

The Hinsdalean

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Thursday, November 21, 2024 •

Hinsdale, Illinois •

Volume XVII, Issue 9 •

\$1 on Newsstands - 52 Pages



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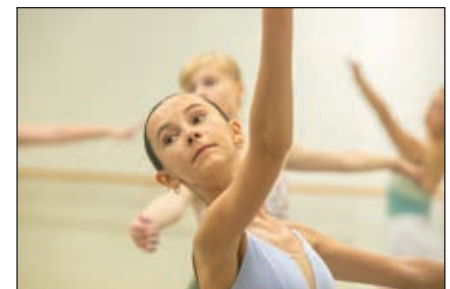
Eleanor Beutler belts out a song along with fellow members of the BAM Theatre after school enrichment class at Madison School last week. The program featured half a dozen numbers from the play “High School Musical.” At the program, Melanie Lamoureux, artistic director and owner of BAM Theatre, announced that she was in the process of acquiring a building and building out a performance space and theater in Westmont, with hopes of opening next year. Lamoureux started BAM as a 13-year-old in 2001 with a couple of friends with the first rehearsals in her backyard on Bodin Street and her first show held at Clarendon Hills Middle School. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Multi-talented

Central violinist creates new mural for orchestra room.

Page 9



Holiday tradition

Hinsdale ballerina excited for second appearance in ‘Nutcracker.’

Page 23



Solid strokes

Central swimmers face tough competition at state meet.

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55th Street TIF plan is pared down

Jewel-Osco and PNC Bank properties excluded, schools to share in revenues

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale High School District 86 and Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 would feel much less financial impact from a proposed tax increment financing district along 55th Street in Clarendon Hills under a new deal put forward.

At the Clarendon Hills Village Board meeting Monday night, trustees approved by a 6-1 vote an intergovernmental agreement with the districts that significantly scales back the scope of the TIF by removing the Jewel-Osco and PNC properties and promises the schools any surplus yielded from most of the other parcels.

"We'll be rebating a majority of the properties back to the school districts," Clarendon Hills village manager Zach Creer told trustees

prior to the vote.

The pact now goes to the schools, which also includes Maercker Elementary District 60, for their approval.

The village's intent to use the TIF mechanism, which allows local governments to divert property tax revenue away from taxing bodies to instead fund redevelopment projects, drew opposition from the districts when the plan emerged over the summer.

District 181 estimated it would lose \$1 million to \$3.2 million in potential tax revenue over the 23-year lifespan of the TIF district. Clarendon Hills officials said the area along 55th Street from Western Avenue to Holmes Avenue qualified as a TIF district because of its older properties and need for infrastructure and traffic safety improvements.

A Joint Review Board made up

of all the taxing bodies affected overwhelmingly opposed it in an advisory vote, contending that the plan was a misuse of the TIF tool and would result in higher taxes for all residents in the various districts. As the equalized assessed value in a taxing district increases, its tax rate decreases.

With the TIF artificially keeping the EAV in the included area from increasing, taxpayers subsequently pay higher rates to generate the amount of property taxes districts are allowed to collect under the tax cap.

Village President Eric Tech suggested the strong pushback from the schools compelled the village to revise its vision for pursuing upgrades and redevelopment in the neighborhood south of 55th Street and also seek alternative funding sources.

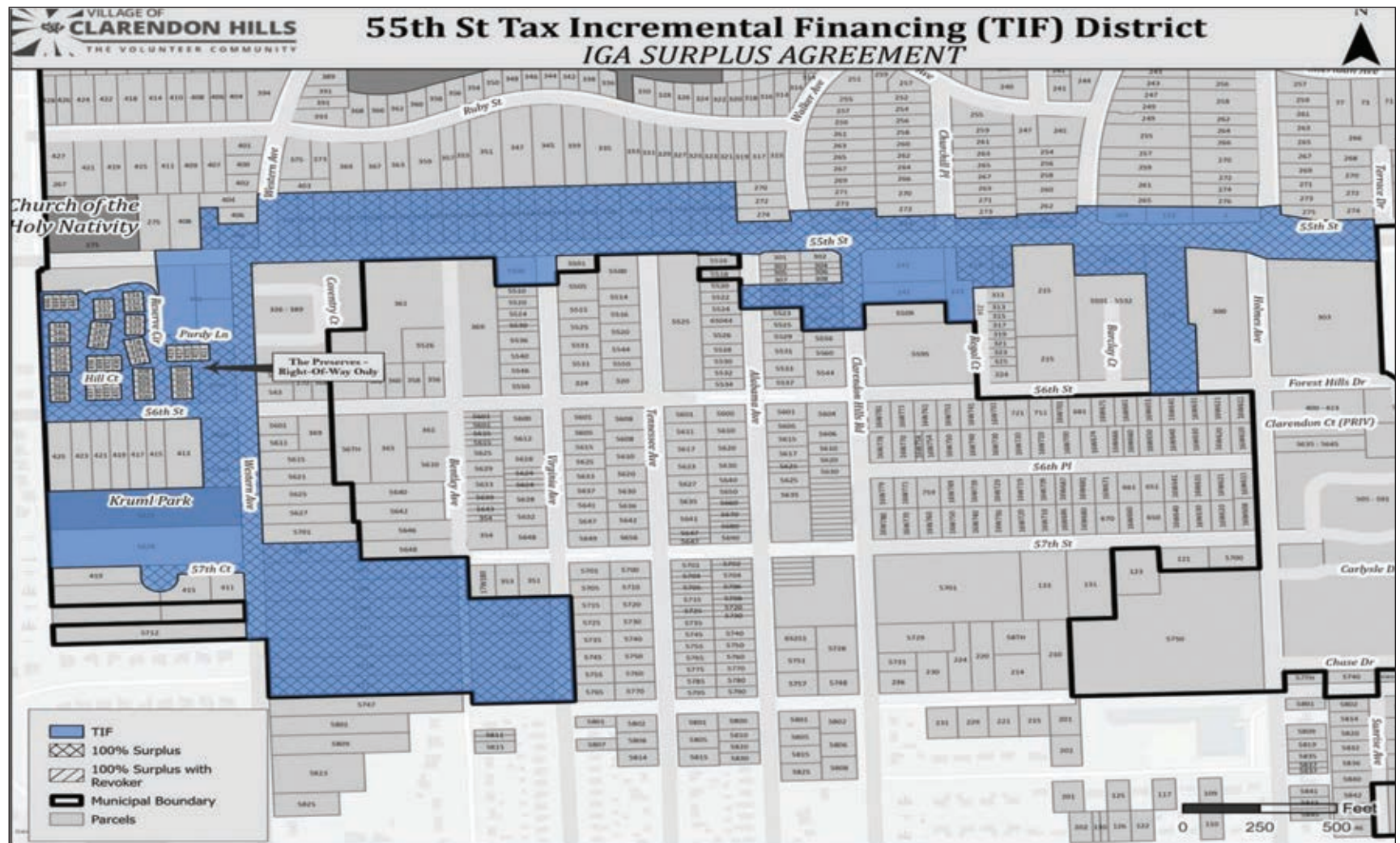
"We're not going to be hitting the

taxing authorities with the same impact as originally thought," Tech said.

Village officials said the modifications will shrink the TIF budget by \$12.6 million.

"What we decided was to really make a much more focused TIF around the former Tracy's Tavern property, to make it focused on trying to improve the intersection safety at Western (Avenue and 55th Street), potentially providing a crossing and a light there," Tech said. "And also be able to accumulate some funds for a future upgrade to the water down there."

The District 86 board is slated to discuss the 55th Street TIF at their regular meeting tonight but will take no action. District 181 communications directors Jeffrey Alstadt said the board is expected to take up the matter at its next meeting Monday, Dec. 16.



This map shows the tax increment financing district approved by the Clarendon Hills Village Board on Monday as part of an intergovernmental agreement with school districts affected by the property tax-diversion measure to pay for improvements along 55th Street.

Tax revenue generated in the cross-hatched areas will now be rebated to the schools following criticism of an earlier version of the TIF proposal that gave nothing back to the schools. (village of Clarendon Hills map)

ONCE UPON A TIME



Pictures from the past — Hinsdale's building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, took this photo in 1979. Four Seas Chop Suey was located at 43 S. Washington St., which is now home to Jade Dragon. 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.

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thehinsdalean.com
 Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Monday through Friday
 The Hinsdalean is published once a week by Hinsdale Publishing Co. Inc. and delivered to every home in Hinsdale. The Hinsdalean also is sold on newsstands throughout the village and in nearby communities.
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Delivery
 The Hinsdalean is available by mail to those living outside of Hinsdale for \$99 for six months or \$179 for one year. Email version is \$49 per year. To subscribe or if you have questions about delivery, call Tina Wisniowicz.

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. Obituaries may be edited for style and space.

Photo reprint policy
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Three contested races on April 1 ballot

Candidates will compete for seats on the D86 board, village board and library board

By Ken Knutson

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Hinsdaleans will cast consequential votes in several contested local races when they head to the polls next spring.

The Hinsdale High School District 86 Board race has the most crowded field in the April 1 consolidated general election with eight candidates vying for four four-year seats.

Terri Walker of Hinsdale is the sole incumbent running. She is joined by challengers Warren Ali, Andrew Catton, Bobby Fischer, Jenny Gannon, Baron Leacock and Mary Satchwell of Hinsdale and Liz Mitha of Darien. Mitha and Satchwell have announced they will run in collaboration as the "Unite 86" slate.

Current board member Jeff Waters is uncontested for the two-year term that will finish out the unexpired term of former board member Kay Gallo, who resigned in the fall of 2023.

Peggy James, elected with Walker and Waters in 2021, is not running again. James said she is happy with the work accomplished in the last four years, including in the areas of fiscal responsibility and board transparency.

"I think I'm leaving it better than when I got there, and I'm ready to pass the torch," James said. "(The progress

can be built upon in a way that continues to benefit our district.

"It's been an opportunity that I've really cherished to support our community, our district and, most importantly, our students," she added.

Abed Rahman and Heather Kartsounes, appointed following the resignations of Debbie Levinthal and Kay Gallo, respectively, have decided not to run.

Hinsdale Village Board

Four candidates are vying for three open seats on the Hinsdale Village Board. Incumbents Neale Byrnes, Michelle Fisher and Matthew Posthuma will share the ballot with newcomer Carlos Aparicio.

Greg Hart is uncontested for village president to replace Tom Cauley, who is stepping down after a record-setting four terms. Cauley said he made up his mind not to run "a long time ago" but kept it to himself. He revealed that he considered not seeking a fourth term in 2021 but that the pandemic discouraged would-be successors.

"I couldn't get anybody to really take an interest in it," Cauley remarked. "At the time I started my fourth term I knew that would be my last."

Hinsdale Public Library Board

For the four seats are open on the Hinsdale Public Library board, incumbents Kimberly Kiyosaki and Chun Ye will be joined on the ballot by Dennis Garcia, Jayesh Hines-Shah and Carissa Kapcar.

Dick Munson, elected in 2021, and Lucy Zhou, elected to a two-year term in 2023, are not seeking reelection.

"Hinsdale is very lucky to have such a great public library that offers a diverse array of programs and resources to the community. It has been an honor to work with the great staff and trustees," Munson said.

District 181 Board

There's no ballot battle in Community Consolidated Elementary District 181, with incumbents Bill Cotter and Grace Shin along with fellow Hinsdale resident Adam Creighton East poised to assume the three open seats.

Michael Martin is not running for reelection after one term. Martin said that was always his plan, but admitted stepping away was not an easy decision.

"I thought about re-running quite extensively," he said, citing a desire to have more time for his family as a decisive factor. "I went in with the intention



of doing four years and I'm sticking to that."

Martin, who is serving his second year as board president, identified the forthcoming introduction of district-wide all-day kindergarten and the procurement of a permanent administration center as two of the most gratifying accomplishments during his tenure.

"Our fiscal management is the strength of the district," he said, crediting his board predecessors for establishing a solid foundation. "We only have the ability to (make those investments) because previous boards had earmarked money for it."

Martin praised Superintendent Hector Garcia, the administrative team and his board colleagues for their talent and dedication.

"It's been a very enjoyable experience, especially with the relationships I've built with other board members and administrators," he said.

— Pamela Lannom contributed to this story

Village dedicates new Memorial Building Plaza

By Pamela Lannom

plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale officials, donors and residents celebrated the completion of the Memorial Building Plaza Tuesday on a remarkably mild November night.

"This is the first time I've seen this done and I'm very impressed with the way it turned out," Village President Tom Cauley said in his remarks. "This project was a good example of cooperation between the village of Hinsdale board and the Hinsdale Library and the generosity of members of the Hinsdale community."

Cauley noted that the Memorial Building itself was built with donations from residents and dedicated on July 4, 1928.

"This Memorial Building and its grounds are a legacy to past generations of Hinsdaleans which should be cherished," he said.

He thanked Trustee Michelle

Fisher, who spearheaded the project, for her efforts. She in turn thanked all involved and said the community spirit that funded the construction of the building is alive today.

"We came together again to celebrate Hinsdale's 150th anniversary," she said.

The building has provided a place to gather and reflect for almost 100 years.

"The new updated plaza now gives Hinsdale a community space to read, relax and remember," she said.

The \$400,000 project was paid for with \$80,000 in donations and equal contributions of about \$160,000 from the village and the library. The 3,000-square-foot patio was expanded by 800 square feet and paved with Unilock brick pavers. Wall seating areas were created and the patio was furnished with black metal tables and chairs. New landscaping was added as well.

"It's a beautiful space and it's a great example of the library



The renovated plaza in front of the Hinsdale Memorial Building will be the backdrop for many events, including library programs next year and the Hinsdale Christmas Walk Dec. 6. (Jim Slonoff photo)

and village working together," library board President John Bloomfield said. "This is just a gorgeous space. We have a gorgeous library and building, but we are somewhat landlocked. To be able to use this outdoor space is fantastic."

More than 100 people attended the dedication ceremony, enjoying cookies and hot chocolate inside the Memorial Building Rotunda before heading outside for the remarks and ribbon-cutting.

Fisher also recognized

donors before the ceremony concluded.

"Each and every one of you — friends, families, businesses, the library — your contributions made the difference here," she said. "Thanks for your kindness and generosity."

NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21
Hinsdale Central High School
55th and Grant streets
www.hinsdale86.org/board-of-education/board-meetings

On the agenda: TIF update, Illinois School Report Card, fall athletics performance and participation report, German and ASL language programs, earned honors credit, school calendar, 2025-26 program of studies, girls wrestling at South, possible appointment of board attorney

MEETING ROUNDUP

Hinsdale Village Board

Among other business at their meeting Tuesday, trustees:

- approved a 4.5-percent salary increase (to \$235,576) and a \$900 annual increase in car allowance for village manager Kathleen Gargano
- agreed to appoint Richard Olsen to the Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission through April 30, 2025. The long-time Hinsdale resident and architect is filling a seat left by the resignation of Jim Prisby, who moved to Florida.
- approved the 2024 property tax levy and a series of six abatements resulting in a net levy of \$9.08 million for the village and \$3.83 million for the library. The abatements are related to six different bond issues that will be repaid with sources other than property tax revenue.
- discussed adopting the 2021 International Code Series. The village last updated its building code in 2006 and must do so every 10 years. The new code would require sprinkler systems in new single-family homes. Trustees will discuss the code again at their Tuesday, Dec. 17, meeting. Interested residents and builders are invited to attend and share their opinions.
- listened to Kristine Richards request four things from the village following her son Sean's death in July of 2023: a public statement saying his death never should have been allowed to happen, new sidewalks and parkways and "real curbs" installed at the car wash at the Fullers' expense, an ordinance requiring a special use permit for anyone driving someone's else vehicle on public streets and a committee to investigate whether the village's zoning code is being properly enforced.

Free fall leaf collection runs through Dec. 5

The village's fall leaf collection program will continue through Thursday, Dec. 5.

The village annually conducts a fall leaf pick-up program to keep streets cleaner and safer and to help keep leaves out of sewers and storm drains.

The most important thing to remember is that leaves cannot be placed in the street for removal.

Residents will receive free, unlimited weekly curbside collection of leaves in kraft paper yard waste bags. Bags may not exceed 34 gallons or 60 pounds. Plastic bags will not be picked up.

Bagged leaves should be placed in the parkway in front of the home, along the curb, by 6 a.m. on the scheduled pick-up day. Bags should not be placed in the street.

The village's waster hauler, Republic Services, will pick up leaves at the time of the regularly-scheduled weekly yard waste pick-up.

While leaf pick-up is complimentary, all other yard waste will require a yard waste sticker.

Questions? Call the village's public services department at (630) 789-7382 or Republic Services' customer service line (708) 345-7050.

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Trustees look at spending plan for 2025

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Trustees Tuesday passed the village property tax levy, which is expected to bring in an additional \$370,000 this year. They also had their first board-level discussion about the draft 2025 budget, which shows an increase in fire and pension fund costs of \$464,000. Those costs are funded by property taxes.

"You end up with a \$94,000 shortage, essentially," Carrie Dittman, the village's chief financial officer, said at the meeting. "What that means is that fewer of our property tax dollars are going toward operations as more of them are being directed toward those police and fire pension fund contributions annually.

That contribution is required by the state in order to reach a 90 percent funding level in the pensions by 2040, Dittman explained. The village hires an independent actuary each year to calculate the amount required to reach that level. For 2025, the contributions will total \$2.76 million, half of all village-wide benefits costs.

Salaries and benefits, including these

pension fund contributions, make up 71 percent of the general fund expenses, Dittman said. When looking at expenses by department, police and fire make up more than half of expenses at 57 percent or about \$12.6 million.

General fund revenues are projected at \$24.5 million, up about 1 percent from last year's budget. Property taxes at almost \$9.4 million make up about 38 percent of that revenue. Sales taxes are second largest at 15 percent.

Expenses in the general fund are expected to increase 3.9 percent to slightly more than \$22 million.

The general fund and the water

Budget details

General fund

Revenues — \$24.5 million
Expenses — \$22 million

Water & sewer fund

Revenues — \$10.8 million
Expenses — \$8 million

Capital Improvement Plan

Revenues — \$4 million
Expenses — \$4.8 million

Master Infrastructure Plan

Revenues — \$5.7 million
Expenses — \$10.6 million*

**Assuming Sixth Street is reconstructed in all brick with property tax contributions from a proposed special service area*

\$6.5 million. Another \$1.7 million is targeted for asphalt resurfacing and \$500,000 for streetscape and safety improvements.

"Part of that funding is going to be

and sewer fund are the largest of 10 funds in the operating budget. The total budget also includes the five-year capital improvement plan and the master infrastructure plan.

The MIP has been extended by one year to address the final project yet to be completed — Sixth Street from Garfield Avenue to County Line Road. The road will be reconstructed, the water main replaced and sanitary sewers separated for a cost of

going to a neighborhood pedestrian and traffic safety study," Trustee Michelle Fisher said. "We do hear requests for a safer downtown and we think it's time for us to have this kind of study."

The capital improvement plan identifies about \$16.6 million in expenses over the next five years, with \$4.77 million slated for 2025. Forty percent of that amount will go toward vehicle replacements, with another 30 percent slated for building improvements.

In his report prior to the budget discussion, Village President Tom Cauley said the village is in a much better financial position than it was 15 years ago and in danger of losing its AAA bond rating.

"When I became village president in 2009, one of the main goals was to work to fix the village finances," he said.

By 2012, the bond rating was upgraded to stable and has remained so since, he noted. The village expects to end 2025 with 25.4 percent of operating funds in reserves.

The board is expected to formally adopt the budget at its Tuesday, Dec. 17, meeting.

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MEMOIRE

POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports Nov. 19.

DUI arrest

Ruben Alejandro Hurtado, 24, 12547 Archer Ave., Lemont, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, improper display of license plate, speeding and improper lane use at 1:29 a.m. Nov. 16 in the 400 block of West Ogden Avenue. He refused testing to determine blood-alcohol content and was charged and released to appear in court.

Arrests for liquor theft

• Michael P. Davis, 31, 1360 S. Fourth St., Aurora, was arrested for felony retail theft Nov. 18 for stealing alcohol from Whole Foods, 500 E. Ogden Ave. on Aug. 22. Davis was reportedly one of the suspects observed on surveillance video stealing bottles of liquor valued at \$469.72. The incident was reported Sept. 4. He was released to appear in court.

• Destiny D. Merritt, 40, 16900 S. Halsted St., Harvey, was arrested for retail theft not exceeding \$300 Nov. 15 for stealing cases of beer from Walgreens, 15 Grant Square, at 8:37 p.m. May 1. She was one of two suspects observed on surveillance video stealing the beer. An arrest warrant was issued Oct. 22 and served on Nov. 15 by the Cook County Sheriff's Office. She was released to appear in court.

Warrant arrest

Brian A. Arciniega-Godinez, 32, 424 N. Iowa Ave., Villa Park, was arrested on a warrant out of DuPage County at 10:25 p.m. Nov. 13 at Ogden Avenue and Monroe Street. He was taken to DuPage County Jail for warrant service.

Battery incident

A known suspect made contact of an insulting or provoking nature with security staff performing official duties at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 18 at UChicago Hinsdale Hospital, 120 N. Oak St. The case is pending.

Arrests do not constitute conviction of a crime, and individuals listed here should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. If charges are dismissed or reduced or the arrest is found not guilty, he or she can contact The Hinsdalean at news@thehinsdalean.com to provide us with documentation. Information will be updated online and in the next issue of the paper.

Village coordinates shoveling volunteers

Hinsdale residents who are 60 and older or individuals with disabilities are invited to register for the village's snow shoveling program.

People can fill out the online request form at www.villageofhinsdale.org/snowshovelprogram or print, complete and mail a paper request.

Once registered for the program, participants will receive contact information for participating volunteers. The resident is responsible for contacting the volunteer and scheduling a time for shoveling.

Those interested in volunteering for the 2024-25 winter season can fill out the online form or print, complete and mail a paper request. Residents will contact volunteers directly when assistance is needed.

The volunteer is responsible for shoveling or notifying the resident if unable to complete the work.

The village's involvement is limited to matching residents and volunteers. It does not do background checks on any participants or volunteers.

Residents must enroll each year to stay in the program.

CHICAGO'S LARGEST JEWELRY AND WATCH STORE



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■ Zou dedicated part of her summer to designing a whole new look for the orchestra room wall and even returned to school a couple of weeks before classes started to begin preparations.

Music not only artistic talent of Central violinist

Hinsdale Central senior Leila Zou has always enjoyed painting and drawing. So when Hinsdale Central orchestra director Serge Pensik asked for volunteers to create a mural on the walls of the school's orchestra room, Zou quickly volunteered to take on the task.

Any musician knows that practice is essential. That proved to be the case in the creation of the mural, as well.

"This mural was the second attempt. The first was not very good," said Zou, who initially tried to organize a group project. "Doing it all myself didn't feel right."

But too many artistic styles and voices resulted in a mural that Zou said lacked cohesiveness. When she offered to take another shot at the mural, her teacher gave her the green light to start again.

Zou dedicated part of her summer to designing a whole new look for the orchestra room wall and even returned to school a couple of weeks before classes started to begin preparations.

The result is a carefully curated collection of portraits depicting famous orchestral composers from throughout history, along with line sketch-

es of instruments associated with each composer's work.

"I had to do some research," Zou said.

That included polling fellow orchestra members about the composers they thought should be recognized. A crowd favorite, however, had to be eliminated. Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff didn't make the cut because he never composed for orchestra.

The six who did make the cut are arranged chronologically, beginning with German composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Because he wrote a collection of suites for cello, his image is paired with an image of that instrument.

Next is Austrian Franz Joseph Haydn.

"He was one of the first composers to work with an orchestra," said Zou, who chose a harp to pair with Haydn's image.

The third composer was a must, Zou said.

"I had to put him on, no matter what," she said of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

As a violinist, Zou said she has a conflicted relationship with the composer.

"I love listening to his music, but it's terrible to play," said Zou. Mozart's portrait is



LEILA ZOU

MOVED TO HINSDALE FROM TEXAS IN EIGHTH GRADE • BEGAN PLAYING PIANO AT AGE 7 • DAUGHTER OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS • SPEAKS SOME MANDARIN AND FRENCH • PLANS TO STUDY BIOENGINEERING

paired, of course, with a violin.

Fourth on the wall is Ludwig van Beethoven, one of history's most famous composers and pianists. His portrait sits above an image of a piano.

Zou said the orchestra was rehearsing a piece by Felix Mendelssohn as she worked on the wall. His image is paired with the string bass.

Finally, Zou chose to honor Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, the

Russian composer responsible for writing famous ballets such as "Swan Lake." His image is that of a conductor.

Zou has not only played some of Tchaikovsky's works, but danced to them. A student at Hinsdale Dance Academy, Zou currently is rehearsing for "The Nutcracker," in which she will dance the part of the Sugar Plum Fairy Nov. 22-24.

Completed in shades of

red and white to represent Central's colors, Zou said it's exciting and satisfying to see her completed work and to know that her mark on the program will last beyond her graduation next spring.

"I'm pretty happy with it," she said. "Now, it's just part of the orchestra room."

— story by Sandy Illian Bosch, photo by Jim Slonoff



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Celebrate holiday season by giving to others

After the purchasing frenzy of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday on Dec. 3 gives us all the chance to do something to help others.

Hinsdale is home to seven large nonprofits that work to do everything from feeding the hungry to supporting families facing a cancer diagnosis. Any would benefit from a financial gift on Giving Tuesday, and many offer others ways to help. Just visit their websites for more information.

- Assistance League Chicagoland West, www.alcw.org
- Candor Health, www.candorhealthed.org
- HCS Family Services, www.hcsfamilyservices.org
- Hinsdale Historical Society, www.hinsdalehistory.org
- Hinsdale Humane Society, www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org
- The Community House, www.thecommunityhouse.org
- Wellness House, www.wellnesshouse.org

Giving Tuesday was launched in 2012 by and has become a worldwide movement to encourage giving and celebrate generosity. According

to the nonprofit Giving Tuesday, 34 million U.S. donors gave \$3.1 billion to nonprofits on Giving Tuesday in 2023.

Giving Tuesday isn't the only option to be generous this holiday season. We're sharing a preview here of our "Spirit of giving" listing, which will run through the holiday season. Find opportunities to support the work of nonprofits and churches — and even to have some fun.

- Get a great photo of the family with a beloved pet while helping animals at the Hinsdale Humane Society at Photos with Santa Paws on Saturday, Nov. 30, and Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Pet Rescue and Resource Center, 21 Salt Creek Lane, Hinsdale. The event includes holiday vendors, reindeer food for the kids and more. Adults, kids and pets of all species are welcome. Photos, which are \$25, will be available for download after the event. Register at www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/events/santa-paws for a time slot.

- Hinsdale Covenant Church is once again collecting new and used blankets of any kind, lap throws, baby blankets, spreads, sheets and towels through Sunday, Dec. 1, for needy fam-

ilies in the inner city. Pack 'n' plays are also welcome. Donations should be left inside the main entrance at 412 S. Garfield Ave. or placed by the front door on the benches; pickups are also available. Call (630) 323-2318 for more information.

- The Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club will host its fourth annual Jingle Dash 5K at 8 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Robbins Park, Seventh and Vine streets to supports grants the club makes to local nonprofits. Enjoy post-race snacks and a photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Festive holiday dress is encouraged. Registration is \$45, \$20 for kids 11-18 and \$10 for kids 10 and under and includes a T-shirt while supplies last. Strollers are free. Visit www.runsignup.com/race/IL/Hinsdale/JuniorsJingleDash.

- Enjoy An Evening of Opera with holiday favorites performed by award-winning baritone Jonathan Beyer at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St. All proceeds from tickets, which are \$50 for adults and \$25 for those 18 and younger, benefit The Community House. Visit www.thecommunityhouse.org.

COMMENTARY

Baby's unexpected birth at Zion seen as a miracle

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." — **Matthew 19:14**

Baby Angel made an unexpected entrance to the world Aug. 8 in Hinsdale.

His mom, Bernice, is part of the cleaning crew at Zion Lutheran Church's Early Childhood Education Center. She was working when she went into labor four months early.

"We have that 15-foot Jesus banner welcoming everybody that comes to the ECEC and that's right where she had the baby," said Elizabeth Reilley, center director.

"Jesus was there," said Colin Fuller, head elder at the church, who was on site at the time of the birth.

"And he was welcoming this baby into his outstretched arms," Reilley added.

Angel weighed only 2 pounds. He wasn't breathing and didn't have a pulse. Hinsdale firefighters/paramedics intubated him at the church. Doctors were able

to get a heartbeat once he arrived at UChicago Medicine Advent Health Hinsdale.

"We didn't know that because the baby was whisked away," Reilley said. "We went home that night — we were just seeping and praying that the outcome would be different."

Reilley made the 911 call when she realized Bernice was in distress, not realizing at first that she was in labor. The baby had already been born by the time paramedics arrived, Capt. Bill Claybrook told me.

"We did what we had to do and it worked out," he said. "That was an absolute miracle. It was a first for all of us."

Nick Chism kept tiny Angel alive on the ambulance ride.

"I was doing CPR on the way to the hospital," he said. "It's so minimal what you're doing. We always hope for the best but you never know. We got the baby to the hospital. Within five minutes when we were at the hospital, they



Pamela Lannom

got a heartbeat."

Several of the crew that responded to the 911 call — Claybrook, Chism, Bob Patitucci, Ryan Dudek, Nick McDonough and Jasmeet Sanghera — showed up at Zion hoping to see the baby when his mom came to pick up donations from the congregation.

"We went to the hospital probably a month ago to check on the baby, but they were doing tests," Claybrook said. "We've been dying to see him."

Angel was still in the hospital, but Bernice expected him to be released soon.

"He's doing well," she told me through a translator. "It was a miracle that he was saved and he was alive. I had doubts that he was going to live."

She said she was grateful for all the items people had donated — which were piled high in the back of her friend's pick-up truck. You can see photos on our Facebook page at [\[hinsdalean.com\]\(http://www.hinsdalean.com\).](http://www.facebook.com/the-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

"Thank you," she said. "I didn't know I was going to get all this stuff and help from other people."

Reilley said families were asked to donate items to Bernice and Angel for the ECEC chapel offering. In addition, the congregation also collected money and presented a check to Bernice, who also is mom to Iker, 6.

The paramedics and hospital staff who cared for Angel deserve so much gratitude, Reilley said. "This is a fantastic group of very capable, amazing first responders we have in our community and they should be acknowledged and thanked," she said. "The outcome could have been very different."

Initially ECEC and church members thought they would need to support Bernice with funeral expenses and bereavement pay.

"This is the most amazing story," Reilley said. "Everybody I tell this story to can't believe it."

— *Pamela Lannom is editor of The Hinsdalean. Readers can email her at plannom@thehinsdalean.com.*

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY

The hidden power of stress

Ever notice how your morning alarm feels like an assault on your senses? From doom-scrolling news headlines to battling rush hour traffic (or school drop-off), stress seems to shadow our every move. Doctors warn us about the deadly effects of stress, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and compromised immunity. But what if we're looking at stress all wrong?

Perhaps it's not stress that hurts us; it's how we respond to it. When we react by reaching for that bottle of wine or inhaling a box of doughnuts, sure, stress becomes our enemy. But flip the script, and stress might become your unexpected ally in personal growth.

Let me share an incredible discovery from the Biosphere 2 project. In the early 1990s, scientists built a massive glass dome in the Arizona desert. The goal was to create and study a self-sustaining, closed ecological system to test the viability of supporting human life in a closed environment (basically a mini-Earth inside a glass dome). Inside, the trees initially flourished, growing faster than their outdoor counterparts. But something strange happened over time: they became weak and unstable before reaching maturity, eventually dying off.

The culprit? Perfect conditions. The scientists had eliminated one crucial element: wind (aka stress for trees).

In nature, wind constantly challenges trees, forcing them to develop tough bark and strong roots. Without this stress, the Biosphere's trees grew quickly but developed soft wood, making them ultimately weaker than their wind-beaten outdoor counterparts.



Gabriela Garcia

This natural phenomenon mirrors our own relationship with stress. Like those trees, we need some tension to build resilience. If harnessed properly, stress can sharpen our response to challenges, foster adaptability, spark creativity, push us toward better solutions and signal when we need to change direction.

Of course, chronic, overwhelming stress is toxic and not good for anyone. The key lies in handling stress productively. Here are some strategies to do so.

Root yourself in now — Live in this moment. Yesterday and tomorrow exist only in your mind. Problems grow when you feed them with repetitive worry about the past or future.

Master your breath — During your next stress spike, pause and breathe intentionally. This rebalances your body's oxygen levels, triggering natural relaxation responses.

Question the crisis — Ask yourself: "How much does this really matter? Will stressing about it help? Will this solve itself with time?" Often, the answer reveals the path forward.

Embrace the wind — Think of stress like those winds that strengthen trees. Each challenge builds your resilience, potentially leading to breakthrough solutions you'd never discover in comfort.

Next time you're stressed out, try viewing it differently. Feel it, learn what it has to teach you, then say goodbye to it — knowing you're stronger for the encounter.

Remember: like trees in nature, our greatest strength often grows from our struggles.

— Gabriela Garcia of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aluminum water bottles are a great alternative

I was really happy to see an article about Open Water in your latest edition and amazed to see that their sales director, Toral Gandhi, lives right here in Hinsdale and has been successful in getting local stores to stock it. Our family has been buying Open Water for many years through their website — we buy a couple of cases at a time for entertaining — and it will be great to be able to pick it up instead. I've often thought that they would be perfect for parents bringing refreshments to their kids' sporting events. Now that they are on the shelf at Kramer's I hope they

do.

Drinking out of aluminum containers is so much better than drinking water out of plastic bottles. No microplastics to ingest and, as mentioned in the article, aluminum can be recycled over and over again. Open Water containers have an additional benefit in that their wide tops make them easy to refill and reuse if we want before we get to finally discarding in the recycling bin.

I hope Toral continues her success on expanding interest and access. — Trish Moran, Hinsdale

Taxpayers shouldn't fund historic preservation

Allowing the village to pick and choose homes in Hinsdale to get special treatment at the expense of taxpayers is totally inappropriate and un-American. Specifically, in regard to the Frank Lloyd Wright house at 121 S. County Line, a simple Google search returns pages of privately funded organizations designed to help save and rehab Frank Lloyd Wright homes. I sug-

gest the owners look to those organizations for assistance rather than their neighbors' wallets. As for other owners of multi-million dollar "historically significant" homes I suggest starting a GoFundMe. Those who are so passionate about saving these homes can donate freely. The village should eliminate this discriminatory program immediately. — David C. Cox, Hinsdale



LETTERS POLICY

Requirements

- 250 words or fewer
- include writer's name, address and daytime phone number

- documentation must be provided for numbers, statistics and other facts mentioned in the letter
- no form letters

Submission

- e-mail to news@thehinsdalean.com
- fax to (630) 323-4220
- mail to The Hinsdalean,

Letters to the editor, 7 W. First St., Hinsdale IL 60521

Questions?

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ASK AN EXPERT

ARYAN BANSAL, STUDENT-ATHLETE TUTOR

What is P.A.S.S.?

As a Hinsdale Central sophomore student-athlete, Aryan Bansal could detect the struggle some of his teammates were having balancing schoolwork with the demands of pursuing high school sports.

"Kids were saying in the locker room, 'I've got three tests tomorrow and practice doesn't end until 6:30 p.m.'" recounted Bansal, now a junior. "There's no time to get to teacher office hours when you have to get to practice."

A two-sport athlete himself, Bansal understood the challenge of balancing academics and athletics, and being preoccupied with not falling behind in class instead of forging camaraderie at team pasta parties.

To address the need he came up with P.A.S.S. — Peer Athlete Student Scholars — as a tutoring service for his fellow Red Devils.

"We match in-season players with off-season athletes who have strong academic standing in core content areas of math, language arts, science, social studies and foreign language," Bansal explained. "Our goal is to empower and lift athletes to understand that if we study togeth-

er, we succeed together both on and off the court or field, and that our academic strengths can only improve our athleticism."

He enlisted five other student-athletes to be on a committee to help to support the work of P.A.S.S. Each member has a specific role, such as tutor orientation or social media coordination, and they give presentations to each of the teams at the start of their seasons to spread awareness.

The team recruits tutors, often on the recommendation of a teacher, and make themselves available to all students, not just athletes. The tutors keep a time log, and those on the receiving end offer feedback to help refine the program. Data from last year showed a disproportionate number of sophomores were signing up, presumably because most of P.A.S.S. leadership were sophomores, too. That spurred more intentional outreach to other grades.

"By the end of the school year last year we had (tutored) about 50 to 55 hours," Bansal reported. "This year I think we're going to get even more kids, especially as we get into finals."

Tutor seekers fill out a Google form identifying the subject area

need, times available and preferred location. Physics tend to be a leader among course help requests, Bansal noted, adding that teachers, administrators and coaches have been very supportive.

"We work in partnership with the Hinsdale Central Academic Resource Center," he said. "This is really a grassroots, student-driven initiative. We track outcomes through evaluation, we survey our students, we prep our tutors, and we partner with teachers and coaches."

Another important collaboration is with the Hinsdale Public Library, which provides meeting space for tutors and students and includes P.A.S.S. activities in their communications.

"I thought it would be good to have a partnership with a source that would allow us to bridge outside of the Hinsdale Central community," Bansal said.

All students are invited to sign up for a tutoring session to prepare for winter finals on selected dates starting Dec. 1 at the library (see Page XX for details).

"The concept is simple but the impact is awesome," Bansal said.

— by Ken Knutson



Hinsdale Central junior Aryan Bansal is giving an academic assist to student-athletes through the P.A.S.S. tutoring group he leads. (Jim Slonoff photo)



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OBITUARIES

James Louis Klotz

James Louis Klotz, 79, of Hinsdale, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Nov. 16, 2024.

Jim was born in 1945 in Chicago and raised in Hinsdale, where he attended Zion Lutheran School. After graduating from Walther Christian Academy in Melrose Park, Jim attended Arizona State University, where he graduated in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in business. Following graduation, Jim moved to New York and began his career as an advertising executive before being drafted into the U.S. army in 1970.

Upon being honorably discharged, Jim returned to Chicago where he spent the remainder of his career in financial services, specifically the commodities industry, working at both the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. He was a highly respected leader in the industry for many years and through his guidance brought an enormous wealth of experience, intellect and insight. He loved the work he did, and the people he worked with. For those lucky enough to spend time with Jim, he leaves a legacy of unparalleled professionalism and friendship that carries far beyond the workplace.

In addition, Jim was an active member of the community and served on numerous boards, including Walther Christian Academy, Zion Lutheran Church and the Singing Men of Oak Brook. Jim was an avid musky fisherman, enthusiastic collector of baseball cards, lifelong Cubs fan, aficionado of blues music, voracious reader, skilled writer and lover of animals. He enjoyed life to the fullest, in particular raising his children and being at his wife's side.

In his retirement years, Jim



Klotz

embarked on many memorable trips and vacations with his family and close friends. Some of his favorite destinations included Arizona, Palm Springs, Florida's Gulf Coast and Wisconsin. Jim's incredible kindness to others, endless generosity, and unwavering support touched the lives of all

who knew him. He had a gift for making others happy. He was a loving husband, devoted father, a man of great integrity, and a devout Lutheran. His selflessness knew no bounds and will leave a lasting legacy to all who knew him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Janet Klotz; his three children, Amanda (Michael Chase), Matthew and Jennifer; his two brothers, Verner Jr. and Neil Klotz; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Donald and Leona Sokolis; his aunt, Arlene Ananias; his brother- and sister-in-law, David and Donna Roach and William and Leslie Sokolis; and his nieces and nephews, Ian and Leah Roach, Hunter and Atchison Sokolis, and Cynthia, Craig and Kimberly Klotz.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Verner Sr. and Frieda Klotz; and his nephew, Henry Roach.

Visitation is at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Zion Lutheran Church, 204 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

A funeral service will follow at the church at 11:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF) at <https://clefchicago.org/take-action/donate/> where a scholarship will be established in his name at his alma mater, Walther Christian Academy.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Angelyn Michuda Lindberg

Angelyn Michuda Lindberg, 101, of Hinsdale died Nov. 19, 2024.

She was born in 1923 to Rudolph and Bertha Michuda.

Angel was a longtime resident of Hinsdale, living at Spinning Wheel since 1970, and an avid bridge player, golfer and garden club member who enjoyed skiing in Keystone, Colo.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Lindberg; and her siblings, Rudolph (the late Margaret) Michuda, Susan (the late John) Otrembiak, Raymond (the late Selma), and Emil "Bill" Michuda.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Carol, Jackie, Mary Ellen, Victor, Julie, Diane, Raymond, Sally, James and Ralph.

Visitation is from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St.

Friends and family will gather at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 25, at the funeral home and proceed to a 10 a.m. Mass at Saint Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St., Hinsdale.

Interment is at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside.

Sai Lau "Joe" Leung

Sai Lau "Joe" Leung, 74, passed away peacefully Nov. 13, 2024, in his Hinsdale home, surrounded by family.

He was born in 1950 to Cheuk Wan Leung and Yuan Choi Ho in Guangzhou, China. He was the eighth child in a family that grew to nine children during a tumultuous time in China. The Communists had taken over and pushed forth their Cultural Revolution, plunging the country into chaos. When he was 13 years old, Joe was part of the millions of youth that was forced to participate in the "Up to the Mountains and Down to the Countryside Movement," where privileged urban youth were sent to remote areas of China to do agricultural labor. He was considered part of "China's Lost Generation" where he did not have the opportunity to attend higher level education.

Uncertain of how long this political movement would drag on for, but also certain he wanted a better life for himself, he ultimately decided in 1975 to become one of the hundreds of thousands young "Freedom Swimmers" that fled mainland China by swimming shark-infested Deep Bay waters to Hong Kong.

It was only on his third attempt that he became successful in making it to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, he self-taught himself construction skills while doing many side gigs. Despite the challenging circumstances, he forever felt indebted to the kindness of the Christian community and his sixth aunt. In 1980, his aunt helped sponsor his immigration to United States to help pursue the ultimate "American Dream."



Leung

Joe always joked that he arrived in nothing but his underwear to America. He was quickly employed at a local construction company in Chicago's Chinatown while doing side jobs on his own. In 1982, he created his own construction company. He met his wife, May, through mutual friends in 1986 and quickly married in 1987. With her help, they expanded their business successfully. In the years that followed, he became a devoted father of three and moved to Hinsdale in 1995.

Joe was known to be very strong-willed, sacrificial, diligent, committed and proud. He was a die-hard fan of Chicago Bulls, win or lose. He spent his years in retirement enjoying gardening, caregiving for his wife, cooking and relentlessly pursuing renovation projects. Despite the toll that lung cancer took on his body, he refused to allow it to dictate his life and pursued all his passions until his last day on this earth.

He was preceded in death by four of his siblings.

He is survived by his wife, Manway Yang; his three children, Vania (Brian), Timothy and Ariel (Matthew); his three grandchildren, Oliver, Ethan and Kira; and his four siblings, Sai Kit, Fongyee, Funyee and Sai Hong.

Visitation is at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Adolf & Powell Funeral Home, 7000 S. Madison St., Willowbrook. Words of remembrance will be said at 11:30 a.m.

Interment is private at Clarendon Hills Cemetery in Darien.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Frank Phelps

Frank Phelps of Hinsdale, formerly of Oak Brook, passed away peacefully Nov. 17, 2024.

Frank, 87, was born in 1924 in Adrian, Mich. He was a proud alumnus of Marquette University, Loyola University and Kent School of Law. His distinguished career in accounting and law was driven by an entrepreneurial spirit and an innovative approach, leaving a lasting legacy in the businesses Frank developed.

Outside his professional life, Frank was an avid golfer, enjoying courses worldwide and creating countless treasured memories with family and friends. His love and passion for gardening brought beauty and joy to those around him, transforming every space he touched. He lived a life rich

in love, laughter, and purpose.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Adrienne L. Phelps, nee Frale; his children, Tracy (Michael) Trilla, Julie (Tim) Dillon, Lisa (Robert Wiatrowski) Phelps and Becky Phelps; and his grandchildren, Gaetano, Gabriella, Nicole and Charlie.

A celebration of Frank's life will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St., Hinsdale.

Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to First Tee Greater Chicago at www.firstteegreaterchicago.org.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

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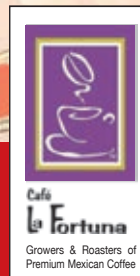
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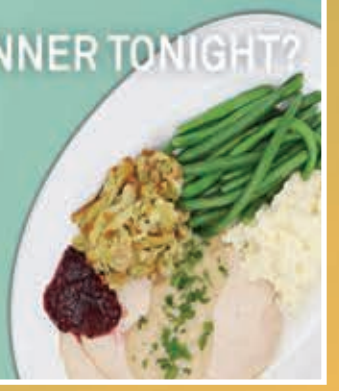
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Holiday ballet back on Central stage

Salt Creek Ballet's production of 'The Nutcracker' will open Thanksgiving weekend

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Briana Zitkevicius has spent more time studying hip hop and ballroom dancing than ballet. But the Hinsdale resident and Hinsdale Central sophomore is excited to be performing for the second year in Salt Creek Ballet's "The Nutcracker."

She made the switch to ballet three years ago.

"I was watching other girls do it at my old studio and I just thought it was so beautiful and I really wanted to try it," she said. "Now I really love it and I think it was a good decision."

Making the transition to a completely different form of dance was challenging, Zitkevicius said.

"It was pretty hard because I started a little bit later than everybody else," she said. "Everybody at Salt Creek was welcoming and kind."

In this year's "Nutcracker," she dances the roles of the soldier doll and a mom, and is in the Chinese dance, Dance of the Mirlitons, Waltz of the Snowflakes and Waltz of the Flowers.

"I just love how many different roles there are and how they all have a different back story, and you have to have different emotions and character for it. It's very fun and you can express yourself in so many different ways," she said.

Her favorite number is the Waltz of the Snowflakes, where the dancers' movements imitate the falling snow.

"I just think there is so much going on and it just really shows how a snowflake is," she said.

The connection between movement and the music will be the topic of a pre-show talk between Salt Creek Ballet artistic director Erica De La O and maestro Benjamin Nadel, a classically trained conductor, pianist and violist based in the Chicago area. The talk begins at 6 p.m. before the 7 p.m. Dec. 1 performance (see sidebar for show details) at Hinsdale Central.

"We're trying to always engage and connect with audiences of different ages," De La O said. "I'm really excited about that. We've already had a few conversations and it opens your eyes and ears to see it with more depth."

In addition to Sunday's Sugar



Hinsdale's Briana Zitkevicius rehearses with fellow Salt Creek Ballet members for upcoming performances of "The Nutcracker." She said she enjoys the different roles she dances and the beautiful costumes she gets to wear. (photo courtesy of Salt Creek Ballet)

Plum Party, children are invited to take part in an on-stage experience after the Saturday matinee. Santa Claus will be stopping by as well.

Discipline is the key to keeping the annual production fresh, De La O said.

"I've been doing 'Nutcracker' since I was 8 officially and for probably 25 years as a professional, and every year you treat it as if it's the first year. You have to teach that back to the students. Nothing is taken for granted — every bar hook in the costume, every tendu or plié between steps or musicality or arms. That's the discipline ballet teaches you that you are adamant about taking care of it."

The host of volunteers and families who help with costumes, props and sets are key as well, De La O said.

All the while, the fact that the dancers are children and not professionals remains at the forefront.

"The expectation and the standard is there, but at the same time we have to meet them where they are or have them step up," De La O said. "Adjustments, within reason, are happening."

As those students grow and mature, their relationship to the ballet changes.

"As a director/mom/teacher, I love seeing kids — even including my 4-year-old — kind of grow into the story or understanding different roles," she said.

Moving on to larger roles each year are true milestones for the dancers, De La O said.

"It's not linear," she added. "Everybody creates their own journey. I was never Clara. I was not Clara until 35 years old."

In addition to the Hinsdale shows, Salt Creek Ballet will have additional performances Dec. 6-7 at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie and Dec. 14-15 at the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. Between rehearsals, performances and the end of the semester before winter break, it's been a busy time of year, Zitkevicius said.

"It's been kind of stressful," she admitted, adding that she makes a point to put school first.

"I make it work," she said.

And the performances make it all worth it.

"It's such a good feeling going on that stage and performing after all the months of hard work that it takes," she said. "I love doing it and I hope everybody could be able to see 'The Nutcracker' at some point in their lives."

De La O said it's a show that she never tires of.

"It just offers so many opportunities to grow as a person, have a growth mindset, grow as a dancer, grow artistically, grow musically," she said. "There's so much room for growth with one story and one score. It doesn't get old."

If you go

Salt Creek Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" is one of several performances and related events.

'The Nutcracker'

The company's performances are at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, at Hinsdale Central High School, 5500 S. Grant St. Tickets start at \$42. Visit www.saltcreekballet.org.

'Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet'

The international ensemble's performance, which blends classical ballet with avant-garde circus techniques, is at 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road. Tickets start at \$31. Visit www.nutcracker.com.

'Nutcracker Suite'

This event for all ages features snacks, crafts, festivities and an interactive performance at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St. Tickets are \$55. Visit www.wsballet.org.

'The Nutcracker on Ice'

Creative Ice Theatre, an elite skating program, will present its fifth annual production of this holiday classic on ice at 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at Seven Bridges Ice Arena, 6690 Route 53, Woodridge. Ticket prices are \$25 to \$40. Visit www.creativeicetheatre.com.

'The Nutcracker'

The West Suburban Ballet Conservatory will present this holiday classic at 1 and 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, and 1 p.m. Dec. 22, in the Hinsdale South Auditorium, 7401 Clarendon Hills Road, Darien. Tickets are \$40. Visit www.wsballet.org.



Sarah Key is Ariel and Maya Lou Hlava plays Flounder in Drury Lane Theatre's production of "Disney's The Little Mermaid," on stage now through Jan. 12. See Page 28 for details. (Brett Beiner photo provided)

ARTFULLY DONE

■ Artist Open Studio Sale

Nov. 21-24
57 Ogden Ave., Clarendon Hills
(331) 631-2329

Peruse and purchase works by five local women artists, Christina Angelos, Maureen Claffy, Christine Gebauer, Michele Schubkegel and Jane Walker. Hours: 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 21, 4 to 9 p.m. Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 24.

■ 'Creating Peace'

Through November
Celestial Art Curation
Gallery
9 E. First St. Suite 2
www.celestialartcuration.com/

The public is invited to "Creating Peace: The Power of Art to Calm & Uplift," a solo exhibition of original artworks by Western Springs artist Jen Diver.

■ 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.

CENTRAL TIME

■ 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

Nov. 21-23
Hinsdale Central High School
5500 S. Grant St.
www.ticketpeak.co/hcdrama/events

Hinsdale Central Drama presents this 90-minute adaptation from the Utah Shakespeare Festival of the famous comedy. Set in Athens and using figures from mythology, the play unfolds the workings of love through several storylines. Times: 7 p.m. Nov. 21 & 22, 5 p.m. Nov. 23. Tickets: \$10.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

Please turn to Page 26



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Ruth Lake Country Club, Hinsdale

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- How to nurture conversations about online safety with your kids
- How to prepare for the AI Deep Fake invasion



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Season a wonderful time to start gratitude practice

The season of being thankful is upon us, which leads most to consider what we are grateful for. Do you wish you could capture that feeling more throughout the year? Have you ever considered engaging in a gratitude practice?

Don't worry, I'm not going to go all rainbows and unicorns on you! There are times we all feel unhappy, disappointed or live in a negative headspace for a bit, and that is OK. It's the tendency to remain there that's not good for us.

Let's start with the neuroscience of gratitude. It's actually quite fascinating, particularly the effects practicing gratitude on a regular basis can have on your brain and nervous system. According to www.positivepsychology.com, a gratitude practice can:

- stimulate production of dopamine and serotonin, the feel-good brain neurotransmitters
- reduce production of the stress hormone, cortisol, which allows the nervous system to remain in a calm state
- restructure cognitive processes (a fancy way of saying it can shift one's mindset), which then changes how

you perceive and interact with the world around you

- reinforce neural pathways associated with positive emotions
- activate the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for emotional regulation, decision-making and empathy

This is an amazing list of benefits that can impact numerous areas of your life. Not only will you experience overall improved mental and physical health, but more specifically you may notice changes in how you perceive and interact with the world around you, positive shifts in relationships, an increased ability to be resilient and enhanced self-worth just to name a few.

So, what are some simple and easy ways to begin practicing gratitude? Start small, perhaps weekly. Try to practice the same day of week for a few minutes before moving to several times a week and, ultimately, shifting to a daily practice. Engaging in your practice at the beginning or



Alis Messana
On mental health

end of your day has obvious benefits. Often, people think a gratitude practice only involves journaling things you are grateful for. However, there are many other ways to practice gratitude.

- express appreciation to someone
- practice mindfulness (take five deep breaths in and out during a task you perform routinely)
- perform a simple act of kindness

kindness

- volunteer (something I regularly recommend for folks with mild depression and/or anxiety)
- reframe an experience from negative to positive
- admire something about a stranger when you interact (positive benefit for both of you)
- notice when a negative feeling passes
- show love and fondness for those you care about

If you're finding it difficult to incorporate a gratitude practice into your life, consider why this could be.

Often folks have a difficult time prioritizing self-care.

It's important to remember taking care of yourself is not selfish and actually allows you to be healthier and engage in more positive interactions with others. You may also consider whether a stressful mindset is familiar and thus the space you're used to living in. Or perhaps untreated depression or anxiety is getting in your way.

Engaging a routine gratitude practice has numerous benefits and is also a cost-effective and time-efficient way to improve both your mental and physical health.

What's not to like? Make a point to schedule it into your day or replace five minutes of phone scrolling with it. Gratitude may be having a popular moment right now; however, I can definitely think of worse things to be on trend.

— *Alisa Messana of Hinsdale is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health consultant who serves as clinical supervisor at The Community House Counseling Center.*

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AT THE FOREFRONT
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PULSE

Continued from Page 24

■ GriefShare

Tuesdays through Dec. 10
Hinsdale United Methodist Church
945 S. Garfield St.

This support group provides care for those grieving the loss of a loved one through the use of videos featuring leading grief recovery experts, small group discussion, and journaling and personal study exercises. Workbooks will be provided. To enroll or for more information, contact Pastor Lisa Capozzoli at lisa.capozzoli@hinsdaleumc.com. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

FAMILY FUN

■ Adopt a Dino

Nov. 24
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Celebrate Dinovember by dropping in to the library to adopt a dinosaur and make it a home. Time: 2 to 3 p.m. RR

■ Grand Times with Grandparents

Nov. 30
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Drop in any time to play classic and new games, experience the Curiosity Kits collection and enjoy other activities and snacks. Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR A CAUSE

■ Bake Sale

Nov. 23
Pet Rescue and Resource Center
21 Salt Creek Lane
www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/events
(630) 323-5630

Stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society's bake sale, with all proceeds benefiting the Zach Leathers Emergency Medical Fund. Interested bakers can contact dee.downs@hinsdalehumanesociety.org. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

GAME ON

■ Jodie Harrison Registration

Ongoing
The Community House
415 E. Eighth St.
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: \$319 through Nov. 30, then \$335. RR, MD

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Winter Bird Feeding

Nov. 23
Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 111th St., Lemont
www.fpdcc.com
(630) 257-2045

Join this discussion on attracting birds to the yard using feeders and plantings. Time: 1 p.m. RR

■ Owls: Who are your neighbors?

Nov. 24
Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 111th St., Lemont
www.fpdcc.com
(630) 257-2045

Learn about this group of nocturnal birds through an indoor presentation and discussion. Time: 1 p.m. RR

■ Fall Forest Hike

Nov. 25
West DuPage Woods
Route 59 north of Roosevelt Road, Winfield
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

Gear up and enjoy some healthy exercise on a quick-paced 3.8-mile guided hike through the wonders of the preserves. Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m. Cost: \$5. RR

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Fitness Hike

Nov. 23
Cermak Woods
7600 W. Ogden Ave., Lyons
www.fpdcc.com
(312) 533-5751

Get some exercise outdoors on this faster-paced 4.5-mile hike with little to no stopping or interpretation. Time: 10 a.m.

■ Tai Chi

Dec. 2-30
Westmont Community Center
75 E. Richmond Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

Experience the ancient art of Chi Gung and Tai Chi Chuan, with focus for both the beginner and the advanced. The training will help enhance physical balance, cultivate relaxation, develop sound posture and skeletal alignments and more. Classes meet twice a week; sign up for either the Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday sessions.

Please turn to Page 28



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PULSE

Continued from Page 26

Time: 9 to 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$84. RR

■ Cancer after 65

Dec. 3
Wellness House
131 N. County Line Road
www.wellnesshouse.org
(630) 323-5150

UChicago Medicine geriatric oncologist James Wallace will discuss what is evaluated in a comprehensive geriatric evaluation to optimize cancer treatment and overall management. Time: 6:30 to 8 p.m. RR

LISTEN & LEARN

■ Proactive Tax Planning Strategies

Dec. 2
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Learn how to harness different financial tools to reduce one's tax burden from Hinsdale resident Charlie Russ, president of Russ Financial Group and member of the village's finance commission. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

NOTEWORTHY

■ 'Hänsel and Gretel'

Nov. 24
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.sinfoniettabelcanto.org
(630) 384-5007

Sinfonietta Bel Canto will perform an abridged version of this classic fairy-tale opera, sung in German with English translations and orchestral accompaniment. Time: 4 p.m. Tickets: \$35, \$10 for students.

■ Lee Murdock with the Dock Wallopers

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

■ 'Seussical'

Nov. 22-24
Hinsdale South High School
7401 Clarendon Hills Road, Darien
www.mainstage-theatre.com

The Cat in the Hat tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos.

Horton faces a double challenge of protecting the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers while guarding an abandoned egg left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. The intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him as the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community emerge triumphant. Times: 7 p.m. Nov. 22, 1 & 7 p.m. Nov. 23, 1 p.m. Nov. 24. Tickets: \$20-\$27.

■ 'Disney's The Little Mermaid'

Through Jan. 12
Drury Lane Theatre
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
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. 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.

SENIOR SCENE

■ Hinsdale Memory Cafe

Please turn to Page 30



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www.hinsdalechamber.com

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PULSE

Continued from Page 28

Nov. 27
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976
Join this social gathering of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. The program is sponsored by The Birches and Independence-4-Seniors Home Care. Time: 2 to 3 p.m. RR

■ **Golden Brunch: Holiday Fun Brunch**
Dec. 2
The Community House
415 E. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Enjoy a free buffet of brunch-worthy snacks and refreshments at this monthly gathering featuring workshop and seminars for seniors and those supporting them. Registration is required one week before the meeting date. Time: 10 to 11 a.m. RR

SIGN UP NOW

■ **American Writers Museum & Lunch**
Dec. 3
Leave from The Community House
415 E. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Enjoy a visit to the American Writers Museum in Chicago, an interactive, inspirational and surprising world of American writing of all genres, including the current exhibit, 'Twas the Night Before: A Holiday Tour, highlighting the tales and cherished traditions that have shaped holiday celebrations through the power of words. Then enjoy a boxed lunch from a local restaurant. Coach bus transportation included. Registration ends 10 days prior to the event. Time: 9:45 a.m. departure, 1:45 p.m. return. Cost: \$100. RR, MD

■ **Board Game Night**
Dec. 3
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976
Learn to play the award-winning game Azul with library game masters, or bring friends or family to play another game in the collection. Adults and youth 14 and

up are welcome. Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. RR

■ **Beeswax Luminaries**
Dec. 11
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 206-9566
Learn about the benefits of beeswax candles and enjoy some aromatherapy while designing and creating three beeswax luminaries. The program is for ages 18 and up. Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$55. RR

STEPPING BACK

■ **Salvation Army in the Great War**
Through Nov. 27
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 206-9566
This exhibit chronicles the Salvation Army's efforts during the lifetime of F.S. Peabody, who was a great supporter of the group. The second floor location is accessible only by stairs. Hours: noon to 3 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

TEENS & TWEENS

■ **Finals Prep with P.A.S.S.**
Dec. 1, 8 & 14-18
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
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, trigonometry, 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

THANKSGIVING BREAK

■ **Kids Open Art Studio**
Nov. 25 & 26
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500
Kids ages 5-12 can work

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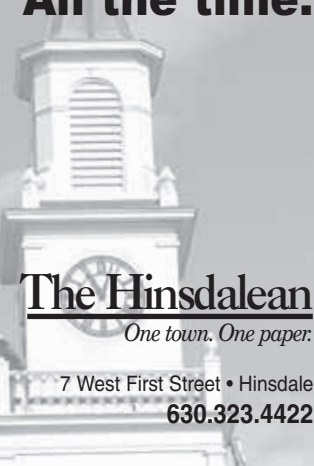
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If you know a happy baby born in 2024 who would look great on our New Year's cover, email us a photo with the following information — **baby's name, baby's birthday, your name, your address and a daytime phone number** — to news@thehinsdalean.com.

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

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Pet pic of the week

Meet Dexter, the cutest little bundle of joy! At just 4 months old, this sweet, social and oh-so-soft pup loves everyone he meets — humans and dogs alike. With a personality as photogenic as his adorable face, Dexter is ready to find his forever home. For more information, stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, visit www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org or call (630) 323-5630. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 30

with different materials and either create the art project of the day or make an original piece. Students should bring an oversized T-shirt to cover their clothes. Times: 10 a.m. to noon, or 1 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$36. RR, MD

■ Chicago Elite Volleyball Camp

Nov. 25-27
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

Ages 8-14 will be introduced to the game of volleyball or continue to improve their individual skill development at this camp. Campers will focus on skills such as passing, setting, attacking, blocking, serving, defense and movement, and will be divided according to age and skill level. Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$120.

■ Thanksgiving Break Camp — Safari Land

Nov. 27

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

Kids ages 5-14 can come to The Community House to enjoy fun games, holiday crafts and a field trip to the Safari Land indoor amusement park. Extended hours until 6:30 p.m. are available for an additional fee. Time: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$90. RR, MD

WEE ONES

■ Nature's Art Box

Nov. 24
Little Red Schoolhouse
Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Kids ages 3-6 with an adult are invited to join this nature-based art activity. Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. RR

Key
RR - registration required
MD - member discount

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SPIRIT OF GIVING

■ Clothing and Winterwear Drive

Dec. 2-17
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.

■ Mistletoe Medley

Dec. 3
Drury Lane
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
www.oakbrookchapterinfantwelfare.org

The Oak Brook chapter will hold its seasonal benefit to provide support to the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, which offers essential care to families in need. The event features a fashion show, boutique shopping, raffles and lunch. NBC 5 news anchor Allison Rosati is master of ceremonies, and dancers from

the Salt Creek Ballet will perform. Time: shopping opens at 9 a.m., lunch at noon. Tickets: \$125, \$25 for shopping only tickets.

■ Student Holiday Art Sale

Dec. 7
Hinsdale Central High School
Grant Street entrance

The Hinsdale Central Art Club and National Honor Society are holding a winter art sale that is open to the public. Please bring cash for purchases. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Holiday Meal Program

Through Dec. 7
www.solvehungertoday.org

The Northern Illinois Food Bank's 25th annual campaign to ensure all neighbors can enjoy a special holiday meal with loved ones is under way. This year, with the support of generous sponsors and volunteers, the food bank will provide 60,000 holiday meal boxes to neighbors facing hunger across 13 counties in suburban and rural northern

Illinois. Each box serves a family of six to eight and is packed with traditional trimmings for a complete holiday meal. Every \$1 donated can provide \$8 worth of groceries for a neighbor in need. To donate, visit the website listed above.

■ Gavin Coyle: A Celtic Christmas

Dec. 20
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
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, pianist Paul Burgess, harpist Karen Fernandez and flautist Joanne Diebold, as they perform traditional holiday favorites from America and Ireland. Ticket proceeds benefit People's Resource Center, a local nonprofit serving DuPage County since 1975. Time: 8 p.m. Tickets:

Please turn to Page 36



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SPIRIT OF GIVING

Continued from Page 34
\$40.

■ Tree of Remembrance

Through Jan. 1
Lincoln and First streets,
Hinsdale
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
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, bean-

ies, 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
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, if desired. Sponsorships can be purchased online. Questions? Call (630) 323-5630 or send an email to development@hinsdalehumanesociety.org.

■ Red Cross Blood Drive

www.redcrossblood.org
As schedules fill up with travel and holiday celebrations with friends and family, the American Red Cross is urging people to set aside some time to make a lifesaving blood or

platelet donation. The closest drives are in La Grange on Nov. 27 and Dec. 18, Downers Grove on Dec. 5 and 27, Western Springs on Dec. 13 and Oak Brook on Dec. 26. Visit the website listed above or call (800) 733-2767 to make an appointment.

■ Secret Santa

www.lagrangerotary.org/service
The Rotary Club of La Grange and Pillars Community Health are once again asking for families for gift cards or monetary donations for their annual Secret Santa program, which serves children up to age 17 in need in Hinsdale and several neighboring communities. The most-needed items are Legos, board games, blankets, sports balls, children's books, toys for ages 1-3, art supplies and batteries (AA, AAA, C and D). Gifts also can be purchased on Amazon through a link at the website listed above. A list of drop-off locations also is posted there.

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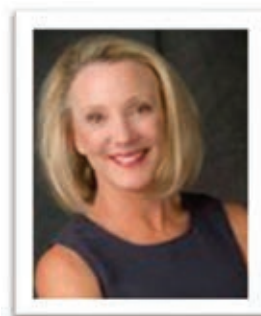
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Learn more about our programs and partnerships at www.d181foundation.org

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

■ Winter Holidays in the 1890s

Nov. 21-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. All ages are welcome and registration is not required. No tours Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Free, \$5 suggested donation per person ages 3 and up.

■ 'A Christmas Carol'

Nov. 22-24
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

The College of DuPage Theater presents Charles Dickens' treasured tale of Ebenezer Scrooge in this family-friendly 70-minute show. A pre-show discussion with the director and designers will be held at 5:45 p.m. Nov. 22; a post-show discussion with the director and cast will be held Nov. 23 after the 5 p.m. performance. Times: 7 p.m. Nov. 22, 2 & 5 p.m. Nov. 23 & 24. Tickets: \$16, \$14 for youth.

■ Christmas at Cantigny

Nov. 22-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. Stop by the Holiday Shop to pick up a Cantigny-grown poinsettia. 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 adjacent to Le Jardin. Visit the

website listed above for a full schedule. Tickets: \$12 to \$38, with discounts for advance purchases.

■ Pizza with Santa

Nov. 30
KLM Park
5901 County Line Road
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

Santa is making a last minute stop by The Lodge at KLM Park for a pizza lunch. Be sure

to bring a camera. Time: noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$30. RR

■ 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year'

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
203 S. Kensington Ave., La Grange
www.hinsdalechorale.org
(312) 510-1823

The Hinsdale Chorale will perform its annual holiday concert, with the first half fea-

turing Haydn's "Little Organ Mass" and other works. The second half of the program will include a variety of both traditional and more contemporary Christmas pieces. Time: 7 p.m. Nov. 30, 3 p.m. Dec. 1. Tickets: \$20, \$15 for students and seniors.

• Hinsdale for the Holidays

Dec. 7
Burlington Park
30 E. Chicago Ave.

Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, cookie decorating and visits with Santa. Santa will return on Dec. 14 and 21. Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Winter Wonderland

Dec. 1
KLM Park
5901 County Line Road
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

Please turn to Page 40

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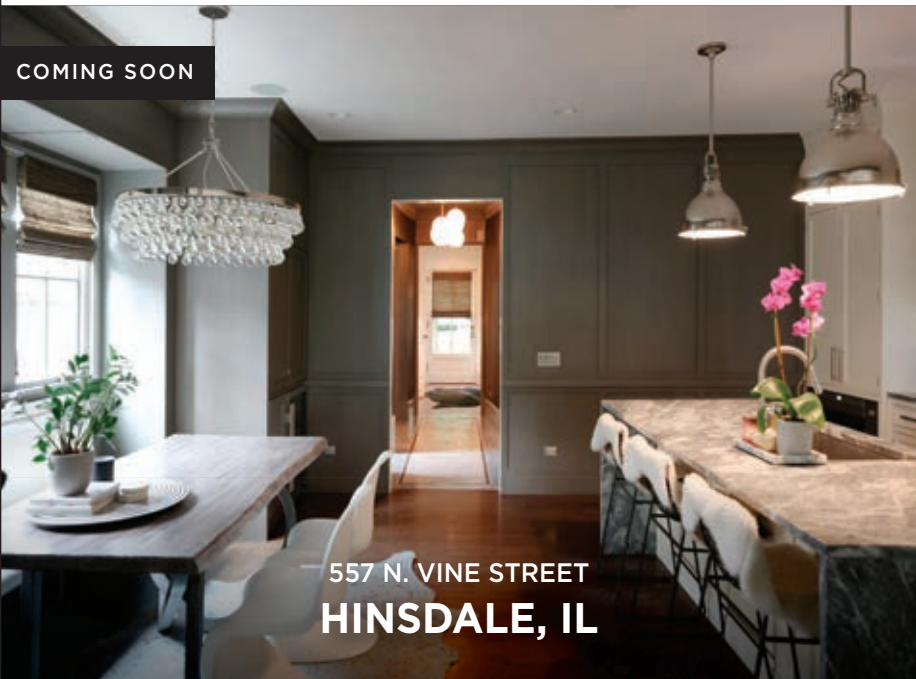
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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 38

Join this fourth annual event featuring photos with Santa, music, holiday crafts and activities, visits with favorite "Frozen" characters, a hot chocolate bar, treats station and more. Sign up for time slot — and bring along a new toy to donate to the Toys for Tots drive. Times: 9 to 10 a.m., 10 to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to noon and noon to 1 p.m. Cost: \$20. RR

■ The Second City: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Sweater

Dec. 1
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

Kick-off the holiday season with this fast-paced, interactive comedy revue stuffed with seasonal songs, sketches, and of course, The Second City's world-famous improv comedy. The show may contain adult themes and language. Times: 3 and 6 p.m. Tickets: \$31-\$49.

■ 'Christmas on State Street'

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

For decades, Christmas in Chicago meant a trip or two to State Street. This lecture by Leslie Goddards explores the history of Christmas at the big department stores on State Street using photos, ads and memorabilia. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. RR

■ Holiday Favorites with the Jolly Boys

Dec. 4
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info

(630) 986-1976

Enjoy this performance of holiday favorites with Hinsdale's own Jolly Boys and embrace the season. Hot chocolate will be provided. Time: 3 to 4 p.m. RR

■ Hinsdale Christmas Walk

Dec. 6
Downtown Hinsdale
www.hinsdalechamber.com

The Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce presents this holiday kick-off, starting with a tree lighting ceremony on the lawn of the Memorial Building at 5 p.m., where Santa Claus will make an appearance. Then head downtown to enjoy carousel and train rides, sip on hot chocolate, do some early Christmas shopping and collect give-aways. Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

■ Holiday Art and Craft Market

Dec. 7-8
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
(630) 206-9566
www.dupageforest.org

Shop for quality artisan holiday gifts for family and friends. Those under 18 must be with an adult. Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 8.

■ Merry

Dec. 8
Hinsdale Central High School
5500 S. Grant St.
www.westsubsymphony.org

Join the West Suburban Symphony in welcoming Santa with a choral and orchestral program including Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival," John Williams' "Three Holiday Songs" from the movie "Home Alone," Mannheim Steamroller hits, carol medleys and music from

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet. Time: 3:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30, \$25 for seniors, \$5 for teens, free for ages 12 and younger.

■ 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 suburbs under the direction of Maryann Flock. Light refreshments will follow the concert. Time: 3 p.m. Admission: Free, with donations accepted.

■ '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.



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

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Legal Notices

VILLAGE OF HINSDALE NOTICE OF PLAN COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons that the Village of Hinsdale Plan Commission shall conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois for the purpose of considering an application from KBarre Hinsdale, Inc. for a Special Use Permit to allow for the operation of a physical fitness facility at 777 N. York Road, Unit 19 located in the B-1 Community Business District. The proposed tenant space is located in the Gateway Square Shopping Center. This request is known as Case A-44-2024.

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Legal Notices

Copies of documents relating to the proposed request are on file and available for public inspection during regular Village business hours in the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois.

The common address is 777 N. York Road, Hinsdale IL,

60521 (PINs: 09-01-209-007; 09-01-209-010; 09-01-209-011; 09-01-209-031; 09-01-209-032) and legally described as follows:

THAT PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF BLOCK 4 OF THE TOWN OF FULLERSBURG (NOW KNOWN AS HINSDALE); THENCE SOUTHERLY, ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF YORK ROAD (FORMERLY KNOWN AS CASS STREET), A DISTANCE OF 203.99 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON STAKE FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE EASTERLY, THIS LINE HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS LINE "A", A DISTANCE OF 275.90 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 23 OF HINSDALE HIGHLANDS, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE AFORESAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 1; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOTS 23, 24 AND 25 OF SAID HINSDALE HIGHLANDS, A DISTANCE OF 478.45 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 25, ALSO BEING THE NORTH LINE OF LOT 26 OF SAID HINSDALE HIGH LANDS; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 26 AND ALONG THE NORTH LINE AND THE WESTERLY EXTENSION

Legal Notices

THEREOF OF WALKER'S FIRST ADDITION TO FULLERSBURG (NOW KNOWN AS HINSDALE) BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE AFORESAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 1, A DISTANCE OF 507.28 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF SAID YORK ROAD; THENCE NORTHERLY, ALONG THE CENTER LINE OF SAID YORK ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 431.35 FEET TO THE WESTERLY EXTENSION OF LINE "A" AFORESAID; THENCE EASTERLY, ALONG SAID WESTERLY EXTENSION OF LINE "A", A DISTANCE PF 33.02 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; EXCEPTING THEREFROM, THAT PART OF YORK ROAD (FORMERLY KNOWN AS CASS STREET) AS PLATTED ON SEVERSON'S SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE AFORESAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 1, LYING WESTERLY OF AND ADJOINING LOTS 1 AND 2 OF SAID SEVERSON'S SUBDIVISION, IN DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS .

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: GATEWAY SQUARE (777 N. YORK ROAD - HINSDALE, ILLINOIS)

At said public hearing, the Plan Commission shall accept all testimony and evidence pertaining to said application and shall consider any and all possible zoning actions, including the granting of any necessary special permits, variations, other special approvals, or amendments to the Zoning Code that may be necessary or convenient to permit development of the proposed type at the described property. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Dated: November 14, 2024 Emily Tompkins, Village Clerk

Published in the Hinsdalean on November 21, 2024.

The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest. William Blake

If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share. W. Clement Stone

There is one day that is ours. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American. O. Henry

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

William Arthur Ward

Legal Notices

VILLAGE OF HINSDALE, IL INVITATION FOR RFP FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY STUDY

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Village of Hinsdale, DuPage and Cook Counties and State of Illinois that proposals will be received for a Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Study.

Sealed proposals for a Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Study will be accepted at the Village of Hinsdale Village Hall, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521, until 12:00 pm, Friday, December 13, 2024. The Village will review proposals and notify all contractors of proposal results. Any proposals received later than the stipulated time will be returned unopened.

The scope of work is to provide the Village with professional engineering services for a traffic and safety study. The Village is requesting that a traffic and safety study be conducted at a neighborhood level that will include collecting transportation data, evaluating the performance of the transportation systems, identifying operational deficiencies, analyzing potential alternatives, and developing recommendations to improve the overall transportation conditions.

Proposals are to be in a sealed envelope, plainly marked: "NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY STUDY - DO NOT OPEN". Please address the envelope to the VILLAGE OF HINSDALE, 19 E. CHICAGO AVENUE, HINSDALE, ILLINOIS, 60521.

Instructions and RFP document is available by request or on the Village's website at www.villageofhinsdale.org.

The Village reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or to waive any irregularities or any informalities when such waiver would not be detrimental to the best interest of the Village and would not prejudice the proposal process.

Questions should be directed to: Thomas Lillie, Deputy Police Chief Office: (630) 789-7083

Published in The Hinsdalean, Thursday, November 21, 2024



Public Notices

CERTIFICATE NO. 79548 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 6, 2024 wherein the business firm of

JONATHAN DANIEL SESSO

Located at 120 W. Forest Ave., Wheaton, IL. 60187 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: Jonathan Sesso, 120 W. Forest Ave., Wheaton, IL. 60187.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 6th day of November A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 14, 21 & 28, 2024.

CERTIFICATE NO. 79545 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 4, 2024 wherein the business firm of

DC ATM SERVICES

Located at 422 S. Bruner Street, Hinsdale, IL. 60521 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: Donte Farrington, 422 S. Bruner Street, Hinsdale, IL. 60521; Catherine Baca, 422 S. Bruner Street, Hinsdale, IL. 60521.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 4th day of November A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 7, 14 & 21, 2024.

CERTIFICATE NO. 79555 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 15, 2024 wherein the business firm of

VSEE & BOOKS

Located at 6421 Winston Drive, Woodridge, IL. 60517-1314 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: Vidmantas Surna, 6421 Winston Drive, Woodridge, IL. 60517-1314.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 15th day of November A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 21, 28 & December 5, 2024.

Public Notices

CERTIFICATE NO. 79544 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on October 30, 2024 wherein the business firm of

SALT & SHELL

Located at 218 The Lane, Hinsdale, IL. 60521 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: Donna J. Donaldson, 218 The Lane, Hinsdale, IL. 60521.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 30th day of October A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 7, 14 & 21, 2024.

CERTIFICATE NO. 79539 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on October 24, 2024 wherein the business firm of

FUTBOL 24.7

Located at 1196 S. Main Street, Suite D, Lombard, IL. 60148 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: Bertin Peralta Tellez, 501 Heritage Drive, Oswego, IL. 60543.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 24th day of October A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 7, 14 & 21, 2024.

CERTIFICATE NO. 79561 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 19, 2024 wherein the business firm of

DETAIL WORKS

PAINTING & RENOVATION

Located at 3965 Marine Drive, 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: Arturo Luna, 3965 Marine Drive, Hanover Park, IL. 60133; Eliel Esquivel Segura, 54 W. Drummond Avenue, Glendale Heights, IL. 60139.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 19th day of November A.D. 2024.

Jean Kaczmarek DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 21, 28 & December 5, 2024.

MIND GAMES

- ACROSS**
- 1 CLUTCH
 - 6 MODERN MESSAGES
 - 11 "QUEEN OF SOUL"
FRANKLIN
 - 12 USED A MODERN
CAR SERVICE
 - 14 IRISH SINGER O'CONNOR
 - 15 MORE PROMISING
 - 16 "- MINE" (BEATLES SONG)
 - 17 "ZORBA THE GREEK" STAR
 - 19 HIT CBS SERIES
 - 20 MORNING DROPLETS
 - 22 PUMP UP THE VOLUME
 - 23 BIT OF DUST
 - 24 ROAD CURVES
 - 26 TEST MONITOR
 - 28 WARDROBE MALFUNCTION
 - 30 SHARING WORD
 - 31 DRIVING INSTRUCTOR?
 - 35 FLAVOR
 - 39 "LES ETATS-..."
 - 40 HOSP. AREAS
 - 42 EARTH SCI.
 - 43 ASTERN
 - 44 "STAR TREK" DOCTOR
 - 46 COMPUTER ACRONYM
 - 47 BAND AIDE
 - 49 FLY
 - 51 BLOOD GIVERS
 - 52 EVENING PRAYER
 - 53 NEWBIES
 - 54 PERFUME COMPOUND

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14							15					
16				17			18				19	
20			21		22				23			
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			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39					40		41		42			
43				44				45		46		
47			48				49		50			
51							52					
	53						54					

- DOWN**
- 1 TONY WINNER TAMMY
 - 2 EXTENDS,
AS A LEASE
 - 3 DEVoured
 - 4 CAGER O'NEAL,
FOR SHORT
 - 5 CITY NEAR VENICE
 - 6 START PLAYING
FOR PAY
 - 7 BLACK, IN VERSE
 - 8 BALLOT MARKS
 - 9 LINGERIE FABRIC
 - 10 HANDLES
 - 11 STAGE COMMENT
 - 13 LESS DAMP
 - 18 LITTLE RASCAL
 - 21 FEUDAL FARMERS
 - 23 JAZZ SINGER
CARMEN
 - 25 USE A STRAW
 - 27 UMP'S CALL
 - 29 METHOD
 - 31 SENTRY
 - 32 WALKING
 - 33 LENGTHY LIST
 - 34 TOLKIEN CREATURE
 - 36 ABRASION
 - 37 HORN BLOWER
 - 38 GANTRY OF FICTION
 - 41 ITALIAN WINE
 - 44 SURREALIST JOAN
 - 45 SAINT LAURENT
OF FASHION
 - 48 "LE COQ ..."
 - 50 FOLLOWER (SUFF.)

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	3	7					4	
	1				5	2		
			1	7				6
		8			2	4		
5				3				8
	6		4					3
		4			7	9		
9				8				2
2			9					5

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

Unscramble the letters within the empty boxes. Rearrange the letters within the empty boxes to complete the words.



Empty

BINGE

Loose

RAFTID

Defeat

SUEFER

Game

PORTS

TODAY'S WORD

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

HOROSCOPES

November 2024 Horoscopes • Week 4



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, things turn out to be calm this week, and it is surprising how much you can accomplish. This slow pace is just the reprieve you've needed.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, be careful what you ask for, as things have a funny way of coming true for you this week. Censor your thoughts for now, and perhaps hold your cards closer to the vest.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Thoughts of love and relationships are on your mind, Cancer. However, you will have trouble expressing just how you feel to others. Think through your words before saying them.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
It's time to plan and prepare, Libra. Take out a pen and paper and start making lists or use a digital planner. It's the only way to remain organized with so much going on.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, there's not much you can do about a particular problem, so it may be better to stop thinking about a solution. Put your attention toward something you can control.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you may have a lot of anxious thoughts right now. Friends provide a welcome diversion later in the week, and you also may want to put in more hours at work to stay distracted.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you are a whirlwind of activity, and this causes a bit of disruption to a normally organized week. Others may remark on how you seem to be all over the place, but you know your limits.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Matters at home are a priority this week, Scorpio. Focus your attention on tackling things around the house and you'll have more time to devote to fun down the road.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, a few minor tweaks to your schedule and you could be able to tackle a number of tasks this week. Enjoy the productivity.



GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, plans aren't panning out as you'd hoped, so consider other opportunities. Stop and consider all the possibilities as soon as possible and then make a decision.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
It's hard to imagine fitting anything else into your packed schedule, Virgo. Somehow you manage to do it. But the effects could prove stressful. Try lightning your load this week.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
It might be time to pinch some pennies, Sagittarius. This week you could come up a bit short, and it doesn't bode well for the rest of the month. Consider new revenue streams.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

- 1. Being; 2. Adrift;
- 3. Refuse; 4. Sport

Today's Word
AROUND

SPORTS

Central swimmers finish strong

Continued from Page 50

Sarah and I were training partners in the distance group all season, and I was so proud to see all of her hard work and determination pay off in her race," Vija Barber said.

She touched on the special experience of swimming for her dad.

"I got the opportunity to bond with him through something we are both passionate about. It also forced us to spend lots of time together throughout the last four years which I feel made it easy to have a close relationship, in and out of the pool," she said.

Coach Barber admitted to feeling bittersweet seeing his older daughter close out her Central career, but was glad he could watch her swim her last race with sister Lilia in the 400-free relay.

"They swam the second-fastest time in school history together," he said. "What a great way to watch her career end.

"It was just a really long weekend, but in a good way because I think we came out on top in just about everything we did."

Hinsdaleans swim for Benet

Benet Academy senior Lucy Rooney of Hinsdale finished her swimming career on a high note with a seventh-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle and ninth place in the 100-yard backstroke at the IHSA state final on Saturday. She also



The Hinsdale Central girls swim team placed sixth at the IHSA state final, bringing their streak of finishes within the top eight in to five years in a row, an unmatched record of performance in the state over that time. Head coach Bob Barber (left) relished coaching his two daughters together for the final time as senior Vija swam her final season.

joined fellow senior and Hinsdalean Paige Malinowski to power their 200-yard medley relay team to 13th place.

Rooney said competing at the state meet has been a wonderful reward.

"Just qualifying for this meet is very difficult, and I was able to compete against some of the fastest swimmers in the country, which is so exciting," she said, remarking at the electric atmosphere inside the

FMC Natatorium in Westmont. "The natatorium was packed and so loud with all the people cheering and screaming. I will always cherish this experience because so many of my friends and family members came to watch me swim."

Malinowski reported that the relay team's preliminary time of 1:45.69 broke a school record.

"It was by far the best meet I ever had," she said, noting that the quar-

ter had named themselves the Turbo Relay. "It was sad to retire the Turbo name, but it was a fun experience."

Rooney also spoke to bittersweet nature of closing her Benet swim tenure.

"I will forever miss the bus rides to swim meets, scream-singing songs and gathering to say a Hail Mary before my relay swam our event," she said.

RESULTS

Basketball, girls
Nov. 19 @ Glenbard East
V wins 53-32
Darwish, 17 points, 9
rebounds, steal
Dolan, 14 points, 6

rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals
Giannini, 6 points, 5
rebounds, assist, 3 steals
Gin, 6 points, 2 rebounds,
assist, 3 steals
Mokhtarian, 4 points, 2

rebounds, steal
Coffey, 3 points, rebound,
assist
Sherpitis, 2 points,
rebound, assist, 5 steals
Tucke, 2 points

Quast, 4 rebounds, 3 steals
Lynch, block

Bowling, boys
Nov. 19 @ Morton
V loses 2,130-2,712

Nov. 18 vs. Addison Trail
V loses 1,865-2,332
Nov. 13 @ Naperville
Central
V loses 1,792-2,672



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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



Two Falcon teams win Super Bowls

11U Silver and JV Gold D1 finally make it to the big game after coming close last year

By Pamela Lannom

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Two Hinsdale Falcons football teams were undefeated this season. Two made it to the final game of the post-season. And two came home Bill George Youth Football League Super Bowl victors.

The 11U Silver team beat Tri City 13-12 Nov. 9 and the JV Gold D1 team beat Lyons 14-6 Nov. 10 to win the championships.

"I'm super excited for them," Falcons Football President Jason Jones said. "All the time they put in — the kids and coaches — it's just a great accomplishment for them. Everyone involved, parents included, should be super proud of themselves."

The teams had more than 60 practices from July to November in all conditions, from extreme hot, sunny days to dark, cold and rainy nights, Jones noted.

"It's just such a testament to the parents' and the children's and the coaches' commitment to make all those practices and 12 games," he said. "It's just a fantastic way to end that season."

11U Silver

Coach Joe Zager said coaches had one message for the sixth-graders who had put in 103 days of work before they went out to play in the Super Bowl.

"Go out there, have fun, but

finish it," he said.

Tri City was a tough opponent when the Falcons faced them earlier this season.

"We knew we got better. We also knew they were going to be better because they were a very well-coached team," Zager said. "The game was tough. It was back-and-forth until the last couple of minutes. They were prepared for us."

The game was tied 6-6 at halftime, and both teams scored again in the third quarter. The Falcons' 2-point conversion gave them the edge at 13-12, which ended up being the final score.

The win was amazing, team member Joey Hillegass said, and something the team had hoped for all season long.

"We didn't talk about it too much, but it was definitely everyone's ideal goal," he said. "It was more rewarding than if we won it last year because we almost got to it last year."

Hillegass made a 10- to 15-yard play in the first half off a pass from quarterback Jacob Zager that helped spark the offense.

"I ran off the line. I was surprised they didn't hit me or anything," he said.

More than that play, Hillegass said he will remember how many times Jacob carried the ball.

"He carried it like 20 times and he was really the staple of our offense," Hillegass said.

Jacob scored two touchdowns and had 90 yards rush-



The Hinsdale Falcons Junior Varsity D1 Gold players and cheerleaders celebrate the team's Super Bowl win Nov. 10. (photos provided)

ing on offense. On defense he had double-digit tackles, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries.

Other key players in the game were Luke Gray, Danny McFarland, Sawyer Myhra and Nico Will.

"I thought our blocking was pretty good as well," Hillegass said. "Most plays we were able to create a hole for the running back."

The offensive line of Keegan McCoskey, Parker Otzen, Luke Hanson, Luke Gray and Hayden Sobieraj provided key blocks for Jacob's 90 yards, Joe Zager said.

Players ran an expanded offense this year and focused on persevering through a season they knew would be a grind, Joe Zager said. The team's depth made a difference during the season and in the championship game.

"We didn't have to roll around players to get them in positions. We just did what we did. Eventually, like everyone else, we just wore them down and ended up with one more point than they did."

"To watch it happen and to celebrate with those guys and take it all in was worth all three months," he added. "It was just so fun, so fun."

Junior Varsity Gold D1

For the past two years, Matt

Camp's team came within one game of playing for a championship.

"We really went into this season saying our goal is to make it to the Super Bowl," he said.

After the 2023 season ended, coaches got to work. They added a stronger quarterback running game, more advanced approaches to blocking and other strategies. And they talked to the players about stepping up their game.

"This is where the hitting gets harder and you really have to take it to heart that this is going to be a big jump in competitiveness," Camp remembers coaches telling the team. "The boys really responded. They took that step."

After three blow-out wins to start the season, things got a little more difficult. Eight of the team's 11 wins were by a touchdown or less, and three were by two points or less. "They were challenged every week," Camp said.

The championship game against rival Lyons was no different.

"It was tied 6-6 with 12 seconds left. It was a nail-biter. It was the same as the rest of our season," the coach said.

Quarterback Dillon Phelan, who scored the team's first touchdown, secured the win with his second trip to the end zone with 7 seconds on the

clock. Phelan said he really didn't feel the pressure.

"I kind of zone out and just let my abilities do all the work," he said.

The team's ability to better execute plays led to a better effort overall, Phelan said.

"This year we played for each other and last year we played more for ourselves instead of playing together and just trying to win a football game," he said.

His dad, Damon Phelan, the team's offensive coordinator, said players were committed to improving. They also had some familiarity with teams they had played for three years.

"Each one of those teams we played got better and we got just a little better than they did," Damon Phelan said. "Every week, it's a street fight and it's really good competition for the boys."

For Dillon, Kellan Goodwin and Michael Kipnis, the win capped off quite a year. The boys started the season late because they were playing with their Hinsdale Little League teammates in the World Series in Williamsport, Penn.

"This group of boys has done some pretty big things this year," Damon Phelan said. "It's going to be fun to watch them move into high school and see what they do."



The Hinsdale 11U Silver players and coaches express their joy at the team's 1-point margin of victory in the Super Bowl game Nov. 9.



CONGRATULATIONS

to our

HINSDALE FALCONS FOOTBALL & CHEER TEAMS ON THEIR 2024 SEASON!

The Hinsdale Falcons Cheerleaders had a fantastic Season! Many teams competed at the ICA State Championship and two teams qualified for the State Championship.

With Thanks to our:

- Football Coaches and Players • Cheer Coaches and Cheerleaders
- Parents • Team Moms • Board Members

We're proud of our athletes and grateful for the support of our families and community!

With Gratitude:

Hinsdale Central High School Athletic Directors Mike Jezioro, Julie VanNess
The HCHS Athletic Department & Staff and Building & Grounds Staff

The Village of Hinsdale and Oak School for working with us on practice fields
The Hinsdalean for their outstanding and continued support of the program

CONGRATULATIONS

to our

HINSDALE FALCONS FOOTBALL

2024 SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS



2024
UNDEFEATED
SEASON

JV Gold D1

Head Coach: Matt Camp

Asst. Coaches: Terry Lynch, Damon Phelan, Dominic Cresap, Chad Wanless, Denis Sullivan

#7 Dillon Phelan, #9 Charlie Lynch, #12 Sullivan Camp, #14 Dominic Cresap, #16 Salvatore Calandriello, #18 Torsten Wood, #21 Logan Sullivan, #30 Jaxon Uthe, #34 Kellan Goodwin, #36 Brock Bradley, #44 Leo Crooks, #45 Angel Roman, #52 Grant Wanless, #54 Connor Gaylord, #55 Oliver Johnson, #60 Grant Kirchheimer, #85 Benjamin Kurinsky, #95 Michael Kipnis



2024
UNDEFEATED
SEASON

11U Silver

Head Coach: Joe Zager

Asst. Coaches: Brian Bazan, Steve Gray, Jason Hanson, Joe Myhra, Brian O'Malley, Pat Rooney

#3 Killian Byrne, #5 Sawyer Myhra, #6 Blake Bazan, #8 Luke Gray, #9 Hayden Sobieraj, #12 Marco Oliverio, #16 Jack O'Malley, #18 Noah Vargas, #19 Luke Hanson, #20 Dominic Will, #21 Keegan McCoskey, #22 Jasper Maggio, #23 Miles Lindenmeyer, #27 Joseph Hillegass, #28 Pierson Eno, #29 Carter Cox, #31 William Rooney, #32 Frankie Levato, #33 Parker Otzen, #35 Daniel McFarland, #41 Grant Garver, #50 Leo Solorio, #88 Jacob Zager

SPORTS

Central swimmers finish strong

Team maintains tradition of excellence with sixth place at state championships

By Ken Knutson

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Hinsdale Central's girls swimmers and divers began the season as nomads with the Don Watson Aquatic Center under repair.

"We were displaced from our home pool, traveling all these different places," said head coach Bob Barber.

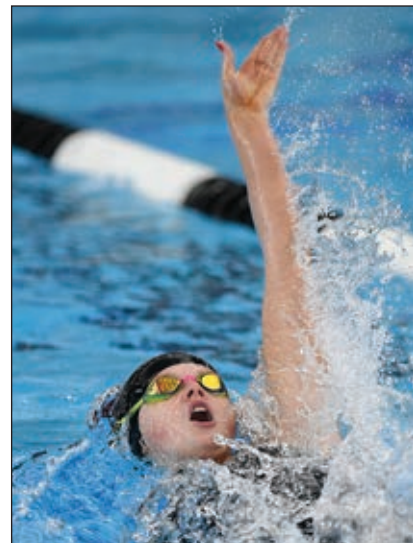
Homelessness did not exempt the Red Devils from going up against the state's top programs like Rosary, New Trier and St. Charles North.

"They clearly were the stronger teams but we were convinced that we were kind of the best of the rest," he said.

The squad demonstrated its prowess with a 105-point, sixth-place finish at the IHSA state finals Friday and Saturday at the FMC Natatorium in Westmont.

"It felt really good to stay so close to those teams. Our goal was top-10," Barber related. "It was awesome."

The Devils placed in the state's top eight for the fifth straight year,



IHSA state final

Hinsdale Central
6th place with 105 points

200-yard medley
Miller, Zinis, L. Barber,
Brubaker, 6th (tie), 1:44.41

50-yard freestyle
Zinis, 7th, 23.4
L. Barber, 9th, 23.28

100-freestyle
Zinis, 14th, 51.51
L. Barber, 16th, 51.9

500-yard freestyle
Pelinkovic, 9th, 4:57.43

200-yard freestyle relay
Miller, Brubaker, Lin,
Lahmann, 9th, 1:36.18

100-yard backstroke
Miller, 15th, 57.29

400-yard freestyle relay
L. Barber, Miller, V. Barber,
Zinis, 6th, 3:27.41

Hinsdale Central's Lilia Barber checks her time and smiles after winning the consolation heat in the 50-yard freestyle race Nov. 16 at IHSA girls' state final swim in Westmont. Teammate Karina Miller (clockwise from top) swims in the 200-yard medley relay while Sarah Pelinkovic keeps pace in the 500-yard freestyle. (photos by Steve Johnston for The Hinsdalean)

a record of consistency over that time no other Illinois program can boast. Rosary won the team title with 290 points, followed by New Trier's 272 and St. Charles North's 251.

Strong relay performances powered Central, with sixth-place swims from both the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay quartets (see sidebar for full results).

Senior Kamile Zinis was a member of both groups and individually placed seventh in the 50-yard freestyle and 14th in the 100-yard freestyle. Barber said her exploits were impressive.

"She took the state meet by the horns and really carried our team on the relays and emotion-wise

with her performance," said Barber of Zinis, who was crowned by the team as their most valuable swimmer this season.

Sophomore Lilia Barber — daughter of the coach — broke a sophomore record with her 23.28-second swim in the 50-yard freestyle. Her preliminary time slotted her in the "B" final, so ninth was the highest she could place. But her finals time was actually the sixth-best of all the finalists.

"She just continues to improve and now has her name on three school records for sophomores," her dad said.

He also cited sophomore Sarah Pelinkovic for her ninth-place (but seventh-best) time of 4:57.43

in the 500-freestyle following a stunning improvement from the preliminary swim.

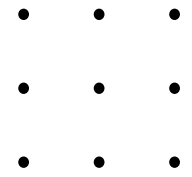
"The most energy we got on the weekend was Sarah in 500, dropping six seconds from the night before," Barber said. "She just went out more controlled. That was a huge emotional lift and point swing for us."

His other daughter Vija Barber, a senior and member of the 400-freestyle relay team, underscored the close-knit spirit of the team with her memory of cheering on Pelinkovic.

"Sarah was in an outside lane and ended up having an incredible race, beating her whole heat.

Please turn to Page 47

Stuffed With Gratitude!



This season, I'm feeling extra thankful for YOU, Hinsdale! From helping you find the perfect home to cheering on our awesome community, it's been an absolute joy to be part of your journey.

You make my job fun, my heart full, and my calendar... well, stuffed!

Here's to a holiday season filled with family, laughter, and maybe a few extra slices of pie. Thanks for making Hinsdale the best place to live, work, and play!



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