NOW, WAIT
JUST A MINUTE!

Orland Park Village Board presses pause on approval for two weeks after questions of accuracy, politicizing of meeting minutes arise, Page 5
THURSDAY

Afternoons at OPPL - Mo’ Beat Blues
2 p.m. Sept. 13, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. Samuel and Janice Lozada are professional entertainers, musicians, singers and songwriters. Sam specializes in the blues harmonica. Program is for adults.

Steps to Career Success
5-6 p.m. Sept. 13, The Bridge Teen Center, 15555 S. 71st Court. Teens can discover their talents and interests, and how to use them to plan a future career. This is a free event for teens in grades 7-12. For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgecenter.org.

Ten People from Illinois Who Changed History
7 p.m. Sept. 13, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. Historian Leslie Goddard reviews 10 intriguing people from Illinois.

TUESDAY

DIY Drop-In: Rope Coasters
7 p.m. Sept. 14, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. Craft supplies provided. No registration required, but space is limited — priority given to OPPL cardholders. All ages.

Backyard Bash
7:30-10:30 p.m. Sept. 14, The Bridge Teen Center, 15555 S. 71st Court. A 2v2 basketball tournament, bean bag game, ring toss and more. The School of Rock Show Band from Mokena will be bringing out their top talent to play a full set of rock/pop live on stage. Food samples from Buca di Beppo. This is a free event for teens in grades 7-12. For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgecenter.org.

SATURDAY

Orland Grassland Fall Migration Bird Walk
7 a.m. Sept. 15, Orland Grassland, parking lot on 167th Street, just west of LaGrange Road. Orland Grassland Volunteers Mike McNamee and Marnie Baker are leading a walk looking for warblers and ducks in prairie restoration areas. Participants should dress for the weather and for walking on natural terrain, as well as bring bug spray, binoculars and cameras. For more information, contact Marnie Baker at marnie.baker@gmail.com or visit www.orlandgrassland.org.

Bingo!
2 p.m. Sept. 15, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. Adults can join a discussion of “Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows” by Balli Kaur Jaswal.

EVENING

Be Prepared for Flu Season with Orland Township
10 a.m.-1 p.m., 3-6 p.m. Sept. 18, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. Nurses from Orland Township will provide flu shots for all ages in the lobby. Children 6 months-18 years may be eligible to receive a free flu shot. Adults 19 years and older can get a flu shot for $25. Adults 65 and older with Medicare Part B can get a flu shot for free. Adults 65 and older without Medicare Part B can get a flu shot for $40. A Medicare Part B card must be presented at the time of vaccination. Those with a Medicare Advantage plan are not eligible for a free vaccination. Proof of residency required. For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgecenter.org.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION
10 a.m. Sept. 18, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. Discussion of “Girls Burn Brighter” by Shobha Rao.

WEDNESDAY

Microsoft PowerPoint
11:30 a.m. Sept. 19, Orland Park Public Library, 14921 S. Ravinia Ave. This introductory course will show adults the basics of Word while also highlighting some resources available to help continue learning once the class is over.

PROJECT SERVE: THRIFT STORE
4-6 p.m. Sept. 18, The Bridge Teen Center, 15555 S. 71st Court. Teens grades 7-12 can volunteer at The Bridge Thrift Store by helping sort, clean and shelves donated items. Community service hours will be given. For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgecenter.org.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR
4:30-6 p.m. Sept. 18, The Bridge Teen Center, 15555 S. 71st Court. Teens grades 7-12 can practice basic chords, learn how to tune strings, and read sheet music to play a song. The Bridge has guitars on hand. For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgecenter.org.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
Reach out to thousands of daily users by submitting your event at opprairie.com/calendar

For just print*, email all information to bill@opprairie.com

*Deadline for print is 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to publication.
Officials dive deeper into budget numbers

Revenue increases and expenditure reductions examined during meeting

JON DEPAOLIS
Freelance Reporter

The fiscal year 2019 budget for the Village of Orland Park continued to be top of mind for the Village Board members during a meeting held Sept. 4.

The board members and Village staff discussed potential revenue increases and expenditure reductions during a non-action item during the regularly scheduled meeting.

Trustee Michael Carroll got things started by stating what he hoped to accomplish with the discussion—giving Village staff clear direction on the tough decisions that need to be made on the revenue side of the equation for the budget projections and proposal.

Village Manager Joe La Margo, who presented potential options to the Village Board members, said the figures given were made in order to maintain the Village Board’s policy of having a 20 percent fund balance.

He prefaced the numbers by stating staff has already implemented and continues to look for opportunities for process improvements and efficiency solutions to reduce expenses.

Some of the potential new revenue sources that would go toward the operating budget—if approved as part of the final budget—could be increasing the hotel tax from 4 percent to 5 percent (accounting for an increase of $31,000), increasing the property tax levy for recreation ($188,420), instituting a 4 percent amusement tax ($550,000) and including video gaming tax ($271,750). In total, these potential new operating revenues would equate to approximately $1.04 million in additional revenue for general operations.

The potential new revenue sources also could include increasing the property tax levy for police pension ($545,580), but that would not be included in general operations.

“The board had directed staff to reduce expenses by the same amount in the general fund,” La Margo said. “However, an increase of $1.04 million of revenue and a decrease of that same amount would not get us to the required 20 percent fund balance policy or help us in future years.”

Therefore, La Margo said the budget team had to identify additional reductions to get to a total amount of $1.26 million.

Some of those expenditure reductions could be the discontinuation of the Appearance Improvement Grant (freeing up $350,000), which would be a one-time savings; working to decrease the fiscal year 2019 insurance renewal costs as compared to the fiscal year 2018 ($304,863); and potential personnel-related reductions ($612,328).

La Margo said the Appearance Improvement Grant program has “seldom been used over the last several years.”

After hearing from staff, several trustees brought up big-picture concerns over the state of the retail sales tax market, as well as how it would affect the budget.

Carroll said the fund balance policy, which was set years ago, requires the Village to keep a reserve of 20 percent of the operating budget on-hand at all times. He said that policy will come to an end if steps are not taken to increase rev-
Sandburg social studies teacher spends two days over his summer with C-SPAN

BILL JONES, Editor

When Sandburg High School teacher Pat Usher returned to classes this August, he entered his 17th year as an educator with a new experience to share.

The social studies teacher — who leads students through AP Government, Chicago History and more — spent two days in July at one of C-SPAN’s Educators’ Conferences in Washington, D.C.

“Our primary focus was on instruction and insight for us on the resources C-SPAN has that we can use in the classroom — mainly the hundreds of thousands of hours of footage they have to utilize in the classroom.”

He said the two-day affair started with an introduction from C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb, followed by a question-and-answer session focused on teaching, as well as insight into the network. In part, it helped to dispel some myths about C-SPAN, such as the idea that it is government-run (it is not).

Usher said fellow Sandburg teacher Kim Huelsman told him about the opportunity. He applied for it and was accepted.

According to a press release issued by C-SPAN, “Participants for the conference were selected by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and evaluated based on their commitment to learning new educational resources, applying them in the classroom environment and sharing their professional development experiences in their academic communities.”

Usher said conferences like this can be a great opportunity to “re-tool and learn.” And in addition to gaining access to C-SPAN Classroom’s resources, meeting other experienced educators and conversing with them helps Usher’s growth in the profession, as he learns how to make classes better and more appealing to his students.

Usher was one of 30 selected to attend the conference. C-SPAN provided round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and meals for the two days, according to the press release.

It also gave Usher the opportunity to meet C-SPAN’s Senior Executive Producer and Political Editor Steve Scully.

“For me, it was a brush with fame,” said Usher, a self-professed fan of the “Washington Journal” series Scully hosts. “He was just very open and welcoming.”

Usher said he appreciates the program because it is “accommodating and welcoming,” opening the show to true dialogue, with the ability to listen and get a story in full. It is something atypical of the usual frenetic pace of media surrounding politics, he said.

Usher said the conference, as a whole, was a great experience that left him with some new ideas for a changing advanced placement curriculum.

Sandburg High School social studies teacher Pat Usher sits behind the desk of the “Washington Journal” while visiting C-SPAN this summer in Washington, D.C. PHOTO SUBMITTED

VILLAGE

From Page 3

“Other than looking at new revenue, there is no solution that can get us out of this ‘kick the can down the road.’ ‘Try to save this 20 percent fund balance’ policy we’ve been engaging in year after year,” Carroll said.

Carroll also said the executive session discussion that followed the regular meeting would include talks about potentially “unfunding” certain positions in order to get to certain budgetary conditions.

Trustee Carole Griffin Ruzich — as well as some other trustees — took issue with the idea that previous Village Boards “kicked the can down the road,” stating that in previous years, property taxes or similar methods did not need to be done because retail tax was helping the Village finances.

“We didn’t need to raise taxes,” she said. “If we do this year, it’s because we need to — without making more serious cuts that are going to impact services.”

Meanwhile, Trustee James Dodge said he was not a fan of the sequencing of the budget discussion — talking about potential new revenues before talking about expenditure cuts.

“We’re facing a cost-structure problem,” Dodge said.

Dodge also said, at some point, the Village has to have a conversation with the residents to ask them, “How much do you want, and how much do you want to pay for it?”

“Because the magic money tree ain’t what it used to be, in terms of the mall’s revenue,” Dodge said.

He also stated what he felt was the crux of the issue facing the board members.

“I think the crux of the issue here for all of us — for us elected officials, for the staff who we ask to do the job, and for our residents — is what do we want to transform Orland to over the next 3-5 years, and at what price?” he said. “And who is paying the price? It’s just way too easy for public entities to say, ‘Let’s raise a restaurant tax, because it’s mostly not us paying it.’ That’s the same argument I heard a million years ago about the sales tax. The world’s changed.”

Multi-use sports facility gets more discussion

During his comments to the rest of the Village Board, Dodge gave an update on the potential for Orland Park to bring a multi-use sports facility to the Village.

He referenced a feasibility study that was approved in February 2018 by the Parks and Recreation Committee and later approved by the rest of the Village Board in March 2018.

Dodge said the study is nearing completion to be discussed in front of the public and that the idea has “a favorable business model.”

“We have a lot of work to do to build a facility like that in town,” Dodge said. “We’ve got an opportunity in Orland to attract a large, multi-sport facility in town that could help support our retail and our restaurants. It’s very much part of this migration we’ve talked about as a full board toward more entertainment uses.”

Dodge added that it would likely need to be done as “a public-private partnership, because it is a potentially big investment.”

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After questions regarding accuracy, revised minutes approved later

JON DEPAOLIS  Freelance Reporter

A disagreement over how meeting minutes were worded has led to more than just simple revisions.

The Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees voted 6-0 in two separate motions Aug. 20 to table approval of the minutes from the Aug. 6 and Aug. 13 meetings. Trustee Michael Carroll was not present for the vote.

Trustee Kathleen Fenton first made the request to postpone the approval of the minutes regarding the Aug. 6 regular meeting. She was followed by Trustee Patricia Gira, who stated she thought the minutes needed to have “a little more clarification and detail on some of the topics.”

The Aug. 6 meeting included the approval of video gaming in Orland Park.

Mayor Keith Pekau also said he had some reservations about how the minutes for the Aug. 6 meeting were written.

Later, Trustee James Dodge said the discussion at the special meeting on Aug. 13 — a budget hearing — was wide-ranging, and that it was all hypothetical. But he did not think the minutes reflected that nothing was final in terms of the figures that were discussed.

Pekau also said he thought some of the budget hearing discussion was misrepresented in the minutes. Reached by phone a week after the meeting, Pekau said there were several omissions from the budget hearing and other inaccuracies. He also said he thinks the Village clerk, John Mehalek, attempted to put a political slant into the minutes — and not just recently.

“Sometimes, in the past, that has meant a comment made toward me being put in and my response not [being put in],” Pekau said. “I thought we had gotten past all of that with the audio.”

Pekau said with the Aug. 6 meeting minutes, what he thought were “editorial comments” from residents were included but no responses from board members were.

“My position is that the clerk’s job is to record the minutes accurately and not play favorites or take sides,” Pekau said. “That’s the position he ran for, and that’s how he should operate. Clearly, he’s still not doing that, and that’s unacceptable. I was glad to see that the other board members read the minutes and said they were inaccurate, because they were, and they need to be made accurate.”

Pekau said he can live with someone else having a different opinion than him or a disagreement.

“But reflect what I really said and what [the board members] really said,” Pekau said.

Pekau said it is up to the board members to keep paying attention to the minutes to ensure they are accurate.

Also reached by phone a week after the Aug. 20 meeting, Trustee Dodge expanded on some of his concerns regarding the minutes.

Historically, the minutes have required someone to listen to the audio recording of the meeting and then transcribe notes about the conversation, Dodge explained.

“A number of the board members are seeing how those transcriptions aren’t really lining up with our recollections of the meetings,” Dodge said.

Additionally, Dodge added that it is expensive to have someone transcribing the minutes.

“Quite frankly, some of this is if we can reduce some of the cost of producing the minutes and reducing the clerk’s office budget moving forward, now that we have this technology,” Dodge said.

Dodge’s idea would be to use the audio recording subdivided online, matching the audio with any item on the agenda. This would simplify the minutes in that it would just need to state what an agenda item was, how it was voted on and to refer to the audio minutes for the discussion.

“It’s just a way to be more efficient,” Dodge said.

That technology is not currently in place for the minutes, but Dodge said the Village is getting closer to setting it up.

“It’s a work-in-progress,” he admitted. “But once that happens, in my mind, there is no need to have long, drawn-out minutes and having someone sit there [and being paid] to listen to the tape and come up with a text description of [the meeting].”

In regard to the budget hearing minutes, Dodge said he thought it was a poor transcription “of the nature and essence of the conversation” that was had during the meeting.

“The minutes did not reflect what we all thought was happening at the meeting — which was we were talking through a range of options, and we were agreeing that they were inputs to different financial scenarios,” Dodge said. “[The minutes] made it look like we all agreed to revenue increases, and that was not what happened at that meeting. We were all emphatically clear that we were willing to hear staff ideas about how to address some open revenue questions. But in no uncertain terms did we [agree to those].”

For the minutes about the Aug. 6 Village Board meeting, Dodge said some of the concerns focused on some of the information that was not discussed by the board members about video gaming being inserted into the minutes. This included results from the two April referendum questions about video gaming.

“I think the board sent a strong message to the clerk and the personnel in his office that we expect better accuracy on the minutes. Was it political? I don’t have a strong opinion about that yet, but I am becoming concerned.”

James Dodge — Orland Park trustee, on tabled minutes from two August meetings

The minutes have never been inaccurate. If [the board members] want them reflected in a different manner, that’s their prerogative. I’m fine with it. We’ll keep changing it if they want. But [the minutes] have never been inaccurate.”

John Mehalek — Orland Park Village clerk, on officials criticizing meeting minutes

The Village Board voted unanimously to approve both the Aug. 6 regular meeting minutes and the Aug. 13 special hearing minutes during its Sept. 4 meeting.
POLICE REPORTS

Woman allegedly bit, scratched officer upon DUI arrest

Laura A. Sefcik, 32, of 907 Timber Springs Drive in Joliet, was charged Aug. 10 with felony aggravated battery to a peace officer, driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI BAC greater than .08, improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle after she reportedly was found in a cornfield in the 15200 block of Will-Cook Road in the 2010 Ford Edge she was driving.

She reportedly refused to exit the vehicle and refused medical attention. She had bloodshot and glossy eyes, and the odor of alcohol on her breath, police said. She refused field sobriety tests and yelled at police, according to the report.

Police reportedly physically removed her from the vehicle. She then tucked her arms under her body in an attempt to avoid being arrested, according the report. She continued to scream and shout at the station, slipping out of the handcuffs, police said.

A breath sample was taken, and then Sefcik slipped out of the handcuffs again, pulling her arms away, police said. She committed the act of battery when police tried to place her in a holding cell, according to the report. She allegedly bit a police officer and scratched him.

Aug. 9
• Eric L. Tabb, 28, of 11355 Prairie Ave. in Chicago, was charged with felony theft after he allegedly took $1,849.81 over the course of three months at a store where he worked in the 15200 block of LaGrange Road. On 18 occasions, he refunded merchandise and put the money on his personal debit card, police said.
• Cheryl L. Slavin, 29, of 8550 Wheeler Drive in Orland Park, was charged with felony aggravated DUI, driving under the influence of alcohol, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving while license suspended and use of unsafe tires, as well as two counts of resisting a peace officer, after police stopped a 2006 box truck he allegedly was driving at Crystal Ridge Court and 108th Avenue.

The vehicle was spotted with a flat driver’s side tire on the trailer as the vehicle traveled northbound on 108th Avenue, police said.

The driver had pinpoint pupils, according the report.

He alleged provided police with a name that was not his own. And Police said they spotted bags containing a white powder on the dashboard.

Flores pulled his arms away from the handcuffs and ran across 108th Avenue, before he was tackled, according to the report. He then allegedly locked his joints to prevent handcuffs being used and tried to move away from police. A Taser was used to subdue him, police said.

He was then bleeding from the mouth and unconscious, and NARCAN was used help him regain consciousness, according to the report. He was transported to Palos Community Hospital, police said.

The vehicle had been reported stolen from Markham, police added. A blood sample reportedly showed cannabis, cocaine and opiates in his system. He had a suspended driver’s license.

Another bag was found on his person in lockup, and the white powder from one of the bags field tested positive for the presence of cocaine, police said.

Editor’s note: The Orland Park Prairie’s police reports come from the Orland Park Police Department. Anyone listed in these reports is considered to be innocent of all charges until proven guilty in a court of law.
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ICYMI: Father, son reflect on Cycle Across Illinois

Duo talks motivation to keep pedaling for COPS

BILL JONES, Editor

When Tim and Patrick Murray geared up for a trip across the state of Illinois this past July, they knew exactly what they were getting into. They had done it before.

The father-and-son duo of Tim, an Orland Park Police officer, and Patrick, a student at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, made their first trek together as part of the annual Cycle Across Illinois — a charity ride that raises money and awareness for Illinois Chapter of Concerns Of Police Survivors, which in turn helps families and co-workers of fallen officers — in 2017. And despite the sometimes grueling 330-mile journey, Patrick knew he had to be part of it again.

“It just fell in love with it,” he said. “It’s powerful. It really is.”

Tim originally got involved with the ride more than a decade ago, when he was assigned to escort the riders through Orland Park and to Village Hall for a water break. His involvement in one leg of the ride piqued his interest to do more.

“I’ve been involved ever since,” he said, noting several officers from Orland Park have maintained a presence in the ride.

At just 4 years old, Patrick did not quite understand it.

“All I knew is my dad went away for four days with a jersey,” Patrick said.

But he started asking questions. And since the age of 4, Patrick has been asking his father he wants to one day be a police officer. So, they decided it would be a good opportunity for Patrick to get involved and meet others in the profession.

And in 2017, he had the chance to meet officers, their families and more.

“I just fell in love with it,” Patrick said of his first ride. “It’s almost a flood of emotions coming at you all at once.”

In addition to the trials of the ride itself, emotions tend to run high because families and co-workers of fallen officers make the ride in honor of those they lost. Everyone is given a wristband that provides them with the name of a fallen officer for whom they are riding. They share stories at stops along the way and learn about those people.

“It reminds you that the cops have families,” Patrick said, noting it is a reality with which he has lived since he started to understand what his father does for a living around the age of 5. “It’s not the cops that just go out and do their shifts.”

Tim added of the ride, “It can be extremely emotional, and then you have to go get on a bike.”

But Patrick said the camaraderie helps everyone get through it. Riders check on each other to make sure everyone is doing OK and start talking more when they see someone struggling on a route.

For example, Patrick said on this year’s ride he saw someone having a tough time on the bike. That person wanted nothing more than to avoid riding in the truck — what happens when a rider cannot continue. Patrick started chatting with the rider, and before either of them knew it they were at the next stop. The rider showed appreciation, and Patrick found himself struck by emotion over the moment.

“I almost started crying,” he said.

The riders also find support from the communities they visit. Tim noted Chesterfield, in particular, sees the whole small town come out to greet the bikers. And many of the women bake for them, Tim said.

“It’s mind-blowing,” he said.

Tim called the ride a feeling of “renewal.” Police officers not only get to connect with those from other jurisdictions but also get to ride knowing they are doing good for those close to people who have given everything.

“Knowing that money generated for this cause [goes to COPS],” he said is a motivator, along with the message the ride sends to families. “They get to know they’re not alone. They have support.”

Some of that support this year came from Tim’s son, once again, and Tim said he could not be more proud.

“He really got his school involved,” he noted of a dress-down day Patrick organized to raise funds. “It really has been wonderful.”

What Patrick found wonderful was the school’s level of participation. He said he approached Providence Catholic’s principal and then the student council to organize the dress-down day, which ultimately raised $950. Patrick said in a time when police matters can be divisive, the show of support from his fellow students meant a lot.

“When she told me it raised $950, I was so overwhelmed,” he said, noting many students gave more than was necessary for the dress-down day. “Family and friends, I can’t thank them enough.”

Tim’s thanks go to many area residents. In a combined effort, departments held a trivia night at the Orland Park Civic Center that raised more than $10,000 that night, and the checks were written directly to COPS. Tim said he could not be happier about doing his part to support the cause.

“The healing that they have provided throughout the years is just amazing,” he said.

Orland Park Patrol Officer Anthony Carone shows off the ducklings he rescued in July for a photo posted to the department’s Facebook page. PHOTO SUBMITTED

‘One fowl swoop’

Orland Park patrol officer talks about summer photo post

BILL JONES, Editor

After Orland Park Patrol Officer Anthony Carone went down into a sewer in July to rescue ducklings that fell through the grates, the Orland Park Police Department posted the accompanying photo of him on Facebook with a caption that read “…rescued these two little guys in one fowl swoop! #heroes orlandpark police #safeducklings.”

The post generated nearly 400 reactions and more than 100 shares. And that’s all in addition to the verbal takes on his newfound fame.

“I get a lot of jokes,” Carone said of the photo. “Ace Ventura stuff.”

To be fair, Carone was not the only Pet Detective on the scene. He said four ducklings fell through the grates, and another guy already got two out of the sewer by the time the patrol officer arrived on the scene.

“There were two stubborn ones that were afraid,” he said of the duo he went in to retrieve.

And while he probably could do without the jokes, Carone said he understands why the post got him so much attention.

“Pretty unusual,” he said of the rescue in relation to his day-to-day happenings. “First time I dealt with something like that.”
Suffering from the Ravages of Autoimmune Disease?

- Hashimotos
- Thyroiditis
- Graves Thyroiditis
- Type 1 Diabetes
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- MS
- Crohn’s Disease
- Celiac Disease
- Lupus
- Pernicious Anemia
- Sjogrens Syndrome
- Hepatitis AI
- Scleroderma
- Guillian-Barre Syndrome
- Addisons Disease
- Sarcoidosis,
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Vitiligo, Raynaud Phenomenon
- Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Psoriasis

"Traditional medicine can only mask symptoms of autoimmune disease while the true underlying causes continue to progress- ravaging the rest of the body and brain. Even in the world of functional medicine- how to fully integrate a plan for overcoming autoimmunity is not understood. Attempts to quell the symptoms of autoimmune diseases without having all the information are often short sighted and are not looking at the entire picture. Autoimmune disease is complex and often misdiagnosed. What is needed is a comprehensive approach. For these reasons I’ve created a free, informative class."~ Dr. Ed Beyer, D.C.

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RSVP’s Required! Please call (708) 478-6015 or email: dtanjic@heritageofcare.com or lpiscia@heritageofcare.com

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ICYMI: Local Boy Scout delivers more than 2,000 stuffed animals

Collection in April led to July delivery to Stroger Hospital

RESITA COX, Freelance Reporter

Alex Worachek recalls his younger brother Justin undergoing several surgeries as a baby. He recalls the discomfort that comes along with being in the hospital at a young age.

He also recalls something small that made a world of difference during that time: a teddy bear.

“I knew how special his animals were to him then,” Worachek said.

This is where the inspiration for his Eagle Scout project with Troop 318 came from. In April, Worachek set out to collect stuffed animals for children who were in the hospital, like his younger brother once was.

Worachek set up donation boxes in a few locations around the community: BDI Playhouse Children’s Therapy, The Music Connection, St. Francis of Assisi, Homer Township Public Library, Orland Park Public Library, Bolder Healthcare and his school as an eighth-grader then, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School.

Worachek said he originally started with five locations, but because of an overwhelming amount of support from the community, the total grew to 10. In total, Worachek collected approximately 1,800 brand new stuffed animals and more than 300 used animals.

His project was in partnership with an organization that has been collecting stuffed animals for hospital-bound children since 2013, Comfort Fur Kids.

Comfort Fur Kids was founded by Caley Trepac after she spent time in the hospital because of a rare brain malformation diagnosis in 2011.

“I spent about five days in the hospital, and I don’t remember much from being in the hospital, but I do remember seeing so many kids alone,” Trepac said. “And there was an infant in the intensive care unit in the room next to me, and I just remem-

Please see ANIMALS, 12
ICYMI: A look back at the biggest dog rescue of the 2018 summer

Orland Fire personnel pulled pup from peril

BILL JONES, Editor

The situation was nothing short of a pet owner’s nightmare.

A gentleman was walking his dog Phoebe in late May near Crystal Tree, when the dog got away from him, ran into a storm water outlet near a pond, entered a pipe and could not turn around — so it went deeper into the pipe, according to Orland Fire Protection District spokesperson Ray Hanania. The man reportedly could hear his dog barking near a sewer opening roughly 200 feet away, but he could do nothing to help the pup, so he called 911.

“When we got there, we opened up the sewer cover and could hear the dog barking,” Hanania wrote in a recent email to The Orland Park Prairie. “When [we] monitored the air quality and it was safe to enter, a firefighter went down, and the dog went to the firefighter. He handed the dog up, and we handed the dog to the happy owner.”

Orland Fire got some love on Facebook from the Village of Orland Park, which chronicled the district’s “valiant efforts” with some photos documenting the incident.

The Orland Fire Protection District in May rescued a dog that wandered into a storm water outlet near a pond and found itself stuck in a pipe. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL D230 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officials: Tentative budget ‘real tight’ because of tax timing

ANALISA TROFIMUK
Freelance Reporter

The school year is in full-swing for Consolidated High School District 230, and the first school board meeting for the year took place the evening of Aug. 30 at Andrew High School.

There, the board discussed the tentative budget for the fiscal year.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services John Lavelle said it is going to be a tight budget year, because of retired debt and Cook County tax estimates. Lavelle said the previous and current fiscal years have been an anomaly.

“We retire debt, and they [Cook County] estimated taxes based on the prior year that included that debt, which was about $12 million,” he said. “It resulted in them inflating the revenues they collected and gave the school district.”

The county will be correcting this in the second half of the bill, which will take place in the new fiscal year.

“It looks like we got all this money last year, but it belongs to this year,” Lavelle said. “It’s going to be a real tight budget year.”

While it will be a tight, Lavelle said the district is right where it expects to be and is planning to maintain a fund balance-to-expense ratio of roughly 30 percent.

Superintendent Dr. James Gay said he appreciated the work that went into this year’s budget.

“The board is doing a great job at ensuring good experiences for our students, in addition to keeping a responsible fiscal budget,” Gay said.

Other topics covered at the meeting included the recognition of the 2018-2019 student board representatives, in which each school allowed student representatives to speak during the first two weeks of class. Aristotle Vainikos represented Sandburg.

The student representatives will update the board on the progress of their respective schools throughout the year at future board meetings.

Vainikos also was recognized at the meeting for a perfect 36 ACT score, as was Sandburg student Carson Krol.

Orland Township’s flu shot clinics to be held in September, October

SUBMITTED BY ORLAND TOWNSHIP

Orland Township is providing residents with numerous opportunities to get their seasonal flu shot by holding clinics throughout the months of September and October, according to the Office of Township Supervisor Paul O’Grady.

From Monday, Sept. 10, through Wednesday, Oct. 31, flu shots will be available every from 3-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday at the Township Office, 14807 S. Ravinia Ave. in Orland Park. The only exception is Monday, Oct. 8, when the office will be closed in observance of Columbus Day.

Additionally, the Township will be at the following locations to administer flu shots.

• 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, All Saints Lutheran Church, 13350 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park
• 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 9300 W. 167th St., Orland Hills

Orland Township also will hold its convenient Drive-Thru Flu Clinic from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Township office, 14807 S. Ravinia Ave. Individuals attending the drive-thru clinic are asked to wear a short-sleeved shirt. They also will get a free hotdog after receiving their flu shot.

The following flu vaccines will be available at the Township clinics.

• Fluzone High-Dose — $40. For individuals 65 and older. Protective free. Orland Township will bill Medicare for individuals with Medicare Part B — please bring proof of insurance. Individuals with a Medicare Advantage Plan or a Retiree Plan may be able to submit the vaccine receipt for reimbursement — check your policy for details.

Pneumonia vaccines also will be available for adults 19 years of age and older.

Individuals should contact their healthcare provider prior to attending to find out which vaccines are best for them.

Orland Township Flu Clinics are all walk-in, no appointment necessary, for anyone 3 years of age and older.

Cash or credit card only at clinics at the Township office; cash only at church and library clinics.

For more information, call Orland Township’s Health Services department at (708) 403-4222.
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ANIMALS
From Page 10

ber hearing a little baby crying all the time, knowing that those kids were not having comfort while they were in the hospital.”

Trepac and Worachek are connected through family - their dads work together. When Trepac learned of the final count, she was stunned. “He got way more than we thought he was going to get; it was overwhelming,” she said. “He had filled up the whole living room.”

Comfort Fur Kids delivers to Stroger Hospital of Chicago, Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Florida and Children’s Health in Dallas. Worachek, with the help of his mother and other volunteers, delivered the animals to Stroger Hospital in July. “It was really cool to be able to know that we created 1,800 smiles for kids,” Alex’s mother, Jennifer, said. That was just amazing.

Alex Worachek said witnessing the children’s responses to the stuffed animals was his favorite part of the project. “Being able to have a child walk by you with a smile on their face and a stuffed animal, that was most rewarding,” he said.

Alex Worachek shows off the stuffed animals he collected and donated to and Caley Trepac’s Comfort Fur Kids. PHOTO SUBMITTED

CALI AND WRIGLEY
Britt Feltman
Orland Park resident

Meet our golden retriever siblings, Cali, 3, and Wrigley, 7. Wrigley is a sock thief, and Cali is one with the wind. She can sit outside all day enjoying the nice breeze.

Do you want to see your pet pictured as Orland Park’s Pet of the Week? Send your pet’s photo and a few sentences explaining why your pet is outstanding to Editor Bill Jones at bill@opprairie.com.
BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local health care professionals call attention to the impact of pain

September has been declared Pain Awareness Month by the Partners for Understanding Pain, a consortium of more than 65 professional and consumer organizations that have an interest in pain. As part of this effort, health care professionals in Health From Within, of Orland Park, are sponsoring Health Care Professionals CARE Compassionate Attentive Responsive Educational to bring attention to the importance of appropriate pain management in the clinical setting.

Unmanaged pain can slow the rate of recovery for surgical patients and affect the quality of outcomes. Cancer patients who experience breakthrough pain are hospitalized an visit the emergency room more often than patients whose pain is under control. Costs associated with prolonged chronic pain total approximately $600 billion a year. And health care professionals often find themselves on the front lines of the fight against pain. Through the grassroots Health Care Professionals CARE Compassionate Attentive Responsive Educational campaign, the group hopes to increase awareness and understanding among health care facilities’ staff, patients and the public about the complex issues of assessing and treating pain.

Partners for Understanding Pain is dedicated to raising awareness about chronic, acute and cancer pain through community outreach and a national media campaign. Partners’ goals also include building a more comprehensive network of knowledge and better utilizing existing resources about pain management among its members.

For more information about other activities of Partners for Understanding Pain, contact the American Chronic Pain Association at (800) 533-3231 or email at acpa@theacpa.org.

Marcus Theatres announces Harry Potter showcase

Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger and the rest of the gang are returning to the big screen during the Harry Potter Magical Movie Showcase at participating Marcus Theatres, including the one in Orland Park. The series will be to begin Saturday, Sept. 8, with “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone,” and continues through Sunday, Nov. 4, with all eight Harry Potter films, plus “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.” The return to Hogwarts can help prepare moviegoers for the newest film in the Wizarding World, “Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald,” in theatres Friday, Nov. 16.

All films in the series will be shown on Saturdays and Sundays at noon. Admission is $5 per ticket. Magical Movie Rewards members can purchase a Harry Potter Film Passport to see all nine movies for just $27. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit www.MarcusTheatres.com/HarryPotter.

The remaining film schedule is as follows.

- Sept. 15 and 16: “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” — Rated PG
- Sept. 22 and 23: “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban” — Rated PG
- Sept. 29 and 30: “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” — Rated PG-13
- Oct. 6 and 7: “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” — Rated PG-13
- Oct. 27 and 28: “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” (Part 2) — Rated PG-13
- November 3 and 4: “Fantastic Beasts An Where to Find Them” — Rated PG-13

For more information, call (708) 873-1582.

Dentists from Orland Park involved in Free Dentistry Day event

Residents in the Mokena community and surrounding areas will have the opportunity to receive free dental services at Mokena Crossings Family Dental on Friday, Sept. 21.

Mokena Crossings Family Dental, along with the assistance of two dentists from Family Dental of Orland Park, will be improving the oral health of the community as part of Free Dentistry Day, a day dedicated to providing free dental care to the growing number of Americans without dental insurance. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 108 million Americans are living without dental insurance.

During Free Dentistry Day, a choice of one free cleaning, filling or extraction will be provided per patient from 8 a.m.-noon Sept. 21, at 9990 W. 190th Street, Suite D, in Mokena.

Patients will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (708) 479-9797 or visit www.FreeDentistryDay.org.

Marquette Bank announces Orland-related events for September

Marquette Bank recently announced a slate of events for the month of September. Among them are the following events related to Orland Park.

- Free Home Buyer Seminar – Saturday, Sept. 22. Marquette Bank is to host a free Home Buyer Seminar at the Marquette Bank at 15959 108th Ave. in Orland Park. The presentation will cover home buying basics, including owning versus renting, the benefits of using a real estate agent, the home buying process, mortgage options, making an offer, the benefits of a home inspection, and other options, such as available grants and down payment assistance for qualified buyers. The seminar will be held at 10 a.m. and is open to the public. Seating is limited. To register, email dosullivan@emarquettebank.com.

Free Chamber Business Networking Event – Tuesday, Sept. 25. Marquette Bank is to host a Chamber Business Networking Event at the Marquette Bank at 17865 S. Wolf Road in Orland Park. Everyone is welcome: local businesses, entrepreneurs, professionals, community organizations and nonprofits. Attendees should bring their business cards and enjoy refreshments while networking with local area contacts from 5-7 p.m. Registration is not required, but appreciated. To register, call (708) 873-8176 ext. 2712.

FORE! 2018 Scholarship Golf Classic — Monday, Sept. 24. The Marquette Bank Education Foundation is to hold the FORE! Scholarship Golf Classic at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. This fundraiser will assist the Foundation in providing more than 50 annual scholarships to high school seniors in our Chicago-area neighborhoods. For more information, contact Christie Cox at (708) 342-8410 or ccox@emarquettebank.com.

Palos Health offering SMART Recovery support group

Palos Health now offers the SMART Recovery Friends & Family Group for those affected by the substance abuse or addiction issues of someone close to them.

Adapted from SMART Recovery and the priciples of the evidenced-based CRAFT approach, the supportive group environment provides helpful tools and education. Led by trained facilitators, participants are to learn the following.

- How to increase the likelihood of recovery for the addicted individual
- How to better look after themselves, even in difficult and stressful circumstances
- How to establish healthier relationships with their loved ones

The group meets from 6-7 p.m. on Thursdays in Suite 313 of the Palos Health South Campus, 15300 West Ave, in Orland Park.

This is a free program. Registration is not required. For more information, visit paloshealth.com/classes-events.

Orland Park DreamMaker Top 60 remodeler in US

DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen of Orland Park, IL, has been named one of the Top 60 home remodelers in the country and awarded one of the highest customer satisfaction and trust scores by GuildQuality, an independent customer satisfaction surveying companies for the building industry.

GuildQuality’s annual awards are made so that consumers can read unbiased, detailed reviews from previous customers to verify the quality of the company they are considering hiring for a project.

DreamMaker of Orland Park, which has been serving the area since 1991, has a GQ “All-Time Recommendation” rating of 98 percent. The franchise also was recently awarded a 2018 Guildmaster with Highest Distinction Award. This is the fourth year that they have earned this level of approval.

Each year, GQ collects data from more than 100,000 homeowners on key satisfaction areas across 40 common home improvement job types. Trust is the number one factor that influences customer satisfaction.

DreamMaker of Orland Park owner Glen Borkowski has both a Certified Graduate Remodeler and Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist designations from the National Association of Home Builders, as well as an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau.

He and his wife, Denise, are members of the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce.

Compiled by Editor Bill Jones, bill@opprairie.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Jacobsen


Husband for 48 years of Gerry P. “Gigi”; father of Mark Jacobsen and Janel (Jeff) Kraus; grandfather of Kenna and Kollin; brother of Joan (late Richard) Kearney, Mary (late William) Nelson and Arthur (Lori); uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Visitation and a memorial service were to be held at Colonial Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to American Lung Association (lung.org) are appreciated.

Have someone’s life you’d like to honor? Email Editor Bill Jones at bill@opprairie.com with information about a loved one who was a part of the Orland Park community.
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- *Danbury model on location*

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**WOODRIDGE**

- Covington Knolls
- 9 Overton Court
- 630.243.0900
- *Briarcliffe model on location*

- Kingston Hills
- 15037 Ivy Court
- 708.301.1999
- *Amberwood model on location*

- Goodings Grove
- 12465 Walden Road
- 708.301.9790

**PALOS PARK**

- Suffield Woods
- 708.448.3358

**WOODRIDGE**

- Farmingdale Village
- 9041 Gloucester Road 630.985.9500
- *Calysta model on location*

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SCHOOL NEWS

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
Two from Orland Park named to dean's list
The following Orland Park students have been named to the Lawrence University dean's list for the 2017-2018 academic year: Tim Platt, the son of Kevin and Alana Platt, and Annie Connolly, daughter of Mark and Vicki Connolly.

Students must maintain a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the entire academic year to qualify for dean's list honors.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY
Two from Orland Park earn degrees
Miami University awarded degrees to students during recent spring commencement exercises at Millett Hall. Among those who earned degrees were Monika Barrett and Noelle Omahen, both of Orland Park.

MONMOUTH COLLEGE
Two Orland Park students meet graduation requirements
Students from the local area recently met the graduation requirements at Monmouth College. Among them were Jayna Kozlowski, a biopsychology major from Orland Park, who is the daughter of Raymond Kozlowski, of Chicago, and Teri Kozlowski, of Orland Park; as well as Mary Luzzo, a business administration and public relations major from Orland Park. Luzzo is the daughter of John and Janine Luzzo of Orland Park.

RIPON COLLEGE
Orland Parker graduates
James Amedeo, of Orland Park, graduated recently from Ripon College, with major(s) in politics and government, with minors in law and society and national security studies.

Amedeo is the child of James and Catherine Amedeo, of Orland Park.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
Orland Park student named to dean's list
Catherine Viz, of Orland Park, has been named to the Saint Mary's College dean's list for the spring 2018 semester.

To earn academic honors at Saint Mary's, a student must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, have at least 12 graded credit hours, no in-completes and no grades lower than a C.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
Orland Parker to take part in Cooperative Education Program
University of Alabama student Curtis Fortin, of Orland Park, is to participate in UA's Cooperative Education Program for fall 2018. Fortin will be working at Eaton Aerospace in Jackson, Mississippi.

In the Cooperative Education Program, more than 250 students alternate periods of full-time study with periods of full-time employment. This program offers work related to the academic major or career interests of each student — experience that enhances the students' employment prospects after graduation.

While in school, students carry regular course schedules. While on co-op, they work with professionals in their fields who supervise their training and work. At work, co-op students earn competitive salaries and may receive benefit packages in addition to valuable job experience. Participants maintain their full-time student status while at work and have priority registration status each semester through graduation.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITewater
Student from Orland Park graduates
Philip Hanrahan, of Orland Park, earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at the recent spring commencement.

Hanrahan graduated with a Master of Science in environmental safety and health.

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
Orland Parker member of project team
Matthew LeMay, of Orland Park, a member of the Class of 2019 majoring in robotics engineering and computer science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense, hands-on research through the WPI project center in London. The project was titled “Creating E-Resources for the London Project Center.”

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. Roughly two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university’s 45-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives and make a difference before they graduate.

Compiled by Editor Bill Jones, bill@oppairie.com.
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FROM THE LOCKPORT LEGEND
Siegel’s continues tradition with Pumpkin Fest
The first day of fall marks the beginning of family-fun activities and pumpkins galore at Siegel’s Cottonwood Farm Pumpkin Fest.
For the last 28 years, Siegel’s has brought countless attractions, food and educational opportunities to the thousands of people who attend Pumpkin Fest each fall.
“We’re hoping that they’re going to harvest family memories while they’re here — that it becomes tradition,” said Kaity Siegel-Grimmenga, general manager of Siegel’s Cottonwood Farm. “A lot of our families that come out here, it has been a tradition for them.”
Pumpkin Fest kicks off Sept. 22 at the farm, 17250 Weber Road in Lockport. Each year, Siegel-Grimmenga said there are new attractions added to the lineup. This year, there is to be a cow ball throw, which features old fashioned milk cans into which people are to throw balls. The mountain slide is not new, but it has been made “bigger and better this year,” she said.
“My nieces tested it out this past weekend to make sure it was good for them,” Siegel-Grimmenga said. “So, they came out and had fun on it.”
There is also to be a children’s-size schoolhouse, which was built by the Amish and represents an old-fashioned school house in which children can play. More than 30 activities and attractions are on the farm, and Siegel-Grimmenga estimates that if someone did all of them, it would take them at least eight hours.
For more information on Pumpkin Fest, visit www.ourpumpkinfarm.com or call (815) 741-2693.
Reporting by Jacquelyn Schlauch, Assistant Editor. For more, visit LockportLegend.com.

FROM THE NEW LENOX PATRIOT
Library caters to high-schoolers with its art contest
The New Lenox Public Library is expanding its services to high school teens, starting with its first high school art contest.
This is the first time the library has catered its services specifically to those in grades 9-12. It was an idea spearheaded by marketing and graphic design manager Liz Wetmore, as well as new teen program coordinator Melissa Leggero. Other events planned for the future are a claymation program and a poetry night.
The library is accepting submissions of paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, 3D and digital art through Wednesday, Oct. 31. In addition, the art must be school appropriate, because it will be displayed at the library.
All artwork is to be displayed Friday, Nov. 9, during the Teen Art Gallery Exhibition, taking place from 6-8 p.m., after the library closes. The winner will be selected during that evening. Judges will be artists and art teachers within the community, who will grade three categories: creativity, originality and quality.
First prize will be an e-reader. Second place will win a $50 gift card. Third place takes home a $25 gift card. And three honorable mentions are to receive a $5 gift card.
“There are a lot of artists who have no ways of displaying their artwork,” Wetmore said. “I’m an artist myself. I know I would join every art contest when I was in high school. It’s just a nice way to show people what you do.”
For rules, additional information and to download a submission form, visit www.newlenoxlibrary.org/contest.
Reporting by James Sanchez, Editor. For more, visit NewLenoxPatriot.com.

FROM THE MOKENA MESSENGER
Behavioral health center expands to Mokena location
When the state of Illinois began shuttering its doors to many of its mental health centers in 2009, the hope was that individual communities and mental health care providers would step up and pick up the slack for the tens of thousands left without treatment options.
One such provider, Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, did, and has opened its most recent location at 9697 W. 191st St. in Mokena.
The Linden Oaks Mokena Outpatient Center offers services such as: assessment and referral; a partial hospitalization program, with six hours of daily structured programming for individual, group and family therapy; an intensive outpatient program, with a three-hour daily outpatient treatment plan; and its own medical group, including psychiatrists, nurses and therapists.
Specialized programs focus on mental health, including depression and anxiety, addictions and psychiatric services. These programs are designed for both adolescents ages 12 and older, and adults ages 18 or older.
“We’ve been treating people from the Mokena area at our outpatient facility in Naperville for many years, and we’re excited now to have [programs] that are closer to their homes, because we know that easy access to the programs is very important to individuals in recovery, as well,” said Gina Sharp, president and CEO of Linden Oaks Behavioral Health.
The Mokena location already is seeing approximately 25 clients, with the potential to serve another 20 more.
For more information on services or to make an appointment, call (630) 646-6541.
Reporting by T.J. Kremer III, Editor. For more, visit MokenaMessenger.com.

FROM THE FRANKFORT STATION
Permits, rezoning allow for new downtown development
A series of measures approved Sept. 4 by the Frankfort Village Board will permit SDW Investments LLC to move forward with the construction of a planned mixed-use development project in downtown Frankfort.
The development involves creating an 11,462-square-foot mixed-use commercial building on a portion of 7 N. White St. property, converting the existing residential structure located at 11 N. White St. from residential to commercial use, and constructing a new public parking lot around the converted home.
Trustee Mike Stevens said the mixed-use building will provide space for four tenants, including two retail units along White Street, an office to be occupied by Frankfort-based accounting firm and a 5,454-square-foot restaurant space located along the southern portion of the building, adjacent to the Old Plank Road Trail.
To accommodate the future development, trustees gave the green light to multiple items requested by the developer, including a zoning change from residential to historic district and special use permits to allow for a planned unit development, a full service restaurant with liquor sales, extended hours of operation and an outdoor seating area. The board also approved the final plat for the portion of land where the development will take place.
“I’m glad that this parcel is actually going to existing residents of Frankfort, existing business owners of Frankfort who are going to put their business in this location,” Trustee Bob Kennedy said.
Reporting by Nuria Mathog, Editor. For more, visit FrankfortStation.com.

FROM THE HOMER HORIZON
Junior High Ministry gets colorful with Paint Wars
Fellowship is fostered in many ways.
On the evening of Sept. 5, the members of Parkview Christian Church’s Junior High Ministry found a creative and vivid way to come together as a group, with an event dubbed Paint Wars. Splatter Dodgeball, Giant Soccer and Protect the President were among the friendly competitions that were highlighted by lots — and lots — of brightly colored, washable paint.
The fun and cooperative event, held at the church’s Homer Glen campus, encouraged participants to use teamwork to get as messy as possible. In the process, white T-shirts — which were worn by most Junior High Ministry members — were transformed into one-of-a-kind abstract designs during the event.
Junior High Ministry leaders host a similar event annually — last year’s Color Wars featured play with powdered paints, along with ketchup and mustard battles — and Parkview Homer Glen Student Campus Pastor Matt Williard makes it a priority to keep things fresh and exciting for the participants.
Reporting by Laurie Fanelli, Freelance Reporter. For more, visit HomerHorizon.com.

FROM THE TINLEY JUNCTION
D228, South Suburban College partner for program
A revamped alternative education program is allowing Bremen High School District 228 students to either catch up or get ahead on schoolwork through a new partnership of South Suburban College.
Approximately 135 at-risk students from Tinley Park, Hillcrest, Bremen and Oak Forest high schools are enrolled in D228’s Alternative Education Program which was started in 2008. This school year, the district partnered with the local community college to open a new wing in its Oak Forest building, where high school students can complete online coursework to make up credits or even earn college credits toward professional certificates, such as welding, maintenance and emergency medical services.
“South Suburban College is all about accessibility, so we see great value in supporting a program that creates additional pathways for student success,” said Lynette Stokes, South Suburban College’s president-elect. “We are always pleased to partner with Bremen High School District 228. They share our educational mission, and we have great respect for their administration, their schools, and their teachers.”
Using an online course catalogue called Edgenity to complete courses, students have a designated amount of time to finish a course, and the new program allows for more classroom time during the day, as opposed to previous offerings only at night.
Reporting by Cody Mroczka, Editor. For more, visit TinleyJunction.com.
Above-normal temperatures, thunderstorms at month’s end

The above-normal temperatures we experienced in June and July continued through August.

The average temperature for August 2018 was nearly 4 degrees above normal. From Aug. 26-28, we experienced three consecutive days with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees and high humidity. A total of five days had a maximum temperature of 90 degrees in August, which is above the average of 3.6 days for the month.

Through the end of August, there were 21 days with a maximum temperature of at least 90 degrees in 2018. The 21 days of 90 degree temperatures was the highest total we have had since 2012, when 46 days of 90-degree or higher temperatures. We normally have one 90-degree day each September.

90-degree days by year
- 2012 — 46
- 2013 — 13
- 2014 — 3
- 2015 — 10
- 2016 — 16

The end of August brought the end to meteorological summer (June, July and August). While astronomical summer does not end until Sept. 22, meteorological summer ends on Aug. 31. The 2018 meteorological summer produced the fifth hottest summer since 1975 (44 years). Officially, for Chicago, Chicago O’Hare International Airport recorded the 10th wettest summer since 1975. June and August had much above-normal precipitation at O’Hare, while July was the driest for that month in the past 44 years.

As is typical during the summer months, precipitation varied greatly throughout the state of Illinois during August because of localized thunderstorm activity. Much of the precipitation data provided in this and previous articles have come from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a volunteer network of weather observers in our communities. Most volunteers take precipitation observations once each morning (usually at or near 7 a.m.), recording how much precipitation has occurred in the previous 24 hours. The CoCoRaHS volunteers provide critical information to assist National Weather Service forecasters for determining potential flood and drought conditions.

Below is some of the precipitation data recorded by our local cooperative observers during the month of August.

Precipitation totals for August
- Mokena — 3.97 inches
- New Lenox — 3.85 inches
- Homer Glen — 3.75 inches
- Lockport — 2.67 inches

The weather for August and beyond
The temperature forecast from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction for August was not accurate, as normal temperature was predicted. We experienced near-normal precipitation in August while the NCEP prediction was for normal precipitation. The Centers’ forecast for September is for above-normal precipitation in August and September. The prediction for fall (September-November) is for above-normal temperature and normal precipitation.

Mark T. Carroll is the president of CALM Weather LLC, a meteorological consulting service based in Oak Forest. For more information, visit calmwx.com.

The prediction for fall was for normal precipitation in August and September. The prediction for fall (September-November) is for above-normal temperature and normal precipitation.

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Students, parents and friends of Orland School District 135 begin to run Saturday, Sept. 8, in the inaugural Orland 135 Foundation for Education Be Kind 5K Walk & Run at Centennial Park. PHOTOS BY MARY COMPTON/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

INSET: Eric Chudzik, of Tinley Park, a DJ with Electric Blue Entertainment, performs the man-in-a-balloon trick before the Be Kind 5K Walk & Run.

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Getting a GOOD BOUNCE

Orland 135 Foundation for Education jumps off the starting line with its inaugural Be Kind 5K Walk & Run, Page 23

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What do you know about Baptists?

THE REV. VERNON C. LYONS
Ashburn Baptist Church

There are 108,887 Baptist churches in the United States.

Many are affiliated with some association, convention or conference, but many are not. There is no “the Baptist Church” — only Baptist churches. Each church owns its property and selects its pastor, and the members manage the church’s activities.

Baptist have no creed or catechism, but follow the Holy Scriptures. Neither do Baptists have a founder, such as other religious groups, but under various names trace themselves back to the time of the Apostles.

Bible study is important to Baptists, because they believe it is the Word of God. Children and youth are trained in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and summer camps in the complete Scriptures. At Ashburn Baptist, adults are involved in a 12-year Bible Study program that covers each of the 66 Bible books.

Since its founding in 1951, the Ashburn Baptist Church always has welcomed everyone to its services and other activities. People from diverse backgrounds attend, and there are 16 primary languages other than English represented in the congregation.

Pastoral care is important, and there are six on the ministry staff of Ashburn Baptist with a total of 154 years of experience. Counseling is offered to those who seek it.

The chief emphasis of Baptists is on the Gospel, which focuses on the Lord Jesus Christ as explained by Paul, the Apostle.

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you — unless, you believe in vain.

“For I deliver to you as of the first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.” (I Corinthians 15:1-4)

Baptists are strong supporters of religious liberty and have never been part of any state church.

Though 9 of the 13 colonies had state churches requiring people to attend a particular denomination and were taxed for its support, the first government in the history of the world to establish religious liberty was Rhode Island, founded by a Baptist, Roger Williams, in 1636.

You could be a Quaker, a Jew or an atheist, and you were not compelled to support some religion in which you did not believe.

Rhode Island became the first state in the United States is “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

It was the direct result of Baptists example and influence.

The opinions of this column are those of the writer. They do not necessarily reflect those of The Orland Park Prairie.
Orland 135 Foundation kick-starts Be Kind efforts with 5K

MARY COMPTON
Freelance Reporter

For Dave Shalabi a lifelong resident of Orland Park, helping children comes naturally.

Shalabi, who is the president of the Orland 135 Foundation for Education, joined a few hundred people for the inaugural Be Kind 5K Walk & Run at Centennial Park.

“We wanted to raise awareness for our children to always be kind,” Shalabi explained. “One of the ways we are doing that is raising funds for buddy benches. Currently, we have a bench at Meadow Ridge. “It’s important that when a student feels left out or needs attention, others are there for them. It goes a long way when you’re sympathetic to other people’s feelings.”

The foundation plans to purchase Buddy Benches for High Point, Liberty and Center schools, as well. The bench at Meadow Ridge was manufactured out of plastic lids collected by students at the school.

Maggie Massih, of Orland Park, who was the co-chairperson for Be Kind 5K event, talked about the importance of the benches during the event.

“We help to raise awareness of bullying in schools,” Massih said. “We want to spread the kindness and promote friendships for our students and the community. The buddy benches are to help children with social and emotional problems make friends in schools. They are at primary or secondary schools. At least 10 percent of children reportedly are bullied regularly.

“Bullying, in general, it affects so many children,” Massih explained. “Thousands of children in the United States wake up and don’t want to go to school because they are being bullied. We’re trying to raise awareness and make sure that kids are safe to go to school.

“I teach my children to be kind, and that is something that the school also promotes.

The foundation also has received help from the community and businesses. The foundation received its first grant from Walmart in Orland Hills during the grand reopening of the store. The check of $750 was donated to the foundation, and it is to go toward providing buddy benches and other opportunities to the students and staff of Orland School District 135.

Jennifer Stefanos, of Orland Park, is the second vice president of the foundation. She is working toward getting additional funding.

“I’m working to get grants and scholarships and provide things for the school that aren’t in the budget for the school,” Stefanos said. “Being kind equals being happy. If you can provide kindness for another person, it makes them feel good, so they will spread that kindness. It’s contagious.

“There is so much hurt in this world that we need to lift everyone up. The benches will provide a safe haven to a student that feels they don’t have any friends.”

Shalabi explained in addition to the benches what other things the foundation is doing.

“We just finished up a backpack drive,” he said. “There is a misconception that people in this community don’t have a need, and there is. We had all the backpacks brought to the district, so that it was going to students staying within our district.”

The foundation also does scholarships for junior high students. Twenty-five years after graduating from junior high, Shalabi recently returned to his school to present two scholarships.

“It’s an obligation; we must give back to our community,” Shalabi said. “Civic service is very dear to my heart. As a young child, my parents instilled that in me. It’s a honor to give back to a community that helped raise me. This school district gave so much to me and to my siblings and now to my children. ... I have a motto I live by: ‘Love where you live.’”
Orland Parker to take award-winning car to Chicagoland Speedway show

JEFF VORVA, Contributing Editor

A lot of stuff has happened between the first time Phil Bianco Jr. bought a 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air in 1958 and another in 2004.

In those 46 years, the Chicago native went into politics and earned a seat as a State representative in 1978 and 1980, and was involved in State Senate races in 1976, 1982 and 1986.

He worked for Standard Oil/Amoco for 30 years and moved to Orland Park in 1994.

Now retired, the 79-year-old Bianco is busy winning awards with his second Bel Air. And he said he hopes to add to the prize collection when he puts it back on display at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Super Chevy Show at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet.

Organizers say that this will be the largest collection of Chevrolet vehicles in one place, ranging from classic to modern. The show will feature an all-GM car show, which will be judged professionally by a panel, including Event Director Ron Fetter.

Bianco said he loved the car he drove during his younger years and heard that there was a car for sale that was “so clean you could eat off of it.”

So, he purchased the car from Robert Van Bolhuis in 2004.

“It’s a great car,” Bianco said. “Rob bought the car in Texas in 1988 and restored it to its original condition.”

Van Bolhuis died in June and Bianco has displayed the car a few times since the previous owner’s death.

Bianco also is president and founder of the Classic Automobile Society of America, which honors men and women who give time, effort and money to restore vintage autos.

The Super Chevy Show also will offer a swap meet, where fans can find hard-to-locate parts, a Chevrolet-focused performance market place, manufacturer’s midway and live entertainment throughout the day, with appearances by Cadillac Grove (9 a.m.), Rosie and the Rivets (11 a.m.) and the Neverly Brothers (1:15 p.m.).

The show awards are at 2:30 p.m.

All judged participants will be invited to take a parade lap around Chicagoland Speedway after car show judging is complete.

Phil Bianco of Orland Park poses with his 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air in 2015. He is to enter the car at the Super Chevy Show on Sunday, Sept. 16, at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet. PHOTO SUBMITTED
Horse show competitor from Orland, dog make history

PAWS Illinois event took place at Francis Field

MARY COMPTON
Freelance Reporter

Waiting by the gate at the Francis Field fairgrounds in New Lenox, John Greenan sat high in the saddle of his horse Cappuccino. As Greenan’s name was announced, he knew he was about to change history.

Trotting beside his horse was Greenan’s service dog, Buggs.

“We’re the first service dog and companion competing doing halter together,” said Greenan, at the PAWS Illinois, NFP Open Horse Show in late August. “Today we’re doing western halter and walk trot 39 and over.”

As Greenan joined other riders in the arena, he stopped and showed the halter of Cappuccino to the judge.

“I’ve been training halter with Nova Quarter Horses in Mokena for about a year,” Greenan said. “I started riding with the adaptive riding program for people with disabilities to overcome their disabilities. Since I couldn’t show before riding, the owner thought we could do halter together and incorporate my service dog.”

For the Orland Park resident, being in the arena has been nothing short of a miracle.

“Two weeks ago, I began to start riding again after not being able to for the last eight months,” Greenan said. “I’ve had ten different surgeries in the past 13 months, due to several medical issues due to my MS. The day that I got the OK to go back riding, I was riding that afternoon.”

The adaptive riding program at Nova Quarter Horses has benefited Greenan not only mentally but also physically.

“With my MS, you lose muscle dexterity and strength,” he said. “With this disease, I’ve had numbness in my right leg. I’ve been riding the last year, and the numbness has gone away. I’ve been able to build up those muscles by riding horses.”

“This means the world to me. To be able to come out here today and ride as an equal means the world to me. Coming out today gives Nova Quarter Horses’ adaptive riding program an opportunity for people to focus on disabilities. … Because you have a disability doesn’t mean you’re disabled.

“Through our adaptive riding program and K9s for Veterans we’re encouraging our veterans to get involved in horses. They overcome their fear of post-traumatic stress with the public. We are not-for-profit, so K9s for Veterans is working on different sponsorships. We’re looking for businesses and the public to help finance a riding program for veterans.”

“Nova Quarter is a new partner with K9s for Veterans to do this. So now, even if a veteran has a service dog, they can take part in the adaptive riding program. By competing in the horse show, it gives the opportunity to be the spokesperson not only for K9s for Veterans but for Nova Quarter Horses’ adaptive riding program.”

The horse show was hosted by PAWS Illinois, a non-for-profit. K9 for Veterans joined them at Francis Field because PAWS Illinois is a sister charity.

Michael Tellerino, founder and CEO of K9 For Veterans and PAWS Illinois, was at the arena to lend his support and promote both organizations.

“It’s the first time that a service dog is allowed to be in an area to test and show a horse with a dog,” Tellerino said. “This is going to open the doors not only for veterans but other people with service dogs.”

Tellerino is not only a veteran but also owns a service dog. Suffering from PTSD, Tellerino knows the importance of veterans getting services that are not common among veterans.

“This year, we partnered with K9’s for Veterans and Nova Quarter Horses so we can get into the show” Tellerino said. “John is the first to be allowed to have his service dog and to show his horse. It’s an amazing thing to see the dog and the horse react together. This is going to open the doors. Being the first is always the hardest. John had to go through hell and high water to get the approval to participate in the arena. I don’t think this has ever been done.”

Tellerino not only encourages veterans suffering from PTSD to get a service dog but to try out an adaptive riding program, as well.

“Since John got the authorization to do this, it opens the door to our veterans who might want to do the same thing,” Tellerino said. “We’re starting a riding class with Nova Quarter Horses for veterans. Everything we do is with private funds, so we’re looking for donations for these veterans to be able to ride. Donations are what keep us going.

“Through this program, it has so many advantages. It’s therapy and clears my mind. They are using therapy horses for a lot of things. I think having a veteran go out there and communicating with a horse, it’s a feeling you can’t explain. It’s a bonding. Anything we can do to take life stresses for our guys, it means so much to them.”

“Their service dogs make a difference in their life. It’s like night and day. We pull our service dogs from PAWS Illinois and other shelters. Wherever we can pull that dog, we’ll take that dog, train it and provide an unbelievable gift to a veteran. It makes his life so much brighter.”

“You’ll never cure PTSD, but these service dogs will make getting through the day so much brighter, adding so much more to your life and making you feel more alive.”

Lorri Ebeling, owner and trainer at Nova Quarter Horses, observed as Greenan took a third-place ribbon in halter.

“With John showing with his canine in the halter class, I’m here to help support the cause,” Ebeling said. “As you can see, my horses are used to dogs. It was John to make sure not to get the dog in front of the horse and the horse not to sniff the dog. It’s been a team effort. Horseback riding is a team.”

According to Nova Quarter Horses website, adaptive riding lessons are horseback riding lessons carefully customized to meet individual requirements for students with special needs. Ebeling is now partnering with K9s for Veterans to design classes for veterans suffering with PTSD and other issues.

“We’re enlarging our adaptive riding program, which will include a veteran’s program,” Ebeling said. “Some of the veterans just want to be with the horses. I am creating a class for each veteran. Some of the veterans just want to be hands on and work in the barn. I’m tailor-making the program for each veteran. I have noticed such positive changes with the adaptive riding program. I see the riders gain confidence and them coming out to be with a horse makes them happy. Their personalities have changed, they’ve gotten stronger. Them having their horse to take care is very important. It challenges them; they see a result for that challenge.”

Those interested in sponsoring a veteran for the riding program contact K9s for Veterans at (773) 854-1000 or k9sforveteransnfp.org. Those interested in additional information on the adaptive riding program can visit novaquarterhorses.com or call (708) 479-3696.
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English teacher from Orland publishes supernatural novel

JESSE WRIGHT
Freelance Reporter

Kevin Patrick Kenealy loves a good story.
He published his first book of poetry, “20 Something,” when he was 23 — eight years ago — though he started writing well before that.

“I got into writing, I guess I could say, early on,” Kenealy said. “In fifth grade, I won a young author’s award contest. I went down to [Illinois State University], and I was down there with other young writers, and I fell in love with writing ever since.”

These days, Kenealy, of Orland Park, spends his days teaching English and journalism at Crete Monee High School, but every free chance he gets he is still writing. In August, he published “Life and Death,” a novel.

“You have this married couple doing married couple things, like going to Home Depot for the garden and things like that,” Kenealy explained. “And they find out they’re not so normal after all.”

This is an understatement. As it happens, the man is the Angel of Death, and his wife happens to be the Angel of Life.

“Theyir paths intersect,” Kenealy said. “For better or for worse, they have to help each other toward the end.”

Kenealy explained the novel is supposed to remind readers that each person has a special talent. Though, he also wants to provide some chills.

“If you’re a fan of ‘Stranger Things’ and anything by Stephen King, you’ll be a fan of this one,” Kenealy said. “This is all about finding the paranormal or the extraordinary in the ordinary. It harkens back to Alfred Hitchcock and finding that weirdness in everyday life.”

Kenealy said he has had good early feedback.

“I’ve had a couple of friends who have read it who normally aren’t readers who couldn’t put it down,” Kenealy said.

And he has put it to tougher critics than friends. While writing the novel, Kenealy said he tested parts of the book before his high school students.

“I read an excerpt to my class without telling them who wrote it, and they didn’t want me to stop reading it,” he said. “Then, when I told them I wrote it, they were like, ‘Really, it was you?’ So it connects with youth.”

While the reaction was good, Kenealy said he would not have minded some criticism. High school students may be tough critics, but he said that is what writers need.

“Yeah, I was little bit nervous,” he said. “But at the same time, if you’re always out there fishing for compliments, you’re not good at your craft. So, it was nice. I had a positive reception, but I wouldn’t have been upset someone had fallen asleep during it or if they didn’t like it. If they hadn’t liked it, I would have asked them what they didn’t like about it, and then I’d have gone back to the drawing board. You have to roll with the punches.”

Kenealy’s “Life and Death,” as well as his other works are available on amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com. While he currently has no readings or events planned, Kenealy said he is organizing some.

He can be reached through his Facebook page, www.facebook.com/kevinpatrickkenealy.
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1. Isolation (lack of motivation)
2. Depression (loss of social activity/interaction)
3. Forgetfulness (such as leaving a stove on)
4. Increased agitation, anger and aggression

Experiencing any of the above first-hand is frightening. And, it’s normal to hesitate because you want to keep them at home longer.

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‘Ocean’s Eight’ a half-hearted rehash of franchise

BILL JONES, Editor

The cast of “Ocean’s Eight” may be just as impressive as that of the “Ocean’s 11” reboot.

Starring — in the order they are billed — Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Mindy Kaling, Sarah Paulson, Awkwafina, Rihanna and Helena Bonham Carter, “Ocean’s Eight” has all of the tools it needs to make the all-female reinvention work. But under the direction of Gary Ross (“Seabiscuit,” “The Hunger Games”), it never feels like anything more than an imitation.

Much like its predecessors, “Ocean’s Eight” is a heist film. Instead of a casino, the women are looking to steal a diamond Cartier necklace called the Toussaint during the Met Gala in New York. That means an elaborate plan, the twists for which the series is known and plenty of high fashion.

It’s fun; it just feels a tad stale. The story is almost a paint-by-the-numbers take on the Ocean’s franchise. That’s not a terrible thing. It just doesn’t bring a finesse of its own needed to make this film feel new and exciting.

And with the exception of Hathaway, who plays one of the leadish roles wonderfully, the secondary actors steal the show. Bonham Carter is delightfully askew, as always, and both Rihanna and Awkwafina offer the ensemble two unique characters. But Bullock, ever serious, looks like she isn’t having much fun with the role.

That fun is the key ingredient missing here. “Ocean’s 11” wasn’t just about executing a heist; it was about the camaraderie of the group effort, with a special flair exuding the enjoyment that can come from doing something mischievous.

“Ocean’s Eight” gets the job done. Just not much more.

The highlight of the Blu-ray release is a featurette called “Reimagining The Met Gala.” It delves into how the film got the chance to use the space, how the movie’s makers staged the event and more. It’s a great inside look at the making of the film.

The disc is rounded out by deleted scenes, “A Heist in Heels” extra and “Ocean’s Team 3.0.”

FILM FILES
A recap of recent home video releases

Tag (Blu-ray + DVD + Digital)
Longtime friends have continued, one month a year, playing tag into their adulthood. It has only gotten more elaborate, with Hoagie (Ed Helms), Bob (Jon Hamm), Chilli (Jake Johnson) and Sable (Hannibal Buress) traveling around the country in an attempt to tag one another, and most importantly trying to end the never-before-tagged streak of Jerry (Jeremy Renner). It is based on a true story, and it has its moments, but “Tag” mostly takes its premise and dials it to 11 — proving more often over-the-top with its comedy than intelligent. Buress’s more grounded responses to the shenanigans provide plenty of laughs. But the attempt at a heartfelt ending “Tag” makes does not feel earned by its characters. And it won’t necessitate repeat viewings on Blu-ray. That’s just as well, because the extras don’t amount to much — even the “Meet the Real Tag Brothers” featurette, sadly.

Rating: R | Genres: Comedy | Running Time: 100 minutes

First Reformed (Blu-ray + Digital)
“First Reformed” is a strange but fascinating film. Driven by Ethan Hawke in the lead role, it focuses on a pastor named Toller. He runs a historic church, as part of a larger organization. He simultaneously finds himself facing some unspoken medical woe, a crisis of faith and the opportunity to help and try to give away the key moments of the movie. Submit your review to bill@opprairie.com. Please include your name and phone number in the email.

New ‘Bob’s Burgers’ books offer some silly fun

BILL JONES, Editor

It’s a big month for “Bob’s Burgers” books, as Universe is releasing two on Sept. 18. And there is little to no reading required for fans to enjoy them.

Instead of anything text-heavy, the publisher is releasing “The Official Bob’s Burgers Guided Journal” and “The Official Bob’s Burgers Sticker Book.”

The former is bound in a red hardcover with the show’s logo imprinted on the cover. It looks nice but comes surrounded by a cheap wrap-around that invites removal. Inside, most pages are lined. And those using the journal are offered plenty of prompts for entries, the humor of which are spot-on for fans of the show. The book also features characters from the show in the margins.

And whether one follows the prompts or uses the book simply as a journal bound to present some good laughs, it does the trick.

The sticker book is a little more than 30 pages and also a lot of fun. But while the full family poses, the themed pages and character stickers are exactly what fans of the show might enjoy in sticker form, the deconstructed burgers seem like a strange choice. I’m not sure what anyone might do with the random parts, like a glob of mayonnaise.

Then again, I’m not sure when I last added stickers to anything other than an envelope, so maybe I’m not the target audience for this one.

And now for some really mindless entertainment

For those who don’t like making up their own stories for their action figures, “Rom and the Micronauts” offers IDW Publishing’s take on the Hasbro toys. Baron Karza and D’rge are looking to conquer Microspace in this collection of the “Micronauts: First Strike” one-shot, the “Rom: First Strike” one-shot and the “Rom & The Micronauts” mini-series.

Fans of the Solstar Knight and the miniature heroes will find plenty of action on each page. The artwork is solid. But the story is lackluster, in the way big-time Hasbro robot stories tend to be. There’s a lot of noise and a few twists. But it’s not material worth more than a passing thought — a vehicle to deliver the colors on the page and the toys in the stores.

Read a book and want to let everyone in town know what you think about it? The Orland Park Prairie is looking for residents to review books for its Chapter Chatter feature. The best reviews will be published in The Prairie and online at OPPrairie.com. Keep reviews around 400 words or fewer and try not to spoil any key moments in the book. Submit your review to bill@opprairie.com. Please include your name and phone number in the email.
House specials are the standout sellers at La Dolce Vita

NURIA MATHOG
Contributing Editor

With a menu packed with pastas, sautéed shrimp and other Italian specialties, Frankfort’s La Dolce Vita Della Piazza aims to bring a piece of Italy to the south-west suburbs.

The Old Frankfort Way establishment, which has been in business for the past 15 years, is one of the restaurant’s two locations, with the second in Plainfield.

Manager Todd Severin has been in charge of the Frankfort restaurant for the past eight years and got his start at a now-closed location in Western Springs, working his way up the ranks to the front of the house.

“I started off as a dishwasher, expediter for the food — all of the positions in the back,” he said. “So, I was groomed from the back to the front with that. Now, I manage the front of the house, so I try to do the best I can and keep everybody happy. Every day’s a learning experience. Overall, everything is very good.”

Pasta lovers have their pick of noodle dishes at the restaurant, from fettucine Alfredo to a choice of spaghetti, mostaccioli or linguine, served with meat or marinara sauce, as well as the menu’s variety of veal, beef, chicken, pork and seafood dishes, sure to please any meat-eater’s palate. But diners often gravitate to the restaurant’s house specials, Severin said, including the melanzane al forno, or eggplant Parmesan ($17.95), a stack of sliced eggplant baked in a red tomato sauce and topped with melted cheese. Severin described the dish as a meal “to die for.”

“It’s cooked until it’s nice and tender,” he said. “It’s fresh and made to order. Everything’s made to order. The red sauce is kind of tangy.”

Another frequently-ordered item is the filetto di manzo portabello ($27.50), a dish featuring sautéed beef tenderloin medallions, surrounded by artichoke hearts, portobello mushrooms and sweet peppers in a red wine sauce. All items on the house specials menu are served with the diner’s choice of pasta, topped with either meat or marinara sauce, as well as a complimentary house salad.

Depending on seasonal availability, diners can enjoy unique drinks, such as fresh pineapple and peach martinis with their meals. And caffeinated classics, such as the restaurant’s espresso ($4), are offered year-round. La Dolce Vita also offers a selection of desserts, including lemon ice, spumoni and cannoli. In particular, Severin recommends the housemade tiramisu ($7.95), which includes mascarpone cheese, cream, lady fingers dipped in espresso and a coffee liqueur.

“It’s an unbelievable recipe,” he said. “We do such a great job. People rave about it.”

The restaurant, which is open during dinner hours Monday-Saturday, intends to provide a cozy, comfortable dining experience for customers, Severin said.

“The food is exceptional, and you get a warm feeling when you come in, a family atmosphere,” he said. “We treat everybody like family when they come in. We have a lot of regulars — and not-so-regulars that become regulars. Our restaurant, it’s like our dining room. ... We bring them into our home.”

More than anything, Severin said he is especially proud of the restaurant’s commitment to quality service.

“There’s no big turnaround in the staff,” he said. “Everyone that works here has been here since the restaurant’s opened, from the bartenders to the servers, cooks, everybody. That’s a hard thing to do, keep everybody happy, once you’ve worked with everybody side by side for so long. We have a good family bond, I would say.”
Orland Township’s Pet-Palooza scheduled for Sept. 15

Joining Pet-Palooza this year will be special guests meteorologist Andy Avalos from NBC Chicago and morning show host Kevin Kollins from Star 96.7.

Pet-Palooza will feature more than 70 local vendors, ranging from pet boutiques and animal hospitals to rescue organizations and local restaurants offering free samples of their cuisine. The nearly block-long Kids Zone will include several inflatable bounce houses, train rides, games and prizes. And while at Pet-Palooza, children will have the opportunity to meet some of their favorite princesses, superheroes, and members of the Paw Patrol.

New this year are the Pet-Palooza Main Stage Talks, which will feature several short question-and-answer sessions with some of Pet-Palooza’s vendors. Kevin Kollins from Star 96.7 will emcee segments with vendors, who will answer audience questions and share their expertise. Scheduled topics include “Ask the Vet,” “Floors & Fido,” and “Scales and Shells.” Andy Avalos will answer weather questions in the segment, “Ask Andy.”

Main Stage Talks will begin at 12:15 p.m. and run until 2 p.m., with a new topic and expert introduced approximately every 15 minutes. The final schedule will be posted at Pet-Palooza and on the Township’s website, orlandtownship.org.

At 2 p.m., the ever-popular pet contests, hosted by NBC’s Andy Avalos, will take place. Categories include: Best Trick, Best Voice and Best Dressed. Participants can participate in up to three categories and must sign up at the entrance tent the day of the event.

Admission to Pet-Palooza is free; however, a donation of a 5-pound bag of pet food or a cash donation to the Orland Township Pet Pantry is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Residents are reminded that well-behaved pets are welcome and encouraged to attend. All pets must have up-to-date vaccinations, wear proper tags and be on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Rest areas for pets that are shaded and have water bowls and small pools will be set up on-site. Doggie-doo-doo bags also will be available throughout Pet-Palooza for owners to clean up any ‘accidents’ that occur.

All proceeds from Pet-Palooza will benefit the Orland Township Pet Pantry, Crathy’s Closet, which was founded by Supervisor Paul O’Grady and his wife, and named for a beloved O’Grady family feline rescue.

For more information on Pet-Palooza, visit orlandtownship.org or call (708) 403-4222.
CROSSTOWN CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

THE CROSSTOWNS: Frankfort, Homer Glen, Lockport, Mokena, New Lenox, Orland Park, Tinley Park

**ACROSS**
1. Birthstone after sapphire
2. Org. for Annika Sorenstam
3. What Mike Myers creates
4. Pro ___ (proportionally)
5. Pavarotti solo
6. Northwest Territories native
7. Pitt of “Twelve Monkeys”
8. Gulf of Finland feeder
9. Kyle
10. Warriors soccer star
11. “What Kind of Fool ___”
12. Badly lit
13. 1993 Formula One winner
14. Bluish green
15. Greenwich
16. Feint
17. Feint
18. Gulf of Finland feeder
19. Gulf of Finland feeder
20. Lego
21. Sable
22. Open, in a way
23. Oral
24. Sable
25. Warriors soccer star
26. Make proud
27. Shows boredom
28. Navy bean
29. “What Kind of Fool ___”
30. Badly lit
31. Heavenly body
32. Trooper or sailing?
33. Not much
34. “Charlie’s Angels” angel
35. Carriage
36. Go for
37. Donor
38. Great report card
39. Healthcare benefits giant
40. Open, in a way
41. Feint
42. Small songbirds
43. City map abbr.
44. The Colts, on a scoreboard
45. Most dear
46.s*___ Plaines
47. 19th C. Jesuit
48. Sully
49. New Lenox concert series
50. Open, in a way
51. Feint
52. Small songbirds
53. 19th C. Jesuit
54. 19th C. Jesuit
55. Double
56. Poll responses
57. Georgetown athlete
58. Open, in a way
59. Healthcare benefits giant
60. Open, in a way
61. Recently
62. Solzhenitsyn novel setting
63. Subway purchase
64. See

**DOWN**
1. Heavenly body
2. Trooper or sailing?
3. Not much
4. “Charlie’s Angels” angel
5. Carriage
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7. Donor
8. Great report card
9. healthcare benefits giant
10. Feint
11. Feint
12. Small songbirds
13. City map abbr.
14. Sable
15. Cats
16. Make proud
17. Shows boredom
18. Fermented soybean paste
19. Org. that aids the stranded
20. Hackman’s role in “The French Connection”
21. Sable
22. Cats
23. Make proud
24. Shows boredom
25. Fermented soybean paste
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**How to play Sudoku**

Each sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle, each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

**LEVEL:** Medium

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**PUZZLES**

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**THE ORLAND PARK PRAIRIE | September 13, 2018 | 33**

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**Dan ’D’ Jac’s**

(9358 171st St., Orland Hills; (708) 460-8773)

**Fox’s Restaurant and Pub**

(9655 W. 143rd St., Orland Park; (708) 349-2111)

**Papa Joe’s**

(14459 S. LaGrange Road, Orland Park; (708) 403-9099)

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**Where You Want to Be Seen This Weekend**

**Orland Park**

**Girl in the Park**

(11265 W. 159th St., Orland Park, IL; (708) 226-0042)

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**Square Celt Ale House & Grill**

(39 Orland Square Drive, Orland Park; (708) 226-9600)

**Traverso’s Restaurant**

(15601 S. Harlem Ave., Orland Park; (708) 532-2220)

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To place an event in The Scene, email austrial@22ndcenturymedia.com.
For second year, premier homes in Chicago's growing southwest suburbs will be highlighted by professional organization.

ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS
The SouthWest Suburban Home Builders Association (SSHBA) is back to show area home buyers in the south and southwest suburbs the best their market has to offer.

After the success of last year’s inaugural Tour of Homes, the SSHBA returns better than ever with its 2nd Annual Tour of Homes, which is generously sponsored by both James Hardie Building Products and Searls Windows & Doors Inc. Sixteen builders are ready to show off their craftsmanship of 21 model homes on two different weekends this September.

The first set of tours will be held Sept. 15-16 from noon until 5 p.m. and will feature homes in 11 desirable south and southwest suburban communities. The second set of tours will run from Sept. 22 to 23, also from noon until 5 p.m., and admission is free for both weekends.

Moving is a major life step, and SSHBA is hoping to help you take that step by highlighting homes ranging in size from 1,700 square feet to 6,800 square feet and that offer a variety of custom-made features to fit any family’s needs. Homes range in price with townhomes starting at $269,000. The most expensive home on the market is a 6,800-square-foot home for $1.5 million.

“These are family-friendly towns that we’re promoting with good school districts, and they give that city life without the city,” said Shannon Rocha, executive officer for the SSHBA. Rocha urges potential home buyers to think of new construction as an option, and the 2018 Tour of Homes is the perfect setting to explore that option with professional builders talking about their histories and specialties during the tour.

The 2018 Tour of Homes will offer 21 unique home options for all types of buyers, including single-family and townhome options.

Single-family home options include:

- **Castleton Homes**
  14253 Lacey Drive, Lemont; 12123 Fairmont Lane, Lemont
- **Flaherty Builders, Inc.**
  1886 Mays Drive, New Lenox; 11100 Deer Haven Lane, Orland Park
- **Brian Wille Construction**
  15810 Mueller Way, New Lenox
- **M.C. Custom Homes, Inc.**
  16735 W. Deerwood Drive, Lockport
- **McNaughton Development**
  11650 Bridewell Dr., Burr Ridge; 8390 Waterview Court, Burr Ridge
- **Beechen & Dill Homes, Inc.**
  10022 Franchesca Lane, Orland Park
- **J. Michael Builders**
  25832 W. Canyon Blvd., Plainfield
- **5th Avenue Construction, Inc.**
  12878 Collina Lane, Lemont; 13030 Dunmoor Drive, Lemont
- **Putman Builders, Inc.**
  22538 Majestic Lane, Frankfort
- **T.J. Cachey Builders Inc.**
  2130 Highview Drive, New Lenox; 25332 Riley Erin Road, Manhattan (ranch town home)
- **Pearl Home Builders**
  (three-story town home) 17900 Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park
- **Gardner Luxury Homes**
  27232 W. Deer Hollow Lane, Channahon
- **A & J Construction, Inc.**
  15338 Oak Run Ct., Lockport
- **Riverview Builders, Inc.**
  15827 Aster Drive, Lockport
- **The Ville Design Build**
  2325 Trillium Lane, Naperville
- **O’Malley Builders, Inc.**
  20491 Abbey Dr., Frankfort
- **J. Michael Builders**
  25832 W. Canyon Blvd., Plainfield
- **5th Avenue Construction, Inc.**
  12878 Collina Lane, Lemont; 13030 Dunmoor Drive, Lemont
- **Putman Builders, Inc.**
  22538 Majestic Lane, Frankfort
- **T.J. Cachey Builders Inc.**
  2130 Highview Drive, New Lenox; 25332 Riley Erin Road, Manhattan (ranch town home)
- **Pearl Home Builders**
  (three-story town home) 17900 Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park

With a clearly defined tour route and a pocket-sized map, buyers can explore the tour simply. The route was designed for ease of navigation and allows buyers to view multiple homes, by multiple builders, over the course of a weekend.

“The idea is we want to make it easy to get to,” Rocha said. “Whenever you’re on a tour it kind of makes it fun. You’re seeing more than one. You’re going, you’re taking a tour and you’re seeing what’s available.”

“Builders do not have to be a member of the SSHBA, but if they’re a member of the SSHBA they are receiving education and we want [home buyers] to see how our builders are set apart from a builder that is not a member with us.”

SouthWest Suburban Home Builders promotes high standards, professionalism and service within the building industry and supports the American dream of home ownership. As the unified voice for building industry issues, the SSHBA promotes advocacy and awareness, provides educational programs, networking opportunities, and opportunities for consumer referrals. For more information, visit www.sshba.com.

**Models will be open from noon to 5 p.m. each weekend.**
Distinctive Home Builders Introduces New Craftsman Homes
In Manhattan and Peotone – From the mid-$200’s

New designs are a result of buyer feedback

Two refreshing designs mark the beginning of a new series of Craftsman-style homes available from Distinctive Home Builders at its latest new home communities: Prairie Trails; located in Manhattan within the highly-regarded Lincoln-Way School District and at WestGate Manor in Peotone within the desirable Peotone School District.

“Craftsman homes were introduced in the early 1900s in California with designs based on a simpler, functional aesthetic using a higher level of craftsmanship and natural materials. These homes were a departure from homes that were mass produced from that era, “according to Bryan Nooner, president of Distinctive Home Builders.

“The Craftsman design has made a comeback today for many of the same reasons it started over a century ago. Our customers want to live in a home that gets away from the “mass produced” look and live in a home that has more character. As a result of our daily interaction with our homeowners and their input, we are excited to introduce these two homes, with additional designs in the works.”

Nooner added that all homes are highly energy efficient. Every home built will have upgraded wall and ceiling insulation values with energy efficient windows and high efficiency furnaces. Before homeowners move into their new home, Distinctive Home Builders conducts a blower door test that pressurizes the home to ensure that each home passes a set of very stringent Energy Efficiency guidelines.

With the addition of these two new designs, there are now 15 ranch, split-level and six two-story single-family home styles to choose from each offering from three to eight different exterior elevations at both communities. The three- to four-bedroom homes feature one and one-half to two-and-one-half baths, two- to three-car garages and a family room, all in approximately 1,600 to over 3,000 square feet of living space. Basements are included in most models as well. Distinctive also encourages customization to make your new home truly personalized to suit your lifestyle.

Oversize home sites; brick exteriors on all four sides of the first floor; custom maple cabinets; ceramic tile or hardwood floors in the kitchen, baths and foyer; genuine wood trim and doors and concrete driveways can all be yours at Prairie Trails and WestGate Manor. Most all home sites at Prairie Trails and WestGate Manor can accommodate a three-car garage; a very important amenity to the Manhattan homebuyer, said Nooner.

“When we opened Prairie Trails and WestGate Manor we wanted to provide the best new home value for the dollar and we feel with offering Premium Standard Features that we do just that. So why wait? This is truly the best time to build your dream home!”

Prairie Trails is also a beautiful place to live and raise a family featuring a 20-acre lake on site, as well as direct access to the 22-mile Wauponsee Glacial Prairie Path that borders the community and meanders through many neighboring communities and links to many other popular trails. The Manhattan Metra station is less than a mile away.

Besides Prairie Trails, Distinctive Home Builders has built homes throughout Manhattan in the Butternut Ridge and Leighlinbridge developments, as well as in the Will and south Cook county areas over the past 30 years.

Distinctive Home Builders chose the Will County village of Peotone for its newest community of 38 single-family homes at WestGate Manor within walking distance of the esteemed Peotone High School.

Its convenient location between Interstate 57 and Illinois Route 50 provide easy access to I-80 and commuters enjoy several nearby train stations and a 35-minute drive to Chicago.

Visit the on-site sales information center for unadvertised specials and view the numerous styles of homes being offered and the available lots. Call Lynne Rinck at (708) 737-9142 or (708) 479-7700 for more information or visit www.distinctivehomebuilders.com. The Prairie Trails and WestGate Manor new home information center is located three miles south of Laraway Rd. on Rt. 52. The address is 24458 S. Rt. 52, Manhattan, IL. 60422. Open Daily 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closed Wednesday and Thursday and always available by appointment.

Specials, prices, specifications, standard features, model offerings, build times and lot availability are subject to change without notice. Please contact a Distinctive representative for current pricing and complete details.
Help Wanted

22nd Century Media seeks Graphic Designer

Position Overview:
22nd Century Media, a media publishing company based in Orland Park & Northbrook, is seeking a Graphic Designer to join their team.

Responsibilities Include:
Create web/print advertising material, visual web design using WordPress, Update existing as well as creating new web/print collateral for Events, Occasional page layout, Miscellaneous design projects, Communicate with inside & outside sales reps, Maintain FTP/server files, Edit and upload digital publications, Prepare & troubleshoot PDF files

Qualifications:
Bachelor’s in Graphic Design or related field preferred, Proficient in Adobe Creative Suite for Mac, Layout and digital design experience a must, Familiarity with CMS (WordPress), Strong typography knowledge & expertise; Excellent Communication, Interpersonal & Organizational skills, Ability to work independently and with team within fast-paced, deadline-sensitive environment

Next Steps:
For more information or to be considered for this opportunity, email a resume to: careers@22ndcenturymedia.com

No phone calls please. EOE

22nd Century Media seeks Inside Sales Director

Position Overview:
22nd Century Media, a media publishing company based in Orland Park, is seeking an Inside Sales Director to join their team.

Responsibilities Include:
Proactively prospecting and qualifying potential new advertising accounts; handling incoming leads; identifying business opportunities and working with decision makers to obtain customer commitment; and achieving weekly revenue targets.

Qualification:
Ideal candidates will possess 1–3 years of experience in sales environment. Must have a strong work ethic and ability to work independently as well as with a team. Excellent communication skills, time-management and interpersonal skills required.

Next Steps:
For more information or to be considered for this opportunity, email a resume to: careers@22ndcenturymedia.com

No phone calls please. EOE

Automotive

1052 Garage Sale

Midlothian, 14849 S. Kostner Ave. 9/13-9/15, 9-3pm. Lots of guy stuff, large yard & other tools router, vintage horse shoe set & more!
Mokena, 19778 Ascot Place 1 DAY ONLY! 9/15, 10-4pm. Tools, ladders, Xmas items, bikes & misc. Must Use Guest Parking Only!
Orland Park 8846 Terry Dr 9/14-9/15 9-3pm Household, furniture, novelties, home decor & much more! Priced to sell!!

Village of Manhattan
Community Wide Garage Sale
Fri Sept 14th & Sat Sept 15th, 8:00am-3:00pm
All participant’s addresses will be listed in a map of the community. Maps will be available for distribution on September 10th at Village Hall, located at 260 Market Pl. Manhattan, IL
and online at www.villageofmanhattan.org
For questions, please call Village Hall at (815)418-2100

1053 Multi Family Sale

Frankfort, 22609 Stanford Dr Thurs 9/13 & Fri 9/14, 9-6pm. Glass curio, coffee tbl, linens, toys, holiday items, carousel horse collection (40 pieces)/
Lockport Peachtree Dr. 9/13-9/15, 8:30-4pm. Electronics, housewares, holiday decor, kid toys, adult & children clothing & much more!
Orland Park, 8427 Wheeler Dr. Sept 13 & 14, 9-3pm. Women, kid and baby clothes. Households & toys!

1057 Estate Sale

New Lenox 635 N Marley Rd 9/14-9/15 10-2pm Living, dining & bedroom furniture. Bookshelves, disp cab, TV stand, china, crystal & collectibles

Call Betty (815)545-4935

1061 Autos Wanted

WE NEED CARS, TRUCKS & VANS
Running Or Not from Old to New!
Top Dollar Paid - Free Pick-Up
Locally Located
(708)205-8241

1065 Motorcycles

2016 Hyundai Sonata Limited
White with gray leather interior, fully loaded, 50K miles (all highway) $18,400 OBO
Call (815)405-2341

1074 Auto for Sale

DRIVE CAR BUYERS
TO YOUR DOOR WITH A CLASSIFIED AUTO AD
CALL US TODAY at 708.326.9170

Outdoor work: F/T year-round & seasonal Employment
Potential for paid winters off. Benefits incl. health, dental, IRA. Clean driving record a MUST. Starting rate: $14/hr. Time and 1/2 over 40 hrs. Apply in-person 7320 Duvan Dr, Tinley Park M-F 8a-4p.

Part-time Telephone Work calling from home for AMVETS. Ideal for homemakers and retirees. Must be reliable and have morning & evening hours available for calling. If interested, Call 708-429-6477 M-F, 10am - 1pm Only!

Dishwasher - Line Cook - Servers & Bartender
Apply in Person at Traverso’s Restaurant 15601 S Harlem Ave

Village Realty

Become a Realtor Now!
Real Estate Classes Tuition Rebate Program.
Call Carrie (708)254-9768 www.JoinVRS.com

1052 Garage Sale

Homer Glen 17834 Robert Emmett Dr 9/14-9/15 9-3pm Holiday, housewares, paintings, tools, elect, mech & garden
Orland Park 9333 W 145th St 9/14-9/15 9-3pm Hshld, antiques, tools, furn, glassware & misc & much more!
Tinley Park 18007 Flamingo Dr. 9/14-9/15 8am-2pm. Tools, Christmas, miscellaneous households!

2009 H-D fxd Dyna FatBob
13,355 miles new tires $8,299.00 runs great
Black 708-710-7867

Charge It DEADLINE - Friday at 3pm

Golden Rule:
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You may also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsccom for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

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Notice of Sale:

You are hereby given
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CASE NUMBER: 16 CH 06040
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
Plaintiff
RAME JEUDEH, NOWAL JUDEH, FOUNTAIN HILLS OF ORLAND PARK, HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Defendants
155 RIDGECREST
18038 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE ORLAND PARK, IL 60467

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 26, 2017, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on October 24, 2018, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, sell to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 18038 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE, ORLAND PARK, IL 60467

Property Index No.
27-320-081-0000

The real estate was
sold for $23,147,514.64. The purchaser of the property, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). The purchaser of the property, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

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For information, contact the sales department by phone at (312) 346-9088. For more information, contact the sales department by phone at (312) 346-9088.
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

10 Questions with Brian Maday

Brian Maday is a junior soccer player who is also one of the kickers on the football team this fall.

So, how do you work things out with practice for soccer and football?

I am lucky that both of my soccer and football coaches agreed to splitting half of my time between soccer and football. I begin soccer practice right after school and then at 4:45 head to football and finish up at about 6.

When you were a kid, what came first, soccer or football?

I started playing soccer at the age of 5. My first football game was freshmen year at Sandburg.

If you could line up against anyone in soccer, who would it be against and why?

Ronaldinho because he always amazes me as a forward and it would be cool to see if I could stop him.

What is your proudest moment in either sport?

It occurred in my very first football game as a freshmen for Carl Sandburg. I kicked a 37-yard field goal.

If there is a movie you could watch over and over without getting bored with it?

“Elf” is one of my favorite movies because I really like the Christmas holiday season.

How about a TV show that you could watch over and over?

I could watch “The Office” over and over because it never grows old and keeps me laughing.

If you could have dinner with anyone — living or dead — who would it be with?

I would love to have dinner with Robin Williams because he was hilarious and I know that we would have an awesome time.

If they made a movie about your life, who should play you?

It would be Lewis [a cartoon character] from “Meet the Robinsons.” I’ve been told I look like him.

What would that movie be called?

“The One and Only Maday”.

Interview conducted by Sports Editor Jeff Vorva

JEFF VORVA/22ND CENTURY MEDIA
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JEFF VORVA, Sports Editor

First things first.

Sandburg’s girls volleyball team should probably stop losing its first sets against strong opponents.

But then again, as long as the Eagles continue to play clutch volleyball at the end of their matches, it may not hurt as much.

Like they did against Mother McAuley on Aug. 28, they lost their first set in their home gym on Thursday, Sept. 6 against Joliet Catholic Academy.

And, like they did against McAuley, they roared back and took the last two sets, beating the Angels 28-30, 25-20, 25-21 to improve to 9-2. They were ranked fifth in the state recently by ill-prepvb.com

“Our program has been playing a lot of three-game matches,” senior Lauren Mizera said. “We show a lot of grit and we want to win. When people come out there, they know we’re Sandburg and they know they want to beat us. It means a lot to us to carry that name and carry that status. We grit it out and we don’t lose third games.”

While some teams might be living on borrowed time and feel deflated after suffering a 30-28 barn-burning loss, the Eagles proved that if they want to make a deep run in the post season, they will recover quickly from those types of setbacks.

“That little push at the end of the first set gave us momentum,” Sandburg coach Dave Vales said. “Even though we lost, we went right to the bench and said ‘we got this.’ We figured their offense out a little bit. We went into the second set totally confident we knew what we needed to do to win the match. We didn’t feel like we lost anything.”

Power hitter Erica Staunton slammed down 22 kills and Megan Dziadkowski added 10 and Shelby Stefanon. Rachel Krasowski had 34 digs, Jaclyn Oblena added while Rachel DeFries had 20 assists and freshman Bianca May added 18.

The triumph over the traditional power Angels came two days after being upset by Plainfield Central 25-23, 25-20 on the road.

“We didn’t take them as seriously as we should have,” said Mizera, who had key blocks down the stretch in the third set against JCA. “We let the early season success get to our heads a little bit. This early in the season, it was beneficial to us to have a little loss there to wake us up. Every match is important and every match needs to be taken seriously. No one is going to be easy.”

Down the line, things won’t be easy for any of the top teams in the state. A group that includes Sandburg, Marist (ranked fourth in the nation by USA Today), Marian Catholic, Sterling and a host of others could be battling it out in October and November.

“I feel like there are going to be a lot of surprises and upsets this year and there are a lot of new teams stepping up and it will be interesting to see which teams rise to the challenge,” Mizera said.
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CROSS COUNTRY

Sandburg not horsing around with perfect score

JEFF VORVA, Sports Editor

Sandburg’s boys cross country team doesn’t have a jaw-dropping runner such as Lukas Verzbicas, twin Chris and Sean Torpy or Dylan Jacobs just yet.

“It a team that is going to be tight and out front,” Coach John O’Malley said before the start of the season. “We have four guys we call the ‘Four Horsemen’ [Twins Ben and Will Giblin, Sam Rodriguez and Nico Calderon]. It’s a different kind of team, for sure. But I think we’re going to be pretty good.”

One of the Horsemen, Calderon, didn’t participate in the Reavis Running Rams Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 7, in Burbank but that didn’t stop the Eagles from scoring a perfect score with 15 points.

Ben Giblin finished first with a time of 16 minutes, 2.6 seconds, which was a fraction of a second of breaking Marist runner and Orland Park resident Thomas Leonard’s course record of 16:02.3.

Will Giblin took second while Rodriguez, Ismail Tineh and Griffin Lehnhardt rounded out the top five for the Eagles. Even though they didn’t score, Sandburg’s Ben Walter took eighth place and Alex Miller 10th.

The Eagles have finished in the top 10 in the state in Class 3A in the past five years including an Illinois High School Association state championship in 2015.

The Eagles had their first meet of the season at Lyons wiped out by lightning on Sept. 1, so this was the first major test. They are scheduled to participate in the Peoria Notre Dame Invitational at Detweiller Park, which is also the home of the state track meet.

Sandburg’s girls finished ninth at Reavis with 263 points. Senior Cassandra Pritchard finished 43rd to lead the Eagles.

RIGHT: Sandburg’s cross country team, shown running in the early stages of the SouthWest Suburban Conference preseason meet, figures to run in a pack near the front of the field in most of its meets this season. Sandburg scored a perfect 15 points at a meet at Reavis on Sept. 8.  JEFF VORVA/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

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FOOTBALL

Eagles blanked by Raiders; meet No. 1 LW East next

BY DAVE OWEN, Freelance Reporter

Call it one of those nights for Sandburg, or just a nightmare.
Whatever the description, the Eagles’ 54-0 loss at Bolingbrook on Friday, Sept. 7, goes in the books as just one rough game as the Eagles fell to 2-1 in their SouthWest Suburban Conference opener against the No. 6 team in the state in Class 8A, according to the Associated Press poll.

“Just forget about it,” Sandburg junior Mike Richards said of the Eagles’ postgame approach. “Move on. We have (Lincoln-Way) East (ranked No. 1 in the state in 8A at home on Friday, Sept. 14), but we’re not scared of anybody. We’ll play anybody.”

Richards provided one of Friday’s few memorable moments, a pass interception and what initially appeared to be a 45-yard return before an illegal block whittled the return yardage to a still-solid 20-yard gain.

“I just saw their guy come out on an out route,” Richards said of the pick. “I just read the quarterback and he pretty much led me to the guy. I read it perfectly and just took it.”

That play 1 minutes, 5 seconds before halftime ended the half with a denial of a Raiders drive to the Sandburg 30-yard-line. But the opening two minutes of that first half painted a different story.

In quick succession, Bolingbrook’s Antonio King returned the opening kickoff 95 yards for a 7-0 lead. The Raiders then recovered the ensuing kickoff at the Sandburg 27-yard-line, setting up a TD pass to King that made the score 14-0 just 1:54 into the game. Bolingbrook led 20-0 after a quarter and 32-0 at halftime.

“We knew going into the game that they were a very good team,” Sandburg coach Scott Peters said. “And it really couldn’t have started any worse than it did. Obviously when you play a good team you can’t have those mistakes early on. We’ll try to learn from it, get better and move on to next week.”

Bolingbrook’s trademark speed was on display on the opening kickoff, again on a 66-yard TD run by Jordan Pringle in the second quarter, and with a swarming defense that allowed the Eagles just 80 yards of total offense (61 passing, and 19 rushing yards on 26 carries).

“You can’t ever really prepare for speed like that until you see it,” Peters said. “But as we always tell the kids, you’re not as good as you think you are after a win and you’re not as bad as you think you are after a loss either. We just have to keep grinding.”

“We didn’t contain very well, and we just didn’t play as well as we could,” Richards said.

A trio of turnovers also helped Bolingbrook (288 yards of total offense), which had four short TD scoring drives of 30 yards or less.

Quarterbacks Ben Starcevich (40 yards passing), Jack Shelton (2-of-5 passing for 21 yards) and Rick Maziarz (15 yards rushing) were offensive leaders for the Eagles. Richards, Tyler Lovitt and Blake Biszewski had tackles for loss, and Tyler Villa and Dylan Goodsell combined on a 9-yard quarterback sack.

Bolingbrook’s Jalen Austin takes a hard hit from Bolingbrook’s Justin Walters during a kickoff return on Friday, Sept. 7. Walters was whistled for a late-hit penalty during the play in the Raiders’ 54-0 victory over the Eagles. PHOTOS BY JEFF VORVA/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

Sandburg’s speed hurt Sandburg all night and on this play, Trevor Borland raced by Eagles defenders for a third-quarter touchdown.
**Area Sports Roundup**

**Sandburg soccer team opens JT West Tournament with two wins**

**JEFF VORVA, Sports Editors**

One of the most dangerous tag teams outside of the WWE, NXT or any other pro-wrestling organization might be found in Orland Park on a soccer field.

Sandburg’s Adam Azhari and Colin Kroll have been complementing each other well during tournament play for the boys soccer team. Kroll fed Azhari for a goal in a 1-0 victory over Naperville Central (then ranked 13th in the ChicagolandSoccer.org poll) in the Best of the West Tournament in late August.

They were at it again in the opening two rounds of the round-robin Joliet West tournament. Azhari had two goals, one assisted by Kroll, and Kroll found the back of the net once in a 3-0 victory over District 230 rival Andrew in Tinley Park on Sept. 4.

The pair each scored goals in a 2-0 victory over Joliet West on Saturday, Sept. 8.

“All the formations we run, I look for him and he’s usually in the right place,” Kroll added.

Connor Baker, Ben Castillo and Marc Elhage shut out the Thunderbolts while Baker got the shutout against Joliet West.

Sandburg was scheduled to host Marian Catholic on Tuesday, Sept. 11, and Nazareth on Thursday, Sept. 13 to try to win the tournament.

Sandwiched in between the two tournament wins was a huge loss in the Southwest Suburban Conference Blue as the Eagles dropped a 1-0 decision to Lincoln-Way East to open the league season in Frankfort on Thursday, Sept. 6. That could turn out to be critical in a league that also features powerful Lockport.

**Big weekend for Eagles golfers**

Sandburg’s boys team broke 300 at the Providence Invitational at the Sanctuary Golf Course on Saturday, Sept. 8.

“Kroll and I have a great connection,” said Azhari, who had six goals in the team’s first eight matches after scoring two in 2017. “He has great footwork and we always know where we are on the field. We have a really good ability to link up.”

“With the formations we run, I look for him and he’s usually in the right place,” Kroll added.

Matthew James fired a 71, Max Farley a 72, Cole Sanders a 75 and Kyle Matre added a 79 for 297, which is one of the best tournament scores in school history, according to coach Jeff Kwi- lose. The Eagles took second in the 27-team tournament to Fenwick’s 293.

Sandburg’s girls shot a 155 at the six-team Lincoln-Way Central Invitational, losing by one shot to powerful Lincoln-Way Central as Hannah Kilbane fired a 35, Soonbi Kwon a 37, Joanna James a 39 and Sydney Dea a 44.

**Pinning down rankings**

Former Sandburg wrestling standout Louie Hayes, who is now at Virginia, has been ranked ninth in the nation among 125 pounders by WIN magazine.

Patrick Brucki, who wrestles at 197 pounds for Princeton, is ranked 11th.

**Attack holds tryouts**

The Attack Volleyball Club hosts tryouts for 12 and 14 age groups on Sept. 30 with a time and location to be determined.

For more information, visit attackvolleyballclub.net.
Star wrestler Brandon Precin heading to NU’s Hall of Fame

Patrick Z. McGavin
Freelance Reporter

Few things are as existential as wrestling, with its direct and unmediated structure. For the athlete, the sport translates into pure sensation.

With its perfect unity of restricted space and time, Brandon Precin became a master at refining his art and learning about the subtleties of the sport.

“Wrestling is a combination of things, the mental and the physical,” Precin said. “You get everything you earn. You can’t rely on others. You have to get what you want. It’s you and only you. When you gain success, you have a sense of satisfaction, knowing that you put your heart into something.”

Precin is in a naturally reflective mood. A two-time state champion at Sandburg, the Orland Park native is being recognized for his superb achievements at Northwestern University, where he wrestled at 125 pounds from 2006 to 2011. He redshirted in 2009-2010.

Precin, now 30, is being inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame. He is slated to be introduced at the Wildcats’ home football game against Akron on Saturday, Sept. 15.

A three-time NCAA All-American, Precin finished with a career-mark of 138-31. He recorded 34 career pins, and was pinned just once. He finished third in the NCAA championships his senior year and second in the Big Ten finals as both a junior and senior.

He is one of just two Wildcat wrestlers who won the prestigious Midlands championship twice.

He credits his parents, Robert and Jeannine, for their early support and structure.

“My dad never knew a lot technically about wrestling, but he was great as far as motivation and developing a mindset,” Precin said. “I remember in high school, even after practice at Sandburg, I’d come home and work out in our basement.”

Wrestling was a family affair.

“I started when I was 8 years old,” he said. “I figured one day, I’d be on television and I’d rip my shirt off, like Hulk Hogan. I thought that’s what wrestling was. My mom had an uncle who coached with the Burbank Panthers, and that’s where I got my start. I jumped around clubs, and I eventually connected with the Tinley Park Bobcats.”

At Sandburg, he won four state trophies. After finishing third in both his freshman and sophomore years, Precin captured the 125-pound state championship in 2005 and the 130-pound class in 2005, his senior year.

He finished 186-6 in his career at Sandburg.

His younger brother Robbie Precin was also a standout wrestler for the Eagles and Andrew.

After he graduated from Northwestern in 2011, Brandon spent four years on the international freestyle circuit. He won medals at international competitions in Cuba, Canada and Belarus, with the idea of competing for a position on the U.S. team for the 2016 Olympics.

For all of his success, he is reminded of what might have been.

“That’s the strange thing with wrestling; the glory is great, but the matches where you don’t win are the ones that are more memorable,” he said. “You remember the losses more than you remember the wins. You naturally think about what you could have done differently.

“I also know I gave everything I had.”
THURSDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK

A super triathlete and super volunteer get their due

Here are a couple of people you should know, and I’m glad I’ve gotten to know.

One is an Orland Park triathlete who is one of the best in the nation in her age group and has been in high school for just a few weeks.

The other is a Tinley Park Bulldogs coach/groundskeeper/commissioner who spent three decades with the organization and was recently honored by having one of the fields named after him.

The young and the, well, let’s say experienced. Both with great stories to tell.

Let’s start with Jordan Gwyn Austin, a freshman on the Sandburg cross country squad.

Before she even had her first class at the Orland Park school, Austin, 14, made her mark in triathlons, finishing second in 15-year-old division of the USA Triathlon and Junior National Championships with a time of 33 minutes, nine seconds on Aug. 5 in West Chester, Ohio. The course was 200 meters for the swim, 10K for the cycling and 2K for the running. Hayden Withers of Cincinnati was the champ with a :32.49.

Austin is a member of the Tri-Builders not-for-profit club and her coach, Joel Preciado, raved about her accomplishments. She finished third in the nationals last year.

“She is an amazing athlete,” Preciado said. “Jordan is one of the most committed and talented members of our club. She is relentless in her pursuit to improve on her skills, speed and strength. Whether it’s working on her technique swimming with the Palos Orland Swim Association, putting miles on her bike trainer then Mother Nature throws a wrench on outdoor cycling or working on her speed running on a track or trail near her home, she is always honing her craft and passion for the triathlon.”

“The national meet was pretty hard,” Austin said. “There were a lot of people there. It’s my proudest moment so far.”

Austin, who said she would like to someday work her way up to Ironman competition, said she started triathlons when she was eight.

“I found out I did really well on the bike and I started going to a lot of bike races to try to get better,” she said. “The toughest part for me is the swimming. I’m really small - 4-foot-11 - and other people have a longer reach.”

Meanwhile, Gary Grohovena, 67, of Tinley Park had a Bulldogs baseball field named in his honor on Sept. 4. Some of the Bulldogs officials told him there would be a ceremony to celebrate the new lights at the field, located behind Fulton School.

“Oh, my goodness, this was a complete surprise, I don’t know what to say,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed helping all of the kids in this community over the years. But it’s more than about the kids. It’s about the adults and parents who love baseball and softball here.”

He has had many rewarding memories as a Bulldog but a few years ago, a parent from another organization stopped him after a game.

“He told me we had the best fields he has ever seen,” Grohovena said. “Then he introduced himself. It was Roger Bossard.”

Bossard is the guy who takes care of the White Sox field and had worked at old Comiskey Park and now at new Comiskey/U.S. Cellular Field/Guaranteed Rate Field. He is considered one of the best in the business and earned the nickname “The Sodfather” for his work. The Sodfather even had Grohovena on the Sox crew for a game.

Grohovena’s kids, Sharon, Bryan, Kevin and Steven and grandkids, Ethan and Ashley, played for the Bulldogs.

Oh, and if that’s not enough, the guy has been a top football official over the years and refereed the Illinois High School Association Class 2A state title game in 2004 and the Class 5A title game in 2007.

Bulldogs Commissioner Matt Windle appreciated all Grohovena has done with the program.

“He’s an invaluable asset to our organization with all the time and energy he puts in,” Windle said.

LISTEN UP

“You can’t ever really prepare for speed like that until you see it.”

Scott Peters — Sandburg football coach, about Bolingbrook

WHAT 2 WATCH

Boys soccer - 6:15 p.m., Sept. 18 and Sept. 20

- Sandburg hosts a pair of games against District 230 foes in Stagg (on the 18th) and Andrew (on the 20th).

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Compiled by Sports Editor Jeff Vorva, J.Vorva@22ndcm.com
GRAPPLING GREATNESS

Orland Park native wrestler Precin headed to Northwestern Hall of Fame, Page 54

Brandon Precin (left), who is a Sandburg graduate and an Orland Park native, is to be inducted into the Northwestern University Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 15.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY