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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

Villa Park celebrates on the Fourth of July



Villa Park's Independence Day Parade took place in steamy but dry conditions on Saturday morning. There was a threat of rain before the parade began at about 10 a.m., but the precipitation held off until the afternoon and did not dampen the event, which ended before noon. A wide range of people and vehicles formed the procession to celebrate the United States' 250th birthday. The top left photo shows sailors from Naval Station Great Lakes, while the top right photo features Scouts from Villa Park Troop 242. The bottom images show members of the Willowbrook High School marching band. For more photos, see page 6. (Photos by Chris Fox)

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The Willowbrook High School Marching Band entertained spectators Saturday at the Villa Park VFW Post 2801 Independence Day Parade. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Villa Park celebrates America's 250th birthday with annual parade

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2801 held its annual Independence Day Parade on Saturday morning.

The parade, which began at about 10 a.m., featured police and fire vehicles, the Willowbrook High School Marching Band, several elected officials and candidates for office, sailors from Naval Station Great Lakes, Scouts from local BSA troops, clowns, superheroes, numerous Villa Park youth sports teams, classic cars, and members of Post 2801.

Many of the parade participants continued the event's tradition of tossing or handing candy to young spectators along the parade route.

The parade procession began on Park Boulevard at Summit Avenue and proceeded west on Park to Harvard Avenue, south on Harvard to Madison Street, east on Madison to Summit and north on Summit to Park.



Villa Park Village Trustee Tina Konstatos was one of several elected officials who marched Saturday. Village President Kevin Patrick also was in the parade.



Spiderman stopped along the parade route to greet young children.



Villa Park Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Fillipp is pictured on Summit Avenue.



State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock, a Democrat who represents the 46th District in the Illinois House of Representatives, is pictured on Summit Avenue. Her opponent in the November general election, Republican Pedro Mendoza, also marched Saturday.

Station (Continued from page 3)

station, which now has three bathrooms.

Other improvements at the facility included a new epoxy floor and new drains in the station's apparatus bay, which houses a frontline ambulance, a frontline engine, a reserve engine and a reserve ambulance.

"Thank you to residents for their patience and support throughout construction," stated the Village of Villa Park in a June 30 statement announcing the completion of the renovation project.

"These improvements will help ensure Fire Station 81 remains a safe, functional, and reliable facility for years to come."



On the left, Villa Park's Fire Station 81 updated day room and kitchen area are pictured last week. In the right photo is the upgraded rest area for Station 81 personnel, who work 24-hour shifts, starting at 7 a.m. (Photos by Chris Fox)

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District 45 Superintendent Brian Graber (left) and Jackson Principal Jill Amrhein (right) are pictured with the four students who received the Jackson Middle School Charter Ambassador Award during the school's promotional exercise on May 20 in Willowbrook High School's main gymnasium. (Submitted photo)

Jackson students honored at 2025-26 promotional exercise

Jackson Middle School's eighth-grade class held its 2025-26 promotional exercise on May 20 in Willowbrook High School's main gymnasium.

This year's eighth-grade class at Jackson included 202 students, and each year, four students from the eighth-grade class are presented with the Jackson Charter Ambassador Award, an honor designed to promote a safe and healthy emotional climate. The four honored students were selected in a vote by the school's entire staff.

As the school pointed out during the promotional exercise, "There are many students who demonstrate our charter qualities daily, so narrowing it down to just four is often difficult, which makes this honor very special to those who receive it."

Crews return to Fire Station 81 following renovation work

Fire personnel spent about five months at the former Iowa Community Center while work took place

The renovations at the Villa Park Fire Department's Station 81 at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave. have been completed.

The fire department's personnel recently returned to the station after spending about five months at the temporary station at the former Iowa Community Center at 338 N. Iowa Ave.

The Villa Park Fire Department's administrative offices

will remain at the former Iowa Community Center.

The renovation and modernization project at Station 81, which was built in 1975, included improvements to the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems.

The project also brought an additional bathroom for the

See STATION, Page 6



Villa Park's Fire Station 81 was unmanned for about five months. Crews worked out of the former Iowa Community Center during renovation work at the 51-year-old station. Fire personnel returned to the station in June. The left photo shows the new epoxy floor and drain system in the station's apparatus bay. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Dance team's summer camp set for July 20-24



Willowbrook's dance team participated in Villa Park's Independence Day Parade on July 4, and the squad next hosts its summer camp for ages 5-13 from July 20-24. Campers meet daily from 9 to 11 a.m. to learn drills and techniques, and the camp concludes with a showcase on July 24. The fee is \$100 per camper. Register online at dupage888.revtrak.net/rw-wbhs-athletics by clicking on the Dance Youth link under Summer Camps. In-person registration will be on July 20. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Help name village's new park by voting online until July 31

Villa Park's Garden Village Commission is seeking community input to help name the newly designated natural park at the intersection of Villa Avenue and Julia Drive.

Residents can vote for their favorite name through Friday, July 31.

The winning name will be announced after voting closes.

Following the park's official naming and groundbreaking, the Villa Park Garden Village Commission will then begin developing recommendations for future park enhancements, which may include pathways, benches, native plantings, flower beds, educational signage, and other features that support the site's natural park setting.

To cast your vote, visit invillepark.com and click on the link titled "Help name the Natural Park!"

The choices listed in the dropdown menu include: Sugar Creek Park, Prairie View Park, Serenity Park, Ravens Park, Whispering Creek Park, Council of Three Fires Park, Peas & Harmony Park, and Villa Park Reserve.