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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020



## Food for students

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

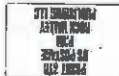
District 88 has joined School District 45, Salt Creek School District 48 and Addison School District 4 to provide meals to students while school buildings are closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers have distributed thousands of meals—free of charge—to all residents up to the age of 18. The distributions began on March 17. On Friday, March 27, the last day before spring break (March 30 to April 3), volunteers gave out six breakfasts and six lunches per child to last for the following six weekdays. The weekly bulk meal distribution will resume on Tuesday, April 7. From 10 a.m. to noon on April 7, participants will receive five days' worth of breakfast and lunch meals. The meals will be distributed at multiple schools, in-

cluding four Villa Park schools—Willowbrook High School (1250 S. Ardmore Ave.), Albright Middle School (1110 S. Villa Ave.), Ardmore Elementary School (225 S. Harvard Ave.) and Jefferson Middle School (255 W. Vermont St.). Volunteers (left to right) pictured during Friday's distributions at Albright Middle School are: Charlene Thunberg of Cottage Hill Operating Company, Jackie Skinner, District 88 School Board member Amy Finnegan, District 88 School Board member Dan Olson, Libby Sebby and Angela Trexler—school secretary at Salt Creek School District 48's Stella May Swartz Elementary School.

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# Village board extends state of emergency in Villa Park

**STAFF REPORT**  
 The Villa Park Village Board held a special meeting on Monday, March 23, to extend the village's state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Villa Park Village President Albert Bulthuis initially declared a state of emergency in the village on March 16. That declaration lasted seven days, up until the day of the special meeting on March 23. Board members voted 7-0 at the March 23 meeting to extend the declaration until the next village board meeting, which is scheduled for April 13.

The ordinance approved by the village board last week authorizes Bulthuis to "exercise extraordinary power and authority, by executive order, during this state of disaster/emergency to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and min-

imized, and that residents and visitors in the village remain safe and secure."

Trustee Kevin Patrick participated in last week's special meeting via telephone. The other six board members and the staff members who attended the meeting adhered to social distancing guidelines by not sitting in adjacent seats.

"I would like to thank our residents and our businesses, for how they are handling this disruption in your lives and in your livelihood," said Bulthuis in remarks he delivered at last week's meeting. Bulthuis encouraged residents to patronize local restaurants that are open for pickup and deliveries.

"I would also like to thank our first-responders," added Bulthuis. "As we are staying inside, they are out on the streets."

The village extended its state of emergency declaration shortly after Gov. JB Pritzker issued the stay-at-home order, which went into effect at 5 p.m. on March 21. The governor's order currently extends through Tuesday, April 7.

Bulthuis noted that he and village

staff members have been in continuous contact with their counterparts in neighboring communities. The village is also receiving regular updates from the DuPage County Health Department, the Illinois Department of Public Health and Gov. Pritzker's office.

In the initial March 16 declaration of a state of emergency in the village, Bulthuis directed Village Manager Rich Keehner to close all village-owned buildings to the public, and to cancel all village board and commission meetings until the end of April. At the special meeting, however, Bulthuis said he was hopeful that the village board would be able to hold its board meeting that's scheduled for April 13.

Keehner read a message, apparently from a village resident, during the March 23 meeting. The message stated that the village was already covered by the governor's stay-at-home order and questioned the purpose of the village's state of emergency. The message also included a question asking when the powers granted by the village president's declaration would expire.

Bulthuis stated that the environment is changing every day, and that the village's emergency declaration would allow a potential purchase of goods or equipment that may be needed. The village, he said, may require emergency staffing, such as the need to bring someone in to sanitize village buildings.

The declaration also authorizes the village manager to implement alternative staffing protocols, procedures and shifts for the village's police, fire and public works departments.

Bulthuis noted that the March 23 declaration would only be good until the next board meeting. If board members feel the emergency powers are being abused, any three of them could ask for a special board meeting.

That meeting would take place within 48 hours.

Village attorney Kathleen Field Orr noted that there are powers provided in the emergency declaration that Bulthuis chose not to take. She said the village president decided not to invoke the authority to spend over the village's budget.

## 1st Garden Childcare Center applies for emergency license

1st Garden Childcare Center, located in Villa Park, has applied for an emergency license.

It currently has 13 children of essential workers, and still have plenty of room for any essential workers looking for child care during this time.

1st Garden Childcare Center has a dedicated staff willing and working to serve the community and its surrounding areas. Ms. A. J. is the director of the facility—a caring, warm, energetic and engaging young lady Yvonne Jordan is the owner of 1st Garden Childcare Center. For more information, call 630-279-1321.

## Changes in Villa Park refuse collection due to COVID-19

*All waste must be inside a collection container, or bagged and tied shut*

The Village of Villa Park announced last week that for the safety of Roy Strom employees and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Roy Strom—the village's refuse collector—has implemented the following changes. The changes are effective immediately, until further notice.

• Roy Strom will only collect waste that is inside a collection container or bagged and tied shut. Loose waste will not be collected.

• Bulk items that do not fit inside a container, such as loose construction material, couches, mattresses, etc., will not be collected.

• Recycling will only be collected inside a container with handles that can be lifted into the truck.

The village noted that yard-waste collection began as scheduled on

April 1. Stickers are required for yard-waste collection services. Yard-waste stickers may be purchased through the village by paying online at [inviolapark.square.site/](http://inviolapark.square.site/).

Orders will be filled through the mail. Yard-waste stickers are also available for purchase at Johnson's Lighthouse, the Villa Park Jewel and other local stores listed on the village's website—[inviolapark.com](http://inviolapark.com).

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## York Township services are continuing during COVID-19 crisis

York Township Supervisor John W. Valle announced last week that essential township services, such as

Meals on Wheels, food pantry distribution and senior transportation for essential rides will continue. York

Township is keeping all of its other offices closed to the public until at least Tuesday, April 7, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The York Township Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday, with new hours—8 to 9 a.m. is reserved for special needs and senior residents 60 and over. The pantry is open from 9 to 11 a.m. for all eligible residents, with door-side pickup.

Accommodations will be made for seniors, special-needs and disabled residents who cannot make it to the food pantry during regular hours. Any eligible York Township resident who needs assistance with food will be helped.

York Township's caseworkers are working remotely for general and emergency assistance. General inquiries will be handled by telephone or email. Visit [yorktownship.com](http://yorktownship.com), or call 630-620-2400 for more information.

The York Township's Assessor's Office has its non-essential staff working remotely. Staff is continuing to respond to calls and emails. Seniors should know that senior freeze forms will not be mailed out until the end of April.

The filing deadline for this form is not until Oct. 1, 2020.

The York Township Highway Department can be reached for construction permit inquiries or other issues. Call 630-627-2200 for more information.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Food service

District 86 has joined other area school districts to provide meals to students while school buildings are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers have distributed thousands of meals since March 17. The bulk meal distribution will resume on Tuesday, April 7. Pictured (left to right) during Friday's distributions at Willowbrook High School are: Willowbrook director of deans Julio Del Real, volunteer (and 2019 Willowbrook graduate) Maurice Brown, Kimberly Mikessel—a school counselor at Willowbrook and Hank Chanez—a member of Willowbrook's support staff.

# SPORTS

APRIL 2, 2020 •

## IHSA executive director provides update regarding high school spring sports

*Governing body considering option of extending spring season*

STAFF REPORT

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Executive Director Craig Anderson sent an open letter to the state's high school administrators and spring sports coaches last week. Anderson said the IHSA—which oversees high school athletics in Illinois—is considering an extension of the spring sports season, which has been shut down by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I know this time continues to be a challenge for all of us," said Anderson.

"I hope this note finds you well."

On March 12, the IHSA announced it was canceling its remaining winter state series post-season tournaments, including boys basketball. One day later, Gov. JB Pritzker ordered all K-12 public and private schools in Illinois to close until March 30. That school closure has since been extended to last through at least April 7.

None of the area's high school spring teams are participating in any practices or competitions while schools are closed. The Illinois State Superintendent of Schools has stated that no IHSA member school should organize any spring sports practices or games while the state's high schools are closed.

"During the time of mandated closure, the IHSA does not believe it is necessary or prudent for any number of students to gather for workouts, regardless of how those students gather or whether any IHSA rule is broken by said gathering," the IHSA noted in a statement on its website regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The area's high school spring sports teams had begun practicing for their respective seasons before their school buildings closed on March 13. Only a few spring sports, including boys gymnastics and boys and girls water polo, had engaged in any com-

petitions before Pritzker ordered the school closure.

"As the IHSA staff and Board of Directors continue to monitor updates from government offices, as well as state and local health departments, we continue to support the possibility of our member schools completing both regular- and post-season spring sports seasons," said Anderson. "The date schools are allowed to return to session will determine the length of the spring sports season and the potential of an IHSA State Series."

Several high school spring sports are scheduled to hold their state series post-season competitions in May. Other sports, like boys volleyball, softball and baseball are scheduled to end in June. The IHSA Class 3A and 4A state championship games in softball and baseball are both scheduled for June 13.

"We will be working with our Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to determine the need for an acclimatization period in advance of competition once school resumes," stated Anderson. "No timeline has been set at this time."

If regular classes and athletic

events do resume this spring, the chance the IHSA could reschedule its post-season competitions.

"We are considering an extension of the spring sports season limits to provide more participation opportunities for students," said Anderson. "This may include movement of post-season timelines and state series."

Anderson closed his letter to administrators and coaches by urging to keep them abreast of the developments.

"We will continue to provide dates as new information is available," said Anderson. "We appreciate your patience and understanding."

The COVID-19 update on IHSA website notes that athletic competitions may not necessarily resume when school buildings return to regular classes.

"It is important to remember is an unprecedented situation will remain fluid," noted the update at ihsa.org.

"It is possible, for example, schools may reopen at some point but that other gatherings (like sports) may remain limited."

## Pandemic turns down the volume for Warriors' public-address announcer

*A normally busy spring season has been silenced by COVID-19*

By Chris Fox

VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF REPORTER

The voice of Willowbrook High School athletes is having a quiet spring.

Pete Makrinski, the public address announcer for a multitude of Willowbrook's home sports events, is like just about everybody else, waiting out the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Sometimes life makes you have to sit out, that's what's happened right now," said Makrinski from his home last week. "Hopefully we'll get it all started again."

Willowbrook fans who attend the Warriors' athletic events at Villa Park might not know Makrinski's face, but they should definitely recognize his voice. Makrinski handles the Warriors' public-address duties for home contests in football, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer and baseball. He also helps to coordinate Willowbrook's home badminton tournaments.

Makrinski is always busy during the school year. His typical spring season is especially busy, as he is normally in the stadium press box to operate the scoreboard and handle the announcing for girls soccer.

He also spends hours in the press box behind home plate of the baseball field during that program's games.

In another springtime assignment, Makrinski works as somewhat of a traffic controller at badminton tournaments, where he calls out upcoming matches and court assignments.

"I really enjoy the soccer and badminton tournaments are great," Makrinski said. "I wouldn't give up badminton for anything. Those are some of the most people I've ever been around."

Willowbrook's school building has been closed since the end of classes on March 13. One day earlier, the Warriors' spring athletic teams held their last practices before the COVID-19 shutdown. Most of the school's spring teams were preparing for their

season-opening competitions when the closure was announced. Makrinski's first event of the spring season was supposed to be the Willowbrook girls soccer team's season-opening match on March 17.

"This is a little different for me. I now have a somewhat normal schedule at home," said Makrinski of how he's dealing with the shutdown. "No early mornings, no nights or weekends. I am sleeping better and eating better."

Shortly before the shutdown, Makrinski spent a busy week behind the microphone as Willowbrook hosted an IHSA Class 4A basketball regional. The post-season event during the week of March 2 featured four games in five nights.

In addition to working as a public-address announcer, Makrinski spends school days monitoring students in the school's credit-recovery program. That program gives students who have failed a class an opportunity to earn a passing grade. Makrinski has still been able to monitor students in the Internet-based credit-recovery program while the school building is closed.

In another duty at the school, Makrinski spends a few days a week monitoring the area near the main gymnasium and field house during the afternoons and evenings. There's a lot of after-school activity most afternoons and evenings after a regular school day. There are athletic practices and competitions at different levels. There are also concerts, music and theater rehearsals and practices for some of Willowbrook's athletic feeder programs.

Makrinski isn't just at school during days and evenings. In a typical school week, he arrives at Willowbrook as early as 4:45 a.m. a couple of days a week to open the field house. Community members visit the field house to walk around the indoor track early in the morning before each regular school day.

"There's always something going on," Makrinski said. "It's tough not being in school. It's a little weird."

Along with waiting to get back to his routine at Willowbrook, Makrinski is waiting for the National Hockey League season to resume, and for the Major League Baseball season to begin.

"Frequent circumstances like this," said Makrinski in assessing the unprecedented situation. "I'm hoping everything will be resolved."

## Villa Park resident earns all-state recognition at Montini Catholic

Sophomore

Tatiana

Thomas (No. 22)

of Montini

Catholic

High School

in Lombard

was recently

named to the

Illinois Basketball

Association (IBCA)

Class 3A

Girls All-State

Second Team

for the 2019-20

season. A Villa

Park resident,

Thomas helped

the Broncos to a

third-place

finish in the IHSA

Class 3A girls

basketball tournament,

which ended last

month. Montini

defeated Springfield's

Lanphier High School

55-45 in the Class

3A third-place

game, which took

place at Redbird

Arena in Normal

on March 7. The

Broncos finished

the season with an

overall record of

33-5. Thomas

averaged 8.6 points

and 4.7 rebounds



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO/SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publ

and two of her teammates—senior Sydney Prochaska and sophomore Taylor Charles—reached Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) All-Conference status for the 2019-20 season. The Broncos won the GCAC Red Division championship during the regular season.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Relay for Life event raises almost \$90,000

About 500 students from Willowbrook High School and Addison Trail High School took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Relay for Life of District 88 Youth fundraiser last month. The students from the two District 88 schools spent the night of March 7 in Willowbrook's field house during the fundraiser, which raised nearly \$90,000 for the American Cancer Society. Before the event, students formed fundraising teams. A team of Willowbrook sophomores—it's Po22ible—raised the third-most money of all the teams. The student from the Class of 2022 raised over \$15,500. The Willowbrook sophomores on the it's Po22ible team included (left to right) Amelita Gapsick and Madison Orlovski.

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# Previewing area boys track and field teams

By JOSHUA WELGE  
jwelge@shawmedia.com

The boys track season is on hold, but we're still previewing area teams. Here are previews of Glenbard East, Glenbard West, St. Francis, Montini, Wheaton Academy, Willowbrook and York.

## Glenbard East Rams

**Coach:** Daniel Greco

**Top athletes:** Aidan Ihms, sr., 1,600/3,200 relay; Nigel Neibel, sr., 800/3,200 relay; Andrew Bylsma, sr., 1,600/3,200 relay; Tyrese Buffkin, so., high jump; Roy Ebersold, sr., 400/1,600 relay; Zach Panozzo, sr., sprints/sprints relays; Deion Manley, so., 400/1,600 relay; Patrick Richmond, sr., sprints/sprint relays

**Outlook:** Ihms, Neibel and Bylsma led Glenbard East to an Upstate Eight Conference cross country championship last fall. "The competitive drive has been off the charts so far this season," Greco said. Based on the Rams' few indoor meets, the strength of the team appears to be distance events. The 3,200 relay took third at the Maine East Invite. In its final meet, the relay ran its season-best time by 25 seconds. Ihms is looking to get his 1,600 time under 4:30, which is where he finished last season. The Rams' sprinting group has made progress. Led by Ebersold, the 1,600 relay also has taken big steps.

## Glenbard West Hilltoppers

**Coach:** Jonathan Schweighardt

**Top athletes:** Oscar Berrun, sr., sprints/long jump; Sean Hopkins, Jr., long jump/triple jump/sprints; Pierce Cousins, jr., 3,200/1,600; William Hohe, jr., 3,200/1,600; Jalen Moore, jr., sprints; Matthew Travers, jr., high



Chris Johns for Shaw Media

York's Charlie Kern competes in the Class 3A 800-meter run championship race at the boys track and field state finals in 2018.

so., 1,600; Tommy May, so., 800; Jack McWhinney, so., shot put/discus; Luke Hemmersmeier, fr., sprints/long jump; Jonathan Goff, fr., sprints; Josh Ugorji, fr., sprints

**Outlook:** McWhinney, Montini's

ally hard all winter for a chance to run outdoor track, and now I'm afraid they might not get that chance."

## St. Francis Spartans

## Wheaton Academy Warriors

**Coach:** Chris Felinski

**Top athletes:** Nate Bierly, sr., 300 hurdles; Noah Mayo, sr., 400

**Outlook:** The Warriors have the largest team they've had in Felinski's 20 years coaching at Wheaton Academy. Bierly is the school record holder in the 300 hurdles and is looking to make a run at state after finishing sixth at sectionals last year. Mayo, Wheaton Academy's top state contender, is less than a second from the state qualifying standard in the 400. The Warriors didn't have an indoor season, competition-wise, and Felinski said they essentially had eight practices before the season was interrupted.

## Willowbrook Warriors

**Coach:** Terry Artman

**Top athletes:** Enrique Cruz, jr., throws; Anthony Biancalana, sr., sprints; Brandon Heselton, sr., distance; Sean Kramer, jr., sprints.

**Outlook:** The Warriors have the largest group Artman has ever had with almost 100 athletes. Cruz could not compete last season but is good to go this spring. "These guys have good attitudes and a growing passion for track and field," Artman said.

## York Dukes

**Coach:** Charlie Kern

**Top athletes:** Daniel Klysh, sr., 800/1,600/relays; Michael Moriarty, sr., 800/1,600/3,200 relay; Ethan Kern, sr., 800/1,600/3,200; Richard Buehling, sr., triple jump; Eric Sylvester, sr., 200/400/800 relay/1600 relay; Max Santiago, sr., hurdles; Jimmy Hoffman, sr., 200/400/sprint relays; Christopher Radcliff, jr., 100/200/sprint relays; Colin Hill, jr., 800/1,600/3,200/3,200 relay;