

Singing in the mall...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S CenterStage show choir performed on Monday evening near Carson Pirie Scott at Yorktown Center in Lombard. The show choir performed several songs, including some Christmas selections, outside of the upper-level entrance to the store. This is a busy time for the CenterStage singers, who performed five songs at Thursday's concert in the school auditorium. Those songs were: "This Joint is Jumpin'," "I Lived," "Gonna Get Over You," "You Raise Me Up" and "Shut Up and Dance." The CenterStage choir will perform live on WGN Radio 720 AM on Monday, Dec. 14. The choir members will perform at about 9:40 a.m., during the Steve Cochran morning program. The Willowbrook music department will present a concert in the school auditorium on Thursday, Dec. 10. That concert, which begins at 7 p.m., will feature performances from the wind ensemble, symphonic band, freshman band and percussion ensemble. Ticket prices for all three events are: \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors (senior citizen gold cards and student passes are welcome). Admission is free to children 12 years old and younger who are accompanied by an adult.

Photo by Chris Fox



VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Joyful Traditions adds to the holiday spirit in Villa Park

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce held its 18th annual Joyful Traditions event on Saturday evening outside of the chamber's headquarters at 10 W. Park Blvd. There was no snow on the ground this year, but there was a chill in the air and plenty of holiday cheer at the free family event, which featured a tasting tent, a s'more station and Christmas carols sung by members of the Willowbrook High School Choir.

Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel and Santa Claus helped kick off the event when they arrived atop a Villa Park fire engine. The engine's sirens blared and lights flashed as it headed northbound on Ardmore Avenue and turned westbound onto Central Boulevard to drop off Bullwinkel and Santa at Joyful Traditions. The pair then made the short walk to the chamber's office, where they joined other dignitaries in lighting the large tree near Ardmore and the Illinois Prairie Path.

Villa Park native Tom Higgenson, a 1997 Willowbrook graduate and the lead singer of the Grammy-nominated Plain White T's, joined his son Lennon in lighting the big tree, which features more than 3,000 light bulbs.



Let there be light...

Photos by Chris Fox

SATURDAY'S JOYFUL TRADITIONS festival began with a countdown to the lighting of the large Christmas tree just west of Ardmore Avenue and just north of the Illinois Prairie Path (lower left photo). The above photo shows some of the luminaries who joined the crowd in reacting to the colorful lighting. Pictured left to right are: Illinois State Sen. Tom Cullerton of Villa Park, Mrs. Claus, Santa Claus, Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel, Villa Park Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alesia Bailey and Villa Park native and Plain White T's lead singer Tom Higgenson with his son, Lennon. It was Lennon who turned on the lights at the end of a 10-second countdown. Chamber Vice President Rae Rupp Sr. of the Kiwanis Club of Villa Park is behind Lennon. Chamber President Jon Zaley of the Odeum Expo Center is behind Bailey. The photos below show Santa Claus and Bullwinkel waving to onlookers as they arrive at the festival on a Villa Park fire engine, and Sparky the Fire Dog of the Villa Park Fire Department posing in front of the department's holiday tree near the Illinois Prairie Path.



Man injured in Monday night shooting at Lombard gas station

by Bonnie MacKay

A 21-year-old man sustained a gunshot wound Monday night outside a Lombard gas station.

According to Lombard Police Chief Ray Byrne, the DuPage County Sheriff's Office received a call at about 8:14 p.m. on Dec. 7 advising that a subject had been shot in the leg. Officers were able to get a general location of the caller, who was near Finley and Roosevelt roads. At that point, both Lombard and Glen Ellyn police were dispatched to the area as it is on the borderline of both villages.

Byrne said Lombard police also received a phone call from Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove advising that there was a gunshot victim at the hospital reporting that he had been shot at the Mobil gas station located at Finley and Roosevelt roads in Lombard.

Lombard detectives and officers were sent

to both the gas station and the hospital. Officers were able to interview the victim at the hospital, who related that he was meeting someone at the gas station, and an altercation ensued with the male subject allegedly pulling out a gun. Byrne said one bullet reportedly was fired. The bullet hit the 21-year-old man in the buttocks.

"We do not believe this was a random act and do not feel there is any danger to the public at this time," Byrne said Tuesday morning.

Officers and investigators at the gas station located fresh blood on the east side of the building, Byrne said, adding that the blood corroborated that some type of injury had taken place there.

On Tuesday, the incident remained under investigation as Lombard detectives continued to actively work the case with the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact Lombard police at 630-873-4400.

Questions? Comments?

E-MAIL THE VILLA PARK REVIEW AT
vpreview@lbvpr.com



Joyful Traditions...

Photos by Chris Fox

TWO OF THE MAIN attractions for children at Saturday's Joyful Traditions festival in Villa Park were the s'more station and the chance to visit Santa Claus at the Rugaard Gazebo. The upper photo shows Villa Park's Jafa Kingji (left) making s'mores with sons Sonny (center, age 2) and Leo (right, age 4). The lower photo shows Tom Higgenson and his son Lennon with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the gazebo. Higgenson, a Villa Park native and graduate of Willowbrook High School, is the lead singer for the Plain White T's. He helped Lennon light the large Christmas tree located just east of the gazebo at the beginning of the festival. Lennon was one of several children who lined up to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and pose for a photo. Joyful Traditions is sponsored by the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce.



CenterStage quartet...

Photo by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL CenterStage show choir members (left to right) Lily Nuss, Kathleen Cicero, Julia Cicero and Mariana Martens sing during Monday's performance inside Yorktown Center in Lombard. Nuss and the Cicero twins are sophomores. Martens is a senior.

Warriors begin conference season with a loss at Addison Trail

Willowbrook's boys basketball team opened the West Suburban Gold Conference season with Saturday's 57-45 loss at Addison Trail.

Senior Kevin Miller of the Warriors made a 3-point shot in the closing seconds of the third quarter to cut the Blazers' lead to 40-34 with eight minutes to play. Junior Freddie Clay's 3-point play dropped Addison Trail's lead to 42-39 with about seven minutes remaining, but the Blazers proceeded to unleash an 11-2 run over the next three minutes to build a 53-41 advantage with about four minutes to play.

Freshman Matus Masys, who made four shots from 3-point range, scored a team-leading 14 points for the Warriors. Clay added eight points while Miller and sophomore Ethan Schuemer each scored six points. Senior Cameron Zunkel provided five points.

The loss dropped Willowbrook's overall

season record to 2-3. The Warriors won two of four games at Stagg High School's Thanksgiving tournament. They defeated Lindblom (48-45) and Argo (52-33) and suffered losses to Nazareth (48-41) and Stagg (58-55). Schuemer was the Warriors' leading scorer in three of the four games at the tournament.

The Warriors finished the 2014-15 season with an overall record of 21-8. They went 9-3 in conference play and earned a share of the West Suburban Gold Conference title with Morton. The leading scorer from last season's team—Alonzo Verge—is no longer at Willowbrook. Verge recently began his junior year at Arlington Country Day School in Jacksonville, Fla.

Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's conference game at Hinsdale South. The Warriors will play their first game of the season on Dec. 18, when conference rival Morton will visit Villa Park.



District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL senior Guillermo Ramirez (above, left) was his school's recipient of the District 88's Best award for the month of November. Ramirez, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, was honored at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Nov. 30. Each month of the school year, the board of education presents the District 88's Best award to students from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The award recognizes students for their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. Ramirez came to the United States when he was in eighth grade. When he began high school, he was enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. At the end of his freshman year, Ramirez exited ESL programming and enrolled in his first Advanced Placement (AP) college-level course. When he graduates from Willowbrook in 2016, Ramirez will have completed 10 AP courses. "He was in ESL classes as a freshman, but was always driven to enroll in core and honors classes," Willowbrook guidance counselor Lourdes Pina said of Ramirez. "At the end of his freshman year, he scored so well on his ESL assessments, he was exited from the ESL program and quickly moved into all mainstreamed classes. He has really never looked back. He has gone from one academic spectrum to the other. He is very articulate, very motivated and super hardworking." Outside of the classroom, Ramirez is involved in several activities at Willowbrook, including theater, Youth and Government, Economics Challenge, Scholastic Bowl and Chess Club. Ramirez will apply to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Purdue University and the University of Minnesota. He plans to pursue a degree in computer science.

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photo provided

LifeSource presents District 88 with proceeds to benefit students

Suzanne Hammer (left), senior account manager with LifeSource, and Judy Socha, a LifeSource volunteer, present a check for \$8,250 to District 88 during the Nov. 30 District 88 Board of Education meeting. The check is for blood drives hosted by Addison Trail and Willowbrook during the 2014-15 school year and will go toward scholarships for District 88 students. According to LifeSource, about 2,000 lives have been supported, thanks to the generosity of two high schools.

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DuPage Forest Preserve offers flurry of winter fun Go sledding, snow tubing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing and more

WHEATON — From ice fishing to snowshoeing to cross-country skiing, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County gives residents plenty of reasons to get outside and play this winter.

When there's plenty of snow on the hill (usually more than 3 inches), thrill-seekers can snow tube down the 800-foot run on Mount Hoy at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville. The rental area is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekends Dec. 5-Feb. 28 and the following school holidays: winter break, Dec. 21-Jan. 1 (except Dec. 25); Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 18; and President's Day Feb. 15. Inner tube rentals are \$5 per day (\$7 for a nylon tubes) and end at 3:30 p.m. Only district tubes are allowed.

Visitors can also explore the forest preserves with rented snowshoes. Rentals are \$8 for two hours or \$13 per day and are available when there's ample snow on the trails.

When Mount Hoy's open, rentals are available at the base of the hill until 2 p.m.

Visitors can also rent daily 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in Oak Brook. Call 630-850-8110 for availability.

For fans of cross-country skiing, rangers groom more than 70 miles of trails at forest preserves such as Blackwell, Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook, Danada and Herrick Lake in Wheaton, Greene Valley and Springbrook Prairie in Naperville, Mallard Lake in Hanover Park, Meacham Grove in Bloomingdale, Waterfall Glen in Darien and West DuPage Woods in West Chicago.

Visitors who aren't classic skiers should use the inside of the trails to avoid damaging the set tracks.

Ice fishing, ice skating and sledding are allowed at most forest preserves, although never at Spring Creek Reservoir in Bloomingdale. Additionally, sledding is not allowed at Mount

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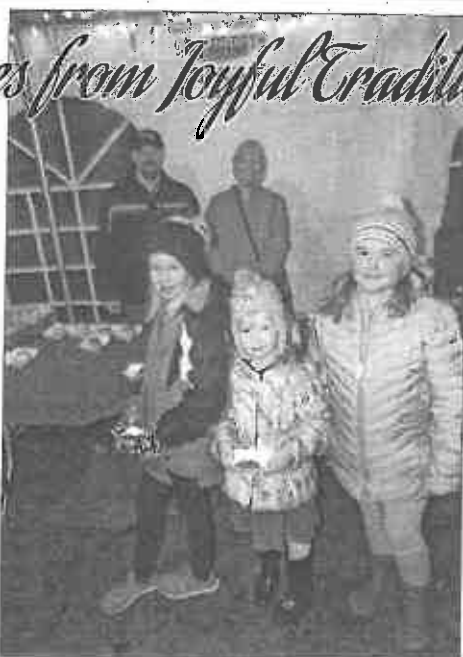
Scenes from Joyful Traditions 2015



all photos by Paul DelGuidice

Got your back, Big Guy

Mrs. Claus keeps an eye out for stray elves while helping Santa greet children at Joyful Traditions. (It's actually Andee from King Construction.)



Fun and food

Firehouse Subs of Villa Park dished out some tasty treats to Joyful Traditions attendees.



Voice of experience

This mom shows her daughter the proper way to roast a marshmallow, the first step in making perfect S'mores, provided courtesy of the Chris Aiello law firm. Aiello is also a Village Trustee.

WB names Guillermo Ramirez 88's Best for Nov.

VILLA PARK — Guillermo Ramirez has been named as Willowbrook's November recipient of 88's Best recognition for his highly improved performance. Ramirez, a senior, was recognized during the Nov. 30 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Ramirez came to the U.S. when he was in eighth grade and began his high school career enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. He quickly took his love of learning and transitioned it to a focus on learning as much as he could in every environment.

At the conclusion of his freshman year, he exited ESL programming and enrolled in his first Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level course. Ramirez has earned Honor Roll status each semester of his high school career and will have completed a total of 10 AP courses when he graduates. He continues to push himself, finding opportunities to extend his learning beyond the classroom in Theatre, Youth and Government, Economics Challenge, Scholastic Bowl and Chess Club.

"Ramirez is a super nice kid, who works hard in class and definitely puts in his best efforts," said Brett Blair, English Department Chair. "I have seen him improve since even the start of the term in AP English Literature, and I know he will continue to do so as the year progresses."

Guidance Counselor Lourdes Pina agreed.

"Ramirez was in ESL classes as a freshman, but was always driven to enroll in core and honors classes," Pina said. "At the end of his freshman year, he scored so well on his ESL assessments, he was exited from the ESL program and quickly moved into all mainstreamed classes. He has really never looked back. He has gone from one academic spectrum to the other. He is very articulate, very motivated and super hardworking."

Art teacher and theatre sponsor John Eppler said Ramirez has been a tremendous asset to the crew.

"Ramirez has been a standout member of our theatre technical crew since his freshman year," he said. "I have enjoyed watching him grow into a fine young man, both with his skills and his confidence. He is



courtesy photo

Pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause is senior Guillermo Ramirez has been named the November recipient of 88's Best recognition.

always respectful, caring, helpful and hardworking. Most recently, he has stood out as our scenery foam sculptor for the fall musical. We have been challenging him with intricate architectural caving details, and Ramirez has turned into our 'Michelangelo' of scenic foam!"

Guidance Counselor Scott Forcash said he is proud of the academic growth Ramirez has shown.

"I have never seen a student make this type of academic growth in a four-year period," he said. "In addition to his great academic success, his character is just as impressive. Ramirez is polite, respectful, honest and treats others as he would want to be treated. He's truly a remarkable young man, whose motivation and determination will take him far in life."

With plans to pursue a degree in computer science, Ramirez plans to apply to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Purdue University and University of Minnesota.

Exam Study Night at the Library Dec. 15-17

VILLA PARK — It's that time of year—exams are here again.

Need to be somewhere quiet with free Wi-Fi? Look no further. The library is hosting an Exam Study Night from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Dec. 15-17 for all students, with an extra hour for high school students only from 9-10 p.m.

Just for you and success in your studies, we'll keep our doors open an extra hour. Fuel yourself with pop and pizza, generously donated by Dominick's Pizza and Pasta! Each night features visiting therapy dogs to keep you company.

For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Library partners with Jefferson Middle School

VILLA PARK — In a continuing partnership, the Villa Park Public Library is holding a weekly satellite library at Jefferson Middle School geared toward families and kids of all ages.

Drop in and check out books, movies, playaways, and books on CD. Pop-up story times, crafts, and other fun activities may also be available.

Now through Dec. 17, all are welcome to stop by the school every Thursday from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Visitors can enter through the main doors. Please note that the satellite library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 31 for the holidays.

For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Willowbrook wrestling team poised for success

Warriors return pair of state runners-up in Rowland and Jessen

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

How many high-school wrestling teams can say they have a pair of state runners-up in their lineup?

The answer is not many. But for the Willowbrook wrestling

team, the answer to that question is two.

The Warriors return second-place state finishers in senior Matt Rowland (University of North Carolina signee) and sophomore Jack Jessen.

"Not too many teams have two state finalists in their lineup," said Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy. "This is a team that I have been excited about for a long time. The team is led by a strong group of

seniors that have a lot of varsity experience. Sprinkled in the lineup are a lot of new faces to the varsity team. But the young guys come in here with a lot of experience. Many of them have wrestled numerous years in the youth program. That experience is paying off and they are jumping right in and competing well."

Through late last week the Warriors were off to a 13-1 overall start which included

winning the 10-match Vernon Hills team tournament and also scoring a 54-25 West Suburban Conference Gold Division win over defending conference champion and district neighbor Addison Trail.

"This team has tremendous potential and when all guys are healthy, this team could scare and compete with a lot of teams in the state," said Murphy. "And with it being Illinois wrestling that means anyone in the country."

Rowland, who went 47-3 last year, was 13-0 through late last week at 170. Jessen, who went 49-3 a year ago, also was 13-0 at 182. Jessen was a double national runner-up in freestyle and Greco this past summer and already is a four-time All-American.

"Matt has always been well-balanced, he is an excellent student and will leave Willowbrook as the winningest wrestler in school history," said Murphy. "He works hard every day and is the leader of the team. He always is trying to improve and never settles on past performances. Jack is coming off one of the most impressive freshman seasons in state history. This year he is moving up a weight and is focusing on improving his wrestling. He already is technically sound,

but he is perfecting the little things that will add to his ability to attack. Jack is a machine that just keeps coming. He has a motor that always is in high gear. This is contagious and when the rest of the team sees how hard he trains, they know why he is successful."

Also back for the Warriors are seniors Andrew Verr (113, sectional qualifier a year ago), Trevor Bell (120, 12-1 currently), Noah Nagle (152, 13-0 currently), Elijah Rochel (195, 12-1) and Jake Wozniak (heavyweight, 8-5 currently), along with junior Marcus Kupiczowicz (heavyweight) and Dominic Ranieri (126, 10-3 currently).

"Elijah was out last year with an injury," said Murphy. "He was a starter for us two years ago and I believe he is going to be able to compete with anyone by the end of the season. The entire team has been patiently waiting for his return and he hasn't disappointed. Trevor is on a mission. He spent the summer training at one of the toughest training camps in the country (J Robinson camp). Trevor came back a different kid. He is focused and ready to reach his goals this season."



courtesy photo

The Willowbrook wrestling team took first at the Vernon Hills team tournament with a perfect 10-0 record.

See WRESTLING, Page 19

**FREE
ADMISSION**

**Elmhurst Community Choir & Orchestra
presents**

Christmas IN Elmhurst

**Friday, Dec. 11, 2015
7:30pm**



**Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015
7:00pm**

Concert Venue: First Baptist Church, 343 S. York Road, Elmhurst

Conductor, Dennis Criser

Sponsored by Grace Bible Church, First Baptist Church and West Suburban Community Church

W.A.R.R.I.O.R.S. visit Stella May Swartz school

VILLA PARK — Those who visited Stella May Swartz Elementary School on Nov. 16 might have noticed several Willowbrook students in the halls.

Five members of the W.A.R.R.I.O.R.S. Male Leadership Group went to the school to lead a guided reading in two second-grade classrooms. W.A.R.R.I.O.R.S. stands for Winning Attitudes Resulting in Resiliency and the Independence to Overcome and Realize my Self-worth. The goal of the reading event was to develop leadership and mentoring skills in the Willowbrook students, while providing an educational experience for the younger students.

Willowbrook participants were junior Freddie Clay, senior Darius Herns, senior Javion Holman, sophomore Christian Washington and sophomore Jason Gill.



courtesy photos
Willowbrook students who are members of the W.A.R.R.I.O.R.S. Male Leadership Group read to second-graders on Nov. 16 at Stella May Swartz Elementary School. They are (top row, from left): junior Freddie Clay, senior Darius Herns, senior Javion Holman; (bottom row, from left): sophomore Christian Washington and sophomore Jason Gill.



courtesy photo
On Dec. 3, students in Willowbrook's automotive program had the opportunity to see and learn about a M998 HMMWV. (top left): Sophomore Jarrar Rizvi sits in the driver's seat. (top right): Sophomore Gabriel Diaz (left) and freshman Brian Montes check out the inside of the HMMWV.

WB automotive students learn from military vehicle

VILLA PARK — On Dec. 3, students in Willowbrook's automotive program had the opportunity to see and learn about a M998 HMMWV, a vehicle used by the military.

Staff Sgt. Mike Vertucci, a recruiter with the Illinois Army National Guard, and Sgt. 1st Class Josh Wittenauer, a team leader for recruiting command, spoke to automotive classes about the vehicle. Students were able to check the oil, transmission fluid and air filter on the HMMWV, as well as sit in the driver's seat to look around inside.

"This was a great opportunity for students to practice the skills they've learned in class and apply them to real life," said Chris Dunk, Willowbrook Career and Technical Education teacher. "They were able to experience firsthand what it's like to work on a unique vehicle many don't have the chance to see."



courtesy photo

Interplan LLC gives to Township food pantry

Pictured is York Township Supervisor John W. Valle (left) greeting (from left) Kate Ramashauskas, Justine Dunn and Vice President Dennis Cabala, who are employees from Interplan LLC located in Oakbrook Terrace. Interplan provides architectural development solutions for restaurants, retail, hospitality, and commercial programs. To give back to the community, Interplan employees organize a food drive every year and donate the proceeds to York Township Food Pantry.

VPRD NEWS

Winter Camp over holiday break

VILLA PARK — Parks and Rec is offering Winter Camp for kids age 5-12 to give them fun activities to do while on their holiday break from school. Winter Camp will be held Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 28-31 at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa.

Camp is available 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily for a \$28 fee; if your camper needs to extend their camp day Sunrise and Sunset Camps are available for additional fees. Campers will enjoy theme days with many games and activities to keep them busy. Please send a nonperishable lunch each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided. To register, call 630-834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

Lock-in for teens at Enchanted Castle

Villa Park Recreation is holding a lock-in for kids ages 10-17 at Enchanted Castle, 1103 S. Main, Lombard on Dec. 28. Join kids from other communities for a night of fun playing unlimited laser tag, bumper cars, kidsquest, go-karts and mini golf. The lock-in come with 60 game tokens and unlimited pizza and pop. Participants will check in at 7 p.m. and be picked

up at midnight. Pre-registration for this event is required. The fee is \$39. To register, call 630-834-8970 or visit vprd.org.

Openings available at Funtime Junction

Looking for quality childcare? Villa Park Recreation's Funtime Junction child care program, housed at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa, is a one-of-a-kind resource that serves the diverse community of Villa Park and surrounding towns.

Funtime Junction is DCFS licensed center that specializes in flexible drop-in agreements or scheduled time agreements. Families can use Funtime Junction as little or as much as needed. The program is available from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and welcomes children ages 6 weeks through their 7th birthday. All day care rooms are located in a secure hallway with monitored entry. As an added benefit, Funtime Junction staff will escort your child to any on-site classes while in their care.

For more information on the program or to schedule a tour, call 630-834-8970 or email hcarlson@invillapark.com.

Addison Trail girls gymnastics team takes third at Glenbard West

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls gymnastics team kicked off its season by taking third at a recent invitational held at Glenbard West.

"The girls showed a competitive grit that looks promising moving forward," said Addison Trail coach Kyle Padera. The Blazers are coming off a 2014-2015 season where they took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division. Back for Addison Trail are juniors Kennedy O'Neill and Terra Garcia. O'Neill qualified for state as an all-around performer last year. O'Neill is coming back from an elbow injury suf-

fered over the summer. Garcia also is an all-around performer. "Kennedy has fluid lines in her leaps and grace in her gymnastics," said Padera. "If she is healthy she should make state again." Freshman Maddie Rumps will help the team as an all-arounder as well. "Keep an eye on Maddie," said Padera. "She works hard in practice and has a lot of potential. We have a young team so a lot of our strength shows through our vitality and bounce-back ability."

Padera noted the team is looking particularly strong on floor exercise. "We have powerful and graceful tumbling," he said. "We have a lot of fine-

tuning to fix and some routine reconstruction underway, but the girls continue to exhibit excitement and dogged determination. Because there is no real existence of a feeder program or a club program near us, we inherit a lot of backyard tumblers, cheerleaders and girls with strong but limited experience. This lends itself to a real strength in tumbling." Padera was pleased with how the team responded in the Glenbard West meet. "After only two weeks of practice we had our first competition at Glenbard West," he said. "Two weeks is an unfathomably short time to get ready for a competition. They elicited showmanship, sportsmanship

and an overall moxie that is hard to teach. I look forward to seeing where our competitive abilities are at the end of the season." Padera would like to see the team have success in the state series at the end of

the year. "I think making state as a program should be a goal every year," he said. "Doing well in the state series overall is certainly an immediate goal. I hope we can stay healthy and enjoy a positive season."

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team working into form

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Ask Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op boys swimming coach Neil Wahlgren what he likes most about the team and he doesn't hesitate. "I like how we are young and how we are building these guys into the future of a great team," he said.

"In the next couple years we will see some great improvements that will help us form a very solid team. We're still in the stage of building this program up. We have a lot of talented young guys."

AT-Willowbrook does return senior Ethan Wallace (Willowbrook) who swims the 50, 100 and 200 events. Willowbrook junior Jake Roucka will help in the breaststroke. Addison Trail sophomore Mikey Strycharz is another sprint freestyle swimmer. "We're hoping Ethan can make it to state this year," said Wahlgren. "He was close last year in the 50. We're looking to push him through this year and get him to the state meet." Strycharz performed well as a freshman last year.

"Mikey looked real good at the end of last year," said Wahlgren.

"We expect big things out of him this year." Sophomore Jacob Grygo (Addison Trail) swims the breaststroke and freestyle events, while freshmen Evan Zimmerman (Addison Trail) and Jack Burns (Willowbrook) will help as well. Zimmerman swims the IM, while Burns does the butterfly and freestyle events. Wahlgren said Zimmerman can swim a variety of events. "We're going to keep building the program," said Wahlgren.

"We have a good core group here. Our numbers are a little smaller than I would like them to be, but we're going to keep pushing forward and building this up and growing as a program."

Wahlgren still is in the process of putting together relay teams. "We're still growing with the relays," he said. "We lost a couple good guys from last year. We're hoping the freshmen can help those relays. Our 200 and 400 relays are probably our best bets." AT-Willowbrook took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division last year. "We're looking at getting at least third again," said Wahlgren.

• WRESTLING

Continued from page 17

He is extremely smart and athletic. This combination makes him one of the most exciting wrestlers to watch in the state."

Newcomers to the team include the likes of senior James Moore (160), juniors Zach Zeffiro (120), Ricardo Herrera (220) and Erik Cortez (138), along with sophomores Tyler Guerrero (138), Matt Seymore (145), Andrew Cuellar (113), Silver Edosio (160) and Bernabe Vera (113).

Murphy feels Guerrero is ready to take the next step forward. "Tyler has been wrestling a long time. He was a kid's state placer and had the ability to start as a freshman in high school but last year wasn't physically mature enough," he said. "This season is a different story. Tyler is a smart wrestler and he has competed with some of the best wrestlers in the country for a long time. He is going to keep improving as he adjusts to the pace of a varsity match. He is going to open a lot

of eyes this season and he is only a sophomore."

Murphy noted the team continues to work on the mental side of the sport. "Staying mentally tough throughout the entire match is something we've improved on," said Murphy. "We are working on our mat awareness and I've already seen improvements in the way we are using the mat to our advantage."

Murphy also likes the family-feel to the group. "I have worked with many of these wrestlers since they were Young Warriors," he said. "I have watched them mature into fine young men on and off the mat. I couldn't be prouder of my seniors. Many of them have taken the lesson they have learned from wrestling and translated it into the real world. They are not only tough on the mat, but equally tough in the classroom. This senior class collectively will be attending some of the finest universities in the country."

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY -
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE
CORPORATION AS RECEIVER FOR
DOWNEY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSO-
CIATION, F.A.

PLAINTIFF

VS.

GUADALUPE TORRES; MARGARI-
TA TORRES A/K/A MARGIE TORRES
F/K/A MARGARITA MENDOZA; LAW-
YERS TITLE INSURANCE CORPORA-
TION; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
DEFENDANTS

11 CH 001667

302 EAST ALDEN DRIVE
ADDISON, IL 60101

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO
JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE ACT

***THIS DOCUMENT IS AN AT-
TEMPT TO COLLECT ON A DEBT. ANY
INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE
USED FOR THAT PURPOSE*** PUBLIC
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
and Sale entered by said Court in the above
entitled cause on March 19, 2015, DUPAGE
COUNTY SHERIFF IN DU PAGE County,
Illinois, will on January 7, 2016, in 501
North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL
60187, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction
and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all
and singular, the following described real
estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated
in the County of DU PAGE, State of Illi-
nois, or so much thereof as shall be suffi-
cient to satisfy said Judgment:

LOT 14 IN NORMANDY MANOR
SUBDIVISION UNIT NO. 2, BEING
A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE
SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION
28, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 11,
EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL ME-
RIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT
THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 7, 1957
AS DOCUMENT 834635, IN DUPAGE
COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

TAX NO. 03-28-404-003 COMMONLY
KNOWN AS: 302 EAST ALDEN DRIVE
ADDISON, IL 60101 Description of Im-
provements: BROWN BRICK ONE STO-
RY SINGLE FAMILY HOME WITH A
TWO CAR DETACHED GARAGE; HAS
FENCE; UTILITIES ARE ON; PROPER-
TY IS OCCUPIED The Judgment amount
was \$295,900.96. Sale Terms: This is an
"AS IS" sale for "CASH". The suc-
cessful bidder must deposit 25% down by
certified funds; balance, by certified funds,
within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS. The sub-
ject property is subject to general real estate
taxes, special assessments or special
taxes levied against said real estate, water
bills, etc., and is offered for sale without
any representation as to quality or quan-
tity of title and without recourse to plaintiff.
The sale is further subject to confirmation

by the court. Upon payment in full of the
bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a
Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the
purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after
confirmation of the sale. The property will
NOT be open for inspection. Prospective
bidders are admonished to check the court
file to verify all information. The success-
ful purchaser has the sole responsibility/
expense of evicting any tenants or other
individuals presently in possession of the
subject premises. If this property is a con-
dominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at
the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee
shall pay the assessments and the legal fees
required by The Condominium Property
Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF
YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-
OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30
DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER
OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE IL-
LINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
LAW. For information: Visit our website at
<http://wservice.atty-pierce.com>. Between 3
p.m. and 5 p.m. only - Pierce & Associates,
Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 North Dearborn,
Chicago, Illinois 60602. Tel. No. (312)
372-2060. Please refer to file #PA1105750
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to pro-
vide additional information other than that
set forth in this notice of sale.

1676035
(Published in the Addison Independent,
Bensenville Independent & Villa Park
Independent Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2015)
226201

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY -
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation
PLAINTIFF

VS.

Angel Somers, et. al.
DEFENDANTS

2014CH 001422

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF
REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclo-
sure and Sale entered in the above cause
on 5/18/2015, John Zaruba, the Sheriff of
DuPage County, Illinois will on 1/7/16 at
the hour of 10:00AM at DuPage County
Sheriff's Office, 501 North County Farm
Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, or in a place
otherwise designated at the time of sale,
County of DuPage and State of Illinois, sell
at public auction to the highest bidder for
cash, as set forth below, the following de-
scribed real estate:

LOT 2 IN KLEIN'S RESUBDIVI-
SION OF LOT 195 IN VILLA PARK, IN
SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH,
RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRIN-
CIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO
THE PLAT OF SAID RESUBDIVISION
RECORDED APRIL 21, 1923 A DOCU-
MENT 164740, IN DUPAGE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS.

PIN 06-10-409-026

Improved with Single Family Home
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 600 S. Riv-
erside Drive

Villa Park, IL 60181

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid
by certified funds at the close of the auc-
tion; The balance, including the Judicial
sale fee for Abandoned Residential Prop-
erty Municipality Relief Fund, which is cal-
culated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or
fraction thereof of the amount paid by the
purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified
funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours.
The subject property is subject to general
real estate taxes, special assessments, or
special taxes levied against said real estate
and is offered for sale without any rep-
resentation as to quality or quantity of title
and without recourse to Plaintiff and in
"AS IS" condition. The sale is further sub-
ject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the
foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, pur-
chaser other than the mortgagee will be
required to pay any assessment and legal
fees due under The Condominium Property
Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common
interest community, purchaser other than
mortgagee will be required to pay any
assessment and legal fees due under the
Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS
605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the
Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only
to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchas-
er shall have no further recourse against the
Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgage-
e's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid,
the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of
Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a
Deed to the real estate after Confirmation
of the sale. The successful purchaser has
the sole responsibility/expense of evicting
any tenants or other individuals presently
in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for in-
spection and Plaintiff makes no representa-
tion as to the condition of the property. Pros-
pective bidders are admonished to check
the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR
(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION
FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN
ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCOR-
DANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORE-
CLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file
or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis &
Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage
Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527,
(630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number
14-14-12344.

1676504

(Published in the Addison Independent,
Bensenville Independent & Villa Park
Independent Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2015)

226731

• REAL ESTATE •

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY - WHEATON, ILLINOIS
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUC-
CESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE FEDERAL
DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION AS
RECEIVER FOR DOWNEY SAVINGS AND
LOAN ASSOCIATION, F.A.
PLAINTIFF
VS.
GUADALUPE TORRES; MARGARITA
TORRES A/K/A MARGIE TORRES F/K/A
MARGARITA MENDOZA; LAWYERS TITLE
INSURANCE CORPORATION; UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA;
DEFENDANTS

302 EAST ALDEN DRIVE
ADDISON, IL 60101
11 CH 001667

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO
JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE ACT

“THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT
TO COLLECT ON A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION
OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT
PURPOSE.” PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Fore-
closure and Sale entered by said Court in
the above entitled cause on March 19, 2015,
DUPAGE COUNTY SHERIFF IN DU PAGE
County, Illinois, will on January 7, 2016, in 501
North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187,
at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to
the highest bidder for cash, all and singular,
the following described real estate mentioned
in said Judgment, situated in the County of DU
PAGE, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as
shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 03-28-404-003 COMMONLY
KNOWN AS: 302 EAST ALDEN DRIVE ADDI-
SON, IL 60101 Description of Improvements:
BROWN BRICK ONE STORY SINGLE FAM-
ILY HOME WITH A TWO CAR DETACHED
GARAGE; HAS FENCE; UTILITIES ARE ON;
PROPERTY IS OCCUPIED The Judgment
amount was \$295,900.96. Sale Terms: This is
an “AS IS” sale for “CASH”. The successful
bidder must deposit 25% down by certified
funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24
hours. NO REFUNDS. The subject property
is subject to general real estate taxes, special
assessments or special taxes levied against
said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered
for sale without any representation as to qual-
ity or quantity of title and without recourse to
plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirma-
tion by the court. Upon payment in full of the
bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Cer-
tificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser
to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation
of the sale. The property will NOT be open for
inspection. Prospective bidders are admon-
ished to check the court file to verify all infor-
mation. The successful purchaser has the sole
responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants
or other individuals presently in possession of
the subject premises. If this property is a con-
dominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the
foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall
pay the assessments and the legal fees re-
quired by The Condominium Property Act, 765
ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4); IF YOU ARE THE
MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS
AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSES-
SION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information: Examine the court file or
contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & As-
sociates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road,
Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-
9876. Please refer to file number 14-14-12344,
1676504
(Published in the Addison Independent,
Bensenville Independent & Villa Park
Independent Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2015)
226202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DUPAGE COUNTY - WHEATON, ILLINOIS
First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation
PLAINTIFF
Vs.
Angel Somers, et al.
DEFENDANTS
2014CH 001422
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF

REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
and Sale entered in the above cause on
5/18/2015, John Zaruba, the Sheriff of Du-
page County, Illinois will on 1/7/16 at the hour
of 10:00AM at DuPage County Sheriff's Office,
501 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL
60187, or in a place otherwise designated at
the time of sale, County of DuPage and State
of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest
bidder for cash, as set forth below, the fol-
lowing described real estate:

PIN 06-10-409-026
Improved with Single Family Home
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 600 S. River-
side Drive
Villa Park, IL 60181

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid
by certified funds at the close of the auction;
The balance, including the Judicial sale fee
for Abandoned Residential Property Muni-
cipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the
rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof
of the amount paid by the purchaser not to
exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within
twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property
is subject to general real estate taxes, special
assessments, or special taxes levied against
said real estate and is offered for sale without
any representation as to quality or quantity of
title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in
“AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject
to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the
foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, pur-
chasers other than the mortgagees will be re-
quired to pay any assessment and legal fees
due under The Condominium Property Act,
765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common inter-
est community, purchasers other than mort-
gagees will be required to pay any assessment
and legal fees due under the Condominium
Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the
Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to
a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser
shall have no further recourse against the
Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's
attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the
purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale,
which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to
the real estate after Confirmation of the sale.
The successful purchaser has the sole re-
sponsibility/expense of evicting any tenants
or other individuals presently in possession of
the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspec-
tion and Plaintiff makes no representation as
to the condition of the property. Prospective
bidders are admonished to check the Court
file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-
OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS
AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSES-
SION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or
contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & As-
sociates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road,
Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-
9876. Please refer to file number 14-14-12344,
1676504

(Published in the Addison Independent,
Bensenville Independent & Villa Park
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226732

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Fenton boys basketball team scores road win against Reavis

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

After a good showing in its own Thanksgiving tournament, the Fenton boys basketball team carried that momentum into its first road game of the season.

The Bison scored a 63-58 non-conference victory in Burbank against Reavis to move to 3-1 on the season. “We dug in defensively,” said Fenton coach Josh Payton. “We were down 35-20 at halftime and ended up outscoring them 43-23 in the second half.”

Our defense picked it up. We generated a lot of turnovers. We had guys who stepped things up in scoring roles and that helped put us over the top. But our defense was the linchpin that got us over that hump,” Bryan Larsen led a balanced Fenton scoring attack with 14 points.

Javier Sanchez added 13 points. Eric Trujillo had 11 points and KJ Jones finished with 10 points. “We had some nice balance with our scoring,” said Payton. “We got aggressive in the second half and that paid a lot of dividends.” Payton lauded Sanchez and Larsen for their defensive efforts in the win.

“Javier’s defense was amazing and so was Bryan’s,” the coach said. “They definitely were our two top performers defensively.” Fenton started the season in its own tournament. Fenton scored wins against Walther Christian and Chicago Little Black Pearl and lost to St. Francis de Sales.

“We played well against Walther Christian and LBP,” said Payton. “St. Francis de Sales we knew we had to go out and do our job. We got down 18-4 in the first three minutes but then we

held them scoreless the rest of the quarter.

We struggled to get our offense going against a quality team. The tournament was a learning process for us and I think we hit our stride against Reavis.” Payton was impressed with how the team performed in the first road game of the season.

“It was nice to see us step in another gym in our first away game and see the guys build things up and take charge and do the job in a highly contested situation. It was great to see them have that grit and come back like they did. It’s very positive.” Fenton opens Metro Suburban Conference West Division play Friday against Glenbard South. “The guys are ready to focus on the conference season,” said Payton. “They know it’s going to be tough, but we’ve had a nice build to start the season.”

Willowbrook girls basketball team splits pair of conference games

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team split a pair of recent West Suburban Conference Gold Division games.

In a 41-27 win over Leyden, Willowbrook led 17-6 after the first quarter and 23-14 at halftime. Willowbrook also outscored Leyden 11-6 in the fourth quarter.

Jose Zabran led the Warriors with a double-double that included 16 points and 15 rebounds.

She also had three steals. Kalya Konrath had 12 points and five rebounds. Danielle Velasquez added five rebounds and two assists.

Willowbrook out-rebounded Leyden 42-27 and held a 16-3 advantage in second-chance points.

Earlier, the Warriors dropped an 82-52 WSC Gold decision to Proviso East.

Proviso led 20-7 after the first quarter and 27-18 at halftime. The Pirates scored 55 points in

the second half.

Velasquez had 18 points (2 three-pointers), three assists and three steals. Zabran had 10 points and nine rebounds. Konrath added eight points and nine rebounds, while Milena Sogura had eight points and seven rebounds.

Willowbrook was stung by 26 turnovers (Proviso East scored 25 points off turnovers). Proviso also held a 57-42 rebounding advantage and a 25-4 advantage in second-chance points.

Girls bowling team finishes second in quad

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls bowling team got the 2015-2016 season started on a positive note. The Warriors placed second in a recent quadrangular with Metea Valley, Addison Trail and Morton.

Willowbrook finished with a pin count of 2,745, just behind first-place Metea Valley (2,761). Morton finished with 2,682 and Addison Trail had a pin count of 2,244. In the quad, Kelly Conley led the way for Willowbrook with a 529 series that included a high game of 222.

The Warriors also competed in the 24-team Plainfield invitational at Plainfield Lanes. Jordan Tiberi led Willowbrook. She finished 22nd in the individual field with an average of 192, which included a high game of 221. Conley (senior) and Tiberi (junior) are two of three key

returners for the Warriors along with senior Maddie Weinhold. Tiberi was the team MVP last year and earned a spot on the all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division team. “We have a big group of freshmen and sophomores that came out this year,” said Willowbrook assistant coach Kevin Allen who is running the team in the absence of head coach Bill Eufrazio (knee surgery).

“The future looks bright for our young team. Some of the strengths of the team are we are young with a lot of talented girls. Our team is full of athletes who play multiple sports. We get the most of every practice while working on technique, mental toughness and execution.

We already have improved on our technique and approach to the game. Every practice we talk about bowling form and techniques” Allen has been impressed with the efforts of

Tiberi, Weinhold and Conley. “We should keep an eye out for Jordan, Maddie and Kelly—our top three bowlers—because of their dedication and hard work,” he said. “They will lead our team this year.” Allen also has been pleased with the team’s coachability.

“I like that this group is willing to work hard and learn about the game of bowling,” he said. “They are willing to change and adapt to the lanes and any changes we need to address in their technique and form.”

Allen feels the team can make some noise in the WSC Gold and beyond this season. “With the talent we have this year we are looking to compete for the conference title and be able to make it to sectionals as a team,” he said. “We are a team on the rise. The outlook for Willowbrook is extremely great and we are looking forward to having a great season.”



courtesy photo

On Dec. 1, 13 Addison Trail students were recognized as Students of First Semester for the 2015-16 school year. Pictured are (back row, from left): sophomore Alexis Smith, senior Chuangyi Zhang, sophomore Katarina Surjanec, junior Carla Reyes, sophomore Dionisia Vassos, sophomore

Kathleen Lacni, senior J.T. Bonilla; (front row, from left) freshman Natalie Diaz, sophomore Yingyu Zhang, senior Marilyn Lule, junior Lilia Garcia, junior Jack Simko and junior Maxwell Dziabis.

Addison Trail acknowledges outstanding students

ADDISON — Each semester, Addison Trail departments establish criteria that guide the nomination of a student who displays Blazer Pride to receive Student of the Semester recognition.

On Dec. 1, 13 students were recognized as Students of First Semester for the 2015-16 school

year and were presented by the staff member who nominated them. Those students are: in Art: sophomore Yingyu Zhang; CTE business: sophomore Katarina Surjanec; CTE family and consumer: sophomore Alexis Smith; CTE industry and technology: junior Jack Simko; English: junior

Maxwell Dziabis; Literacy: freshman Natalie Diaz; Math: junior Carla Reyes; Music: senior J.T. Bonilla; Physical education: senior Chuangyi Zhang; Science: sophomore Kathleen Lacni; Social studies: junior Lilia Garcia; Student services: senior Marilyn Lule; and, World languages: sophomore Dionisia Vassos.

Free hospital program targets prevention of type 2 diabetes

Jumpstart Your Health begins in January

ELMHURST — Edward-Elmhurst Health is offering Jumpstart Your Health to help community members make lasting changes to reduce their risk of type 2 diabetes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 37 percent of U.S. adults (51 percent of those 65 and older) have a condition called pre-diabetes, which means a person's blood glucose (sugar) level is higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. However, it may lead to type 2 diabetes, which can cause heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and circulatory problems.

A person may have pre-diabetes if they:

- Are 45 years of age or older;
- Are overweight;
- Have a family history of type 2 diabetes;
- Are physically active fewer than three times per week;
- Had diabetes while pregnant (gestational diabetes) or gave birth to a baby that weighed

more than nine pounds.

Jumpstart Your Health is a year-long program that incorporates lifestyle changes to help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. The program stresses weight loss and moderate physical activity, which has proven successful in preventing or delaying diabetes in people who have or are at risk for pre-diabetes.

The program will be offered at several locations beginning in January. There is no fee for participants thanks to support from the Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation and grant funding from the Lions Club International Foundation, Lions District 1-J and Elmhurst Lions Club. The program is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Diabetes Prevention effort.

To learn if you qualify for this program, Elmhurst Hospital will offer free pre-diabetes screenings, starting in January. For more information and screening days/times, call (331) 221-0429. If you've already been told by your physician that you have pre-diabetes, call (331) 221-0429.

Earth Friendly Products donates laundry detergent to U.S. soldiers

ADDISON — In partnership with CarePacks, Earth Friendly Products (EFP) is donating 1500 bottles of ECOSTM Free & Clear Laundry Detergent for inclusion in Christmas care packages being sent to U.S. soldiers deployed abroad.

A Special Forces soldier notified CarePacks that commissaries are quickly emptied of necessary supplies shortly after they are delivered every month, and EFP responded with this donation to help support our troops overseas.

On November 16, EFP received the prestigious Zero Waste Platinum certification from the U.S. Zero Waste Business Council (USZWBC) in honor of America Recycles

Day, a nationally recognized day to promote recycling in the U.S.

This recent donation is in addition to nearly \$500,000 in donations to non-profit organizations and more than \$200,000 in-kind donations were made by EFP over the past two years. The company supports local non-profits based near all five of its facilities in the U.S. as well as national organizations that provide research, patient support, early detection and prevention of breast cancer, autism, cystic fibrosis and Alzheimer's disease. Every year, EFP employees throughout the U.S. participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks to raise funds to fight breast cancer.

Police Department releases results of Thanksgiving 'Click It' campaign

ADDISON — The Addison Police Department conducted enforcement from Nov. 16-29, 2015, reminding motorists to buckle up and not drive impaired during the Click It or Ticket mobilization. The Addison Police Department joined other state and local law enforcement agencies across Illinois to reduce highway fatalities by cracking down on unbuckled motorists and impaired drivers.

During the mobilization, Addison Police Department issued:

- 13 seat belt citations
- 4 child car seat citations
- 6 DUI arrests
- 1 suspended/revoked licenses
- 6 uninsured motorists
- 11 speeding citations

The Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket mobilization may be over in Addison, but that is no excuse to stop using your seat

belt, police said.

"Our officers are out all year long," said Addison Police Sergeant Saran. "If you or your passengers are caught not wearing a seat belt, day or night, you will be cited for the safety violation."

The recent law enforcement mobilization was funded by federal traffic safety funds through the IDOT and is part of a nationwide campaign.

Rodriguez named Nov. recipient of 88's Best award

ADDISON — Martin Rodriguez has been named as Addison Trail's November recipient of 88's Best recognition for his highly improved performance. Rodriguez, a senior, was recognized during the Nov. 30 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

When Rodriguez entered AT as a freshman, he did not realize the impact grades and diligent work would have on his future. He saw many of his friends not taking school seriously and thought having a year to himself — with no worries about classes or grades — would have no significance. After all, graduation was four years away.

But Rodriguez quickly realized he disappointed not only himself, but also his parents, so he decided to make a change. He knew he wanted a future, so during that summer and his sophomore year, he made up all of the classes necessary to get back on track. He saw he was more than capable of doing the coursework his friends were doing, so he began to challenge himself even further by taking honors and Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses in subject areas in which he was interested. He is currently enrolled in four AP courses.

Rodriguez said his parents and sister Jairely, a sophomore at AT, have influenced him to follow a path toward success. He also was inspired by one of his peers, AT alumnus Duy Do (class of 2015). Rodriguez paid attention to what Do did to achieve his goals and knew he had it in him to do the same.

Lastly, Rodriguez credits one of his math teachers, Lindsay Bugajsky, for keeping him on track. He really admired how she had everything organized and helped him understand the content. Being in Bugajsky's class made math his favorite subject.



Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden is senior Martin Rodriguez, who has been named the November recipient of 88's Best recognition.

Other teachers have noticed Rodriguez's progress as well, including Music Department Chair Dan O'Connell.

"In class, Rodriguez always pursued his guitar skills with the same steady determination," O'Connell said.

"That consistent effort has led Rodriguez to discover he can accomplish anything, as long as he keeps trying!"

According to Rodriguez, the Blazer's Edge is one of the best programs he has been a part of because he knows he is on the edge of success, and the staff members involved with it have helped him get past a few obstacles. Teacher Mario Fernandez said he continues to make tremendous improvements and challenge himself as a student.

"Rodriguez's hard work and attention to detail in American Studies always made him stand out," Fernandez said. "Rodriguez always uses his time wisely in Blazer's Edge and clearly has a plan for his (future) that he is ready to execute. He is ... willing to go the extra mile to reach educational success. I am very proud to have been able to teach and mentor Rodriguez."

Hoping to attend Northern Illinois University, DePaul University or The University of Illinois at Chicago, Rodriguez is applying and visiting schools to find the best fit for him. He is undecided on a major area of study, but he is leaning toward accounting or business. He will be the first in his family to attend a four-year university.

Director of Guidance Kevin Redding said Rodriguez will accomplish great things — no matter what he pursues.

"Rodriguez understands what it takes to be successful and is willing to tell his story to freshmen, so they don't make the same mistake," Redding said. "He has decided to take challenging classes again after he struggled his freshman year. Sometimes we struggle at first, but it takes a strong person to go back at it again and challenge themselves to get better."

ADDISON PARK DISTRICT HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

ADDISON—The following events are being hosted by the Addison Park District:
9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12
Breakfast with Santa

He's making a list and checking it twice—have breakfast with Santa to tell him that you've been nice! Children of all ages are invited to this holiday celebration featuring reindeer games and crafts with breakfast at the Community Rec Center.

Each child will have an opportunity to sit on Santa's lap to share their wish list, and each will receive a holiday gift. Remember to bring a camera to capture the moment and share your photos on Facebook. Tickets will not be available at the door; pre registration is required.

The fee is \$8 for residents and \$11 for nonresidents for adults; \$11 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents for children.

2-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30
Family New Year's party

Families are invited for a dip in the pool followed by a rockin' DJ along with a delicious ice cream sundae bar at the Centennial Rec Center. Enjoy an inflatable jumpy house, family games and a balloon drop. Don't miss this fun-filled celebration! Swim from 2-3:30 p.m., followed by gym activities until 5 p.m. Register before

Dec. 15 and save. Ring in the New Year with your family. All ages welcome.

Fees are \$5 for residents, \$7 for nonresidents per person by Wednesday, Dec. 15; \$8 for residents, \$11 for nonresidents per person Dec. 16 or later.

Holiday lights recycling
Through Sunday, Jan. 17

The Addison Park District has teamed up with Elgin Recycling to keep your holiday lights out of area land-

fills. The holiday lights recycling program will run until Sunday, Jan. 17, with drop-off locations at all Park District facilities. Residents can bring in non-working holiday lights such as: mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights and extension cords.

For more information on any of these programs, call the Park District at 630-233-7275 or go online to: addisonparks.org.

Addison Center of COD plans info session

ADDISON — On Thursday, December 10, the Addison Center of the College of DuPage (COD) is hosting an information session about admissions and financial aid on 5:30 – 7 p.m., followed by a Begin@COD Seminar from 7-9 p.m.

For both current and new students, this session provide information on degrees, certification, and class formats. The

financial aid portion will discuss financing a college education and an overview of federal grants, loans and scholarship options.

The Begin@COD Seminar is an introductory session to the academic, financial and student engagement concepts which will enhance the experience at COD. All newly-admitted students should attend. It is important to attend this session

before meeting with a Counselor or Academic Advisor.

Students may be able to select Spring 2016 courses with a counselor after the workshop. The \$20 application fee will be waived for the December 10th session only.

The campus is located at 301 So. Swift Rd. in Addison. Please enter Door 12. To RSVP, please call 630-942-4600.



photo provided

ATHS students, staff register to vote

On Nov. 25, Addison Trail students and staff members had the opportunity to register to vote in the 2016 primary elections, scheduled to take place on March 15, in Illinois. Pictured are (from left) AT staff member Mark Garlitz and seniors Brian Kulikowski, Eramilena Gjika and Alondra Avitia. Pictured at right is Fiona Gierzynski, a volunteer with the DuPage County Election Commission, who registered 33 people to vote. A law signed by former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn in 2013 allows 17-year-olds to cast a ballot in primary elections, as long as they're 18 years old by the November general election.

• BUDGET

Continued from page 1

longer operate this program at full capacity.

"It is heartbreaking to have to scale back our Meals on Wheels operation," said Executive Director Marilyn Krolak. "For the past seven months, we have been able to cover the costs of this program, but we can simply no longer do so.

We hope our state legislators resolve this situation as soon as possible so that DSCC can resume operating our "Meals on Wheels" program at full capacity, and restore our Community Dining program which is suffering indirectly."

With the help of hundreds of devoted volunteers, DSCC's

Well-Being Check program will continue to operate five days a week, to ensure seniors their safety and health.

Donations to support DSCC and the "Meals on Wheels" program can be made through DSCC's website at dupageseniorcouncil.org or call 630-620-0804 for more information.

Army Trail Girls' Run Club welcomes VIPs

ADDISON — At their meeting on Tuesday, December 1, Army Trail School's Girls on the Run Club had two special visitors, Mrs. Sol Lombardo and Addison's Mayor Rich Veenstra. After being welcomed to Army Trail and introduced by Principal Deb Martello the mayor spoke to the girls about the power they have to achieve their goals.

The Addison mayor talked about his own school days, his career, and his involvement in community projects and government. He congratulated them on their participation in the school's running club—especially noting their recent 5K run held on a cold day in November. The girls had the opportunity to ask Veenstra about his job as mayor.

Mrs. Lombardo presented the club sponsors with a check from the One of Our Own Foundation which for many years has offered financial support to local families. The donation will help fund continued participation in Girls on the Run projects.

More information about this nationwide organization can be found on its website at girlsontherun.org.



photos provided
Pictured above is the entire group of members who take part in Army Trail School's Girls on the Run Club. With them are their special visitors, Mrs. Sol Lombardo (back row, 6th from left) and Addison Mayor Richard Veenstra (back row, far right).
Left: Members of Army Trail School's Girls on the Run Club had the opportunity to ask Addison Mayor Richard Veenstra about his job as mayor.



All local fifth graders sort goods for Switchboard

ADDISON — All of Addison's 5th graders—from seven District 4 schools and from St. Philip the Apostle school—had the opportunity to spend some time at Good Samaritan Church this week, sorting canned goods for the Addison Switchboard's Annual Christmas project.

Area schools and churches conducted food drives during November, with the donated items being collected at Good Samaritan. Under the guidance of Jim Lombardo (the students had the opportunity to work together to help an organization that supports many local families.



photo provided
Jim Lombardo (sitting on table, far right) gives instructions to the 5th graders from throughout Addison who came together to sort canned goods for the Addison Switchboard's annual Christmas project.

Seven AT students earn certification for Automotive Service Excellence

Pictured are seven Addison Trail students who recently earned National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence Student Certification. They are (from left) senior Salvatore D'Ugo, senior Abraar Ahmed, senior Joshua Fukuda, senior Jorge Hernandez Jr., junior Anthony DiSilvestro, (below) sophomore Ryan Selvaggio and junior Luis Garcia.



Chamber Orchestra performs at Mayor's Ball

Students in the Addison Trail Chamber Orchestra perform during the Addison Mayor's Community Charity Ball held on Nov. 14. The group is directed by Orchestra Director and Music Department Chair Dan O'Connell (at right).

Hannah (senior), (middle row) freshman Samantha Reyes (English), sophomore Maria Lou Alcala (social studies) and junior Lila Wallace (art). (back row) sophomores Quinn Wolff (world languages), senior Daniel Olson (professional education), senior Steven McCarty (music) and senior George Delgado (learning services). Each of the students received a certificate at last week's awards event.



VILLA PARK REVIEW

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CenterStage show choir brings holiday sound to WGN

Willowbrook High School's CenterStage show choir performed four Christmas carols live on WGN Radio 720 AM during Steve Cochran's program on Monday morning.

Performing under the direction of Karyn Wolcott, Willowbrook's choral director and music department chair, the singers took to the airwaves at about 9:40 a.m. They opened with "Silver Bells" and continued with "Peace, Peace, Silent Night." After a short break, the choir closed out its radio appearance with two more Christmas standards—"Carol of the Bells" and "Carol of the Bells."

"The kids did a great job, and it was so interesting to see the radio station in action," said Wolcott after the choir's on-air performance inside WGN's street-side studio on Michigan Avenue.

Wolcott said longtime WGN traffic reporter Mary Van De Velde was instrumental in arranging the CenterStage show choir's radio performance. Van De Velde was a graduate of Willowbrook and a parent of Willowbrook graduates. Her daughter, Kelsey, sang in the Willowbrook choir for Wolcott, who has been at the school for nearly 30 years. Van De Velde was not in the WGN studio during Monday's program, but she did check in over the phone.

Two years ago, Van De Velde helped to arrange a similar performance by the school's CenterStage show choir. Members of the 2013-14 CenterStage group performed three songs on Steve Cochran's morning show on Dec. 12, 2013.

The radio appearance completed an active holiday schedule for the CenterStage singers, whose recent performances included a Dec. 3 concert in the school auditorium and a brief holiday concert near Carson Pirie Scott at Yorktown Center in Lombard on Dec. 7.



Live from Chicago...

Photos by Burdy Martens

THE MEMBERS OF WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL'S CenterStage show choir traveled to Chicago on Monday morning to sing Christmas Carols live on WGN Radio 720 AM. The choir performed four songs during Steve Cochran's morning program. The above photo shows the CenterStage show choir outside of Tribune Tower—the home of WGN Radio. The photo below shows the choir singing live inside the station's Michigan Avenue street-side studio. "Just amazing, just absolutely beautiful," said Cochran at the end of the choir's last song—an a cappella rendition of "Carol of the Bells."

