

Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022



Warriors move to 3-0

Playing its first game in 19 days, the Willowbrook softball team defeated Glenbard West 10-8 on Saturday in Glen Ellyn. Sophomore pitcher Karman Rowe (No. 42) fired a complete game to help the Warriors to the victory. Rowe allowed 11 hits and two earned runs. She struck out three batters and gave up two walks. Offensively, Rowe went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs. Willowbrook improved its

overall season record to 3-0 with Saturday's win. Several of the Warriors' scheduled games in late March and early April were postponed because of poor weather. The Warriors' upcoming schedule includes this Saturday's home doubleheader against Argo. For more about the Warriors, see Page 5.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO/Villa Park Review

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District 88 recognizes National Assistant Principals Week

Every April, National Assistant Principals Week takes place, as declared by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the American Federation of School Administrators.

This year's event took place from April 4 to 8 and provided an opportunity to recognize the significant role assistant principals play in the overall academic achievement of students nationwide — especially with the challenges of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

District 88 thanked Assistant Principals Iridia Niewinski and Mike Warren at Addison Trail and Bob Daly and Jamie Gourley at Willowbrook; Athletic Directors Matt Thompson at Addison Trail and Brandon Murphy at Willowbrook; and Deans Steve Holland (Director), Alejandro Guzman and Raquel Rodriguez at Addison Trail and Julio Del Real (Director), Alena Edwards and Curtis Tate at Willowbrook.

"Their leadership helps ensure the school buildings operate smoothly on a daily basis for students to receive a comprehensive educational experience," according to officials.

District 88 also celebrated Paraprofessional Appreciation Day on April 3 and National Library Workers Day on April 5.

"It is because of the commitment and efforts of our staff members and other partners that we're able to accomplish our mission of working for the continuous improvement of student achievement," an official said.



Bob Daly
Assistant Principal
Willowbrook

Jamie Gourley
Assistant Principal
Willowbrook

Brandon Murphy
Athletic Director
Willowbrook

Julio Del Real
Director of Deans
Willowbrook

Alena Edwards
Dean
Willowbrook

Curtis Tate
Dean
Willowbrook

Iridia Niewinski
Assistant Principal
Addison Trail

Mike Warren
Assistant Principal
Addison Trail

Matt Thompson
Athletic Director
Addison Trail

Steve Holland
Director of Deans
Addison Trail

Alejandro Guzman
Dean
Addison Trail

Raquel Rodriguez
Dean
Addison Trail

DuPage County, SCARCE hold 16th annual Sustainable Design Challenge

Students from several DuPage County high schools displayed their green building projects to the public at the 16th annual Sustainable Design Challenge, held at DuPage County's Administration Building in Wheaton.

Sponsored by DuPage County Stormwater Management, SCARCE coordinates the annual event, which encourages students to construct building and landscape models using environmental and water-friendly design practices. Participating high schools included York Community (Elmhurst), Glenbard East (Lombard), Wheaton Academy (West Chicago), Monti-

ni Catholic (Lombard), Hinsdale South (Darien) and Hinsdale Central. In addition, two student teams from Willowbrook High School (Villa Park) participated virtually.

"For the past two years, we have held the Challenge virtually, so I'm extremely excited to welcome students back in person for the first time since 2019," said DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee Chairman Jim Zay. "I think I speak on behalf of the entire DuPage County Board when I say this is one of our favorite events each year at the County."

Twenty-three student teams presented models of their designs

in-person to a panel of judges, as well as County Board members and County and municipal staff.

Students discussed the design elements that made their buildings sustainable, including renewable energy sources such as solar panels and wind turbines and water conservation elements such as native plant landscaping, rain barrels and other green infrastructure for stormwater management. The DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee will recognize the top designs at their next meeting on May 3.

Kay McKeen, founder and executive director of SCARCE, credits much of the popularity of this event

to schools advancing science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) education.

"We have great teachers in DuPage County who encourage students to explore STEM fields both in and out of the classroom," said McKeen. "The teachers never stop learning about new technology and sustainable practices, which are then passed down to the students. You can see the enthusiasm on all levels."

During the event, students also learned about sustainable practices throughout DuPage County's campus, including a green roof, rain garden, restored wetland and a new pollinator garden.

"We offered in-person and virtual participation options this year, and 23 of the 25 teams opted to present their projects in person, which allowed them to tour real-life applications of some of their project components," added Zay.

District 88 to host Relay for Life of District 88 Youth on May 14

At District 88, giving back and helping others is a cornerstone of pride. And one of the district's main fundraising events is the Relay For Life of District 88 Youth, which is the culmination of Willowbrook's Brook Olympics (a weeklong series of events and challenges created to enhance tradition and class spirit and pride at the school). Those events — along with "Go Pink" efforts in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month — raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

This year's Relay For Life event will take place on May 14 at Willowbrook. It will feature a variety of activities and games, and there also will be a luncheon to remember those who have lost their battle with cancer.

Community members who raise at least \$15 are invited to participate from 3 to 7 p.m., and District 88 students who raise at least \$75 can attend from 7 to 11 p.m. Students who raise \$100 or more will receive a T-shirt and vouchers and will be

entered into a raffle to win prizes. Register online at relayforlife.org/d88il or in person during lunch periods from April 18 to 22. Donations can be made at that link as well, and proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

For more information, a video is available for view at dupage88.net/district88youth2022. For more information, contact Relay For Life co-sponsor MacKensye Guza at mguza@dupage88.net or call 630-782-3053.



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Paid COVID-19 leave for vaccinated educators signed into law

Pritzker vetoed earlier bill that would have applied regardless of vaccination status

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Public school, community college and public university employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are now entitled to paid administrative leave for any days they miss this school year due to coronavirus-related issues.

Gov. JB Pritzker on April 5 signed House Bill 1167 into law, which provides those employees as many days off as needed to abide by public health guidelines and mandates related to isolation and exclusion. The law applies to any employee of public educational institutions, including support staff and contractors.

It also applies retroactively to days missed this school year.

"It ensures that if a teacher has done their part to keep their class-

room safe for their most vulnerable students, they won't have to worry for a second about their pay or their paid time off if they get COVID, or if they're required to isolate, or if the school has moved to e-learning and their work can't be done at home," Pritzker said during a bill signing ceremony in his Statehouse office.

Lawmakers initially passed a bill during last year's fall veto session that provided paid leave for any education employee who had to miss work due to COVID-19, but

Pritzker vetoed that measure in January because it also would have applied to unvaccinated employees.

At the same time he issued that veto, however, Pritzker announced he had reached a negotiated agreement with teachers' unions, school districts, colleges and universities on

a bill that would include a vaccine requirement for the benefit.

"Work in legislation is difficult. People don't always agree. There are struggles and differences of opinion," said Dan Montgomery, president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers. "And we've seen around the country, and certainly around the state, that those tensions are inflamed during COVID. But this bill is a sign that when you have good public servants of goodwill, who devote themselves to trying to figure out what's the right thing to do, we can all work together and get it done and do it in a way that is better for learning, teaching, and the kids and their communities of the state."

Angela Bulger, a special education paraprofessional in O'Fallon, said she has already missed eight school days this year due to COVID-19—once when she contracted the virus and again when her 7-year-old daughter was exposed to the virus at school.

"As a new employee, I am allotted 11 sick days," she said. "Without this legislation, any additional days missed because of COVID would also mean a cut in pay because I have no more earned sick days."

The original bill passed the General Assembly in October with near-unanimous support, but the inclusion of a vaccination requirement to be able to receive the benefits sparked Republican opposition. They argued that unvaccinated employees who have to stay home to care for a sick family member would be deprived of a benefit that a vaccinated person in the same position would receive.

But Pritzker defended the vaccine requirement as a way to encourage more people to get vaccinated.

"What we're trying to do, of course, is to encourage people to do the right thing to keep their students safe, to keep the rest of the school safe, by being vaccinated. That's the whole purpose of that provision in the law," he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

VFW Post 2801 Auxiliary announces contest winners

The Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 Auxiliary recently recognized the winners of its 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition was open to high school students. The Patriot's Pen essay contest was for students in grades 6-8. The winner of the auxiliary's Patriot's Pen contest was Sophie Saldanha, a seventh-grader at Sandburg Middle School in Elmhurst. The photo shows (left to right) Saldanha, Caroline Coan (also a seventh-grader at Sandburg Middle School), Evan Frens (an eighth-grader at Timothy Christian School), Grant Schleiter (a junior at Fenwick High School) and Alden Hoogstra (a sophomore at Timothy Christian High School). Coan earned the third-place award in the Patriot's Pen contest. Schleiter won the first-place award in the auxiliary's Voice of Democracy essay contest. Hoogstra received the second-place award in the Voice of Democracy contest, while Nicholas Kamenica (not pictured), a junior at York High School, won the third-place award. Saldanha received \$150 from the Villa Park VFW and advanced to the district competition, where she won the third-place award and received \$175. Frens received \$125 for his second-place award in the auxiliary's Patriot's Pen contest, while Coan received \$100 for her third-place award. Schleiter received \$250 from the Villa Park VFW for his first-place showing in the Voice of Democracy contest. He advanced to the district level, where he placed second and received \$300. Hoogstra received \$200 for his second-place award in the auxiliary's Voice of Democracy contest, while Kamenica received \$150 for his third-place award.

Senior student-athletes at Willowbrook are encouraged to apply for Athletic Booster Club Scholarship

Applications must be submitted by April 29

Willowbrook High School's Athletic Booster Club invites the school's senior student-athletes to apply for the club's annual scholarship.

Candidates must be:

- A senior at Willowbrook;
- Qualified to enter the college, university or accredited school of their choice on a full-time basis after graduating from high school;
- Affiliated with a varsity sport, including dance and cheerleading, during their senior year.

Each recipient will receive a

scholarship award in an amount up to \$1,000. The award may only be used toward tuition, textbooks and related equipment or laboratory fees and other similar charges. The award will be in the form of a check made payable to the school the recipient chooses to attend.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 29. For full scholarship details, visit dupage88.net/WBAthleticScholarship2022.

For more information, send an email to warriorboosterscholarship@gmail.com.

Forest preserve volunteer work days

Help Mother Nature during Earth Week by lending a hand at a volunteer workday in a DuPage forest preserve.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County invites individuals and families as well as school and church groups, Scout groups and other organizations to work together for the benefit of visitors and wildlife alike. Participants should dress to work outdoors, wear layers, and bring hats and gloves.

Restoration

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at apm.activecommunities.com/fpdc/Activity_Search/16238at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

- April 25, 25 and 30, 8:30-11 a.m., Churchill Woods
- April 19, 9 a.m. to noon, Springbrook
- April 22, 1-4 p.m., Willowbrook

- April 14 and 28, 2:45-4:45 p.m., Big Woods
- April 22 and 30, 9 a.m. to noon, Churchill/Glacial

Litter removal

- April 18, 4-6 p.m., McDowell Grove
- April 19, 4-6 p.m., East Branch (Glen Elllyn Road)
- April 20, 4-6 p.m., Springbrook Prairie (off-leash dog area)
- April 22, 4-6 p.m., West Branch

Free, ages 8 and up, under 18 with an adult. Register at apm.activecommunities.com/fpdc/Activity_Search/16535 or call 630-206-9630.

Working for wildlife

Work with a wildlife interpreter to prepare the outdoor exhibit trail Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at Willowbrook. Ages 12 and up, under 18 with an adult.

Register at apm.activecommunities.com/fpdc/Activity_Search/16377 or call 630-942-6200.

Warriors jump to 3-0 after beating Glenbard West

Willowbrook scores two runs in the seventh inning to break an 8-8 tie; Warriors hold on for a 10-8 victory

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook softball team improved its overall season record to 3-0 with Saturday's 10-8 win over Glenbard West in Glen Ellyn.

The Warriors, who have had a handful of games postponed by poor weather during the early part of the season, opened the 2022 campaign with a 16-0 home victory over Wheeling on March 18. Willowbrook moved to 2-0 with a 13-0 victory at Eisenhower on March 21.

Playing their first game in 19 days, the Warriors tangled with Glenbard West in clear and chilly conditions. Willowbrook scored one run in both the first and second innings. The Hilltoppers scored two runs in the first inning and added one run in the bottom of the second inning to take a 3-2 lead.

The Warriors cruised for five runs in the top of the third inning to grab a 7-3 lead. Glenbard West delivered a five-run inning of its own in the bottom of the sixth inning to tie the score at 8-8. Willowbrook scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning and locked up its win by holding the Hilltoppers scoreless in the bottom of the inning.

Sophomore Karman Rowe pitched a complete game for the Warriors. She fired 121 pitches over seven innings, allowing 11 hits and just two earned runs. She recorded three strikeouts and issued a pair of walks.

Freshman Sonia Ruchala, who is Willowbrook's leadoff hitter, went 4-for-5 and scored three runs in Saturday's victory. Senior Grace Hayes



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's softball team improved its 2022 season record to 3-0 with Saturday's 10-8 win over Glenbard West in Glen Ellyn. The Warriors scored five runs in the top of the third inning to take a 7-3 lead. Willowbrook added one more run in the fourth inning to boost its lead to 8-3. Glenbard West scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to tie the score at 8-8. The Warriors scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning and held the Hilltoppers scoreless in the bottom of the inning to earn the victory. One photo shows freshman Sonia Ruchala (above left - No. 51), who went 4-for-5 and scored three runs. Another photo shows sophomore Lindsey Rugg (above right) playing first base. Offensively, Rugg went 1-for-1 with three walks and scored a pair of runs.

Junior Kayleigh Dennison went 1-for-3 with one run batted in; she also scored one run. Rowe went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs, while sophomore

Lindsey Rugg went 1-for-1 with three walks. Rugg scored a pair of runs. Junior Zaida Serrano doubled to lead off the top of the seventh inning. Serrano scored what turned out to be

the winning run on a Glenbard West error. Dennison's run-scoring double later in the inning pushed Willowbrook's lead to 10-8.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes this Saturday's home double-header against Argo. Willowbrook will open its West Suburban Gold Conference season with an April 18 game at Downers Grove South.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat Addison Trail

Willowbrook's girls soccer team kicked off its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a 5-1 victory at Addison Trail on April 5. Senior Brooke Vandergriff scored two goals for the Warriors, who improved their overall season record to 5-1 with the victory. Junior Kennedy Vannoy (No. 9) also scored two goals for Willowbrook, which held a 2-0 halftime lead. Senior Mackenzie Parente contributed one goal. Senior Erin Fitzgibbon (No. 18) provided three assists, while Vandergriff had

one assist. The Warriors opened play at a tournament at Plainfield North on Saturday with a match against Glenbard West. The Hilltoppers defeated Willowbrook 5-0 to send the Warriors' overall record to 5-2. The Warriors will play two more matches at Plainfield North's tournament this week. Willowbrook will continue its conference season with tonight's home match against Morton.



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I love Villa Park, but please, someone clean up the grounds around our post office! I know we had to close the drop-off box, and now we need to drive around and go into the building, but the grounds are filthy with trash all over the place. How embarrassing to all of us!

I voted for Joe Biden and will do it again, but he sure hasn't handled this idea of "sanctions" very well. Why are we still adding sanctions when we could have done all of these weeks ago? When a bucket starts leaking, you don't fill part of the hole and hope it gets better; you fix the problem as much as possible the first time!

My grandparents and many of my aunts and uncles have been deceased for 20 or 30 years. I don't think they would recognize this country if they were to see the state of it today and what has become mainstream.

I might put more stock into what the January 6 Select Committee is doing, except for a couple of things that jump out at me. First, the only two Republicans on this committee are Adam Kinzinger and Liz Cheney. It's well known both Kinzinger and Cheney have a vendetta against Donald Trump. Combine that with Adam Schiff, another anti-Trump zealot, being on this committee, and it's nothing more to me than a kangaroo court.

Thanks for the amusing comment in the April 7 edition of Speak Out. I'm referring to the comment that described Biden as "an intelligent and thoughtful leader" and claimed he is "not impaired" as well as "engaged" and "aware." I didn't know Speak Out allowed comedy submissions. Thanks for the laugh!

I can see why people will vote for JB Pritzker and other Democrats in the upcoming election, with all the

promises of freezing gas and grocery taxes, a property tax rebate, and bumping up the earned income credit to 20 percent. All sorts of freebies. Problem is, for me, because I fall between the cracks—barely over the limits for any kind of assistance—this so-called relief will not make much of a dent in my struggle to make ends meet and keep my home. Ask yourself, who will be paying for this? The Republicans, at least, see that we need long-term relief from high gas and property taxes.

So Biden wants to reverse the Title 42 order from the Trump administration. If he does that, it is estimated that we might have 18,000 people on our border each day. If you do that math that's almost 6.6 million in one year! Wake up folks. The Democrats are trying to destroy our constitutional republic and make America a lot more like China, ruled by a far-left authoritarian regime.

President Biden tells us that a typical driver will save about \$80 a month from not having to pay for gas at the pump if they buy an electric car. Great advice, Joe. Does he know there are 12 months in a year? He's telling people they could save about \$960 a year if they buy an electric car, which has an average price of about \$55,000. That's not to mention it's a lot faster to fill a gas tank than it is to recharge an electric car. Will someone wake this guy up?

Democrats have no problem accusing a Supreme Court nominee of being a rapist. But when Republicans note that a Supreme Court nominee has a

proven judicial record of giving light sentences to pedophiles, Democrats cry and moan that Republicans are unfair and mean.

If you still think having kids wear blue napkins on their faces in school prevented them from becoming seriously ill or needing hospitalization because of COVID-19, you are beyond help. Masking has not helped prevent COVID-19 anywhere in the world. Name one place where they've helped. You can't.

The Biden administration keeps the mask mandate on airlines and extended the moratorium on student loan debt payments until August because of the continuing health crisis. Yet the same administration is lifting Title 42 restrictions, allowing illegal immigrants to stay in the country because the health crisis is supposedly over. The Biden administration says this is the best economy in the history of the U.S., yet people can't pay their bills. Biden says the economy under Trump was the worst economy, but under Trump, people were able to pay their bills. This makes no sense. You can't have it both ways.

People who voted for Biden should apologize to the people who didn't. Speak Out would be a good forum for Biden voters to admit their mistake. Thank you.

Has anyone else had enough of the "climate change" zealots? We've heard their nonsense so often. How many years have they been telling us we only have a few years to save the

planet? Have you checked on all this crowd's past predictions? They always wrong.

A note to a previous Speak Outer: People panhandle on street corners because it is profitable. Years ago the TV program "20/20," Gerald Vera did a story where he panhandled on New York street corners for hours and made tax-free \$200.

The more power you give the government, the more you become a servant slave. Remember: socialism breeds communism. Communism breeds dictators. A good example that evolution is Venezuela.

We don't need nature to remind us to move windmills our government wants for the Green New Deal. There is enough hot air with the blah, blah from the present administration. They would accomplish for us if they attacked Putin like attack Trump. Freedom is not Watch how Ukraine is fighting for

I read about a church, the United Church of Oak Park, that I quote, "Fasting from white during Lent. This so-called dropped any musical or liturgical contributions written or composed white people during Lent. If you believe me, look it up online. The pastor of this church and the congregation need to go back to Sunday school. I thought as Christians we were to love one another and bring us the church by bringing all cultural communities together. How does create unity?"



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors battle Glenbard East

Willowbrook's boys tennis team traveled to Lombard for last week's dual meet against Glenbard East. The Rams defeated the visiting Warriors 7-0 in the April 5 meet, which featured three singles matches and four doubles matches. Willowbrook's No. 2 doubles team of Juniors Quinten Terselic and Connor Nolan (above) played a three-set battle against Glenbard East. Terselic and Nolan won the first set, but the Rams' No. 2 doubles team rallied for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win. Junior Patrick Kozbial (right) played the No. 1 singles match for the Warriors, while senior Tawfic Elghor competed at No. 2 singles. Senior Syed Rahman battled in the No. 3 singles match. Seniors Jose Alcantara and Devin Cullerton represented the Warriors in the No. 1 doubles match. The sophomore tandem of Nick Gillfano and David May competed at No. 3 doubles, while sophomore Ray Masood joined freshman Mohammed Hameed at No. 4 doubles. Willowbrook played its first home meet of the season against Argo on March 29. The visiting Argonauts edged the Warriors 4-3.



Villa Park 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 vplp.info or by calling 630-834-1164.

Friday, April 15-Saturday, April 16 Library holds spring Holiday Craft open house

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a Spring Holiday Craft House on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16; both sessions from p.m. Children of all ages can celebrate the springtime holidays with a Young children will need an adult. Registration is not required, but space is limited.

Monday, April 18 Great Decisions Discussions return to Library

Great Decisions is back at the Villa Park Public Library. This series lights nine critical foreign policy challenges facing Americans each Supported by the Foreign Policy Association for over 50 years. Great Decisions involves citizens in the foreign policy making process. This session will be held in person at the library from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is required. Books are supplied to all participants. 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 18 through Saturday, April 23 Spice Club at the Library

The Villa Park Public Library's Spice Club is well under way. Sign up every month to get a take-home spice kit that will include a recipe, a book recommendation. Each month will feature a different spice. This month's kit is featured in April. Pick up your kit at the library anytime Monday, April 18 through Saturday, April 23. Upcoming months will feature sumac, nutmeg, Szechuan pepper, and garam masala. Registration is required for each month's kit. For more information, visit the library's website at vplp.info or call 630-834-1164.

Saturday, April 23 Library offers online workouts

The Villa Park Public Library will hold Dynamic Movement 180° workout: Age-Reversing Gentle Stretch session. Presented by Lisa Sawczuk slow-paced, full body workouts are designed to restore movement in and flexibility in muscles, relieve pain, and stimulate cells. Sessions are available online via prerecorded YouTube video. Registration and email address are required.