

Despite no classes, schools continue family meal program

During the weeks that schools have been closed, DuPage High School District 88 and Addison School District 4 have been distributing breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals to Addison families. The free meals are available to children age 18 and under at six Addison locations—Ardmore School/Early Learning Center, Addison Trail High School, Army Trail/Indian Trail Junior High, Fullerton, Lake Park, and

Lincoln Schools. During the month of April, 5-day meal packs will be distributed every Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

This week, Addison Park District provided an extra treat for families as Park District staffers were on hand at the meal distribution sites to give out 600 Easter treat bags.

The goodie bags included filled plastic eggs, games and coloring sheets.

(Right) Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities Leslie DeMoss of the Addison Park District hands out Easter bags to a family at Fullerton School. The Park District provided 600 treat bags for those in the District 4 family meal program.

(Below) As part of their participation in the District 4 family meal program, this Ardmore School family was given Easter treat bags before heading home. The bags were provided by the Addison Park District.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



Small businesses to showcase children's art

Participants entered into a drawing; winners in four levels will each receive \$25

Villa Park's small business community is offering a showcase to display children's art in the village—at a safe distance. One participant in each of four different categories will receive \$25.

The deadline to drop off artwork is Thursday, April 30; that deadline could be extended.

Have your child/teen draw a picture and sign the front, include his

Q and A

(Continued from page 4)

site [villaparkchamber.org] titled "VP Businesses Caring About Customers in Crisis." This list outlines the services our businesses are offering their customers in crisis.

Our small business community is our lifeblood, and as residents, we should do everything we can to help them as they have contributed and given so much back to us. Without our small business community, Villa Park could not continue to provide the programs, events, and all the things that make us the 28th Best Places to live in America, and Eighth Best Place to Raise a Child (in recent rankings by Money Magazine).

Always remember to Shop Villa Park First! Our small businesses depend on your support!

or her address and age and drop it in the mail slot of one of the following businesses. If the business is open, drop off the artwork during office hours for the participating business to showcase it.

Participants will be entered into four categories—PreK, elementary (K-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school. There will be a drawing to win \$25 in each of the four levels.

The businesses ready to display children's artwork in their storefront windows include:

Park Boulevard Corridor

- Studio Nine Hair Salon—9 E. Park

- Hensley's Prairie Path

- Realty—7 E. Park

- Cain Law Offices—3 E. Park

- Assisting Hands—65 E. Park

- Edward Jones/Michael

- Hirsch—31 E. Park

- Chicagoland Beer and Wine

- Makers—11 W. Park

Villa Avenue Corridor

- Harris Bank—10 S. Villa

- State Rep. Deb Conroy—28 S. Villa

- Villa

- Eclipse Dog Grooming—110

- S. Villa

- Mike's Market—32 S. Villa

- G.M. Smith & Son

- Realtors—203 S. Villa

- Chicago Wealth

- Management—160 S. Myrtle

- (Cortesi Park)

St. Charles Road Corridor

- Ridgeway Precision

- Mechanical, Inc.—280 W. St.

- Charles

Ardmore Avenue Corridor

- St. Paul Daycare—545 S.

- Ardmore

School districts continue to provide free meals to students while school buildings are closed

Five days' worth of food to be provided each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon; next distribution is April 28.

District 88 is partnering with District 45, Salt Creek School District 48, Addison School District 4, Arbor Management, Chartwells and Cottage Hill Operating Company to provide meals to students while school buildings are closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food service program provides meals free of charge to all residents up to the age of 18.

Beginning on April 7, five days worth of food (five breakfasts and five lunches) were distributed. Five days worth of food will be provided each Tuesday while school buildings are closed to on-site learning.

The next distribution of five days

worth of food will be provided from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 28.

The area distribution sites include four Villa Park schools and two Lombard schools. The Villa Park schools are:

- Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave.
- Albright Middle School, 1110

- S. Villa Ave.

- Ardmore Elementary Sch

- 225 S. Harvard Ave.,

- Jefferson Middle School,

- W. Vermont St.

- The Lombard schools are:

- Stevenson Elementary Sch

- 18W331 15th St.

- Westmore Elementary Sch

- 340 S. School St.

Pre-order plants for Garden Club of Villa Park's annual plant sale

The Garden Club of Villa Park will hold its annual plant sale this year. The club will hold a non-contact pickup and delivery service on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Those wanting plants need to pre-order and pre-pay via a link on the club's website—homegardening.org.

When customers check out to complete their online purchase, they will need to indicate "delivery" or

"pickup" in the address section, under "Company," with their desired time. If customers choose delivery, the club will deliver the order order within one hour of the chosen time.

According to the club's website, the pickup location on May 2 is to be announced.

Visit the club's website at homegardening.org for updates, and to see a complete list of all available plants.

Cismesia receives 88's Best honor

Senior noted as a mainstay in Willowbrook musical and theatrical productions

Willowbrook

senior Emma

Cismesia

has

been named her

school's recipient

of the 88's Best

award for March.

Cismesia was

recognized during the

District 88 Board

of Education meeting on April 13.

The district's board and adminis-

tration created the 88's Best award

to honor students for their achieve-

ments in and out of the classroom.

Cismesia has consistently pursued

the most rigorous courses available

at Willowbrook. When she gradu-

ates, she will have completed three

Advanced Placement (AP)/col-

lege-level courses, as well as several

honors courses.

Cismesia has been a member of

the Honor Roll throughout her four

years at Willowbrook. She is an in-

ductee of the Tri-M (Modern Music

Masters) Honor Society, where she

serves as secretary. Cismesia is a

celebrated vocalist. She is a member

of Willowbrook's concert choir and

CenterStage show choir.

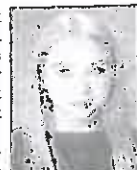
Additionally, she has earned recognition from the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) as a

three-time All-District selection, including being named as the top performer this year for District 9.

She was named an ILMEA All-State musician three times. She was

also selected to perform the national anthem during last month's IHSA girls basketball state tournament in Normal.

Cismesia has been a mainstay on the stage during her four years at Willowbrook, performing in nine theatrical productions. In November, she was the lead in the school's presen-



Emma Cismesia of District 88 Board of Education meeting on April 13.

The district's board and administration created the 88's Best award to honor students for their achievements in and out of the classroom.

Cismesia has consistently pursued the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook. When she graduates, she will have completed three Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, as well as several honors courses.

Cismesia has been a member of the Honor Roll throughout her four years at Willowbrook. She is an inductee of the Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society, where she serves as secretary. Cismesia is a celebrated vocalist. She is a member of Willowbrook's concert choir and CenterStage show choir.

Additionally, she has earned recognition from the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) as a three-time All-District selection, including being named as the top performer this year for District 9.

She was named an ILMEA All-State musician three times. She was also selected to perform the national anthem during last month's IHSA girls basketball state tournament in Normal.

Cismesia has been a mainstay on the stage during her four years at Willowbrook, performing in nine theatrical productions. In November, she was the lead in the school's presen-



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley P.

The District 88 Board of cation recently recognized lowbrook senior Emma Cismesia as her school's recipient of 88's Best award for March. Cismesia was recognized during District 88 Board of Education meeting on April 13. Cismesia is a member of Willowbrook's cert choir and CenterStage choir. She has performed in theatrical productions at Willowbrook. She is pictured while forming the lead role during school's fall musical—"Ma Mia!"—in November.

tation of its fall musical—"Ma Mia!" In February, she performed Willowbrook's winter play—"Nic and Old Lace."

Cismesia plans to attend College of Performing Arts at Leavel University, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in musical theatre.



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Slices of life

How are you doing?



By
**JILL
PERTLER**
Contributor

First we all measured this situation by days and then by weeks and now the days string together and I'm not always sure if it is Tuesday or Wednesday. By now, we are seasoned pandemic participants. We know how to kill a month by staying inside and following the rules. Cross

that one off the bucket list.

As the days morph into weeks and the weeks possibly into months, I wonder: How are you doing? What are you doing to pass the time? How are you staying safe? Are you lonely or scared? Is your family wearing on you or are you finding you enjoy them more than you thought you would? For me it's the latter.

Sometimes, though, the days get long. There is only so much cleaning, cooking and TV binging anyone can do. Some days, despite my best intentions, I can't seem to get anything done. It's as though I've lost my oomph.

Some of us have sewn masks. Others are wearing them. When we do have to venture out for milk or eggs we are furtive, dodging oncoming customers in the toilet paper aisle. Trying not to breathe the same air - just in case. We carry

hand sanitizer in our pocket and use it immediately upon leaving the grocery store. We try not to rub our eyes or touch our face.

People who are considered essential employees go out each day into the unknown. They come home and peel their clothes off and hop into the shower. And then get up the next day to do it all over again. Thank you.

Many of us have had to skip large family gatherings. We have cancelled birthday parties, spring break trips, Easter dinners, Sunday fun days and even postponed weddings and funerals.

Our daughter and her family live about half a mile from us. We haven't seen them in nearly a month. Visitors aren't allowed at my dad's assisted living facility, and he doesn't understand why. We all have similar stories to tell.

Students are now experienced distance learners. My senior in high school has actually been doing quite a bit of school work and he's much more communicative about it than when he was in the regular classroom. We've discussed economics, how to arrange food in the refrigerator, local government and "To Kill a Mockingbird." Those discussions have been a plus.

Another plus - I don't have to wonder who will be home for dinner. We're all here every night, and we sit around the table together for our meal. It hasn't been this way since they were in elementary school.

I thought I'd thoroughly stocked up on food, but things are thinning out. Over the last three weeks we've gone through 10 dozen eggs.

See SLICES, Page 10

Helton, District 88 salute Administrative Professionals Day

On April 22, District 88 will celebrate Administrative Professionals Day to recognize and thank our clerical and technology staff members.

"Their work helps our students succeed inside the classroom and beyond and allows us to accomplish our mission of working for the continuous improvement of student achievement," noted Superintendent Scott Helton in his weekly message. "I would like to thank the following individuals for their endless passion and dedication."

Addison Trail

Coleen Brechin, Alex Cadena, Veronica Casimiro, Karla Cosio, Lisa Crotty, Santa DeAngelo, Laura DiNatale, Judy Garcia, Mark Garlitz, Karen Grady, Laura Grunschel, Sonia Hernandez, Kelly Hickey, Lori Irvin, Lynda Jrah, Greg Karis, Mariel Lopez, Lee Obrzut, Maria Oplawski,

Brika Roman, Caryn Scimeca, Licel Tornabene, Alma Villegas

Willowbrook

Ambar Aguirre, Isela Aquino, Maria Bazaldua, Sue Bower, Earl Buckley, Hank Chanez, Erika Delgado, Charlie Hoehn, Marcia Ivancevic, Velma Johnson, Shelly Kanara, Joe Konney, Sonia Mendez, Gina Mucha, Zulema Neel, Donna O'Neill, Patti Reher, Maria Vanessa Rocha, Angela Ruiz, Shilpa Shah, Kathleen Smith, Trudy Sulita, Diane Vegter, Yusuf Yusuf

District 88 Office

Esther Delgado, Neenah Federick, Julie Grube, Elizabeth Guerra, Teresa Kikos, Sandra Krause, Shu Lam, Millie Martinez, Janelle McHugh, Debbie Muhlen, Veronica Noyola, Cindy Petbok, Chuck Syperski, Jian Zhang

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DuPage County reports nearly 1,700 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 87 deaths

April 19 update shows 64 confirmed cases among Villa Park residents

STAFF REPORT

The DuPage County Health Department has recorded about 1,700 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the county. The health department recently launched an interactive COVID-19 case map, which is also referred to as a dashboard. The case map/dashboard links data from the DuPage County Health Department into the GIS Data Systems from DuPage County to provide a greater level of understanding into how the COVID-19 pandemic is unfolding across the county.

The dashboard, which is updated daily, includes the age range, gender and the municipality of residence of each identified case in DuPage County.

To view the county's COVID-19 dashboard, visit the DuPage County Health Department website at dupage-health.org.

As of April 19, the data on the health department's dashboard indicated 1,693 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in DuPage County, including 87 deaths.

The April 19 data showed 64 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among Villa Park residents, along with 89 cases among Lombard residents and nine cases affecting residents of Oakbrook Terrace.

One week earlier, the dashboard's April 12 update indicated a total of 1,165 confirmed COVID-19 cases in DuPage County, including 48 deaths. The information from April 12 showed 47 cases among Villa Park residents, 67 cases in Lombard residents and nine cases among residents of Oakbrook Terrace.

According to the dashboard, the first case of COVID-19 in DuPage County

was confirmed on March 13.

In its recent statement announcing the COVID-19 dashboard, the county health department related that the number of positive cases is likely much higher than listed because of unreported or untested cases in the community.

The age breakdown of the DuPage County Health Department's April 19 report indicates that 299 of the 1,693 confirmed COVID-19 cases are in residents between the ages of 50-59. There are 278 cases in the 60-69 age group and 269 cases among residents ages 40-49. The April 19 update showed 165 confirmed cases in the 70-79 age group, and 210 cases in residents 80 and older.

The county's April 19 update reported that about 52 percent of the confirmed COVID-19 cases in DuPage County affected women, with approximately 48 percent affecting men.

In its April 19 update, the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) in Springfield announced nearly 1,200

new cases of COVID-19 in the state, including 33 deaths—a decline from the previous day's report of 125 deaths.

The 33 statewide deaths related to COVID-19 that were reported on April 19 included three deaths in DuPage County. According to the IDPH, those three deaths involved a female in her 80s, a male in his 80s and a male in his 90s.

The IDPH update of April 19 reported a total of 30,357 confirmed cases, including 1,290 deaths, in 93 counties in Illinois. There are 102 counties in the state. The update also noted that all data are provisional and will change.

"In order to rapidly report COVID-19 information to the public, data are being reported in real time," stated the IDPH in its update.

Q and A with executive director of the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce

Bailey provides details of how business community is coping with the pandemic and stay-at-home order

Editor's note: The Villa Park Review recently conducted an interview with Alesia Bailey, executive director of the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce. The Villa Park Review asked Bailey to give an overview of how the Villa Park business community is doing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the aftermath of Gov. JB Pritzker's stay-at-home order. The following are excerpts from the interview:

Villa Park Review: What is the general mood of the Villa Park business community right now? Is the business community rolling with the punches, or are they concerned, or both?

Alesia Bailey: We believe the general mood of the Villa Park business community is still hopeful. They are becoming more creative with ways to care for their customers in crisis. They have survived economic downfall challenges in the past, and have overcome them before. This is entirely due to their resiliency, diligence, hard work, passion, and a genuine love for what they do.

The state has determined who is an essential business and while we understand the reasoning and stand behind it, we truly believe every one of our small businesses is essential. From the hairdressers, to the dog groomers, to the local gyms, each one of these small businesses provides a valuable service to our community.

Villa Park Review: How do you think the business community is coping with the stay-at-home order?

Alesia Bailey: The business community in Villa Park is mostly made up of family owned businesses that connect with our community and their customers. Just like all of us, they miss the social connections. They

miss the camaraderie with customers who have become friends and they miss seeing the activity in their neighborhoods and community. However, they still go to work every day with a positive attitude and know they are still here to serve their customers even from a distance. Perhaps even risking their lives to service their customers who depend on them.

Many of our businesses have come together to champion causes to bring a little sunshine to Villa Park during these dreary days.

Several businesses are asking kids to submit artwork for them to display in their store window even though they are not open to the public, and have donated funds for kids to be entered into a drawing to win a cash prize. All over town, you can view the talents of these kids and see hope in their drawings.

Some of our local business owners have volunteered their time to distribute food for children and families during this quarantine through numerous agencies that care for our kids every day.

One of our business owners has been using her talents to sew masks, which she has donated to Villa Park's first responders.

One of our tow truck companies has organized parades including flashing lights, horns and signs to drive by the houses of children who are celebrating a birthday.

One of our restaurants has donated meals for our health care providers at a nearby hospital, and for our first responders.

Our business owners continue to help our community get through this crisis even though they need help as well. When the going gets tough, Villa

Park shines and comes together as a community as we always have. Together we will get through this.

Villa Park Review: Have you had virtual networking events in recent weeks? What have the topics of discussion been?

Alesia Bailey: The Villa Park Chamber has been sharing webinars hosted by various agencies to help them navigate through the numerous relief programs available to small businesses and not for profits. We share advice on how they can qualify, and how to apply for these programs.

Villa Park Review: Have you heard any discussion from business owners who have applied for the Paycheck Protection Program?

Alesia Bailey: We have not heard directly from any particular business, but we feel they may be overwhelmed with the amount of information that is passed on daily at a fast pace. There is relief on the way and support by our community, and our government. Filling out forms can be a daunting, but necessary task, and just adds to the daily pressure of managing a business.

Villa Park Review: What have you and your staff at the chamber been working on since the stay-at-home order was issued?

Alesia Bailey: The chamber will continue to support our local business community by updating our website daily and posting on social media news as we hear it. We have been working closely with the Village of Villa Park to learn how we can together serve our business community. The chamber has also compiled a list of businesses with a link on our web-



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

Former member of District 88 Board passes away

Former District 88 Board of Education member Timothy Gillen Sr., who served on the board from 2011 to 2018, died on April 13. He was 77 years old. A Villa Park resident, Gillen served in the United States Marine Corps. His two sons—Tim Jr. (Class of 1983) and Russell (Class of 1984)—are graduates of Willowbrook High School. "Tim will be remembered as a dedicated school board member, attending school functions to support the students and staff, and being active in the community," said Donna Craft Caln, District 88 Board of Education President. "He always had a smile on his face and kind words for others." District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton added, "Tim was a tremendous asset to our board of education and school community. His support of our students was invaluable, and he and his wife, Mary, were always familiar faces at athletic events and school activities. He truly believed in our mission of working for the continuous improvement of student achievement, and his efforts will be reflected in the successes of our students for years to come."

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Pritzker announces schools will be closed for rest of current school year

Area school buildings have been closed since March 13; District 88 still finalizing plans to honor Willowbrook students, including the Class of 2020

STAFF REPORT

Gov. JB Pritzker announced last week that all K-12 schools in Illinois will be closed to on-site instruction for the rest of the 2019-20 school year.

"I've said time and time again, my decisions are hard ones, but they follow the science, and the science says our students can't go back to their normal routine," said Pritzker in his April 17 announcement. "Therefore, I am suspending in-person learning in schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year."

On March 13, Pritzker ordered all K-12 public and private schools in the state to close through March 30. He subsequently extended those closures through April 7, and through April 30.

Shortly after Pritzker's April 17 announcement that schools would be closed for the rest of the school year, District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton issued a message to the district's families, including families of Willowbrook High School students.

"We've been prepared for this decision, and we will continue with our Remote Learning/E-Learning Plan for the rest of the school year to stay connected and engaged with students," said Helton.

Willowbrook has been closed to on-site instruction since the end of regular classes on March 13. The school's prom was supposed to take place last Friday, April 17, at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, but that event, like all other school events in the last month, was canceled.

The school's Class of 2020 is sup-

posed to hold its commencement on May 17. It's unlikely that ceremony will take place. The district's administration and board of education are considering multiple options for honoring this year's graduating class at Willowbrook.

Those options reportedly include an outdoor summer service in the school's stadium, with limited attendance. The district's latest announcement also noted that some student celebration events could take place using virtual formats, or be rescheduled to the fall or winter of 2020.

"To our high school seniors, who are leaving this phase of their teen years behind in a way that they never expected—I know you're feeling sad about missing the rituals of senior prom and senior pranks, senior nights, and of course, graduation," said Pritzker during his April 17 announcement. "Hear it from me, as your governor—there's room for you to feel all the things, big and small. You will get through this, too. You will talk about this for the rest of your lives, and you will go on to do amazing things. I am very, very proud of you."

According to District 88's latest announcement, the last day of Willowbrook's current school year will be May 22.

The district stated it will continue to focus on its online instruction and student engagement during the remainder of the school year.

Additionally, the district will concentrate on the social and emotional well-being of its students, maintain and enhance its meal distribution



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Like all other K-12 schools in Illinois, Willowbrook High School in Villa Park will be closed to on-site instruction for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Gov. JB Pritzker announced on Friday that the state's school buildings would be closed for the remainder of the school year. Willowbrook has been closed since the end of classes on March 13. Online instruction will continue through May 22, the final day of the school year. Willowbrook's Class of 2020 was supposed to hold its commencement ceremony in the school's main gymnasium on May 17. The District 88 administration and school board are finalizing plans on how to recognize and celebrate the district's students, including Willowbrook's current senior class.

program, host student recognition and celebration events using virtual formats and develop and implement remote summer programming for remediation and enrichment.

The district's latest message to its families also stated that students and

staff will be provided with access to Willowbrook to gather personal belongings.

The district will also collect materials used during the 2019-20 school year, and prepare for the transition to the 2020-21 school year, when it is

determined that it's safe to return to the school building.

"We will communicate details about each of these areas as they become finalized," concluded the district's recent message to its families.

INSIDE:

Police Reports.....6 Sports.....14
Viewpoint.....7 Classifieds.....13

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Playing at the next level

Willowbrook senior Sam Bruns (No. 11) announced last week he will continue his academic and basketball careers at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis. The Red Men play in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). In addition to Carthage, the conference features area schools including Elmhurst College, Wheaton College and North Central College. Bruns played in 29 games for Willowbrook's boys basketball team during the 2019-20 season. He made 14 shots from 3-point range.



Senior standout Stubblefield commits to Lake Land College

Willowbrook senior Everett Stubblefield (No. 3) recently announced he will attend Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois. He will play for the school's men's basketball team—the Lakers. Lake Land College is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Great Rivers Athletic Conference. Stubblefield scored a team-leading 21.2 points per game for the Warriors during the 2019-20 season. He played in all 33 of Willowbrook's games and scored a total of 699 points. A 699-point output set a new program record for points in a season. Alonzo Verge, who is now playing at Arizona State University, held the previous record with 631 points during the 2014-15 season. Late in the season, Stubblefield became the program's time leading scorer. He surpassed 2018 graduate Ethan Schuemer, who scored 1,430 points in his varsity career with the Warriors. Stubblefield, who finished his Willowbrook career with 1,430 points, made nearly 33 percent (89 of 273) of his shots from 3-point range during his senior season. He also connected on almost 73 percent (129) of his free-throw attempts. He grabbed 153 rebounds and handed out 73 assists. Stubblefield was named to the West Suburban Gold Conference's All-Conference Team. He also earned All-State recognition as a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Class 4A All-State Third Team.