

# Villa Park REVIEW

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VOL. 22 • NO. 12

WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025



Willowbrook names its Outstanding Students for the third quarter

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Willowbrook High School recently recognized 12 students as Outstanding Students for the third quarter of the 2024-25 school year. To be chosen for the honor, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement and an outstanding effort, along with a commendable attitude. Students who receive the award must also demonstrate motivation and the ability to overcome obstacles. Principal Dan Krause and Assistant Principal Jamie Gourley welcomed the recipients and their families to the Feb. 20 event that celebrated the honor. Willowbrook staff members who nominated the students for the award in various departments also attended the celebration at the school. The school's Outstanding Students for the third quarter (pictured left to right) are: (front row) freshman Dash Austria (Physical education), senior Ariadne Sanchez Ramirez (Literacy), senior Katie Staunton (Learning services), junior Ruth McNeilly (World languages), junior Mary Smith (Math) and senior Camryn Dooley (Career and Technical Education—CTE); (back row) senior Peter Kabat (Art), freshman Caleb Gascolgne (Warrior Resource Center), sophomore Claire Brennan (Social studies), sophomore Shayan Siddiqi (Science), freshman Shem Rodrigues (English) and junior Malachy Heneghan (Music).

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POSTED BY  
3/5/2025 10:00 AM  
ST. PATRICK'S  
LETTER FROM  
MAY



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook seniors named as finalists in 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program

Willowbrook High School seniors Olivia Gwaltney, Ashar Hussain and Oscar Ramirez (pictured left to right) have been named as finalists in the 70<sup>th</sup> annual National Merit Scholarship Program. According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), the three Willowbrook students now have the opportunity to earn National Merit Scholarship awards. To become finalists, the students had to submit a detailed application that provided information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. More than 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. More than 15,000 students have been named as finalists, and the NMSC is beginning to notify scholarship winners this month. For more information, visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

## VFW Post 2801 holds Fish Fry Fridays fundraising dinners during Lent

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 is holding its Fish Fry Fridays fundraising dinners each Friday during Lent.

The first Fish Fry Friday at the post will take place this Friday, March 7. The fundraising dinners will continue each Friday through April 18.

The Friday-night dinners will be served in the post's Bergh Room from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road, is open to the public.

Dinners include beer-battered walleye and lake perch/shrimp combo meals, all served with a choice of baked beans or slaw, potato or hand-cut fries. A children's meal includes chicken nuggets with fries.

## VILLA PARK REVIEW

Your Hometown Newspaper  
240 N. West Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Main Phone 630.834-8244  
Fax 630.834-0900

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:

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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



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## Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission is accepting nominations for the 2024 Green Champion Award

### Nominations due by March 21

The Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission advises the village president and board of trustees on matters relating to the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment, including the quality of land, air and water.

In 2016, the commission created its Green Champion Award program to recognize any outstanding environmental achievements of individuals, groups, organizations or companies in Villa Park. The annual certificate will be presented in one of the following nine categories.

- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Conservation of natural resources
- Recycling programs and use of recycled content products
- Green produce use and use of recycled content materials
- Water conservation
- Transportation
- Outreach and education
- Other innovation projects and programs

### How do I nominate a deserving candidate?

You can submit an online nomination form by accessing the Village of Villa Park website and searching for Green Champion Award or using the link on the Commission's web page. When accessing the online form, use the username public@villaparkvillage.com and password "public". A print version nomination form is also available at: <http://www.invillapark.com/DocumentCenter/View/6355/GreenChampion-Award>.

Nomination Form and may be submitted to the Village of Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission by email at EnvironmentalConcerns@invillapark.com or to the Village of Villa Park (Attn: Environmental Concerns Commission) 20 S. Ardmore, Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181.

Nominations are accepted for residential and non-residential properties in Villa Park and may be submitted by property owners, business owners and by others who feel a project or site deserves recognition.

Nomination forms will be kept on file for future consideration for a period of no more than two years from the date of submission.

Nominations are due by March 21, for consideration by the Environmental Concerns Commission for the previous year's award. In most instances, the award will be presented by the commission at a Village Board meeting that is closest to Earth Day, April 22.

For more information, contact commission chair Bob Wagner at 630-484-8856.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook teacher receives special honor

Willowbrook High School teacher Stephanie Ennis received the school's Outstanding Teacher award last month. Ennis, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, is pictured (right) at a Feb. 20 celebration at Willowbrook that also featured presentations of the school's Outstanding Student awards for the third quarter. Willowbrook sophomore Allison Pozos (left) presented the Outstanding Teacher award to Ennis. To earn that award, a staff member must treat teaching as a passion, create a positive learning environment, use a variety of strategies to engage students, be willing to offer extra support, provide prompt and effective feedback to students, and relate to and understand students' viewpoints and perspectives.

