

# VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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## Residents could face new water fees in 2017

By Chris Fox  
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW  
STAFF REPORTER

Villa Park homeowners could receive an additional monthly charge of over \$12 on their water bills at the beginning of 2017. The money raised from the new charges would fund water-related infrastructure projects in the village.

Villa Park Village Board members discussed the possibility of imposing additional water-rate charges during the July 25 board meeting. Trustees voted 4-2 to reach consensus on exploring both the surcharge and a half-percent increase in the village's sales tax rate—from 7.5 to 8 percent. The vote directed village staff to proceed in studying the additional surcharges and the possibility of asking voters to approve a sales tax increase. Villa Park voters would have to approve a referendum to increase the sales tax.

Trustees Chris Aiello, Albert Bulthuis, Nick Cuzzone and Robert Wagner voted in favor of directing staff to explore the surcharges and the potential sales tax increase. Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel and Trustee Robert Taglia voted against reaching consensus on the matters. Trustee Donald Kase was absent from the meeting.

In discussing the proposed surcharge on monthly water bills, board members repeatedly referred to a new charge of \$15. Following the vote to reach consensus, Villa Park Public Works Director Vydas Juskelis provided a more specific figure by recommending a flat increase of \$12.47 per month to village water bills. The proposed across-the-board increase to residential and commercial accounts, which was based on recommendations from a water rate study, included three new fixed fees—a \$6 storm water charge, a \$3 sewer separation charge and a \$3 waste water customer charge—as well as a 47-cent increase in the water customer charge (from \$4.66 to \$5.13). Juskelis stated that a Villa Park household using 7,500 gallons of water per month currently receives a monthly bill of

about \$96.

Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner stated during the previous board meeting—held July 11—that the July 25 meeting would feature a discussion of how to pay for unfunded portions of road-related projects. The unfunded portions of those projects include the installation of sewer lines and water mains. Some of the road repairs related to the referendum of November 2014 include unfunded elements.

In November 2014, Villa Park voters approved a proposal to borrow up to \$23 million to pay for road improvements. As Keehner noted in both of the recent board meetings, the funds from the referendum can only be used to pay for road work and cannot be used for related underground projects like sewer installation.

One of the village's referendum-funded projects is the reconstruction of South Michigan Avenue between Park Boulevard and Madison Street. In addition to including reconstruction of the road, the project calls for storm sewer installation, as well as the installation of a new 10-inch water main. According to information provided by the village, the installation of storm sewer would lessen the frequency of flooding in the area because roadway drainage would no longer be connected to the combined sewer system. Combined sewer systems convey both storm water and sanitary sewage through the same pipe. Installing the new storm sewer on Michigan between Park and Madison would separate the combined system in that area.

### NO FUNDING FOR STORM SEWER, WATER MAIN INSTALLATION

While the village has the funding for the road work on Michigan, it does not have the funding for the installation of the storm sewer and water main. As Keehner stated in the July 11 meeting, the Michigan Avenue project was being delayed because Villa Park was unable to apply for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan of about \$1.3 million to

pay for the water main. He said the loan application could not be completed because the village could not guarantee repayment. The IEPA loans are payable over a 20-year period at an interest rate of about 2.5 percent.

Keehner said during the July 25 meeting that village staff was seeking direction from the village board on how to proceed on the projects with unfunded components. The road repairs on a particular project could be completed without doing any related improvements, or the village could seek funding sources to pay for the underground work.

In discussing the village's plans for road improvements through Villa Park's 2020-2021 fiscal year, Keehner said all the upcoming projects slated to begin in 2018 and beyond feature some sort of underground component.

"We need direction as to how to fund the unfunded components, or direction as to not do this improvements," said Keehner.

Giving a presentation during the July 25 meeting, Juskelis spoke of the village staff's need to know how to proceed on upcoming projects.

"Anything that is going to be constructed next year, we have to start design this year," Juskelis said. "That means we pretty much need to know what the scope of work is. If we're going to include the water main...if we're going to include combined sewer separation...if we're going to include flood-control aspects, we more or less need to know now, because we don't want to start designing those elements if we don't have the money to fund it."

Keehner said during the July 25 meeting that there are about 6,700 water accounts in the village. An additional surcharge of \$12.47 per month on each account would bring in additional revenue of about \$84,000 per month, or approximately \$1 million per year.

A half-cent sales-tax increase would bring in additional revenue estimated at approximately \$1.5 million per year. A referendum question regarding a sales tax increase would reportedly

go on the ballot no earlier than the election of April 2017.

Speaking of upcoming road projects with unfunded components, Juskelis mentioned two projects slated to take place later this year. One of those calls for the reconstruction of Astor Court [from Summit Avenue to Myrtle Avenue] and Myrtle [from Park Boulevard to Highland Avenue]. The project includes storm sewer construction. The flood control component of the project includes the installation of an underground storage vault. The total project has an estimated cost of nearly \$2.3 million. Juskelis said the village needs to identify a funding source for the storm sewer component, which accounts for about one third of the project's cost.

### COLLEGE STREETS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Juskelis also noted the upcoming College Streets Improvement Project, which calls for the replacement of existing 4- and 6-inch water mains on North Iowa Avenue [from Stone Road to Vermont Street], on North Michigan Avenue [also from Stone to Vermont] and on Vermont [from Wisconsin to Harvard avenues]. The existing water mains in the area reportedly have a high incidence of breaks. Additionally, the 4-inch mains have insufficient capacity.

The project, which also includes improvements to pavement, calls for an IEPA loan of over \$2.6 million to pay for water-related components.

"The decision is...do we find the financing for the water loans?" asked Juskelis, who said it takes a minimum of six months to go through the IEPA loan process. "Do we defer implementation of that project until we identify the funding, or do we just go ahead and do the road improvements?"

Juskelis went on to describe what he stated were the most important elements of the village's plan for road and infrastructure improvements.

"I would say, if we had to prioritize what to fund and what not to fund, I would say combined sewer separation is probably the greatest need," said Juskelis. "Not only does it reduce basement backups, but it also provides storm water benefits, so you get basically double the bang for your buck."

In discussing water main replacement, Juskelis said the priority should be replacing undersized mains and those with excessive breaks.

Aiello stated he had already heard from residents who were upset that the \$23 million in referendum funding would not cover the related underground expenses. Aiello then asked for Juskelis' suggestion for funding the unfunded components of road-related projects.

"We should seriously consider the \$3 combined sewer separation fund," Juskelis responded. "That gets some cash flow coming in."

He also suggested imposing all or part of the proposed \$6 storm water and \$3 waste water surcharges. He said voter approval of a sales tax increase would provide cash flow to pay for future IEPA loans.

"If we don't [receive approval for a sales tax increase], then we just build the roads and wait another 15 years to do the underground," Juskelis said. "The underground's been that way for 50 years. We do need to get the roads done."

See FEES, Page 2



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

### Making progress

The resurfacing project on Highridge Road should be completed in the next two weeks. Jeremie Lukowicz, an assistant village engineer for the Village of Villa Park, provided an update on the project at the July 25 village board meeting. The project involves the milling and resurfacing of the road from Ardmore Avenue to the village's west limits. Lukowicz said the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intended to conduct a test of the road today—Aug. 4. Assuming the test passes, Lukowicz said work to pave the asphalt surface could begin later in the day. Lukowicz noted the project would require some additional minor work, including the regrading of ditches and the installation of storm shoulders. He said the project should be completed by the beginning of Willowbrook High School's 2016-17 school year. Willowbrook's first day of school is Aug. 17. The photo, taken just north of the high school, shows an eastward view of Highridge Road. According to details in the village's capital improvement program, the project has an estimated cost of \$436,000. Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner said at the July 25 board meeting that the project came in under budget.

Inside this week's  
Villa Park Review

### On the Go

The Pokemon GO craze is taking the world — and this area — by storm

Story and photos.....Page 3



# Winning lottery ticket worth \$600,000 sold in Villa Park

Someone bought a winning Lucky Day Lotto ticket in Villa Park last week. That winning ticket matched all five numbers to win a \$600,000 jackpot.

According to the Illinois Lottery, the winning Quick Pick ticket was sold at 7-Eleven, 54 S. Villa Ave., and matched all five numbers—1, 15, 16, 18 and 43—in the evening Lucky Day Lotto drawing on Thursday, July 28. Lucky Day Lotto drawings are held twice a day, seven days a week.

As of Monday, Aug. 1, there had not been a claim on the winning ticket.

## Police department announces weekly roadside safety checks

The Villa Park Police Department recently announced the dates of five upcoming roadside safety checks through Sept. 24. According to the police department, all five of the safety checks will be conducted between 9 p.m. and midnight in the area of 70 E. North Ave.

The first of the five roadside safety checks will take place Saturday, Aug. 6. The following two safety checks are scheduled for Aug. 12 and Aug. 20. Next month's checks are slated for Sept. 16 and Sept. 24.

"The safety checks are being conducted to promote the safety and well-being of the motoring public and to provide a deterrent for those who might violate Illinois Vehicle Code statutes and village ordinances," stated a release issued by the Villa Park Police Department.

"Plans have been established to conduct the checks at locations and during those hours which will provide the maximum opportunity for the detection and apprehension of

et. "The Illinois Lottery urges the lucky winner to immediately sign the back of the ticket and keep it in a safe place until they visit one of the Lottery's five prize centers in Chicago, Des Plaines, Rockford, Springfield or Fairview Heights," stated an Illinois Lottery news release.

"Winners have one year from the original drawing date to claim their prize."

The 7-Eleven store that sold the winning ticket will receive a bonus of \$6,000, or 1 percent of the prize amount.

**The safety checks are being conducted to promote the safety and well-being of the motoring public and to provide a deterrent for those who might violate Illinois Vehicle Code statutes and village ordinances."**

— Villa Park Police Department

motorists who drive under the influence of alcohol or other substances. The roadside safety checks will be conducted according to the guidelines set forth by the courts."

Funding for the roadside safety checks is provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety.

## Fees (Continued from front page)

Bulthuis said he would favor seeking a sales tax increase to fund water-related projects. He also said he would support the surcharges to water bills.

"If the sales tax [increase] passes, we can adjust or eliminate the fee on water bills," said Bulthuis, who has been a village trustee since 2007. He added that the underground work is necessary.

"This has been kicked down the road for 10 years. It needs to be done. I don't think anybody should have to live with a sewer backup."

"You're hearing the kinds of numbers that we're talking about here," said Bullwinkel during the board's discussion. "They're staggering and they're scary. They're infuriating ... frustrating. We're residents too, yet we have to make the decision."

"It's not easy for a lot of us to make these kinds of payments every month," said Taglia, who stated his concern about how the added fees would impact Villa Park residents. Taglia then asked about the total cost of the Michigan Avenue project between Park and Madison, which is currently on hold. Juskalis responded that the total cost of the project is just over \$3 million, which includes an IEPA loan of about \$1.3 million to cover the water-related components.

Taglia asked if the village could pull money from its corporate fund to cover the \$1.3 million expense. Keehner responded that the corporate fund's current balance is approximately 140 days, meaning it contained enough to operate the village for that period. Keehner also said it takes about \$57,000 per day to fund village operations. At those figures (\$57,000 x 140), the corporate fund would have a balance of about \$7.9 million. Taking about \$1.3 million out of the corporate fund would leave the fund with a balance of approximately 117 days.



FILE PHOTO BY CHRIS FOX Villa Park Review

One of the Village of Villa Park's capital improvement projects scheduled for this year is the project to reconstruct South Michigan Avenue from Park Boulevard to Madison Street. This photo, taken in February 2015, shows a portion of Michigan Avenue near Park Boulevard. According to information in the village's capital program reports, the project also includes the installation of storm sewers and a new 10-inch water main. The new storm sewer will separate the combined sewer system in that area. The overall project has a total estimated cost of over \$3 million. Funds related to the referendum of November 2014 can be used to pay for the road reconstruction on South Michigan Avenue. Those funds cannot be used to pay for underground work, including installation of storm sewers and water mains. Villa Park Village Manager Rich Keehner recently said that the village was unable to apply for a \$1.3 million loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to pay for the water main because the village couldn't guarantee repayment. The village board is discussing plans to fund water-related projects by adding a surcharge to residential and commercial water bills.

"We could do it," Keehner said. "Would we be nervous? Probably." Juskalis added that the village has typically funded water-related improvements exclusively through its water fund without relying on money from other funds. He added that some water projects are driven by undersized mains, while others are related to increasing overall water capacity. He described the water



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Life size battleship

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

## Villa Park Warriors hold Warrior Fest on Saturday

The Villa Park Warriors Youth Football and Cheer organization will hold its Warrior Fest 2016 fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 6.

The event will take place from 3

to 10 p.m. near the Rugaard Gazebo, located near Ardmore Avenue and Park Boulevard. The event is open to the public. All proceeds help support the Villa Park Warriors.

The fundraiser will include food, a beer garden, live music from local bands, an inflatable obstacle course, games, split-the-pot raffles and a "Dunk Your Coach" dunk tank.

after the vote to set up town hall meetings in the near future to speak with residents the village's infrastructure needs and how to fund them.

### RESIDENT: "SHAME ON YOU, BOARD"

Later in the meeting, resident Cheryl Tucker addressed the board. "A lot of people in this village are saying, 'Shame on you, board, who convinced the good people of Villa Park if they voted for the road referendum their roads would be fixed in an orderly fashion.'"

Tucker, a frequent speaker during public comment segments of village board meetings, suggested the village board and staff weren't completely forthcoming about the entire cost of road repairs and related expenses during their discussions leading up to the November 2014 referendum vote.

She also asked about the citizen oversight committee that was created to examine how referendum-related funds are spent.

"We knew that the underground infrastructure had to be separately funded," responded Aiello.

Bullwinkel stated that initial discussions about the 2014 referendum included consideration of asking voters to approve up to \$40 million in bond sales, which would have provided funding for road repairs and related underground work. The board eventually decided to ask for approval of up to \$23 million in bond sales to pay for road repairs.

"We landed at the \$23 million range for roads, and just for roads," said Bullwinkel, who said asking for up to \$40 million would have left the village little money to complete other projects. "We can't do everything for just \$23 million. It's a lot of money, but when we look at all of the infrastructure needs that we

have in Villa Park right now, it costs a lot more than \$23 million. So we went after the road referendum first, knowing that later on, we'd have to address the water issues."

Keehner also responded to Tucker's comments.

"When we had at least seven town hall meetings to talk about the road referendum for the streets, I told everyone during each one of those meetings that the referendum money was strictly for roads—not water, not sewers, not storm separation," he said.

Keehner added that he has repeatedly talked about proposals to add monthly surcharges to water bills to fund improvements related to sewers, water mains and flood control. The village manager also said the referendum-related road projects that have been completed or bid have come in under budget. In addition, he mentioned that the citizen oversight committee, which examines how referendum funds are spent, is functioning well.

Resident Dianne Luebker, who lives on South Michigan between Park and Madison, also spoke during one of the meeting's public comments segments.

"In 38 years I've never had my street torn up because a water main is broken," said Luebker. "Chances are the water main won't break after the last pavement smoothing. I think we need to look at what we can afford without having to burden the residents."

Luebker then asked what would happen if Villa Park voters rejected a referendum to raise the sales tax. She wondered if a rejection would lead to the village imposing an even higher surcharge above the proposal of \$12.47.

"Everybody has to live within their budget," Luebker said. "I think we need to live within ours."

Cuzzone and Bullwinkel agreed

## Rauner vetoes labor bills that would cost \$1 billion

BY ILLINOIS NEWS NETWORK

Gov. Bruce Rauner used his veto pen to change or sink a number of union-backed proposals, two of which dealt with pay and benefits for home health care workers.

The governor vetoed a proposal that would have the state pay more for insurance for private workers who care for the elderly or disabled through the state's Community Care Program.

The governor stated in his veto message that the change would cost approximately \$1 billion over the next four years.

Rauner said lawmakers didn't include any way to pay for the new benefit.

He had the same complaint about another plan to raise salaries for home health care workers to \$15 an hour.

Service Employees International Union, which drove the push for both plans, accused the governor of "continuing" the "war on women."

## Addison Trail High School to celebrate 50 years

### Special event planned for Aug. 19

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Addison Trail High School is about to celebrate 50 years of educating the youth in the Addison community. To honor the occasion, there will be a Blue and White Community Night held on Friday, Aug. 19 from 5-9 p.m. at the school, located at 213 No. Lombard Road. Admission is free, but donations will be graciously accepted and there will be a Split-The-Pot contest as well.

Guests will enjoy a showcase of Addison Trail's sports teams, performing arts, clubs and more. There will be tasty treats to sale as well.

The event is sponsored by the District 88 Foundation, which raises funds to benefit students throughout the District.

For more information, call 630-530-3989 or send an e-mail to: dbrink@dupage88.net.

## DiCianni, daughter attend Special Olympics Bowling Championship

Pete DiCianni, County Board member (Dist. 2) joined his daughter Brianna to attend the annual Special Olympics Bowling Championship held at Stardust Bowl in Addison. The event is a promotion of the DuPage Visitor and Tourism Bureau, which DiCianni, as Vice Chairman of the County's Economic Development Committee, supports through County funding.

"It's always nice giving people with disabilities the ability to shine and achieve their dreams," said DiCianni who is a candidate for the US Congress, IL-8th.

DiCianni has been a long time supporter of Special Olympics and an annual supporter and participant of the Law Enforcement Torch Run police from various participating agencies run through their communities to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

"For me it's always about advocating for people, not politics," he said. "This population is one that often does not have a voice or a champion."



COURTESY PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured is DuPage County Board member Pete DiCianni (third from left) with his daughter Brianna (far right) at Stardust Bowl in Addison, where they attended the annual Special Olympics Bowling Championship. Also with them is bowling champ Johnathan Steinfert (second from left) and Jim Staffold (far left), general manager of Stardust Bowl in Addison.

## District 4 schools open soon for registration

Addison School District 4 school offices will open for the 2016-17 school year in Aug.. Office hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., beginning on Aug. 2 at Indian Trail Junior High and on Aug. 9 for the elementary school buildings.

Parents who need to complete paperwork or register their students for the upcoming year can visit the offices during those hours.

Indian Trail holds its student schedule pickup Aug. 9-11 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Sixth grade pickup day is Tuesday, Aug.

9; 7th grade is Wednesday, Aug. 10; 8th grade is Thursday, Aug. 11. Students and parents should park in the west parking lot and enter Indian Trail at door #8.

Welcome back letters that address all of the information parents and students need to know for the start of the new school year will be mailed

to homes by mid-August.

The first day of school for all District 4 students in grades 1-8 is Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Kindergarten students begin classes on Thursday, Aug. 25. Preschool and Early Childhood students have their first day of school on Monday, Aug. 29.

## Time for the A.J. LaRocca Memorial golf outing

On Thursday, Aug. 18, the A.J. LaRocca Memorial Foundation 2016 Golf Outing is scheduled to take place at Bloomingdale Golf Club, 181 Glen Ellyn Rd., Bloomingdale. Following registration and a continental breakfast from 8-9:45 a.m., there will be a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

After golf, there will be a buffet dinner including a pig roast beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 per person for golf, lunch and dinner; \$85 per per-

son for golf and lunch only; and \$50 per person for dinner only.

Sponsors are also sought for Half-way House, Golf Ball Blaster Hole, Beverage Cart, Hole Sponsors and more. Items are also requested to add to the golfers' "goodie bags."

To register, make checks payable to A. J. LaRocca Memorial Foundation and send it to A. J. LaRocca Memorial Golf, 8323 W. Heritage Drive, Addison, 60101. For more information, call 630-936-1529.

## Police Department issues public service announcement

### Send donations to needy, not to officers

Last week, the Addison Police Department issued the following message as a service to the community: In the event you should receive an inquiry from people wishing to make a donation to the Addison Police Department as a "thank you" to officers, Police Director Bill Hayden asks that such donations be made to a charity of

the individual's choice, or a charity supported by law enforcement such as Special Olympics, in the name of the Addison Police Department.

While the Police Department is grateful for the gesture and kind thoughts, it is their wish that any donations be made to those who would need it most.

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223501

# County Sheriff investigates fatal crash in unincorporated Bensenville

## Two killed in head-on collision with Grand Marquis

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

The DuPage County Sheriff's Office reported Monday morning that it was investigating a head-on fatal accident that occurred Sunday, July

31 at approximately 2:35 p.m. at Grand Ave., just east of Wilson in unincorporated Bensenville. Sheriff's deputies were dispatched for an accident with injuries involving four vehicles.

Paulette Jones, 73, of Northlake, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her daughter Jennifer Jones, 44, also of Northlake, was taken to the hospital, but died there. Five people riding in the other vehicle were all

transported to Loyola Hospital with unknown injuries.

The Jones' were traveling west-bound on Grand Ave. in a Nissan Altima when it was struck head on by a Grand Marquis that crossed into oncoming traffic. The driver of the Marquis, a 21-year old-male, had four additional passengers in the vehicle all of whom were injured. Two additional vehicles were involved in the crash with minor injuries reported.

At this time, no further information is being released pending an investigation. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the DuPage County Sheriff's Office at 630-407-2400.

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## District 88 offers information for 2016-17 registration

As District 88 prepares for the 2016-17 school year, the administration would like to remind parents/guardians to complete the pre-registration process.

District 88 is implementing an online pre-registration system, which is open through Aug. 7. The goal of this system is to expedite student registration by allowing certain information to be input electronically ahead of time. Families should have received detailed information about how to access that system. For questions or more information, contact Addison Trail at 630-628-3300.

For families with limited access to technology, stations will be available during registration at both schools and the District 88 Office to assist with updating student information online.

Please note: Online registration will be unavailable on Aug. 1, as District 88 will update its student information system (PowerSchool) on that date. That update will allow for greater features with PowerSchool in terms of access and use for students, parents and teachers. Online registration will resume on Aug. 2.

### Registration:

Parents/guardians also should have received specific information regarding when to register their student. Below are the registration dates:

Aug. 8: Class of 2017 (seniors)

Aug. 9: Class of 2020 (freshmen)

Aug. 10: Class of 2019 (sophomores)

Aug. 11: Class of 2018 (juniors) and open/makeup registration

Aug. 12: Late/makeup registration

## SPORTS

AUGUST 4, 2016 • 16

## A busy summer for Willowbrook boys basketball team

## Warriors log more than 50 games

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team got its money's worth this summer and then some.

Coach Chris Perkins noted the team logged 54 games during the summer. The Warriors competed

in the Riverside-Brookfield summer league and also participated in shootouts at Stagg, Addison Trail, Joliet Central, the University of Illinois at Chicago and IPFW in Indiana. Willowbrook also hosted its own shootout.

"We had a pretty busy summer," said Perkins.

Perkins said the team made key strides during its time together, particularly on the defensive front.

"I liked that our defense improved," he said. "I'm excited about that. We did a lot of full-court pressure. Defense was a ma-

jor emphasis for us this summer. We worked on a full-court ball-pressure defense. We ran a lot of zone last year, but we're getting back into some man principles with ball pressure and ball containment."

The coach also was pleased with the team's progress on offense. "We are continuing to build on some of the things we've worked on like spreading out the offense and ball-screening action. We're continuing to emphasize those things and we continue to get better. We are progressing."

Willowbrook was a youthful team last year with four sophomores and a freshman contributing. "All our guys are a lot more seasoned now," said Perkins. "Those guys played an integral role in what we did last season. We're still young, but we're not inexperienced. We're hoping the experience they gained last year and this summer will help them take a big jump forward. We know

"We had a lot of guys play well. Overall, it was a pretty solid summer. The kids have expectations. The younger guys played with us last year and know what to anticipate and expect. They will be ready for it."

— Coach Chris Perkins

our conference is going to be difficult as usual. It's going to be a very competitive conference with Downers Grove South as the returning champs. They still have key guys. Hinsdale South is very athletic and Morton is a deep team. Proviso East always is going to be up top. We didn't play Addison Trail in the summer, but they should be solid and so should Leyden, they are usually difficult with their 1-2-2 zone. We'll have to be ready."

Perkins said players such as Ethan Schuemer (junior), Matt Myers (junior), Freddie Clay (senior), Matas Masys (sophomore), Ryan King (senior) and Cornelius Paxton (junior) were among those who had productive summers.

"We had a lot of guys play well," he said. "Overall, it was a pretty solid summer. The kids have expectations. The younger guys played with us last year and know what to anticipate and expect. They will be ready for it."

Fenton football team active during the summer  
Bison participate in two camps and multiple 7-on-7 eventsBy Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton football team got plenty of work over the summer—in shifts.

Bison coach Mark Kos split the team's camp into two sessions, one running June 20 through July 1 and the second going July 8 through July 22.

"We tried to balance things out because of the shorter summer," said Kos. "We got out of school late this year because of the construction and then we start fall practice Aug. 8. We wanted the kids to do what they needed to do with football here and then allow them to be kids and have a fun summer and not be over the top with football."

Fenton also participated in a variety of 7-on-7 events. Fenton hosted Bartlett for one at Redmond Park in Bensenville and then went to another event at Nazareth Academy that featured Nazareth, Plainfield North and Cary-Grove. In July, Fenton hosted another 7-on-7 at Redmond with Belvidere North, Fenwick and Streamwood competing.

Kos noted he saw plenty of positives coming out of the summer sessions. "What I liked the most is the accountability," he said. "The kids were there for one another and there was a lot of enthusiasm that they brought to practice every day. They have a willingness to learn and be coachable. Those are positive things we see as a staff. We have a good baseline in place. We did a lot of installing with the offense and defense. That's what the summer is there for—teaching. We'll come back in August and refine what we have in place and get ready for the start of the season against Leyden."

Kos added the 7-on-7 events bring a different element to the summer activities. "The 7-on-7s always are helpful," he said. "It gives the kids a chance to compete and gives them the chance to compete against people other than their friends and teammates. We saw some good things. We saw kids who we feel confident will be playmakers. We saw them step up in these 7-on-7s. We have three kids competing at quarterback and the multiple 7-on-7s gave us a chance to fairly evaluate them because they were able to get numerous reps. We'll see who continues to develop and who will be No. 1 on the depth chart when we open up camp."

Kos likes the balance his roster has this season. "We definitely are well-balanced," he said. "We have 15 four-year returning players, which is a pretty good number. The senior leadership definitely is visible and present, plus we have a good handful of good athletic juniors and we have some sophomores up with us as well who have a bright future. But it starts and stops with the seniors. They are taking hold of the program and that's what you want to see happen."

## Addison resident Matthews continues to excel on mat

## Grappler won state title earlier this year

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

Addison resident Jake Matthews is no stranger to success on the wrestling mat.

Earlier this year, Matthews won the 108-pound state championship at the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation Novice and Senior State Championships. The Novice Division is for wrestlers ages 10-12 and the Senior Division is for ages 12-14.

Matthews, who wrestles for the Headlock Wrestling Academy that is the kids feeder program for Addison Trail High School, qualified for state through both regionals and sectionals to compete in the state tournament. Matthews was one of seven qualifiers from Headlock.

"I definitely had some tough matches," Matthews told the Independent earlier this spring. "I never lost my composure. I wrestled through some tough matches."

Matthews noted on the first day of state he pinned all his opponents and then scored a 7-3 win in the first match of the second day. He won the

108-pound title by a score of 14-7.

"I was losing 7-2 at one point," Matthews noted. "I improved toward the third period and won 14-7. I never lost my composure in that match. I kept telling myself I wasn't going to go out like this. I hit all the moves I knew and kept moving. I never stopped. My opponent got tired and I kept going."

Matthews said conditioning and technique made a big difference for him. "We work out a lot in practice," he said. "I was ready. In previous years my stance was not as good. I fixed it and had a good stance and had a really good leg defense. I don't think anybody got a shot off on me. I watched the legs and made sure everything was tight."

This was Matthews' first state title in the folkstyle discipline. Matthews noted he's won other tournaments in the freestyle and Greco-Roman disciplines. "Last year I qualified for state but I didn't do as well. This year I did a lot better. This means a lot. I know I worked hard for it. It felt really good afterward."

Matthews lauded the work of Headlock coach Sam Geraci. "I couldn't do what I did without coach Geraci," he said. "He's always pushing us to our limits. Also, a bunch of my teammates helped me get to state. My dad always has been there

"I kept telling myself I wasn't going to go out like this. I hit all the moves I knew and kept moving. I never stopped. My opponent got tired and I kept going."

— Jake Matthews

pushing me and telling me what I need to work on and what I need to do to keep my confidence up. He's been a big help."

Matthews, who also plays in the Addison Cowboys youth football program, will be an eighth-grader this fall at Indian Trail in Addison.

Also qualifying for state out of the Headlock shop were Caden Votruba (115 pounds, Novice), John Asiuaras (74 pounds, Novice), Gavin Ranaquist (79 pounds, Senior), Jonathan Chaidze (84 pounds, Senior), Xavier Sierra (156 pounds, Senior) and Nick Skamra (177 pounds, senior). Skamra finished fifth at 177 pounds, while Asiuaras finished eighth at 74 pounds.



# Students from School Districts 88, 45, 4 attend STEM camp

From June 20 to July 1, about 30 students participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) camp at Willowbrook.

Participants attend District 88

(Addison Trail and Willowbrook), Addison School District 4 and School District 45. During the camp, students learned how to code apps for android devices, as well as how

to program robots. The event was hosted in partnership with LearnTEC, Inc. The two-week camp culminated in a fun competition called "Game of Drones," where partici-

pants programmed and flew drones.

"What made me want to join the camp is I kind of like playing games, so it's cool to know how it all works, so I can maybe make my own game one day," said Carolyn Burns, who will be an eighth-grader at Jackson Middle School this fall. "It's actually awesome that we get to do this camp, because I know some people don't even learn this until high school, and it's cool we can get a head start to learn this."

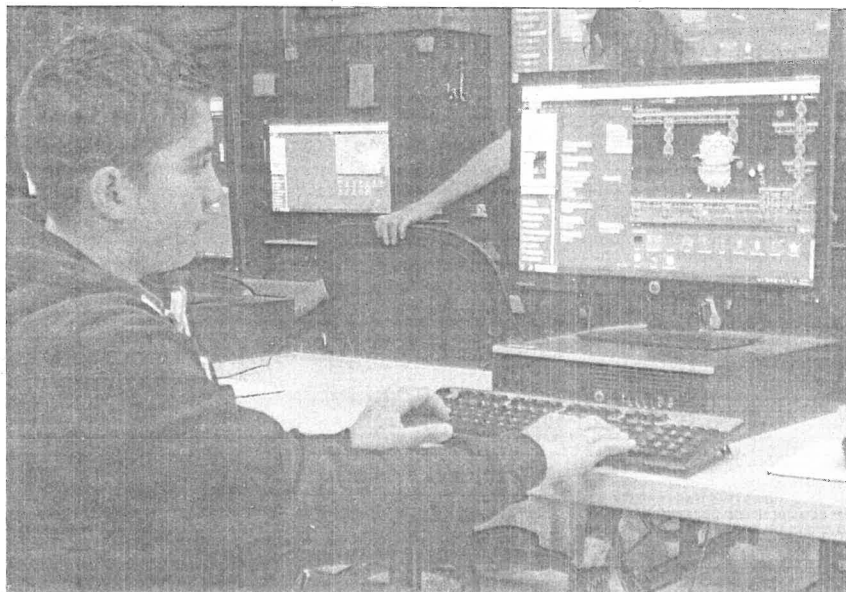
Sara Das, who will be a sophomore at Willowbrook this fall, agreed. She said she learned new skills from attending the STEM camp.

"I think just building robots and learning how to create things and problem solving has been a very important thing to learn," Das said. "This is actually very new to me. I didn't know this would be some-

thing I would be interested in, so I decided to sign up and see if it was something that would interest me."

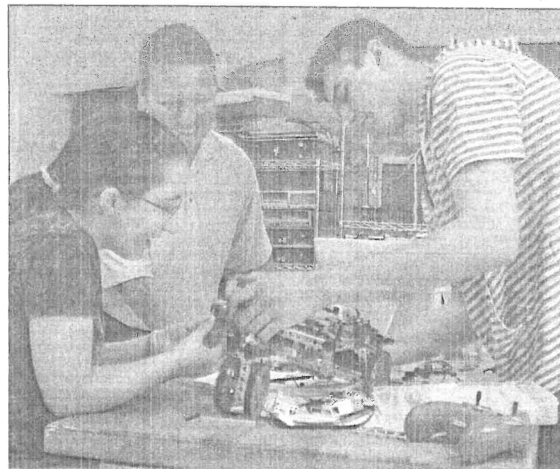
District 88 Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Adam Cibulka said the districts were happy to provide this experience.

"It was just a great opportunity for the kids to really dive into something they're interested in," Cibulka said. "In the future, we hope to offer more programs like this. We know this is the first step of many in terms of expanding this field ... to where we can engage students in this kind of next generation of technology, as well as the next generation of skills (they) need to participate out in the career field. We know these fields are in high demand out in the workforce, and our mission to help students be college and career ready aligns directly with that."



COURTESY PHOTOS The Independent

Indian Trail Junior High School student Anthony Triantafillos practices coding during a STEM camp. The camp took place from June 20 to July 1 at Willowbrook, and about 30 students from District 88, Addison School District 4 and School District 45 participated.

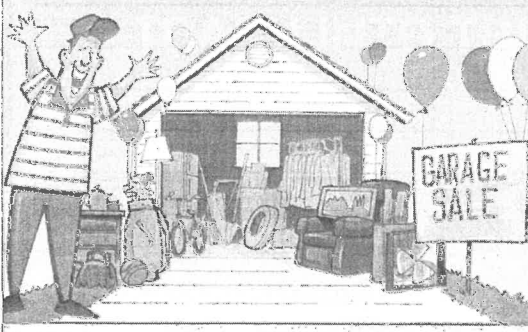


(Above): Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (center) works with Willowbrook students Sara Das and Owen Allen during a STEM camp, which took place from June 20 to July 1 at Willowbrook. (Below): Krause (right) visits with Willowbrook students Robert Fagan (left) and Ashish Satsangi during the STEM camp.

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