

# Elmhurst Police Department arrest three Texas men in bank 'jugging' incident

*Suspects reportedly watched victim withdraw cash from a bank; suspects then followed victim to the parking lot of a nearby store and burglarized his unoccupied vehicle*

Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced last week the arrest of three men who allegedly burglarized a vehicle and stole cash in a case of "jugging."

On Thursday, May 29, at approximately 10 a.m., Elmhurst officers responded to the parking lot of Jewel Osco, 153 E. Schiller Street, for a 911 call reporting a burglary to a motor vehicle that just occurred. According to the Elmhurst Police Department, officers arrived at the scene and spoke to an employee, who reported observing a male suspect break a window of a vehicle in the store's parking lot. The suspect then entered the rear seat of a gray crossover SUV, which fled the scene.

Officers located the victim and spoke to him about his damaged vehicle. The victim explained that he just came from the Chase Bank across the street after withdrawing cash and drove directly to the Jewel Osco store. The victim reported that the cash he withdrew was stolen from

inside his locked vehicle. The victim also related that a gray crossover SUV with tinted windows was parked alongside him when he was in the bank parking lot before coming to the Jewel Osco store.

Elmhurst Police investigators then reviewed exterior or video camera recordings from Jewel Osco and City of Elmhurst public safety cameras. Detectives identified the suspect vehicle as a gray Chevrolet Trax displaying a fraudulent paper Tennessee temporary registration tag and alerted area police departments of the incident.

At approximately 1 p.m., officers were notified this same suspect vehicle was involved in another vehicle burglary that just occurred in Forest Park, with the vehicle last observed heading westbound on the I-290 expressway.

At about 1:25 p.m. Elmhurst officers located the suspect vehicle parked in a disabled parking spot at the front doors of Wells Fargo Bank, 333 S. Route 83 in Elmhurst.

The vehicle was occupied by three male suspects. Officers approached the vehicle and took the three men into custody. According to the Elmhurst Police Department, officers recovered a metal window punch, a quantity of suspected stolen currency, a pill containing controlled substance and cannabis. The gray Chevrolet was a rental vehicle displaying fraudulent registration.

In consultation with the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office:

Jamond D. Johnson, 27, of Windemere, Texas, was charged with burglary to motor vehicle, theft, and unlawful possession of cannabis by passenger.

Jontrey R. Houston, 24, of Houston, Texas, was charged with burglary to motor vehicle, theft, improper Use of registration, and unauthorized use of handicapped parking.

Anthony D. Mackintrusth, 24, of Dallas, Texas, was charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

The Elmhurst Police Department stated that this type of crime is on the rise around the country. The police department asks the public to stay safe:

- Be aware of your surroundings when withdrawing money from a bank or ATM and look for anyone who appears to be loitering near the bank or your car.

- Pay attention to people backed into parking spaces who do not exit their vehicles to conduct business. If you see something suspicious, don't make the withdrawal.

- Be discreet and conceal your cash immediately before leaving the bank by placing it in a secure inconspicuous location. Do not leave cash or other valuables inside your vehicle.

- Don't leave your vehicle if you observe someone suspicious or suspect you are being followed. Drive to the nearest police station or a crowded area and call 911.

- Make banking the last stop of your errands.

# Villa Park Police Department announces results of 'Click It or Ticket' enforcement campaign

The Villa Park Police Department participated in the recent 2025 Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign to promote seat belt use and improve roadway safety. According to the police department, the enforcement efforts resulted in 60 citations being issued.

During the enforcement period, the Villa Park Police Department wrote 32 citations for seat belt violations and issued several additional citations, including three citations for distracted driving, one citation for driving without insurance and 24 other traffic-related citations. Additionally, Villa Park

officers apprehended one fugitive and charged four subjects with driving with a suspended/revoked license during the enforcement campaign.

"Through the Memorial Day enforcement campaign, we helped make Illinois roads safer and spread the word that seat belts save lives," said Villa

Park Deputy Police Chief Dan McCann.

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is funded with federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). For more information on safe driving practices, visit [ItsNotaGameIllinois.com](http://ItsNotaGameIllinois.com).

# Obituary —

**BRUCE CHRISTOPHER NEISWANGER, 53**

Bruce Christopher Neiswanger, age 53, of Lombard, passed suddenly on May 25. Loving father of Jake Neiswanger and the late Caitlyn Neiswanger; dear son of Virginia, nee Uhren, and the late David Bruce Neiswanger; loving brother of Barb Carver and Jack Neiswanger; uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Mass was held Saturday, May 31, at 10 a.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1025 E Madison St Lombard, Illinois. Interment Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery. Memorials to Veterans Association of America and Tunnel to Towers Foundation are appreciated. Funeral info: [knollcrest.net](mailto:knollcrest.net) or (630) 932-1500.

# Cast a line at Villa Park's Family Fishing Derby at North Terrace Park this Saturday, June 7

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department and the Villa Park Sportsmen's Club will hold their annual Family Fishing Derby this Saturday, June 7. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at North Terrace Park, 300 N. Westmore Ave.

Bring your tackle and bait—no fishing licenses are needed for the free fishing derby. Kids 15 and under are invited to cast a line and enjoy a fun-filled morning. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult over 21.

The Villa Park Sportsmen's Club will award prizes for the largest, smallest and most fish caught in each age group.

# Free summer lunches for kids 18 and under are available at the Villa Park Public Library

Lunches are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through Aug. 7.

The Villa Park Public Library, 305 S. Ardmore Ave., is once again offering free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under. Beginning this week (June 3-5), lunches are available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through Aug. 7.

All food must remain in the library's room.

For more information, call the library at 630-834-1164. The program offering free summer lunches for kids is sponsored by the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

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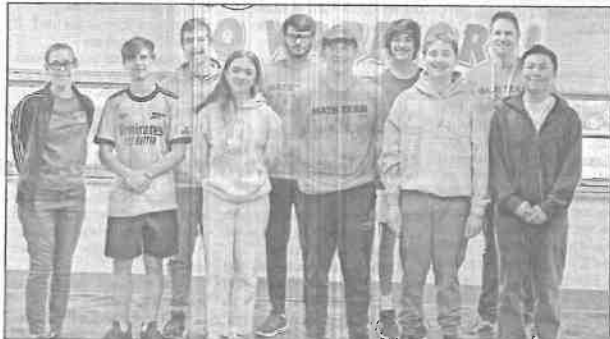
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# Warriors participate in state math contest

Several members of Willowbrook High School's math team completed in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) State Math Contest, which took place on April 26 at Illinois State University. Pictured (left to right) during a state send-off celebration are: (front row) Coach Carrie Skala, freshman Nick Kuban, sophomore Olivia Daly, sophomore Quentin Medinger, freshman Jon Weber and junior Haruki Yamada; (back row) freshman Marek Brown, senior Ashar Hussain, sophomore Hendrix Soils and Coach Brian Chelmecki. Hussain competed in the state contest's

Pre-calculus individual competition and earned a fifth-place finish. The duo of Hussain and Yamada took part in the contest's Junior/Senior two-person team event. Soils participated in the state event's Geometry individual competition. Weber, freshman Sebastian Lopez, Brown and Kuban teamed with Daly, Medinger, sophomore Aaron Wilkins and sophomore Nathan Borcean in the state contest's Freshmen/Sophomore eight-person team event.



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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



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## Warriors fall in regional final on home field

The Willowbrook softball team completed its 2025 season with Friday's 11-0 six-inning loss to Downers Grove North in an IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park. The Warriors posted an overall season record of 16-15.

Willowbrook opened post-season action with an 8-2 victory over Mother McAuley in a regional semifinal on May 28. Playing on their own field in the regional, the Warriors were the road team in the regional semifinal against Mother McAuley. Willowbrook was the Marist Sectional's No. 11 seed, while Mother McAuley was the sectional's No. 7 seed. The Warriors scored three runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 5-2 lead. Willowbrook added three more runs in the top of the seventh inning. Senior Isabel Bates of the Warriors hit a double in the top of the fifth inning to drive in sophomore Liz Pettinger and break a 2-2 tie. Pettinger singled to lead off the inning. Moments after Bates doubled, senior Sonia Ruchala launched a towering two-run home run over the left-field fence. The blast—Ruchala's 10<sup>th</sup> homer of the season—extended Willowbrook's lead to 5-2. Ruchala is pictured (top) as she arrives at home plate after her homer, with sophomore Aleena McNamara looking on. Bates pitched a complete game and earned a victory in the regional semifinal. She is pictured (above) while firing a pitch in that game. Bates allowed four hits and one earned run in seven innings in the circle. She issued two walks and recorded four strikeouts. McNamara went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs for the Warriors in their win over the Mighty Macs. Willowbrook connected for just one hit in Friday's regional final. The Trojans, who are the No. 2 seed in the Marist Sectional, ended the game with a two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning. Earlier this week, Downers Grove North faced York in a semifinal game at the Marist Sectional. The winner of that battle will face Marist or Riverside Brookfield in this Friday's sectional final.



## Tough finish for Warriors

Willowbrook's baseball team ended its 2025 season with Saturday's 8-1 loss to Bartlett in an IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park. The Warriors completed their season with a 26-10 record. After winning a regional title on Willowbrook's home field, Bartlett advanced to this week's sectional, which will also be played at the Warriors' field in Villa Park. Bartlett faced South Elgin in a sectional semifinal earlier this week. The winner of that contest will meet York or Glenbard West in this Saturday's sectional final. Willowbrook opened the post-season with an 8-1 win over West Chicago in a May 28 regional semifinal in Villa Park. Junior Bobby Biggs (No. 12 - top left) pitched the first five innings of the game for the Warriors in last week's win over West Chicago. Biggs, who earned the victory, allowed one run, four hits and three walks. He racked up eight strikeouts. Sophomore Michael Garner pitched the game's final two innings for Willowbrook. Garner allowed one hit and one walk while recording five strikeouts. After the Wildcats scored one run in the top of the first inning, Willowbrook scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning to take a 5-1 lead. Senior Jesus Torres hit a bases-loaded triple to drive in three runs and give the Warriors a 3-1 lead. The next batter—senior Ryan Bannon (No. 20 - above)—crushed a two-run home run over the left-field fence to push the lead to 5-1. Senior Sam Marrese and junior Jake Bonino contributed two hits each for Willowbrook in last week's win over the Wildcats. The Warriors, who were the No. 1 seed in their sectional, struggled in Saturday's regional final against Bartlett—the sectional's No. 8 seed. The Hawks scored six runs in the top of the second inning to take a 6-1 lead. Bartlett added two more runs in the top of the fourth inning. Bonino tripled to lead off the bottom of the first inning in Saturday's regional final. Bonino's triple turned out to be Willowbrook's only hit of the game. A sacrifice fly by senior Vinny Ippolito drove in Bonino to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead. Bartlett piled up six hits—five singles and a double—during its six-run outburst in the second inning.

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# Firefighters respond to residential fire in Villa Park

*All occupants safely evacuated before firefighters arrived; smoke damage rendered the home uninhabitable*

On Thursday, June 5, at approximately 11:08 p.m., the Villa Park Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 138 N. Euclid Avenue. Due to multiple calls in progress, the only Villa Park units available to respond were Officer 82 and Medic 81, along with mutual-aid companies.

According to the Villa Park Fire Department, Officer 82 was the first to arrive on scene and reported a one-story single-family residence with light smoke conditions. All occupants safely evacuated the home before first-responders arrived.

Elmhurst Engine 2 was the first fire engine at the scene and, in coordination with Medic 81's crew, deployed a hose line and initiated an aggressive interior fire attack. Additional mutual aid personnel conducted primary search operations and provided ventilation support.

The fire was quickly brought under control and contained to a first-floor bed-

room. However, significant smoke damage rendered the home uninhabitable. One resident was transported to a local hospital for evaluation of a condition unrelated to the fire.

Villa Park was assisted by firefighters from Lombard, Elmhurst, Addison, and York Center. The Villa Park Police Department also provided assistance. The Villa Park Fire Department's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) conducted the origin and cause investigation.

On Friday, June 6, the fire department stated that the cause of the fire is undetermined pending further investigation.



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## Students celebrate their graduation

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department congratulates its 4-year-old preschool Class of 2025. The 4-year-olds graduated from preschool in May. Beginning in September 2024, their preschool classes met Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The preschoolers started their school year at the Iowa Community Center and moved to the Villa Park Recreation Center (VPRC) when that facility opened in January 2025. The children celebrated their graduation at the VPRC last month.

## Court grants state's motion to revoke pre-trial release for man facing burglary/aggravated battery charges allegedly committed three hours after being released on burglary charge

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police Brian Strocks announced last week that Judge Daniel Guerin

granted the state's motion to revoke pre-trial release for a Downers Grove man newly charged with burglary and aggravated battery alleged-

ly committed less than three hours after being discharged from the DuPage County Jail on burglary and retail theft charges.

On June 4, Eric Hart, 60, appeared in court and was charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony), one count of aggravated battery (Class 2 felony) one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony) and two counts of resisting a police officer (Class 4 felony).

As required by law, Hart was not detained pre-trial on the above offenses. Following his appearance in court on June 4, the state filed a motion to revoke pre-trial release on Hart's previous case that alleges he stole more than \$300 worth of merchandise, including cologne and a massage gun, from the Oak Brook Macy's, located at 1 Oakbrook Center, on June 2. That motion was granted by the court on June 6.

On June 3, at approximately 10:53 a.m., Hart was released, as required by law, following allegations that he stole cologne and a massage gun from the Oak Brook Macy's.

At approximately 1:36 p.m. the same day, Oak Brook police officers responded to the Oak Brook Macy's for a call of an individual, later identified as Hart, who had allegedly entered the store, selected four boxes of cologne worth approximately \$511, and exited the store without paying for the merchandise.

It is alleged that officers observed Hart walking outside the store and ordered him to stop, at which time he fled on foot.

It is further alleged that after a brief foot pursuit, Hart resisted officers, pulling a large clump of hair out of one officer's head and causing cuts and bruises to her knees. Hart was taken into custody at that time.

"It is not often that an individual finds themselves arrested and charged for the same crime at the same location two days in a row," Berlin said.

"What I find troubling however, is the fact that under the Safe-T-Act, this defendant was afforded the opportunity to allegedly commit a crime less than three hours after he had been released on felony burglary and retail theft charges. This fact illustrates the need for changes to the state's Safe-T-Act to give judges more discretion. Too often, we are seeing cases where a defendant accused of a serious crime is released pre-trial because the Act does not allow judges to use their discretion for certain offenses. As I have consistently stated since the inception of the Safe-T-Act, judges, not the legislature, are in the best position to decide whether a defendant in any particular case should be detained pre-trial."

Hart's next court appearance is scheduled for June 18 in front of Judge Guerin.



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## District 88 hosts inaugural Voices of 88 event for students

District 88 recently hosted its first Voices of 88 event to enhance student voice, climate and culture. The purpose was to guide, encourage and empower students to share their input and make a positive difference. During the event, more than 50 Willowbrook and Addison Trail students attended two sessions and enjoyed lunch and a DJ. They discussed areas of concern within the schools and developed action plans to implement change and improve the learning environment, and they also deepened their knowledge about advocacy through exploring their passions, goals and life roles. The presenters were Willowbrook social worker Erik Engel, Addison Trail social worker Jorge de Leon and Addison Trail counselor Mario Fernandez. The event was organized by District 88 Student Success Coordinator Dr. VaLarie Humphrey, Addison Trail staff member Rob Schader and Willowbrook staff member Rachel Karos.

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