



Have you ever noticed how Mr. Pritzker always defers to science and the medical experts during his press conferences? Just because they're considered medical experts doesn't mean they're infallible. Even Dr. Fauci has been wrong on more than one occasion. Epidemiologists and those in the medical profession are not all in lockstep regarding COVID-19. In fact, the data, forecasts and models associated with this virus have been all over the place.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth is a liar. Duckworth claimed President Trump "could have saved lives by sending more ventilators [to New York], but he didn't." That's not true. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo acknowledged that no one in his state has died from a lack of ventilators. There is no evidence of a shortage of ventilators in the entire country. Duckworth lied to smear Trump.

About the erroneous predictions similar to Y2K. The media and government are making predictions, without the numbers and facts. They have been wrong for two months. You don't quarantine healthy people. You quarantine the sick. Let people out, wear a mask if you're worried. The economy will not sustain and Illinois is a shipwreck before this started. Illinois may never recover; nobody can afford this. If we stay locked down until August and someone dies in September, the media will scream "You opened too soon." Thousands of people die every day from disease,

accidents, old age, suicide, etc. Let's put this into perspective. If someone on hospice and expected to die within a week, when they die it's declared a coronavirus death. That is wrong; it is putting out false numbers. The CDC predicted Florida would need 465,500 hospital beds for sick people from this virus. Florida used a total of 2,500 beds. That prediction was off by 463,000 beds. That is what is wrong with the government and media spewing wrong information. And Pritzker cannot overrule the Constitution. We all still have rights of assembly, religion, commerce, etc. He is abusing his power because he doesn't know what to do.

To the caller who questioned the essential nature of liquor stores, I can't believe this question has come up! The liquor stores are naturally needed. There is no toilet paper, right? So, you just gotta switch to a liquid diet!

Democrats cannot be trusted to accurately count votes, dollars or deaths.

May 4 through 8 was National Teacher Appreciation Week. In spite of the criticism teachers often receive by people who have not experienced a teacher's life in the classroom, they do work hard and get paid less by the hour than a babysitter per child, with much higher expectations. During this pandemic I would like to commend the teachers at Westmore School. My grandchildren

have had detailed lessons every day in all areas. The communication via Chromebook and emails have been impressive. Teachers are working harder now maybe than in the classroom. I am amazed at the transition they are expected to accommodate. If you have been trying to get your children to do their work at home, you may understand a little more of what a teacher experiences each day times 25 students. Remember to be grateful for the teachers.

I used to like Lori Lightfoot, but now she's turned into female version of Donald Trump. She's thin-skinned and throws temper tantrums just like Trump. That press conference she had outside last weekend (referring to May 2-3) was laughable. She was wagging her finger and admonishing everyone. Wow, you're really tough, mayor. You tell everyone to stay at home while you sneak around and get a haircut even though all the barbers and hairstylists in your city have been out of work for two months.

Do you know who was doing a great job of social distancing before the COVID-19 pandemic struck? Residents of nursing homes. I don't think nursing home residents were spending a lot of time at restaurants, bars and concerts during February and early March. But senior citizens in general and nursing home residents in particular have been tragically affected by this crisis. Maybe we need to focus more on isolating the elderly and loosening restrictions on younger people.

A store in Oakbrook Terrace has three signs telling people to wear masks and a person letting people in the store. Why do we wait in line with people who have no mask and are allowed in? I called the store "manager" who said this does not happen: Oh, yes it does—twice in the last three days I was there and saw it both times.

For the readers who called in asking if the stupid comments would stop if people had to attach their names to the comments. No, they would not. Being stupid is like being dead. It is hard for others, but you don't know it.

Why does Pritzker continue to shut down the state? We're closing in

on two months of his shutdown, and what do we have to show for it? If the shutdown was working, why are people still dying? And the people who are dying from COVID-19 in Illinois, the majority of them are elderly residents with underlying conditions who live in Chicagoland. I understand quarantining people who are sick, or at risk. But why would you quarantine the entire state?

Isn't it interesting how the media seems to portray different governors. The governor of New York, the state with by far the most COVID-19 deaths, is treated as a great leader. The governors of several Republican states that want to end their shutdowns, or never instituted shutdowns in the first place, are treated as foolish people who want to risk lives.

Hello, everyone. Friendly reminder. You cannot call yourself pro-life if you advocated killing Grandma to reopen the economy. Have a nice day.

This is a warning that there's a new scam coming out now that they're a car warranty company. Do not believe them. I got a phone call from my doctor's office in Elmhurst and it didn't happen to be my doctor. It happened to be a company calling me up asking about my warranty on my car, but it came up my doctor's office. So just keep in mind there's a new scam coming up. Do not fall for it.

It's interesting that the media is critical of Republican governors of states that haven't been hit hard by COVID-19. The same media fawns over Democratic governors of states that have been pounded by the virus. I'm specifically referring to Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York. If he was a Republican, the media would claim he has blood on his hands. But he's a Democrat, so he's touted as a brilliant leader and a future president.

Hi. Just calling in to make an observation. Illinois has released 4,000 prisoners in order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus in prisons. Sixty-four of these prisoners were convicted of murder. Now they're all back out in the public, and this governor defends it. Unbelievable! What is Pritzker doing?

### 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; the next distribution is May 19

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, May 19. 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 School, 225 S. Harvard Ave.,
- Jefferson Middle School, 255 W. Vermont St.

- The Lombard schools are:
- Stevenson Elementary School, 18W331 15<sup>th</sup> St.
- Westmore Elementary School, 340 S. School St.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Graduation speakers

Willowbrook High School seniors Eric Hoda (above) and Talhah Waheed (below) will speak to their fellow classmates during this Sunday's virtual ceremony to honor the school's Class of 2020. Willowbrook seniors were supposed to hold their commencement ceremony in the school's main gymnasium this Sunday, May 17, but that event was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual ceremony will include messages from Hoda, Waheed, members of the District 88 Board of Education and district administrators. The virtual event will include the reading of all of the graduates of Willowbrook's Class of 2020, which includes about 500 students. The district hopes to hold an in-person ceremony at Willowbrook to honor this year's graduates at a later date. The school's seniors are participating in this week's drive-through celebration. They are driving through the school's parking lot this Friday and Saturday to pick up items including their yearbooks, caps and gowns, diplomas and senior athletic banners.



## Conroy encourages healthy residents to donate blood

In the face of a nationwide shortage of blood donations, state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, is urging healthy community members to consider donating blood.

"Giving blood takes only about 15 minutes of your time while one donation can save up to three lives," said Conroy. "For my neighbors who are healthy and able to, I ask you to please consider making an appointment to give blood. Blood banks are adapting to the new normal and implementing additional safety protocols to keep their staff and donors safe while donating blood."

The Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers reports blood donations in Illinois have dropped 60 percent in recent weeks. According to the American Red Cross, about 36,000 units of blood are used in medical procedures throughout the

United States each day.

Blood drives coordinated by the Village of Lombard and Versiti Blood Center of Illinois will be hosted at 24 Yorktown Center on Wednesdays during the month of May from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments should be made in advance at villageoffombard.org/402/Blood-Drives. Information on additional donation sites may be found at donate.illinois.versiti.org or redcrossblood.org.

"Social distancing is one of the most effective methods we can use to flatten the curve, but it can also have some unintended consequences," said Conroy. "Since blood cannot be stockpiled like other healthcare supplies such as hand sanitizer and paper products, it's more important than ever that healthy people consider donating their blood to save lives during these unprecedented times."

# Tumilty earns 88's Best honor for April

## Athletic and academic standout will play football, baseball at Augustana College

Willowbrook High School senior Sam Tumilty was recently recognized as his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of April. Tumilty was honored at the April 27 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

District 88's board and administration created the 88's Best award to honor students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The award recognizes nine students at each of District 88's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—each school year.

As a student, Tumilty has consistently pursued the most rigor-

ous courses available at Willowbrook. He will conclude his high school career having completed nine Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses, along with several honors courses.

Tumilty has been a member of the Distinction Honor Roll throughout his time in high school.

He is an inductee of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas.

Outside of the classroom,

Tumilty has participated in three sports during his Willowbrook career.

He's established himself as one of the most celebrated and competitive student-athletes in school history.

Tumilty spent three seasons on Willowbrook's varsity football team. A quarterback on offense and a defensive back on defense, Tumilty was named the West Suburban Gold Conference's 2019 Player of the Year.

He was also named to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association's Class 7A All-State

team. Tumilty led the Warriors to an overall record of 11-2 during the 2019 season.

Willowbrook won three playoff games and advanced to the semi-final round of the IHSA Class 7A playoffs.

Tumilty spent two seasons as a member of the Warriors' boys basketball team. He earned all-conference honors during his senior season.

This spring, Tumilty was prepared to spend his third season on Willowbrook's varsity baseball team. Unfortunately, the Warriors' 2020 baseball season (along with the spring seasons of all of Illinois' high school athletic teams) was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tumilty recently announced that he will continue his academic and athletic pursuits at Augustana College in Rock Island. He will play football and baseball at Augustana, where he will again team up with his brother Scott—a 2019 Willowbrook graduate and fellow three-sport standout in football, basketball and baseball.

Both brothers will play football and baseball at the collegiate level. They will follow in the footsteps of their father—Scott—who excelled in football, baseball and track at Augustana, and was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame in 2009.

Their mother, Katie (King) Tumilty, is a Willowbrook graduate who attended Augustana. She ran on the Vikings' women's cross country and track teams.

"I am excited for the next chapter, and looking forward to athletic and academic opportunities at Augustana, and being able to play alongside my brother again," said Sam. He plans to pursue a degree in biology or kinesiology. He is considering a career in medicine or education.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Pub Willowbrook senior

Tumilty was honored as school's recipient of the Best award for April. Tumilty excelled in both academics and athletics during his four year Willowbrook. He was named the school's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of his school career. He also played three sports throughout his career as a Warrior. Tumilty, who lives in Villa Park, spent 11 seasons with the varsity football team. He led the Warriors to a 11-2 record and a berth in the IHSA Class 7A semifinals during the 2019 season. Tumilty spent two seasons with Willowbrook varsity boys basketball team. He was about to begin his third season with the varsity basketball team, but the Warriors' 2020 spring season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tumilty will attend Augustana College, where he will play football and baseball. He will team up with his older brother Scott, a 2019 Willowbrook graduate, who will also play football and baseball for the Vikings.

**Class of 2020 Congratulations**

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**Crossword Puzzle Answers**

R	A	S	P	F	D	C	A	B	A				
A	R	E	A	F	I	L	E	G	L	O	P		
P	I	L	E	R	E	A	P	A	R	G	O	T	
A	L	L	H	A	N	D	S	G	E	A	R		
L	E	N	D	S	M	E	N						
A	L	T	A	I	C	M	A	S	A	L	I	A	S
L	D	O	N	O	U	G	A	T	D	A	L	E	
L	O	P	E	Z	S	A	G	S	E	N	I	O	R
E	P	I	C	E	A	S	I	L	I	A	N	I	
D	I	A	S	H	O	F	F	E	N	S	I	G	N
E	A	T	B	E	A	C	H						
C	A	L	F	B	U	L	K	H	E	A	D		
M	A	N	O	S	O	G	L	E	R	I	E	L	
O	P	E	N	S	L	I	D	D	A	Y			
B	O	W	H	E	S	S	E	R	E				

**Sudoku Puzzle Answers**

5	9	3	6	7	2	1	4	
1	7	4	5	8	9	6	2	
2	8	6	3	1	4	5	9	
7	3	8	1	2	6	4	5	
4	6	1	8	9	5	7	3	
9	2	5	4	3	7	8	1	
6	5	2	9	4	8	3	7	
8	1	7	2	5	3	9	6	
3	4	9	7	6	1	2	8	

# District 88 alumni help in fight against COVID-19

School District 88 has been highlighting individuals with a connection to District 88 who are on the front lines, fighting to win the battle against the COVID-19 Coronavirus. These District 88 alumni, parents and friends are true heroes – putting the safety, health and well-being of others before their own.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



After graduating from Addison Trail in 2015, Gianna Giometti enrolled in nursing school after which she became a registered nurse at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center in La Grange. Giometti is currently working on the medical-surgical floor that has transformed into a COVID-19 floor, and she is on the frontline, taking care of patients there.

Kathryn Mijares, (left) class of '08, and Casey D'Ambrose, (center), class of '10, are registered nurses in the emergency department at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. D'Ambrose is pictured holding flowers, dinner and dessert sent to the entire emergency department from the Scorza family of Addison. Erik Fossen, class of '06, is an emergency room doctor at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
 Rock Valley's Only Newspaper  
 240 N. West Avenue  
 Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834.8244  
 Fax 630.834.0900

The Independent is published every Thursday by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 240 N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Display Advertising: 630.834.8355  
 Classified Advertising: 630.834.8244  
 News: 630.834.8244  
 General Information: 630.834.8244

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 The Independent is mailed to the 60101, 60106 and 60181 zip code areas for \$15.95 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$29.95 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834.8244.

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## Willis highlights Nurses Week

Thanks health care workers for efforts during COVID-19 crisis

To thank the nurses, first responders and other essential workers fighting the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) health pandemic, State Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Northlake) is highlighting National Nurses Week.



Illinois State Representative Kathleen Willis

"Our nurses have been serving on the frontlines, working to save lives even before the coronavirus began," Willis said. "Their essential skills as medical professionals are literally making the difference between life and death and for that, we are beyond grateful to the selfless sacrifices they are making for us all."

Willis is highlighting National Nurses Week to show her support for nurses and other health care workers during the COVID-19 health crisis, and is urging residents to abide by the governor's extended stay at home order. The extended stay-at-home order lasts until at least May 30. It requires residents to wear face coverings in public places where maintaining social distancing guidelines of six feet is difficult, like grocery stores. It also urges residents to stay home as much as possible.

"During this unprecedented and challenging time, we recognize nurses on National Nurses Week with a newfound appreciation and gratitude," Willis said. "These stand-out women and men truly define what it means to be essential, and we simply cannot thank them enough for all they are doing to fight COVID-19."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Celebrating a milestone

Surrounded by family members of Jonathan Davila, Elmhurst Hospital President Pamela Dunley speaks with his 5-year-old son Mason at a ceremony to celebrate Jonathan's discharge following treatment for COVID-19. "We're here to recognize persistence, determination and success in the face of overwhelming odds," Dunley said in her remarks. In the ground at the forefront is a "daffodil" which symbolizes another Coronavirus patient being discharged.

# Addison Trail Social Studies Department hosts recognition ceremony

On May 4, the Addison Trail Social Studies Department hosted its annual Recognition Ceremony to honor students for their accomplishments within the department. Because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the event was hosted virtually.

Students were recognized as follows:

**Outstanding Senior Social Studies Department**  
Parvathy Nair

**Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award**  
Elizabeth O'Brien

**Sons of the American Revolution Citizenship Award**  
Sam Conforti

**Mock Trial**  
Hailey Chiovino  
Brianna Hernandez

**Model United Nations**  
Sabrina Boucekkine, Andreja

Dumcevic, Jeanine Farias, Matthew Favia, Ashley Fuentes, Alaisia Hunt, Sarah Iskali, Parvathy Nair, Melissa Robles, Tiffany Truong, Luis Vargas, Jenna Wislek, Isabel Aramburu, Anishmah Banu, Jennifer Cobos, Tiffany Denise Cuevas, Julian Hernandez, Rabia Khan, Anthony Perez, Natalya Trejo

**Psychology Club**  
Petya Haralanova, Isabel Aramburu, John Stathopoulos, Emma Walis

**International Club officers**  
Jina Patel, president  
Tiffany Truong, vice-president  
Yasmine Hernandez, secretary  
Diego Torres and Marco Chaidem social media officers

**Youth and Government**  
Khayr Ahmed, Isabel Aramburu, Moises Beltran, Jr., Daniel Carver, Tiffany Denise Cuevas, Isabella Garay, Angela Gonzalez, Petya Haralanova, Rabia Khan, Yuliana Macias, Bianca Rodriguez and Giovanni Toledano.



Parvathy Nair



Elizabeth O'Brien



Sam Conforti

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Addison Trail students elected to Key Club district offices

Addison Trail junior Jina Patel (left) and sophomore Yana Patel were recently elected as two of the 2020-21 district lieutenant governors for the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Key Club International. They will be officially installed in their roles during an upcoming Key Club District Board Meeting in Bloomington.

As district lieutenant governors, Jina and Yana will direct the service and leadership efforts of Key Clubs in assigned high school areas within Illinois and the 14 eastern counties of Iowa. They also will continue to be active with local service activities in the Addison Trail Key Club, of which they have been members since their freshman year.



Jina Patel (left) and Yana Patel.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Addison Trail High School recognizes Students of Second Semester

On Tuesday, May 5, the Students of Second Semester for the 2019-20 school year were presented by the staff members who nominated them. Because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the event was hosted virtually.

The honored students were: Art, senior Kiersten Lee; career and technical education (CTE) business, senior Alex Conrad; CTE family and consumer, senior Anahy Tecuanhucue; CTE industry and technology, Emmanuel Hernandez; English, freshman Anna Olsen; literacy, junior Daisy Rodriguez; math, junior Kathan Parikh; music, sophomore Daniel Zuniga Jr.; physical education, sophomore Mateo Gomez; science, junior Justine Bugante; social studies, freshman Miabella DiGrazia; student services, junior Konrad Nowak; and, World languages, sophomore Giuseppe Paladino.

## College news

### Peters member of Monmouth's baseball team

Bryan Peters of Addison is a member of the Monmouth College baseball team. The Fighting Scots will open their 2020 season March 7 in Vero Beach, Fla. Their first home game at Glasgow Field is against Iowa Wesleyan University on March 22.

### Local students named to IWU Dean's List

Illinois Wesleyan University's Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2019-20 academic year consisted of 667 students from 27 states and 15 countries. Among them were the following Addison residents: Shannan Abraham, a junior majoring in Finance; Sarah Garces Rivera, a junior majoring in Business; Lilia Garcia, a junior majoring in Biology; and, Luc Sawilchik, a sophomore majoring in History.

### Escobar honored at scholarship celebration

Addison resident Christian Escobar was one of more than 700 students at Central College who would have been honored at the college's annual Scholarship Celebration on Thursday, April 23, but the event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Escobar received Stan Ver Ploeg Family Scholarship and William Randolph Hearst Fund for Minority Students.

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## Text line providing support during COVID-19 pandemic

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) is reminding Illinois residents about the Illinois Helpline—a resource for residents who need emotional support or quick answers to questions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Illinoisans can text "TALK" to 552020 (or "HABLAR" for Spanish) for the Call4Calm service, or text their questions about services provided by IDHS in communities across the state.

The text line is free of charge and designed to support residents who have questions about services or who are experiencing stress.

In addition to the Call4Calm service, the text number can help Illinoisans find help and guidance on other critical issues during the pandemic. Residents can text keywords like "UNEMPLOYMENT," "FOOD," or "SHELTER," to 552020 to receive additional information in response.

"We wanted to remind Illinoisans they can text 552020 for a listening ear and support for hardships they may currently be experiencing," said Grace Hou, Secretary of IDHS. "People who need help are not alone during this unprecedented challenge. We are here for you and can answer many questions you may have about available services."

Once a resident texts "TALK" to the helpline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support. Calls are anonymous. Since Governor Pritzker announced Call4Calm on April 11, nearly 2,000 individuals have texted the helpline. There are 62 Community Mental Health Centers supporting the Call4Calm service.

In addition to their training as mental health professionals, every counselor has received additional resources, including tips for parenting during the Stay at Home Order, materials for individuals experiencing or at risk of violence at home, and other suggestions for reducing stress and coping with social isolation, loneliness, fear, and other emotions related to the current situation.

The Division of Mental Health at IDHS continues to monitor potential sources of information and further training for counselors and will share updated resources and guidance for everyone who provides emotional support calls in order to offer the best service possible.

The Illinois Helpline also includes direct links to suicide prevention phone and text lines, as well as domestic violence phone and text lines. The Illinois Helpline is not a crisis line. If you or someone else needs immediate assistance, call 9-1-1.

Illinoisans can always visit [www.dhs.illinois.gov/HelpIsHere](http://www.dhs.illinois.gov/HelpIsHere) or call 1-833-2-FIND-HELP (1-833-234-6343) for access to IDHS benefits, services and supports.

**INDEPENDENT**  
 Yearly Subscription: \$15.95  
 240 N. West Avenue  
 Elmhurst, IL 60128

Main Phone 630.834.8244  
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# Helton offers plans for remainder of school year

Dr. Scott Helton, superintendent of District 88, reported the following steps and areas of focus in his weekly column in the District 88 newsletter.

## Important updates for the class of 2020:

- We will host a virtual commencement ceremony on our scheduled graduation date of May 17. The ceremony will include messages from members of the class of 2020 and the District 88 Board of Education and administration. It also will include the reading of graduate names and will be made available to view on May 17 (starting at 1 p.m. for Willowbrook, and starting at 3 p.m. for Addison Trail) to honor that scheduled date for the class of 2020. We are looking to host an in-person ceremony at a later date as well, when it is determined we can safely gather for large events.
- We will have a process for seniors to receive all applicable end-of-year items – including each student's graduation cap and gown, cords, diploma, recognition certificates and yearbook – prior to graduation. We will share details and procedures soon.
- We are finalizing plans to provide each senior with a yard sign, free of charge.

Other plans include:

- Continue Remote Learning and student engagement through the end of the school year, which will be May 22 (see details in the section below)
- Support the social and emotional well-being of our students (see a list

of available resources at [dupage88.net/Coronavirus](http://dupage88.net/Coronavirus).

- Please join us starting at 7 p.m. on May 12 for a Virtual Parent Night, focusing on children's mental and emotional wellness during crises. Dr. Tawana Edgeson-Steiner, clinical psychologist, will share information and strategies for parenting support during this time. The session will be semi-structured, with an opportunity for discussion. This event is open to all parents/guardians and caregivers in Addison School District 4, School District 45, Salt Creek School District 48 and District 88. Visit [dupage88.net](http://dupage88.net) to register.

You will receive the Zoom link and password after you register for the event.

- Maintain and enhance our meal distribution program for families within our communities (see details in the section below)

- Host student recognition and celebration events using virtual formats, or reschedule these events to next fall or winter (and possibly use both strategies to maximize participation)

- Develop and implement remote summer programming for remediation/enrichment

- Provide access for students and staff to gather personal belongings

- Collect materials used during the 2019-20 school year, and distribute materials for the 2020-21 school year

- Prepare for the transition to the 2020-21 school year, when it is determined we can safely return to school

We will communicate details

about each of these areas as they become finalized.

## Highlights on E-learning

Our average Remote Learning/E-learning attendance rate this week was about 92 percent, and that speaks volumes to the commitment of our teachers and pupils. I would like to remind students how important it is to do your best to complete all of your work and stay engaged. We understand there are challenges, and we know nothing can replace face-to-face learning in the classroom. We are here to support you and to provide continuity of learning to help ensure college and career readiness. Important details about our Remote Learning/E-learning Plan, including the schedule for May, are available at [dupage88.net/Coronavirus](http://dupage88.net/Coronavirus).

## Food service continues

We will maintain our partnership with Addison School District 4, School District 45, Salt Creek School District 48, Arbor Management, Chartwells and Cottage Hill Operating Company to provide free meals to residents who are 18 years old and younger.

We have delivered more than 142,000 meals so far, and we will continue to distribute food from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays. The next distribution date will be May 5, and five days' worth of food will be provided (five breakfasts and five lunches). To see details about our food-service program, including locations and how adults can volunteer to help, go to: [dupage88.net/Coronavirus](http://dupage88.net/Coronavirus).



CHICAGO FIRE FC PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing  
 Addison Trail junior Javier Casas Jr. recently signed a Homegrown contract with Chicago Fire FC. A midfielder, Casas joins the Fire after spending the past six seasons with the Fire Juniors and Academy in Chicago.

## Addison Trail junior signs contract with Chicago Fire FC

Chicago Fire Football Club recently announced that the Club has signed Academy midfielder Javier Casas Jr. to a homegrown contract. Casas, 16, is the 17th Homegrown signing in Club history. He is under contract with the Fire until 2023 with a Club option for 2024. Casas is currently at junior at Addison Trail.

"Javier has shown tremendous upside as he has been training within the first-team throughout the 2020 season," said Head Coach Raphael Wicky. "His soccer IQ is beyond his years and our staff is looking forward to working with him to continue his development in a professional setting."

Casas joins the Fire after spending the past six seasons (2015-2020) with the Fire Juniors and Academy in Chicago. Throughout his time with the Fire organization, Casas has made 65 total appearances (64 starts), including 19 appearances (19 starts) for the Academy. Casas participated in the Fire's first-team training camp last season and joined the first team in both Tampa and Los Angeles for the 2020 preseason.

"We're thrilled to see another quality player such as Javier sign a Homegrown contract," said Chicago Fire FC Academy Technical Director Cedric Cattenoy. "He fully understands the values of this Club and will continue to progress in the professional ranks."

With the U.S. Soccer Youth National Teams, Casas has been a consistent presence on the boys' side. Most recently, Casas was part of the U.S. Boys' U-16 National Team that took home the Championship at the 2019 Nike Friendlies.

# Late fees waived for property taxpayers impacted by COVID-19

**“Through our COVID-19 response, we are continually looking for ways to ease the burden on our residents.”**  
 – Chairman Dan Cronin

The DuPage County Board voted April 28 to authorize the County Treasurer to waive late fees on property tax payments for taxpayers who can demonstrate financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Interest penalties for late payments of the first installment of property taxes, which are due June 1, will be postponed until Sept. 1 for property owners who meet certain criteria. Payments made any time until Sept. 1 will be considered timely. If the payment of the first installment is made after Sept. 1, penalties will revert to June 1.

"Through our COVID-19 response, we are continually looking for ways to ease the burden on our residents," said Chairman Dan Cronin. "This step will ensure we keep our vital County services operational, while helping to ease the impact on those who may have been impacted by the virus."

In order to receive relief, the property owner must meet one of the following criteria:

- erty owner, located on that property, was shut down after being classified as non-essential and the applicant has not applied for and received relief pursuant to the Paycheck Protection Program of the Coronavirus, Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- "The action was taken to address the reality that many DuPage County property owners have lost income due to the shutdown in effect because of the COVID-19 crisis," said Treasurer Gwen Henry. "The fact exists that many families who have set aside money to pay their property taxes now need those funds to make mortgage or car payments as well as purchase groceries, medicine and other necessities," she said.
- Property taxes paid through escrow are not subject to relief. For now, the Sept. 1 tax deadline for the second installment of property taxes will remain unchanged and late penalties will still apply. The application for waived late payment fees can be found online at [dupageco.org/treasurer](http://dupageco.org/treasurer).
- The taxpayer has seen a reduction in income of 20 percent or greater
- A property owner has been unable to collect at least 80 percent of collectable rent on the property from March 1 to May 30
- A business operated by a prop-

- or terminated from employment

# Addison Trail names April recipient of 88's Best recognition

Katerina Vassos has been named as Addison Trail's April recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Vassos, a senior, was recognized during the April 27 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Vassos is at the top of the highly competitive class of 2020. Throughout her high school career, she has taken nine Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level classes and 11 honors courses, and she has excelled in all of them. Vassos has an incredibly supportive family network that constantly provides support, and she credits many teachers who have provided guidance as well. But she also has an internal drive that won't let her back down from a challenge.

"When facing a challenge academically, perhaps a lower grade than she anticipated or a particularly difficult analytical process to



**Katerina Vassos**

master, Vassos' setbacks were temporary," said English teacher Jim Perusich. "She would not wallow in

failure or complain. She would, instead, respond with a vigorous and inspired effort to correct these temporary setbacks and emerge, once again, as one of District 88's best."

Math Department Head Jason Bugajsky agreed.

"I was one of the first teachers to meet Vassos, as she was the Captain on my freshman volleyball team," he said. "From day one, we grew to develop a great relationship and learned from each other. Her sophomore year, Vassos enrolled in my Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry Honors class. Again, she became a leader in class.

"I learned Vassos is a motivated young woman, who truly wants to learn. When confronted with difficult or abstract material, she is willing to put in the necessary time and effort to master the concepts on and off the court.

"Though her leadership skills are clearly visible in the classroom, they also can be seen in other extracurricular activities to which she is dedicated such as Yearbook, Student Council, the Girls Volleyball Team and serving as a PE Leader. Vassos has completed community service as a member of Pay It Forward, Go Pink or Go Home, Knights of Columbus and Volley for the Cure. Vassos puts in time and dedication to causes and activities she believes in. Her example of motivation, leadership, heart and discipline in her studies makes her one of my favorite students."

Along with her academic success, Vassos has made a point to be involved and pursue leadership positions with the activities in which she participates. She is President of Student Council and the class of 2020, as well as Secretary of Na-

tional Honor Society. She also is a member of Key Club, Blazer Ambassadors, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) committee and Lettermen's Club. Vassos played on the Girls Volleyball Team through her junior year.

This year, she decided to return to her true love of dance and joined the Orchestis Team. Through her participation in these clubs, Vassos has completed various service activities within the community of Addison and has enjoyed getting to know and develop friendships with students whom she never would have met otherwise.

Vassos is interested in the medical field and plans to study Health Systems Management at DePaul University. She is interested in the backbone of the medical field and wants to be on the management side.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Unable to do a traditional college signing celebration at Fenton, Ashley Milano was surrounded by family at home when she signed her letter of commitment to play softball at Benedictine University next year.

## Ashley Milano signs to play softball at Benedictine

Fenton leftfielder Ashley Milano recently decided to continue her softball career at Benedictine University, a Division III NCAA school located in Lisle. Milano said she plans to study elementary education and get an endorsement in special education. She chose Benedictine University because it's close to home, has a great education program, and offered her the opportunity to continue playing softball.

"Fenton Fastpitch helped me on my journey to play in college by pushing me to my fullest potential athletically and mentally," she said.

"The coaches helped me with my confidence and showed me that I am capable of a lot if I put my mind to it. I knew I wanted to play in college since I came into high school, I just didn't know whether it would be basketball or softball."

Milano said all of the softball players grew very close and were very supportive of each other. Those team bonds and the structure of Fenton's softball program made her realize softball was what she wanted to pursue.

Softball Coach Dave Mello said his whole coaching staff is very ex-

cited that Milano achieved her goals.

"Ashley came up to varsity one month into her freshman year and instantly became a starter in the outfield for us," Mello said. "Recognizing the speed she had, we also turned her into a slapper. She dedicated herself to becoming the best player she could become and it's great that she will get the chance to continue playing in college."

Unable to do a traditional college signing celebration at Fenton, Ashley Milano was surrounded by family at home when she signed her letter of commitment.



Softball Coach Dave Mello looks on as Ashley Milano catches a ball during a practice at Fenton High School. Ashley just signed a commitment letter to play for Benedictine University in the fall.

## SPORTS

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## Golfers return to Sugar Creek, which has reopened, with restrictions

*Villa Park course had been closed since March; clubhouse, driving range and putting green remain closed; Players must reserve tee times online*

STAFF REPORT

Villa Park's Sugar Creek Golf Course, which had been closed since the middle of March because of the COVID-19 pandemic, re-opened on Friday, May 1.

Gov. JB Pritzker's recent extension of the stay-at-home order (through May 30) allowed for golf courses in Illinois to open on May 1, with a variety of precautions and restrictions designed to maintain social distancing.

Sugar Creek Golf Course, a 9-hole, par-32 layout located at 500 E. Van Buren St., is open year-round, weather permitting. Cory Ferrell, Sugar Creek's head professional, noted the course was busy during some pleasant weather days in late February and early March. Then came the pandemic.

Speaking on Saturday while checking in players, Ferrell said golfers were excited to return to the course.

"We are booked solid today," said Ferrell. "I think the majority of golfers who are coming out here are so excited to have an opportunity to go out and do something other than walking on a trail or around a lake. The golf course is in fantastic shape. Our superintendent, Kevin Goss, has done a great job with minimal staff of maintaining the greens, the tees and the fairways."

While the course has re-opened, there are many restrictions in place that affect the customary golfing experience. According to the restrictions set by the state, courses must require online or telephone bookings, and golfers shall be grouped in no more than two players—groups of three or four players are prohibited.

No leagues, outings or permanent tee times are available while the current restrictions are in place.

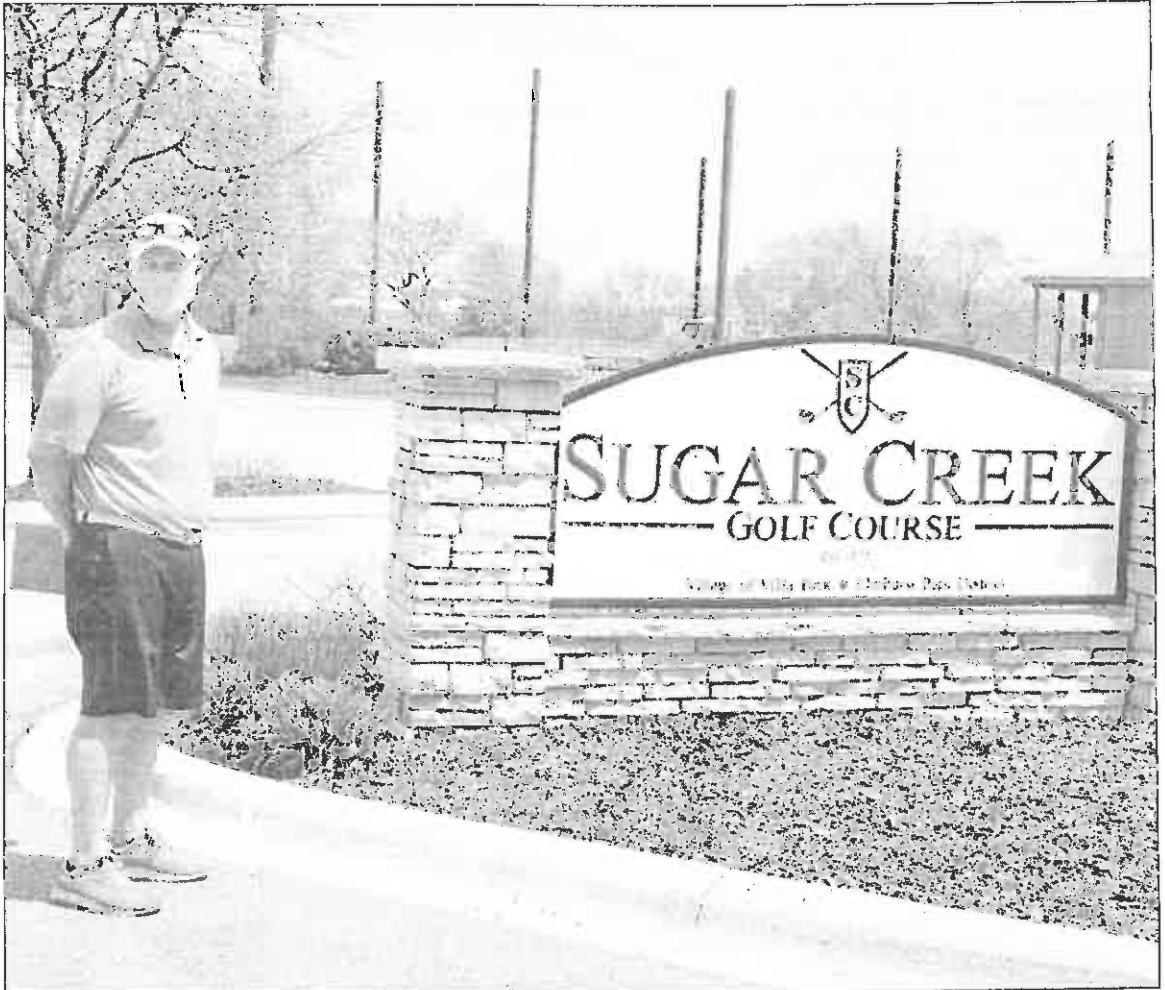
Players who want to book a tee time at Sugar Creek must book it online through the course's website—[sugarcreekgolfcourse.org](http://sugarcreekgolfcourse.org).

Players will pay online, as Sugar Creek's clubhouse is closed. Courses are required to operate at minimum staff levels.

Golfers who reserve tee times must arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before their scheduled tee times. Players must put their golf shoes on at their vehicles.

There are 15 minutes between tee times, and players must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Handshakes are prohibited.

Players are advised to bring their own water and snacks. The state requires that all drinking water jugs be



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Sugar Creek Golf Course in Villa Park re-opened on Friday, May 1. The course, which is normally open year-round, had been closed since the middle of March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cory Ferrell, the course's head professional, is pictured on Saturday, May 2. Sugar Creek, along with other golf courses in Illinois, re-opened with a variety of restrictions set by the state. Players must reserve tee times at Sugar Creek and pay online, as the course's clubhouse is closed. Golfers must play in groups of no more than two players. The cups of each hole at the Villa Park course are raised above the ground, so balls will not fall into the hole. The rakes at Sugar Creek have been removed from the bunkers, and golf carts are prohibited. All players are advised to maintain physical distancing. To reserve a tee time at Sugar Creek Golf Course, visit its website at [sugarcreekgolfcourse.org](http://sugarcreekgolfcourse.org).

removed from golf courses, while use of water fountains is prohibited.

Following the state's orders, Sugar Creek has removed rakes from bunkers. Players are supposed to use their clubs to smooth the bunkers as best as possible. Sugar Creek has also removed benches from the course.

Adhering to the state's guidelines,

Sugar Creek's driving range and putting green are closed. There is no food or beverage service with the clubhouse closed, and beverage and snack carts are prohibited. Rentals of golf carts and pull carts are also prohibited. Players are allowed to use their own pull carts.

Flagsticks cannot be removed

from cups. The bottoms of those cups must be elevated. The entire cups at Sugar Creek are elevated above the ground, so instead of falling into the hole, balls will strike the perimeter of the cup.

Ferrell said that under the current rules, everyone has to be off of the Sugar Creek course by 6 p.m.

While the Sugar Creek course was wet from the recent rains when it re-opened on May 1, Ferrell stated there were no issues.

"There were the certain usual trouble areas, but there weren't any problems," Ferrell said. "Everybody was just excited to get out and enjoy the day."