

# Firefighters respond to fire at manufacturing facility on Route 83

**Multiple employees evacuated before firefighters arrived, no injuries reported; neighboring departments provided assistance**

On Thursday, April 17, at approximately 11:31 a.m., the Villa Park Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at the Crown Metal Manufacturing Company facility at 765 S. Route 83, Elmhurst. That facility is located on the east side of Route 83.

According to a statement from the Village of Villa Park, Villa Park Engine 81 and Deputy 81 were the first units to arrive on the scene. They found a large, single-story manufacturing building with moderate smoke emanating from the front.

Firefighters from Villa Park and neighboring municipalities conducted a detailed search for the source of the fire, noted the village's statement. "They quickly deployed a hose line and launched an aggressive interior attack, targeting the fire that was located inside a metal dust collection system," the statement related. "Additional resources were utilized for searches and ventilation within the structure."

The village's statement added that the fire was brought under control and contained to the metal dust collection system that was

located toward the middle of the manufacturing facility. At the time of the fire, multiple employees were present, but were able to self-evacuate before the fire department's arrival. All employees were accounted for and unharmed by the fire.

Villa Park received assistance from firefighters from Lombard, Elmhurst, Oakbrook Terrace and York Center, as well as from the Villa Park Police Department. The Villa Park Fire Department's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) conducted the origin and cause investigation of the incident.

## Obituary

**PATRICIA A. CASTROGIOVANNI, 80**  
Patricia A. Castrogiovanni, nee McMahon, age 80, a dual Irish and United States citizen and longtime resident of Villa Park, Illinois.

Beloved wife of 60 years to Anthony V. Castrogiovanni; loving mother of Michael Castrogiovanni, Maryangela (Robert Meiszner) Castrogiovanni and Joanna (Joseph) Skiles; devoted grandmother of Christopher Castrogiovanni, Sarah Meiszner, Ash-

leigh Castrogiovanni, Joshua Meiszner, Daniel (Jordan) Castrogiovanni, Mitchell Castrogiovanni, Matthew Meiszner, Sabrina Skiles and Oliver Skiles; fond sister of Mary (the late Tony) Mullen and William (the late Eileen) McMahon; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Mass was held at St. Alexander Catholic Church on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 10:15 a.m. Internment Private. Funeral info: steulerlefh.com or (630) 832-4161.

## Applications accepted to fill vacancy on the Villa Park Board of Trustees

The Village of Villa Park is seeking applications from residents interested in serving on the Village Board of Trustees.

There will be a vacancy on the village board when President-Elect Kevin Patrick is sworn in as Villa Park's village president on Monday, May 12, leaving his trustee seat open for the remainder of the current two-year term.

This is an opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future of Villa Park by serving on the village's governing body. Six trustees and the village president work collaboratively to set policy, adopt ordinances, and make decisions that impact the daily lives of residents and the direction of the community.

To be eligible to serve on

the Board of Trustees, applicants must have resided within the corporate limits of the village for at least one year prior to appointment.

To apply, submit the following by the end of the day, Monday, May 12:

- A cover letter explaining your interest in serving as a trustee

- A current résumé outlining relevant experience, community involvement, or areas of expertise

Applicants should submit their materials via email to Villa Park Village President-Elect Kevin Patrick at trusteepatrick@invillapark.com.

All submissions will be reviewed, and the appointment will be made in accordance with village procedures.

## Traffic study cameras on Ardmore Avenue collect data for improvement project

The Village of Villa Park recently announced that over the next few months, a consultant working on behalf of the village on the Ardmore Avenue Improvement Project will periodically be placing traffic study cameras at various locations on Ardmore Avenue between Roosevelt Road and North Avenue.

These cameras are used to

collect traffic data, and will typically remain at each location for a few days before being removed.

The improvement project consists of the rehabilitation of Ardmore Avenue. The village's pavement management program has determined that the condition of the street has deteriorated to the point that pavement rehabilitation is

needed.

The scope of improvements will include roadway resurfacing, roadway reconstruction, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and traffic calming improvements.

Due to the large scale of the proposed work, the project will likely be broken up into multiple smaller projects that take place over several years.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook honors its Outstanding Students for the fourth quarter

Last week, Willowbrook High School recognized 12 students as Outstanding Students for the fourth quarter of the 2024-25 school year. To be chosen for the Outstanding Student distinction, 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 April 17 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 fourth quarter (pictured left to right) are: (front row) freshman Maryam Eshal Aslam (Learning services), senior Margaret Brennan (Music), junior Eden Frazier (World languages), senior Olivia Romero (Art), freshman Justyna Smolucha (English) and senior Carson Kulczyski (Career and Technical Education—CTE); (back row) freshman Adam Rafat Hajjyasiri (Science), sophomore Job Davalos-Melchor (Warrior Resource Center—WRC), junior Josias Garcia-Marquez (Literacy), senior Julio Molina (Physical education), senior Nauraz Ali (Math) and senior Troy Wisner (Social Studies).

## VILLA PARK REVIEW

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Elmhurst, IL 60126

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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

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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 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION

467340



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## Willowbrook English teacher earns Outstanding Teacher award

Willowbrook High School English teacher Scott Grobstein received the school's Outstanding Teacher award last week. Grobstein (right) is pictured at the April 17 celebration at Willowbrook that also featured presentations of the school's Outstanding Student awards for the fourth quarter. Willowbrook freshman Janeth Vazquez (left) presented the Outstanding Teacher award to Grobstein. 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.

## Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

### April 15

A 31-year-old Maywood man was charged with domestic battery at a motel in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt at 8:06 a.m. The subject was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

### April 14

Criminal damage to a vehicle was reported in the 200 block of W. Division at 1:20 p.m.

### April 12

Justin De Simone, 50, of Elmwood Park, was charged with DUI-drugs, unlawful possession of cannabis by a driver, transportation or possession of open alcohol, driving without insurance, disobeying a traffic-control device and failure to signal near W. North and N. Lincoln at 8:31 p.m.

Retail theft was reported at a store in the 1-100 block of E. North at 7:41 p.m. after a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

### April 11

Fraud was reported at a bank in the 1-100 block of E. Roosevelt at 9:45 a.m. after a subject reportedly attempted to withdraw money with someone else's identification.

### April 9

Retail theft was reported at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 at 3:11 p.m. after a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

### April 8

A complainant in the 600 block of N. Bierman reported suspicious noises in the area at 11:51 a.m.

### April 5

A complainant at a restaurant in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported they left their bag in the restaurant, and that their AirPods were stolen.

### April 4

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported a juvenile subject removed items from display shelves and attempted

to leave without paying. The subject was issued a citation and a trespass warning.

### April 3

Deantwon Coleman, 39, of Maywood, was charged with burglary/retail theft—possessing displayed merchandise exceeding \$300 at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 at 6:43 p.m.

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 1:28 p.m. that a subject was causing a disturbance.

A complainant in the 300 block of S. Ardmore reported at 4:05 p.m. that something was thrown at a window at their residence, causing the window to break.

### April 2

Alessandra Vaduva, 26, of Hillside, was charged with retail theft/possessing displayed merchandise on the above date for an alleged incident that occurred at a store in the 1-100 block of E. North on Jan. 4.

### Identity theft, fraud

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported four incidents of identity theft or fraud in the village between April 2 and April 15.

## Village holds its Spring Sweep on May 17

While the drive-through event is free to Villa Park residents, some vendors have fees

Villa Park's F.U.N. (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission is joining the Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission to hold the 2025 Villa Park Spring Sweep recycling and shredding drop-off event from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 17.

The drive-through Spring Sweep will take place along Home Avenue, near Villa Park Village Hall. Traffic will enter from Harvard Avenue, heading north, and exit onto Ardmore Avenue.

Participants will recycle from their vehicles by driving to each station. Volunteers will collect and remove items from vehicles for disposal. Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times.

If possible, residents should pack items in easy-to-carry boxes clearly labeled with what items are inside.

The event is free to Villa Park residents, but a fee will apply for residents who drop off paint for recycling. There is a \$20 flat fee per vehicle for non-residents for electronics and paper shredding, in addition to the paint recycling fees.

The paint fees for latex paint are: \$2.99 for a quart or less, \$5.99 for a gallon and \$19.99 for a 5-gallon bucket. The paint fees for oil-based paint are: \$5.99 for a quart or less, \$9.99 for a gallon and \$25.99 for a 5-gallon bucket. Paint must remain in its original container to be recycled. Consolidating paint is prohibited.

Accepted items include working adult and children's bikes, hardcover and paperback books, used clothing and shoes, small appliances in working order, full and discharged fire extinguishers, old and faded American flags, eyeglasses, paint, holiday lights, computers, monitors, printers, digital cameras and cell phones.

The document shredding offers a limit of three banker boxes per household.

Small engines, compressors, units, medications and sharps, Styrofoam, wooden speakers and tires will not be accepted.

For more about this year's Spring Sweep, including a link to a list of vendors and acceptable items, visit [vilapark.com/spring-sweep](http://vilapark.com/spring-sweep).

## Willowbrook to hold summer school courses

The deadline to sign up is April 30

Willowbrook High School is committed to providing opportunities to help students succeed and build positive futures.

As part of that focus, Willowbrook is sharing important information regarding

summer school registration. Summer school classes help students earn credit to stay on track for graduation, as well as provide an opportunity for students to get ahead with graduation requirements.

Willowbrook's 2025 summer school courses will take place from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday from June 2 until June 26, except for Thursday, June 19.

The summer school courses include:

- Public Speaking and Communication
- Online Consumer Management

• Online Health

The deadline to sign up is April 30.

Transportation and breakfast will be provided.

Courses need to meet a minimum enrollment to run. Course fees are \$160 per student. Should a course not run, fees will be refunded.

Course descriptions are available at <http://www.dupage88.net/WBSummerSchool2025>

To register, go to <http://www.dupage88.net/WBSummerSchool2025>.

## Willowbrook Music Boosters Club's Trivia Night takes place this Saturday, April 26

The Willowbrook High School Music Boosters Club will present its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night event at the school on Saturday, April 26. The event will start at 6 p.m. Check-in will begin at 5 p.m.

Willowbrook students, parents, guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends are invited to participate. Players must be at least 13 years old.

Teams of eight to 10 players are recommended. The entry fee is \$100 per team. For teams with 11 to 15 players, the entry fee is \$150. Proceeds support Willowbrook's music programs and students by going toward scholarships, activities, uniforms and concerts, as well as the school choir's trip to Nashville.

The upcoming Trivia Night will feature raffles and prizes, including a prize for the team with the best theme. Food and drinks are allowed, but alcohol is prohibited.

To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/WBTriviaNight2025>. For more information, visit [wbmusicboosters.org](http://wbmusicboosters.org).

## State police: 'Move Over or Get Pulled Over'

The Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are warning drivers to Move Over or Get Pulled Over.

The Move Over Law, known as Scott's Law in Illinois, requires drivers to move over and slow down when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated.

If changing lanes is unsafe or impossible, drivers must slow down to a safe speed, proceed with caution, and be prepared to stop if necessary.

"We've all heard it, move over and slow down for emergency vehicles on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "Despite this, we continue to see crashes, including deadly crashes, because someone refused to move over and slow down.

To help end this reckless behavior, we want the public to know that if you fail to move over and slow down in Illinois, you will get a ticket. The days of receiving a warning are over. Move over or get pulled over."

The Move Over Law not only applies to law enforcement vehicles, but ambulances, fire vehicles, IDOT Emergency Traffic Patrol vehicles, tow trucks, and other authorized emergency vehicles as defined under the Illinois Vehicle Code.

However, ISP and IDOT urge drivers to move over and slow down for any vehicle with flashing lights stopped on the side of the road.

More information about Illinois' Scott's Law can be found on the ISP website, as well as a Scott's Law dashboard that includes information and data about ISP crashes.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



## Warriors split two games with the Mustangs

The Willowbrook baseball team faced Downers Grove South in two West Suburban Gold Conference games last week. The Mustangs rallied for an 8-6 victory over the Warriors in an April 14 meeting in Downers Grove. One day later, Willowbrook beat the Mustangs 6-3 in Villa Park. The two teams were supposed to complete their three-game conference series with an April 17 contest in Downers Grove, but that game was rained out and rescheduled to this week. The Warriors completed their week with Saturday's 2-1 loss to Hinsdale Central in a non-conference game in Villa Park. Willowbrook led Downers Grove South 6-2 late in the April 14 game, but the Mustangs scored six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take an 8-6 lead. Senior Sam Marrese went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Warriors in their series opener against Downers Grove South. Junior Jake Bonino (pictured at right while batting during Saturday's game) went 3-for-4 and drove in one run for Willowbrook. Bonino went 2-for-3 and scored two runs in his team's 6-3 victory over the Mustangs on April 15. Marrese went 2-for-2 and scored one run in the win. Senior Vinny Ippolito went 1-for-1 and drove in one run, while senior Jesus Torres went 1-for-3 with one RBI. The game was tied at 2-2 in the middle of the fifth inning. Willowbrook scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 5-2 lead. Torres hit an RBI single to give the Warriors a 3-2 advantage. Ippolito hit a run-scoring double to extend the lead to 4-2. Junior Bobby Biggs pitched the first four innings of the game for Willowbrook. Biggs allowed one earned run and two hits. He walked three batters and recorded six strikeouts. Junior Luke Ranieri (No. 22 - above) of the Warriors earned the victory after pitching three innings in relief. Ranieri allowed two hits and one earned run. He issued one walk and struck out four batters. Willowbrook, which opened its 2025 conference season by sweeping a three-game series against Hinsdale South, improved its conference record to 4-1 with its April 15 win. Willowbrook sophomore Michael Garner (top right) pitched four innings in relief during Saturday's loss to Hinsdale Central. Garner, who is pictured on the mound during that game, didn't allow any earned runs. He gave up four hits and two walks while striking out three batters. The Warriors' overall season record fell to 10-5 after Saturday's loss.

## Registration is open for Willowbrook's athletic summer camps

Starting in June, Willowbrook High School will host a variety of athletic summer camps. Registration for those camps is open and can be completed online at <https://dupage88.revtrak.net/rw-wbhs-athletics>.

That link includes a list of available camps, as well as camp fees and online payment.

For more information, call the Willowbrook Athletic Department at 630-782-3144.

## •Bill (Continued from page 14)

It would also create the Office of the Director of Victim and Witness Services, which would ensure the board complies with victims' rights, and mandates victims are provided with contact information for the State Victim Assistance Hotline.

The reforms come after Crosetti Brand allegedly murdered an 11-year-old Chicago boy in 2024. That February, the board voted to release Brand, finding there was not enough evidence he had violated his conditions of release. His ex-girlfriend, Laterra Smith, was denied an emergency order of protection by a Cook County judge while Brand was imprisoned at Stateville in Crest Hill.

A day after he was released, Brand attacked Smith and murdered her 11-year-old son, Jayden Perkins, who attempted to protect his mother. The murder caused two PRB members, including the board chair, to resign.

Brand's history of domestic violence against women prompted both advocates and lawmakers to call for stricter review of prisoners' backgrounds before their release.

During last year's legislative session, Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, championed a PRB reform bill that had bipartisan support, but was never called for a vote in the House on the final day of session.

That bill would have made changes that included requiring the board to notify victims within 24 hours if an offender, whom they had an order of protection against, was released early.

In a news conference held the day after the session ended, Gov. JB Pritzker expressed his concerns with parts of the bill regarding the live stream of certain PRB meetings and the lack of funding for other requirements.

Harmon described this year's reform bill as a "similar to, but improved upon" version of Cassidy's bill that "expands the rights of victims to be heard and to be notified."

The bill would change qualifications for board members, requiring seven out of the 15 board members to have at least five years of experience as a law enforcement officer, parole officer, prosecu-

tor, criminal defense attorney or judge.

It would also change the term limits of any new board members elected from six to eight years, something Harmon said would allow board members to be less concerned about their reappointment and more focused on making "good decisions."

Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, voiced his disagreement on the Senate floor Thursday. He asked Harmon how he thought it was a "great idea" to lengthen terms for members, who he said are vetted by the governor.

"The Senate can't pass a law by itself. The bill before us, I believe, will be well-received and passed by the House and signed by the governor," Harmon said in response. "It is the best bill we are able to pass into law at the present time."

Republicans have spent years criticizing Pritzker's appointments to the board following several controversial nominations in recent years.

The bill now awaits action in the House.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 7:00 pm, a public hearing conducted by School District 45 DuPage County, Villa Park, will take place at School District 45 Central Office located at 255 W Vermont Street, Villa Park, IL 60181. The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public of plans to request an Illinois School Code waiver (ILCS 105/18-8.05 (F) (2)(d)(2)) for an alternative use of School Improvement days. A waiver would allow the district to combine four half School Improvement days into two full School Improvement days. This recommendation will increase instructional time for students, improve the model for delivering effective professional development to district staff and reduce the number of non-attendance days during the school year. Public comment will be allowed during the hearing. If you have further questions pertaining to this hearing, please contact: Dr. Annetta Spychalski, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at 630-516-7887.

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent, Villa Park Review and Lombardian April 24, 2025) 470858



# District 88 hosts SHE Conference to provide students with day of connection, courage and conversation

On March 25, more than 100 female students from Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools came together for a day of connection, courage and conversation, as District 88 hosted its first SHE Conference—which stands for Strength, Hope and Empowerment.

The schools have previously hosted individual SHE Days, but this was the first districtwide event.

The workshop focused on helping students build confidence and address challenges, as well as teaching them to network and support one another.

The keynote speaker was 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year, Dr. Rachael Mahmood, who guided participants through a dynamic dialogue model titled "The World Café."

Mahmood shared her personal story of growing up in

a diverse family and struggling to find where she fit in at school. She also communicated an important message: To ensure a school environment where all students and staff members feel a sense of belonging, it takes everyone working together with intentional effort.

"The World Café" provided students with an opportunity to engage in an interactive activity with their peers. They discussed the characteristics of an ideal school, the challenges and strengths of District 88 with regard to providing a welcoming learning environment, and action steps students can implement to make a positive difference.

ABC 7 Chicago covered the event as part of the news station's celebration of Women's History Month. To watch the segment, and to read the article, go to <https://www.dupage88.net/site/page/16757>.



More than 100 female students from Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools gathered on March 25 for the annual SHE Conference, which helped students build confidence and address challenges, as well as teach them to network and support one another.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The SHE Conference was

organized by District 88 Student Success Coordinator, Dr. Valarie Humphrey, along

with a team of female staff members and administrators from both high schools.

## Willowbrook Music Boosters Club's Trivia Night takes place on Saturday, April 26

The Willowbrook High School Music Boosters Club will present its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night event at the school on Saturday, April 26. The event will start at 6 p.m. Check-in will begin at 5 p.m.

Willowbrook students, parents, guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends are invited to participate. Players must be at least 13 years old.

Teams of eight to 10 players are recommended. The entry fee is \$100 per team. For teams with 11 to 15 players, the entry fee is \$150. Proceeds support Willowbrook's music programs and students by going toward scholarships, activities, uniforms and concerts.

The upcoming Trivia Night will feature raffles and prizes, including a prize for the team with the best theme. Food and drinks are allowed, but alcohol is prohibited.

To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/WBTriviaNight2025>. For more information, visit [wbmusicboosters.org](http://wbmusicboosters.org).

## Lifeline Church to hold Easter Sunday service at Willowbrook High School

Service begins at 10 a.m.

Celebrate Easter with Lifeline Church this Sun-

day at Willowbrook High School.

All are welcome to attend Lifeline Church's service, which will begin at 10 a.m.

on Easter Sunday, April 20, at the school, located at 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park.

Bring your family and friends—there will be some-

thing for everyone, from inspiring worship and a life-giving message to engaging activities for kids of all ages.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook cast and crew participates in IHSA state drama competition

The cast and crew of Willowbrook High School's 2025 contest play—"Things I Know to be True" by Andrew Bovell—qualified for the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state drama competition by winning a sectional championship at Oak Lawn Community High School on March 22. The cast and crew are pictured with the sectional's championship plaque. The IHSA state drama competition took place March 28-29 at Richards High School in Oak Lawn. Willowbrook competed against 11 other schools at the event. A cast and crew from Burbank's Reavis High School won the state title. Willowbrook placed eighth in the state competition. Four members of Willowbrook's cast—senior Gillian Falco, senior Jason Nelson, junior Sadie Perez and freshman Niamh Lashmet—earned IHSA All-State Cast recognition.

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## IDPH rolls out new measles simulator dashboard to empower school officials to protect students, staff from outbreaks

With cases of measles being reported in more than 20 jurisdictions around the United States, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has unveiled a new data dashboard to help school officials and members of the public assess the potential severity of any outbreaks of measles, should one occur in Illinois.

The new Measles Outbreak Simulator Dashboard makes it easy for the public to find out the measles vaccination rate in any school in Illinois, public or private, and to determine the risk of a child being exposed to measles if a case is introduced in their school.

Illinois has had no reported cases of measles since an outbreak in Chicago in early 2024 and there are currently no active measles outbreak investigations in Illinois. However, IDPH officials are closely monitoring an outbreak in Texas and New Mexico that has resulted in more than 530 confirmed cases, including three deaths, two of them children.

"IDPH continues to work closely with our local public health and health care partners as we prepare for any potential measles cases in Illinois," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "The Department is building on the lessons we learned from our successful measles response in 2024 by ensuring that our residents have access to meaningful information to guide their

decision-making. Our new dashboard provides the public with the ability to review the measles vaccination rates in their child's school and its risk for an outbreak. Two doses of measles vaccines are 97 percent effective in preventing measles. I recommend that our Illinois residents make sure that they and their family members are up to date on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine and all other age-appropriate immunizations."

"Vaccination is the most effective tool we have to prevent the spread of measles and protect the health of our students," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders. "We are grateful to IDPH for equipping school leaders, parents, and the public with clear, actionable data to assess measles risk and plan proactively. I encourage every school administrator to explore this resource to support families in staying informed and up to date on vaccinations."

The dashboard provides predictions, projections and estimates for the size and spread of a measles outbreak in individual Illinois schools from Pre-K through 12th grade using 2023-2024 school vaccination and enrollment data and additional model parameters. The dashboard will be updated with the 2024-25 school year data as soon as that becomes available in the near future.

School administrators and

staff are encouraged to use this dashboard to aid their decisions around measles outbreak prevention and control in their individual schools. This simulator was inspired by the University of Texas, Austin, epiEngage Measles Outbreak Simulator. Most Illinois residents received the measles vaccine in childhood, which provides strong, long-lasting protection. This means the risk of getting measles is very low for the vast majority of people.

According to the CDC, one dose of measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine is 93 percent effective against measles and two doses are 97 percent effective in protection from measles. However, for those who are not vaccinated, measles is more contagious than most other infections. Measles is easily spread through the air when someone coughs or sneezes. And measles can cause serious and long-term complications, including pneumonia and swelling of the brain.

IDPH stresses the importance of ensuring everyone in your family is up to date on their immunizations. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination rates in the United States have dropped, increasing the likelihood of more cases of vaccine-preventable diseases. Individuals can protect themselves and their communities by doing their part and ensuring their families are up to date on all recommended vaccines.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Montini Catholic students create mosaic mural of founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle

Under the direction of Fine Arts Department Chair and Music Director Donnie Glowinski and Art Teacher Christiana Blatchley, Montini Catholic High School students—including freshman Evvie Welland of Villa Park (above)—were invited to participate in the creation of a beautiful mosaic of the school's founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle. St. John Baptist de La Salle was designated the patron saint of teachers by the Catholic Church in 1950. The artistic endeavor was an activity created as a part of Montini's celebration of Belongingness Week (March 24-28). Each piece of the mosaic symbolized an individual, with its unique shape, color, and position contributing to the overall masterpiece. The final piece was unveiled during Montini's Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of St. John Baptist de La Salle, which was April 7.

## Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

### April 1

A complainant in the 1600 block of S. Michigan reported at 10:12 a.m. that their vehicle had been stolen.

A complainant in the 100 block of N. Princeton reported at 10:58 a.m. that the front door of their residence had been damaged.

A 35-year-old Villa Park resident and a 41-year-old Villa Park resident were both charged with domestic battery in the 300 block of N. Princeton at 6:35 p.m. The subject was transported to the DuPage County Jail. The 35-year-old subject was also charged with domestic battery at the same location at 1:25 a.m. on March 29.

Retail theft was reported at a store in the 600 block of N. Addison at 9:36 p.m. after a subject reportedly removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying for it.

### March 31

Tiffany Matelske, 38, of Glendale Heights, was charged with receiving, possessing or selling a stolen motor vehicle or essential part in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt at 11:48 a.m.

Theft was reported at a restaurant in the first block of West Roosevelt at 7:04 p.m. after a subject reportedly left the restaurant without paying for their meal.

### March 29

Criminal damage to property was reported in the 200 block of W. St. Charles at noon. A complainant reported that an unknown subject damaged their fence.

Miguel Roman, 38, of Bolingbrook, Brian Gomez, 40, of Chicago, and Altigracia Gomez, 41, of Chicago, were each charged with burglary and retail theft after they allegedly took merchandise

from a store in the 100 block of West Roosevelt. Roman, who was also charged with driving without a license—never issued, driving without insurance, improper lane usage and failure to report an accident, was transported to the DuPage County Jail. The two other subjects were released.

### March 28

Michael Evans, 39, of West Chicago, was charged with retail theft—possessing displayed merchandise not exceeding \$300 at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 at 12:48 p.m.

Criminal damage to property was reported near the Illinois Prairie Path and Route 83 after a complainant reportedly observed graffiti on a bridge.

A victim at Harrison and Cornell reported at 6:17 p.m. that their vehicle had been stolen.

A complainant at a store in the first block of E. North reported at 6:57 p.m. that juveniles were riding scooters and disturbing customers.

A complainant in the 100 block of East North reported at 9:28 p.m. that a subject battered them.

## Registration is open for Willowbrook's 2025-26 Little Warrior Preschool program

**A \$50 deposit is due by May 1 to secure a spot**

Registration for Willowbrook High School's 2025-26 Little Warrior Preschool for children ages 3-5 is now open.

The preschool class is taught by Willowbrook students in the Preschool I, Preschool II and Preschool Internship courses. Participants experience lessons in math, science, art, music, language arts and large/small muscle development.

Preschool takes place from

10 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Early Childhood classroom at the high school, located at 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park. The nine-week fall session will run from October to December. The nine-week spring session will run from March to May.

The cost for preschool is \$150 per session for each child. A \$50 deposit, which will go toward the \$150 total,

is due by May 1, to secure a spot.

To enroll in the Little Warrior Preschool program, complete the form at [www.dupage88.net/LittleWarrior-Registration2025-26](http://www.dupage88.net/LittleWarrior-Registration2025-26).

For more information, contact Willowbrook Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher and Little Warrior Preschool Coordinator Stephanie Ennis at [sennis@dupage88.net](mailto:sennis@dupage88.net) or at 630-782-2882.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Rams beat the Warriors

The Glenbard East and Willowbrook girls soccer teams faced off in Friday night's match in Lombard. The Rams defeated the visiting Warriors 1-0. Glenbard East, which earned its first win of the season with its victory over its nearby rival, raised its record to 1-3-1 with Friday's triumph. Willowbrook's overall season record dropped to 1-5-1 with its loss to the Rams. Glenbard East sophomore Teagan Murphy (No. 14 - top right) scored the only goal of the match when she rocketed a left-footed kick into the net with 31:35 left in the second half. Murphy notched her second goal of the season with Friday's score. Pictured (right) left to right during the first half of the match are Glenbard East senior Cleo Glenzinski (No. 4), Willowbrook senior goalkeeper Payton Brose and Willowbrook sophomore Naya Stathopoulos (No. 16). Brose made seven saves for the Warriors during Friday's contest. Earlier last week, Glenbard East opened its Upstate Eight Conference season with a 1-1 tie against Glenbard South in Lombard. Junior Nora Oplla scored the Rams' goal against the Raiders. While the result of the April 8 match counted as a tie, the two teams battled in a penalty-kick shootout after the contest to determine conference standings. Glenbard South prevailed in that shootout. The Rams' overall season record fell to 1-4-1 following Saturday's 3-0 loss at Plainfield North. Several members of the Glenbard East and Willowbrook teams are members of the Firebirds Soccer Club. After Friday's match, those Firebirds from both teams posed for a group picture (above).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook graduate named DePaul's head coach

Jill Pizzotti, a 1984 graduate of Willowbrook High School, was recently named the head women's basketball coach at DePaul University. Pizzotti, who has been on DePaul's coaching staff for the past 14 seasons, will succeed longtime coach Doug Bruno, who recently announced his retirement. Pizzotti served as the Blue Demons' interim head coach during the 2024-25 season, when Bruno was on medical leave.



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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publsh

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

On Tuesday, April 22, 2025, an in-person and virtual meeting conducted by DuPage High School District 88 will take place at the District Office (2 Friendship Plaza, Addison) and via Zoom at 8:00 am. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the District's plan for providing special education services to students with identified disabilities who attend parentally placed private/parochial schools and home schools located within the District's boundaries for the 2025-26 school year.

If you are a parent/guardian of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of DuPage High School District 88, you are encouraged to attend.

If you have further questions about this meeting and/or are interested in attending, please complete the survey at: <https://forms.gle/oaf5KAnAeTpmxQL17> or scan the QR Code:



(Published in the Elmhurst Independent, Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review March 27, April 10, 17, 2025) 469057

## Warriors sweep the Hornets

The Willowbrook baseball team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season by sweeping last week's three-game series against Hinsdale South. The Warriors opened the series with a 12-1 six-inning victory at Hinsdale South on April 8. Two days later, Willowbrook beat the Hornets 4-1 in Villa Park. The Warriors completed the series sweep with a 3-2 home win on Friday. Junior Noah Edison of the Warriors recorded 12 strikeouts in five and two-third innings on the mound to earn a victory in his team's April 8 win. Edison allowed two hits and no earned run while issuing six walks in the contest. Seniors Sam Marrese, Vinny Ippolito and Ryan Bannon provided two hits each in Willowbrook's victory in the series opener against the Hornets. Willowbrook junior Bobby Biggs pitched a complete game and posted a victory in the second game of the series. Biggs allowed three hits and no earned runs in the Warriors' 4-1 win. He notched eight strikeouts and gave up two walks in seven innings. Willowbrook trailed Hinsdale South 2-0 in the middle of the fifth inning of Friday's series finale. Junior Alek Ramey hit a two-out, two-run double in the bottom of the fifth inning to even the score at 2-2. Ramey is pictured (above left) as he celebrates his clutch hit while standing on second base. Willowbrook took a 3-2 lead when senior Nathan Mulholland scored from third base on a wild pitch with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Mulholland is pictured (above middle) after he slid safely into home plate. Senior Ryan Adamczyk pitched the first five innings of Friday's game for Willowbrook. He allowed one hit and one earned run. He struck out five batters and allowed five walks. Junior Mike Wilkison (pictured above right) pitched the final two innings of the game and picked up the win for the Warriors. Wilkison allowed one hit and two walks in his two scoreless innings on the mound. Willowbrook moved its overall season record to 9-3 with Saturday's 16-1 non-conference win at Proviso West. The Warriors scored 10 runs in the first inning of Saturday's game, which lasted for four innings. Junior Jake Bonino hit two-run inside-the-park home run in the first inning to give Willowbrook a 9-0 lead. The Warriors are tangling with Downers Grove South in the week's three-game conference series.

## Answers

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### PUZZLE 1

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

### PUZZLE 2

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

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# Willowbrook's Sonia Ruchala lost most of her junior year with a freak injury. Now she's back as good as ever

By JOSHUA WELGE  
jwelge@shawmedia.com

Sonia Ruchala is no doubt cherishing her time on the softball diamond these days.

And a good home run celebration. Willowbrook's senior shortstop lost almost her entire junior season from the very definition of a freak injury.

Celebrating teammate Marli Smrz's home run - right after Ruchala hit her own homer - she broke her tibia and ankle in April 2024.

"I was running out of the dugout, it had rained the day before, it was wet and muddy, I went to turn the corner," Ruchala said, "and my ankle folded."

Ruchala said the injury occurred on the same day as a solar eclipse, Ruchala's own rare event six games into the season was a tough pill to swallow for Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth's team.



Sonia Ruchala

Ruchala, committed to the University of Indiana-Indianapolis, an NCAA Division I school, has been a starter since her freshman year and was hitting over .600 at the time of the injury.

"They handled it well, but it's hard. In the back of your mind you're thinking starting shortstop, D1 player, our best player - it was a difficult situation. You can never make too big of a deal, but you still want to be sensitive to the kid," Hildreth said. "The seniors from last year handled it well, went 21-10 and lost to Benet in a regional championship."

Ruchala's doctor said they had never seen a bone break in that place, noting the tibia is hard to break. Surprisingly, she did not require surgery, but tendons around the ankle were bruised and strained, which took longer to heal.

With a softball IQ that's off the charts, Ruchala was an extra set of eyes and ears for Hildreth in the dugout with pitch calls and defensive shifts, her way to stay involved while she was rehabilitating.

She came back early from the injury



Photo provided by Joe Pearson of Piehouse Six Photography

Willowbrook senior shortstop Sonia Ruchala missed most of her junior season with a freak injury, a broken tibia and ankle in a home run celebration. Now she's back, better than ever.

for her summer team's third tournament and just to hit.

"It hurt really bad after summer games," Ruchala said. "The most I could play in a day is two games."

Ruchala helped run Hildreth's summer youth hitting camps to get back into the flow and ran her own separate hitting camp for kids.

"If she wants, she has a future in coaching," Hildreth said. "She's as good as it gets. Nice to get her back acclimated."

Ruchala is back as a player this spring and does not look like she's missed a beat.

Through 11 games she was hitting .387 with five homers, five doubles and 19 RBIs. Ruchala homered twice in an April 15 win for Willowbrook (7-5).

"She's hitting the cover off the ball, back to where she was at this time last year," Hildreth said.

Last week was the one-year anniversary of Ruchala's injury, which she brought up to Hildreth. As much as it's physical, the mental is a huge hurdle and she has to be careful. First game of the season, rounding first, she rolled the ankle and it was bruised for two days.

"I've learned to adapt," she said. "I feel like 90%, 95% back."

Fate, it seemed, smiled on Ruchala with her college choice. IU-Indy

power. She can do it all."

She's the perfect table setter both on and off the field for first-year coach Johnson, who was previously a JV coach and before that head coach at Niles West.

"She is the most coachable player that any coach could ever ask for," Johnson said. "She stepped into a big leadership role being a senior and she's very athletically gifted. She is definitely a vocal leader, which is super important for such a young team."

Versatile defensively, Joe probably could play any position besides pitcher or catcher. But she's a difference-maker in center.

"She's been the starting center fielder for Nazareth for at least three years," Johnson said. "She covers so much ground out there. She's so valuable."

### York's big hitters

Gia Valentin was a pitcher her first two years of high school for York's lower levels, but she was tried out as a hitter and fielder this spring to give her bat a shot.

She has provided quite a shot in the arm.

The junior, playing third base and designated player in her first varsity season, is batting .522 with three home runs for the 9-4 Dukers.

Valentin recently was moved into the cleanup spot in York's batting order. "She has been a great addition to our lineup," York coach Lisa Fraticola said. "With her, she is just relaxed. That is what helps her to be successful. She has a lot of confidence."

Lilly Burda, second team All-State last season as a sophomore and York's third-year starting shortstop, is batting .489 with three home runs. She leads the Dukers with 13 RBIs and 22 hits.

Also in her third year on varsity is junior second baseman Maggie Demopoulos, who has 16 hits and three homers.

"Lilly is a constant in the lineup, coming into her own as an upperclassman and pushing the rest of her teammates," Fraticola said. "Lilly and Maggie, they work really well together. They are great up the middle."

reached out to her the week after her injury and was the only school in the recruitment process that waited for her to heal and allowed Ruchala time to make her decision.

Her goals for this season?

The future psychology major didn't point to wins or losses as much as the relationships she's making.

"I really want to be a leader to the younger girls on the team," she said. "We have two sophomores and I want to be a role model and a leader that they can come to when they need something more important than athletic performance."

### Nazareth's no ordinary Joe

On a young team with several sophomores and freshmen, Nazareth's strength is up the middle. That's seniors Emme Barnes (catcher), Annabella Rychetsky (pitcher) and Kennedy Joe in center field.

And Joe makes the Roadrunners go.

Second team All-State as a junior, Joe is off to a fast start, batting .448 with a .515 on-base percentage and .882 slugging percentage. She has 13 runs scored and six RBIs. She's also 10-for-10 in stolen base attempts.

"When she gets on base, she makes things happen," Nazareth coach Chrissy Johnson said. "Stealing, delayed steals, she can hit for singles, she can hit for



(Published in the Elmhurst Independent, Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review March 27, April 10, 17, 2025)

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BERAR	AWISS
APICES	PUPA
HIT	SAP
ASAP	CAJAN
MONAS	SQU
AG	CEASE
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