



CHRIS FOX/INFORMS Rock Valley Publishing



A festive holiday celebration in Villa Park

There were a few spurts of light rain during Friday morning's Independence Day Parade in Villa Park, but most of the parade took place in dry conditions. Spectators lined the parade route for the holiday parade, which began at 10 a.m. The participants included the District 88 Marching Band (bottom right), which featured students from Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. About 60 sailors from Naval Station Great Lakes marched in the parade. Several of those sailors are pictured on Park Boulevard. Another photo (right) shows Villa Park Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Fillipp tossing candy toward young spectators on Summit Avenue. One more photo (below) shows (left to right) three parade participants—Villa Park Village Manager Michael Rivas and Villa Park village trustees Khalid Sabri and Tina Konstantos—at the end of the parade route. Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 presents the village's annual Fourth of July Parade.



Convicted felon accused of possessing loaded firearm

Accused is currently on parole for aggravated battery with a firearm out of Cook County

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and West Chicago Chief of Police Colin Fleury have announced that Judge Leah Bendik has granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a West Chicago man with multiple felony convictions who was allegedly found to be in possession of a loaded handgun.

Ryan Ratliff, 35, appeared

in First Appearance Court and was charged with one count of unlawful possession of a firearm by a repeat felony offender (Class X felony), one count of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon (Class 2 felony), one count of aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon (Class 2 felony) and multiple misdemeanor counts including two counts of aggravated assault.

On June 28 at approximately 8:40 p.m., West Chicago police officers on active patrol responded to a call of a man with a gun on Arbor Street. Following an investigation into the call, it is alleged that the complaining witnesses were driving on Arbor Street when an individual, later identified as Ratliff, jumped into the

road from a grassy area, approached their car and pointed a handgun at them.

The victims fled the area and called the police. While en route, officers observed an individual fitting the description of the defendant in the parking lot of a liquor store located at Arbor Street and Washington Street. Officers stopped to speak with the individual, later

identified as Ratliff, and after searching him did not find a weapon. After learning that Ratliff had entered the liquor store, officers searched the store and located a loaded handgun with 20 rounds in the magazine behind some bottles on a shelf in the store.

It is alleged that Ratliff entered the liquor store, hid the gun behind the bottles toward

the back of the shelf, and then left the store where he was met by the officers.

Ratliff was taken into custody at this time. Further investigation found that the weapon was reported stolen out of Chicago on June 11.

Ratliff's next court appearance is scheduled for July 28 in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO/Rock Valley Publishing

Parade spirit

Willowbrook High School's dance team participated in Friday morning's Independence Day Parade in Villa Park. Willowbrook's dance team will hold a dance camp for children ages 5-13 this month. The five-day camp at the school will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. daily from July 21-25. The camp will conclude with a showcase for family and friends on Friday, July 25. The fee is \$100 per participant. Registration is available online, or in person on July 21. To register online, visit <https://dupage88.revtrak.net/RW-WBHS-ATHLETICS> and click on the POMS YOUTH link on the left side of the screen.

Villa Park firefighters extinguish fire at apartment building on North Westmore Avenue

Crews quickly extinguish fire, which caused damage estimated at \$1,000; no injuries reported

On Sunday, June 29, at about 8:40 p.m., Villa Park firefighters responded to a reported structure fire at an apartment building in the 300 block of North Westmore Avenue.

Crews arrived to find smoke coming from the building's garage roof and observed several garbage totes on fire behind the garage. Crews ensured that all residents were evacuated from the building and

then began fighting the fire. The fire was quickly extinguished and contained mainly to the garbage totes, with minor damage to the garage roof.

"The quick actions of the first arriving crews prevented the spread of fire into the building," stated Frank Reposh, Villa Park Deputy Fire Chief.

The estimated fire damage was \$1,000. According to the Villa Park Fire Department,

its Fire Investigation Team has not determined the exact cause of the fire, but reminds residents to thoroughly wet coals from grills, ash from fire pits, and remains of fireworks before disposing of them in the trash.

The Villa Park Fire Department received assistance from firefighters from the Elmhurst and Lombard fire departments and the Addison, Wood Dale, and York Center fire protection districts.

Chicago man charged with aggravated battery at York Theatre

Subject allegedly touched a 17-year-old female inappropriately; Police detained the subject outside of the theater

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced last week that charges have been filed against a Chicago man accused of making unwanted physical contact with another patron at the York Theatre, located at 150 N. York Street, Elmhurst.

Delbert Patterson, 62, appeared in court on June 30, and was charged with one count of aggravated battery in a public place (Class 3 felony). Following his appearance, Patterson was released from custody, as required by law. As a condition of his pre-trial release, Patterson is prohibited from entering the York Theatre.

According to the complaint filed against Patterson, it is alleged that on Sunday, June 29, at approximately 6:26 p.m., Patterson "made physical contact of an insulting and provoking nature" with the victim, a 17-year-old minor female, in that he "used his right hand to stroke the victim's left thigh and left buttocks" while the victim was at the York Theatre. Patterson was arrested a short time later outside the theater after being detained by bystanders.

"It is alleged that Mr. Patterson's behavior caused what should have been an enjoyable night out at the movies to devolve into an unacceptable violation of the victim's personal space and body," Berlin said. "Under the Safe-T-Act however, Mr. Patterson's alleged offense is non-detainable. As I have said before, cases such as this illustrate the need for changes to the State's Safe-T-Act to give judges more discretion for certain offenses at a defendant's First Appearance Court hearing. After hearing all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular

"I am appalled this individual came to our community to target those attending a movie theater and is alleged to have battered a 17-year-old."

—Michael McLean, Elmhurst Chief of Police

case, Judges, not the legislature, are in the best position to decide whether a defendant should be detained pre-trial. I thank the Elmhurst Police Department for their efforts in this case as well as Assistant State's Attorneys Sean Kinsella, Heather Misura, Sandi Tanoue and Michael Pingaj for their work in securing charges against the defendant."

"I am appalled this individual came to our community to target those attending a movie theater and is alleged to have battered a 17-year-old," McLean said. "I commend this brave girl for promptly telling her father what happened and the two bystanders who chased the suspect as he tried to flee the scene, leading to his apprehension. Though criminals, such as alleged in this case, may commit such despicable acts in our society, it is gratifying to see the strength of our community demonstrated by the courageous actions of the victim, her father and the witnesses that rushed to help them. I also thank the responding officers, investigating detectives and State's Attorney Bob Berlin for their work prosecuting this crime to the fullest extent possible."

Patterson's next court appearance is scheduled for July 28, in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.

Villa Park's Coffee with the Village Board event rescheduled for this Saturday, July 12

The Villa Park Village Board announced last week that its "Coffee with the Village Board" event that was originally scheduled for Saturday, July 5, has been rescheduled to this Saturday,

July 12. Residents are invited to attend this Saturday's meeting, which will begin at 9 a.m. in the board room on the second floor of Village Hall, located at 20 S. Ardmore Ave.

Obituaries

GRACE AUDREY FINKLE, 95

Grace Audrey Finkle, nee Felz, age 95, of Aurora, Illinois, formerly of Villa Park and Yorkville, beloved wife of the late Erwin H. Finkle. Died June 25, 2025, at her Bickford extended care home in Aurora. Born at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital April 13, 1930, to the late Francis J. and Edna A. (Sprandel) Felz. Loving mother of Kenneth (Colleen) Finkle, Robert (Jodi) Finkle, Richard (Janice) Finkle and Marcia (Carmelo) Pansera; proud grandmother of Danielle, Bryon (Kristina), Kyle (Sadie), Kurt, Neil (Laura), Helen, Adam, Matthew (Katie) and Michael (Madeline). Sister of the late Marcia and Frank D. (Marilyn) Felz. Great grandmother to Jackson, Emerson, the late Emma, Evan, Wyatt, Caleb and Isla. Fond Cousin, aunt and friend to many.

Retired from District 88 Willowbrook High School in Villa Park. Long time resident of

Villa Park had grown up at 523 Summit Ave. and a graduate of York High School. She lived at 647 S. Villa and 213 E. Pine St. with husband Erwin raising their family.

Moved in with daughter Marcia and family in Yorkville, Illinois.

In the fall of 2018, she moved into Bickford extended care home on Orchard Road in Aurora, Illinois.

Visitation was held Monday, June 30, 2025, from 4:00 PM-8:00 PM at Steuerele 15 W Park Blvd, 15 W Park Blvd Villa Park, Illinois. In State Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM until time of funeral at 11:00 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church-Villa Park, 300 Ardmore Ave, Interment Mt. Emblem Cemetery (if cremation, then Private). Funeral info: steuereleth.com or (630) 832-4161.

MARY LYNN FITZGERALD, 76

Mary Lynn Fitzgerald, nee Motter, age 76, of Burbank, Il-

linois. Beloved wife of the late Bob Fitzgerald; loving stepmother of Kelly (James Beauty) Schultz, Robert "Bobby" (Candace McCutten) Fitzgerald, and the late Tracy Townsend; dear daughter of the late Marie, nee Kriens, and the late Robert Motter; devoted grandma of Lindsey Townsend, Danny Townsend, Kelsey Davis, Emily Schultz, Bobby Fitzgerald, and Scotty Fitzgerald; great-grandma of Avery, Gracie, Nora, and Jack; fond sister of Robert Motter, Leroy Motter, Donna Delocuch, the late Clyde Motter, the late Tim Motter, and the late Dolores Karnes, aunt of Bill Hunt and many other nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Monday, July 7, from 3-8 p.m. at Steuerele, 15 W Park Blvd, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Interment was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 8th, at Oakridge-Glen Oak Cemetery, 4301 Roosevelt Rd, Hillside, IL 60162. Funeral info: steuereleth.com or (630) 832-4161.

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