

# The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, December 12, 2024 •

Hinsdale, Illinois •

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## One truck open sleigh

**Santa Claus made a quick** trip to Hinsdale Friday night for the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce Christmas Walk. The Hinsdale Fire Department was called upon to help Santa make the last leg of his journey from the North Pole. After helping Village President Tom Cauley light the village Christmas tree, Santa made his trip over to Burlington Park to visit with children. Santa will be in his home away from home in Burlington Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays Dec. 14 and 21. Please turn to Page 38 for more photos. (Jim Slonoff photo)



### Local finds

Hinsdale shopping tours not stopping yet.

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### New whodunit

Hinsdale writer pens latest in novel series.

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### Lay-ups & landings

Basketball, girls gymnastics get the spotlight.

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# NEWS

## More homes added to 'significant' list

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Owners of vintage Hinsdale homes continue to respond to the village's effort to encourage preservation as the voluntary listing of historically significant structures reaches almost 100 properties.

At the Dec. 4 meeting of the historic preservation commission, five more properties were recommended for inclusion on the list, a prerequisite to be eligible for incentives to help with home renovations or additions that include matching grant funds, a property tax rebate and zoning relief.

In her introductory remarks before presenting the five applicants, village planner Bethany Salmon noted the response to the preservation program that was instituted a little more than two years ago.

"We have 89 houses approved on our list right now," Salmon said, not including the five on the agenda, "so

this is getting us closer to 100. That's really good news."

Prospective homes must satisfy at least one of the commission's several criteria, such as having association with significant local events or people, exhibiting distinctive architectural characteristics or serving as a source of civic pride.

Last week the following candidates received the commission's support:

- 213 S. Clay St. is a Gothic Revival/Italianate home that dates to 1870 and was originally located on the 300 block of South Garfield Street, according to archival records. The "(Dr. John) Ohls house was one of the first houses built in" Hinsdale, and it was relocated to its current site in 1899.

In 2001, a village-commissioned study documented that "the steeply pitched gable roofs with brackets are characteristic of Gothic Revival style, while the tall, segmented arched windows and doors, with hoods, are typical Italianate features."

- 711 S. Elm St. is a 1937 Colonial Revival specimen designed by Hinsdale architect Philip Duke West. West also was responsible for the former Hinsdale Police and Fire Station building that was constructed in 1935 at 33 E. First St., which is also where he found space for his office in 1947.

- 211 N. Lincoln St. is a Colonial Revival home built in 1927 and designed by Ralph Mooney, who was responsible for the construction of many other Hinsdale homes in the 1920s, including 633 S. Washington St. and 131 N. Garfield St.

- 8 E Third St. is a Queen Anne home that dates to 1889 and was home to some of Hinsdale's most prominent business executives over the years, such as George Robbins, president of Armour Car Lines; Francis Stuyvesant Peabody, president of Peabody Coal Co.; and Alexander Legge, president of International Harvester. President Herbert Hoover also visited the

home.

"Very important things are associated with this house," Salmon told commissioners

- 122 E. Third St., another Queen Anne design that was built in 1883, was once owned by George Boger, who also owned George Boger & Sons coal, wood and farm implement business located at Lincoln Street and Chicago Avenue.

The village board must approve the recommendations.

Commission Chairman John Bohnen shared that friends in Wellesley, Mass., have contacted him about Hinsdale's incentive program. Salmon said she's received inquiries from counterparts from around the country to learn about the village's approach to promoting preservation.

"A lot of people nationally have recognized our program," she said. "It's been really successful, and I don't think any of us realized how successful it would be."



## All sorts of toys

**Burdi in Hinsdale** was once again the scene of "toys" of all sizes and shapes Saturday morning. Collecting for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, more than 800 new toys and more than \$3,500 was dropped off at the store. On the streets the toys carried a much higher price tag, with a compliment of Ferraris, Porsches and Lamborghinis filling the block, as well as much of the Washington Street parking lot. The McLaren Speedtail with a price tag north of \$2 million and a top speed in excess of 200 mph, parked in front of the store, more than likely made everyone's wish list for Christmas. (Jim Slonoff photos)



# ONCE UPON A TIME



**Pictures from the past** — Hinsdale's building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, took this photo in 1979. Olson's was located at 44 W. Washington St. at the time. Today the building is home to Wild Ginger. Do you have a Hinsdale photo that is at least 25 years old? We'd love to share it with our readers. Stop by our office at 7 W. First St. or email it to [jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com).



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## The Hinsdalean

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**Delivery**  
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**Corrections**  
The Hinsdalean staff strives to provide an error-free newspaper each week. If a mistake is published, however, we are happy to correct it. Call or email Pamela Lannom to report errors requiring correction or clarification.

**Letters to the editor**  
Our letters policy is published on Page 11.

**Obituaries**  
Obituaries are published free each week in The Hinsdalean. Information may be mailed, faxed or emailed to [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com). Obituaries may be edited for style and space.

**Photo reprint policy**  
Photographs that appear in The Hinsdalean may be purchased on our Web site at [thehinsdalean.com](http://thehinsdalean.com). Occasionally additional photographs that have not been published in the paper may be published on the site; these also will be available for purchase.

**Advertising policy**  
We reserve the right to edit and/or refuse all advertising submitted to The Hinsdalean.

**Member of:** Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Northern Illinois Newspaper Association



# Downtown shops make gift-buying simple

*Altamura Pizza owner finds Hinsdale stores loaded with great gift ideas for family, friends*

By Pamela Lannom

plannom@thehinsdalean.com

The most special part of Christmas for Carmela St. John is the Christmas Eve procession with the baby Jesus for the crèche. The youngest child carries the baby as family members walk through the house singing “Tu Scendi Dalle Stella,” a tradition St. John has participated in since her childhood in Italy.

“Baby Jesus doesn’t get put into the nativity until midnight,” St. John said.

Earlier that evening, the family enjoys the traditional feast of the seven fishes for Christmas Eve dinner, the star of which is the salted cod that has been soaked for a week and then sautéed with olive, garlic, onions and tomatoes until it falls apart.

“That’s like my favorite thing,” she said.

In the days prior to the holiday, St. John will be busy filling orders at Altamura Pizza, which she owns with husband Steve. She took some time out this week for a trip through town, visiting 13 stores to find the perfect gift ideas for family and friends.



**Carmela St. John** thinks her friend, Jen, would love this pleather jacket from Meredith Jaye. (Jim Slonoff photos)

Here’s what she found.

- a pair of Neiman Marcus Bavarian cut crystal wine goblets will be waiting under the tree Christmas morning for husband Steve, who handles the bartending duties at home.

“For the holidays, these would be perfect to add to his collection,” St. John said. \$95, The Courtyard

- friend Jen will look great in a B. Coature blue wash pleather jacket. “She’s very stylish and a little edgy and

you can dress it up or dress it down,” St. John said. \$79, Meredith Jaye

- Gracie will enjoy this glass Italy ornament from her “Auntie” Carm. “She’s obsessed with Italy now,” St. John said. \$44.95, Yankee Peddler

- son Nicolas is traveling to Spain to visit his girlfriend, Claudia, and his mom will send him with a black lace and fringe maxi dress from PatBo to wear when they go out on New Year’s Eve. “Nicolas is paying for half of that!” she added with a laugh. \$1,400, Red e Mas

- St. John will have friends Renee and Chris and Jovanka and their families and her own family gathered at the dining room table for Christmas dinner. A new Darlana medium linear lantern in a bronze finish will set just the right mood. \$1,149 Visual Comfort

- son Louis surely will find just the right spot to hang “Chicago Dusk,” a 36” by 72” oil on canvas painting by Miles Chumley. “I love abstract art. I love the fact that it’s the city of Chicago. He’s about to buy his own place,” St. John said. \$9,500, Acquisitions of Fine Art

- an Italian leather navy basket weave visor with gold trim and a dri-weave interior from Fenix Sportier will look great on friend Lynne as she battles opponents on the pickleball court. \$149, Game Set

- son Nicolas will be stylishly warm in a quilted traveler vest in navy. \$228, J McLaughlin

- St. John will grab a bottle of flavored imported olive oil and important truffle and porcini mushroom spread, packaged beautifully on a wooden serving board, from her own shop as a wonderful hostess gift for any parties she attends. \$90, Altamura

- friend Kim will be able to add a very sparkly pop of color to her holiday outfits with a Whiting & Davis wine crystal hobo bag. \$395, Sweet William

- a Channel logo glass tray will look great on a table in Auntie Sharon’s new place. \$98, Marabella

- spectacular diamond emerald-cut earrings, at one carat each, set in 18 carat white gold are a wonderful way to thank mom Betty for everything. “She will love them,” St. John said. \$15,700, Browning & Sons

**This pair of cut crystal wine goblets** from The Courtyard upscale consignment shop will find a new home with the St. Johns. They’ll make a great addition to husband Steve’s collection.





# NEXT WEEK

## Community Consolidated Elementary Dist. 181 Board

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16  
Hinsdale Middle School  
100 S. Garfield Ave.  
www.d181.org

**On the draft agenda:** 2024 tax levy, 55th Street TIF intergovernmental agreement, school calendars, district office building supplemental bid, annual financial report, updates on full-day kindergarten and ELA pilot

## Hinsdale Village Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17  
Memorial Building  
19 E. Chicago Ave.  
www.villageofhinsdale.org

## Parents invited to join D86 advisory committee

Parents of current or future students in Hinsdale High School District 86 who are interested in joining the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee need to fill out a form by Thursday, Dec. 19.

In 2023, with the institution of the Academic Committee in District 86, it was decided to narrow the scope of PTAC to focus on discipline, the student handbook and other required annual reports.

PTAC representatives include up to 12 faculty/staff representatives and up to 12 parents/guardian representatives with children in grades six through 12 in District 86 or one of the district's partner schools. While the faculty, staff and parents/guardians contribute to the work of the

committee, they are not voting members — i.e., they will not vote on items such as the approval of meeting minutes.

PTAC will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29. Topics will include reporting requirements, handbook updates (if any) and data (e.g., attendance, athletic code violations, concussion oversight team, discipline, physical restraints and isolated time-outs, etc.)

Parents of current or future District 86 students who would like to be engaged with PTAC for the 2024-25 school year should complete and submit an application form by 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19.

Visit [www.hinsdale86.org](http://www.hinsdale86.org) and find the link in the HC Weekly E-Blast for Dec. 5.

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# Board set to OK capital spending plan

**By Pamela Lannom**

*plannom@thehinsdalean.com*

The Hinsdale Village Board is set to approve a 2025 budget Tuesday, Dec. 17, that includes \$4.77 million for capital projects.

The capital improvement plan identifies major projects, along with funding sources, for expenses higher than \$10,000, according to village documents.

“Capital assets are the largest improvements for most governments, with the use typically spanning many years, if not decades,” said Carrie Dittman, the village’s chief financial officer. “It requires forethought and planning to maintain capital infrastructure in the condition necessary to preserve and enhance the vitality and quality of life of the village’s citizens, business and visitors.”

In 2025, 40 percent of capital costs involve vehicle replacements and 30 percent are for building improvements, Dittman said at the Nov. 19 village board meeting.

The biggest capital line item for 2025 is \$850,000 for a new fire engine, which

will be put toward a \$1.67 million aerial snorkel truck trustees agreed to buy earlier this year. The village will pay for the truck on delivery in 2026.

The village will be able to sell its ladder truck once it acquires the snorkel, rather than spending \$2 million to replace it in 2029. The current engine will not be replaced in 2030, saving another \$900,000. The fire department also will replace an ambulance next year at a cost of \$375,000. The village obtained grant money for the fire truck and ambulance purchases.

The public works department also plans to buy a new roadway truck for \$270,000 and a new forestry chipper for \$115,000. The roadway truck is a 3-ton plow truck that will serve primarily to remove snow and ice in the winter and haul dry material in the summer, according to George Peluso, public services director for the village.

The public works department has a fleet of 45 vehicles, more than half of the 72 owned by the village. Sixteen are assigned to the police department, nine to the fire department and two to village inspectors.

The village will spend \$600,000

in 2025 to design and build phased improvements around the public services facility site, which includes parking lot paving and site storage improvements, Peluso said.

Other expenses in the capital plan are

- \$300,000 for Memorial Building mechanical items
  - \$197,000 for Brook Park court repairs
  - \$180,000 for Robbins Park playground replacement (covered by donation)
  - \$139,000 for police department elevator
  - \$127,000 for Stough Park court repairs
  - \$115,000 for forestry chipper
  - \$114,129 for parking deck pedestrian improvements (grant funded)
  - \$112,000 for Symonds Drive underground wiring
  - \$80,000 for geographic information system
- The village also sets aside an amount each year for annual capital expenses. The 2025 budget includes
- \$50,000 for Woodlands rain gardens phase 1 reconstruction
  - \$42,000 for personal computer

replacements

- \$25,000 for state light pole and lamp replacements
- \$25,000 for brick crosswalks
- \$25,000 for street sign replacement

The street sign replacement is a new program the village is implementing in 2025 to bring consistency and compliance to street signs, Dittman said. The budget also includes a draft five-year capital plan for 2025-29 that totals more than \$16.5 million, with new items added annually for the fifth year, she said.

“Village staff reviews previous items of years one to four and updates them for changes in cost and priority,” Dittman commented. “Additional items may be added or projects moved up soon, especially if the village is able to purchase them via grant funds, or when the condition has deteriorated such that increased maintenance costs are not as feasible as replacement, such as with vehicles/equipment.”

“All departments collaborate and prioritize the Year 1 projects in the event anticipated funding is not available and certain projects must be deferred,” she added.



**MATTIA CIELO**

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# POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police reports were not available before The Hinsdalean went to press Wednesday afternoon. All reports will be published in the Thursday, Dec. 19, issue.

## Cannabis smell now allows police search

By Ben Szalinski

bszalinski@capitolnewsillinois.com

The smell of raw cannabis in a vehicle gives police probable cause to search it, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled last week.

The ruling comes months after the court ruled the smell of burnt cannabis does not give police probable cause to search a vehicle, drawing a fine line for motorists and police to follow when evaluating legal possession of cannabis.

"The odor of burnt cannabis suggests prior or current cannabis use, and the odor of raw cannabis suggests that cannabis is currently possessed in the area where the odor is detected. Different laws are implicated based on those inferences," Justice P. Scott Neville, a Democrat, wrote in the majority opinion.

The 4-2 ruling by the court, with Republican Justice Lisa Holder White abstaining, found that an Illinois State Police trooper conducted a legal search of a car in which Vincent Molina was a passenger in December 2020, after the driver was pulled over for speeding on Interstate 88 in Whiteside County.

According to court documents, the trooper said he smelled raw cannabis in the vehicle and initiated a search. The trooper then found multiple joints in a cardboard box in the car's center console and cannabis in a sealed plastic container in the glove box. Molina was charged with a misdemeanor for illegal possession of cannabis.

A circuit court initially ruled in Molina's favor, finding the search was unreasonable because Illinois law allows people over age 21 to possess recreational cannabis. But an appellate court and the Illinois Supreme Court disagreed with that ruling, citing the state's laws for how cannabis should legally be possessed in a vehicle.

Illinois law requires cannabis to be in a "sealed, odor-proof, child-resistant cannabis container" when in a car and for it to be "reasonably inaccessible while the vehicle is moving."

Neville wrote the trooper made a "reasonable inference" that the smell meant cannabis was illegally possessed.

"While cannabis is legal to possess generally, it is illegal to possess in a vehicle on an Illinois highway unless in an odor-proof container," Neville wrote. "The odor of raw cannabis strongly suggests that the cannabis is not being possessed within the parameters of Illinois law. And, unlike the odor of burnt cannabis, the odor of raw cannabis coming from a vehicle reliably points to when, where and how the cannabis is possessed — namely, currently, in the vehicle, and not in an odor-proof container."

The Illinois Supreme Court unanimously ruled in September, with White abstaining, that the smell of burnt cannabis does not indicate a crime has been committed and does not give police probable cause to search a vehicle. Supreme courts in other states have also issued rulings placing limits on when the smell of cannabis gives probable cause to search a vehicle.

Illinois lawmakers have also sought to enshrine limitations on vehicle searches based on the smell of cannabis into state law. The Senate passed a bill in 2023 that would prohibit police from searching a vehicle based on the smell of burnt or raw cannabis, but it stalled in the House pending resolution of the court cases.

— *Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

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The winning baby will be photographed by Jim Slonoff to appear on the Dec. 26 cover of The Hinsdalean.

**ENTRY DEADLINE: NOON FRIDAY, DEC. 13**

## The Hinsdalean

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■ “I went down to my basement for about three months and wrote about 195,000 words.” — **John Gorman**

## Former reporter turns beat work into book series

Hinsdale’s John Gorman was working as the communications director for the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office in January of 2003 when then-Illinois Gov. George Ryan granted clemency to the state’s 167 death row inmates. Not surprisingly, Gorman’s colleagues were livid.

“As a member of the prosecutor’s office, I was outraged, too,” said the now retired Gorman, who had heard countless impact statements from victim’s loved ones.

The longtime Chicago Tribune reporter and editor felt compelled to channel his emotions into a book.

“I went down to my basement for about three months and wrote about 195,000 words,” he said.

Publishers, however, weren’t so gripped by the Windy City-based crime novel he had crafted. So it sat on a flash drive for 18 years until a friend convinced him to self-publish — after chopping the length by nearly two-thirds and enlisting ruthless fact-checkers, including wife Janice.

A reference to Gov. George Riley has clear real-life parallels too, as does his protagonist Mike Halloran. Like Gorman, Halloran is Irish Catholic, tall

at 6’5” (Gorman is 6’7”) and played college basketball.

The response was gratifying, with interviews on Chicago radio and invitations to do readings.

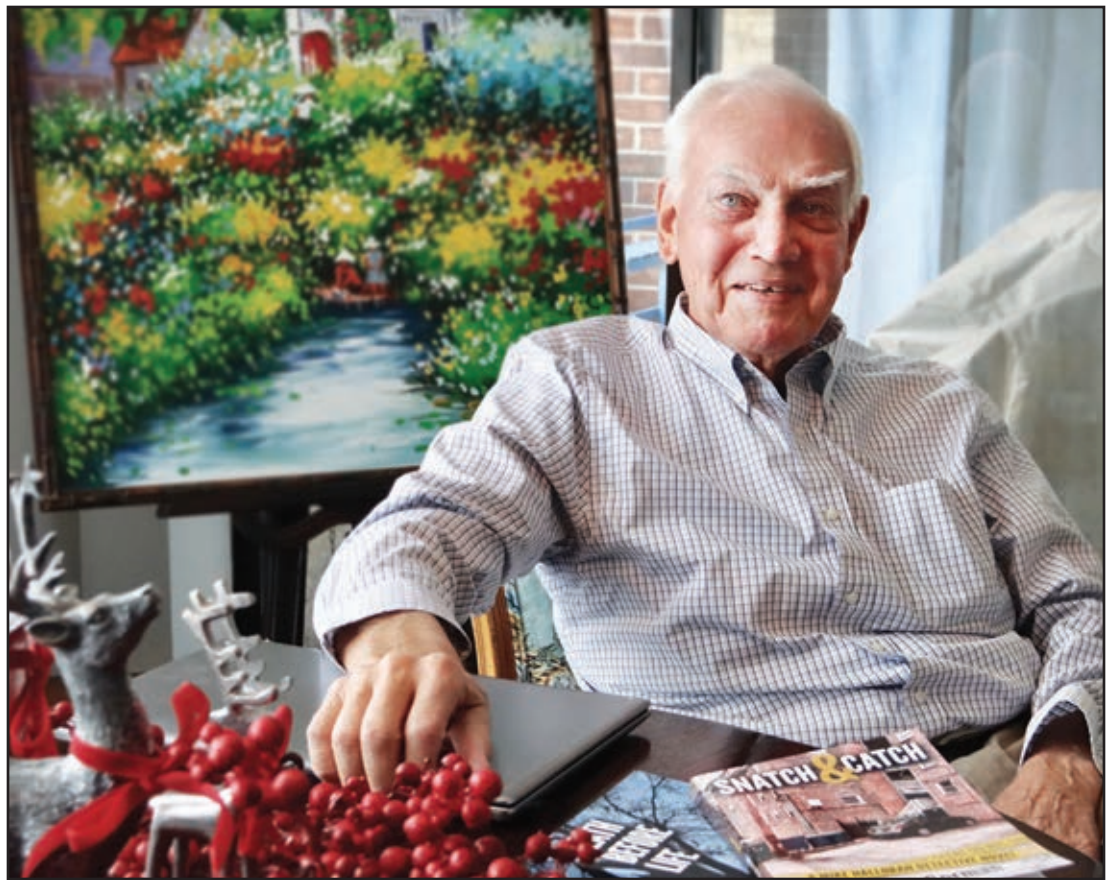
“That kind of inspired me to write a second book about a year later,” said Gorman, with Mike Halloran again on the case in “Snatch & Catch” released earlier this year. “In both books I use my experience as a reporter and things I saw and heard in the state’s attorney’s office.

“So I had (an understanding of) the banter back and forth between the defense, prosecutor, judge, and I made up what I imagined took place in the juror’s room.”

Among his Tribune assignments was covering the Dirksen Federal Building for three years and helping open the paper’s Lake County bureau. Gorman was one of the first reporters on the scene in December of 1979 when police arrested infamous serial killer John Wayne Gacy.

“That was a very distasteful story to cover, but a huge story, so I got a lot of front-page coverage out of that,” he said.

He also drew on his 18 months in India serving with the Peace Corps for his fic-



### JOHN GORMAN

GREW UP IN CHICAGO • JOURNALISM CAREER BEGAN AT CITY NEWS BUREAU • FATHER TO KATIE & MIKE, GRANDFATHER TO TWO • WENT TO XAVIER UNIVERSITY ON A BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP • WORKED AS A BARTENDER IN AUSTRALIA

tional flourishes. Readers have asked him why his one of his perps flees to south Asia rather than, say, Canada.

“I say, ‘I don’t know Canada, but I do know India,’ ” he said.

Gorman even persuaded his Tribune bosses to green light a series on the Peace Corps that enabled him to return to a part of the world that had left such a profound impression.

“I did a story about snake

charmners, and a story about some American children who were going to school in a remote area of northern India,” he said, using mid-1980s teletype technology to transmit his articles back to the States.

Gorman said composing a novel consumes considerable time and energy, especially the editing. But he’s encouraged by positive feedback,

citing one gentleman at a Cliff Dwellers club gathering in the city whose countenance initially projected disapproval. After several attendees spoke, the man took his turn.

“He said, ‘Well, I’d just like to say I thoroughly enjoyed your book,’” Gorman recounted with a laugh. “He was the most glowing.”

— story by Ken Knutson, photo by Jim Slonoff

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# OPINION

EDITORIAL

## Keep the wreath red and the holiday season safe

Twinkling lights charming passersby outside and a roaring fire warming guests inside are scenes that fuel joy and fond feelings this time of year.

But letting lights burn too hot near anything that could catch fire or leaving a fireplace fire or candles unattended are safety hazards that can quickly turn a happy holiday season into a tragic one.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, U.S. fire departments respond to almost 800 home fires started by holiday decorations or Christmas trees each year.

These fires caused an annual average of four civilian fire deaths, 33 civilian fire injuries and \$14 million in direct property damage. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in more than two in five home Christmas tree fires.

To help alert residents to these potential dangers, the Hinsdale Fire Department is holding its annual Keep the Wreath Red program aimed at increasing the awareness of safety while decorating homes for the holidays. The department

has placed a wreath with red bulbs on the fire station, and if a fire occurs that is determined to be the result of a holiday decoration, a red bulb is replaced with a white one.

That happened last week, in fact, according to the department, after a small fire was reported to have started on home's mantle home by a Christmas decoration. It was extinguished by the homeowner.

To help residents do their part to practice fire safety during the holiday months, fire officials offer the following holiday fire safety tips:

- Make sure to have a working smoke and carbon monoxide alarm on each level of the home, paying particular attention to sleeping areas.
- Clean fireplaces annually if used on a regular basis.
- Do not burn any foreign objects in fireplaces. A fireplace screen should always be in use.
- Do not allow Christmas trees to block any exit paths in the home.
- Place the Christmas tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Live trees should be kept at least three feet from any heat

source.

- Check the water level daily on live trees. All live trees and decorations should be disposed of immediately after the holiday, before they dry out.

- Use no more than three standard size sets of lights per single extension cord. Do not run extension cords under rugs.

- Use power strips in place of extension cords when possible.

- Never use lighted candles on a tree. Keep candles away from decorations and wrapping paper.

- Place candles in sturdy holders on a stable surface, well away from drafts, curtains, children and pets.

- Make sure outdoor decorations and lights are approved for outdoor use.

For more information, call the fire department at (630) 789-7060 or visit the department's page on the village website at [www.villageof-hinsdale.org](http://www.villageof-hinsdale.org).

"We hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season," Fire Chief Jeffrey Pindeliski said.

COMMENTARY

## Charlie Brown not alone in trying to get it right

I love seeing all the Christmas pictures and paintings my Facebook feed. Houses are beautifully decorated inside and out and spotlessly clean. Children are well-behaved and looking right at the camera. So are the pets, for that matter!

Of course, Christmas for most of us — or at least for me — has little resemblance to these images of perfection. Maybe that's why I like "A Charlie Brown Christmas" so much. He tries so hard and can never seem to get it quite right.

I don't even remember my first Christmas fail, but I've heard the story so many times I feel like I do. Apparently we had waited hours in line to see the one Santa I would agree to visit when I was very little. When it finally was our turn, I refused to go sit on his lap. Or even say hello. The outing certainly was memorable — although not in the way my parents had hoped.

Fast forward to senior year of high school, when I am thinking

as much (or almost as much!) about the gifts I'm giving as those I will receive. I fall in love with a sweater in one of the department stores in the mall where my boyfriend and I work and I buy it for him. We're heading home after work one day and see the sweater on a mannequin. I ask him what he thinks of it, and his response is something along the lines of "That's the ugliest sweater I've ever seen."

As punishment, I make him unwrap his gift when we get to my house. I'm sure I got him something else instead, but that's all I remember of the story.

Years later, the first Christmas Dan and I owned our own home, I wanted to make an impression. So I created an elaborate menu featuring turkey and gravy, ham, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes and more. I managed to get all the



Pamela Lannom

food on the table, and everything was reasonably warm. Success!

Then it came time for cleanup in my tiny kitchen with no dishwasher. My outburst of tears was not quite the sweet end to the meal I had hoped for — but it did lead me to a dramatically simplified menu that I serve to this day.

We served many Christmas dinners on a fold-out table in the basement family room of our home in Berwyn, and I always did my best to dress up the less-than-formal space. One year I created an arrangement of greens and ornaments to run down the center of the table.

And it looked great — until our beagle, Daisy, jumped up on the table and ate a few of the glass orbs. Fortunately she didn't get sick, but the arrangement definitely suffered.

I've made cinnamon log cookies that were shaped like squares and created a very small fire in my mother-in-law's oven one year when I needed to finish baking a cheesecake at her house. (That might have been on a different holiday, but it's a good story!)

When we attend the live nativity service on Christmas Eve at Hinsdale Covenant Church, all is not calm. With sheep, a donkey and kids who have not rehearsed their parts in the Christmas story, things don't always go smoothly. Pastor Lars Stromberg always reminds us that the very first Christmas did not resemble the beautiful, peaceful images we see on Christmas cards.

Of course, as we know from our friend Charlie Brown, it almost always turns out OK in the end. And that is something to celebrate.

— Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*. Readers can email her at [plannom@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:plannom@thehinsdalean.com).

■ I love seeing all the Christmas pictures and paintings my Facebook feed. Houses are beautifully decorated inside and out and spotlessly clean. Children are well-behaved and looking right at the camera. So are the pets, for that matter!



GUEST COMMENTARY

# Bye, Bloomington (for now)

When people tell you time flies, it's true. Just when we settle into a routine, just when we start to feel at home, it decides to sprint ahead, leaving us wondering where the days have gone. That's how I'm feeling right now as I prepare to study abroad in London.



**Bhavana Dronamraju**

only have one year left at Bloomington is bittersweet.

And now, I'm hitting pause on this chapter to begin a new one — one that starts in London, a city I've dreamed of visiting. Walking through Covent Garden, exploring museums or catching

a soccer game (or maybe I should say football) fills me with exhilaration. With its central airport, London will be a gateway to even more adventures. Luckily, I have no Thursday or Friday classes, so I will definitely be traveling a lot.

But even with all the excitement, it's hard to say goodbye to Bloomington. The cozy familiarity, the friends I won't see every day, the routines I've built — they're hard to leave behind, even temporarily.

Time pushes us forward, even when we want to linger. Maybe that's the point. We can't slow it down, but we can make the most of every moment. Whether we're in Bloomington or London or anywhere in between, we can choose to be present, to soak it all in.

So, for now, it's goodbye to Bloomington and hello to London. If these past years have taught me anything, it's to hold on tight because time doesn't wait, and the next adventure is always just around the corner.

— *Bhavana Dronamraju of Hinsdale, a junior at Indiana University, is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at [news@the-hinsdalean.com](mailto:news@the-hinsdalean.com).*

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# ASK AN EXPERT

SAIRA JOSHI AND MADISON MARSHIANO, NONPROFIT FOUNDERS

## How did you start your nonprofit?

Eighth-graders Saira Joshi and Madison Marshiano were elementary school students when they decided to do something good for their community. Today, the hands that build Small Hands Big Impact aren't so small anymore, and the impact of the nonprofit founded by these two friends keeps on growing.

"Two besties doing our part to make a positive change in the world!" is how Saira, a Hinsdale Middle School student, and Madison, who attends Latin School of Chicago, describe themselves.

Best friends since preschool, the girls were separated in 2020 when Saira moved to Hinsdale from Chicago. And while Madison wasn't far away geographically, the pandemic made it impossible to meet. The two kept in touch through texts and Facetime. As they heard stories of how families were struggling, they decided to do something to help.

With help from their moms, the two launched SHBI in 2020 and held their first fundraiser in February 2021. The two called upon their semi-famous friend who had been

a contestant on MasterChef Junior to hold an online cooking class. Proceeds from the event were used to buy books for patients at Lurie Children's Hospital.

In November 2022, SHBI collected food donations to "pack the pantry" at the Ronald McDonald House in Hines. About 500 pounds of food were delivered for the families staying at the house to enjoy.

Thanks to generous donations from the Latin School of Chicago, Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 and individuals, SHBI has held two back-to-back efforts to provide Chicago public school students with school supplies. SHBI collected and delivered 300 books, 50 fully packed backpacks and more than 2,000 other items to help students with back-to-school needs.

"We want to be kids helping kids. That's our motto," Saira said.

Saira said that starting a nonprofit wasn't her and Madison's original intention, but doing so has taught them a lot about working with other organizations and fundraising.

Madison said the experience has taught her practical skills, like how to create a spreadsheet and how to write a professional email.

Another school supply drive was held at the end of the last school year, and yet another is being planned for spring, Saira said.

"We set up bins in all the elementary schools and the middle school. We collected a lot of school supplies," she said.

Donations also can be made directly through SHBI's Amazon account. The link is available on the SHBI Instagram account, @small-hands\_bigimpact.

SHBI also is gearing up to launch its first website, with the hope that it will drive more traffic, Saira said.

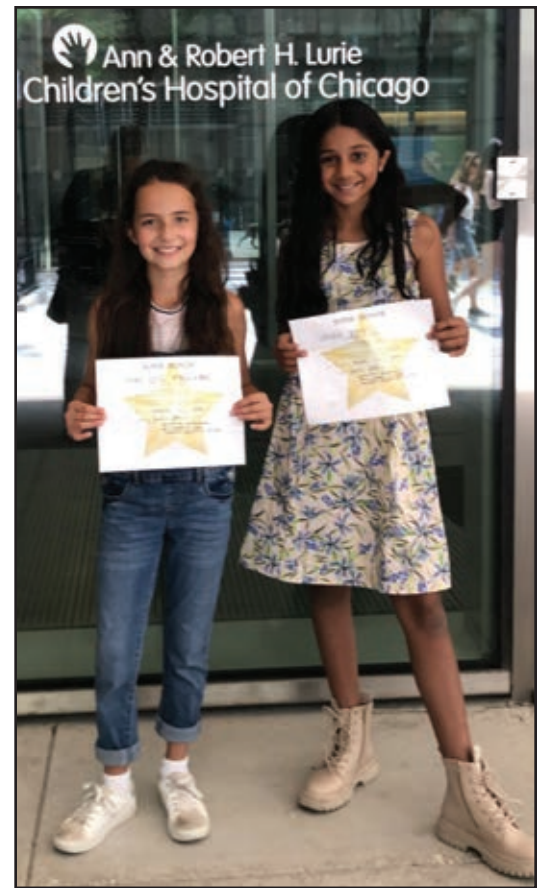
Donations aren't the only good to come from SHBI. Madison said she and Saira also are showing other young people that they can make a difference.

"This is a chance to teach other kids about the importance of helping others," Madison said.

Managing their own nonprofit requires weekly meetings and frequent calls, emails and texts. But for Saira and Madison, it's just part of their long friendship and their ongoing commitment to do good things.

"It's been so amazing to be able to help so many people," Madison said.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



Saira Joshi and Madison Marshiano were preschoolers in Chicago when they became friends. Just a few years later, they founded Small Hands Big Impact with a goal to help as many kids as possible through events like school supply drives and book collections. Saira says they're just getting started. (photo provided)



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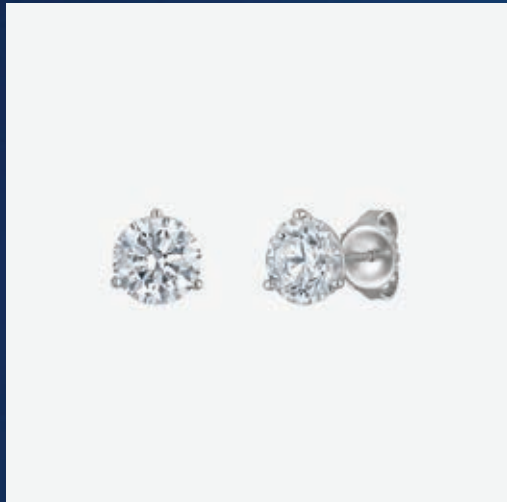
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# OBITUARIES

## Bob Barnes

Bob Barnes of Burr Ridge, formerly of Clarendon Hills, passed away Dec. 7, 2024.

Bob, 96, was born in 1928 in Pleasant Ridge, Mich., to Dr. Donald Jerome Barnes and Christine (Hedges) Barnes, RN. Bob's father was one of the first doctors to specialize in pediatrics. He had an older brother and sister, and a twin brother.

As a youth he enjoyed Boy Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1942. He got his degree in biology from Central Michigan University in 1950. In 1951, he married Diane, and they lived in Newark, Ohio.

Work brought Bob to Park Forest, and their growing family led them to settle in Clarendon Hills in 1960. Bob and Diane were very active in village activities, including Community Presbyterian Church. In 2004 they moved to Godair Park in Burr Ridge.

In retirement Bob enjoyed painting and learning the art of blowing out and painting Ukrainian Easter Eggs. He volunteered as a docent at Brookfield Zoo and the Morton Arboretum, and was volunteer



**Barnes**

of the year several times at the Clarendon Hills Public Library. He also enjoyed traveling internationally and in the U.S. One of his favorite hobbies was fly fishing. He loved the outdoors, hiking and studying nature.

Bob was honored to be named an Illinois Artisan, which enabled him to show his work anywhere in the state of Illinois. His legacy is his artwork.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Diane; and his granddaughter, Flora Christine.

He is survived by his children, Jerome Barnes and Sally (Barnes) Robertson; his grandchildren, Sarah and Jason (currently serving in the U.S. Navy in Virginia); and four great-grandchildren, Isaak, Jensen, Emma Diane and Arty.

Celebrations of life will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at King-Bruwaert House, 6101 S County Line Road, Burr Ridge; and at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills, 39 N. Prospect Ave.

## Daniel Isacson

Daniel Isacson, 88, a longtime resident of Hinsdale, Western Springs and Clarendon Hills, passed away peacefully Dec. 8, 2024, surrounded by his family at Hinsdale Hospital.

Born in 1936 in Oak Park, Dan was the son of Howard and Blanche Isacson. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and proud grandfather. Dan's family was his greatest joy; he took immense pride in watching his grandchildren grow and thrive.

Dan is survived by his wife, Anita; their four children, Debra (Jim), Scott (Heather), Michael (Susan) and Craig; and his grandchildren, Noah (fiancée Emily), Clayton, Reese, Claire, Annika and John.

Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at Adolf Powell Funeral Home, 7000 S. Madison St., Willowbrook.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 16, at Notre Dame Parish, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills. Interment is at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the Chicago Prostate Foundation at [www.chicagoprostatefoundation.org/how-to-help/donate-online](http://www.chicagoprostatefoundation.org/how-to-help/donate-online) or First Tee Greater Chicago at [www.firteegreaterchicago.org/#donate](http://www.firteegreaterchicago.org/#donate).

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

## Mary Seaton Martin

Mary Seaton Martin, 88, passed away peacefully at her Burr Ridge home Dec. 4, 2024.

Mary was a 1954 graduate of Hinsdale Township High School (now Hinsdale Central) and of Iowa State University. She lived most of her life in Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills and Burr Ridge.

Mary was an avid reader, dog lover and very accomplished at the piano (she could play and sing any college fight song). She was known for her dry wit, unapologetically being herself, her goofy, playful side and a great sense of curiosity about the world and others. Additionally, she was a long-standing member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Her greatest joy, however, was spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Richard



**Martin**

J. Martin; her children, Julia M. (Jeffrey) Bacigalupo, James K. (Jane C.) Martin and William L. Martin; her grandchildren, Allison L. Driscoll, Lauren E. (Brian C.) Lehner, Michael J. Driscoll, Robert C. Martin, Scott L. Martin and Anne L. Martin; and her brother, James M. Seaton.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert L. Seaton; and her parents, George L. and Mildred I. Seaton.

Services and interment are private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online to Wounded Warrior Project at [support.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://support.woundedwarriorproject.org) or King-Bruwaert House at [www.kingbruwaert.org](http://www.kingbruwaert.org).

Adolf & Powell Funeral Home in Willowbrook handled the arrangements.

## Michael Ann Walters

Michael Ann "Mike" Walters, nee Sweet, 82, of Hinsdale, died Nov. 14, 2024.

While Mike is known to many locals as the kind blonde-haired woman who worked the front desk at the Western Springs Veterinary Clinic for 27 years beside her husband, she also worked as a roller-skating waitress at Dog N Suds, an elf at Santa's Village, a truck driver, census taker, den mother, church youth leader and, perhaps most importantly, as a thoughtful and compassionate mother and grandmother.

Mike was a maternal figure to many. She cared deeply for her extended family, her local community and the broader city of Chicago. Whether she was feeding the neighborhood's stray cat, opening her home to her nieces and nephews or cutting out box



**Walters**

tops for her local schools and volunteering, Michael was an angel whose constant care and empathy touched the lives of everyone she knew.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Theodore "Ted" Clark Walters.

She is survived by her two sons, Steve (Allison) Walters and David (Leslie) Walters; and her four grandchildren, Grace, Ford, Ben and Sara Walters.

A celebration of life will be held from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale, with a special tribute at 3:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to a cancer charity of choice are appreciated. Sullivan Funeral Home Hinsdale in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.



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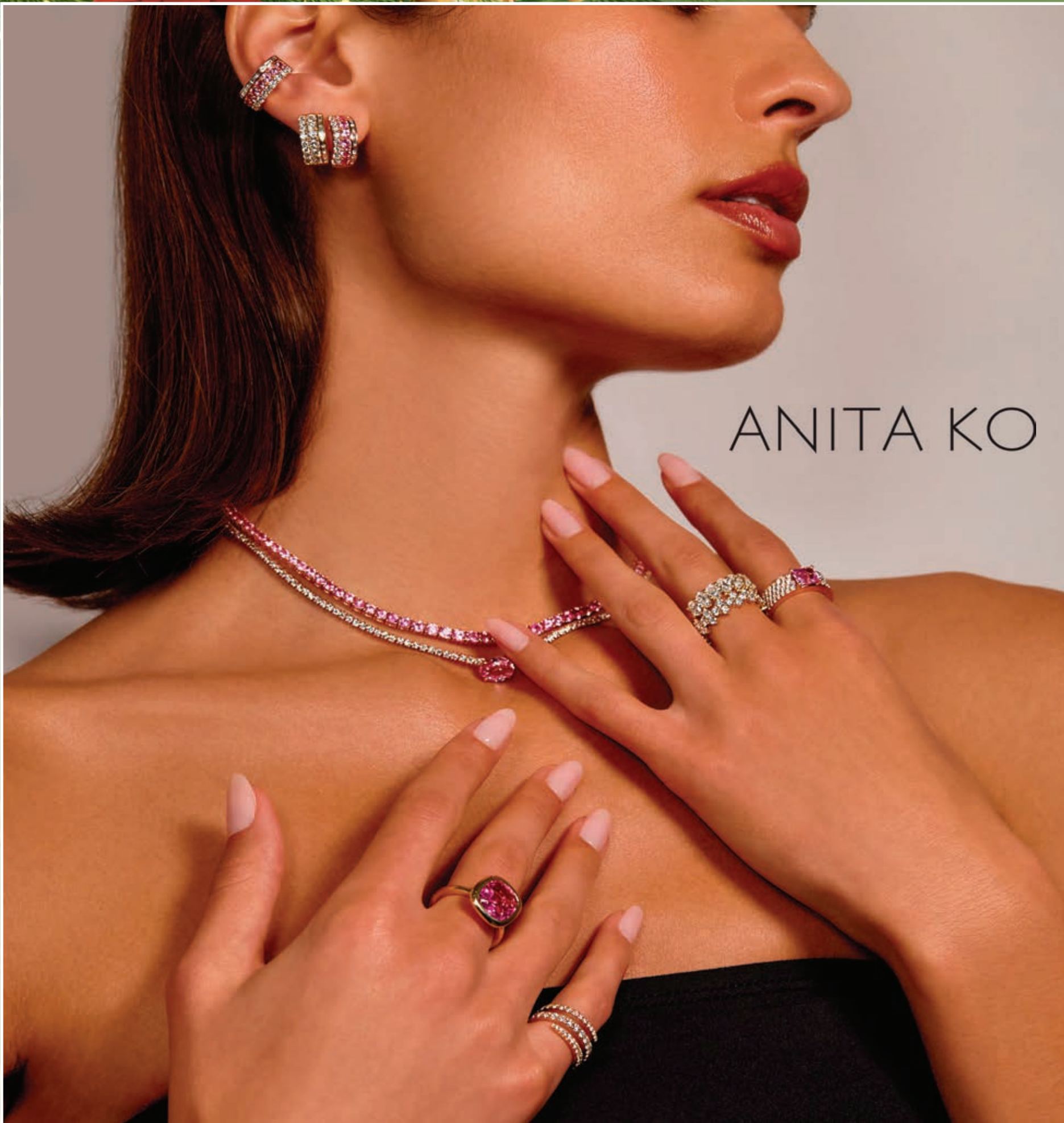
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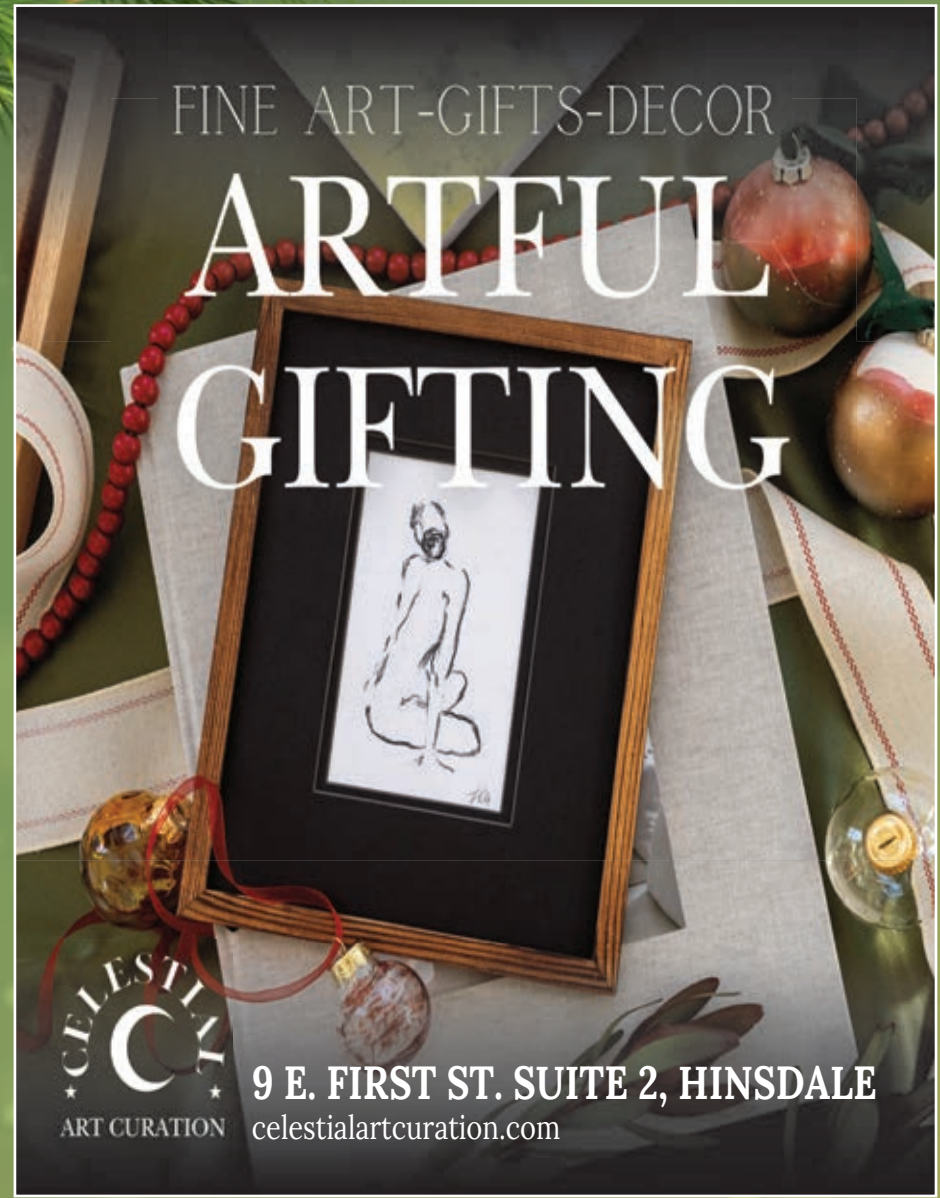
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# GOOD NEWS

## HOSPITALS EARN TOP SAFETY GRADES

Three UChicago Medicine AdventHealth hospitals have earned top safety grades from The Leapfrog Group for their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, infections and other patient harm.

The hospitals in Hinsdale, Bolingbrook and La Grange all earned "A"s in the fall 2024 edition of The Leapfrog Group's semiannual Hospital Safety Grade report, ranking among the safest hospitals in the nation.

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale and La Grange have earned "A"s for 23 consecutive grading periods, beginning in 2013.

"This achievement reflects our team members' strong commitment to delivering the highest-quality whole-person care," said Dr. Monica Reed, president and chief executive officer of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth. "While delivering care that addresses

patients' physical, mental and spiritual needs, our medical professionals have adopted the latest best practices for ensuring patient safety.

"They also have implemented systems for monitoring the impact of these practices and fine-tuning them whenever necessary."

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national non-profit watchdog, assigns a grade of "A" to "F" to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems that hospitals have implemented to prevent patient harm.

Earning an "A" grade is a significant accomplishment and reflects enormous dedication to patients, said Leah Binder, president and chief executive officer of The Leapfrog Group.

"I extend my congratulations to your leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts to put

patients first," Binder said.

For more details, visit [www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org](http://www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org).

## STUDENT EARNS MASTER'S DEGREE

Alex Tellez of Hinsdale earned a master's degree in management and information systems from Northern Illinois University in August.

## COLLEGE STUDENT IN PERFORMANCE

Belmont University's Mack Ashbaugh of Hinsdale is among more than 600 student musicians and vocalists who performed in the beloved concert tradition, "Christmas at Belmont: Live from Nashville."

This popular holiday spectacular is available to stream on Prime Video and the Amazon Music channel on Twitch beginning at This year marks the first time the event has been available on a global streaming platform.

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## Making music for the season

*Enjoy sweet sounds this time of year at a note-able performance close to home*

**By Ken Knutson**

*kknutson@thehinsdalean.com*

Downtown Chicago certainly offers a feast for the senses to ignite spirits in the lead up to Christmas. But when it comes to melodic merriment, Hinsdale is the place for a high-quality musical performances without the city crowds and parking hassles. So hark, the concerts take the stage soon and now is the time to make plans for holiday listening delight!

### Central holiday concert

The Hinsdale Central music department presents its holiday concert 7 to 9 p.m. this evening, Dec. 12, in the auditorium at Hinsdale Central High School, Jennifer Burkemper, Central's choir director, said the annual program, as always, will be a group effort.

"Our holiday concert features the entire music department in performances," Burkemper said. "Curricular jazz, orchestra, band and choirs are all performing a wide variety of styles, including holiday favorites."

She said the concert is designed to entertain those in attendance and to showcase the students' considerable talent.

"We want to get our audience into the holiday spirit, of course," Burkemper said. "We hope our audience will see the high level of musicianship that our ensembles bring in performance, the variety of ensembles and type of repertoire performed."

Among the pieces featured will be the Chamber Choir's time-honored rendition of "Carol of the Bells." And don't think about ducking out early.

"All choirs combine with our philharmonic orchestra on stage for the grand finale, a medley of carols, and there will be snow falling on stage," she revealed.

Burkemper praised the young musicians for their dedication even while busy with schoolwork and active in other pursuits.

"Preparing for this concert is months of daily rehearsal, hours of dress rehearsals and combined



rehearsals, and a lot of logistical planning from the faculty," she said. "The end result is a wonderful evening of music. We are proud to teach the students here at Hinsdale Central."

The school is located at 5500 S. Grant St. Admission is free.

### Operatic evening

The entire family is in for a special treat at An Evening of Opera benefit at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at The Community House.

Award-winning baritone Jonathan Beyer will perform opera, song and holiday favorites in this concert. Beyer, who lives in New York City but hails from Orland Park, said he enjoys returning to the region.

"I tried early on my career to always make it back to the southwest suburbs to do programs like this," he said. "This is nice way for me to come home and have a chance to perform."

Beyer has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera and Opera Frankfurt, among others. He appreciates the opportunity to provide a more intimate opera experience for listeners with a diverse repertoire he has curated.

"I just got to pick all my favorite pieces," he said. "We'll have



Gershwin and Tom Lehrer from the American songbook, as well as classic musical theater like Rodgers and Hammerstein, and holiday favorites — not just Christmas-y but also some secular songs in there as well. It should be a nice mix."

Beyer said one need not be a Lyric Opera regular to attend.

"If you're not a big fan of opera, just wait a second and you'll get a great musical theater piece. It's designed to be accessible but with high-level performance — just a very audience-friendly, fun evening."

Beyer is especially pleased to be joined by friend and mezzo soprano Amanda Crider. Both started out as piano students before shifting to vocal performance, which allows them to dust off their key skills.

"This is a chance for us to play the piano for one another," he said. "She'll get up and sing an aria and I'll accompany her, and we'll switch."

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the many services provided by The Community House.

The Community House is located at 415 W. Eighth St. Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$25 for kids 18 and younger. Visit [www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org).

**Dec. 21 features** a pair of special holiday season programs, with opera singer Jonathan Beyer performing a benefit concert at The Community House, and pianists Justin Gjata and Victor Moreno sharing the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church stage. (photos provided)

### A Pair of Pianos

Justin Gjata and Victor Moreno will present Two Piano Christmas Concert at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Gjata, 22, is an Albanian-American pianist who began playing at age 5. In a recent interview he shared his deep dedication to developing his musicianship.

"I spend four to five hours a day at the piano. I also allocate some time to study musical scores," Gjata told "Atlantiku". "This is my life. To be a musician, you have to live and breathe it, and the audience deserves the genuine expression of music from the depths of the soul."

Angie Grozdic, who handles communications for Hinsdale SDA Church, said Hinsdale's Victor Moreno is Gjata's longtime teacher and mentor.

She noted that they have performed together all over the U.S. as well as in Europe.

"They'll play basically a lot of traditional Christmas carols and favorites, as well as selections from Handel's 'Messiah' and 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' with a little gospel feel," Grozdic said.

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 201 N. Oak St.





More than 2 million twinkling LED lights are on display at Brookfield Zoo during Holiday Magic. See the Holiday Happenings listing on Page 34 for details. (photo provided)

## ARTFULLY DONE

### ■ Painting Wooden Ornaments with Acrylics

Dec. 14  
Morton Arboretum  
4100 Route 53, Lisle  
www.mortonarb.org  
(630) 719-2468

Learn techniques for painting natural subjects on wood using acrylics and create personal hand-painted wooden ornaments. The workshop is for the intermediate or advanced art student 16 and older. Time: 9 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$49. RR, MD

### ■ Drawing Workshop

Dec. 15  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
www.thecommunityhouse.org  
(630) 323-7500

This supportive workshop for beginners and experienced artists will focus on fundamental concepts such as measurement and proportion, shading and value. Supplies are included. Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost:

\$72. RR, MD

### ■ Origami — Folding in the New Year

Jan. 4  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
www.hinsdalelibrary.info  
(630) 986-1976

Learn from the Chicago Area Origami Society the basic folds of origami to transform flat paper into 3-D masterpieces. Finish the program with a paper crane origami which represents luck, health and peace. Time: 2 to 4 p.m. RR

### ■ Coffee at the Gallery

Every Wednesday  
Celestial Art Curation Gallery  
9 E. First St. Suite 2  
www.celestialartcuration.com/

Stop by the gallery and enjoy coffee from Cafe La Fortuna. Time: 10 a.m. to noon.

## FOR A CAUSE

### ■ Bernie's Book Bank Drive Through Jan. 7

*Please turn to Page 28*



## An Evening of Opera

*Song, and Holiday Favorites*

with Baritone Jonathan Beyer & Mezzo-Soprano Amanda Crider

December 21 7:30 PM



The Community House is proud to present a family friendly evening of opera, musical theater selections and jazz standards in the first half of our program and featuring your favorite holiday melodies in the second. Join us for a magical winter's night with award-winning opera singer and Chicagoland native, Jonathan Beyer.

All proceeds benefit social services, counseling, arts and recreation programs at The Community House (501c3).

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE | 415 WEST EIGHTH STREET, HINSDALE, IL | 630.323.7500 | www.thecommunityhouse.org

SCAN FOR TICKETS





# Girls in white dresses and brown paper packages

I'm not sure when "My Favorite Things" from The Sound of Music became a holiday favorite, but as a musical theater girl who's always up for a little extra Rogers & Hammerstein in her life, I'm here for it. This year, two lyrics jump out in particular: "girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes," and "brown paper packages tied up with string." Both of them are perfect for the holidays in Hinsdale!

## Hinsdale Assembly Ball

Two nights before Christmas, the Hinsdale Assembly hosts its annual ball in which girls in white dresses (think long satin gloves in place of blue satin sashes) will promenade through cotillion figures with their honor guard escorts, all while celebrating an incredible year of service and funds raised for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale.

From its inception in 1963, the Hinsdale Assembly has raised nearly \$3.5 million for the hospital in its efforts. In 2022, the Assembly committed to raising \$250,000 over five years to help renovate the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. This year, the hos-

pital was able to open the first wing of the new space as soon as construction was completed, which means families now have an area three times larger to call home while their babies are recovering. The final phase of construction is expected to be completed in early summer 2025.

"I am so incredibly honored to be part of this organization that has done so much good for our community," said Emily Van Houtte, chair of the Hinsdale Assembly. "The group of women that make up the Assembly Board — past and present — are to be commended for their untiring commitment to community, family and service. We are 100 percent volunteer driven — with all aspects of the community service events, social events and the amazing ball — executed by our board members."

In addition to fundraising for this goal, the debutantes and honor guard members spent the year doing service projects in the community, which ranged from clearing invasive plants



Allison Peters  
Society spotlight

for the DuPage County Forest Preserve to hosting a "Happy Hearts" Valentine-themed party at Wellness House for children affected by cancer. They distributed food through local food pantries, made blankets for babies in the NICU and played bingo with elderly residents at Bethlehem Woods.

"It truly is a pleasure to get to know these young women and men and see them evolve so much over the short course of such a pivotal year in their lives," Von Houtte said. "We hope their time with us will inspire them to continue in the tradition of dedication to service elsewhere in their lives."

For more information, visit [www.hinsdaleassembly.org](http://www.hinsdaleassembly.org).

## Infant Welfare luminaria

While the Hinsdale Assembly Ball is in full swing in one part of town, there's another tradition in the area that deserves a spotlight as well: "Light up the Night" from the Clarendon

Hills Infant Welfare Society. This organization has sold luminaria kits (think "brown paper packages tied up with string") for more than 50 years to light the winding streets of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale on Christmas Eve. The proceeds from the sale go toward supporting Chicago's Angel Harvey Family Health Center's critical needs, including medical care to underserved families.

Sometimes being part of a community looks flashy, appearing in social media all decked out at a gala, and sometimes it looks like joining together with your neighbors to offer support in a small way. Luminaria kits are \$8 at Kramer Foods and are available from now through Dec. 24. You can find out more at [clarendonhillsinfantwelfare.org/luminaria](http://clarendonhillsinfantwelfare.org/luminaria). I'll be putting some out for the first time this year, breathing in the night air, as "snowflakes ... stay on my nose and eyelashes, and silver white winters ... melt into springs."

Hinsdale is indeed full of my favorite things.

— Allison Peters of Hinsdale is the paper's society columnist. Readers can email her at [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com).

## HOLIDAY POSTCARD

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# PULSE

*Continued from Page 26*

[www.berniesbookbank.org](http://www.berniesbookbank.org)

Donate new or gently used children's books to increase book ownership among underserved children throughout Chicagoland. Hinsdale drop-off locations are 400 Pamela Circle, 608 E. First St., Hinsdale Bank & Trust at 25 E. First St. and CorePower Yoga at 34 S. Vine St.

## GAME ON

### ■ Jodie Harrison Registration

Ongoing  
The Community House  
415 E. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Sign up for the Jodie Harrison recreational youth basketball league for kids in second through eighth grades, emphasizing instruction and helping kids learn and enjoy the game of basketball. Practices begin the week of Jan. 6, and games begin Jan. 18; there will be one weekday practice and one weekend game per week. Cost: \$335. RR, MD

## GREAT OUTDOORS

### ■ Winter Ecology

Dec. 15  
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)  
(708) 839-6897

Gather around the fire under a full moon for a discussion about the important role that winter plays in the survival of plants and animals. Time: 5 p.m. RR

### ■ Winter Solstice Celebration

Dec. 21  
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)  
(708) 839-6897

Celebrate the longest night of the year with a bonfire and self-guided walk along the Farm Pond Trail. S'mores and hot cocoa will be provided. Time: 5 to 7 p.m. RR

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### ■ Clinical Trials 101

Dec. 17  
Wellness House

131 N. County Line Road  
[www.wellnesshouse.org](http://www.wellnesshouse.org)  
(630) 323-5150

Dr. Akhil Chawla of Northwestern Medicine will discuss the basics about clinical trials, how to find clinical trials and important questions to ask before deciding to participate. Time: 6:30-8 p.m. RR

### ■ Managing Stress Around the Holidays

Dec. 18  
[www.wellnesshouse.org](http://www.wellnesshouse.org)

Nevada Bennett, Wellness House oncology support and family counselor, will lead this online program to teach strategies for managing stress and employing self-care this time of year. Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m. RR

### ■ Spring Rock Parkrun

Every Saturday  
4400 Central Ave., Western Springs  
[www.parkrun.us/springrock/](http://www.parkrun.us/springrock/)

Sign up for this at-your-pace 5K run organized entirely by volunteers. Just register with parkrun once, and bring a scannable copy of the barcode to the run in order to receive a time. Join the group for a post-run coffee at Starbucks. The course is available at the website above, and run results and reports will be posted a day or two after each event. Time: 8 a.m.

## JUST FOR KIDS

### ■ Beginner Crochet

Dec. 17  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

Kids in grades three through five can learn how to crochet using different techniques and patterns. Supplies will be provided. Time: 4 to 4:45 p.m.

### ■ DIY Snow

Jan. 6  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

Elementary-age kids are invited to create their own snow and build a miniature winter wonderland. Time 4 to 5 p.m. RR

## NOTEWORTHY

### ■ Lee Murdock with the Dock Wallopers

Dec. 14  
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale  
11 W. Maple St.

[www.acousticren.com](http://www.acousticren.com)  
(630) 941-7797

Murdock combines ragtime, Irish, blues and folk styles with this flair for storytelling in songs. His music is grounded in the work song tradition, and the concert will feature the song of the ship that brought Christmas trees to Chicago for many years. Streaming tickets are also available. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20

## ON STAGE

### ■ 'Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr.'

Fridays to Sundays through Dec 15  
Theatre of Western Springs  
4384 Hampton Ave.  
[www.theatreofwesternsprings.com](http://www.theatreofwesternsprings.com)  
(708) 246-3380

The Children's Theatre of Western Springs presents this beloved stage adaptation of Dahl's classic story, promising a delightful experience for audiences of all ages. An ASL performance will be included at the 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, performance, and a special sensory-friendly performance will be staged at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. Times: 7 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$17, \$13 for ages 18 and under.

### ■ 'Disney's The Little Mermaid'

Through Jan. 12  
Drury Lane Theatre  
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace  
[www.drurylanetheatre.com/the-little-mermaid](http://www.drurylanetheatre.com/the-little-mermaid)  
(630) 530-0111

Dive beneath the waves with Ariel, a young mermaid with a captivating voice and an insatiable curiosity, as she defies her father and makes a daring deal for the chance to create the world of her dreams on land. Enjoy the beautiful score including favorites like "Under the Sea," "Part of Your World," and "Kiss the Girl." Times: 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:30 and 7 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: start at \$52.95.

## STEPPING BACK

### ■ Nature Study Explorers

Dec. 14  
Kline Creek Farm  
1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago

*Please turn to Page 30*

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*Continued from Page 28*

[www.facebook.com/klinecreekfarm](http://www.facebook.com/klinecreekfarm)  
(630) 876-5900

Explore nature through an 1890s lens and learn from the Nature Study movement of the late Victorian era. Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost: Free, suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up.

## TEENS & TWEENS

■ **Finals Prep with P.A.S.S.**  
Dec. 14-18  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

High schoolers can kick start their finals prep with help from P.A.S.S. tutors, Hinsdale Central students providing peer study groups and one-to-one academic support in core content areas. Sessions will be available in calculus, trigo-

nometry, precalculus, integrated math, algebra, chemistry, biology, physics and Spanish. Visit the website above for the schedule of tutor availability. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. RR

■ **Teen Art Workshop**  
Dec. 16  
Hinsdale Public Library  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

Join an open art hour to create art with peers. Each week the library will supply various art supplies along with new ideas and techniques to try. Time: 5 to 6 p.m. RR

■ **Teen Self-Defense Workshop**  
Jan. 5  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Ages 11-17 will participate in a series of discussions and be introduced to basic physical self-defense skills and techniques focusing on mindset, skill set and planning. Attendees must have a signed electronic waiver on file in advance of the event. Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: \$47. RR, MD

*Please turn to Page 32*

## December Highlights at Hinsdale Public Library



### Beginner Crochet

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m.;  
grades 3-5

Learn how to crochet! We will work with different techniques and patterns. Supplies will be provided. Please register online.



### Noon Year's Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m.;  
kids of all ages

Count down to noon with snacks, activities, and a balloon drop! Please register online.



### Exam Cram

Saturday, Dec. 14-  
Thursday, Dec. 19

Stress less over finals at the Library! You provide the study materials and we'll provide space and snacks to keep you going.



### High School Peer Tutoring for Finals

Saturday, Dec. 14-  
Wednesday, Dec. 18; make  
an appointment online

Kick start your finals prep with help from P.A.S.S. peer tutors.



### HPL Merch Store

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Looking for the perfect gift for the Hinsdale Public Library lover in your life? We've got you covered! HPL's online store is selling HPL-branded bags, mugs, and shirts for adults, kids, and babies.



Register online today at  
[hinsdalelibrary.info/events](http://hinsdalelibrary.info/events)



# The Hinsdalean

## A message from the co-owners of The Hinsdalean



Pamela Lannom  
Editor



Jim Slonoff  
Publisher

Dear Hinsdalean,

It's hard for us to believe we started our 19th year of publication in September of this year. And while another year has flown by, we continue to devote our time and energy into providing you with the best community newspaper we can. We were humbled once again to be named the best weekly newspaper of our size in the state by the Illinois Press Association – for the fifth year in a row.

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to you, our valued readers, to ask for your support. In order to continue providing high-quality, independent journalism, we are seeking voluntary contributions from our community of readers.

Your generous donation will help us maintain our commitment to delivering reliable news and insightful stories. Every contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful impact.

If you're interested in supporting our work, you can easily make a donation using the QR code below or by filling out and returning the form below. We deeply appreciate your consideration and continued support.

Thank you for being a part of our community.

James Slonoff  
Publisher

Pamela Lannom  
Editor

Yes, I wish to support community journalism by making a voluntary contribution to The Hinsdalean. Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check in the enclosed return envelope or use the QR code provided.

\$100

\$75

\$50

Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Pet pic of the week

**Soulful Patches** can be shy at first, but once she gets to know you, you've got a friend for life. Her ideal home is a quiet, cozy space that brings out her gentle spirit and loving heart. She prefers to be your one and only but promises to return the favor by being an affectionate, charming companion. Not only is Patches cute, but she is a quick learner and will impress you with her many tricks. From a perfect sit to an adorable paw shake, she's always willing to showcase her talents. If you're ready to adopt a one-of-a-kind girl, Patches is ready! For more information, stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, visit [www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org) or call (630) 323-5630. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 30

### WINTER BREAK

■ **Winter Break Camp**  
Weekdays Dec. 23-Jan. 3  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Kids in kindergarten through middle school will enjoy arts and crafts, group games, cooking projects and STEM activities along with a field trip on Wednesday of each week. No camp Dec. 24, 25, 31 or Jan. 1. Register for one day or all seven. Extended care is available for an additional fee. Time: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$90 per day, \$510 for all six days. RR, MD

■ **Chicago Elite Volleyball Winter Break Clinic**  
Dec. 23  
The Community House  
415 E. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500  
Youth ages 8-14 will be

both introduced to the game of volleyball and encouraged to improve their individual skill development in passing, setting, attacking, blocking, serving, defense and movement. Players will be divided according to skill level and age and challenged accordingly. Time: 10 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$60. RR, MD

■ **5 Star Winter Soccer Camp**  
Jan. 2-3  
Hinsdale Central Fieldhouse  
5500 S. Grant St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

This co-ed program for ages 5-12 presents a curriculum focused on developing fundamental technique while creating an atmosphere that unlocks the game within each child. T-shirts are included, and participants should bring a ball. Time: 1 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$114, RR, MD

Key  
RR - registration required  
MD - member discount

## VILLAGE OF HINSDALE HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE



HAPPENING  
THIS  
WEEKEND

**TREE LIGHTING &  
58TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK**  
Friday, December 6  
Beginning at 5:00 PM  
at Memorial Hall

**HINSDALE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**  
Saturday, December 7  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
at Burlington Park

CONTINUED  
HOLIDAY  
FUN  
THROUGH  
DECEMBER

**SANTA VISITS**  
Saturday, December 7, 14, & 21  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
at Burlington Park

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING PASSPORT**  
Sun. November 24 - Tues. December 24  
Pick-up at local participating businesses

FOR MORE INFORMATION



[villageofhinsdale.org](http://villageofhinsdale.org)





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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

## ■ 'Nutcracker Suite'

Dec. 13  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
www.wsballet.org

This festive "Nutcracker" event for all ages features snacks, crafts, festivities and an interactive performance. Time: 6 p.m. Tickets: \$55

## ■ Holiday Concert

Dec. 14  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1310 Shepherd Drive,  
Naperville  
www.nhbdupage.com

The New Horizons Band of DuPage will perform well-known Christmas selections and audience favorites. The concert will include the New Horizons Concert Band, Brass Choir, German Band, Jazz Band and Woodwind Consort. New Horizons consist of musicians from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Light refreshments will follow the concert. Time: 3 p.m. Admission: Free, with donations accepted.

## ■ 'The Nutcracker on Ice'

Dec. 14-15  
Seven Bridges Ice Arena  
6690 Route 53, Woodridge  
www.creativeicetheatre.com

Creative Ice Theatre, an elite skating program, will present its fifth annual production of this holiday classic on ice. Time: 1 and 6 p.m. Dec. 14, 1 p.m. Dec. 15. Tickets: \$25-\$40.

## ■ Holiday Afternoon Tea

Saturdays in December  
Lucille Restaurant at Drury Lane  
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace  
www.lucillerestaurant.com  
(630) 530-8300

Enjoy an exquisite afternoon tea around a breathtaking Christmas tree, accompanied by live entertainment playing favorite holiday tunes. Teas also are slated for Dec. 26 and 27. Reservations required 48 hours in advance. Time: 1 p.m. Cost: \$75, \$35 for ages 5-12.

## ■ 'The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley'

Through Dec. 15  
McAninch Arts Center  
College of DuPage  
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn  
www.atthemac.org  
(630) 942-4000

As the events of Miss Bennet unfold upstairs at Pemberley, the servants below find themselves in the midst of a different holiday scandal. George Wickham, Lydia's incorrigible husband and Mr. Darcy's sworn enemy, has arrived to disrupt the celebration. A post-show discussion with the director and cast will be held on Nov. 22. The Dec. 5 show will include an ASL performance. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$44, \$42 for seniors.

## ■ 'The Nutcracker'

Dec. 21-22  
Hinsdale South Auditorium  
7401 Clarendon Hills Road,  
Darien  
www.wsballet.org

The West Suburban Ballet Conservatory will present this holiday classic. Time: 1 and 4 p.m. Dec. 21, 1 p.m. Dec. 22. Tickets: \$40.

## ■ Holiday Shopping Passport

Through Dec. 24  
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr

Get into the holiday spirit and support local business-

es by participating in the passport program. Pick up a passport at a participating business, Village Hall or the Hinsdale Public Library and start collecting stickers at each shop. Each sticker equals one raffle entry. Winners will be notified by the village starting Jan. 3.

## ■ Christmas Day Brunch

Dec. 25  
Lucille Restaurant at Drury Lane  
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace  
www.lucillerestaurant.com  
(630) 530-8300

Let someone else handle the cooking and enjoy a morning of cherished memories and togetherness. This festive brunch features made-to-order omelets, hand-carved prime rib and warm vanilla bread pudding with caramel-bourbon sauce. Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$115, \$50 for ages 5-12, free for 4 and younger.

## ■ Christmas Chamber Concert

Dec. 28  
Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church  
201 N. Oak St.

Julia Tsien on piano and Steven Song on violin will present this concert. A free will offering will be collected. Time: 6 p.m.

## ■ Winter Holidays in the 1890s

Through Dec. 30  
Kline Creek Farm  
1N600 County Farm Road,  
West Chicago  
www.facebook.com/klinecreekfarm  
(630) 206-9576

Join a guided tour of the 1890s farm house focusing on winter holiday traditions.

Learn how farm families decorated the tree, exchanged gifts, and prepared food for the holidays. No tours Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Free, \$5 suggested donation per person ages 3 and up.

## ■ New Year's Eve Concert

Dec. 31  
McAninch Arts Center  
College of DuPage  
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn  
(630) 942-4000  
www.atthemac.org

Ring in 2025 with Maestro Muspratt as he conducts a fun and exciting New Year's Eve pops concert featuring a variety of light classics, Strauss waltzes, arias, guest soloist Richard Ollarsaba, champagne and surprises. Afternoon performances have limited tickets available. Times: 1:30, 5 & 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$68-\$80

## ■ Holiday Magic

Through Dec. 31  
Brookfield Zoo  
8400 31st St.  
www.brookfieldzoo.org/holidaymagic

Visit this light festival featuring more than 2 million twinkling LED lights, giant illuminated animals, a dazzling tunnel show, Santa and captivating walk-through displays. Marvel at more than 900 beautifully decorated trees, each adorned by local community groups. Take a leisurely stroll through new immersive displays, Candy Cane Lane and Sparkling Coast, and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Some activities have additional fees. See website for hours and full schedule. Tickets: \$20.95 to \$34.95 plus parking.

## ■ Illumination

Through Jan. 4  
Morton Arboretum  
4100 Route 53, Lisle  
www.mortonarb.org

New this year is a vibrant display of interactive tree shapes synchronized to different musical instruments in the Grand Garden. Along the one-mile walking trail, a concession tent will serve hot chocolate, snacks, alcoholic beverages and s'mores kits to be enjoyed at warming bonfires. Electric Illumination late-night experiences are set for Dec. 13-14. See website above for details. Open Wednesdays to Sundays through Dec. 15 then daily Dec. 18 to Jan. 4; closed Dec. 24-25. Hours: 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets: \$13.80 to \$30.40.

## ■ Christmas at Cantigny

Through Jan. 5  
Cantigny Park  
1S151 Winfield Road,  
Wheaton  
(630) 668-5161  
www.cantigny.org

Explore a dazzling array of experiences while strolling a half-mile, fully ADA- and stroller-accessible path. Enjoy music-orchestrated light shows, festive decorations, larger-than-life flower sculptures and a towering 28-foot Christmas tree. The McCormick House is open with rooms adorned in festive splendor. Instead of Christmas music, experience a special light show with songs from favorite eras during "A Very Taylor Christmas" on most Sunday evenings. Enjoy a scenic outdoor skate at the rink. Visit the website listed above for a full schedule. Tickets: \$12 to \$38, with discounts for advance purchases.



## DONATE A BENCH!

Park benches make great gifts for both your beneficiary and your favorite park! Best of all, your donation is tax deductible and supports parks community-wide! People may donate new or existing benches. A donor recognition plaque will be installed on the bench.

For more information on the process of donation, contact Michael Hayes at [mhayes@villageofhinsdale.org](mailto:mhayes@villageofhinsdale.org)







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\*\*MREDLLC.com total individual sales Hinsdale brokerage office 1/1/23-12/31/23



# SPIRIT OF GIVING

## ■ Holly Jolly Trolley

Dec. 12  
Immanuel Hall  
320 S. Grant St.  
[www.hinsdalehistory.org](http://www.hinsdalehistory.org)  
Enjoy a trolley ride to view village lights, "Nutcracker" performances by Salt Creek Ballet Company dancers, meet and greet with the ballerinas and a cookie or refreshment. Attendees must attend at the time slot purchased. Proceeds benefit the Hinsdale Historical Society. Time: 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets: \$45, free for infants up to age 1 who will sit on a parent's lap.

## ■ Clothing and Winterwear Drive

Through Dec. 17  
Hinsdale Central  
5500 S. Grant St.  
Donation gently used clothes to USAgain in support of Repurposing for Ecology Club and to bring awareness for Homelessness Awareness Month for Habitat for Humanity Service Club. Drop donations in boxes at the circle drive or Grant Street entrance.

## ■ Gavin Coyle: A Celtic Christmas

Dec. 20  
McAninch Arts Center  
College of DuPage  
421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn  
[www.atthemac.org](http://www.atthemac.org)  
(630) 942-4000

Revel in the holiday spirit with award-winning recording artist Gavin Coyle as he brings his annual "A Celtic Christmas" back to the MAC. Sing along with Gavin and his band as they perform traditional holiday favorites from America and Ireland. Ticket proceeds benefit People's Resource Center, a local non-profit serving DuPage County since 1975. Time: 8 p.m. Tickets: \$40.

## ■ Rally for a Clause

Dec. 24  
Net Game  
145 Plaza Drive, Westmont  
Six-time Grand Slam semi-finalist Caroline Dolehide will host this pickleball contest, which is the inaugural event of the Chicago Style Foundation. Participants will enjoy pickleball, prizes, raffles, food, drinks and a paddle raise auction. Proceeds support the Love Like Sean Foundation and Chicago Youth Centers. Time: 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets: \$100, \$50 for students, military, first

responders and teachers.

## ■ Tree of Remembrance

Through Jan. 1  
Lincoln and First streets, Hinsdale  
[www.adventhealth.com/hospice-care/advent-health-st-thomas-hospice](http://www.adventhealth.com/hospice-care/advent-health-st-thomas-hospice)  
Advent Health St.  
Thomas Hospice's Tree of Remembrance will stand outside of BMO Harris Bank from Thanksgiving through the new

year. Community members are invited to make a donation and have a loved one's name listed on the boards beside the tree. Visit the website listed above for details.

## ■ Hinsdale Humane Society Gift Shop

[www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org)  
Find the perfect gift for an animal-lover at the Hinsdale Humane Society Pet Rescue

and Resource Center online gift shop and help raise money to care for homeless animals. T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, beanies, water bottles are more available for the humans on the gift list. Purchases help the organization care for the animals at the shelter.

## ■ Sponsor a Homeless Animal

[www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org)  
Animal sponsorships are a

great way to support homeless animals and a great gift idea. For a minimum sponsorship of \$50, recipients will help provide care for an animal of their choosing, receive a personalized gift sponsorship certificate with the pet's photo and an optional listing on the society's website. Sponsorships can be purchased online. Questions? Call (630) 323-5630 or send an email to [development@hinsdalehumanesociety.org](mailto:development@hinsdalehumanesociety.org).



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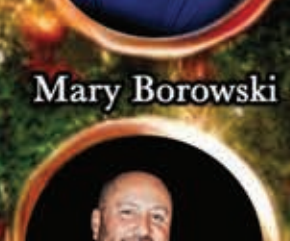
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# IN FOCUS



## Lights, faces shine at Christmas Walk

Whether you are a Hallmark or Norman Rockwell fan, you found the perfect setting at Hinsdale's 58th annual Christmas Walk Friday night. Michael Ott and his daughter, Rosalie, ride the carousel set up on First Street, Isla Dabah gets a hug from Frosty in front of Meredith Jaye. Kennedy Dalton and McKenna Mohan were a touch overwhelmed by the Hinsdale Bank & Trust cookie choices. (Jim Slonoff photos)



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Monday - Friday  
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Classified deadline:  
Tuesday 4 p.m. for  
Thursday's publication

Email:  
tinaw@thehinsdalean.com



So you think you're a *real* Hinsdalean, eh? Tell us where you think this picture was taken and you can win a Fuller's Ultimate Car Wash gift card. Send your answer to: The Hinsdalean, Village Posting Board, 7 West First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521. Winners will be drawn from correct answers received weekly. *Good luck!*

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## Crossword Answers

A	B	B	A		C	P	A		U	F	O	S	
L	E	A	D		H	I	S		N	U	B	S	
F	A	C	E	M	A	S	K		F	L	I	T	
A	N	K	L	E	T			U	B	O	L	T	S
			E	E	E		P	A	L	M			
E	L	F		T	A	M		A	D	O	R	N	
M	I	R	O		U	R	N		S	O	M	E	
S	P	E	C	S		S	I	S		N	N	E	
		E	T	A	L		A	I	M				
R	E	M	A	D	E		G	R	E	A	S	E	
E	L	E	V		F	L	A	S	H	M	O	B	
A	L	A	I		T	A	R		T	A	R	A	
L	A	L	A		S	B	A		A	T	T	Y	

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## Yes, I'm a real Hinsdalean!



**YES, I'm a real Hinsdalean!**  
Today's picture is at:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your answer to: The Hinsdalean  
7 W. First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521  
or email: [tinaw@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:tinaw@thehinsdalean.com)

One winner will be chosen monthly from all correct entries and receive a Fuller's Ultimate Car Wash gift card.



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Located at 1345 Dory Circle South, Hanover Park, IL. 60133; was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Deep Doshi, 1345 Dory Circle South, Hanover Park, IL. 60133.

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DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean  
November 28,  
December 5 & 12, 2024.

CERTIFICATE NO. 79572 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 25, 2024 wherein the business firm of

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Published in The Hinsdalean  
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Jean Kaczmarek  
DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean  
December 12, 19 & 26, 2024

## Equal Housing



It is the intent and goal of this newspaper to have each advertiser who wishes to place a covered advertisement in the newspaper comply with the Fair Housing laws. Any advertisement which is perceived to contain language contrary to these laws will be rejected or changed to remove the offending reference. Under certain circumstances, advertisers may claim that because of the nature of the housing being advertised, they are not subject to the Fair Housing laws. Such claims are irrelevant for purposes of considering advertisements for publication in this newspaper. Every housing advertisement published in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing laws.





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- ACROSS**
- 1 "WATERLOO" GROUP
  - 5 FINANCIAL PRO
  - 8 SCI-FI VEHICLES
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  - 14 WORN-DOWN PENCILS
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  - 18 SHORT SOCK
  - 19 CURVED FASTENERS
  - 21 SHOE WIDTH
  - 22 TROPICAL TREE
  - 23 SANTA'S HELPER
  - 26 HIGHLAND HAT
  - 28 PRETTIFY
  - 31 PAINTER JOAN
  - 33 COFFEE VESSEL
  - 35 A FEW
  - 36 GLASSES, SLANGILY
  - 38 BRO'S KIN
  - 40 COMPASS DIR.
  - 41 AND OTHERS (LAT.)
  - 43 GOAL
  - 45 FILMED ANEW
  - 47 LUBRICATE
  - 51 MOUNTAIN HT.
  - 52 GATHERING ORGANIZED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA
  - 54 JAI -
  - 55 SAILOR
  - 56 SKATER LIPINSKI
  - 57 CHORUS SYLLABLES
  - 58 GOVT. LENDER
  - 59 ABA MEMBER

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18						19	20			
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51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

- DOWN**
- 1 - ROMEO
  - 2 LEGUME
  - 3 SUPPORT
  - 4 "SKYFALL" SINGER
  - 5 FRENCH VINEYARD ESTATE
  - 6 MATH RATIOS
  - 7 INVITE TO ONE'S LOFT
  - 8 DEVELOPS
  - 9 SPECTACULAR LUNAR PHASE
  - 10 LAST WRITE-UP
  - 11 BYGONE FLIERS
  - 16 BUMP INTO
  - 20 SHEEPISH REMARK
  - 23 GERMAN RIVER
  - 24 SASS
  - 25 COMP FOR A FOODIE
  - 27 "-- MINIVER"
  - 29 LBJ'S SUCCESSOR
  - 30 FORMERLY KNOWN AS
  - 32 SPENCER OF "HIDDEN FIGURES"
  - 34 - FALLS
  - 37 BLUE
  - 39 ROUND TABLE TITLES
  - 42 CERTAIN JABS
  - 44 MAESTRO ZUBIN --
  - 45 GENUINE
  - 46 BIG NAME IN SCAT
  - 48 LATIN 101 WORD
  - 49 TYPE
  - 50 ONLINE AUCTION SITE
  - 53 SCIENCE ROOM

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S CROSSWORD CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLASSIFIEDS.

## Weekly SUDOKU

3		1	7	2		6
5	6	4	2			1
1				6	4	5
	2	7		8	6	3
	3	5				7
8					5	
7	8	2	6	5	1	
		3	4	7		8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SCRAMBLERS

*solution*

1. Swap
2. Arise;
3. Creamy;
4. Cavort

*Today's Word*  
**EMPTY**

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then make the first letters into a new word. Write the new word in the box.



- Swish: WASP
- Etude: RAISE
- Smooth: MYCARE
- Pierce: VORTAC

**TODAY'S WORD**

S	8	9	7	4	6	3	1	5	2	A
U	6	8	7	8	7	8	3	7	8	N
D	2	6	9	3	7	9	4	8	1	S
O	7	1	8	2	4	6	5	3	6	W
K	4	3	9	8	6	3	4	2	7	E
U	6	9	4	5	9	6	3	8	4	R

# HOROSCOPES

December 2024 Horoscopes • Week 3

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, you will try to meet the demands of your need for information this week. Chances are you'll be reading the newspaper and news outlets as much as you can.

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, a special person in your life deserves all of your attention. Romance might be on your mind, and you'll look forward to all of the time you can spend together.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22  
Cancer, forge ahead in your efforts if you aspire to learn a new skill or take on a different project. This might involve meeting new and interesting people. Expand your social network.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Family and friends will have a difficult time changing your mind once you have taken a stance, Libra. You have dug in your heels on this topic.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
You cannot gain traction right now, Aquarius. Perhaps you haven't met the right people yet? Keep your eyes and ears open for new opportunities.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
You may feel artistically inspired this week, Taurus. Explore projects like home improvements or crafting. There are many things to try.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23  
Leo, it is important to put others first this week, particularly your spouse or romantic partner. You don't want any hurt feelings circulating right now.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, new work assignments or additional business may complicate matters in the days ahead. That can be great during times of year when spending can get out of control.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Pisces, if a career change has been on your mind, the new year might be a chance to get those gears moving in the right direction.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
Your attendance at a wedding or another special event could have your thoughts moving in a romantic direction, Gemini. Maybe you're thinking of taking your relationship to another level?

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
An unexpected visitor might come your way in the next few days, Virgo. This could require overhauling your schedule and even space in your home to make room.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
As you prepare for the colder temperatures, holistic arts, acupuncture, herbs, and therapies might be on your mind, Sagittarius. You don't want to be sick this go-around.



# SPORTS — ROUNDUP

## STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



**Jacob Villanueva**  
Senior  
Westmont

### When did you start bowling competitively?

Junior year. I was inspired by my dad because he really urged me to do bowling, and he's a really good bowler. At one point he was semi-pro, and he said, "You should learn from me."

### What do you enjoy about the sport?

I enjoy it because it's a laid-back, relaxed sport. We're all friends, almost like family, because the team is really small.

### How have you improved over the last two years?

I think I've definitely improved this year, and I've seen a lot of growth in my mental game. You've just got to overcome that mental barrier and give yourself positive reinforcement and keep a positive mindset, so that if one bad thing happens and it doesn't become like a domino effect.

### How would your teammates describe you?

Probably as a easy-going guy. I try to help out when I can, like giving teammates a ride if anyone needs one. If someone's having a tough game I just try to be encouraging and cheer him up.

### What's your goal for the season?

I'd like to break 200. My

personal high score is 198.

### Do you participate in other Central activities?

My main sport has been track and field. I'm also in marching band and a lot of extracurricular clubs including Ambassadors Club, Filipino Club and Badminton Club.

### What do you like to do when you have free time?

I just love to take naps. It helps me relax from the stress of balancing school, sports and extracurricular activities.

### What do you plan to study in college?

Computer engineering.

### What advice would you give to a struggling bowler?

Patience is the biggest thing you need. You will not see results right away, If you're not patient, you'll just end up quitting because you'll get discouraged. It's important to stick with it.

### What's on your Christmas wish list?

Just clothes. I'm trying to get more into fashion.

### Why does head coach Alex Hipskind like having Villanueva on the squad?

He's extremely committed to the team and it constantly striving to be better every day.

— profile by Ken Knutson,  
photo by Jim Slonoff

## RESULTS

**Basketball, boys**  
Dec. 10 @ St. Patrick  
V wins 53-48  
Buzelis, 19 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists, block  
Kozys, 15 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, steal  
Howell, 7 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists, steal, 5 blocks  
Dell, 6 points, 3 rebounds, assist, steal  
Bero, 3 points, 3 rebounds, assist  
Orozco, 3 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists  
Thick, rebound, 2 assists  
Dec. 6 vs. Glenbard West  
V loses 40-42

**Basketball, girls**  
Dec. 10 vs. Naperville North  
V wins 71-41  
Darwish, 24 points, 8 rebounds, assist, 5 steals,  
Skinner, 19 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, block  
Dolan, 10 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals, block  
Sherpitis, 8 points, 3 rebounds, assist, steal

Gin, 5 points, rebound, 4 assists  
Mokhtarian, 3 points, steal  
Quast, 2 points, rebound  
Giannini, assist, 3 steals  
Tucke, assist  
Dec. 7 vs. Proviso West  
V wins 65-24

**Bowling, boys**  
Dec. 9 vs. Nazareth Academy  
V loses 2,032-2,240  
Bansal, 455  
Rivera, 432  
Villanueva, 431  
Egbert, 384  
Copeland, 143 (one game)  
Stamer, 94 (one game)  
Drew, 93 (one game)  
Dec. 4 @ Fenton  
V loses 2,199-2,800

**Bowling, girls**  
Dec. 10 @ Leyden  
V loses 1,897-2,629  
Oranu, 367  
Allen, 344  
Choe, 307  
Young, 304  
Sudi-Khan, 293  
Steigbigel, 282  
Dec. 5 vs. Hinsdale South  
V loses 1,726-2,408

**Gymnastics, girls**  
Dec. 4 vs. Glenbard West  
V loses 118.4-138.1  
Vault  
Driscoll, 4th, 8.7  
Smith, 7th, 8.4  
Kaminskaite, 8th, 8.3  
Uneven bars  
Driscoll, 5th, 8  
Kaminskaite, 7th, 7.4  
Smith, 8th, 7.2  
Hannah, 9th, 6.9  
Balance beam  
Inabnit, 3rd, 8.6  
Hannah, 6th, 8.1  
Driscoll, 7th, 8.05  
Nawracaj, 9th, 6.7  
Floor exercise  
Inabnit, 2nd, 8.7  
Hannah, 5th, 8.4  
Driscoll, 6th, 8.35  
Kaminskaite, 9th, 6.6  
All-around  
Driscoll, 3rd, 33.1  
Hannah, 5th, 23.4

**Hockey**  
Dec. 7 @ Kankakee Irish  
V wins 3-1  
Weller, 2 goals  
Nikolaev, goal, assist

**Swimming, boys**  
Dec. 7 vs. Naperville Central  
V wins 397-126  
200-yard medley relay

L. Vatev, M. Vatev, Guo, Pelinkovic, 1st, 1:35.27  
Shiell, Benington, Pavlovic, Adamo, 2nd, 1:41.62  
200-yard freestyle  
Bey, 1st, 1:49.27  
Feiro, 2nd, 1:50.28  
Suliga, 4th, 1:57.12  
200-yard IM  
Guo, 1st, 1:56.9  
Benington, 2nd, 2:01.23  
Pelinkovic, 3rd, 2:04.77  
50-yard freestyle  
L. Vatev, 1st, 21.67  
Chase, 2nd, 23.21  
Byrne, 3rd, 23.53  
1-meter diving  
Zloza, 1st, 249.3  
Kassir, 2nd, 203.6  
Devata, 3rd, 195.95  
100-yard butterfly  
Shiell, 1st, 55.05  
Pavlovic, 2nd, 56.76  
M. Vatev, 3rd, 57  
100-yard freestyle  
Suliga, 1st, 50.85  
Abbott, 2nd, 51.15  
Adamo, 3rd, 54.45  
500-yard freestyle  
Pelinkovic, 1st, 4:46.61  
Feiro, 2nd, 4:58.15  
Byrne, 3rd, 5:15.04  
200-yard freestyle relay  
Guo, Suliga, L. Vatev, Adamo, 1st,

1:28.33  
M. Vatev, Chase, Abbott, Pavlovic, 2nd, 1:31.49  
100-yard backstroke  
Bey, 1st, 53.76  
Shiell, 2nd, 54.69  
Benington, 3rd, 56.86  
100-yard breaststroke  
M. Vatev, 1st, 1:01.86  
Hargrove, 2nd, 1:03.65  
L. Vatev, 3rd, 1:06.05  
400-yard freestyle relay  
Suliga, Adamo, Guo, Bey, 1st, 3:18.09  
Pelinkovic, Shiell, Abbott, Benington, 2nd, 3:19.86  
Dec. 6 vs. Waubonsie Valley  
V wins 305-45

**Wrestling, boys**  
Dec. 7 @ Plainfield North Invite  
V places 13th vs. Rantoul  
V wins 53-21  
Dec. 6 @ Glenbard West  
V loses 9-56  
Dec. 5 vs. Downers North  
V loses 6-68

## Instant replay



**Hinsdale Central's** Kathrine Choe considers her next roll, while teammate Aurora Allen releases a shot during a match Dec. 5 against Hinsdale South at Suburbanite Bowl. The two seniors were among the top scorers for the Red Devils, but the team fell to the intra-district rival Hornets. (Jim Slonoff photos)



# SPORTS

## Athletes busy on the court, in the gym

*Red Devil basketball teams and girls gymnastic team planning to give it their all*

By Pamela Lannom  
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

At this point in December, the winter sports season is underway for all Hinsdale Central teams.

In this, the third of three season previews, readers learn from coaches about the boys and girls basketball team and girls gymnastics team.

### Boys basketball

**First game:** Nov. 25 @ Hoops 4 Healing (V beat Naperville Central (65-55))

**Last year:** 15-16

**Head coach:** Nick Latorre

**Seasons as head coach:** 15th at Central, 23rd overall

**No. varsity team members:** 21

**Strengths:** We have good experience back from last year, and I think we have a nice mix of position guys. We match well. We have a couple of perimeter guys, a good point guard and some bigs.

**Challenges:** It's kind of figuring out what everyone's role will be in terms of scoring, in terms of defending, in terms of sharing the ball. So right now we're kind of feeling our way out. It's going to be a different guy every night because we do have a lot of depth, we do have a lot of talent. One of the challenges is that guys need to understand our unselfish play will be the difference between our success and not. I think the guys put a lot of pressure on themselves, too. I hope we settle in and start playing freely, just playing the game and having fun doing it.

**Who to watch:** Vincas Buzelis, he's got a scholarship to South Dakota. He's been our leading scorer, and he's a tremendous athlete, great defender, very versatile. We've got five, six other guys that are all capable. Tyler Thick is coming back for his third year on varsity. Dillon Orozco played significant minutes last year. Eric Kozys played a significant role and played big minutes last year. Michael Howell in the second half of last season really played a lot of minutes and ended up starting in our regional games.

**Outlook:** I'm hoping that we improve as the season goes on and

play at our highest level. That's always the goal. We're going to take one possession at a time.

**Furthermore:** We're really looking forward to the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic. We had our bracket meeting on Sunday and it's truly a cool group of coaches. We've got 15 teams from 16 different conferences. Joe Spagnolo is the driving force behind the holiday classic. It's really grown into one of the premier events in Chicagoland and it's because of him.

### Girls basketball

**First game:** Nov. 19 vs. Glenbard East (V won 54-32)

**Last year:** 11-20

**Head coach:** Brett Moore

**Seasons as head coach:** first at Central, assistant boys varsity coach at Central last year, seven years as head boys varsity coach at Hinsdale South

**No. team members:** 13

**Strengths:** I would say they're willing to learn a brand-new style of basketball. We have a system that defensively is way different than anything they've ever done. We play a defense called the ball thrust. It's not really a zone, it's not really a man. From day one of us putting it in this summer, you can see the light bulbs going off. The girls love it. There's a brand new energy to our program. It fits our multi-sport athletes. It's brand new to me. It's brand new to them. The girls have really bought into it at every level and it's been a great way to start the program.

**Challenges:** I think the No. 1 challenge is we're going to lose some basketball games here and there. We've already played the top two teams in the state and competed for a couple of quarters. The challenge is not letting mistakes snowball. We've gotten better and better at that since the summer. The mentality of 'We can get back in any game, we can play with anybody' — that's the mentality we're trying to build up. Luckily we have a lot of great leaders on the team who say we need a change, we need a new attitude. They want to have a good program. It's player-led, which is going to be a huge plus for us.



The boys and girls basketball teams and girls gymnastics team at Hinsdale Central are well into their winter seasons. The girls basketball team is off to a strong start under new coach Brett Moore. (file photos)

**Who to watch:** Grace Dolan, she is a four-year varsity player that has been phenomenal for us this season in offense and defense. She's been averaging 13 points a game and has been invaluable to us. Her leadership and aggressiveness is helping set the tone for our entire team. Katherine Skinner is a third-year varsity starter. She had a devastating injury in the fall where she really tore up her ankle really bad. I don't think anybody could put as much into rehab to get on the court as soon as possible. She's played in five of our six games. She knows the level you have to compete at to win these basketball games. Julia Sherpitis is kind of our do-everything player right now. She plays the hardest position on defense, is playing our point guard position on offense. She is averaging one turnover a game, which is almost impossible to do in girls basketball. Julia has really allowed us to have a great start to the season.

**Outlook:** I think we have a chance to kind of flip the seasons that they've had the last couple of years. We've gotten off to a great start. We're 4-2. The two teams we've lost to are two of the top teams in the state of Illinois. I think we're just going to keep getting better and better throughout the season. We're playing in a 16-team holiday tournament. We just got the 4 seed. Some people

have definitely noticed this is a new Hinsdale Central basketball team. This is my first year coaching varsity girls basketball. I'm figuring out things we need to do to be competitive at different levels and the girls are doing the same. If they keep buying in, which I know they will, we have the chance to have a special season.

### Girls gymnastics

**First meet:** Nov. 27 @ Hinsdale South Invite (V placed 5th)

**Last year:** 0-4 conference meets

**Head coach:** Kim Estoque

**Seasons as head coach:** 20

**No. team members:** 9

**Strengths:** They're just all really nice girls and they like to work hard.

**Challenges:** We lost a couple of our better kids from varsity last year from graduation. This year we had to move kids up from JV.

**Who to watch:** I would say Erica Driscoll. She does all-around. She's a senior. I think she's our best kids on two to three events right now. Lane Inabnit, she does beam and floor. The last couple of meets she has been our top person on beam and floor.

**Outlook:** I think we're going to have a tough year. I want to have a good time. If we can increase our score each meet and do better each meet, that's all I'm asking.



*Wishing you*

*Peace, Love & Joy*

*this holiday season*



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# 15 N LINCOLN ST ——— COMING SOON ———



## Hinsdale

\$1,250,000 | Office Building

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