

**VILLA PARK REVIEW**  
 Your Neighborhood Newspaper  
 240 N. West Avenue  
 Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244  
 Fax 630.834-0960

The Villa Park Review 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

**E-mail:**  
 Advertising Department: ads1@rvpublishing.com  
 News Department: CFox@rvpublishing.com  
 Classified Department: Classifieds@rvpublishing.com

**Administration:**  
**Chris Fox**  
 News Coordinator  
**Debra Hamilton**  
 Advertising Director  
**Pete Cruger**  
 Publisher  
**Advertising:**  
**Brenda Garcia**  
 Marguerite Micken

**Subscriptions:**  
 The Villa Park Review is mailed to the 60181 zip code areas for \$45.00 yearly. Out-of-area mail subscriptions are \$50.00 yearly. For home delivery information call 630.834-8244.

**Reprints:**  
 Content appearing in the Villa Park Review may not be reprinted without permission of the publisher or editor. Requests should be directed to Independent@rvpublishing.com or 630.834-8244.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:  
**THE VILLA PARK REVIEW**  
 240 N. West Avenue,  
 Elmhurst, IL 60126

**Office Hours:**  
 Monday-Friday 11am-3pm



# District 88 Board of Education approves plan to start school year with fully remote instruction

*First day of school is Aug. 24; Willowbrook students will receive live online instruction; board will review the reopening plan at its Oct. 5 meeting*

**STAFF REPORT**

Willowbrook High School will begin the upcoming 2020-21 school year with remote instruction. The Villa Park school will be closed to in-person classes until at least early October.

The seven-member District 88 Board of Education voted unanimously during its special July 27 meeting to approve a resolution authorizing the administration to implement online instruction through Oct. 5. The board will reevaluate the status of the COVID-19 pandemic at its Oct. 5 meeting.

District 88 includes two schools—Willowbrook High School and Addison Trail High School. Those two schools, along with all other K-12 schools in Illinois, were closed to in-person instruction during the last two months of the 2019-20 school year. School buildings were closed at the end of regular classes on March 13.

Willowbrook's 2020-21 school year will begin, with remote instruction, on Monday, Aug. 24. The school year was initially supposed to begin on Aug. 19. The District 88 Board voted unanimously during last week's meeting to amend the school calendar.

Willowbrook's online instruction during the spring featured asynchronous, or non-live instruction. The online education at the start of the upcoming school year will offer synchronous, or live instruction, with teachers providing real-time education while interacting with students online.

District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton joined other administrators to speak about the details of the district's Return to School Plan during the July 27 board meeting, which was held remotely. Helton noted the district's plan followed guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker.

The guidelines for school districts require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings. Another guideline prohibits more than 50 people from gathering in one space. Schools are also required to increase their cleaning and disinfection practices, and to conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify they are free of symptoms before entering a school building.

**Survey sent to families**

Yvonne Tsagalis, the district's assistant superintendent for curricu-

lum and instruction, stated that the district sent out a survey to all of its families in the middle of July to learn their feelings about reopening for the 2020-21 school year. The district received over 1,500 responses to the survey. One question asked parents about their students' plans for the school year. Tsagalis stated that about 67 percent of the parents who responded stated their children would return for in-school instruction. About 22 percent of the parents responded their children would not return for in-person instruction, while about 11 percent were undecided.

About 30 percent of the respondents said their children would take the bus to and from school. About 86 percent of the respondents stated they did not require a hotspot to connect to the internet, while about 14 percent stated they would need a hotspot. The district is able to provide students with hotspots to access an internet connection for online learning.

Helton and assistant superintendent Jean Barbanente told the board that the administration recommended starting the school year with online instruction, with the status to be reviewed at the Oct. 5 board meeting. Helton and Barbanente stated that no matter what happens in the near future, remote learning won't go away. At any stage of the district's plan to reopen its school buildings in the 2020-21 school year, parents and students will have the option to keep receiving instruction remotely.

The administrators emphasized that the upcoming remote experience would be more robust than the level of instruction provided in the spring. The remote education at the start of the 2020-21 school year will offer live instruction, with teachers interacting with students online.

Teachers will have the option to conduct their remote instruction from the district's school buildings, or from their homes. Some students, including students with special needs, will have difficulty with exclusively remote instruction. Those students could come to their respective schools for specialized instruction.

Additionally, some other students with special barriers in their homes may be able to come to Willowbrook or Addison Trail to receive their education remotely. Those students would potentially come to learning centers at their schools, where they would connect remotely to receive instruction.

**Fully remote instruction at least through Oct. 5**

The fully remote instruction through at least Oct. 5 represents Stage 1 (Remote) of District 88's Return to School Plan. There is no timetable for the future stages. Stage 2 (Remote Plus) of the plan states that instruction would mostly remain remote. There would be some opportunities during Stage 2 for in-person learning in the afternoon, depending on students' needs.

In Stage 3 (Blended Remote) of the district's plan, groups of students would come to their schools for in-person instruction. Classes for in-person learning would be offered on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:45 to 1:35. One group of Willowbrook students would receive in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday. Another group would visit school for in-person learning on Thursday and Friday. Classes would be offered in blocks of 80-minute periods, which are longer than the usual class times. The longer blocks would reduce the amount of time students are in hallways. Wednesday instruction would remain fully remote to allow for deep cleaning/sanitation of school buildings, and to allow for weekly breakfast and lunch distribution to some District 88 students and families.

According to the district, teachers will need to prepare to connect with students both in-person and online when in-school instruction resumes. Even when students are allowed to return to school, some students will not return because of COVID-19 related issues.

When in-person instruction does begin, student supervisors will be asked to perform temperature checks for students at all entry points of the

school building. Staff members will be expected to check their temperatures at home before coming to work. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will not be permitted into the building.

Students who present with a fever on campus will be isolated in the secondary nurse's office and sent home.

Handwashing stations and sanitizer will be available at all entry points of the school building. Students without masks will be provided with masks. Students and staff will be directed to avoid sharing any supplies or materials.

Students or staff members who report a positive test for COVID-19 will be directed to quarantine for 10 days until they present two negative tests. Those students or staff members will also be asked to provide a list of any area they accessed in the district.

The board will review the district's remote learning progress during its regular meeting on Sept. 14. That meeting will take place after three weeks of remote instruction at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

During the July 27 meeting, board members asked Helton and other district administrators when the district

See **SCHOOL**, Page 7



JANE CHARMELLO PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Happy 106<sup>th</sup> birthday Mabel

Mabel Larson, a Lexington of Lombard resident for 15 years, turned 106 on Saturday, July 25. The mother of three, grandmother and great-grandmother of many and great-great-grandmother of four, was born in Evergreen Park, grew up in Mt. Greenwood and later lived in Oak Lawn with her husband Eric (they met at church), to whom she was married for 67 years. Her surviving children are her son, 83, who lives at nearby Mayslake Village retirement community; and her daughter, 75, who lives in St. Louis. When asked about the secret to a long life and marriage, she replied with a smile, "There is no secret."



email: [speakout@rvpublishing.com](mailto:speakout@rvpublishing.com)

To those obtuse and entitled people bemoaning their "right" to determine whether they should be compelled to wear masks and lamenting having their freedoms stripped. You do not have the right to break the speed limit, drive while intoxicated, start a fire in public, ignore stoplights, verbally or physically threaten another or smoke in public places. You get the point. These actions endanger the lives and safety of those around you and the objective of society's mandates and laws is the protection of the community. We are presently contending with an increasingly virulent pandemic necessitating the use of protective mask... While wearing a mask does provide some protection for the individual, the essential purpose of wearing a mask is the protection of the health and lives of those around you. You categorically do not have the right to endanger the lives of my family, myself, my friends or the community as a whole, with or without a mandate or law. Over 140,000 people in the U.S. alone are dead and millions are sick. Is wearing a mask genuinely a choice between people's lives and your misconceived "rights"?

The leftist media have been having conniption fits because Trump is refusing to comment on whether he'll accept the results of the 2020 election. Some leftist pundits worry that Trump will declare martial law or enact some secret emergency powers that will keep him in office. The irony of it all is that these are the same whining leftists who have nev-

## School (Continued from page 4)

would know it could return to fully in-person instruction. The administration said there is a blend of statistics that would guide that decision.

Board member Jay Irvin said he was concerned that some children would be in school buildings even during the fully remote phase of instruction.

Irvin also wondered if some parents would prefer their kids to be in school buildings to access remote instruction at the start of the school year.

Barbanente noted that the district is legally obligated to educate students, including students with special needs. She said that only a handful of students might be in school buildings at the beginning of the school year. The district, she said, will be able to spread those students out to maximize safety.

er accepted the results of the 2016 election. I think it's only fair that the left should be asked the same question: if Trump wins, will you accept the results? Heck, I can answer that already: they won't.

If Lori Lightweight and the mayors of Seattle, Portland, New York and whatever other city complain about federal agents or don't want federal agents, I say fine, no problem. Let them all continue to kowtow to the looters and rioters, and when these cities are completely trashed, don't come begging for federal help or federal money.

One can only hope they have finally gotten to Madigan and his inner circle. Hopefully they will get to his minions and Terra Costa Howard and Deb Conroy very soon. We need to turn this state around.

It seems all the rioters and protesters are left-leaning Democrats. Don't see any Trump supporters out there looting and burning down their neighborhood and shutting down small businesses. Maybe that should tell us something about what is to come to a neighborhood near you.

On July 24, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 19 additional COVID-19 deaths in the state. All 19 of those who died were at least 60 years old. Four of the 19 deaths were in DuPage County. Three of those residents were in their 90s. One was in her 100s. Also, the 19 deaths took place in

three counties. There are 102 counties in the state. It would be nice if the media sometimes framed the news in the following way our state: Ninety-nine counties report zero COVID-19 deaths! It would also be helpful if the media emphasized that it's safe for children to return to school.

I can only pray the silent majority takes the time to vote as we are headed toward scary times. I am not a fan of the president's rhetoric but I am even more afraid of an elderly president who can't put together two sentences and has been hiding in a basement.

I don't know about y'all, but personally I'm voting for Harry Styles for president, Styles 2020. Treat America with kindness.

Republicans have just snuck the Trust Act into the latest COVID-19 relief legislation. This would allow the creation of a closed-door commission that would allow for the fast tracking of cuts to Social Security. They are coming for your Social Security and they will get it.

PSA. If you're going through

a drive through, wear a mask. COVID-19 doesn't stay in your vehicle. Wear a mask, respect fast food workers. If you don't wear a mask your grandma is disappointed in you and she's looking down shaking her head or up to you shaking her head and you don't want to disappoint grandma, do you?

Here's some food for thought, Lombard and Villa Park. You know, there's probably more than 26 million people who are working from home at least during this pandemic or at least part-time during normal times. We think it's being savvy. So why, when teachers have to do it during a pandemic, people want their pay cut or their property tax cut because they think teachers aren't working? Teachers sure do put up with a lot just to educate your kids. Think about it.

I am so frustrated with the biases I read or hear every day in the various media. The upcoming election is a no-brainer when you consider you're not voting for candidates, but you're voting for a way of life. Please, try to do that.

I think it's about time someone

stands up for the police department. I really don't care for the police, but the police are there to serve and protect, to stop vandalism, to stop rioting, to stop looting, to stop basically any crime there is. They even protect and serve a statue. Unfortunately, there are some bad apples in every crowd who want to rip down statues, destroy public property, spray painting and everything else. The police had their job to do. They got pelted with bottles, fireworks and everything else, then people cry that they got hit or hurt by the police. They were doing their job. Now everybody else needs to do their job. You want to protest? Fine, be peaceful about it. Don't destroy anything. Don't burn anything. Don't loot anything. Then there would be no problems.

Good morning. It's Saturday morning, July 18. I just saw the best thing on the news today. Getting rid of Madigan would be the best thing that could ever happen to the state of Illinois. This way, the Republicans can come in, and not Trump, but the intelligent Republicans can come in and actually take care of business and actually take care of what's happening in the Chicago area.

# DuPage County reports 28 COVID-19 related deaths during July, down from 81 in June

## Hospitalizations related to coronavirus also declined in the county during July

### STAFF REPORT

There were 28 deaths related to COVID-19 in DuPage County during July, according to the DuPage County Health Department.

That total represents a 65-percent decrease from June, when the county health department reported 81 deaths related to the coronavirus.

The department reported 14 COVID-19 related deaths in March. There were 194 deaths reported during April, and another 193 COVID-19 related deaths reported in May.

The number of DuPage County deaths related to the coronavirus dropped to 81 during June, and to 28 in July.

Through the end of July, the DuPage County Health Department reported 510 deaths related to COVID-19 among county residents. The department's Aug. 2 update reported 11,458 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the county.

According to the Aug. 2 update, there were 312 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Villa Park residents, including five deaths.

The DuPage County Health Department provides date of death information about the COVID-19 deaths in the county. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) does not provide date of death information.

According to the county health department, the first COVID-19 related death in DuPage County happened on March 19.

The county health department's Aug. 2 report states that 295 of the

510 deaths related to COVID-19 in DuPage County have involved residents 80 and older. Another 121 deaths have involved residents in the 70-79 age group, while 59 deaths have involved people in the 60-69 age range. About 93 percent of the 510 deaths related to COVID-19 in the county, therefore, have involved residents over the age of 60.

None of the COVID-19 related deaths in the county have involved residents under the age of 20. There has been one death related to the coronavirus reported in residents in their 20s. Five of the deaths involved residents in their 30s, while 10 involved people in their 40s and 19 involved residents in their 50s.

To view DuPage County's latest COVID-19 figures, visit its health department's website at [dupage-health.org](http://dupage-health.org).

The IDPH does release daily reports about the number of COVID-19 related deaths in the state. The IDPH's 31 daily reports in July listed a total of 42 deaths in DuPage County. Of those 42 deaths, 13 involved people in their 80s, while 10 involved people in their 70s. Eight of the 42 decedents were in their 90s, while one was in the 100+ age group. Six of their decedents were in their 60s. Two of the 42 DuPage County deaths reported by the IDPH in July involved people in their 50s; another two deaths involved residents in their 40s. None of the 42 DuPage County COVID-19 related deaths reported by the IDPH during July involved any residents under the

age of 40.

The DuPage County Health Department and the IDPH both state that their figures are provisional and subject to change.

The county health department reported 104 hospitalizations related to the coronavirus in DuPage County in July. That number represented a 45-percent drop from June, when 189 hospitalizations were reported.

There were 737 hospitalizations related to COVID-19 reported in DuPage County in April. Another 590 hospitalizations related to the coronavirus were reported during May. The number of hospitalizations related to COVID-19 in the county in June represented a 68-percent drop from the previous month.

According to the IDPH report from Aug. 2, there have been 7,517 confirmed deaths related to COVID-19 in Illinois. Nearly 182,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus have been reported in the state, while almost 2.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been performed. The IDPH reported almost 50,000 tests on July 31—a single-day record in the state. The report from Aug. 1 announced nearly 40,000 additional tests, while the Aug. 2 report noted about 39,000 additional tests.

More than half of the COVID-19 related deaths in Illinois have involved residents of long-term care facilities. As of July 31, the IDPH reported 4,136 of the state's deaths related to the coronavirus involved residents of long-term care facilities.