

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Your Hometown Newspaper

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Park district announces planned water park opening

The Bensenville Park District announced during a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners on June 3 that it planned to open the Bensenville Water Park at noon Tuesday, June 9, provided there are no additional weather or construction-related delays.

The board voted 5-0 to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$20,000 for the repair project, which district officials estimate will cost approximately \$10,000.

Work continues to progress at the facility. The water park's diving well has been filled, and the zero-entry pool is currently being filled while final repairs are completed.

During the meeting, Executive Director Joe Vallez provided an update on the repairs, explaining that an expansion joint must be replaced and a waterproof membrane installed. The issues stem from the expansion and contraction of the pool's subsurface as well as the age of the facility.

To better understand the source of the problem, the park district hired a third-party engineering firm to core the 50-year-old pool basin. The investigation identified areas of movement within the subsurface that contributed to the repairs now underway.

"Our staff, consultants and contractors have worked diligently to identify the issue and implement a solution that allows us to safely welcome

See WATER PARK, Page 8



Addison Trail students participated in the Village of Addison's Memorial Day ceremony on May 25 to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Military. Members of the Addison Trail Band performed several pieces and Savannah Flowers performed the National Anthem.

Addison Trail participates in 2026 Memorial Day events

On May 25, Addison Trail students participated in the Village of Addison's annual Memorial Day events.

The ceremony was hosted by the Village of Addison, in cooperation with local taxing bodies, charitable organizations and Addison VFW Post 7446.

The event honored those who have served in the U.S. Military, to remember their sacrifices and the servicemen and women who have lost their lives.

Members of Addison Trail's Blazer Battalion U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program (who are referred to as cadets) posted the flags and placed wreaths representing the

branches of the military at Saint Paul Lutheran Cemetery, along with members of the Addison VFW Post 7446.

Members of the Addison Trail Band performed several pieces during the observance at Saint Paul Lutheran Cemetery, including Taps.

Addison Trail's Savannah Flowers (class of 2026) sang the National Anthem during the ceremony.

Members of the Addison Trail Veterans Support Organization distributed American flags on Memorial Day as part of the club's Flags for Addison project to recognize, thank and celebrate local veterans. (Submitted photo)



Rock 'N Wheels kicked off June 4 with a show by Van Halen tribute band Jump as well as Bad Motor Scooter (shown here), a tribute to Sammy Hagar. The series continues this week with Pat Travers. (Submitted photo).

Rock 'N Wheels continues Thursday with Pat Travers

Continuing the Village of Addison's weekly tradition of Rock 'N Wheels Bike and Car Cruise Night on the Village Green from 6-10 p.m.

Thursday, June 11, will be a night of hard rock music, with a national act headlining and an appearance from a TV celebrity.

Taking the stage at 8 p.m. is the renowned "guitar god" Pat Travers, known for classics like "Snootin' Whiskey," "Crash and Burn," and "Boom Boom Out Go the Lights." Travers started his career in 1976 and has recorded over 30 albums since.

Opening the night on the 95.9 The River FM stage is TV celebrity Danny Koker from Counting Cars, with his Classic Rock band Count's 77. Be sure to bring your hot rods and custom cycles June 11 as well because Koker will be walking the grounds to scout out the hot rides.

Bike parking can be found on May Street, while the classic car show will take place in the Green Meadow Shopping Center's southernmost spots.

There also will be a performance from the fourth and fifth generations of stunt mo-

torcycle riders as they defy gravity in the Urus Family Globe of Death.

The Urus Globe of Death was the first to perform and tour with the Ringling Brothers Circus, the first to include female stunt riders, and is now coming to Addison for the third time. You won't want to miss it — and admission is free to see it all.

Stop by the Addison Historical Museum for a historical reenactment of Revolutionary era settlers, performed by the Living Historians Guild. There will also be a chance to ring the historic fire bell, weather permitting, every Thursday on the museum grounds to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. The Addison Historical Museum's exhibits are open from 6-8 p.m., and the Craft & Vintage Fair is held right outside.

This week, food, beverages and dessert will be available for purchase from 601 Bar & Grill, Barbara's Polish Deli, Culvers, El Ancla Mariscos, Muggs 'N Manor, Tacos Puebla, and Dunkley's Tavern.

For more information, visit ItHappensInAddison.com.

Bensenville Railroad Museum exhibit explores Mexican boxcar camps

The Bensenville Railroad Museum will host a special temporary exhibit, "Mexican Boxcar Camps Era in Aurora, Illinois: 1920-1960," from June 16 through Aug. 16 at Veterans Park, located at the intersection of Church Road and Main Street in Bensenville.

The family-friendly exhibit will be open during regular museum hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Created by historian and author Dr. Alejandro Benavides, the exhibit explores the lives of Mexican railroad workers, known as *traqueros*, and their families who lived in Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad boxcar camps in Aurora between 1920 and 1960.

The exhibit features detailed HO scale-model railroad modules depicting the three Aurora boxcar camps where Mexican railroad workers estab-

lished some of the region's earliest Mexican American communities. Visitors also will find excerpts from Benavides' book, *A Community Narrative: The First Mexican Community in Aurora, Illinois*, along with historical photographs, documents and personal stories selected for display by Program Supervisor Katrina Frank. Additional displays

See EXHIBIT, Page 8

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Historical Society holds annual ice cream social July 3

The Villa Park Historical Society will host its annual Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 3, from 7-9 p.m. The social will take place at the Villa Park Historical Museum Arcade at 220 S. Villa Ave. in Villa Park.

Admission to the event is free; donations are appreciated. Museum hours run from 10 a.m. to

9 p.m. on July 3. Visit the VPHM website (villaparkhistoricalsociety.org) or call 630-941-0223 for more information.

The popular ice cream social is a fun way to celebrate the Fourth of July in Villa Park. Walk or ride your bike or scooter on over for some fun balloon magic, hear music with a DJ and enjoy an ice

cream treat at the VPHM Arcade (the archways on the west end of the building).

Don't forget to step inside for a peek at the model train—set up especially for this event every year. The Elmhurst Model Railroad Club will set up its "T" Trak N-Scale Model Train Exhibit inside the museum.

Conboy, Farquhar make history in Villa Park Troop 199

Willowbrook 2026 grads are troop's first two females to earn rank of Eagle Scout

Lily Conboy and Teresa Farquhar are Villa Park Troop 199's first female Scouts to achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

A member of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2026, Conboy achieved Eagle Scout distinction—the highest attainable rank in Scouting—on Dec. 29, 2025.

Since joining Troop 199 in 2020, Conboy has demonstrated exceptional leadership, perseverance, and dedication to service. As part of her Eagle Scout journey, Conboy earned 32 merit badges and held key leadership roles—including Senior Patrol Leader, Den Chief, and Quartermaster—guiding younger Scouts and helping to lead troop activities.

For her Eagle Scout project, Conboy planned and led a diaper drive and packaging project with The Outreach House in Lombard. She organized community donations, coordinated volunteer participation, and oversaw the collection, sorting and packaging of essential supplies for families in need. Through her leadership, more than 6,400 diapers were collected and distributed, making a meaningful and lasting impact on local families. Conboy's Eagle Scout project reflects her compassion, initiative, and commitment to helping others.

Conboy plans to attend Southern Illinois University and earn a degree in nursing.

Farquhar, also a member of Willowbrook's Class of 2026, earned the rank on April 26. Throughout her Eagle Scout journey, she demonstrated the values of responsibility, integrity, and compassion, growing into a leader who consistently steps forward to support others and make a positive impact in her community.

For her Eagle Scout project, Farquhar designed and built accessible garden boxes at York Township for local seniors. By creating raised garden beds, she provided seniors with the opportunity to grow their own fresh produce without physical strain, while also helping to supply nutritious food to families in need. Farquhar led every aspect of the



Lily Conboy (left) and Teresa Farquhar (right) are pictured during Willowbrook's commencement service on May 17. Conboy plans to attend Southern Illinois and earn a degree in nursing. Farquhar will attend College of DuPage to study criminal justice and fire science. (Photos by Chris Fox)

project, from organizing volunteers to managing materials and solving problems along the way. The experience helped her gain valuable skills in communication, patience and accountability. Farquhar's project stands as a lasting contribution, demonstrating how thoughtful leadership and service can create meaningful, long-term change.

Farquhar has applied the discipline and focus developed through Scouting to compete on Willowbrook's girls bowling team, and to help establish the Junior ROTC battalion at the school. She plans to attend College of DuPage to study criminal justice and fire science, to serve her community in law enforcement and public safety.



Conboy (left) poses for a photo with her parents. Farquhar (right) earned the rank of Eagle Scout on April 26. (Submitted photos)

Villa Park firefighters respond to fire at home on Terry Lane; no injuries reported

On Monday, June 1, at approximately 12:30 p.m., the Villa Park Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at a residence in the 200 block of Terry Lane. Upon arrival, crews found fire showing from the roof of a detached garage. According to the fire department, crews quickly

deployed a hose line and began extinguishing the fire. Other crews removed the garage door, and the fire was quickly extinguished.

Fire damage was limited to the garage itself, stated the fire department. No surrounding structures or the residence were damaged.

The residents and their dogs were evacuated from the residence as a precaution.

No injuries were reported. "The fire is believed to have started at an electrical connection to an exterior light, based on a preliminary investigation by the Villa Park Fire

Investigation Unit," related the department.

Crews from Elmhurst, Lombard, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, and York Center assisted the Villa Park Fire Department on the scene. The Villa Park Police Department also provided assistance.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

2026 Fallen Firefighter service honors Illinois heroes

Addison firefighter Casciola
a Medal of Honor recipient

Firefighters from across the state were honored at the 33rd annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony on May 12.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial service was held at the Firefighter Memorial on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol to honor Illinois firefighters lost in the line of duty. Following the ceremony at the Capitol, the Medal of Honor Ceremony took place at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield.

This year's ceremony recognized firefighters for their courage, professionalism and dedication to protecting communities across Illinois.

Thirteen firefighters received the Firefighter Excellence Award for acts of service in the line of duty, while three firefighters received the Medal of Valor for acts of heroism or bravery in the face of danger.

Two firefighters received the Medal of Honor — the highest award given by the State of Illinois to a firefighter for outstanding bravery or heroism above and beyond the call of duty. This year's Medal of Honor recipients were Firefighter/EMT Kevin McNicholas of the Chicago Fire Department and Firefighter/Paramedic Gino Casciola of the Addison Fire Protection District.

Senate Republicans noted that the annual ceremony serves as a reminder of the courage, selflessness, and dedication shown by the brave men and women who risk their lives in service to the people of Illinois.



During its May 18 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education recognized three education leaders as recipients of the Dr. Scott J. Helton Excellence in Educational Leadership Award. Pictured from left: Dr. Helton's youngest son, Tommy; award recipient Josh Chambers; award recipient Gina Ziccardi; and Dr. Helton's middle son, Joe, an assistant principal at Willowbrook. Not pictured is award recipient Adrian Talley. (Submitted photo)

District 88 recognizes three new recipients of Helton Excellence in Leadership Award

During its May 18 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education recognized three education leaders as recipients of the Dr. Scott J. Helton Excellence in Educational Leadership Award, established in honor of the late District 88 superintendent.

The recipients were Josh Chambers, assistant superintendent for human resources at Glenbard District 87; Gina Ziccardi, associate superintendent for student learning at Community High School District 99; and Adrian Talley, superintendent of Indian Prairie School District 204.

Helton passed away on Dec. 10, 2020. He had more than 33 years of experience in education and

served in a variety of capacities, including as principal of District 88's Addison Trail High School for 11 years and as superintendent of the district since 2012.

The DuPage Division of the Illinois Association of School Administrators established the Award in 2021. The honor is not necessarily to be given annually, but it allows for superintendents to nominate a colleague or a leader within their own school district who represents characteristics such as humility, gratitude, allyship, positivity and advocacy.

To see the full award details, visit www.dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=6041.

Addison resident earns Montini's Bell Memorial Scholarship

Special recognition was given to recent graduate Zongyuan (Chailyn) Lyu, an Addison resident, during Montini Catholic's recent Senior Celebration Award Ceremony. Lyu was awarded the school's Dorothy Bell Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated strong academic achievement along with exceptional



Zongyuan
(Chailyn) Lyu

promise in the areas of engineering, creativity, innovation and vision. It recognizes a student whose talents suggest the potential to shape and build the future in meaningful ways.

At Montini's Senior Celebration Award ceremony, Lyu was also celebrated for earning the President's Award for Academic Excellence as well as the Gold Academic Medal for Technology. She is a College Board AP Scholar with Distinction and a member of Montini's National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society.

A member of Montini's Math Team, she played a key role in the Broncos' eighth-place finish at the IHSA state finals this past April. She was also part of the team's state champion Calculator Team, helping secure the 2026 IHSA state championship title.

Additionally, Lyu was named one of only 14 seniors earning Montini's prestigious St. John Baptist De La Salle Award.

"We are incredibly proud of Chailyn and all she has achieved during her time as a Bronco," said Principal Chris Tiritilli. "She has consistently led by example, both in and out of the classroom, and has earned the respect of her peers and teachers alike. We have no doubt that she will continue to thrive and make a positive difference wherever her future takes her."

Chailyn plans to attend the University of Southern California and major in math/economics.

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INSIDE:

Opinion 4 Police reports 8
Speak out..... 5 Sports 10-11