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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Transportation overhaul includes toll increase, new board appointees

BY BEN SZALINSKI AND BRENDEN MOORE
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A recently passed state law is beginning to reshape Illinois' transportation landscape, as drivers on state tollways will see rate hikes and a new oversight board is taking shape.

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority on Aug. 19 approved the first toll rate increase in 15 years.

And Gov. JB Pritzker on Aug. 21 announced his appointments to the new Northern Illinois Transit Authority board, which will replace the Regional Transportation Authority next month as the body overseeing the Chicago Transit

Authority, Metra commuter rail and Pace Suburban Bus. The Tollway Board approved rate hikes for all vehicles that will take effect Jan. 1. Passenger vehicles will pay 45 cents more when passing through each toll while truckers will pay on average 30 percent more.

Tolls will increase based on inflation every two years going forward without further approval from the board.

Toll rates vary depending on toll road, type of vehicle and whether the car has an I-PASS, but generally range from 45 cents to \$3 for passenger vehicles under the current rates. Even with the increase, the Tollway claimed in a news release the

average per-mile cost is still 5 cents below the national average.

The hike will fund a \$26.5 billion capital program that includes major projects across the tollway system, which stretches as far west as Rockford and Dixon.

"Nearly 1.7 million drivers rely on this system every day, and our responsibility extends well beyond the next construction season," Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse said in a statement. "We know where congestion is growing, and we know how our infrastructure ages. Driving Connections gives us a responsible path to meet those needs and keep Northern Illinois moving for the next generation."

Addison Trail welcomes families for open house



On Sept. 3, Addison Trail welcomed parents, guardians and students to its annual open house. The evening gave families an opportunity to meet teachers, staff and administrators, as well as District 88 Board of Education members. Participants followed an abbreviated version of their child's daily schedule and learned more about classroom expectations, curriculum and the programs and opportunities available at Addison Trail. Throughout the event, families connected with staff, explored the school and learned more about the resources and activities available to students. (Submitted photo)

Addison Trail, Willowbrook earn 2026-27 best recognition by U.S. News & World Report

District 88 has announced that Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools have once again achieved status as Best High Schools through the U.S. News & World Report's 2026-27 Best High Schools rankings.

According to www.usnews.com, "The highest-ranked U.S. public schools in U.S. News & World Report's 2026-2027 Best High Schools rankings are those whose students demonstrated outstanding outcomes above expectations in math, reading and science state assessments, earned qualifying scores on an array of college-level exams, and graduated in high proportions. ...

"U.S. News ranked nearly 18,000 public high schools out of more than 27,000 reviewed. U.S. News did this by summing their weighted scores across six indicators of school quality, then computing a single zero to 100 overall score reflective of a school's performance across these metrics."

Both Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools earned high national, state and metro-area rankings.

For more information, go to www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools.

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District 88 participates in Addison-Medinah Shriners Parade



On Aug. 30, District 88 participated in the Addison-Medinah Shriners Parade. The theme of this year's parade was "America@250: Let Freedom Ring!" The honorary grand marshals were members of the Addison Historical Society and Addison Historical Commission, recognizing the museum's 50th anniversary in 2026. Revolutionary War-era reenactors joined them on the float. The event overall featured 40 community units. From Addison Trail, the marching band, color guard, Orchestras, cheerleaders, Blazettes, football team, boys soccer team and the Addison Trail Veterans Support Organization also participated in the parade. And the Blazer Battalion U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program served as the parade color guard. (Submitted photo)

Bensenville Park District sets adult rec sports lineup for fall

Ready to serve, spike or shoot? The Bensenville Park District is bringing adults back to the court this fall with a lineup of recreational sports designed for friendly competition, skill development and plenty of fun. Pickleball, co-ed volleyball, women's basketball and men's basketball begin the week of Sept. 21 as part of the Bensenville Sports Conference.

Adult pickleball (program no. 602424-01) offers participants ages 18 and older a pickleball experience focused on friendly competition, skill development and a welcoming community atmosphere. Participants can choose between a casual round-robin league or beginner-focused instruction based on experience level. The league champion will receive a trophy and recognition. The program meets 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 22-Oct. 13, at the Deer Grove Leisure Center gym. The fee is \$45, or \$40 for in-district players.

The women's basketball league offers competitive, full-court action with eight guaranteed games followed by playoffs and cash payouts for the playoff champion. Games are played under IHSA rules and officiated by IHSA referees. Teams must provide matching uniforms with player numbers. League games take place 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Dec. 2, at the Deer Grove Leisure Center gym, with no games Nov. 25. The team fee is due before the first game. Advance registration for program number is 604413-01 is required.

The men's basketball league (program no. 604414-01) provides another opportunity for adults to compete in a full-court league featuring eight guaranteed games, followed by playoffs and cash payouts for the playoff champion. Games are played under IHSA rules and officiated by IHSA referees. Teams must provide matching uniforms with player numbers, and all league fees must be paid before the first game. Games are held 7-10 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 24-Dec. 3, at the Deer Grove Leisure Center gym, with no game Nov. 26. The

fee is \$700 per team; advance registration required.

The co-ed volleyball league (program no. 604417-01) gives participants an opportunity to gather friends and compete in a structured league featuring rally scoring and match play with three games per night. Teams of six will compete in matches officiated by IHSA referees, with a cash prize awarded to the playoff champion. The league meets Fridays, 7-10 p.m., Sept. 25-Nov. 13, at the Deer Grove Leisure Center gym. The fee is \$450 per team and advance registration is required.

Advance registration is required for all adult sports programs and is available at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St., Bensenville. For more information and registration details, visit BvilleParks.org/Register and search the program number or call the Bensenville Park District at 630-766-7015.

New cultural, fine arts classes bring creativity, movement, music this fall

The Bensenville Park District is inviting children, teens and adults to paint, sculpt, stitch, dance, act and make music with a creative lineup of cultural and fine arts classes beginning in September.

The district's expanded fall lineup includes several new opportunities for participants to explore their artistic talents, build confidence and learn new skills in a fun and supportive environment. Classes are offered at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St., with programs available for a variety of ages and experience levels.

Young artists ages 5-9 can let their imaginations lead the way in the new 2D Art Exploration class, where participants will explore drawing, painting and collaging while learning techniques to develop their individual artistic style. The class meets from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 22-Nov. 10, in the DGLC Cedar Room. The fee is \$100, with a discounted fee of \$90 for in-district patrons.

The new Clay Creators class gives children ages

7-11 an opportunity to bring their imaginations to life through three-dimensional art. Participants will sculpt and smooth creations using air-dry clay and Model Magic before adding color, with no kiln or previous experience required. The class meets from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 18, in the DGLC Cedar Room. No class will be held Nov. 11. The fee is \$100, with a discounted fee of \$90 for in-district patrons.

Children ages 8-12 can also learn to thread the needle in the new Sew Fun class. Participants will learn beginner-friendly stitching and embroidery techniques while creating projects in a welcoming environment. The class meets from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 24-Nov. 12, in the DGLC Cedar Room. The fee is \$100, with a discounted fee of \$90 for in-district patrons.

Adults ages 18 and older can pick up a brush in Painting, a beginner-friendly class. Participants will learn essential techniques while bringing vibrant ideas to life from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 24-Nov. 12, in the DGLC Oak Room. The fee is \$100, with a discounted fee of \$90 for in-district patrons.

The curtain is rising on a new theatre opportunity with Intro to Acting for ages 6-9. Young performers will learn basic acting techniques while building confidence and creativity. The class meets from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 22-Nov. 17, in the DGLC Willow Room. No class will be held Nov. 10. The fee is \$95, with a discounted fee of \$85 for in-district patrons.

The fall lineup also introduces several new dance classes and a variety of piano and guitar lesson programs.

Registration deadlines and minimum and maximum enrollment requirements vary by class. Participants are encouraged to register early. Registration may be completed in person at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St. in Bensenville, or online at BvilleParks.org/Register.

Sports

Furious rally lifts Broncos in wild win at Nazareth Academy

Montini closes game with 20-0 run; Abrams throws four touchdown passes and runs for three scores in shootout

The Montini Catholic football team mounted a furious fourth-quarter rally to earn a 47-42 victory over Nazareth Academy in Friday night's wild Chicago Catholic League (CCL) Green Division game in La Grange Park.

Montini trailed Nazareth 42-27 with about nine minutes remaining in the game. The Broncos pulled out the victory by scoring three touchdowns in the closing minutes. They scored what turned out to be the winning touchdown with 34 seconds to play.

Montini improved to 3-1 overall and 1-0 in division play following its comeback win. The Roadrunners of Nazareth Academy dropped to 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the four-team division. In addition to Montini and Nazareth, the CCL Green Division includes St. Rita and St. Francis.

Montini jumped out to an early 13-0 lead in

Friday's game after taking advantage of two Nazareth turnovers. A 51-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Israel Abrams to senior Damacio Ortega, and a 2-yard touchdown run by Abrams, lifted the Broncos to their 13-0 advantage.

The Roadrunners scored a first-quarter touchdown to trim Montini's lead to 13-7, but a 33-yard touchdown pass from Abrams to senior Luca Florio helped the Broncos push their lead to 20-7 late in the opening quarter.

Nazareth scored a pair of touchdowns in the second quarter and owned a 21-20 lead at halftime. The Roadrunners produced two touchdown passes in the third quarter to raise their lead to a 35-20 lead with 12 minutes to play.



See **BRONCOS**, Page 12

Montini senior Luca Florio (1) made nine receptions for 99 yards and one TD during the Broncos' 47-42 victory at Nazareth Academy. (Photo by Fernando Rendon)

Warriors struggle in conference battle with Mustangs

The Willowbrook football team fell to 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the West Suburban Gold Conference following Friday's 42-7 loss to Downers Grove South in Villa Park.

The visiting Mustangs moved to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in conference play with their victory over the Warriors.

Downers Grove South led Willowbrook 20-0 in the first half. The Warriors cut the lead to 20-7 with a touchdown in the final minute of the opening half. Junior Kameron Greenbow scored the touchdown on a short run. Senior Ben Swanson added the extra-point kick.

The Mustangs delivered a long return on the kickoff that opened the third quarter. That kickoff helped to set up a touchdown. Downers Grove South added the 2-point conversion after that touchdown to raise its lead to 28-7. The Mustangs scored two more touchdowns before the end of the third quarter.

"We turned the ball over a bunch," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after the game. "We left some points out there that we couldn't afford to leave out there. We moved the ball okay, and turned it over in the first half. You're not going to beat good teams doing things like that."

The Warriors will travel to Hinsdale South for this Friday's conference game against the Hornets (2-2 overall and 2-0 in the conference). The Hornets improved to 2-0 in conference play following their 56-42 win at Addison Trail.



Glenbard East senior Monti Perry (1) returned an Elmwood Park fumble 82 yards for a touchdown during the Rams' dominant homecoming victory. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rams cruise in homecoming blowout over Elmwood Park

Glenbard East meets Glenbard South in this week's division showdown

The Glenbard East football team won its 2026 homecoming game in dominant fashion, beating Elmwood Park 55-0 in Friday's Upstate Eight Conference East Division game in Lombard.

The Rams, who led the visiting Tigers 48-0 at halftime, improved to 2-2 overall and 2-0 in division play with the win. After starting their season with losses to Willowbrook and Plainfield North, the Rams picked up lopsided victories over Fenton and Elmwood Park. Glenbard East also held a 48-0 halftime lead in its Sept. 4 victory at Fenton. Officials declared that contest over moments after

the kickoff to start the second half, when lightning flashes were visible in the evening sky.

Glenbard East scored a pair of first-quarter touchdowns in its homecoming game against Elmwood Park, which dropped to 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the division.

After building a 13-0 lead at the end of the first quarter, the Rams piled on five more touchdowns during the second quarter to boost their lead to 48-0 by halftime.

See **RAMS FOOTBALL**, Page 11



Charlie Gidcumb (5) battles for control of the ball in Glenbard East's Sept. 10 match against Glenbard North. Gidcumb had the lone goal in a 1-0 win. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Rams pick up two wins, tie, move to 4-2-1

Glenbard East's boys soccer team played three matches in five days last week, earning two wins and one tie in those matches to complete the week with an overall season record of 4-2-1.

Glenbard East began the week by opening its Upstate Eight Conference East Division season with a Sept. 8 match at Fenton. The Rams and Bison battled to a 2-2 tie in Bensenville. The two teams were deadlocked at 1-1 at halftime.

Seniors Charlie Gidcumb and Kevin Ramirez scored one goal each for Glenbard East. Seniors Johan Olivero and Ryan Kummer contributed one assist each. Senior goalkeeper Viktor Navarro made eight saves for the Rams.

Glenbard East edged Glenbard North 1-0 in a Sept. 10 match at Camera Park in Glendale Heights. The contest was part of the Glenbard Cup, a competition between the teams from the four District 87 schools. Gidcumb scored the only goal of the match in the middle of the first half. Olivero provided an assist on Gidcumb's goal. Navarro piled up 12 saves in the shutout victory.

The Rams completed their week

See **RAMS SOCCER**, Page 11

Bronco power



Montini Catholic senior Moira Quirk is pictured during last week's match against Marist in Lombard. Marist defeated the Broncos 25-7, 25-16 in the Sept. 8 contest to raise its season record to 9-0. One day after losing to the RedHawks, Montini earned a 25-16, 25-21 home victory over Wheaton Academy. The Broncos moved their record to 11-4 following their 25-10, 25-18 home win over University High School of Chicago on Sept. 10. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Rams football

(Continued from page 10)

The homecoming crowd, which included a boisterous Glenbard East student section of fans dressed in red, erupted after each of the seven first-half touchdowns.

Senior Montii Perry scored the Rams' first touchdown of the game on a 15-yard run that completed his team's opening offensive drive, which covered 51 yards in five plays. Senior Moises Velazquez made the extra-point kick to move the Rams' lead to 7-0 with 7:27 left in the first quarter.

Senior Kevohn Dennis delivered a 5-yard touchdown run for Glenbard East with 3:28 remaining in the first quarter. The Rams didn't execute a clean snap on the ensuing extra-point kick.

The Rams padded their lead when junior Jackson Turko scored on a 2-yard touchdown run during the first minute of the second quarter. Velazquez added the extra-point kick to raise the lead to 20-0 with 11:10 left in the quarter.

Senior Malachi Miller delivered Glenbard East's fourth touchdown of the game when he returned an Elmwood Park punt 47 yards for a touchdown with 8:53 to play in the first half. A short time later, when the Tigers turned the ball over on a fumble, Perry picked the loose ball up and ran 82 yards for a touchdown. The ensuing extra-point kick from Velazquez boosted the Rams' lead to 34-0 with 6:42 left in the first half.



Dan Gara (17) and Jackson Turko (15) celebrate after Turko's TD run during the second quarter of Glenbard East's win over Elmwood Park. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Sophomore quarterback Carter Pohlman and senior Mason Wright connected on a 68-yard touchdown pass with 3:38 to play in the opening half. Junior Connor LeCount, who was handling the Rams' quarterbacking duties late in the first half, scored the team's seventh touchdown of the evening on a 6-yard run with 1:12 left in the second quarter. Velazquez tacked on the extra-point kick to give Glenbard East its 48-0 lead.

Junior Ethan Sowell scored the Rams' final touchdown of the game on a 31-yard run in the third quarter. Glenbard East and Elmwood Park played the entire second half with a running clock.

The Rams' season continues with this Friday's home game against division rival Glenbard South.

The Raiders moved to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in division play by crushing West Chicago 49-6 in Glen Ellyn.

Warriors run past Blazers before racing at Detweiler Park in Peoria

Alka places fifth at First to the Finish Invitational's Boys 3A race; Yurich records a top-25 finish competing in Girls 3A event

Willowbrook's girls and boys cross-country teams competed against Addison Trail in last week's races at Lombard Common. The Warriors ran to dominant team victories in the girls and boys events at the Sept. 8 competition, which took place in warm and bright conditions.



Legend Alka



Bethany Yurich

Willowbrook senior Bethany Yurich ran to an impressive victory in the 3-mile girls race, which she completed in 20 minutes, 29.1 seconds. Sophomore Kate Borho of the Warriors turned in a second-place time of 22:23.7. Willowbrook sophomore Vivian Little (22:34.4) placed third, while sophomore Paige Simek (23:02.9) provided Willowbrook with a fourth-place finish. Junior Juliet Oddo (23:30.7) claimed fifth for the Warriors in their win over the Blazers. Oddo finished just ahead of Willowbrook sophomore Rachel Simek (23:31.5), who landed in sixth place.

Addison Trail sophomore Zianya Hernandez supplied her team's best finish in the race with her ninth-place time of 24:34.8.

Willowbrook junior Legend Alka glided to a first-place finish in the 3-mile boys race, which he completed in 16 minutes,

7 seconds. Senior Thomas Thimo of the Warriors crossed the finish line in a second-place time of 17 minutes, 2.9 seconds. Thimo edged out senior Ryan Quinney (17:03.2), who placed third. Senior Kole Johanson (17:26.9) contributed a fourth-place finish for the Warriors. Senior Jacob Alexander (17:37.9) of Willowbrook finished fifth. Freshman Nico Navarro (19:18.7) earned a sixth-place finish for the Warriors.

Freshman Alexis Vargas led Addison Trail's boys team with his seventh-place time of 19:24.7.

Four days after running against the Blazers in Lombard, Willowbrook's girls and boys teams competed in Saturday's First to the Finish Invitational at Detweiler Park in Peoria. The Warriors' girls team placed 16th out of 35 teams in the Girls 3A level. Willowbrook's boys team earned a 12th-place finish in the standings of the Boys 3A division, which also included 35 teams. Saturday's invite took place on the course that hosts the IHSA girls and boys state meets each November.

Alka led the Warriors' boys lineup in Peoria with his fifth-place finishing time of 14:52.6 in the 3-mile Boys 3A race. Thimo (16:05.2) finished 57th in the individual standings, while Johanson (16:32.4) landed in 98th place.

Yurich finished the 3-mile Girls 3A race in a 23rd-place time of 18:50.1. Rachel Simek (20:32.7) ran to a 95th-place finish. Little (20:58.9) and Borho (21:10.6) placed 113th and 122nd, respectively.

Broncos run to success in Peoria

The Montini Catholic girls and boys cross-country teams participated in Saturday's First to the Finish Invitational at Detweiler Park in Peoria. Running on the course that hosts the IHSA state meets each November, both Montini teams delivered strong performances in the competition.

Montini's boys team finished fifth out of 51 teams in the standings of the Boys 2A event, earning the best finish in the invitational in program history. The Broncos' girls team placed 20th in the 39-team Girls 2A competition.

Senior Nino Pesola led the Montini boys team with his 16th-place finish in the individual standings in the 3-mile Boys 2A race, which he completed in 15 minutes, 24.2 seconds. Senior Gavin Conway of the Broncos placed 45th after finishing the race in 15:54.7. Sophomore Matthew Ferris (15:59.4) of Montini ran to a 49th-place finish.

Pesola, Conway and Ferris earned medals for their top-50 finishes in the Boys 2A race's individual standings.



Montini Catholic runners who medaled at Saturday's First to the Finish Invitational included (left to right) Matthew Ferris, Nino Pesola, Gavin Conway and Natalia Pesola. Nino Pesola, Conway, and Natalia Pesola are Lombard residents. (Submitted photo)

Sophomore Natalia Pesola secured a medal with her 18th-place finish in Saturday's Girls 2A race. She completed the 3-mile race in 19 minutes, 3.4 seconds.

•Rams soccer

(From page 10)

with Saturday's 5-1 win over Whitefish Bay (Wisconsin) High School at the Wisconsin vs. Illinois Challenge in Loves Park, near Rockford. Glenbard East and Whitefish Bay were locked in a 1-1 tie at halftime. The Rams erupted for four goals in the second half.

Gidyczuk supplied two goals and one assist

in Saturday's victory. Kummer netted two goals, while senior Yani Guzman contributed one goal and one assist. Junior Daniel Grimaldo delivered two assists for the Rams. Sophomore Michael Szala added one assist.

Glenbard East played a division match against Glenbard South earlier this week in Lombard.

The Rams will travel to St. Charles North for a non-division match on Sept. 17.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Villa Park remembers, victims, honors heroes of Sept. 11, 2001



Villa Park held its annual Patriot Day ceremony on Friday to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 25 years ago, on Sept. 11, 2001. Members of the Willowbrook High School Choir are pictured while singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the start of the ceremony at Fire Station 81. Villa Park Fire Chief Steve Stapleton encouraged everyone who attended the ceremony to sign a special American flag. Members of the Fire Department then raised that flag on the Station 81 flagpole. Ann Appleyard of Tunes of Glory Pipes and Drums in Warrenville played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes near the end of the service. (Photos by Chris Fox)

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Women's Club to host referendum forum Sept. 24 at Willowbrook

The Villa Park Women's Club will host "Get the Facts: Districts 45 & 88 Referendum Forum" on Thursday, Sept. 24, at Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. in Room W4. Attendees should enter through Door 6.

The forum will give community members an opportunity to hear directly from representatives of School District 45 and DuPage High School District 88 about the referendums that will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot. District 45 will present from 6:40 to 6:50 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session from 6:50 to 7:20 p.m. After a brief intermission, District 88 will present from 7:30 to 7:40 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session from 7:40 to 8:10 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to attend whether they have been following the referendums closely or are just beginning to learn about them.

The goal of the forum is to provide residents with information directly from the districts before Election Day.

Community members may submit questions in advance to forum@villaparkwomensclub.com.

There will also be time for audience questions during the event. The event will also be broadcast live on the Villa Park Women's Club Facebook page @VPJWC.

The Villa Park Women's Club is a community organization that brings local women together through service, civic engagement, and activities that support Villa Park and its residents.

They meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Villa Park Community Recreation Center at 7 p.m. New and potential members are always welcome.

Village of Villa Park holds solemn Patriot Day service

Ceremony marks 25-year anniversary of terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000

BY CHRIS FOX

The Village of Villa Park held its annual Patriot Day ceremony on Friday morning, Sept. 11, to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The ceremony was held at Fire Station 81, 1440 S. Ardmore Ave.

Willowbrook High School's U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) presented the colors at the beginning of the service. Members of Willowbrook's choir then performed "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"Today we remember the 2,977 innocent people who lost their lives in the attacks," stated Villa Park Fire Chief Steve Stapleton during his remarks at the ceremony. "We remember the firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders who ran toward danger while others were running away."

They answered the call to serve, knowing the risks, and many made the ultimate sacrifice."

Stapleton noted that 323 firefighters and paramedics from New York City died while responding to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"They were professionals who came to work that morning expecting to help others, and never came home," he said.

Stapleton and others who spoke during the ceremony referred to the nation's united response to the terrorist attacks of 25 years ago.

"The story of September 11 is not only one of tragedy, it is the story of extraordinary courage, compassion and unity," stated Stapleton. "We honor those we lost by continuing to serve our communities with courage and compassion. Today we remember the victims. We honor the heroes, and we remember the families who were left behind."

Villa Park Village Manager Michael Rivas spoke briefly during the ceremony.

"Every one of us who was alive then remembers exactly where we were. We remember the shock, the sadness, the disbelief," said Rivas. "We also remember something else: how our nation came together."

Other speakers included Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 Commander Jim Blankshain.

"It was a cowardly act," said Blankshain of the attacks. "People were just going to work to provide for their families when it occurred. There were so many heroes that day. Let's hope and pray that something like this never happens again."

Villa Park Deputy Police Chief Jose Pagan also spoke during the ceremony, as did Villa Park's legislative representatives in Springfield, State Senator Suzy Glowinski Hilton and State Representative Diane Blair-Sherlock.

"I'm just here to thank all of our first responders and



TOP: Members of Willowbrook High School's U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps are pictured while their classmates in the school choir sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the ceremony. **BOTTOM LEFT:** State Representative Diane Blair-Sherlock said it's important that those who lived through Sept. 11, 2001, share their stories with those too young to remember what happened that day. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Villa Park Fire Chief Steve Stapleton spoke about the courage, compassion and unity following the 2001 terrorist attacks. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Area News

Villa Park residents invited to attend Autumn Jubilee on Oct. 10 at museum

The Villa Park Community F.U.N. (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission invites you to the fourth annual Autumn Jubilee on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Villa Park Historical Museum, 220 S. Villa Ave., along the Illinois Prairie Path.

Enjoy a fun-filled day featuring food trucks, sweet treats, beverages, live entertainment, face

painting, balloon art, arts and crafts, unique vendors, and local animal rescue groups.

Villa Park Senior Fair to be held on Sept. 25 at Recreation Center

The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will host the Villa Park Senior Fair on Friday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Villa Park Recreation Center, 320 E. Wildwood Ave.

Meet with local organizations and service pro-

viders offering valuable information on health, wellness, safety, financial resources, recreation, and community services.

Free health screenings, vaccine opportunities, and helpful resources will be available. Admission is free, and all seniors, caregivers, and families are welcome. Vendors include Addison Township, York Township, Endeavor Health, Costco, DuPage Senior Citizens Council, DuPage Community Services, Villa Park Osco (flu shots) and more.

See PATRIOT DAY, Page 8

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.

Sept. 8

A complainant in the 1500 block of N. Ardmore reported a subject battered them. Neither party wished to sign complaints.

A complainant at Willowbrook High School reported at 9:28 p.m. that their scooter was secured in the bike rack. When the complainant returned to the rack, it was gone.

A complainant in the 300 block of E. Division reported they were the victim of fraud.

Sept. 7

Alan Rodriguez Jaramillo, 24, of Anderson, Indiana, was charged with aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer and driving with unsafe tires near N. Route 83 and eastbound I-290 at 3:32 a.m. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A 44-year-old North Chicago man was charged with domestic battery and DUI at a restaurant in the 300 block of E. St. Charles at 2:08 a.m. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 2200 block of Ovaltine reported that a subject entered their residence without permission and loudly demanded they move their vehicle. The complainant was alarmed and disturbed by the subject, who was issued a citation.

Sept. 6

Justin A. Robinson, 33, of Chicago, was arrested on the above date for an original complaint and warrant for disorderly conduct/breach of peace stemming from an incident that allegedly occurred on Aug. 28.

A complainant in the 1-100 block of N. Cornell reported they ceased contact with a subject, but that the subject has been driving past the complainant's home. The complainant later located an AirTag on their vehicle.

A complainant in the 400 block of W. Division reported they heard knocking on their door and later located damage to the door.

Sept. 5

Audrey Amada, 21, of Des Plaines, was charged with three counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer near W. Roosevelt and S. Ardmore at 1:11 a.m. Amada was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

Michael F. Iozzo, 59, of Villa Park, was charged with violation of pre-trial release in the 300 block of E. Wildwood

at 10:56 p.m. Iozzo was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Ardmore reported at 12:57 a.m. that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

A complainant in the 700 block of W. Roy reported at 2:13 a.m. that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

Sept. 4

Alexander M. Yracheta, 35, of Berwyn, was charged with DUI and disobeying a traffic control signal near N. Addison and W. North at 11:07 p.m.

A 45-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman, both of Villa Park, were each charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 300 block of N. Princeton at 12:10 p.m. Both subjects were transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant in the 700 block of S. Euclid reported that a subject texted them after being advised to cease contact for prior telephone harassment.

A complainant in the 600 block of S. Illinois reported that a subject sent them text messages that they found to be alarming and disturbing.

A complainant in the 1-100 block of E. Vermont reported that a subject battered them and damaged a tire on their vehicle. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

Sept. 3

A complainant in the 100 block of E. Adams reported at 9:09 p.m. battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

Officers responded to the report at 9:03 a.m. at the Metra depot, 349 N. Ardmore, of a subject consuming an alcoholic beverage on a public bench and then littering the container. The subject was issued citations.

A complainant at a laundromat in the 400 block of N. Ardmore reported at 11:30 a.m. that the hood emblem to their car had been removed, which they believed to be intentional. Later that day at the same laundromat, a complainant reported at 6:56 p.m. that a subject was attempting to sell them jewelry, and during the conversation their own necklace was taken.

Sept. 2

Roberto Alcala, 55 (homeless), was issued citations for possession of alcohol in an open container in a public place and possession/consumption of alcohol in a rental/residential area near W. Terrace and N. Ardmore at 11:46 p.m.

A complainant at a store in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

A complainant in the 400 block of N. Wisconsin reported a subject damaged the window on a door. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

Celebrating Hill's 50 years with the library



The Villa Park Public Library held a party on Sept. 12 to recognize Library Director Sandy Hill's 50 years of service. Hill's career with the library began when she was hired as a page in December 1975. She has served the library in several positions, including desk clerk, circulation assistant, head of children's circulation and head of technical services before becoming director in July 2002. Pictured left to right are Ellen Jurkonis, a longtime Villa Park resident who helped to coordinate the party, former library director Ted Balcom, Hill, former library board president Pat Hubbard, current library board president Dianne Luebker and Karen Marnell, who works in the library's business office. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Gathering at the Grapevine takes place this Saturday in Villa Park

The District 88 Foundation invites parents, guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends to gather for its third annual Gathering at the Grapevine fundraiser from 2 to 5 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 19, at DeVine Wine and Cocktail Bar, 339 E. Kenilworth Ave. in Villa Park. Participants must be 21 years of age or older.

Guests will enjoy a wine tasting, an array of charcuterie and desserts, live music, raffle items and more. Whether you're looking for an afternoon out with friends, a unique date-day experience or an opportunity to reconnect with the District 88 community, Gathering at the Grapevine offers the perfect setting to relax, socialize and support a great cause.

Proceeds from the event fund District 88 Foundation

mini-grants, which provide teachers with funding for innovative, teacher-led initiatives that benefit students and support learning experiences that could not otherwise be funded through the district's regular budget. By attending, you will help bring new ideas and opportunities into District 88 classrooms.

Tickets are available at www.dupage88.net/GrapevineTickets. The District 88 Foundation also welcomes businesses, corporations and individuals interested in supporting the event to become a sponsor or make a donation. To learn more, go to www.dupage88.net/GrapevineSponsorPacket2026, or contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brikk at dbrikk@dupage88.net or 630-530-3989.

•Patriot Day (Continued from page 3)

firefighters for everything they do every day," said Glowiak Hilton, who joined Blair-Sherlock in noting the significant number of current citizens who aren't old enough to remember the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"This is why we do this," said Glowiak Hilton while referring to the purpose of the Patriot Day observance, which she described as "a day of remembrance so that we can tell our children and grandchildren what happened, and how we came together as a group to make the world and the United States a better place."

"A lot of us in this room weren't even alive when this happened," said Blair-Sherlock, who is a longtime Villa Park resident.

"So I think it's important that we share our stories; that we talk about what happened that day; that we talk about how we felt, and that we talk about how this can never happen again."

Blair-Sherlock also spoke about Villa Park being in a flight path, and how residents could normally look up during a clear day and see multiple planes in the sky.

"We live in a flight path, and all of a sudden, it was silent," said Blair-Sherlock in speaking about the eerie absence of planes in the sky after the terrorist attacks.

"Let's also remember what happened after September 11, and how we all came together," said Blair-Sherlock at the conclusion of her remarks.

Glenn Nystrom of the United States Coast Guard also spoke during the ceremony. He provided information about the significant contributions the Coast Guard made immediately after the terrorist attacks. Those contributions included the organization and coordination to call for all available boats to transport up to 500,000 people out of Manhattan within hours of the attacks.

Near the end of the service, Stapleton mentioned something new in this year's ceremony. He asked everyone in attendance to sign an American flag that was on a table.

"This flag represents our community's shared commitment to remember the lives lost, honor the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice, and recognize the courage and unity that emerged from one of the darkest days in our nation's history," said Stapleton. He said the flag would be proudly flown at the fire department that day.

"After it is flown today, it will be carefully preserved and placed in a shadow box for permanent display at Village Hall," added Stapleton. Those in attendance then signed the flag during a brief break. They then gathered near the flagpole outside of the fire station and watched as the special flag was raised and flown just under the traditional flag that was already on the flagpole.

Ann Appleyard from Tunes of Glory Pipes and Drums in Warrenville played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes after attendees gathered outside near the end of the ceremony.