

# Villa Park REVIEW

75¢

also serving OAKBROOK TERRACE


 Live Music  
 Bounce Houses  
 Art Vendors  
 Crafts  
 Games and more!  
**Harvest Fest**  
 Noon-5 p.m.  
 Saturday, October 5  
 15750 Old Grand Ave.  
 For more info visit [BvilleParks.org/HarvestFest](http://BvilleParks.org/HarvestFest)  
 Corn Harvest at Fischer Farm! Noon-6p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29  
 Bensenville Park District [BvilleParks.org](http://BvilleParks.org) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BvilleParks) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/BvilleParks) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/BvilleParks) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/BvilleParks) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/BvilleParks) [Snapchat](https://www.snapchat.com/BvilleParks) [Twitch](https://www.twitch.tv/BvilleParks)

VOL. 21 • NO. 41

WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26, 2024



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Homecoming parade

Willowbrook High School celebrated its homecoming last week. The week's special activities included Friday afternoon's homecoming parade, which took place in hot and sunny conditions. The parade procession began near Park Boulevard and Ardmore Avenue. Parade participants marched south on Ardmore before turn-

ing west onto Highridge Road and into the school's north parking lot. Members of Willowbrook's marching band are pictured along the parade route. The participants also included several of the Warriors' fall athletic teams, as well as members of the Villa Park Warriors Football and Cheer program.

### INSIDE:



Opinion..... 4 Police..... 8  
 Speak out..... 5 Sports..... 18-20

\*\*\*ORIGIN MIXED ADC 601  
 08515Z-09/25/2025 C033  
 DUPAGE HS DISTRICT 88  
 D. BRINK  
 2 FRIENDSHIP PLZ  
 ADDISON IL 60101-2787

PAPER 878  
 DE PARTIAL  
 ROCK HAVEN  
 PUBLISHING ILS

FALL IN *love* WITH A NEW HOME

Kate Drury

630.514.9961  
[kdrury@atproperties.com](mailto:kdrury@atproperties.com)  
[LoveVillaPark.com](http://LoveVillaPark.com)

LOCAL AGENT. LOCAL RESULTS.

*love* Schiller @properties | CHRISTIE'S



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Warriors face the Blazers in annual Dig Pink match

The Willowbrook and Addison Trail girls volleyball teams squared off last week during District 88's annual Dig Pink match. The event is part of the district's annual Go Pink or Go Home Initiative, which raises money for breast cancer awareness and research. Breast cancer survivors in attendance were announced before the varsity match, and the Willowbrook and Addison Trail student-athletes presented each survivor with a pink carnation. Raffle items and baked goods were available to buy. The event raised \$1,375 to benefit the American Cancer Society. Willowbrook defeated the Blazers 25-12, 25-9 in last week's Dig Pink battle, which took place in Villa Park on Sept. 17. Willowbrook sophomore Maggie Hurley (No. 14) is pictured (left) during the introduction of the starting lineups.



Since Day One, our priority has been to provide the best possible DMV experience and service to our customers," Giannoulas said. "We listened to feedback and analyzed the data to determine when our customers need us most. As a result, we're adjusting our hours to align our operations with their busy schedules so they can conveniently access services without disrupting their routine."

A data-driven analysis revealed customer demand is generally higher in the morning than in the early evening. By opening facilities earlier, the office aims to enhance service accessibility while reducing wait times.

The new facility hours will be implemented at most, but not all, Illinois DMV facilities. To check facility hours, make an appointment or apply for online services, customers are encouraged to visit [www.ilsos.gov](http://www.ilsos.gov).

Lombard hours:  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to noon.

## Shift in DMV facility hours announced

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced a change in DMV facility operating hours across the state next week to align with higher customer demand in the morning.

Beginning this week, Illinois DMV locations will be open to customers Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., a half an hour earlier than the previous hours of 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Facilities that offer services on Saturday will also change hours from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Senior facilities located in Addison, Bridgeview, Calumet Park, Evanston and Westchester will remain the same 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Roscoe Express DMV will stay open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and the Orland Township DMV will remain 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"Since Day One, our priority has been to provide the best possible DMV experience and service to our customers," Giannoulas said. "We listened to feedback and analyzed the data to determine when our customers need us most. As a result, we're adjusting our hours to align our operations with their busy schedules so they can conveniently access services without disrupting their routine."

A data-driven analysis revealed customer demand is generally higher in the morning than in the early evening. By opening facilities earlier, the office aims to enhance service accessibility while reducing wait times.

The new facility hours will be implemented at most, but not all, Illinois DMV facilities. To check facility hours, make an appointment or apply for online services, customers are encouraged to visit [www.ilsos.gov](http://www.ilsos.gov).

Lombard hours:  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to noon.

## St. Alexander's to hold its Crafters' Holiday and Bake Sale on Saturday

St. Alexander's Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is holding its annual Crafters' Holiday and Bake Sale this Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the St. Alexander Parish Hall, located at 230 S. Cornell Ave., Villa Park.

There will be items for everyone, for the home, for gifts, for fun, for the holidays. There will also be a bake sale with homemade goodies. Additionally, there will be an all-day concession area, featuring lunch items and homemade soup.

There is ample parking, and admission is free.

## DuPage County to offer energy assistance beginning Oct. 1

DuPage County will provide energy assistance funds to help income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane, electric bills, and furnace repairs beginning next month.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers one-time help to income-eligible homeowners and renters. This can help pay energy bills or restore shut off energy services. LIHEAP customers of Nicor Gas will also get a monthly discount on their natural gas bills through the new Low-Income Discount Rates.

DuPage County Community Services will start taking applications Oct. 1 for adults aged 60 or older, individuals with disabilities, families with children under the age of 5, and households that have had their utilities disconnected or have received a disconnection notice. Residents can make an in-person appointment starting Sept. 17 by calling Community Services at (630) 407-6500 or (800) 942-9412. Appointments will begin on Oct. 1. All other income-eligible households can apply starting Nov. 1.

To qualify, household income must be at or below 200 percent of the fed-

eral poverty level. Income limits can be found online at [www.dupagecounty.gov/liheap](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/liheap). To apply, you will need to provide:

- Proof of household income from the past 30 days.
- Social Security Numbers (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for all household members (you can still apply if you don't have an SSN or ITIN).
- A copy of your current heat and electric bills within the last 30 days.
- If you rent, a copy of your rental agreement that shows utilities are included, the rent amount, and your landlord's contact info.
- Other documents may be needed based on your situation.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis through Aug. 15, 2025, or until the funding runs out. Applications will be accepted at DuPage County Community Services, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, and at the following offices:

- Access DuPage/DuPage Health Coalition—511 Thornhill Drive, Unit C, Carol Stream; (630) 510-8720
- Addison Township—401 Addison Road, Addison; (630) 530-8161
- Bloomington Township—123 Rosedale Ave, Bloomington; (630) 529-7715
- Downers Grove Township—4340 Prince St., Downers Grove; (630) 719-6610
- Lisle Township—4711 Indiana Ave., Lisle; (630) 968-2087
- Loaves & Fishes—1871 High Grove Lane, Naperville; (630) 355-3663
- Naperville Township—139 Water St., Naperville; (630) 355-2444
- People's Resource Center—201 S. Naperville Road, Wheaton; (630) 682-5402
- Wayne Township—27W031 North Ave., West Chicago; (630) 231-7140
- West Suburban Community Pantry—6809 Hobson Valley Drive, #118, Woodridge; (630) 512-9921
- Winfield Township—130 Arbor Ave., West Chicago; (630) 231-3573
- Milton Township—1492 N. Main St., Wheaton; (630) 653-5220
- York Township—1052 S. Meyers Road, Lombard; (630) 627-3354

For more information, visit [www.dupagecounty.gov/liheap](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/liheap) or [liheapillinois.com](http://liheapillinois.com).

## VILLA PARK REVIEW

Your Hometown Newspaper  
240 N. West Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244  
Fax 630.834-0900

The Villa Park Review is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising:  
630.834-8355

Classified Advertising:  
630.834-8244

News:  
630.834-8244

General Information:  
630.834-8244

E-mail:  
Advertising Department:  
[ads1@rvpublishing.com](mailto:ads1@rvpublishing.com)  
News Department:  
[CFox@rvpublishing.com](mailto:CFox@rvpublishing.com)  
Classified Department:  
[Classifieds@rvpublishing.com](mailto:Classifieds@rvpublishing.com)

### Administration:

Chris Fox  
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton  
Advertising Director

Pete Cruger  
Publisher

### Advertising:

Brenda Garcia  
Kate McCarty

### Subscriptions:

The Villa Park Review is mailed to the 60181 zip code areas for \$45.00 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$50.00 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

### Reprints:

Content appearing in the Villa Park Review may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to [Independent@rvpublishing.com](mailto:Independent@rvpublishing.com) or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

THE VILLA PARK REVIEW  
240 N. West Avenue,  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday 11am-3pm





CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## A tough loss for the Warriors

Willowbrook's football team lost its homecoming game on Friday night, dropping an 18-16 decision to Downers Grove South in Villa Park. The Warriors led the visiting Mustangs 10-0 at half-time of the West Suburban Gold Conference game. Downers Grove South scored 18 unanswered points in the second half to take an 18-10 lead. Willowbrook cut the Mustangs' lead to 18-16 on senior Jordan Pate's 20-yard touchdown reception with 2:24 left in the game. The Warriors were unable to convert a

subsequent two-point conversion run that could have evened the score. Pate (No. 12) is pictured during his fourth-quarter touchdown catch from junior quarterback Jahonise Reed. Pate scored his team's first touchdown of the contest on an 85-yard reception in the second quarter. Willowbrook dropped to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in conference action after its loss to the Mustangs. Downers Grove South won the 2022 and 2023 conference titles with perfect 6-0 West Suburban Gold records in each season. With Friday's victory, the Mustangs earned their 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive conference win.

## Winning touchdown

Willowbrook's flag football team rallied from a 21-6 deficit to defeat Taft High School 27-21 in a Sept. 17 contest in Villa Park. Willowbrook senior Bella Giannotti broke a 21-21 tie when she scored a touchdown with about 35 seconds to play. Giannotti is pictured as she crosses the goal line for what turned out to be the game-winning touchdown.



JIM WATERS PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## A good week for the Warriors



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team raised its 2024 season record to 14-3 with a pair of home victories last week. The Warriors beat Addison Trail 25-12, 25-9 in a West Suburban Gold Conference match in Villa Park on Sept. 17. Two days later, Willowbrook edged Montini Catholic 25-20, 17-25, 25-23 in an exciting non-conference contest. Senior Hannah Kenny of the Warriors provided eight kills, six assists and four digs in last week's win over the Blazers. Willowbrook junior Kendall Norton contributed 10 assists, six digs and two aces against Addison Trail. The Warriors raised their conference record to 2-0 with last week's win over the Blazers. Kenny (No. 6) supplied 10 kills, 13 assists and eight digs in the Sept. 19 battle against Montini. Norton piled up nine assists, five digs and two aces against the Broncos. Willowbrook senior Wendy Pollak bashed seven kills in the three-game victory, while senior Lily Javier delivered five kills, six digs and two aces. Senior Giada Crocetti and sophomore Melanie Marinier added eight digs each for the Warriors, while junior Julia Amin tallied three kills, three blocks and two digs. The Warriors' season continues with this week's matches against Morton and Hinsdale Central.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Pub

## A pair of aces

Two members of Montini Catholic's boys golf team shot ho in-one last week. Junior Charlie Paciga (above left), a Villa Park resident, made a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth hole during the Broncos' Sept. 17 dual meet against DePaul College Prep at Herit Oaks Golf Club in Northbrook. Two days later, Montini junior L O'Dea (above right) made a hole-in-one on the par-3 third hole of 18-hole course at the Village Links of Glen Ellyn.

### Answers

#### PUZZLE 1

7	9	5	4	8	2	1	6	3
1	2	3	9	5	6	7	8	4
8	4	6	1	3	7	5	9	2
2	5	1	7	9	3	8	4	6
9	8	4	2	6	1	3	7	5
3	6	7	8	4	5	9	2	1
5	7	9	6	1	4	2	3	8
6	1	2	3	7	8	4	5	9
4	3	8	5	2	9	6	1	7

#### PUZZLE 2

1	3	4	7	6	5	9	8	2
6	2	5	4	8	9	3	7	1
7	9	8	3	1	2	5	4	6
9	5	6	8	3	4	2	1	7
4	7	3	2	9	1	8	6	5
8	1	2	5	7	6	4	9	3
3	4	9	1	2	7	6	5	8
5	8	1	6	4	3	7	2	9
2	6	7	9	5	8	1	3	4

#### CROSSWORD

BEST	TOI	DIVA
PASTA	PAGE	PAUL
DRINA	ACE	ADIT
ICANT	DKL	IRIS
	AGELALIDE	
HAYWARD	MAIDEN	
URINALS	DDG	
HAWAII		UTTER
	TEH	PLENARY
	INNOVATION	UNL
	LOCALITY	
PEARL	YIE	PACAD
ASSA	EDN	ALBUM
PLED	LAC	HABRI
PAL	EVI	WEBB

R	U	A	I	T	F	B	W	J	G	H	Y	U
E	S	A	N	P	L	X	C	V	K	E	O	J
S	A	H	L	C	F	X	J	I	S	C	V	K
Y	G	A	R	L	D	E	R	L	A	R	I	S
U	N	C	E	R	F	W	A	O	G	H	A	D
T	N	E	C	H	W	E	R	O	G	H	A	D
V	C	L	O	D	E	A	R	R	A	I	S	C
C	L	O	D	E	A	R	R	A	I	S	C	V
X	B	Y	T	U	R	J	J	N	R	E	V	R
B	C	A	T	U	R	J	J	N	R	E	V	R
A	C	A	T	U	R	J	J	N	R	E	V	R
S	A	C	A	T	U	R	J	J	N	R	E	V
Y	I	N	I	S	O	Y	H	P	E	S	S	I
T	O	F	I	S	O	Y	H	P	E	S	S	I
K	F	R	E	S	O	Y	H	P	E	S	S	I
M	T	L	A	T	A	B	E	N	A	E	H	X

your source for on-line news: [THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM)



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Homecoming at Glenbard East

The members of Glenbard East's 2024 homecoming court were introduced during halftime of Friday night's varsity football game against Elmwood Park. This year's homecoming court at the school includes seniors Jonas Ong and Audrey Beales

(above left); juniors Angel Martinez and Anahi Gonzalez (above right); sophomores Maria Green and Neil Garcines (below left); and freshmen Leighton Stephenson and Elijah Cardona (below right).



# Mustangs rally to beat Willowbrook 18-16

Warriors held a 10-0 halftime lead, but DG South scores three second-half TDs to earn the victory

The Willowbrook football team suffered a heartbreaking loss in its homecoming game on Friday night, falling 18-16 to Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Gold Conference battle in Villa Park.

The Warriors dropped to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in conference play. Downers Grove South improved to 2-2 overall and 1-0 in conference action.

Willowbrook's annual clash with the Mustangs has served as the unofficial conference championship game in recent years. In 2021, the Warriors won the conference title with a 6-0 West Suburban Gold mark, while Downers Grove South went 5-1 in conference action. In that year's meeting, Willowbrook beat the Mustangs 34-7 in Villa Park (on Sept. 17, 2021). That result marked Downers Grove South's last conference loss.

The Mustangs finished their 2021 West Suburban Gold season with five straight wins. In both the 2022 and 2023 seasons, Downers Grove South won the conference title with a 6-0 record. Willowbrook posted a 5-1 conference record in 2022,

losing only to the Mustangs. The Warriors turned in another 5-1 conference record in 2023. Once again, their only West Suburban Gold loss came against the Mustangs.

Downers Grove South's program won its 18<sup>th</sup> straight conference game when it rallied to prevail at Willowbrook on Friday.

The Warriors led the Mustangs 10-0 through one half of Friday's meeting, which took place in warm conditions. Willowbrook senior Dean Romano gave his team a 3-0 lead when he kicked a 47-yard field goal with about five minutes left in the first quarter.

Near the end of the first quarter, senior KJ Rhodes of the Warriors intercepted a long Downers Grove South pass near the Willowbrook goal line. The Warriors' offense then took the field and began its drive at its own 1-yard line.

Willowbrook's drive continued into the second quarter, and ended with senior Jordan Pate's 85-yard touchdown reception from junior quarterback Jahonise Reed. Pate caught Reed's pass near the War-

riors' 40-yard line. After a Mustang defender fell down, Pate had an open path to the end zone. He sprinted down the middle of the field for the touchdown, which delighted Willowbrook's spirited crowd.

Romano made the ensuing extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 10-0 lead.

The Mustangs advanced the ball inside Willowbrook's 5-yard line in the closing seconds of the first half. The Warriors delivered a defensive stop on the final play of the half—driving a running play backwards for a 5-yard loss.

The Mustangs scored their first touchdown of the game after forcing Willowbrook to punt from poor field position. Downers Grove South fielded the punt near the Warriors' 35-yard line and returned the ball to Willowbrook's 17-yard line. Moments later, the Mustangs delivered a 1-yard touchdown run on the final play of the third quarter. Downers Grove South missed the extra-point kick, which left Willowbrook's lead at 10-6.

A 59-yard pass in the fourth quar-

ter set up the Mustangs' next touchdown—a 10-yard touchdown pass on a fourth-and-10 play. Downers Grove South then tried and failed a two-point conversion pass and held a 12-10 lead with less than eight minutes left in the game.

Downers Grove South raised its lead to 18-10 on a 54-yard touchdown run with less than five minutes to play. The Mustangs missed the ensuing extra-point kick.

A 20-yard pass from Reed to Rhodes on a fourth-and-seven play kept the Warriors' next offensive drive alive. A short time later, Reed threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Pate, who caught the ball in the end zone with 2:24 to play.

The Warriors then tried a two-point conversion run that would have tied the score, but the Mustangs made a tackle in the backfield to maintain their 18-16 lead.

Willowbrook's ensuing onside kick went out of bounds. The Mustangs could not secure a first down on their subsequent drive and punted the ball away with about 1:20 to play. After the ball hit the turf on the

punt, it bounced and hit a Willowbrook player in the back as he was sprinting off the field. The Mustangs recovered the ball and ran out the clock.

"I told them that they're probably two handfuls of plays away from being 4-0," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth in stating what he told the Warriors after Friday's loss. "But a lack of execution in spots puts us in a situation where we're 1-3."

Willowbrook opened its 2024 season with close losses to Glenbard East and Glenbard North before defeating Addison Trail on Sept. 13.

"All their goals are still in front of them," added Hildreth while looking to the team's final five games of the regular season, all of which are winnable contests for Willowbrook. "There are things we've got to clean up."

The Warriors' season continues with this Friday's conference game at Hinsdale South (2-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference). The Hornets fell to 2-2 after losing 28-21 in Friday's conference contest against Addison Trail.