

# Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Four Warriors receive Susan Jurkonis Memorial Scholarships

Willowbrook High School's Athletic Booster Club held its senior athletic banquet near the end of the 2021-22 school year. The banquet included the presentation of scholarships and awards to

several members of Willowbrook's Class of 2022. Four student-athletes received the Susan Jurkonis Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship honors 1994 Willowbrook graduate Susan Jurkonis, who played badminton and volleyball for the Warriors. A member of Willowbrook's Athletic Hall of Fame, Jurkonis received a scholarship to play volleyball at Purdue University. She passed away in 1998, at the age of 22, after battling a malignant brain tumor. Susan's parents—Karl and Ellen Jurkonis—presented the scholarships moments after Susan's sisters—Jill Jurkonis Lesch and Krista Jurkonis—read the names of this year's 19 applicants.

"When she was given a gift as she became ill, she asked that it be used for scholarships for Willowbrook student-athletes," said Karl Jurkonis while referring to the Susan Jurkonis Memorial Scholarship Foundation. The first of the scholarships was presented in 1999. The foundation has now presented 66 scholarships.

This year's four Susan Jurkonis Memorial Scholarship recipients are: Elizabeth Bruschuk, Devin Cullerton, Rachael Klamecki and Cristian Lager. Each of those four student-athletes received a \$2,500 scholarship. The award that came with each of those scholarships noted that they were presented for exemplary character. "What a great group of applicants; they give us hope," stated Ellen Jurkonis. Mr. and Mrs. Jurkonis and their daughters are all Willowbrook graduates. Pictured (left to right) are: Jill Jurkonis Lesch, Krista Jurkonis, Lager, Bruschuk, Cullerton, Klamecki, Ellen Jurkonis and Karl Jurkonis.

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# Domeracki named CFO by District 88

## Former director of business services to succeed retiring Hoster in 2023

During its June 20 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to appoint District 88 director of business services Ryan Domeracki as chief financial officer (CFO), effective July 1, 2023. Domeracki will succeed CFO Ed Hoster, who will retire at the end of the 2022-23 school year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing  
**Ryan Domeracki**

Hoster joined the District 88 family in 2013 with a wealth of experience as business manager at Argo Community High School District 217, assistant superintendent for business/treasurer at Hinsdale Township High School District 86 and coordinator of business services at Glenbard Township High School District 87. District 88 is grateful for Hoster's leadership and contributions to ensure stable and transparent fiscal management, and the district wishes him well in retirement.

It is the priority of the Board of Education and administration to maintain the stability of the business office and continue the district's tradition of student-centered, equitable support of educational programs, as well as a high level of customer service. To ensure the district has a seamless transition in the Business Office, the Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to name Domeracki as assistant chief financial officer for the 2022-23 school year. The district will work to fill the director of business services position this fall.

"My goal is to maintain the high-caliber financial status and adequacy

we've established and continue to be a good steward of the district's resources," Domeracki said. "I plan to ensure we sustain our strong financial ratings, including AA1 from Moody's and the highest level of recognition for the financial rating from the Illinois State Board of Education. I will be transparent with stakeholders and explain the complexities of our budget in a way that helps them understand our finances, as well as the 'how and why' behind our decisions."

Domeracki said he looks forward to working with the district and community to address future challenges such as balancing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and increasing costs of materials and services, filling vacancies within the district and maintaining programming that's currently being funded by

the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund. Another goal Domeracki is looking to accomplish is developing multi-year plans for various areas of the district, similar to the district's five-year facility plan, to be as fiscally prepared and responsible as possible.

Domeracki has served as director of business services for four years, where he has worked closely with accounts receivable and payable, student transportation, the National School Lunch Program, building operations and safety procedures/trainings. He earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Western Illinois University and his master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University. He also received his Chief School Business Official certification from Northern Illinois University. Prior to coming to District 88, Domeracki was the assistant director of finance & operations for North Chicago Community Unit School District 187 and an operations manager with Aon Hewitt.

"Domeracki's professionalism, attention to detail, work ethic and passion for the district make him an ideal candidate for this role," said District 88 superintendent Dr. Jean Barbanente. "We have every confidence Domeracki will continue to be a tremendous asset to the district, and we look forward to all he will bring to these new roles."

Domeracki said District 88 is a special school district, and he's excited for

his new position.

"Our student and staff demographics are multifaceted, and everyone is on his or her personal journey and comes from all walks of life," he said.

"It's a very welcoming environment, and everyone is valued and respected."

Domeracki lives in McHenry with his wife, Amanda, and their three children, William, Charlotte and Margaret.

## Registration now open to vaccinate kids 6 months and younger

The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) has announced that registration is now open for the COVID-19 vaccine for children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years.

This follows the authorization of COVID-19 vaccines for this age group, which were recently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The COVID-19 vaccination clinic is located at DCHD's Central Public Health Center in Wheaton. Appointments are now available. Residents seeking an appointment sooner may be able to locate one closest to their home using [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to identify a site administering the vaccine or contact their child's primary healthcare provider.

To register for a vaccine appointment, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](https://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine). Once registered, you will be contacted via email with additional information on scheduling an appointment. DCHD will continue to offer Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for individuals 6 months of age and older who are seeking their first vaccination or booster shots, as eligible.

To date, over 82 percent of DuPage County residents over 5 years old have been fully vaccinated. The CDC recommends COVID-19 primary series vaccines for everyone ages 6 months and older, and COVID-19 boosters for everyone ages 5 years and older, if eligible, to help prevent illness and spread of COVID-19 in households, schools, workplaces, and the community.

More information is available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html).

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# Mariners' undefeated season ends with a loss to Bloomingdale

## Villa Park falls to 3-1; Mariners' season continues with this week's meet at Bartlett

**STAFF REPORT**

The Villa Park Mariners suffered their first loss of the 2022 DuPage Swim and Dive Conference season when they dropped last week's meet against the Bloomingdale Barracudas. Swimming at their home pool, the Barracudas defeated the Mariners 390-254 in the team standings of the June 22 contest.

Villa Park's overall season record fell to 3-1 following its loss in Bloomingdale.

The Mariners' season continues with this week's meet at Bartlett.

Villa Park's individual champions in last week's meet at Bloomingdale included Naomi Aldana, who swam to three victories in the 13-14 girls division. She earned her wins in the 100-yard individual medley (which she finished in 1 minute 13.06 seconds), the 50-yard butterfly (which she completed in 30.36 seconds) and the 50-yard breaststroke (39.18).

The Mariners' other female individual champions in the June 22 meet against the Barracudas included: Ruth Aldana (8-and-under girls; 50-yard freestyle-46.36), Maddie Lynch (8-and-under girls; 25-yard breaststroke-31.58), Elin Stempel (9-10 girls; 50-yard backstroke-44.93), Lydia Aldana (9-10 girls; 50-yard breaststroke-50.62), Phoebe Aldana (11-12 girls; 50-yard breaststroke-44.02), Lily Chivilo (13-14 girls; 50-yard backstroke-42.25), Tia Kelly (15-18 girls; 50-yard freestyle-31.18) and Regina Brisbois (15-18 girls; 50-yard butterfly-36.09).

Villa Park's male individual winners in Bloomingdale included: Kyle King (8-and-under boys; 50-yard freestyle-1:09.18), Cillian Connolly (9-10 boys; 50-yard backstroke-59.78), Ryan Mueller (9-10 boys; 50-yard breaststroke-53.16), Bennett Vea (11-12 boys; 100-yard individual medley-1:25.39), Ryan King (11-12 boys; 50-yard backstroke-48.58), Ian Mueller (13-14 boys; 50-yard breaststroke-40.45) and James Burns (15-18 boys; 50-yard freestyle-25.99).

Villa Park's Maddie Lynch, Arjana Knudtson and Ruth Aldana swam on a pair of winning relay teams in the 8-and-under girls level. They joined Caitlin McQuillan to win the 100-yard medley relay in 1:51.47. They teamed with Kennedy Grobe to win the 100-yard freestyle relay in 1:40.72.

The Mariners also won two relay events in the 13-14 girls division. Lily Chivilo, Naomi Aldana and Alison Smaczny swam on both of the victorious relay teams. The three Mariners teamed with Claire Brennan to win the 200-yard medley relay in 2:37.41. They joined Hannah Daly to earn a first-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay (2:11.15).

Villa Park's quartet of Nick Van Dyke, Spencer Kaina, Jurgen Car-

rola and Ian Mueller won the 13-14 boys level's 200-yard freestyle relay (2:19.41).

The Mariners' 15-18 girls foursome of Annabelle Thompson, Tia Kelly, Regina Brisbois and Grace Roscoe won the 200-yard freestyle relay—in 1:54.22.

relay (2:11.70).

Villa Park's lineup of Sam D'Alessandro, Matt Fitzgerald, Scotty Fitzgerald and James Burns won the June 22 meet's final event—the 15-18 boys level's 200-yard freestyle relay—in 1:54.22.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Villa Park Mariners faced the Bloomingdale Barracudas in last week's meet in Bloomingdale. The Barracudas defeated the Mariners 390-254 in the meet's team standings. Villa Park's overall season record fell to 3-1. One photo (above) from last week's meet shows Tia Kelly of the Mariners at the beginning of the 15-18 girls level's 50-yard freestyle. Kelly won the race, finishing in a first-place time of 31.18 seconds. Naomi Aldana of the Mariners is pictured during one of her three individual victories in Bloomingdale. She is pictured (right) during her win in the 13-14 girls division's 100-yard individual medley.



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## Warriors receive All-State recognition

Two members of the 2022 Willowbrook softball team earned All-State honors from the Illinois Softball Coaches Association. Sonia Ruchala (left) and Caitlyn Kulczynski (right) are pictured at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on June 20. The board honored several district students, including Ruchala and Kulczynski, at the recent meeting. Willowbrook head coach Rachel Karos spoke at the board meeting to highlight the achievements of the two Warriors, who led the team to a 19-8 record during the 2022 season. Willowbrook's season ended with a narrow 3-2 loss to Lyons Township in an IHSA Class 4A regional final on May 28. Ruchala, who was a freshman in the recently concluded season, was Willowbrook's leadoff hitter. She led the team in hits and provided outstanding defense at second base. Ruchala was named to the Class 4A All-State Third Team. Kulczynski, who was named to the Class 4A All-State Second Team, supplied exceptional pitching during the 2022 season. In one of the highlights of her senior season, Kulczynski fired a perfect game in Willowbrook's 1-0 victory over York on May 7. Kulczynski recorded 21 straight outs without allowing a base runner against the Dukes. She recorded 17 strikeouts in the game. Kulczynski will continue her softball career at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida.



Villa Park's Regina Brisbois is pictured while swimming the butterfly during the 15-18 girls level's 200-yard medley relay. Brisbois helped a Villa Park relay team to a second-place finish in that event. Later in the meet, she earned a win in the 50-yard butterfly, which she completed in 36.09 seconds.

# Mariners lose close battle against Bartlett

## Barracudas outscore Villa Park 328-317; Mariners will finish regular season with next week's home meet against Lombard

**STAFF REPORT**

The Villa Park Mariners continued their 2022 DuPage Swim and Dive Conference season with last week's meet against the Bartlett Barracudas in Bartlett.

The Barracudas edged the Mariners 328-317 in the team standings of the June 29 meet. Villa Park's season record dropped to 3-2 following the loss to Bartlett.

The Mariners' season continues with this week's home meet against Woodridge at Jefferson Pool.

Villa Park's Lydia Aldana won three individual events in the 9-10 girls level during last week's meet in Bartlett. She earned her wins in the 100-yard individual medley (which she finished in 1 minute, 41.02 seconds), the 50-yard butterfly (which she completed in 50.75 seconds) and the 50-yard breaststroke (51.38).

Naomi Aldana also provided the Mariners with three individual victories in Bartlett. Competing in the 13-14 girls division, she delivered first-place finishes in the 50-yard freestyle (29.20), the 100-yard freestyle (1:04.51) and the 50-yard backstroke (35.12).

Ryan Mueller won two individual races for Villa Park in the June 29 battle against the Barracudas. He earned those wins in the 9-10 boys level's 100-yard individual medley (1:48.35) and 50-yard breaststroke (55.14).

Villa Park's Phoebe Aldana swam to a pair of victories in last week's meet in Bartlett. She won the 50-yard freestyle (32.27) and the 100-yard freestyle (1:14.01) in the 11-12 girls level.

The Mariners' other individual champions against Bartlett included four swimmers in the 8-and-under girls level. Ariana Knudtson won the 25-yard freestyle (23.26). Ruth Aldana won the 25-yard butterfly (29.02). Leighton Stempel earned first-place honors in the 25-yard backstroke (25.42). Maddie Lynch swam to a victory in the 25-yard breaststroke (28.64).

Villa Park's other female individual champions against Bartlett included: Colleen Pienkos (9-10 girls; 50-yard freestyle-44.09), Elin Stempel (9-10 girls; 50-yard backstroke-44.58), Lily Chivilo (13-14 girls; 50-yard breaststroke-43.30) and Annabelle Thompson (15-18 girls; 100-yard freestyle-1:08.32).

The Mariners' other male individual winners in last week's meet in Bartlett included: Kyle King (8-and-under boys; 50-yard freestyle-1:01.78), Caleb Vaughan (9-10 boys; 50-yard freestyle-43.09), Frankie Romano (9-10 boys; 100-yard freestyle-2:09.86), Liam Grobe (9-10 boys; 50-yard backstroke-1:11.51), Bennett Vea (11-12 boys; 100-yard individual medley-1:25.52), Jon Lynch (11-12 boys; 50-yard backstroke-48.17), Ian Mueller (13-14 boys; 50-yard backstroke-37.45) and James Burns (15-18 boys; 50-yard breaststroke-35.93).

Villa Park's 9-10 girls foursome of Elin Stempel, Lydia Aldana, Ary Carrola and Colleen Pienkos won a pair of relay events during last week's meet in Bartlett. The four Mariners won the 200-yard medley relay in 3:04.84. They won the 200-yard freestyle relay

in 2:47.48.

Maddie Lynch, Caitlin McQuillan and Ruth Aldana swam on a pair of winning relay teams in the 8-and-under girls level. They joined Leighton Stempel to win the 100-yard medley relay (2:06.95) and teamed with Ariana Knudtson to earn a victory in the 100-yard freestyle relay (1:38.46).

Jon Lynch, Nolan Raczkowski and Alex Carson contributed to the Mariners' pair of relay wins in the 11-12 boys level. They swam with Bennett Vea on the winning 200-yard medley relay team (3:33.05). They joined Cillian Connolly to win the 200-yard freestyle relay (3:10.54).

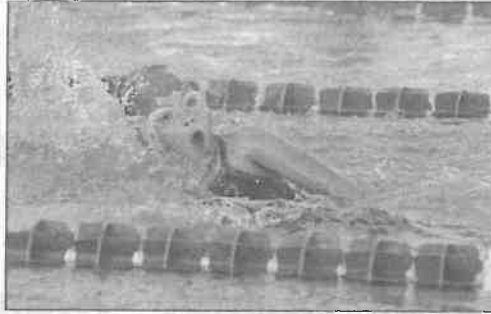
Villa Park's 13-14 girls relay team of Maisie Thompson, Lily Chivilo, Allison Smaczny and Naomi Aldana won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:08.40.

The Mariners' 13-14 boys foursome of Jurgen Carrola, Ian Mueller, Jack Brisbois and Nick Van Dyke won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:25.79.

The Mariners will finish their 2022 regular season with a home meet against Lombard on July 13. Some Villa Park swimmers will conclude the season by participating in the DuPage Swim and Dive Conference's Blue Division 'B' Meet in Hanover Park on July 16.

Other Mariners will wrap up the season by competing at the conference's Blue Division 'A' Meet in Glendale Heights on July 23.

Villa Park will compete against swimmers from three other teams (Glendale Heights, Hanover Park and Wood Dale/Addison) at the Blue Division 'B' and 'A' events.

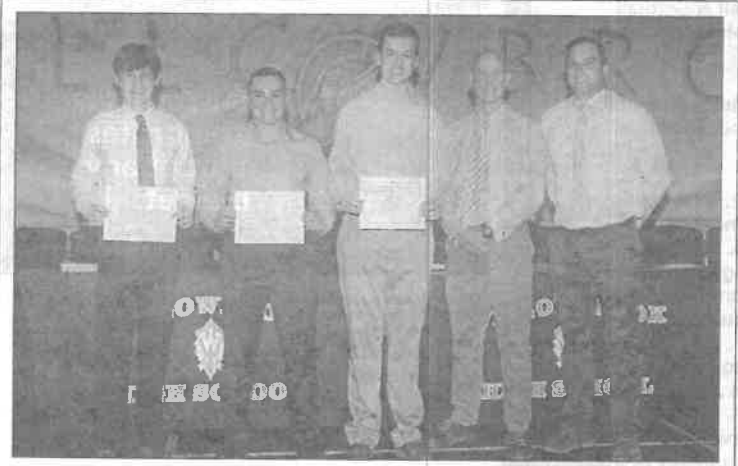


CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Villa Park Mariners faced the Bartlett Barracudas in last week's meet in Bartlett. The Barracudas edged the Mariners 328-317 in the team results of the June 29 meet. Villa Park's season continues with this week's home meet against Woodridge. The Mariners will complete their regular season with a home meet against Lombard on July 13. One photo (above) shows Villa Park's Ariana Knudtson, who won the 8-and-under girls level's 25-yard freestyle race during the meet in Bartlett. Another photo (below) shows Villa Park's Ian Mueller, who won the 13-14 boys division's 50-yard backstroke in last week's meet against the Barracudas. Both Mariners are pictured during the team's June 22 meet at Bloomingdale.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

### Seniors recognized

Willowbrook High School's Athletic Booster Club presented its Senior Athletic Banquet at the school near the end of the 2021-22 school year. The banquet included the awarding of certificates to the senior members of the Warriors' athletic teams that competed throughout the school year. One photo from the banquet shows senior members of Willowbrook's boys golf team with their certificates. Pictured left to right are: Thomas Doyle, Maxwell Hirsch, Thomas Gullfoyle, head coach Gary Walker and assistant coach Steve Belknap.

### Coaches meet at the parade

The head coaches of the Villa Park Mariners and Lombard Waves are pictured at Villa Park's Fourth of July Parade on Monday morning. Pictured left to right are Villa Park head coach Jen Burns and Lombard head coach Pam Forsberg. The Mariners and Waves will complete the 2022 DuPage Swim and Dive Conference regular season by squaring off in next week's meet at Jefferson Pool.

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We know the Villa Park Post Office had to remove the drive through box due to vandalism, and I haven't thought much about it since. Well, let's start thinking about it. When I was there last week, I saw a young mom have to unload one child into a stroller and get another one out of a child seat just to mail a letter! Surely there is someone in the post office system who can design a tamper-proof drop-off box, or a box out front where you could just walk up to the building and mail something through a slot. The mom would be within 10 feet of her kids. We cannot let vandals make life more difficult than it is for young families and the elderly.

As I submit this, the world price of oil is \$107 U.S. dollars per barrel, whether the oil is produced in the U.S., Canada, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and most other oil-producing nations. This is the result of free market policies and limited government regulations—a darling economic bedrock of conservatives in the U.S. So why are conservatives whining about the price of gasoline and blaming Biden for it?

Since when does the government have the right to tell a woman what she can do with own body? This is ter-

rible! The Constitution does not give the right to an abortion, but it also does not say you can't have a right to control your own body. An abortion is a decision between a woman and God; no one else! The three newest justices lied when questioned. The news has shown the clips where they said they would not overturn Roe v. Wade, but they did. Shame on them!

Darren Bailey accepted the endorsement of the liar-in-chief Trump, and you Republicans voted for him. Our governor is right. Someone like Bailey who seeks out and accepts the endorsement of a racist, misogynist twice-impeached former president does not deserve to come anywhere near this state's highest office. Because Republicans do anything Trump says and voted for a right-wing anti-abortion! extremist like Bailey, Governor Pritzker's reelection just got a lot easier.

It is so discouraging to see gas as much as a dollar a gallon cheaper in Wisconsin last week. I envy my friend who lives near the border, and can cross the imaginary line to get cheaper gas without going out of her way. I would like our state officials to answer why we have to pay so much for gas when states like

Wisconsin and Michigan have way cheaper gas (we all pay the same federal taxes on it, after all), and wonderful highways despite no tollways to further take our money to "improve" the roads.

As an adoptee, I am pro-life but will not judge a woman's decision. However, the "my body, my choice" spin doesn't fly when two people made a choice that could result in pregnancy. The innocent baby doesn't have a choice, and this is the most terrible form of "birth control." All the Supreme Court did was rule that Roe v. Wade was not part of the U.S. Constitution, and that the states should be able to decide how they want to handle abortions. The U.S. Constitution does say, though, that people have the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, which, for an unborn baby, is taken away.

Boeing is moving its headquarters from Chicago to Arlington, Va. Caterpillar is moving its corporate headquarters from Illinois to Texas. The hedge fund Citadel is moving its home base from Chicago to Miami. It doesn't take a genius to figure out why businesses and people are leaving this area. With Democrat "leaders" like Pritzker and Lightfoot, why would people stay? High taxes, out-of-control crime, incompetence and corruption are not the best selling points for attracting businesses. Hopefully voters will come to their senses and throw Democrats out of office.

Has anyone else noticed that liberals throw a tantrum every time they don't get their way?

So a few weeks ago my wife and I received four mail-in ballots for the primary elections. Two of the ballots were for people who have not lived with us for several years. This is insane. We need to put a halt to mass mail-in-balling and clean up the voter rolls now!

Let me get this straight. The once-a-decade census (remember all the publicity, with the government exploring people to be counted) initially showed that Illinois lost about 18,000 residents between 2010 and 2020. Then, earlier this year, "revised" numbers were released that show the state gained about 250,000 residents between 2010 and 2020. That's a pretty big discrepancy. As someone pointed out, according to this revision (down 18,000 to up 250,000), it's like the 2020 Census missed every single person in Aurora (about 200,000) and Decatur (about 70,000). The whole thing sounds bogus, kind of like election results. It's too bad governments can't be trusted to count people or votes. By the way, according to a U.S. Census Bureau estimate from December 2021, Illinois' population dropped by about 115,000 people between July 2020 and July 2021.

Very grateful to the many drivers who stopped to ask if I needed help when my car broke down on Ardmore a few weeks ago! Great to live in a community where people care! However, I was surprised that the driver in the tax-funded vehicle with "To Protect and To Serve" on it did not stop.

Democrats love to talk about their supposed respect for democracy, but they don't seem too respectful when things don't go their way. When they don't like a Supreme Court ruling, the rage-o-meter is off the charts. Do they accept the decision? Are they ever even asked if they will accept it? No, it's right into Democrats' playbook of whining about the Supreme Court being illegitimate, the need to increase the number of justices on the court, and thinking of ways to ignore the decision.

If Planned Parenthood facilities were being firebombed around the country, the media would be hyperventilating 24 hours a day. Multiple

pregnancy crisis centers are being vandalized or firebombed around the country, but the so-called media doesn't seem that interested.

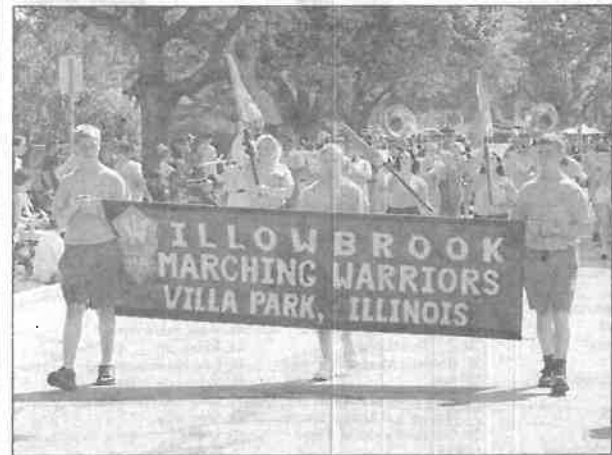
To all you global warming alarm people, it's July and it's hot. Outs you seek relief in the shade. Na provided shade by trees to keep Earth cool.

This is about Roe versus W. Personally, I think it's a woman's right to choose and it should be ways her right. But the one I'm calling about is watching the Democrats on TV cry every time I don't get their way, especially Pel Durbin and Duckworth. And just cause you don't like something, crying about it. Democrats, stop it. Do something because I used to be a Democrat. I'm only voting 100 percent Republican now because Democrats can't ruin this country more.

I see they're closing the last Hard Johnson's in America. It's the end of an era. Are you old enough to remember when there was a How Johnson's restaurant? Bye.

Every day, I ask myself why Democrats and Biden are wasting resources trying to reinvent the wheel in America's way of life.

It is not too early to start revving to get Illinois, and especially DuPage County, back to a red state, or at least a shade of purple, before the November election. We need to start sending a message to the Democrats in of that if they do not represent all constituents—not just those in their own party—then they will be voted out of office. I am still unsure at Darren Bailey on the Republican side but his winning the nomination over the other candidates speaks for something. He may be the lesser of evils, him being so far right and Pritzker being so far left.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Adding spirit and sound to the parade

Willowbrook High School's marching band participated in Monday morning's Fourth of July Parade in Villa Park. One photo (above left), with band members carrying the Willowbrook banner, shows the band heading west on Central Boulevard.

Another photo (above right) shows band members playing their instruments while marching west on Park Boulevard.