

# VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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#162

## Teen lifeguard performs rescue in first day on the job

By Chris Fox  
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW  
STAFF REPORTER

Villa Park's Katie Karcz exemplified the word "lifeguard" during her first day on the job.

The 15-year-old Karcz recently began her summer job as a lifeguard at Villa Park's two public pools. Earlier this month, in her first day of working during public hours, Karcz rescued a submerged victim from the bottom of the diving well at Jefferson Pool.

Karcz rescued a 12-year-old Villa Park boy shortly before 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 5. The rescue took place in the midst of a large crowd on the kickoff weekend to celebrate the beginning of the 2016 season at Jefferson Pool.

"I was at the diving board, and this kid goes up and was about to jump off," said Karcz in recalling the incident. "If you're sitting in the diving area, you're supposed to watch the people who jump off the board. I was watching him the whole time, getting on the board and everything. He jumps off and he's at the bottom, and he's flapping his arms to come up, and he just stopped flapping his arms, and he didn't come up."

The boy, who was at the pool with some friends, jumped feet-first off the diving board on the south side of the pool and dropped to the bottom of the 11-foot diving well. When Karcz saw the boy in distress, she blew her whistle three times to activate the pool staff's emergency action plan.

Karcz then made what's technically known as a compact jump, going feet first from her lifeguard chair into the water. She then performed a surface dive, swimming head first to the bottom of the pool to bring the boy out of the water.

"I blew my three whistles and I jumped in, and I did my submerged save, and I brought him up," said Karcz. "He was complaining that he couldn't breathe, and they thought it was just shock. Finally he snapped back into it. He got up and he walked to the paramedics."

Villa Park Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and examined the boy's oxygen level and lungs and determined he did not need to be transported to a hospital. The boy's mother responded to the pool and took her son home.

### "It could have been a lot worse"

Sue Earl, who is Villa Park's aquatic manager, was at Jefferson Pool at the time of the incident, as was Gina Racanelli, the village's superintendent of recreation. Racanelli estimated there were up to 200 people in the pool area when Karcz entered the water to perform the rescue. The patrons visited the pool for the "Splash into Summer" kickoff event, which featured free food and a disc jockey. Both Earl and Racanelli praised Karcz's response to the emergency situation.

"He would not have made it up by himself; there's no way," said Earl of the 12-year-old boy, who never lost consciousness during the incident. "I think he didn't know how to swim, and he didn't realize that he wouldn't be able to get himself off the bottom



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park's Katie Karcz experienced a memorable first day on the job earlier this month. Karcz, a 15-year-old lifeguard at Villa Park's two public pools, performed a rescue of a submerged 12-year-old boy at Jefferson Pool on June 5. The boy had jumped off the diving board and sank to the bottom of the 11-foot diving well. Karcz, who was stationed at the diving well, jumped from her chair into the water. She then made a surface dive to the bottom of the pool and brought the boy to the surface. Karcz, who is one of 35 lifeguards at the village's public pools, received the "Guard of the Week" award in recognition of her action. She was also honored at the Villa Park Village Board meeting on June 27.

of the pool. In another couple of seconds he could have lost consciousness. If Katie had not responded as quickly as she did, it could have been a lot worse."

Lifeguards at Jefferson and Lufkin pools occasionally enter the water to assist struggling swimmers who have their heads above the water. Performing a rescue of a submerged victim, however, is extremely rare.

"I've been with the village for 24 years," said Racanelli, who has overseen the village's two public pools since 2000. "In the 24 years we've only had two rescues that were submerged victims. This is the second in 24 years. It's not a very common thing."

Racanelli stated that the only similar incident in Villa Park in the last 24 years took place at Jefferson Pool in the mid-1990s. The male victim in that case, who received CPR, survived.

When Karcz blew her whistle three times to activate the pool's emergency action plan, her fellow lifeguards and other staff members who were on duty handled their re-

spective assignments, which included clearing all patrons from the pool.

"There are a lot of moving pieces once we start the plan," said Racanelli. "Somebody calls 9-1-1. Somebody goes outside to meet the paramedics. Somebody unlocks the gate to let them in. Somebody grabs the backboard."

Karcz is one of 35 lifeguards who work at Villa Park's two public pools. There are typically six lifeguards on duty at Jefferson Pool. Each lifeguard spends 15 minutes at each station before moving to another station. After 1 hour and 15 minutes on duty, lifeguards take a 15-minute break before beginning another rotation at each station. No lifeguard works more than four hours without an extended break.

### Staff members trained in CPR

Racanelli said that staff members at Jefferson and Lufkin pools are trained in CPR. Additionally, both pools are supplied with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The 12-year-old boy who needed help is nearly 6 feet tall. That added

to Karcz's challenge.

"That made Katie have to work even harder," said Earl, who in addition to her duties as Villa Park's aquatic director, serves as an American Red Cross lifeguard instructor. "She really did a great job."

"When you're going in to get somebody who really can't bring themselves up and they're conscious, they want help, but they're scared," added Racanelli. "They're fighting you in a way."

"He was a bigger kid," said Karcz. "I think it was just adrenaline that helped me."

Karcz utilized her rescue tube to help the boy to the surface. When she went to the bottom of the pool, her tube remained floating on the water, but she still had a hold of the strap attached to the tube.

"She performed the rescue exactly how you're supposed to, according to the Red Cross procedure," said Earl. "You put your arm around the person who's drowning. Your tube is floating above you. You pull your tube—that helps you to pull the person up to the top of the water. The

buoyancy of the tube helps to pull you up."

"What Katie performed that day, I wish we had on video, because it was a textbook rescue of a submerged victim," said Racanelli. "There was nothing to criticize from what she did—not one thing."

At just 15 years of age, Karcz is already an experienced swimmer. She spent eight years as a member of the Villa Park Mariners swim team. Karcz, who will soon begin her sophomore year at Willowbrook High School, ended her career as a Mariner a couple of years ago to concentrate on other activities. She's a member of Willowbrook's volleyball, badminton and bowling teams.

"I saw the lifeguards every day," said Karcz in referring to her years on the swim team. "I thought it would be a fun job to do in the summer."

Under Earl's instruction, Karcz completed an American Red Cross lifeguard training class this spring. The 30-hour class took place at College of DuPage. Additionally, Karcz

See **LIFEGUARD**, Page 2



# DuPage Habitat for Humanity builds new home in Villa Park

By Chris Fox  
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW  
STAFF REPORTER

Dozens of volunteers, including Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel, participated in Friday's DuPage Habitat for Humanity project.

Friday's project featured the installation of a privacy fence at the new home of Jeanine Racasi on North Westmore Avenue.

A few weeks ago, the property that now includes Racasi's new home was a vacant lot. Multiple contractors who work with DuPage Habitat for Humanity joined several volunteers to build the new residence.

The previous home that occupied the lot was razed about seven years ago. The new home isn't quite ready for Racasi and her 9-year-old daughter Mia. They will move into the home sometime in the next few months.

"I'm excited," said Racasi, who learned she would be moving to Villa Park earlier this year. "My daughter is excited, too. She wants a dog. We will get one, but we're going to wait a little bit."

Racasi's daughter will begin fourth grade at Schafer Elementary School later this year.

Racasi is buying the new home and receiving an interest-free loan

from DuPage Habitat for Humanity. She explained she learned of DuPage Habitat for Humanity through the Bridge Communities Transitional Housing Program, which is based in Glen Ellyn.

According to its Web site (bridgecommunities.org), Bridge Communities helps to create permanent change in the lives of homeless families in DuPage County.

About two years ago, Racasi and her daughter were living in a one-bedroom apartment in Westmont.

"The rent kept going up," said Racasi. "I had nowhere to go."

The Bridge Communities organization helped Racasi find an apartment in Addison. She's lived in Addison for the last two years. Racasi said the Bridge program helped her save money to make a down payment on her new home.

About one year ago, Racasi began volunteering with DuPage Habitat for Humanity. As part of her agreement with the organization, she will work at least 250 hours of what's described as "sweat equity." In addition to working on the construction of new homes, Racasi has helped to repair veterans' homes.

"I'm grateful for Habitat and all of the volunteers," Racasi said. "They've been awesome."



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel (right) joined several other volunteers in Friday's DuPage Habitat for Humanity project at a new home on North Westmore Avenue, just north of St. Charles Road. Friday's main task was to work on the installation of a privacy fence at Jeanine Racasi's new home. Racasi and her daughter will move into the new Villa Park home within the next few months. The home site was a vacant lot up until about three weeks ago. Contractors and multiple volunteers helped build the new home. Racasi is purchasing the home with the help of an interest-free loan from DuPage Habitat for Humanity.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Jeanine Racasi is pictured outside of her new Villa Park home on North Westmore Avenue. Racasi purchased the home through the DuPage Habitat for Humanity organization. She began volunteering with the organization almost one year ago. She will provide at least 250 hours of volunteer work on the construction of other new homes and the repair of veterans' homes. Racasi has been living in an apartment in Addison for the last two years. Her 9-year-old daughter Mia will attend fourth grade at Schafer Elementary School to begin the 2016-17 school year.

## Villa Park VFW presents annual Independence Day parade

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 2801 is continuing its tradition of holding Villa Park's annual Fourth of July Parade. The theme of this year's event is "Celebrating 240 Years—United We Stand."

The parade will begin at noon on Monday. The parade route will start at Trinity Lutheran Church, located at

300 S. Ardmore Ave. The parade will proceed on a route of approximately 2 miles, heading west on Central Boulevard to Harvard Avenue, south on Harvard to Madison Street, east on Madison to Summit Avenue, north on Summit to Park Boulevard, then west on Park to Ardmore.

The formation for parade participants

will begin at 10:30 a.m.

There will be no water implements allowed at the parade. This policy will be strictly enforced by the Villa Park Police Department along the parade route for both spectators and participants. All water implements found will be confiscated at the beginning of the parade.

## Newspaper office to be closed for 4th of July

The Villa Park Review office will be closed Monday, July 4. Due to the reduced holiday schedule, the deadlines for news items and display advertising is noon Friday, July 1. The deadline for classified advertising is 3 p.m. Friday, July 1.

The newspapers will be published Thursday, July 7.

## Villa Park Historical Museum ice cream social July 3

The Villa Park Historical Museum will host an old-fashioned ice cream social on Sunday, July 3.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the museum, which is located at 220 S. Villa Ave., just south of the Illinois Prairie Path. The Villa Park Historical Society and the Villa Park Historical Preservation Commission are sponsoring the free event. Donations will be accepted.

The Hill Jacks, a group that

plays Americana and roots rock alternative music, will provide entertainment. Professional face painter and local artist Wendee Goles will bring her creativity and talent to the event, which will also feature a coloring table provided by the Park Art Center.

Some vintage cars will be on display, while Villa Park Historical Society board members will provide tours of the museum.

## Lifeguard (Continued from front page)

and her fellow lifeguards took part in classroom training at Iowa Community Center, as well as three straight days of training over Memorial Day weekend at Jefferson Pool.

"Katie did very well in her interview," said Racanelli of Karcz's hiring as a Villa Park lifeguard. "She did really well in the class and she did very well on Memorial Day weekend. It's nice to see that when you make a decision and you feel good about someone, and then they do what Katie did on June 5. It just reinforces the decision you made."

Karcz described June 5 as her second day on the job as a lifeguard. Her previous day, Earl stated, involved a Mariners practice.

"We had given the new guards a little experience of guarding during swim team practice, but that's different because all of those kids can already swim," Earl said. "This [June 5] was her first time really in the chair, working with the public. It was her first day."

According to Racanelli, most of Villa Park's lifeguards are high school and college students, several of whom are current or former members of the Mariners swim team. She also mentioned that several of the village's lifeguards are or were Willowbrook students.

Earlier this year, while speaking with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause at a Kiwanis Club of Villa Park

event, Racanelli highlighted the contributions that Willowbrook students and alumni have made to the village's parks and recreation department.

"We feel so fortunate," said Racanelli in remembering her comments to Krause. "The Willowbrook kids who work at our pools in the summer are the cream of the crop. They are responsible. They are engaged, and they're very participatory. They're really great kids."

"Katie is the one who happened to be in the chair at that time," stated Earl in speaking of the rescue. "It could have been any one of our 35 lifeguards who have been trained. We are a team here. We practice working as a team."

The staff of Villa Park's parks and recreation department presents a "Guard of the Week" award during the pool season. Following Karcz's rescue, there wasn't much of a debate about the upcoming recipient of the award. Someone mentioned the honor on June 5, shortly after the rescue. Karcz received the award on the spot.

In addition to earning "Guard of the Week" status, Karcz's achievement attracted the attention of Villa Park Fire Chief Ron Rakosnik, who received a report from paramedics who responded to the incident.

Rakosnik informed Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keenher of the rescue, which led to Karcz's recognition at the Villa Park Village Board meeting on June 27.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Rays win Bronco title

The Rays defeated the Orioles 8-7 in Friday night's championship game of the Villa Park Youth Baseball Association's Bronco Division. The Rays are pictured with their first-place trophies. The title game at Lions Park was one of several events during the association's All-Star Weekend. Saturday's action included the championship contests in the Farm and Minor levels. The Athletics defeated the Orioles 12-0 in the Farm Division's title game. The Braves beat the Royals 9-4 in the Minor Division's first-place battle.



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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2016

## Chase Bank robbed June 22 *Suspect still at large*

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

According to a report issued by  
the Federal Bureau of Investigations

(FBI), the Chase Bank located at  
600 W. Lake Street in Addison was  
robbed on June 22 at about 8:30 a.m.  
The suspect was described as a male/

Hispanic of medium build, about 35-  
45 years of age, wearing a red and  
brown checkered shirt, brown shorts  
and black shoes.

The man didn't show a weapon,  
the FBI reported. A reward is being  
offered for any information that could  
lead to the suspect's arrest. Anyone

who recognizes the person or knows  
anything about him or the incident is  
asked to contact the Chicago office of  
the FBI at (312) 421- 6700.



The Willowbrook Color Guard held a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, June 18 at the Villa Park VFW Post #2801. Donations will be used to help the team attend Color Guard Camp at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater in July.

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## A chat with C.O.D. Board president

# Mazzochi, a WBHS grad, takes the helm after controversial few years

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

The Independent recently had a chance to catch up with Deanne Marie Mazzochi who is now serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the College of DuPage (COD).

An Elmhurst resident, Mazzochi was raised in Villa Park, where she grew up and attended Willowbrook High School. Recently, she was given a Willowbrook Outstanding Alumni Award.



Deanne Mazzochi

A graduate of Boston University in chemistry and biology, she also holds a major in political science.

"That had a lot of people scratching their heads," she said. "Chemistry and biology along with political science? Many people wondered what I had in mind as a career. But it has worked out well."

After Boston University, Mazzochi went to law school at George Washington University, where she graduated with honors. Following her education, she and three partners set up a law firm in downtown Chicago, which has now grown to 70 employees.

### C.O.D. - a fantastic resource

Having taken classes herself at COD, Mazzochi recognizes what a valuable resource it is to have the school right here in DuPage County.

"It's a great place for hands-on learning in a university environment," she said. "You can obtain a certification in many areas. Those kinds of offerings drive the value of COD."

"It has been our goal to keep tuition affordable. Last year, we were able to keep tuition flat. This year, the tax levy went down, so everyone should look for that on their next property tax bill."

There are 2+2 programs and 3+1 programs, according to Mazzochi.

"This means two years at COD, then two at a partner college," she said. "Likewise, 3+1 is the same thing, three years at COD, then one at another. We have partner colleges that use the same curriculum, so that creates a nice synergy for our students who move on. It also makes it that much more affordable."

The University of Illinois, for example, has a curriculum that matches with COD. Some students find it easier to take their Core requirements needed for graduation at COD, because classes tend to be smaller and more intimate, making it easier to get one-on-one time with a professor, according to Mazzochi.

What got her interested in running for the COD Board was the fact that the school lost the Police Training Academy program to another institution. She began attending Board meetings and decided to run for office.

"It's one thing to sit there and listen to all the things that are wrong or lacking in an institution," she said.

"But if you're not going to do anything about it, then you can't complain. So I decided to run."

At the time of that election, COD was in considerable turbulence with its then-College President Robert L. Brueder, who was facing heavy criticism for alleged financial misappropriation and lack of accountability. Hence, there were 12 candidates running for just three open seats.

Still, in the hotly-contested race, Mazzochi was the top vote-getter of them all, garnering almost 50,000 votes.

Once seated, she joined others on the Board in the decision to void part of Brueder's contract, then to terminate his employment.

"We presented all the points we made to him in writing," Mazzochi said. "We said, 'Here is the record we based our decision on.' But the next day, he filed a law suit against us."

COD filed a Motion to Dismiss shortly after, which is still pending.

Because the case is in litigation, Mazzochi was not at liberty to talk very much about Brueder and the case against him, but she did mention a few incidents that had come under question.

"There were expense reports for as much as \$600 for wine for 'entertaining donors,'" she said. "When the use of his 'President's Expense Account' was criticized, he switched to Petty Cash. There were expenditures for 'instructional supplies' that totaled about \$10,000. I mean, can you imagine, \$10,000 out of Petty Cash? Most people don't consider \$10,000 'petty' in any way."

Another concern among Board members was that many things were pushed through without discussion. There were times when bids should have been sought, but were not.

"So our plan moving forward is to be more visible, more accountable to the public," Mazzochi said.

### A new President joins the administration

In October and November of 2015, a past Board Chair joined a Presidential Search Committee, which was aptly chaired by former House Speaker Lee Daniels, according to Mazzochi.

"I was especially happy to have Daniels on board," she said. "I knew he was invested enough to make sure we had a top notch candidate for President."

Prior to offering the position to anyone, there were focus groups and community forums held for college students and other stakeholders, as well as throughout the community to get input on what the public sought in a College president.

"The Search Committee narrowed it down to three very high quality candidates," Mazzochi said. "Ultimately, we offered and the job was accepted by Dr. Ann Rondeau."

Rondeau came with an impressive curriculum vitae, beginning with being a 3-star Vice Admiral of the U.S. Navy - she is only the second woman in the history of the U.S. Navy to

ever achieve this status.

"You may recall a few years ago, there was a great deal of trouble with the operations of Great Lakes Naval Academy," Mazzochi said. "Well, she's the person who came in and turned it all around; she came in and fixed it."

Mazzochi said Rondeau serves on several boards including the Board that determines accreditation of institutions of learning.

"Her record of experience made

her a great fit, not only now but looking to the future," Mazzochi said. "She's a very humble person, but very direct. She has very high expectations but waits to know the situation before jumping at a solution. Her philosophy is 'Covenant Leadership,' which means creating an environment in which everyone is encouraged to do their very best. Teachers, professors, students, board members; administrators, everyone."

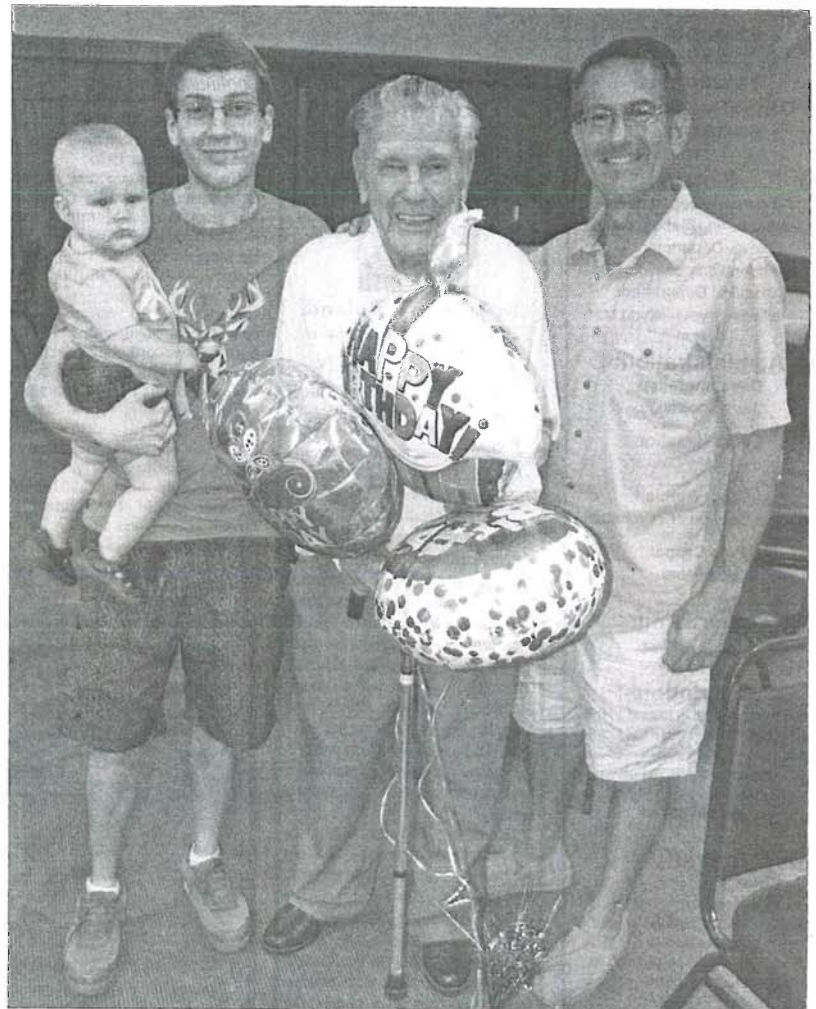
Most of all, Mazzochi said, what

stays top of minds among Board members is to address the question: "Are students getting value for their education dollar?"

What about the state budget impasse?

"That's definitely affecting us, but we have tried to keep a focus on the bottom line," she said. "After Brueder left, we were able to cut approximately \$9 million out of expenses."

See MAZZOCHI, Page 10



PAUL DELGUIDICE PHOTO Villa Park Independent

## Four generations help Sid Bergh celebrate 90 years

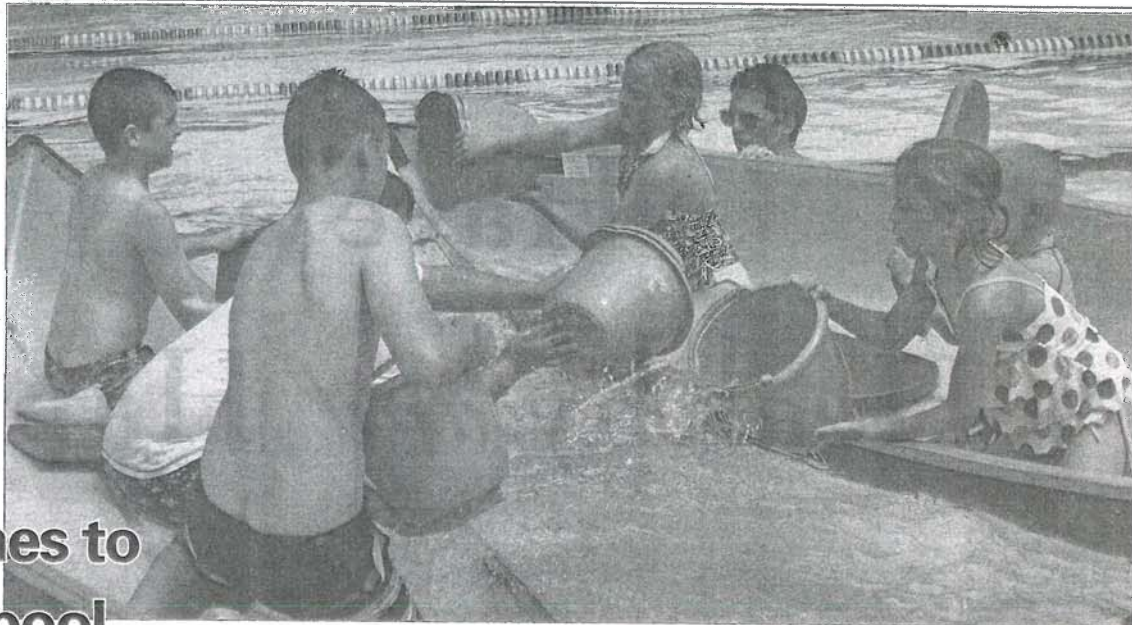
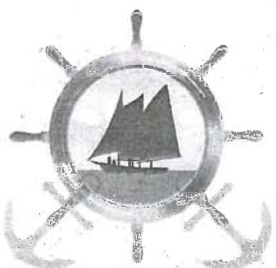
Sid Bergh celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday, June 24 at the Villa Park VFW Post #2801, where he has been a member for 64 years! Joining Sid were friends and family, including Great Grandson Michael Marnell III (14 months old), Grandson Michael II and Michael Sr. Known for his volunteer work at the VFW and Lions Club, Sid Bergh has hosted a weekly TVVP show for more than 10 years, emceeds events such as the 4th of July Parade and Memorial Day Ceremony, and has been a life-long Villa Park resident (except when he served in the Navy during World War II). Sid escaped through a window when he found himself inside the building the night of the Memorial Day fire that took place a few years back.





## Life-sized Battleship game comes to Jefferson pool

The Villa Park Parks & Recreation Department recently held a Life-Sized Battleship event at Jefferson Pool in conjunction with Patron Appreciation Day. Teams moved around the pool in canoes and used buckets, kick board and their hands to toss water in their opponents' canoes to try and sink the other battleship.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Independent



### •Mazzochi (Continued from page 3)

Fiscally, we're in pretty good shape. We are self-funding MAP grants.

We took a look at our bond debt and were able to retire some of it. We will have a balanced budget this year.

"We're just assuming we'll get no state dollars, so we'll continue to fund MAP grants."

The biggest chunk of the budget is \$8.2 million per month for salaries, \$2.2 million per month for benefits and \$24 million per month for healthcare.

#### On the personal side

Mazzochi and her husband have two children, Annabelle, 11, who attends Sandburg, and Benjamin, 6, who is at Hawthorne.

Asked their favorite Elmhurst destinations, she quickly answers "Wilder Park."

"It's such a nice place for the whole family. Then there's the swimming pool, that would be my kids' first choice. Everything is perfectly within walking distance of where we live. It's great to be able to walk everywhere."



## SPORTS

JUNE 30, 2016 • 16

## Willowbrook's Wozniak earns outstanding female athlete honor

### Recent graduate a standout on the soccer field and in the classroom

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

When recent Willowbrook graduate Samantha Wozniak found out she was the recipient of the school booster club's outstanding female athlete of the year honor, she was surprised.

"I did not expect that. There are so many good athletes in our school," she said. "I'm happy and grateful that I won it. All the hard work I put into soccer with practices and games showed. Everybody saw the kind of athlete I am. It showed I worked hard and proved myself."

Wozniak played four years of soccer at Willowbrook. She also played volleyball and basketball her freshman year and tennis her junior and senior years.

She started playing park-district soccer at the age of five and then joined the Lombard Firebirds travel team in the third grade.

"I've played with Lombard my whole life," she said. "It's been a lot of fun there. All the families and teammates are really nice. Everybody is very supportive."

Wozniak's affinity for the sport has simple roots. "I feel good when

I play soccer," she said. "I've always loved it."

Wozniak will continue her soccer career next season at Concordia University-Chicago in River Forest.

"Playing in college is always something I've wanted to do," she said. "I've always dreamed of it and now it is happening. I'm super-excited about it."

Wozniak, mainly a center midfielder on the soccer field, plans on studying elementary education at Concordia. "I like working with kids," she said. "I'll probably focus on younger kids like first-, second- or third-grade. For a while I didn't know what I wanted to do after high school. I've babysat and people have told me I'm good with kids. I thought about it and decided teaching would be cool. It also would be good to be a soccer coach."

An honor-roll student at Willowbrook, Wozniak also was heavily involved in a variety of clubs at the school, including honor societies for English and math. She also was part of the school's spirit-based Blue Crew and provided mentoring to freshmen students making the transition from middle school to

high school. She also participated in the school's Relay for Life initiative.

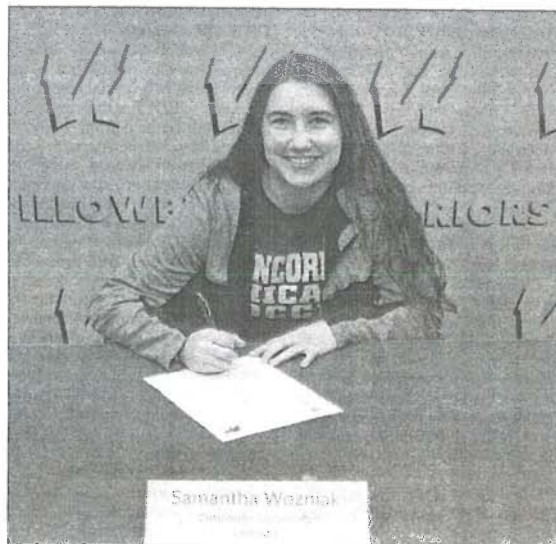
"The biggest thing you can do is give back," she said. "I love to be involved."

Wozniak, who is doing workouts to get herself ready for her first college season, said her final Willowbrook soccer season was her most memorable.

"We had so much fun this past season," she said. "I'm going to have so many soccer memories. We did the best we ever have. It was awesome to be part of something like that. I'm going to miss playing with my friends, some who I played with before high school."

Wozniak said she will particularly miss not being able to play with Alexis Jones, Erin Owen and Alysia Spada. "I've been in club with them since I was little," she said. "It's going to be different without them."

This past season, Wozniak was named to the all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division team and also earned all-sectional, academic all-conference and honorable mention academic all-state accolades.



ARCHIVE PHOTO The Independent

Samantha Wozniak, shown signing her National Letter of Intent in February, will continue her soccer career at Concordia University next season.

## Michaelson throws no-hitter against Downers North

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook summer baseball team enjoyed some strong pitching during a recent four-game stretch.

The Warriors went 3-1 with a win against Montini and a double-header sweep of Downers Grove North.

The Warriors were bolstered by Alec Michaelson's five-inning no-hitter in the first game against Downers Grove North. "Alec had a great outing for us," said Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner.

Sophomore shortstop Jack Hines had two triples. "Jack hit the ball really well," Wisner added.

Kyle Ferguson added two hits and Ben Espinoza was a constant presence on the base paths.

Willowbrook won Game 2 by a 14-3 count. Will Hines pitched the first three innings. "Will did a fantastic job," said Wisner.

Trevor Jaloszynski was the winning pitcher in a 7-0 Game 1 victory against Montini. "Trevor pitched very well," said Wisner. "We hit the ball pretty well. Ben Espinoza

still is on a tear at the plate and we moved guys around. We kept manufacturing and adding on."

Willowbrook then dropped a 9-2 decision in the finale. "They got on our pitching early," said Wisner. "It was 3-2 after the first inning, but we couldn't do too much after that."

Wisner also lauded the recent performances of Marshall McDonnell, Mason Kemp, Ryan Mintz and Vince Ruchala. "Vince had a huge day at the plate for us against Montini," said Wisner.

Ruchala also was cited for his strong defensive play in one of the Downers North games. "It was 4-2 and they had a guy on second base," said Wisner. "One of their guys hits a shot down the third-base line. Vince laid out for it and threw the guy out at first. That quelled their momentum. Vince's play shook us loose and spurred us on a ton."

Through the first several weeks of the summer season, Wisner has liked what he has seen. "Overall, we've been playing solid baseball," he said. "We're not making too many mistakes. We are hitting

good pitches and if we make an out, it's a productive out where we are moving guys along. By doing that we're picking up a run here and there. We have guys who are doing some things really well."

The coach also is seeing progress from his pitching staff. "Our pitching staff is going to be fine," he said. "Our pitchers are doing a good job getting ahead of hitters and our defense has helped out. When the defense is there, that helps the pitcher out a ton."

Wisner also likes the competitive spirit on the team. "A lot of guys are stepping up," he said. "There's a lot of competition. Last year we had a lot of returning starters. This year is different. Competition brings out the best in people. There aren't a lot of spots locked down and we have spots in the rotation. When that first group comes up, the second group wants to outdo them. It's nice to see."

Willowbrook was slated to face York, Leyden and Glenbard East earlier this week. After that, the Warriors are off until the state summer tournament begins on July 11.

## Addison Trail summer baseball team making strides

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail summer baseball coach Mike Kennedy is seeing the exact result he would like as the season unfolds.

Progress.

The Blazers defeated Elgin Larkin last week and tied Streamwood. "We played much better this week," said Kennedy late last week.

In the Streamwood game, Addison Trail surrendered six runs in an inning-and-a-third, but roared back to eventually tie the game.

"Our bats came alive and we tied it up," said Kennedy.

A key during the Streamwood game was a two-run single by senior-to-be Anthony Biondo. "That was huge for Anthony," said Kennedy. "He came up with a big at-bat against Streamwood."

Ricky Perez had a strong mound outing in Addison Trail's win against Larkin. Perez pitched four innings.

"Ricky was outstanding on the mound," said Kennedy.

Addison Trail enjoyed a six-run sixth inning in the Larkin game. "That was awesome to see," said Kennedy. "That put us up for good."

Simon Marinelli had a three-run triple in the Larkin game. "Simon has been doing really great things for us," said Kennedy. "Overall, it was a much-improved week."

Addison Trail lost a JV game 1-0 to Streamwood. "Even though we lost 1-0, it still shows the maturity of our young guys," said Kennedy. "They have really come together."

See **BASEBALL**, Page 17

## Baseball (Continued from page 16)

Addison Trail's game with Geneva was cancelled due to bad weather. "We're starting to see a lot of growth from a lot of our young guys," said Kennedy. "That's kind of what we were hoping for."

Kennedy noted Addison Trail has yet to have any of its top-of-rotation pitchers throw due to other commitments. Returning shortstop Jack Kalbas also has been limited due to recovering from a basketball injury.

"We're coming out and competing every day and doing what is needed to get the job done," he said.

"I tell the younger guys every time someone isn't here, you have the opportunity to step up and show what you have."

Addison Trail also has received recent boosts from sophomore-to-be Michael Scali and Dom

Zumpano. "Michael pitched fantastic in the Streamwood game," said Kennedy. "He helped keep it close. Dom had some big hits for us. He's a senior bat that is coming around."

Kennedy cited Marinelli as a prime example of a player taking advantage of an opportunity he

was given.

"Last year our returning catcher had a broken foot during the regular season," he explained. "Simon caught all summer for us. I looked at our assistant coaches and said how can we not have this guy on the varsity. He went out and proved himself and earned a varsity spot."

It's a perfect example of what you want to see."

Addison Trail was scheduled to face Kaneland and South Elgin earlier in the week.

"Those will be good measuring sticks for us," said Kennedy. "That's when the growth will come into play."

Kennedy is also excited about the team playing in a special wooden bat tournament in St. Charles July 5-6.

"The kids don't get to play in many games with wooden bats," he said. "The kids like to do it. It's going to be fun all the way around."

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# Suburban Life

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Michael Allen (left) and Gabriella Garcia are the creative forces behind their project of all things Cubs.

Photo provided



PAGE 2

## Fireworks, parades and picnics begin before July 4

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

A roundup of some of the best of what's on tap for Independence Day celebrations all week will steer fireworks fans to multiple nighttime displays and point the way to parade pageantry, community picnics and festival fun, including food-centric events.

### Elmhurst

• **Four-mile race** begins at 7:15 a.m. July 4; race starts and finishes on Prospect Avenue next to Wilder Park at Elmhurst College.

**At a glance:** This is a family-style 4-mile run through a course that shows off the best of Elmhurst, including Wilder Park, Elmhurst Public Library and City Centre. There's a 1K race for kids 12 and younger. The event is hosted by the Elmhurst Running Club. Info: 4on4th.com

• **Fourth of July Splashtacular** begins at noon July 4 at East End pool.

See JULY 4, page 6

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MADE IN THE U.S.A.

# D-88 graduates create Cubs media presence

## SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

LOMBARD - Two graduates of School District 88 have parlayed their passion for the Cubs into a media venture. They are Michael Allen, who attended Willowbrook High School in Villa Park, and Gabriella Garcia, who went to Addison Trail High School in Addison.

"We met at the Illinois Media School in Lombard, where we graduated in November of last year," their news release stated. "While we were attending IMS, we decided to start our very own YouTube show. We share a love for the Chicago Cubs, so we named the show 'Northside Manner' and filmed it every Friday after class."

They said it is a two-person program, for which they do all the filming, editing, prep, and running of social media accounts.

"The show started as just a fun extracurricular activity that we received hours for towards graduation; we never knew how big and successful the show would eventually be," they said. "After last season ended, we didn't know if we would start the show again for a second season because we graduated and we weren't getting paid for it. But we both agreed we loved doing it and season two premiered April 1."

## Know more

Learn more about "Northside Manner" at [northsidemanner.wordpress.com](http://northsidemanner.wordpress.com) and [Facebook.com/NorthsideManner](https://www.facebook.com/NorthsideManner). Check out their YouTube offerings at <http://shawurl.com/2mgn>.

"Our goal is to one day be the official show of the Chicago Cubs, and every day we inch closer to achieving that goal."

## Michael Allen and Gabriella Garcia

D-88 graduates and  
"Northside Manner" creators

They brought a sponsor on board, Bygone Brand, a T-shirt company based in Rockford. Now they are working to also raise their profile on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

"Our posts have also been noticed by Cubs players and their wives," the release stated. "Our goal is to one day be the official show of the Chicago Cubs, and every day we inch closer to achieving that goal."

# Cubs shortstop Addison Russell to meet fans at Harry Caray's

## SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

LOMBARD - Fans can meet Chicago Cubs starting shortstop Addison Russell from 7 to 8 p.m. July 5 at Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse in Lombard.

A question-and-answer session presented by Budweiser will be hosted by Jay Zawaski from 670 The SCORE, and will be followed by photographs and autographs.

No outside memorabilia will be accepted; it will be autograph cards only.

Russell, who is in his second season with the Cubs, is batting .236 through 72 games.

The SCORE will give away prizes on-site, including tickets for an upcoming Cubs game, a restaurant news release said.

Doors for the event will open at 6 p.m. Fans are welcome to arrive early to watch the Cubs take on the Cincinnati Reds at Harry's Bar, where \$3 Budweiser and Bud Light bottles will be available all day.

The restaurant is at 70 Yorktown Shopping Center. For more information, call 630-953-3400 or visit [harry-carays.com](http://harry-carays.com).

# Elmhurst College to offer accelerated chiropractic degree

## SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ELMHURST - Elmhurst College launched an accelerated chiropractic degree June 24 in partnership with National University of Health Sciences.

The advanced scholar program will offer qualified students accelerated completion of a bachelor of science and doctor of chiropractic degree in seven academic years instead of eight.

"The program saves students not only a year of coursework but also a year of tuition costs and fees," Director of Admissions at National University Victoria Sweeney said in a news release. "It launches top students into a rewarding career in chiropractic medicine more quickly and with the most thorough training in their profession."

As part of the collaboration be-

tween Elmhurst College and National University of Health Sciences, the institutions will create joint recruitment, dual admission and a coordinated curriculum and support structure for exceptional students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average or higher in Elmhurst College's Bachelor of Science technology program.

Under the provisions of the program, students spend the first three years of study at Elmhurst College completing a minimum of 90 semester credits leading toward the Bachelor of Science in health science technology.

Qualified students start the four-year doctor of chiropractic program at National University of Health Sciences and receive the bachelor's degree from Elmhurst College after completing all course work in the first three trimesters.

"The advanced scholar program is a powerful combination of Elmhurst College's undergraduate academics and National University's professional preparation, allowing qualified students an opportunity to streamline their education and get into the work force faster," Elmhurst College Director of Health Professions Cheryl Leoni said in the release. "We are excited to offer this new opportunity for our students interested in pursuing a chiropractic degree."

Students who are interested in the advanced scholar program at Elmhurst College and National University of Health Sciences can find out more by calling National University of Health Sciences at 800-826-6285 or by visiting [www.nuhs.edu](http://www.nuhs.edu), or contacting Elmhurst College at 630-617-5393 or emailing [chp@elmhurst.edu](mailto:chp@elmhurst.edu).

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