train wreck from the first day he took office. He was impeached twice for good reason. I think President Biden is doing a good job under some very trying circumstances at

home and around the world. I'm glad the reality-show clown is no longer president.

Several callers have responded about the election in 2020 not being stolen. True. In the most general terms of changing or stealing votes, that did not happen. What about Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Google, etc., limiting and stopping conversations that had anything negative to say about Democrats? By having social media "censoring" conversations, it did have a profound effect on information that voters had access to, which would influence their votes. There were three states, a total of 45,000 votes, that decided the election. With the *New York Times* and others now admitting that the Hunter Biden laptop story was true, that affected votes. More than 10 percent of Biden voters said they would have changed their votes had they had the information on Hunter's laptop. So a free and fair election is determined by access to all information on all candidates to the voters. The media needs to have unbiased reporters; they are not to determine what infor-

mation we can have access to. Let the voters of America determine who to vote for by having all relevant information.

If liberal Democrats and the Biden administration don't bring America down to its knees before November 2022, they might not get another chance for a long time if the Republican conservatives take control. After that, let's hope the majority of liberals might come to their senses and be more like patriotic Americans.

Hi, why don't they give daily COVID tests to the police like they do for school bus drivers? Just because you have all the shots, you can still get COVID just like the other people. Thank you. Bye.

People need to face reality. They say they want transparency, but they really seek fantasy. When it comes to politicians in our government, the last administration was so much more open by choice and by force. The Biden administration is more like a covert operation with a hidden agenda. Thank you.

I have noticed, on social media, especially, that the COVID-19 rologists and pandemic "specialists" who got their "degrees" from Cogle have now "re-trained" to become military strategists, as well as experts on the economy. But seriously, if real medical, military and economic experts can't agree on cause/effect problem/solution, etc., how do you know who to trust and believe more? Therein lies much of the lemma. And I'm not talking about getting information from Fox News CNN or MSNBC.

I'm beginning to think climate change is a religion and needs its own 24/7 channel alongside the other religious channels I see on TV. These climate change and green energy preachers have all the answers, don't they? All we need to do is up more wind mills, put solar panels on every building (never mind that China makes 80 percent of world's solar panels), have every house buy an electric car and have charging stations everywhere. Then we'll save the planet and have heaven on earth.

• Library (Continued from page 5)

and to ask questions. Diane Kilcommons, director of Huntington Learning Center Elmhurst, will explain categories of questions and the structure of the SAT, and even suggest a few strategies. Both sessions will be held online via Zoom. Registration with a valid email address is required.

Library offers digitization scan sessions

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a 15-minute one-on-one scan session from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants will learn how to digitize their photos or documents (maximum size: 11x17) using the library's Scan Station. There is a limit of 10 items per participant. Registration is required. Attendees must bring a digital storage device. Face masks are required to enter the library by all individuals over age 2 who can medically tolerate it, regardless of vaccination status.

Monday, April 11 Library offers STEAM kits

The Villa Park Public Library offers free STEAM kits aimed at tweens and teens in grades 5 through

12. Each take-home kit includes materials for a project that encourages creativity, exploration, and critical thinking through inquiry-based learning. The next kit will be available for pickup at the library starting on Wednesday, April 13. The deadline to register for a kit is Monday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 12- Wednesday April 13 Library celebrates Money Smart Week

The Villa Park Public Library will celebrate Money Smart Week with two informative programs presented by Lana Thompson of BMO Harris. First up is identity theft, which will be held on Tuesday, April 12 from 3-4 p.m. Attendees will learn about methods used by identity thieves to steal personal information and how to protect themselves. The second program is Credit Scores and Reports on Wednesday, April 13 from 6-7 p.m. At this program, attendees will learn about credit scores and how to read a credit report. Both programs will be held in person at the library. Registration is required for each one.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS: Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook students take part in art exhibition in Chicago

Five Willowbrook High School students displayed their artwork during the recent Illinois High School Art Exhibition (IHSAE) in Chicago. The participating Willowbrook students included senior Arianna Sanchez, (top left) who earned Honorable Mention recognition in the Design category and was offered \$324,000 in scholarships from numerous universities. Senior Tess Placek (above) received a Silver Award in Pottery. Willowbrook's other participants in the exhibition were senior Eric Duffey (Painting), senior Guadalupe Flores (Mixed Media) and senior Elaine Cervantes (left) (Sculpture). Cervantes also took part in the IHSAE/ArtConnected Art Throwdown—a fast-paced competition in which students were given a timed, hands-on challenge. Cervantes competed in the Mixed Media category; the challenge was figure drawing.

Max Vaisvila strikes out career-high 13, pitches Willowbrook past Downers South

By BOB NARANG
For Shaw Media

DOWNERS GROVE – Max Vaisvila shrugged off the unexpected bit of good fortune early in Tuesday's road game.

The Willowbrook senior pitcher experienced a rare feat against Downers Grove South.

In the top of the first inning, Vaisvila strolled to the plate with two runners on base and two outs.

The Loras College recruit hit a high pop up to shortstop, which looked to put an end to the scoring threat. But Vaisvila and the Warriors were gifted two runs when the ball was dropped for an error.

From that point, Vaisvila handled the rest of the work from the mound, striking out a career-high 13 batters in six innings in a 5-1 victory in West Suburban Gold play.

"That rarely happens," Vaisvila said. "But I knew I was ready to go when I stepped on the mound, but after that [error] happened, I knew I was going to attack the hitters because I had a lead and I didn't have to worry about anything. I was ready to go."

The left-hander worked his magic against the young Mustangs (0-3, 0-1), scattering three hits, walking two and hitting a batter in a masterful performance. Vaisvila gave up his lone run in the fifth, when the Mustangs benefited from a one-out walk, a perfectly placed bunt single and a slow roller single to third that died on the infield grass to set up a bases-loaded situation. Vaisvila (3-0) lost his shutout when he hit Downers Grove South's Jalen House in the back.

"I had everything working for me," Vaisvila said. "My slider was working, the curve was working and the fastball was there. It felt great."

Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner said Vaisvila is pitching at a high level early in the season.

"He's throwing the ball really, really well," Wisner said. "He works incredibly harder, especially in the offseason. He puts in a lot of time in the weight room and throws freely. He looks so much different this year and it's all because of all the hard work he put in. He's a weight room guy, so he puts in the work and it's awesome to see him get rewarded."

Besides the fifth inning, the Mustangs weren't able to generate much offense against Vaisvila, but the final score wasn't a true indicator of the closeness of the game, Downers Grove South coach Darren Orel said. The



Photos by Mike Mantovca for Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Isaac Sobieszczyk (left) and Jacob Kutella celebrate after scoring runs against Downers Grove South on April 5.



Willowbrook's Max Vaisvila delivers a pitch against Downers Grove South.

Mustangs had four pitchers combine for 12 strikeouts.

"[Max] had a great day, and he had a great day against us last year, too," Orel said. "We knew we were going to have our hands full with him. He was tough on the mound. They shouldn't

have scored the first two runs, but they won the game on the mound today."

"That kid is tough. They got a couple of two-out hits. We're still learning. We have some seniors in the lineup, but we're young. This is a group that will get better over the course of the year."

Vaisvila could be one of the keys in the Warriors' quest to top last season's 13-10 record. After a forearm injury caused him to miss the second half of last season, Vaisvila is healthy and stronger this spring. He gained nearly 15 pounds and added a new pitch.

"I had a forearm strain last year and didn't get healthy until the end of the summer," Vaisvila said. "I took advantage of that to get stronger and now feel great. I started working on a slider and even got more pitches. Today was probably the best I've felt in all of high school, so I'm excited."

Willowbrook senior second baseman Bennett Fleming had two hits in the win, driving in two runs with a deep single that stopped in the outfield mud in the third inning to pad the lead to 4-0. Brendan DeMay and Jacob Kutella also had two hits each for the Warriors (4-1).

"I was just trying to do my job and had a good day," Fleming said. "I was trying to be on time since they have some guys that throw hard, so I tried to make sure I got the foot down. I'm trying to get more comfortable every day. Max had a great game, and I think we can go pretty far this year."