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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

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## Willowbrook High School contributes to the Polar Plunge

On March 22, administrators and staff members from Willowbrook High School joined the Villa Park Police Department's team at the 2025 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois. Team members took a quick plunge into the pond outside of the Oak Brook Bath and Tennis Club during the event, which featured teams from several area law enforcement agencies. The "Villa Park Polar Plungers" team won the event's costume contest with its World Wrestling Federation (WWF)/1980s theme. The Villa Park team, which also included staff members from the Village of Villa Park, raised about \$4,400 for Special Olympics Illinois.

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## Young named 88's Best

Willowbrook High School senior Nina Young was recently honored as her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of March. Young, who is a resident of Villa Park, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's March 24 meeting. She is pictured (left) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (right). During the meeting, Krause described Young as a leader in Willowbrook's Class of 2025. Young is an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar with Distinction and an Illinois State Scholar. She has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll during each semester of her time in high school. Young is a member of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the National Math Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Young is a founding member of the school's Asian Students in Action Club, and she currently serves as the club's president. She's been a member of Willowbrook's yearbook staff since she was a freshman, and is serving as that staff's editor-in-chief during her senior year. In addition to being an academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2025, Young is a talented artist who has won numerous awards, including the Best in Show honor at the school's annual art show. Young is finalizing her plans for where she will attend school after she graduates from Willowbrook. She plans to study graphic design or advertising and branding, while potentially pursuing a minor in a business-related field.

## Villa Park Historical Museum opens for the season

The Villa Park Historical Museum is excited to announce the opening of its 2025 season. The museum, which is located at 220 S. Villa Ave., opened for the season earlier this week, on April 1.

This season features a range of refreshed exhibits, including the Villa Park Trust and Savings Bank Exhibit, which offers a unique glimpse into the area's financial history.

Visitors will also discover newly updated displays and collections, offering an engaging and informative experience for guests of all ages. The museum is the perfect place to learn more about Villa Park's past and explore the community's vibrant history.

All visitors to the museum

are invited to stop by Grandma's Attic and The Whistle Stop Gift Shop for unique items that capture the spirit of the season and the local area.

The museum is offering a new membership perk this year. Individuals, families and businesses can become members and enjoy a range of benefits, including exclusive access to a temporary exhibit showcasing the personal histories of Villa Park residents. Members can submit their own stories and artifacts to be displayed. For more information, email [vphismuseum@gmail.com](mailto:vphismuseum@gmail.com).

The museum will host several community events this year, including its annual ice cream social in July, its annual

meeting and program in October, Trick or Treat on Villa Avenue in October, and Joyful Traditions in December.

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Villa Park Historical Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Villa Park. Through its exhibitions and educational programs, the museum provides a unique opportunity to learn about the people, places, and events that shaped the community.

For more information, visit [vphistoricalsociety.com](http://vphistoricalsociety.com) or contact the museum at [vphismuseum@gmail.com](mailto:vphismuseum@gmail.com).

## Naperville pair accused of armed robbery at Lisle convenience store

20 minutes prior, pair allegedly attempted to rob a woman at knife-point at a Naperville bank drive-up ATM

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Bedin and Naperville Chief of Police Jason Acres announced on Sunday, March 23, that Judge Jeffrey MacKay had granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for two Naperville individuals accused of robbing a Lisle convenience store at knife-point and attempting to rob a woman at a Naperville bank.

Max Bosco, 26, and Emily Frasca, 24, appeared in First Appearance Court recently.

Both subjects were charged with one count of armed robbery (Class X felony) and one count of attempted armed robbery (Class 1 felony).

On March 20, at approximately 5:32 p.m., the Naperville Police Department responded to Bank of America, located at 1301 E. Ogden Avenue, for a call of an armed robbery.

Following an investigation, it is alleged that the victim was conducting a transaction at the

drive-up ATM when a masked suspect, later identified as Frasca, approached her on foot, displayed a knife and said, "give me your s\*\*\*."

The victim immediately canceled the transaction, drove away from the scene and called police. It is further alleged that Bosco put duct tape on the license plate of his vehicle, which was allegedly being driven by Bosco, and that Frasca entered the vehicle and the pair fled the scene.

Twenty minutes later, the Lisle Police Department responded to Quick Stop Pantry, located at 4651 Old Tavern Road, for a call of an armed robbery. Following an investigation, it is alleged that two masked individuals wearing hoodies, later identified as Bosco and Frasca, entered the store, and that while Frasca waited at the counter, Bosco went behind the counter when the clerk opened the register, displayed a knife and took \$479 in cash from the register. It is further alleged that the pair then fled the scene.

Through the course of its investigation, the Naperville Police Department identified Bosco and Frasca as suspects in the case. Naperville police took Bosco and Frasca into custody at Bosco's home a short time later without incident. When Frasca was booked into the DuPage County Jail, authorities allegedly found the stolen money from the Quick Stop Pantry inside a hidden slit in her bra.

The next court appearance for Bosco is scheduled for April 14. The next court appearance for Frasca is scheduled for April 21. Both cases will be in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.



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## Village, Chamber of Commerce welcome VNA Health Care

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce welcomed VNA Health Care to the village during a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony. "Healthier communities are thriving communities, which is why the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce is grateful to have the opportunity to welcome VNA Health Care to Villa Park," said Chamber Executive Director Kyle Schnettler. "Our residents now have access to top-quality health and social services that will improve lives and promote wellness throughout our communities. We are thankful for VNA's work and are thrilled to see them open their doors." Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are, from left to right: Matt Harline, Villa Park village manager; Kyle Schnettler, Villa Park Chamber of Commerce executive director; Bette Lawrence-Water, VNA DuPage Advisory Board; Jorge Cordova, Villa Park trustee; Marla Fronczak, VNA DuPage Advisory Board; Ken Bartels, VNA DuPage Advisory Board; Linnea Windel, president and CEO, VNA Health Care; Mike Shales, VNA Chairman, board of directors; Kara Murphy, chair of VNA DuPage Advisory Board; Laura Schock, district director, U.S. Rep. Sean Casten; Kevin Patrick, Villa Park trustee; Rae Rupp Srch, York Township trustee; and Nick Cuzzone, Villa Park village president.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Pub

## Warriors pitch no-hitter against Glenbard South

The Willowbrook baseball team won three games in three straight days last week to improve its season record to 4-1. On Monday, March 24, the Warriors edged Leyden 8-7 in Villa Park. One day later, Willowbrook earned an 8-0 home victory over Glenbard South. The Warriors held the visiting Raiders hitless in the March 25 contest. Willowbrook won its third game in as many days when it defeated Montini Catholic 3-2 in Lombard on March 26. Junior Bobby Biggs (No. 12 - above left) of the Warriors is pictured during last week's victory over Glenbard South. Biggs pitched six hitless innings and earned the victory in the contest. He issued two walks and recorded eight strikeouts. Willowbrook Junior Max Wilkison completed the no-hitter by retiring the side in order in the top of the seventh inning. Wilkison struck out a Glenbard South batter to close the win. Junior Jory Crocker of the Warriors went 2-for-3 and drove in four runs in the win over the Raiders. Junior Jake Bonino went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in Willowbrook's March 24 win over Leyden. Senior Troy Wisner drove in the winning run in that game with a sacrifice fly center field in the bottom of the seventh inning. Senior Feim Alka scored from third base on Wisner's sacrifice to end the game. Bonino went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in Willowbrook's win over Leyden. Senior Ryan Ban went 2-for-4 and scored one run. Senior Ryan Adamczyk pitched the first four innings of the Warriors' March game at Montini. He allowed five hits and two earned runs. Sophomore Michael Garner (No. 9 - above right) pitched the final three innings against the Broncos and earned the victory for Willowbrook. Garner worked three score innings, issuing one walk and striking out two batters.

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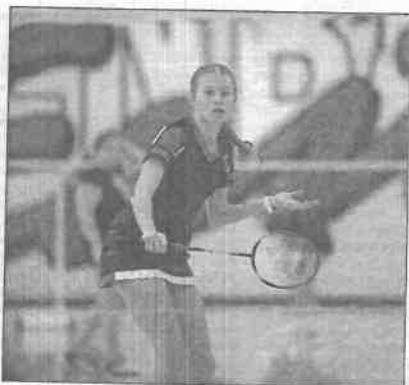
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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publish

## Warriors fall to 2-2

The Willowbrook softball team dropped to 2-2 after last week's 7-3 loss to Plainfield South in Villa Park. Junior Adrianna Weaser (No. 2 - above left) pitched all seven innings for the Warriors in the March 26 game. She allowed three earned runs and six hits. Weaser issued six walks and recorded five strikeouts. Willowbrook junior Allie Coppersmith (No. 4 - above right) went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs in the game, which had a bizarre finish. The Warriors trailed Plainfield South 7-1 going into the bottom of the seventh inning. With two bases loaded and two outs, the left-handed hitting Coppersmith crushed a pitch over the fence for what appeared to be a grand slam home run that cut Plainfield South's lead to 7-5. An umpire, however, ruled that one of the runners on base did not touch home plate, so that runner was called out to end the game. The Warriors are spending this week in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where they are playing multiple contests during the spring break. Willowbrook's schedule next week includes several games, including a home doubleheader against Glenbard West on Saturday, April 12.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## A solid week for Rams

Glenbard East's badminton team started its 2025 season with a busy week. On Monday, March 17, the Rams kicked off their season by posting 15-0 Upstate Eight Conference victories over both Riverside Brookfield and South Elgin in a meet at Riverside Brookfield. Two days later, Glenbard East earned 15-0 conference wins over East Aurora and Fenton in a meet in Lombard. On Thursday, March 20, the Rams faced Lockport, Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central in a non-conference triangular meet in Lombard. The Rams won six of eight matches against Lockport to earn a 6-2 victory. Glenbard East posted an 8-0 win over Hinsdale South, but dropped a 7-1 decision to Hinsdale Central. The Rams concluded the week by fin-

ishing fourth in Saturday's 16-team invitational at Hinsdale South. One photo from the Rams' March 20 meet (above-left) shows Glenbard East senior Ren Manning, who played in the No. 1 singles level. Another photo from the event (above-middle) shows sophomore Marlija Cheeks, who competed in the No. 2 singles level. One more photo from March 20 (above-right) shows Glenbard East's No. 1 doubles tandem of seniors Caitlin Rossi (foreground) and Kaitlyn Kelly (background). Rossi, who is the team's captain, earned her 100th varsity win as a Ram while teaming with Kelly for a doubles win during Saturday's invitational at Hinsdale South. She became the sixth player in the program's history to reach the 100-win milestone.

## Village board approves Parkside parking modifications

By Jane Charnelo  
LOMBARDIAN STAFF REPORTER

The Lombard Village Board on Thursday, March 20, voted (on a waiver of first reading requested) to establish parking restrictions on the south side of Parkside Avenue from Main Street to the Lilac Station northern access driveway.

According to the village, currently there is a no-parking fire lane and four 15-minute "loading and unloading" spaces. Lilac Station wants to increase available parking spaces to help attract retail business.

The fire lane has been reduced in length but still meets fire department requirements, the 15-minute spaces have been reduced from four to one, there will be no parking on the farthest east space from 9-11 a.m. weekdays to accommodate waste collection and Lilac Station plans to add four one-hour parking spaces.

### In other business

Lombard resident Mary-mae Meyer acknowledged outgoing President Keith Giagnorio, whom she addressed by saying, "First, I want to say how impressed I've always been with your leadership skills," adding that "You came to the village during very trying times for a whole community."

"It takes a special person to bring peace and tranquility under such circumstances and you managed that," she con-

tinued. "I appreciate that so much, as many, many of our residents do."

Saying that she has "fallen into the habit" of watching meetings on TV instead of attending board meetings in person, Meyer said, "I kind of regret that a lot of people don't do that anymore, because they would get to know how human everyone is here; and we're just neighbors and residents and doing the best we can."

"One of the special talents that Keith has is to be able to bring people together and reach a common goal. Many of us have very different opinions and we get kind of angry sometimes ... you've created a very professional group here," she opined.

"You've also helped keep it a 'hometown' feel," Meyer said, "and that's very important, I think."

"Thank you for your kind words," Giagnorio responded. "I truly appreciate it. Thank you, God bless you."

District Two Trustee Anthony Puccio, who is running unopposed for village president, thanked Bill Heniff, who is leaving his position as Community Development director.

"Many of you know this is Bill Heniff's last board meeting as department head. I just want to thank Bill. I've been the chair of the ECDC [Economic and Community Development Committee] since I first started on the board in

2019 and Bill has been a tremendous resource for me and very helpful," he said.

Puccio recalled the downturn of the mid-1990s, during his high school days, "and seeing what our downtown looked like at that point versus where we are today; and in the area by Yorktown and everything, his work speaks for itself. I don't think there's a development that doesn't have his fingerprints on it."

"Thank you. Your work [for] the residents, your service needs to be noted ... We really appreciate it and you will be deeply missed, so thank you," the trustee added.

"I would like to thank President Giagnorio and the board of trustees and all of the past elected officials that had leadership roles within the Village of Lombard in the last quarter century," Heniff said. "Their efforts really tried to make the village the best it can be."

"He also acknowledged the Lombard Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the ECDC members "that do a lot of the heavy lifting and the hard work that allows the village board to make the decisions and move the community forward."

He further thanked all the department heads, Community Development staff and Village Manager Scott Niehaus for their work in making his department more efficient.

See PARKING, Page 22



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Warriors win season opener

The Willowbrook softball team opened its 2025 season with a decisive 11-1 home victory over Eisenhower High School on March 18. Senior Isabel Bates (No. 1) pitched a complete game for the Warriors in their five-inning victory in Villa Park. Bates allowed two hits and no earned runs in her five innings in the circle. She recorded seven strikeouts. Junior Allison Coppersmith bashed two home runs for Willowbrook in its season opener. Coppersmith went 3-for-4 and drove in five runs in the game. She hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning and added another two-run homer in the fifth inning. Willowbrook senior shortstop Sonia Ruchala (No. 51), who is pictured while making a throw to first base, drilled a two-run homer in the third inning. Sophomore Liz Pettinger—Willowbrook's leadoff hitter—went 3-for-4 and scored three runs. The Warriors crushed Simeon 18-0 in Friday's four-inning game in Villa Park. Willowbrook fell to 2-1 after Saturday's 12-2 home loss to Mother McAuley in a five-inning contest. The Warriors played a home game against Plainfield South earlier this week. The Willowbrook team will spend its spring break in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where it will play multiple games next week.

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Tony Gadomski for Shaw Local News Network

Wheaton Warrenville South's Ashlyn Adams handles the ball during a match against Lyons on March 27 in Western Springs.

**Top returning players:** Karina Estrada-Vargas, jr., D/MF; Stephanie Salmon, sr., D/MF

**Top new players:** Itzel Almager, so., MF; Andaira Marron, so.

**Worth noting:** Bageanis said it'll be a learning curve through the first five games for a roster that includes 11 juniors, six seniors and four sophomores.

#### Nazareth

**Coach:** Robert Cianci (4th year)

**Last year's record:** 10-9-3, 2-2-2 East Suburban Catholic Conference (fourth place)

**Top returning players:** Lucy Jucovics, jr., MF; Olivia O'Neill, jr., MF; Izzy Strinic, sr., D; Annie Trayser, sr., D

**Top new players:** Daniela Berrutti, fr., F/MF; Molly Moore, so., F

**Worth noting:** Strinic is a four-year player. The team graduated eight seniors, seven of them starters, but has 16 players this spring with varsity experience.

#### Riverside-Brookfield

**Coach:** Ivo Halic (9th year)

**Last year's record:** 13-8-2, 5-1 Metro Suburban Conference (second place)

**Top returning players:** Ella Caputo, sr., F; Lucy Drenth, sr., D; Michelle Panduro, jr., MF

**Top new players:** Lucy Boyle, so., Jocelyn Jaimes, so., Mia Rodriguez, jr.

**Worth noting:** Caputo had 10 goals and 10 assists last spring. Panduro had seven goals and five assists as the team's center mid.

#### St. Francis

**Coach:** Jim Winslow (14th year)

**Last year's record:** 6-7-2, 1-2-1 Chicago Catholic Conference (eighth place)

**Top returning players:** Lexi Bauer, sr., D; Harlee Duraski, so., D; Kennedy Karl, sr., D; Caroline Kiesler, so., MF; Ashleigh Klein, so., F; Meg Maertens, jr., F; Molly Marks, jr., MF; Maicie Schweiner, jr., F; Alyssa Suriano, sr., D; Elle Wainscott, sr., D

**Top new players:** Sophia Homewood, fr., F; Lorraine Surina, so., F; Avery Starkey, so., F

**Worth noting:** Winslow said Homewood can add tenacity to the front line. The coach said staying healthy will be a key factor in having success in conference and the state tournament.

#### Timothy Christian

**Coach:** Nathan Drye (second year)

**Last year's record:** 14-7, 5-1 Chicago Christian Conference (second place)

**Top returning players:** Ella Becvar, so., MF; Avery Croft, so., D; Sami Drye, sr., MF; Mia Schilf, so., MF; Emily White, jr., GK

**Top new players:** Brooklynn Bunn, fr., MF; Lucy Wilgenburg, fr., F

**Worth noting:** Schilf (11 goals, nine assists), Drye (six goals, nine assists), Becvar (four goals, four assists), Croft (five goals, two assists) and White (nine shutouts in goal) are expected to lead the way.

#### Wheaton Academy

**Coach:** Maria Selvaggio (sixth year)

**Last year's record:** 18-1-3, 5-0 Chicago Christian Conference (first place)

**Top returning players:** Gianna Hughes, so., F/MF; Noelle Niekamp, sr., GK; Annika Vandervelde, jr., F/MF

**Top new players:** Whitley Fallow, fr., D; Molly Roth, fr., MF; Alaina Tran, jr., MF

**Worth noting:** The young Warriors graduated a lot of scoring. New talent will be a key. Niekamp is back between the pipes after a midseason injury last spring.

#### Wheaton North

**Coach:** Tim McEvilly (25th year)

**Last year's record:** 18-3-2, 6-0-2 DuKane

Conference (first place)

**Top returning players:** Talia Kaempf, sr., MF/F; Grace Kuczaj, sr., MF/F; Leah Roe, sr., GK; Calah Strong, sr., MF

**Top new players:** Felicity Haworth, fr., MF; Olivia Smith, sr., MF/F; Ellie Whittington, fr., F

**Worth noting:** Jane Rogers, the 2024 Suburban Life Girls Soccer Player of the Year, is expected to miss the season with a knee injury. The Falcons remain talented with Kaempf (23 goals, 14 assists) among the returnees on an experienced roster.

#### Wheaton Warrenville South

**Coach:** Guy Callipari (31st year)

**Last year's record:** 12-5-3, 5-1-2 DuKane Conference (third place)

**Top returning players:** Ashlyn Adams, sr., F; Ella Byrnes, sr., D; Kelsey Clousing, so., MF; Marilyn Dixon, sr., GK; Brooke Ittersagen, sr., D; Lucy Jethani, jr., F; Lily Petrie, sr., D; Kayla Waterman, sr., D

**Top new players:** Ashley Alman, so., MF/D; Corinne Benoist, so., D; Alice Kohley, jr., MF; Kahira Rahmouni, fr., MF

**Worth noting:** The Tigers have six college commits, including Adams (University of Illinois) who scored 27 goals last season. Dixon (139 saves, eight shutouts) is back in goal.

#### Willowbrook

**Coach:** Julio Del Real (9th year)

**Last year's record:** 3-11-3, 1-5 West Suburban Gold Conference (sixth place)

**Top returning players:** Halie Ahrens, sr., D; Emily Barth, sr., MF; Payton Brose, sr., GK; Mia Catania, so., MF/F; Miah Grochowski, so., D; Lillian Macias, so., F; Liz Tretina, sr., MF

**Worth noting:** The Warriors graduated seven seniors from last year's team.

#### York

**Coach:** Stevan Dobric (7th year)

**Last year's record:** 18-2-1, 6-0 West Suburban Silver Conference (first place)

**Top returning players:** Ava Lewandowski, sr., GK; Maggie Quinn, jr., F; Andriana Soupos, jr., MF

**Top new players:** Lizzy Buranacanchana, so., Evelyn Messacar, so., D; Madison Schaefer, so., F

**Worth noting:** The Dukes graduated 12 players. They are younger this year but still talented. Newcomers should adjust to fill roles in order for continued success. Lewandowski had 13 shutouts last season.

*Editor's note: IC Catholic Prep and Westmont did not submit team information.*