

# THE LANSING JOURNAL

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# JOURNAL

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After parading to the Lansing Public Library, 23 seniors from TF South posed with local and state elected officials and other encouragers before their first vote. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

## Teaching. Voting.

District 215 organizes first-ever Parade to the Polls

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 2, 2018) – It was a civics lesson come to life. When 23 TF South students decided to participate in the “Parade to the Polls,” they learned the logistics of voting—and they met some of the results. Illinois State Senator Elgie Sims, Lansing Mayor Patty Eidam, Village Trustees Maureen Grady-Perovich and Jerry Zeldenrust, School Board President Richard Dust, School Board members LeeAnn Revis and Patricia Stepp, and Park Board Commissioner Micaela Smith marched along with the students and praised them for getting involved.

Revis is the School Board member who originally proposed the parade. Aware that the 18–29-year-old demographic has the lowest voter turnout rate, she wanted to do more than simply bemoan their lack of engagement. With support from District 215 Superintendent Teresa Lance, Revis began planning a Parade to the Polls for both TF North and TF South. It was a practical application of the teaching that happens in their Civics, Government, and US History classes.

### DOING THE MATH

Revis wasn’t sure what to expect, but she set a mental goal of symbolically doubling the national turnout rate in 2014, which was an estimated 16–17%. If 50 kids from both schools would vote, that would be almost 30% of eligible voters in those schools.

On Wednesday, October 31, 35 students from TF North paraded to the polls at the Calumet City Library. On Friday, November 2, 23 students

from TF South paraded to the polls at the Lansing Public Library. Revis’ goal had been exceeded by eight voters. In other words, the two high schools had a 34% voter turnout rate. “My heart is full,” said Revis.

### TEACHING THE PROCESS

For people who have been voting for many years, the process is not complicated, and it’s easy to forget what was involved in becoming a registered voter. Adults who drive

The Parade to the Polls crossed Ridge Road on the way to early voting at Lansing Public Library. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



cars, own houses, and receive mail have plenty of forms of identification that show name and address.

For an 18-year-old, the choices are less abundant. And factors

See “Voting,” page 6

## Bells of Peace to ring in Lansing

A personal vision, a mayoral proclamation, and a free smartphone app could make Veterans Day 2018 memorable

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 1, 2018) – On November 11, 1918, an armistice was signed between the Allied Powers and Germany that silenced the guns of World War One. After four years of fighting, bells across Europe rang to celebrate the end of “The Great War.”

On November 11, 2018, towns and villages across the world will ring bells to commemorate the end of World War I and remember the sacrifices of those involved.

Mark Foster hopes Lansing will be one of those villages.

### BELLS AND APPS

Since learning of his grandfather’s death in

the “War to End All Wars,” the 62-year-old lifelong Lansing resident has maintained an interest in the war that led him to write letters to Mayor Eidam and churches in the area, explaining his desire to see Lansing participate in the worldwide commemoration.

Foster’s vision is to have all the churches in Lansing with bells ring them at 11:00am on November 11. The bells would ring 21 times, reminiscent of the 21-gun salute used in formal military occasions.

He is also encouraging residents to download a smartphone app that will “toll the bells” as well.

“I think it would be so awesome to have all the church bells go off in town—and on the phone app,” said Foster.

### WORLDWIDE PARTICIPATION

The United States World War One Centennial Commission started spreading the idea in the US, though other countries are expected to participate as well. The Commission was established in

See “Bells,” page 7



The bell of First Church (PCA) will ring 21 times at 11:00 on 11/11. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

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★ Next steps, after last summer’s viral video incident (p10)

★ Virtual Reality comes to Lansing (p14)

★ FAQs about local candidates and the petitions they’re circulating (p18)



# The Lansing Journal journeys Starved Rock and Crystal Falls



Lansing residents Jim and Bonnie Cuthbert took a short break from hiking the trails at Starved Rock to catch up on all the latest news from The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Random tourist that Bonnie roped into taking the picture)



Lansing residents Saad Abbasy and Michael Bolz brought the October issue of The Lansing Journal to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Crystal Falls. (Photo: Sheila Bolz)

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Email photos to [info@thelansingjournal.com](mailto:info@thelansingjournal.com). Make sure you include these basic pieces of information:

1. The names of any people in the photo
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# THE LANSING JOURNAL

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# Legion Riders welcome Jacob Pape home on leave

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 25, 2018) – Jacob Pape was unprepared for the homecoming he received Tuesday night, October 23. His mom, Mary Frey, had made the arrangements and kept them secret. So when she pulled into the Sunrise Health Food parking lot on their way home from

O’Hare Airport, he was confused. And when she proudly showed him off to the crowd who approached them, he probably would have been angry if there weren’t so many people around. So he graciously shook hands with Legion Riders, police officers, and government officials, and he accepted their heartfelt thanks for his service.

Pape had spent two Army years

away from home, most recently in Korea. Although he is “only” on leave, the Legion Riders wanted to give him the same welcome they have given to Lansing WWII and Korean War veterans returning from Honor Flight Chicago experiences. The Sunrise parking lot is a convenient gathering place—it’s on the right-hand side of the Torrence exit from

the highway, and there’s plenty of room for well-

wishers to park and wait. Since most welcome gatherings take place after 9:00pm, Sunrise is already closed, and shoppers are not inconvenienced.

A typical welcome involves about 20 riders and any available police and fire vehicles. More recently, as members of the broader community have learned about the welcome tradition, they have shown up in the parking lot as well.

After a round of thank-yous and welcome-homes, Pape and his mom got back in the car and were given a hero’s escort—with lights, sirens, and

horns—to the American Legion, where they joined the Legion Riders for drinks and debriefing. Overwhelmed but appreciative, Pape is still processing his return to America and his return to Lansing.

## Veterans Weekend in Lansing



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7-11AM**

The public is invited to the Edward Schultz Auxiliary #697 Pancake Breakfast at the American Legion (18255 Grant Street). The Copper Muggers will be making pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit cocktail, juice, and coffee. Adults pay \$7.00; veterans and active duty pay \$5.00; the cost for children 3-10 is \$5.00, and children under 3 are free.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 11AM**

The public is welcome to return to the American Legion Sunday morning for their traditional Veterans Day

service, which will be followed this year by a re-dedication ceremony for the restored M5 gun. (See story, p9.)



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2PM**

This year’s Veterans Day Service at the Lansing Veterans Memorial will honor our nation’s veterans and the flag they fought under. The 2:00pm ceremony is a meaningful recognition of those who have served or are now serving in our Armed Forces both in peacetime and in time of war. The service will take place rain or shine, moving into the Ford Hangar if necessary. Lawn chairs are suggested.



Left: Jacob Pape arrived home on leave on Tuesday, October 23.

Below: The Legion Riders from American Legion Post 697 like to give a proper escort to Lansing veterans. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)



## SALUTE FROM THE VILLAGE OF LANSING

*“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.” – Jeff Miller*

The Village of Lansing joins with you in proudly recognizing our nation’s veterans. We specifically wish to honor the men and women involved with the Village who have proudly served our country. In addition, we hope you will join us this Sunday, November 11th at 2 p.m. for a special Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Lansing Veterans Memorial Ceremonial Honor Guard. The event will take place at the Lansing Veterans Memorial located at the corner of Burnham Avenue and Glenwood-Lansing Road.

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Photo by Dan Bovino

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# Lansing couple celebrates 70 years

## Milton and Anna Mae Van Drunen cherish each other and family

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (October 2018) – Milton Van Drunen had recently returned home from serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. It was 1946, and he was 21. After three years of serving his country, he was looking to settle down, so he asked around among his friends to find out who was available. Within the tight-knit Dutch community in and around Lansing, friends were happy to play Cupid. That's how Milton met Anna Mae Huizinga.

"My cousin told him that I was nice and unattached at 19," said Anna Mae. "He came to my door, and we had our introduction on a Sunday night and then our first date on Monday," she said. That led to an ongoing courtship that resulted in an October 15, 1948, wedding at First Christian Reformed Church in Lansing (now New Hope Church). She was 21, and he was 23. Now at age 91 and 93 they are more in love than ever and grateful for the family that God has given them.

### DATING

Some of the details are fuzzy after 70-plus years, but they remember that the first date was at Orchestra Hall. It was a choral concert presented by Chicago Christian School, the school that Anna Mae had attended.

Anna Mae grew up in Munster and recalls taking an hour-long bus ride each day to get to Chicago Christian School in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. There were not yet expressways to speed up the trip. Milton lived in Lansing and graduated from Thornton Fractional High School in Calumet



City in 1943. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and the Monday following graduation he was inducted into the military where he spent significant time serving in the South Pacific.

What were Anna Mae's first thoughts on this stranger showing up at her door? "He looked good," she said. "He was really cute!" She was the oldest girl in a family of four boys and four girls. Her siblings could be known to play little tricks on Milton, who was very quiet.

### WEDDING

It was a pleasant fall day when the families gathered at the church for the wedding of Milton and Anna Mae. Anna Mae's older brother, who was 27 and had just become an ordained minister, officiated the ceremony. A younger brother was a soloist. Her other siblings and Milt's sisters were part of the wedding party.



Instead of rice, guests threw punch holes from their Inland Steel time cards. Anna Mae was employed at Inland Steel after high school, in the IBM department where the time cards were processed. (Photo provided)

The reception was held in the basement of Lansing Christian School where the Mother's Club prepared a chicken dinner. The photographer was a mailman, recommended by her brother, who was venturing out and starting a new business and did the job for \$25. "He did really good work, and after that he got a lot of business when other people saw the pictures," said Anna Mae. She proudly showed the black and white 8x10s that documented the day, each one behind aging cellophane that you can tell has been flipped through on many occasions.

### WORKING

After high school Anna Mae was employed in the IBM department at Inland Steel where time cards were processed. Instead of rice, guests threw punch holes from the time cards. Milton recalled that he was making \$1.60 an hour at the time, working as a layout man at Bates Expanded Steel in East Chicago. Anna Mae was earning \$1.65 an hour at Inland Steel.

Their first home was a small apartment in a Hammond basement. Housing was scarce with all the GIs returning home and starting families and it was hard to find

a place to live. They later moved to a new home on Escanaba Avenue in Lansing. "The home building business was booming," said Milton. "We didn't have a phone at first and were on a waiting list to get a telephone." The couple then moved to their current home in Lansing where they've resided for 60 years. Milton spent a long career as a roofer, and Anna Mae left her job at Inland Steel to raise her family.

### FAMILY

When asked about their best memories of a seven-decade marriage, both agree that the most cherished times have not been intimate moments alone, but the times where they've been able to enjoy their family. The couple had 5 children, 18 grandchildren, and (so far) 39 great-grandchildren. When you add them all up, along with spouses, the family they have created totals 85. They have fond memories of summers spent at cabins up north and of watching children and grandchildren play sports. Anna Mae lost count after 70 family graduations. They've traveled all over the country to witness achievements and attend weddings and baptisms.

For their 65th anniversary, the Van Drunens had a huge celebration, but the 70th was a little more low-key. The couple celebrated with a dinner with their kids, but they will see the grandchildren and great-grandchildren at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The gatherings have become so large that they have outgrown family homes and now host holiday gatherings in the church basement or school gym.

### COMMITMENT

According to the Van Drunens, there isn't an elusive secret to a successful marriage. Rather it's pretty simple: You're there for one another, and you rely on one another. "If you go, I'll go," is their usual response to one another when not both parties are enthusiastic about going somewhere.

Anna Mae says she married the right man. Milton says he married a good cook. And they start each day together with prayer.



Milton and Anna Mae Van Drunen have been starting the day with prayer together for 70 years. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

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# Voting, from page 1

like having parents with different addresses, not knowing your Social Security number, and not having a driver's license can complicate the process. TF South Principal Jake Gourley proactively printed out a recent report card for each of the 23 paraders, so they would have at least one official document showing name and address.

On Friday, there were kids who did not realize the importance of that document until they began the voter registration process. Some had thought their student ID would be enough—but student IDs don't show proof of residence. Senator

Sims was available to serve as shepherd and advocate, and Election Judge Carolyn Smith gave the new registrants as much time as possible while still accommodating the other voters in line. Without that encouragement, many of these students would not have registered or voted. "Voting can be intimidating," Revis admits, and she was glad adults were around to help navigate potential obstacles.

## KNOWING THE CHOICES

Haley Avila expressed some nervousness about her first vote. "I've never done this before," she said from the booth, slightly overwhelmed by all the names and choices. Another student pronounced the

experience "stressful," though he was proud to have completed it. For first-timers it was eye-opening to see that politics is broader than the offices that can afford to send mailers and air commercials.

## INSTILLING THE VALUE

As students came out of the voting booths, their fellow paraders were there to applaud them—not in a "You're all winners!" sense, but in recognition of an important milestone.

"Voting is something we should celebrate and not take for granted," Revis says. Not only did people die to initially create this democracy, but, she points out, people died for women and people of color to be able to participate in it.

Principal Gourley agrees: "Voting is a part of our civic duty. It is our hope that by celebrating first-time voters, TF South will be part of starting lifelong voting traditions."

"I was excited that Board member Revis wanted to engage our students in activities that ultimately give back to our community at home and at large," said Superintendent Lance. "The Parade to the Polls was just another way for our government officials to recognize the power of our young people's voices, especially in Thornton Fractional 215."

Revis recalls meeting older voters who have told her, "I've never missed an election." Their parents went to the polls with them and taught them how to vote, and it became a lifelong value. "Wouldn't it be great if one day these 18-year-olds could say the same thing?" she asked.

TF South's Parade to the Polls participants included: Haley Avila, Emiliano Galindo, Emaz Graham, Tyshaun Harvest, Tyrik Hickland, Tytiyana Jones, Ronald Lee, Ronson Macon, Jorge Magdaleno, James-Tresor Massy, Ranisha Morris, Justin Morris, Jackelin Munoz, Cornelious Muwanga, Fernando Navejar, Alexander Rangel, Claire Redikop, Kimberly Reyes, Brittney Salas-Gonzalez, Iliana Saldana, David Shaw, Zaire Vanderhorst, Tsujiorka Walker, and Brandon White.

TF South High School is located at 18500 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.

Left: "Voting is something we should celebrate and not take for granted," said LeeAnn Revis. Center: "This renews my faith that our young people are listening and watching for their opportunities to participate in the electoral process," said Senator Elgie Sims. Right: Cornelious Muwanga and Emiliano Galindo were among the 23 TF South students who participated in the Parade to the Polls and voted for the first time on Friday, November 2. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)



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# OBITUARIES



## JOHN "JACK" KENNETH GARSON JR.

John "Jack" Kenneth Garson Jr., age 76 of Lansing, IL, formerly of Lockport, IL, passed away on Monday, October 29, 2018.

He is survived by his beloved wife: Georgene (nee Skeldon); three children: Kristine (Brodie) O'Conner, Jill (Adrian) Basich, and Kenneth (Laura) Garson; grandchildren: Benjamin Matlock III, Madison, Morgan, Maya, and Maxwell Basich; John "Jack" and Samantha Garson; and his sister: Robin (Bryan) Lar-

son of Oak Park, IL. Jack was preceded in death by his parents: Irene (nee Bonic) and John Garson Sr. and his sister: Barbara Springer.

Friends visited with Jack's family on Thursday, November 1, 2018, from 4:00-8:00pm at Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home. Closing prayers were at 7:00pm. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, November 3, 2018, at 10:00am at St. Ann Catholic Church. Interment was private.

Jack was a member of St. Ann Church, he was retired from Physician Supply Co. of Munster, IN, and he was an avid fisherman. He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather and will be missed.

Information provided by Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.schroederlauer.com](http://www.schroederlauer.com).

## MUELLER

A memorial service for Marie A. Mueller (nee Rottmayer) of Riverdale, will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Mueller was born February 9, 1918, and passed away October 26, 2018. Loving daughter of the late Hervery J. and the late Antoinette Rottmayer. Wife of the late Fred A. Mueller. Mother of Fred G. (Nancy) Mueller. Sister of the late William (late Vivian)

Rottmayer. Grandmother of Jeffrey (Jami) Mueller, Julie (Osvaldo) Zambrano, and Jamie Mueller. Great-grandmother of Ellie, Camille and Liana Zambrano, and Aubrey and Haley Mueller.

Interment private at Oakland Memory Lanes, Dolton, IL.

## SAGEL

A Funeral Mass for Helen S. Sagel was held on November 3, 2018, at St. Michael Church with Fr. Frank Kurucz officiating.

Mrs. Sagel (née Lenko) was born June 28, 1916, and died October 31, 2018

She was the grandmother of Lynda (Robert) Van Dyck, Susan (Jerry) Yozze, Denette (Greg) Gallman, Kathy-Jo and Edward (Andrea) Sagel; great-grandmother of 8; great-great-grandmother of 2.

Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service), 708-460-2300 or [thornridgefuneralhomes.com](http://thornridgefuneralhomes.com).

*If you'd like a full obituary with photo to run as a memorial in the monthly print version of The Lansing Journal, the cost is only \$100. Interested families can contact The Lansing Journal directly, or ask your funeral home to do so.*

## Bells, from page 1

2013 with a mission to "plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the Centennial of World War One."

As part of a modern commemoration, the Commission created an app called "Bells of Peace: WWI Armistice" that features a countdown to November 11. At 11:00am the app will ring a bell of the user's choice 21 times. The app also includes resources about the commission and includes a link to donate toward building a WWI memorial in Washington DC.

### LANSING PARTICIPATION

"If people's phones start ringing... and there's enough commotion in town, people will ask what's going on and they'll hear 'Oh that's the World War One Commemoration,' [and they'll say], 'I'll be doggoned.' What better way to raise awareness?" Foster said.

Foster sent a letter to over a dozen Lansing churches explaining the importance of the commemoration. The letter reads, in part:

"This will honor the memory of those [who] served in this great conflict. I am asking that your congregation or facility participate in this worthy endeavor. Congregations might include this as part of the

sermons. If you have contacts in the neighboring communities please ask them to participate...so future generations will talk of the Bells of Peace they remembered on this day."

Only a handful of Lansing churches have bells, but Foster hopes that churches will also consider including a moment of silence at 11:00am during their morning worship services. One of the churches Foster contacted, First Church (PCA) of Lansing, has already agreed to take part in the commemoration and toll their bells.

Foster has also contacted the park district to have any park bells tolled.

### PERSONAL CONNECTION

Foster's grandfather, John Foster, was born in Greenfield, Illinois, and was killed in April of 1918 during World War One. Foster has spent hours researching the war in an attempt to learn more about his grandfather.

In 2011 Foster discovered that his grandfather was eligible to receive a Silver Star medal, one of the military's highest honors. This discovery brought Foster to Memphis, Tennessee, in 2012 to receive the



### MEANINGFUL REMEMBRANCE

Though it ended 100 years ago, Foster believes World War One still has meaning: "I think it's even more relevant today with all the discord that's going on in the world. There needs to be something that brings people together—even a tiny moment like this," he said.

After receiving Foster's letter, Lansing Mayor Patty Eidam has taken an interest in the commemoration. She read an official proclamation at the October 16 Village Board meeting. Selections from her proclamation are below:

"Whereas a century ago, 4.7 million American families sent their sons and daughters off to World War One, and whereas, 351,153 men from the State of Illinois served selflessly and honorably in World War One...and whereas, in November 2018 the world will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting in World War One at 11:00am November 11th, 1918,...I, Patricia L. Eidam...do hereby proclaim November 11, 2018, as World War One Remembrance Day,...recognizing the contributions of all American men and women who served the United States military during World War One."

Foster was impressed with the proclamation and the Mayor's interest in the commemoration. He hopes that his efforts to raise awareness will pay off on November 11.

"I just hope that everyone finds it as interesting as I do...I think people in Lansing and people everywhere should appreciate the significance of the armistice," he said.

For more information, visit the World War One Centennial Commission's website: [www.world-war1centennial.org](http://www.world-war1centennial.org).



Mark Foster received the Silver Star Award in 2012 on behalf of his grandfather, who died nearly 100 years earlier in World War One. (Photo provided)

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### WORSHIP SERVICES

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Sunday Worship .....10:30am



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

BEN KAPPERS, PASTOR

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Worship ..... 9:30am  
Sunday School.....11:00am  
Evening Worship..... 5:30pm

### Lynwood United Reformed Church



1990 E. Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood  
708-474-4100  
[www.LynwoodURC.org](http://www.LynwoodURC.org)

REV. NICK ALONS PASTOR

### WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30am and 5:00pm



2244 Indiana Avenue, Lansing  
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[www.oakglenurc.org](http://www.oakglenurc.org)

FB: Oak Glen United Reformed Church

REV. ED MARCUSSE, PASTOR

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# Private fundraiser provides uniforms for CAP cadets

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (November 4, 2018) - At a private fundraiser hosted by Mayor Patty Eidam on October 20, members of the community were introduced to Civil Air Patrol cadets and adult leaders Major Barbara Buckner and Major Rick Zalud and learned about the many benefits of being part of the program. Attendees made donations toward the squadron totaling \$4,600.

Buckner said there are three ways the squadron plans to use the funds. "The first plan is to get every cadet a full and complete uniform (Blues and ABUs) which also includes all insignia and ribbons. While cadets are able to receive a \$100 voucher towards the purchase of the blues uniform, it still only covers the basics of shirt, pants/skirt, belt, and some money to cover the nameplate and first rank. Items such as the service coat are highly expensive and many of our cadet officers don't have one, which also hinders their participation in certain activities outside the unit, which then hinders their wanting to participate in leadership training or activities outside of the unit," said Buckner.

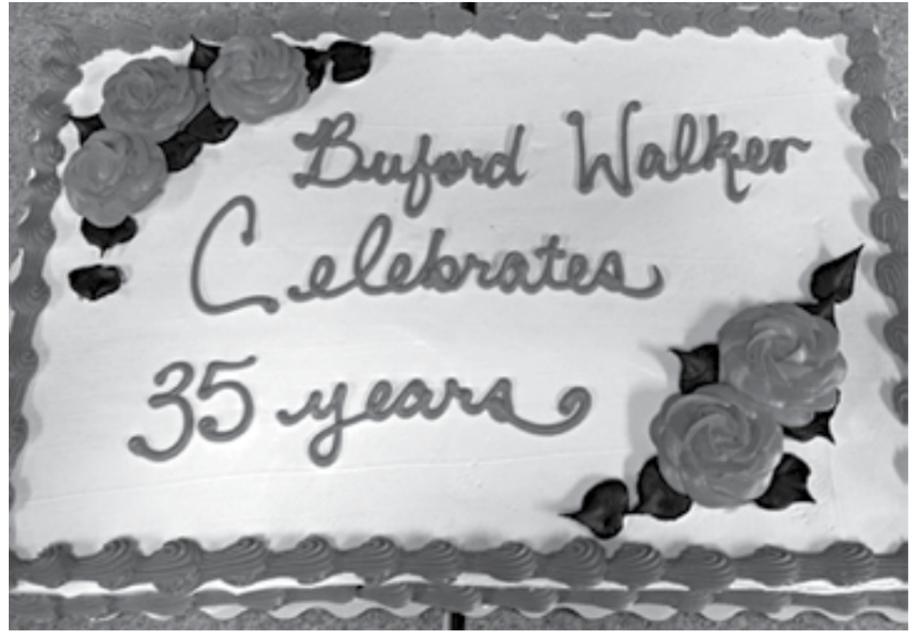
"The second plan is to get each cadet equipped with Emergency Services gear so that more of them can train and participate in practice as well as actual missions. Thunder responds to more than fifty percent of the missions in Illinois and will assist in Indiana so being able to get more cadets trained up and involved has always been a passion for Rick."

The third way that the funds will help the squadron is by using some of it to create scholarships for cadets to attend national activities and training programs. Cadets have to advance to a certain point in the program before applying to these activities and, if selected to attend, have to pay \$65-1,050, depending on the activity. That cost can discourage participation.

Mayor Eidam said she is most impressed by the cadets' "dedication to the organization and their eagerness to learn about aviation and emergency preparedness, their respect for others, including veterans, their leaders and fellow comrades, and their willingness to help others whether in emergency situations or community service."

CAP's Thunder Squadron has been involved in a number of Lansing events and projects over the years.

Civil Air Patrol meets weekly at Heritage Middle School in Lansing and is open to youths ages 12 to 20. Thunder Squadron has approximately 38 cadets and 17 senior volunteer members.



# Buford Walker Senior Housing celebrates 35 years

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (October 30, 2018) - Residents, staff, Buford Walker Board members, and members of the public gathered on Friday, October 26, to mark an anniversary. It was 35 years ago that Buford Walker Senior Housing welcomed its first residents.

The history of Buford Walker Senior Housing began before the development's opening in 1983. Buford Walker—the man for whom the residence is named—was a Lansing resident and head of the village's senior housing organization. Walker was a dedicated advocate for senior housing in Lansing, and he worked closely with Scott Schultz, assistant to past Illinois House Representative George O'Brien.

In 1981 HUD gave approval; federal funds would be used to finance the Lansing senior housing development. The Village Board announced that the building would be named Buford Walker Senior Housing, in honor of the efforts of Buford Walker. Unfortunately, Mr. Walker died before groundbreaking on October 27, 1982, but his wife Agnes served on the housing authority from 1982-1985. In 1983 the residence named in honor of her husband was opened for occupancy.

Buford Walker Senior Housing is located at 17725 Arcadia Avenue in Lansing.

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# Millers Ready Mix donates new concrete pad for American Legion M5

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 20, 2018) – “We do what we can,” said Valerie Miller. “Especially for veterans.” She’s the owner of Millers Ready Mix in South Chicago Heights, and one of her drivers is John Summit, a Legion Rider at Lansing’s American Legion Post 697. That connection led Miller to donate a truck full of Ready Mix so that the American Legion could have a new, larger concrete slab for the M5 gun displayed in front of their building. The M5 was completely refurbished this summer, and the veterans wanted to upgrade the display area before the gun is returned.

The Legion Riders worked to prepare the site and build the form, and on Thursday afternoon, October 18, a Millers Ready Mix truck rolled up with 6.5 yards of concrete.

Legion Rider Keith Miller (not related to the Ready Mix Millers) is a special projects coordinator at US Steel, and he brought a crew of concrete finishers from the masons department to pour, spread, screed, and float the concrete. The men had agreed to volunteer their time, but US Steel chose to keep them on the clock and compensate them for the work. Miller said he chose the best

for this special project: Joe Bishop, Robert Wright, Bill Walzak, and Theodore Tuscan.

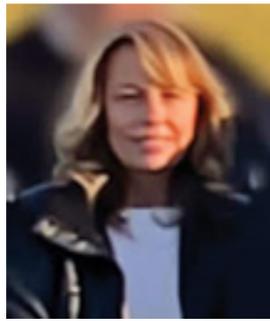
From first pour to final float, the job took about an hour.

With the concrete pad in place, further

plans include surrounding the pad and the gun with ironwork. Former Post Commander Ron Line, who is serving as point man for the restoration project, would also like to include a story board with educational information about the gun and tributes to donors who helped cover the cost of refurbishing it.

A dedication ceremony for the refurbished M5 is being planned for Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, immediately following the traditional memorial service at 11:00am.

American Legion Post 697 is located at 18255 Grant Street in Lansing, Illinois.



Valerie Miller was on-site for the pouring of the concrete her company donated. “We do what we can,” she said. “Especially for veterans.” (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



From left: Robert Wright, Joseph Bishop, Keith Miller, Bill Walzak Jr., and Theodore Tuscan wait for the last bit of concrete to pour into the form. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

To see additional photos and video of the project, visit [thelansingjournal.com/news](http://thelansingjournal.com/news) and type “Millers Ready Mix” in the search field.



## Santa House becomes Eagle Scout project

Jeremy Martinez learns landscaping, leadership

BY KATIE ARVIA

LANSING, Ill. (October 28, 2018) - Jeremy Martinez has been involved with the Boy Scouts for eight years. Over the years, he moved up through the Scouting ranks and earned different merit badges for his achievements. To become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts, Martinez needed to complete a leadership project. By attending a Village Board meeting, he found one.

“Back in January [of] this year, my Boy Scout Troop attended a city board meeting, and the city was asking about what they wanted to do for the Santa House,” Martinez explained. “Me and my scoutmaster talked to Mr. Reynolds [and said] I can landscape the Santa House for my Eagle Scout Project.”

Throughout the next few months, Martinez worked with Village Communications Director Ken Reynolds and Village Clerk Vivian Payne to finalize the project’s details. Martinez also worked closely with his parents and scoutmaster to develop his plans.

“In the past, I have helped some of my fellow Scouts with their Eagle Projects, but I have not developed a project other than this one,” Martinez said.

Because of the amount of work involved, Martinez needed thorough planning and a team approach. On October 27, Martinez was joined by his family, friends, and troop members at the Santa House to begin the landscaping. Originally, the team planned on working from 9:30am to 3:00pm, but thanks to large group of supporters, Martinez had his project finished ahead of schedule.

Although he initially wanted to landscape around the entire Santa House, Martinez and Reynolds agreed that he would be responsible for only the front entrance and one side of the house. This way, other Scouts could potentially finish the landscaping for their Eagle Scout projects, or the Village can complete it any way they see fit.

Completed in time for the holiday season, the landscaping project was also a success for Martinez, who can now proudly say he is an Eagle Scout. Martinez said, “I would just like to say, from personal experience, that Boy Scouts is a great way to have fun, learn good life skills, and make friends. It also allows boys to become young men.”

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# Reaching an understanding

## Administration, police, and community members sign non-binding agreement

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 17, 2018) – If you lived in Lansing 15 months ago, you may recall the anger, frustration, and confusion surrounding an incident that involved a white off-duty police officer and a black teenager. The incident was videoed by the black teen's white friend, and the video went viral, bringing international attention to a newly elected administration in a diverse community.

Much of the online discussion in the weeks following the incident seemed to force people into choosing sides—either pro-police or anti-police—in spite of a number of factors that added some complexity to the issue:

- The officer was off duty.
- The teens were trespassing.
- The teens did not arrive on the property at the same time.
- One of the teens was bleeding.
- A backpack with a BB gun was found on the property.
- The officer threatened to kill the black teen.
- The officer never identified himself as a police officer.
- The teens offered to leave.

Not all of these factors are apparent in the video that circulated, but police reports confirm they were apparent to the four people involved in the situation.

### COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

Various Lansing residents—and people in neighboring communities—began gathering to discuss the incident and what it said about Lansing's past, present, and future. As Timna Axel, Communications Manager for the Chicago Lawyers'

Committee for Civil Rights, reported in September, "Some saw police misconduct as only part of the problem. In a town where police officers and government officials were overwhelmingly White, community members wanted more transparency and greater civic literacy. They felt that the video could provide an opening to press for change."

Elvis Slaughter, who serves on Lansing's Police and Fire Commission, was part of a group of community leaders and clergy who became known as the Lansing Community Coalition. The Coalition, which also included members of the NAACP, began meeting with Ken Bergeron, a mediator from the U. S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS). Bergeron also met with representatives from the Village and the Lansing Police Department.

Nearly eight weeks after the incident, the Village held a Community Meeting to discuss police/community relations in Lansing. Members of the community were invited to voice concerns and offer ideas. (The list of those ideas is included in the online version of this article at [thelansingjournal.com](http://thelansingjournal.com).)

### MEDIATION

Following the Community Meeting, the Village, LPD, and the Coalition entered into an official, confidential process of mediation that was guided by Bergeron and lasted 10–12

months. As the Department of Justice website explains, CRS (Community Relations Service) works "...to prevent and resolve racial and ethnic tensions and civil disorders, and build communities' capacity to resolve future similar conflicts."

Though certain elements are common to any mediation, the specifics of each situation are determined by the parties involved. This too proved to be an area of some misunderstanding between the Coalition and the Village. For example, members of the Coalition were committed to what they believed would be a year-long series of collaborative meetings, while Village representatives felt that by the third meeting conversation was becoming repetitive and unnecessary.

Axel reported, "Many [from the Coalition] were continued next page



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pleasantly surprised by Police Chief Dennis Murrin, who seemed to welcome the dialogue and some of the proposed changes. Yet many of the concerns from the [August 16 Community Meeting] were not reflected in the final Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)—issues like de-escalation and mental health training for police, transparency and disclosure reforms, and diversity in government. Some community members quit the mediations, and others felt that in the Village was getting more concessions than residents.”

**WORKING TOGETHER**

The Memorandum Of Understanding was signed on July 31, 2018, by six Coalition members, two NAACP representatives, Mayor Eidam, and Chief Murrin. The signing took place in a closed meeting at the Lansing Police Department. When the parties emerged, they gathered in the courtroom for a group photo. Members of the Coalition and Chief Murrin stayed to answer questions, while others

quickly departed.

“We came to the table because we love this town,” said Slaughter. He expressed appreciation for Murrin’s eagerness to work toward improvement.

The demographics of Lansing’s police force do not mirror the demographics of the broader community. In August, Murrin provided these statistics about Lansing’s 55 police officers (there has been some change since then):

- 87% (48) are Caucasian
- 7% (4) are African American
- 5% (3) are Hispanic (though two of these recently left due to retirement and transfer)
- 3–5 officers speak Spanish
- 91% (50) are male, and 5 are female

The most recent census data (2010) show that Lansing is 59% White and 32% African American, with a variety of other ethnicities all weighing in at less than 1% each. Hispanic or Latino of any race are 14% of Lansing’s population.

Murrin recognizes the need to use new networks to reach new people. Finding

qualified candidates is a continual struggle, so Murrin welcomes help from the Coalition and the NAACP in casting a wider net for recruiting new police officers.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

So if a similar incident happened again in Lansing, would it be handled differently? Representatives from both sides of the mediation expressed confidence that such an incident would not happen in Lansing again.

“It was a negative event,” said Murrin, “but it’s having a positive outcome.” Many of the responsibilities outlined in the MOU fall on Murrin, and he welcomes the assignment. “I’m looking forward to getting going with it,” he said soon after the signing.

Coalition member Michelle Ford said she came out of the mediation process with a broader understanding of the roles of politics and citizenship, particularly at the local level. She offered this advice: “I hope we in Lansing have learned that the world can see us; we are not our own island. We want our town to be a nice place to live for all citizens. ...Certain behaviors won’t be tolerated. The Lansing Community Coalition will be watching and working, and we will not go away.”

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Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the energy was positive and hopeful. But all those involved know that the MOU marks a beginning, not an ending, and there is still work to be done—together. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

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# 'We're definitely going to miss Lansing'

## Jenna Comer-Hill says goodbye after 10 years as Youth Center Director

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 21, 2018) – On Thursday, October 18, there were more adults than usual at the Patti Leach Youth Center. Parents, friends, Village officials, and Youth Center alumni congregated in the basement around cake and lemonade. They were there to say goodbye to Jenna Comer-Hill, who has served as Youth Center Director for the past 10 years. Comer-Hill accepted a job with the YMCA in Ohio, where her parents still live.

At the October 16 Board meeting when her farewell was announced, Comer-Hill said, "I never anticipated to be here for 10 years." When she and husband Anthony arrived in 2009, they looked for a place to rent, but Lansing proved to be so affordable that they bought a home. "We totally fell in love with the town," she told the Board.

She fell in love with the job too, and she expressed thanks to the 10 years of families she has interacted with: "For the parents that let me hang out with your kids and share your family a little bit, I appreciate that. That was the best part of the job."

Mayor Patty Eidam recognized the role that Comer-Hill has played in the Youth Center and in the community: "We appreciate the time and effort that you put into our kids. Jenna has started many new programs at the Youth Center and kept it alive. As you might know, it's not an easy task. Many communities around us have tried and actually failed at youth centers, so we consider it a very valuable part of our village."

The Youth Center was established 21 years ago; Comer-Hill has given it direction for almost half that time.

Mayor Eidam presented Comer-Hill with an award and read the inscription aloud: "Presented

to Jenna Comer-Hill, Director of the Patti Leach Youth Center, in recognition and sincere appreciation for 10 years of distinguished service, guidance, and devotion to the Village of Lansing."

Comer-Hill is excited about beginning a new chapter of work, and she's pleased that her four-year-old son Walker will get to spend more time with his grandparents. But, she says, "We're definitely going to miss Lansing."

The Patti Leach Youth Center is located at 18123 Burnham Avenue, and is open every weekday from 3:30–8:00pm. Residents who are interested in learning more about the services offered can call 708-418-8050.

The Village has been advertising for a new Youth Center Director. The job posting reads: "Must be well organized and able to prioritize tasks as well as have the ability to manage multiple areas of responsibility with overlapping deadlines in a fast-paced environment. The Youth Director is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating activities at the Youth Center for middle and high school youth in the community. Send résumé to



Above: Jenna Comer-Hill enjoyed cupcakes and lemonade at her farewell party. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Right: Jenna (far right) and her husband Anthony and their son Walker "totally fell in love with" Lansing. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)



Anne Newberry by mail to the Village of Lansing Municipal Center, 3141 Ridge Road, or email [anewberry@villageoflansing.org](mailto:anewberry@villageoflansing.org)

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## Lansing hosts CSEDC at Ford Hangar

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 27, 2018) – On October 26, over 100 people attended the quarterly meeting of the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, which is a larger-than-typical crowd for these meetings. Several were first-time attendees, attracted at least in part because of the venue—Lansing’s historic Ford Hangar.

The Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC) is a nonprofit corporation that oversees the economic development program of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), of which Lansing is a member. The SSMMA website explains that CSEDC’s mission is to “identify, organize, and mobilize public and private resources that will result in the creation and expansion of businesses, thereby providing economic growth, sustainable jobs and development in the Southland.” Hosting the meeting gave Lansing an opportunity to showcase current projects and future plans, including Fox Pointe, Lansing Municipal Airport, and Ford Hangar.

The LNN team was also highlighted for the video production work they do. Allowing them to do contract work for other municipalities will become an additional source of revenue for Lansing.

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# Lansing Voices

Thoughtful opinions from Journal readers

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*Embracing our diversity  
by adapting our institutions*



THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY  
REV. DANIEL ROELS, NEW HOPE CHURCH

The strain in Lansing is evident.

It is difficult to know what to do when the raw racial nerve that runs through our whole country is exposed among us, here.

A recent Halloween display raises the specter of the racial lynchings that are part of our nation’s shame, but it turns out that early reactions didn’t take into account cultural differences and the need to teach.

Two summers ago, a teen was pinned and threatened by an off-duty police officer, and various sides rumble, for different reasons, that “If it had been a white kid, we wouldn’t be going through all this.”

If Lansing is going to embrace its diverse present and future, we need to develop a better shared understanding of racism. Modern American racism is not as often slurs and personal abuse as it is broader, institutional, and structural diminishing or exclusion of those who don’t fit in the dominant group. That kind of racism is harder to detect in individuals, but, for example, it shows up in our churches, which remain mostly homogeneous. It hits our schools, one of which didn’t adapt and isn’t in Lansing anymore. It erodes community trust in public institutions, like village government and our police department, both of which would benefit from a diversity closer to that of the community they serve.

If Lansing is going to embrace its diverse present and future, we will need our institutions to adapt.

That’s why I was part of the year-long process, in response to the summer 2017 incident, to develop a “memorandum of understanding” (“MOU”) among village leaders, the LPD, community leaders, and the U.S. Department of Justice. The MOU lists a few actions that the police department will take, with community help, to work to diversify their hiring pool, and a few additional actions for police to develop shared understanding with youth at TF South High School. So the MOU represents a small step forward for our village to adapt to our diverse reality. I give special credit to Village Director of Communications Ken Reynolds and Police Chief Dennis Murrin for being the Village professionals who seemed to invest the most time in discussions.

However, the MOU only scratches the surface of the kind of institutional change Lansing will need—and it could have been much more transformative. For example, why does the MOU not even begin to address more of the concerns raised at the community meeting in August 2017? What about police training? What about the processes of village appointments? What about giving the newly-formed Human Relations Commission some formal authority within village government as opposed to its bylaws making clear that its activities are directed at the community? Even for items that are in the MOU, there is no mechanism of accountability to make sure they are actually accomplished.

The MOU is a step, but it’s not the full journey of becoming the Lansing we must become if we want to be a healthy and safe community where all members can participate with confidence. Will we and our institutions respond in time to choose our future, or will we be forced by demographic change and therefore at a greater social cost? It’s up to us, the individuals who are part of the institutions and the structure we call a community.

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# Virtual Reality comes to Lansing

## Nadeem and Nabbil Khan open doors to new worlds

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 3, 2018) - Lansing's first virtual reality gaming lounge is set to open on November 9, featuring unique experiences and the latest in virtual reality technology.

Located at 2416 176th Street, the lounge will allow users to engage in a technology experience that has grown popular in the last decade.

The lounge is owned by Nadeem Khan, who has been a business owner in Lansing for 20 years. Nadeem's son Nabbil provided the technical expertise required to create the lounge, and he inspired his father to open the business.

"[Nabbil] took me to a VR place in Malaysia, and when I experienced it, I thought it was a great business," Nadeem said.

### VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (commonly known as "VR") has increased in popularity in recent years as tech companies have found ways to make it easily accessible to consumers. To experience virtual reality, a user stands in an open space and puts on a

headset over his or her eyes. The headset contains a screen that responds to the person's movement.

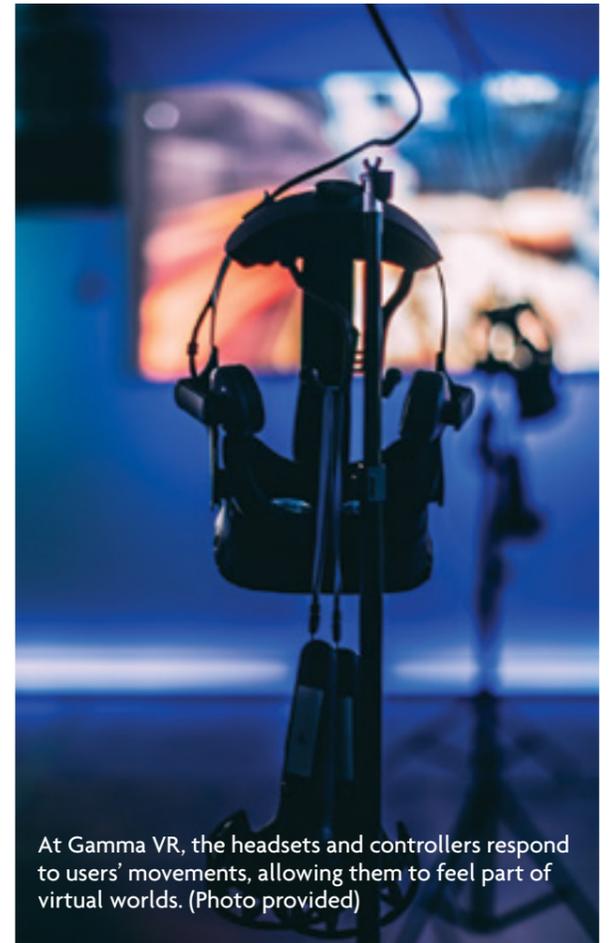
For example, a popular application used with virtual reality is Google Earth, which allows users to "visit" nearly anywhere in the world. When the user turns his or her head to look left, the high-definition screen turns left as well, giving the illusion that the user is actually standing in the street looking around.

This same concept is used for games, which require the use of headphones and a controller in each hand. Like the headset, the controllers respond to movement, allowing a user to wield swords, cast spells, throw a punch, cast a fishing line, shoot a bow, and much more, depending on which game he or she is playing.

### COOPERATION AND EDUCATION

Of Gamma VR's 200-plus games, Nabbil's favorite is a strategy-driven one that he enjoys playing with a friend. Gamma VR is currently capable of putting four people into the same virtual world at the same time. They also plan to expand to allow for more players.

"Not only can you experience VR, but if you come in with a group of friends, all of you [can be] in the same virtual environment, and you can see each other in the game," Nabbil said. The Khans hope that this "multi-player" aspect of the game



At Gamma VR, the headsets and controllers respond to users' movements, allowing them to feel part of virtual worlds. (Photo provided)

will draw large groups to visit their lounge, such as parties, corporate events, and other groups.

To this end, in front of every playing area (a roughly 10'x10' square) a large screen is in place that allows a spectator to see exactly what the user is seeing, and not, as Nabbil said, "just sit there and wait their turn."

Nabbil Khan recently started a company called Farabi VR, the focus of which is to use virtual reality for education purposes.

According to Nabbil, virtual reality can use multiple applications to aid educators in the areas of geography, design, film-making, architecture, and training videos.

"Moving forward, there's no doubt this will be a future mode of expression. It's a future mode of work, of pleasure, of entertainment, you name it," Nabbil said.

continued next page

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Gamma VR has a library of over 200 games which allow users to immerse themselves in many different types of worlds. (Photo provided)



Gamma VR Lounge is located at 2416 176th St, in the south part of the building. (Photo: Josh Bootsma)

**MONTHS IN THE MAKING**

Nadeem Khan had planned to open Gamma VR Lounge in Lansing months ago, but was unable to do so because of Lansing's limits on "indoor amusement" businesses. While going through the process of obtaining a special use permit, Gamma VR opened a location in Joliet where the process moved quickly.

Despite the delay, both Nadeem and Nabbil are grateful to Lansing for its interest and help in bringing the Gamma VR dream into reality. Multiple Lansing representatives have visited Gamma VR, including Planning and Zoning Board chairman Saad Abbasy and Village Administrator Dan Podgorski.

"They actually tried it out to get familiar with it," said Nabbil, "They made sure they did their due diligence of being well informed and making sure

everything was good, and we really value that."

**OPENING DETAILS**

Gamma VR Lounge is set to open on November 9. Open hours for the lounge are 2:00pm–12:00am every day of the week except Monday.

On November 9, Gamma VR Lounge is offering a free trial to walk-ins.

For multi-player sessions, the lounge will charge \$10 per person for a half hour and \$20 per person for an hour.

For a single-player session: \$15 for a half hour and \$30 for an hour. A single-player session can be divided among more than one player.

Gamma VR Lounge is located at 2416 176th Street, and has an entrance on the south side of the building which it shares with two other businesses—We Fix Phones and Accessories for Tablets.

Gamma VR's website is [www.gammavr.com](http://www.gammavr.com), and they can be contacted via email at [gammavrlounge@gmail.com](mailto:gammavrlounge@gmail.com).



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# Jane Elliott addresses Thornton Township crowd

BY ERNST LAMOTHE JR.

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (October 27, 2018) – In a room filled with community members, students, and legislators, two acclaimed speakers talked about unconscious and conscious bias on Friday, October 19. Presented by the Thornton Township Human Relations Commission, the “Race and Bias” event held at South Suburban College featured Dr. Lawrence James Jr. and Jane Elliott.

Dr. James, a Chicago-based clinical psychologist, spoke first. “When we do unconscious bias training, we talk about this awareness piece—it’s one step,” he said. “And that’s typically where corporations stop. They’ll tell you, ‘Hey, we did some training and we made all of our people aware that they are, well, kind of biased and, well, kind of racist.’ And we expect that to be enough and that they’re going to do something differently. Awareness training without skill building and without behavioral intervention to continue to grow one’s capabilities to be less racist and less biased is the only way that you can create change. Period.”

“We decided to bring Jane Elliott to Thornton Township because she is a dynamic woman who brings an interesting perspective that people need to hear,” said Dr. Jerry Weems, Director of Youth and Family Services at Thornton Township. “The community has responded well to us bringing global speakers like Jane.”



Jane Elliott (standing) is known for the “Blue eyes–Brown eyes” exercise she conducted with her third-grade class the day after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli was proud to host Elliott and hopes to have her return again. (Photo: Nate Fields)

A former third-grade teacher, Elliott has spent most of her life as an anti-racism activist and educator.

“If you want to be a racist, you go ahead and be a racist. But if you bring it to me, you will learn very, very shortly that your problem is ignorance,” said Elliott. “It is not skin color but your ignorance about skin color, and I will not tolerate it.”

Elliott is known for the “Blue eyes–Brown eyes” exercise she conducted with her third-grade class the day after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. She divided the class based on eye color and told them the blue-eyed children were superior. She gave the blue-eyed children extra privileges and had them sit in the front of the classroom, while

the brown-eyed children were relegated to the back rows. Elliott segregated the children further by telling the blue-eyed children to play only with other blue-eyed children and by not allowing blue-eyed children and brown-eyed children to drink from the same water fountain. The brown-eyed students were scolded when they made mistakes or did not follow the rules. The following week, Elliott told the class she had made a mistake, and the brown-eyed children were actually superior.

After the experiment ended, the students wrote compositions about

their experience. These compositions were reprinted in the local newspaper with the headline, “How Discrimination Feels.” When the Associated Press picked up the story, the news went national.

Elliott began responding to requests for interviews, training, and television appearances. As demand grew, she gave up classroom teaching and began working full-time as a diversity trainer for corporations.

Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli was proud to host Jane Elliott and Dr. James. He hopes to have them return and resume the conversation.



Dr. Jerry Weems (right) believes the community needs to hear the kinds of things Jane Elliott has to say. (Photo: Nate Fields)

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**2015 Chevy Equinox LT AWD** \$13,987 Blue Velvet Metallic. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 1975 Oldsmobile Delta 88 Convertible,** Marina blue/white top/interior, low miles, dual exhaust, very good condition. \$22,000. Ralph. 219-937-9483



**For sale: 2015 SD Food Concession Trailer,** 16' Long x 7' Wide x 7', fully equipped, top of line, \$7000 sale price. Contact: judhesch@gmail.com

**For sale: 2011 Chevy Cruze,** white, 6spd. Runs great, \$3000; 2005 Chevy Imapla, has 65,000mi. Runs great, \$2500. Call. 708-351-9906

**For sale: 2002 GMC Savana Van,** blue custom, has hitch, leather seats, must sell. \$4,000 obo. Good condition. 708-895-8012 or 708-789-5034

**2007 SAAB 9-5 Base** black, \$5,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 1987 Corvette, Red/red interior,** glass top, Auto, 47k miles. Beautiful cond. \$7,500. After 3pm. 708-474-5602

**2012 Chevy Equinox LS** black, \$7,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**2015 Chevy Spark LS** \$8,987 Titanium. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**2016 Chevy Trax LS AWD,** blue, \$15,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**2016 Chevy Equinox LT tan,** \$18,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2019 Chevy Corvette Stingray Z51, Black,** \$68,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**For sale: 2009 GMC Canyon SLE-2 4WD** \$15,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

**2015 Jeep Cherokee, white,** \$20,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

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**For sale: Ever Jennings 8 foot parallel bars, portable,** \$800 obo; exam table \$200 obo; exam stool \$60. Professional quality items. Frank, leave message 219-808-8536

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Mahogany cut-offs. Small, medium pieces. No furniture size. Good for crafts, hobbies. Two large garbage bins full. Make offer. 219-629-2242

Beautiful Berne matching sofa (80L, 34H, 36W) and love seat (60L, 34H, 36W) in dark green, like new, hardly used. Matching lime green love seat (60L) and sofa (84L) must see to appreciate! 708-448-5672

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3 power tools for the handyman, Black & Decker 3/8" drill, finish sander, scroll saw, like new \$15 all. 708-758-5715

Quality Xmas tree from 1980s, new in box, 7 1/2 foot, Rocky Mountain pine, cost \$100 new, first \$25 takes it. 708-895-7855

Weed wackers, over 30 pc not running, don't want to store through winter. All fixable, \$10 pc. Call after 12. 773-646-3374

New metronome, still in box, \$7. 708-331-2444

Golden Opportunity books now available. 100's discount coupons. Fine dining, fast food, services, sports & lots more. Fun getting discounts. \$25. 708-917-6829

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## PUBLIC NOTICE THORNTON TOWNSHIP

The regularly scheduled Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Thornton Township, to be held on November 13, 2018 has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting for the Board of Trustees will be held November 27, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. in the Thornton Township Zap II Building located at 16910 Westview, in South Holland, Illinois.

Jacqueline E. Davis-Rivera  
Thornton Township Clerk



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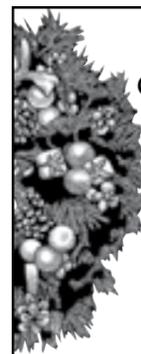
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# Petitions, positions, and elections

## Candidates and voters get ready for the April 2 Election Day in Lansing

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (November 7, 2018) - With the November 6 elections just behind us, Lansing voters are starting to think ahead to April 2 when we will vote for local representatives.

Lansing office-seekers have already begun circulating petitions to be on the April 2 ballot. Since petitions are an early step in the local election process, we've gathered answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about petitions, as well as everything we know so far about the offices up for election on April 2.

### Petition FAQs

*What are petitions?*

Candidates intending to run for office in Cook County must obtain a certain number of signatures on a petition in order to file their candidacy. These petitions serve as a community nomination and indicate support for the individual intending to run for office.

*Who can sign petitions?*

For individuals running for office in Lansing, the signatures must be from individuals who are registered to vote in Lansing, Illinois.

*Why are people petitioning now?*

State guidelines include an established window in which candidates may collect signatures. This window starts on September 18 and ends on December 17, the last day to file for candidacy. The November 6 election is likely to draw petitioners to polling places around Lansing as it provides a high concentration of registered Lansing voters in one place.

*Can I sign more than one petition?*

This is where things get complicated. Your signature is a nomination of a candidate for a specific position. Essentially, you can "nominate" only one person for each position—but if there are multiple positions available, you can nominate (or sign) for a different person for each available position.

For example, the Lan-Oak Park Board will have three Commissioner positions available on the April 2 ballot—two six-year terms and one

two-year term. Karen Adams is running specifically for the two-year term. Jim Long is running for one of the six-year terms. You could sign both Karen's and Jim's petitions because they are not running for the same position.

*How do political parties factor in?*

When people decide to run for office together and form a party, then a signature for any member of the party is an endorsement of the whole party.

For example, if you sign Saad Abbasy's petition for Village Trustee, you are also endorsing Jerry Zeldenrust and Mike Fish as Village Trustees, because all three are running together as the Village Voice Party.

*Do I have to vote for the people I signed petitions for?*

Voters are free to vote for whom-ever they wish, regardless of previous petition signatures. And in the voting booth, you are choosing individuals, not parties, so you can pick the person you want for each available position, regardless of party affiliation. So on April 2, you could decide to vote for both Saad Abbasy and Larry Thomas, no matter whose petition you signed.

*Can someone else collect signatures on behalf of a person running for office?*

Yes, office-seekers may choose petition circulators to collect signatures on their behalf. However, either the office-seeker or a circulator must personally witness you signing the petition—they can't just be passed around a room for everyone to sign.

*How do I know who to sign for?*

Petition season is a great time to get to know those running for office. Consider keeping a list of people whose petitions you sign and what office they are running for. That way you can track them throughout campaign season. Start a list of questions to ask—there will be opportunities between now and April 2 Election Day to find out how the different candidates plan to serve Lansing.

### Looking ahead to April 2

April 2, 2019, is when Lansing voters will choose their local leaders. We will be voting for the following:

#### VILLAGE TRUSTEE (Vote for three on April 2)

- Current Village Trustees:
- Tony DeLaurentis – term expiring
  - Michael Skrbina – term expiring
  - Jerry Zeldenrust – term expiring
  - Maureen Grady-Perovich
  - Brian Hardy
  - Michael Manno
- Those we know are petitioning so far:
- Saad Abbasy (Village Voice Party)
  - Mike Fish (Village Voice Party)
  - Jerry Zeldenrust (Village Voice Party)
  - Larry Thomas (Independent candidate)

#### LAN-OAK PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (Vote for one 2-year term and two 6-year terms on April 2)

- Current commissioners:
- Patrick Gulotta – term expiring
  - Jim Long – term expiring
  - Micaela Smith – term expiring
  - John Kelly
  - Robert Tropp
- Those we know are petitioning so far:
- Karen Adams - 2-year term
  - Jim Long - 6-year term
  - Micaela Smith - 6-year term

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 158 BOARD\* (Vote for two on April 2)

- Current officers:
- Robert Bonifazi (President) – term expiring
  - Mary Kelly – term expiring
  - Suzanne Long (Vice President)
  - Robert Wood (Secretary)
  - Chuck Taylor
  - Sara Wallace

\*Lansing residents living north of 186th vote for this Elementary School District.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 171 BOARD\* (Vote for four on April 2)

- Current officers:
- Dennis J. Altgilbers - term expiring
  - Jada Curry (President) - term expiring
  - David Lilly - term expiring
  - Cozette Y. Pettigrew - term

- expiring
  - Kenisha LeSure (Secretary)
  - David Lopez (Vice President)
  - Timothy Terrell (Board Member)
- \*Lansing residents living south of 186th vote for this Elementary School District.

#### HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 215 BOARD (Vote for three on April 2)

- Current board members:
- Sheryl Black – term expiring
  - Michael Bolz – term expiring
  - Rita Oberman – term expiring
  - Richard Dust (President)
  - LeeAnn Revis
  - Patricia Stepp
  - Roger Yochem

#### SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE DISTRICT 510 BOARD (Vote for two on April 2)

- Current board members:
- Anthony DeFilippo – term expiring
  - Vivian Payne – term expiring
  - John Daly (Vice Chair)
  - Janet Rogers
  - Joseph Whittington
  - Terry Wells
  - Frank Zuccarelli (Chair)

Those we know are petitioning so far:

- Vivian Payne
- Anthony DeFilippo

#### LANSING PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE (Vote for two on April 2)

- Current officers:
- Anthony Comer-Hill (Secretary) - term expiring
  - Judith Koch - term expiring
  - Timothy Glinski (President)
  - Sharon Novak (Vice President)
  - Bonnie Cuthbert (Treasurer)
  - Jeri Villa
  - Mozella Brown
- Those we know are petitioning so far:
- Judith Koch
  - Geoffrey Erlenborn



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### Staying informed

#### CANDIDATES:

If you are running for an office on April 2, The Lansing Journal would like to know. We will be publishing as much information as possible to help Lansing voters make informed voting decisions in the months leading up to the election.

#### VOTERS:

If you have questions about the various positions or about the candidates, we'd like to know those as well, so we can plan articles that will address those questions. Use the "Submit news tips" tab on our website, or email your questions to:

- info@thelansingjournal.com.

# Advice for stage and life

Stella Hoyt talks about theater, family, and her upcoming role in *Miracle on 34th Street: the Musical*

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

MUNSTER, Ind. (November 1, 2018) – “You just have to start. And then—keep going.” This is the advice that Stella Hoyt has for kids who want to get into theater, but it might just as well apply to any area of life. At the age of 11, Hoyt has already learned that hard work and persistence will take you farther than talent will. “It doesn’t just come to you,” she says about singing, or acting, or opportunity. “You have to keep working.”

Hoyt is playing the role of Susan in *Miracle on 34th Street: the Musical*, which opens at Munster’s Theatre at the Center on November 18. She did watch parts of the beloved Christmas film the musical is based on, which featured a young Natalie Wood as Susan. Maureen O’Hara as Doris Walker, John Payne as Fred Gailey, and Edmund Gwenn as Santa helped the 1947 film win three Academy Awards and become a family favorite.

## DIRECTION

For Theatre at the Center’s rendition, Hoyt will be joined onstage by Courtney Jones as Doris, Christopher Kale Jones as Fred, and Neil Friedman as Santa. The musical will be directed by Linda Fortunato, who

is “just really nice and fun to work with,” according to Hoyt. Hoyt believes Fortunato is skilled at getting the best out of people without ever being mean or overly demanding. “She wants things to be the best they can, but not to the point where you don’t want to work with her,” Hoyt explains.

Hoyt appreciates the Munster theater venue— “It’s just a great place to be. You get to meet so many cool people, and it’s just a fun theater.” She has also been onstage at Victory Gardens, Mercury Theatre, and Oak Lawn Theatre, and she’s planning to try out for the spring musical at her school, Clark Middle School, in St. John, Indiana.

## BALANCE

Theater is not Hoyt’s only interest. Though the two weeks leading up to an opening night include long days of school followed by hours of rehearsal, she is intentional about creating a young version of work/life balance. She plays with Barbies, hosts sleepovers with friends, and spends time coloring, drawing, and writing stories.

In fact, she’s not even sure that she’ll end up choosing theater as a career, understanding already how difficult it is to really make a living on stage. Her career choice

right now is to be a vet, and she sees herself doing theater on the side. “There are other things I love to do,” she says. “I do want to be a vet. But I’ll always love theater.”

## FAMILY

Hoyt comes from a long line of theater lovers. Her grandmother, Cyndy Falica, remembers that her grandmother, Hilda Koss, took her to children’s shows at Drury Lane Theater when it was in Evergreen Park. Falica’s daughter (Stella Hoyt’s mom), Meghan Hoyt, began auditioning and acting at age 5. Falica quit her job to drive Meghan to auditions, rehearsals, and performances, and now she’s doing the same for Stella. “We all love it,” she says.

Occasionally this family of theater people even gets to practice their craft together. Recently Meghan Hoyt won the lead role in *Mary Poppins*, and Stella and her brother Cooper (who has also begun acting) played Jane and Michael.

## MIRACLE

“It’s just a really fun play,” says Hoyt about *Miracle on 34th Street*. She wants people to see it because, well, “You’re gonna love it. It’s just a great story.” Hoyt appreciates that the character of Susan evaluates her beliefs according to her own knowledge and doesn’t blindly follow what other people tell her to believe. Nonetheless, Hoyt does feel that audience members should believe in Santa Claus before seeing the show in order to get the most out of it.

Director Linda Fortunato has said, “The story of the real Kris Kringle hired as Macy’s Santa Claus still touches hearts and reminds us of the power of the imagination.

Stella Hoyt stars with Neil Friedman in *Miracle on 34th Street: the Musical*, opening November 18 in Munster. (Photo: Guy Rhodes)



Stella Hoyt  
(Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

I am excited to share this classic story in musical form with audiences of all ages. From the littlest believers to those who may have lost sight of the magic of Christmas, this musical brightens the holiday season for all.”

## SHOWTIMES AND TICKETS

Previews of *Miracle on 34th Street: the Musical* begin November 15 with Opening Night on November 18 and a continued run through December 23. This production is sponsored in part by American Community Bank. Performances are:

- Wednesdays and Thursdays: 2:00pm
- Fridays: 7:30pm
- Saturdays: 3:00pm and 7:30pm
- Sundays: 2:30pm
- Select Thursday and Sunday nights

Individual ticket prices range from \$42–\$46. To purchase individual tickets, call the Box Office at 219-836-3255 or Tickets.com at 800-511-1532. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more.

Theatre at the Center is located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. For more information, visit [www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com](http://www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com).



# Christmas Concerts

## SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE

**Sunday, December 2, 4pm**  
St. Victor Catholic Church  
553 Hirsch Ave, Calumet City

**Sunday, December 9, 3pm**  
St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church  
500 Northgate Drive, Dyer

**Early arrival for both dates is strongly recommended.**

Listen to the crystalline harmonies of ancient hymns in new settings by Swedish composer Anders Ohrwall, and lend your voice to the beloved Christmas carols. The Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble will join us, adding splendor and power to the performances. In addition to the beautiful stained-glass sanctuary of St. Victor’s, which has been our home for 18 seasons, we now offer the same concert in the spacious sanctuary of St. Maria Goretti parish in Dyer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.southhollandmasterchorale.org](http://www.southhollandmasterchorale.org)  
[chorale@southholland.org](mailto:chorale@southholland.org) • 708-210-2913

# SUDOKU

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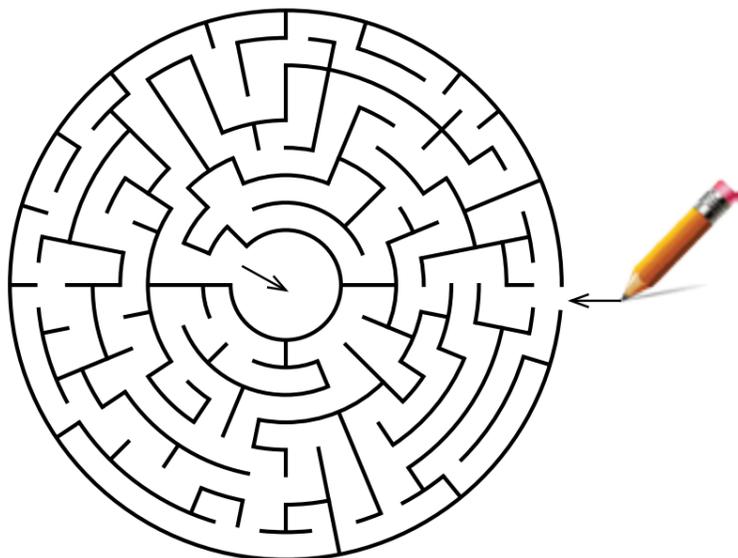
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## Bicycle Manufacturers

Bacchetta	Kona	Redline	Tommaso
Bilenky	Lynskey	Rivendell	Torker
Chumba	Marin	Rodriguez	Turner Suspension
Cortina	Masi	Santana	Van Dessel Sports
Cruzbike	Montague	Seven	Velo Vie
Fyxation	Moots	Solé	Villy Customs
Gunnar	Novara	Stelber	Wilderness Trail
Ibis	Pure	Surly	Yeti
Kestrel	Radio Flyer	Swift Folder	

# SOLVE THE MAZE



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## Across

- Scorched
- Certain herring
- Breaks down, in a way
- Singer Lenya
- Atlantic City attraction
- Length x width, for a rectangle
- Electrolysis particle
- "\_\_\_ it the truth!" (contraction)
- Acquire
- Period following the Civil War
- Ear of corn
- Farm equipment
- Bandy words
- Be a busybody
- Hard knocks
- Decorated, as a cake
- Continental money
- Pour (4 wds)
- Buzzing
- "No problem!"
- Fencing sword
- Position
- \_\_\_ mortals
- "General Hospital," e.g.
- Outlooks
- Cease living (4 wds)
- Commanded
- Beethoven's "Archduke \_\_\_"
- Trigger, for one
- Long, long time
- Busy place
- More real
- Home, informally
- Coaster
- "Siddhartha" author

## Down

- Auto option
- Charity, often
- Ancient city NW of Carthage
- Backless seat or footrest
- Court contest
- 32-card game
- Expected inheritor (2 wds)
- Cancel
- E-business (2 wds)
- Delhi dress
- Sundae topper, perhaps
- Gray matter
- Chucklehead
- Brown shade
- Like some jackets
- "Hamlet" has five
- Bro
- Discontinue
- Balcony section
- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
- Bikini parts
- Brewer's equipment
- \_\_\_ bread
- Agitated state
- Bell the cat
- Small earthenware container for liquids
- Audacity
- \_\_\_ United Soccer Club in Australia
- Octave
- Fourth in a series
- Beach
- Doughnut-shaped surface
- Beasts of burden
- About 1.3 cubic yards
- Plum variety
- Bad day for Caesar
- Clothe
- Worked the soil
- Blackout

we announce:

BIRTHS ANNIVERSARIES

# ENGAGEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS GRADUATIONS

WEDDINGS CONGRATULATIONS

MILITARY COMMISSIONS

Submit announcements online at

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## SOLUTIONS

4	5	3	2	6	1	9	8			
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Announcements are free and run in The Shopper each week. They are accepted by e-mail at [general@myshopper.biz](mailto:general@myshopper.biz), or at the front counter. Deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. for the following Thursday's edition. The Shopper reserves the right to edit all content.

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**Dolton** | \$90,000  
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**Lansing** | \$228,900  
 Turn-key 4 br, 3 ba quad. Fam rm w/large fplc. 2-car att gar w/furn. Oak trim thruout. Liv rm & din rm. Eat-in kit & appl. Newer a/c & w/d.  
 Rindert Flisyn 708.889.2600



**Lansing** | \$220,000  
 4 br, 4 ba 2-story home features eat-in kitchen w/granite countertops, breakfast nook, 27x16 master suite, full finished bsmt & more.  
 James Fritza 708.889.2600



**Lansing** | \$209,000  
 Spacious 4 br, 3 ba home w/updates. Pergo flrs. Large liv rm w/bow window. Din rm. Updated granite kit. Appl. Fam rm w/fplc. 2.5-car gar.  
 Catherine Higgins 708.889.2728



**Dolton** | \$169,900  
 Beautifully-rehabbed 3 br, 2 ba home w/large liv rm & din rm, eat-in kit w/SS appl, huge fam rm/4th br & new 2.5-car gar. Home warranty.  
 Sonji Woods 312.622.4571



**Calumet City** | \$149,900  
 Total-rehab 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. Quality work done, must see inside to appreciate.  
 Roberta Thomas 708.889.2600



**Lansing** | \$139,900  
 Lovely 4 br, 2 ba home w/org wdwrk & hwd flrs. Din rm. Range/ref. Encl front porch. Beaut ldscp. New furn, c/a & windows. Ovszd gar. Bsmt.  
 Cookie Zeleznik 708.889.2637



**Dolton** | \$139,000  
 All brick 3 br, 1.5 ba open-concept ranch. All hwd flrs, eat-in kit, side drive, huge bsmt, steel beam const & appl. Huge back yard. Patio.  
 Janice Minton-Kutz 708.302.8585



**Calumet City** | \$135,900  
 Well-maint 5 br, 3 ba, 2200+ sq ft 2-story. Unique floor plan, crown moldings & oak trim. New furnace. All appl. Newer Thermopane windows.  
 James Banasiak 708.889.2600



**Lansing** | \$125,000  
 Remod 3 br, 1.5 ba Cape Cod. Huge fam rm w/skylight. Newer windows, roof, furnace, flooring, stainless steel appliances & granite counters.  
 Roshanta Lewis 708.957.0600



**Lansing** | \$124,900  
 Refin 3 br, 1.5 ba bungalow. Ovszrd encl porch. Main-level w/new paint/carpet. Large kit & din rm. Oversized lot. Full bsmt. 2.5-car garage.  
 Brian Oster 708.889.2600



**Dolton** | \$120,500  
 Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath tri-level offers hardwood floors, open floor plan and a nice yard. Take a moment to view and make an offer!  
 Lisa Grandberry 773.451.1200



**Calumet City** | \$118,800  
 Face-brick 3 br, 2 ba split-level w/side drive. Newer siding. Big gar. Liv rm & din rm. Eat-in kit. Fam rm. Big utility rm. Low traffic st.  
 John Nugent 708.424.4000



**Calumet City** | \$109,000  
 Newly-remodeled 3 bedroom raised-ranch on tree-lined street. Hwd flrs thruout, updated granite/cherry/SS kit. Side-drive and 2-car garage.  
 The M.E. Team 773.491.7217



**Calumet City** | \$104,900  
 Remod 3 br ranch w/full bsmt. 2-car gar. Eat-in granite/SS kit w/new cabs. Updated ba. Liv rm, brs & din rm w/fresh paint & refin hwd flrs.  
 Russell Weglarz 630.759.3100



**Calumet City** | \$89,900  
 All brick 3 br bungalow. Large liv rm w/picture window & lrg eat-in kit. Mostly new windows & more. Hwd flrs. Cer ba. Full bsmt. Garage.  
 Cookie Zeleznik 708.889.2637



**Dolton** | \$89,000  
 Remod 4 br, 2 ba home. New int paint. Liv rm w/hwd flrs. Eat-in granite kit. Remod baths. Sprawling yard & deck. Wd laminate flrs & more.  
 Danielle Moy 708.460.4900



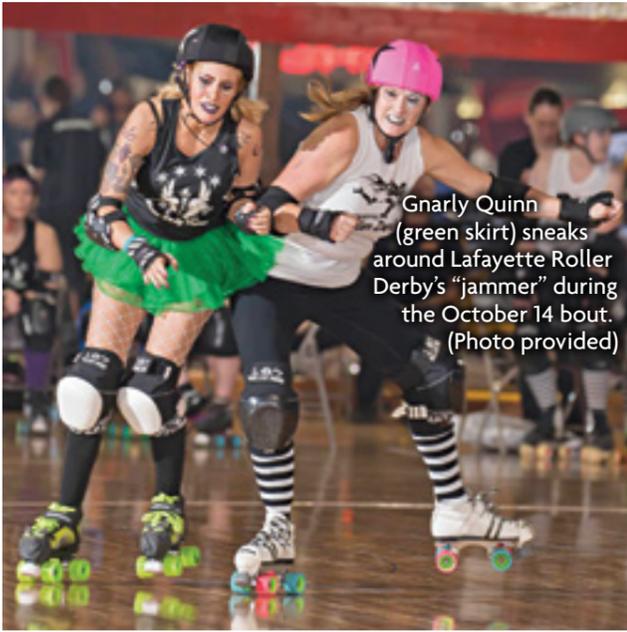
**Calumet City** | \$74,900  
 Cash flow 3-unit, 14 rooms, 8 brs & 5 full baths. Fully rented. Tenants pay gas/elec. Newer roof. All appl. Great rental history. Good cond.  
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**Orland Park** 708.460.4900 | **Schererville** 219.865.9911

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Gnarly Quinn (green skirt) sneaks around Lafayette Roller Derby's "jammer" during the October 14 bout. (Photo provided)



The Illiana Derby Dames (Photo provided)

## Illiana Derby Dames skate for fun, charity

### Competition meets camaraderie at Lynwood Roller Rink

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LYNWOOD, Ill. (October 2018) – The Lynwood Sport Center draws all types of people to skate at its roller rink. Come in on Friday nights and you'll see a teenage hangout on wheels. On Tuesdays you'll witness a family pizza night. On Wednesday mornings you'll enter to the sound of organ music accompanying adults making their way around the wooden floor. But enter on Monday or Wednesday nights, and you'll meet a different type of crowd—the Illiana Derby Dames.

While most people are at home resting from their work, about 35 women are doing the opposite: they're putting on pads, helmets, and skates before getting physical on the racetrack. With derby names like Eve Iscerate, Scare N Dippity, Karma Kazi, and Lady TERRORDACTYL, the Illiana Derby Dames are serious about the work of beating their competition.

But only practice makes perfect, and that's what draws them to the Lynwood Sport Center on weeknights. Practice starts with a number of drills to improve endurance, footwork, and speed before the Dames start their intra-squad scrimmage.

#### ABOUT BOUTS

A roller derby bout (the derby term for "match") consists of two 30-minute periods during which two teams try to outscore the other. Ten women are allowed on the track at a time—five from one team and five from the other. One of a team's five skaters has a star on her helmet and is called the "jammer." The jammer's job is to score points while the four "blockers" create the space for her to do so, while also blocking the opposing team's jammer. A point is scored whenever a jammer laps a member of the opposing team, which can be done multiple times during a two-minute "jam."

"Because roller derby doesn't have a ball, it's hard to follow," said Dames coach Ron Chesko, who has been the team's coach for about six months, "so basically you have to keep an eye on the person with the star on their helmet—they're the

ones that are scoring."

"I feel like a lot of people watch the first half and are confused, and then after halftime they're like 'Ok, I'm catching on,'" said three-year team member Gnarly Quinn.

#### BENEFITING OTHERS

Though a bout might be hard for others to understand, the Illiana Derby Dames know exactly what they're doing—on and off the racetrack.

The Dames are a registered non-profit and take great pride in using their bouts as a means to benefit different charities.

"Every month we pick a charity to give all of our proceeds to and we have them come and set up a booth...to just get their name out there," Quinn said.

Each bout raises around \$1,000 for charity. Last month, the Dames donated to the Cancer Support Center, and this month they donated to INFEAT, an organization dedicated to helping those with autism.

"We do it for our charities," said Dames veteran Scare N Dippity. "We try to get people in here not to watch us skate but so we can raise as much money for them as we can."

October 14 was the Dame's final home bout of the season. In addition to winning the bout, they also hosted a costume contest for kids.

"Our tradition here is to do a costume bout for the last bout of the year...it's always our best one," said Eve Iscerate, a captain on the team.

#### BENEFITING EACH OTHER

As much as the Dames enjoy giving to those in need, they get plenty out of the experience themselves as well.

"This is a family. I've never been closer to a group of people in my life—and I was in the military. I kind of joined derby because I was seeking out that kind of camaraderie again," Eve said.

The group's website states the team's mission and includes the following: "Our goal is to empower every team member to not only embrace their strength through sport, but to also embrace their power to positively impact our community with volunteer work and charitable donations. We strive to give women

a place to feel welcome in a fun-filled, action-packed environment."

"This is my tribe," Eve said, "I click with these people so well. ...It's been like a dream come true."

#### GROWING THE GROUP

Interested in joining? The Illiana Derby Dames recruit new members year-round and offer two boot camps every year to help new skaters learn roller derby. No prior knowledge of skating or roller derby is needed.

"In the end of January or February we're going to have another boot camp session where we teach

a whole fresh group of people what derby is, let them try it out, and see if it's a good fit for them," Eve said.

Those who are interested can get more information at the team's website ([www.illianaderbydames.com](http://www.illianaderbydames.com)) or visit their Facebook page.

"Our purpose is to empower women, to do something for our local communities, and to build sportsmanship and teamwork," summarized Eve.

Lynwood Sport Center is located at 2030 Glenwood-Dyer Road in Lynwood, Illinois.

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Actors Neil Friedman and Stella Hoyt. Photo by Guy Rhodes.

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## TF SOUTH ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY MATT TIFFY, ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



### Five things to know about **Faithful Ojelabi**



LANSING, Ill. (November 1, 2018) – Senior Faithful Ojelabi plays football for the TF South varsity team.

**WHY FOOTBALL:**

I was looking for something fun to do for an activity freshman year, and I just fell in love with the sport.

**FAVORITE FOOTBALL MOMENT:**

My favorite moment is when we did a team builder by doing a watermelon relay.

**GOALS FOR FOOTBALL THIS YEAR:**

My goals are to go as far in the playoffs as we can and bond as a team.

**FAVORITE SUBJECT AND TEACHER:**

My favorite subject is AP Calculus with Mr. Seibel because of his teaching style, and he makes it a lot of fun.

**QUOTE FROM THE COACH:**

"Faithful is the ultimate team player. Last year, he was a starting defensive corner back and willingly took on a need that we had at starting guard. Faithful not only made the switch, but he took on the challenge of being a leader on the offensive line."

–Coach Bob Padjen

### Five things to know about **Erin Titus**



LANSING, Ill. (November 1, 2018) – Senior Erin Titus plays varsity volleyball for the TF South Rebels. She has been on varsity for three years.

**WHY VOLLEYBALL:**

I enjoy playing volleyball because it's a way to escape the daily pressures of school life.

**FAVORITE VOLLEYBALL MOMENT:**

One of my favorite moments—although there are many—is meeting a lot of new people and the bond you create with people.

**PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:**

I haven't decided yet if I want to play volleyball in college, but I will be majoring in

Special Education at the University of Purdue Northwest.

**FAVORITE SUBJECT AND TEACHER:**

My favorite subject is Child Care and my favorite "teacher" is Brittney. She is not only my sub teacher, she's also the athletic trainer who has helped to support me through my career here at TF South.

**QUOTE FROM THE COACH:**

"Erin has played a solid role for the volleyball team for the last three years. Her dependability and passing skills are second to none."

–Coach Kim Sands

# Lan-Oak Park District's first drone-making class teaches practical skills

## Electronics, small motor skills, cause and effect, eye-hand coordination, and more

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (October 23, 2018) – This fall the Lan-Oak Park District added a new and trendy after-school class to their youth program—Drone-Making 101—designed for Lansing youth between the ages of 9 and 12 who are interested in building and flying their own stunt drones. The first six-week class ended on Friday, October 19, with students flying their drones through an obstacle course set up in the gym.

But the class began with lessons about drone flight safety, including how to avoid propeller dangers and drone accidents and how to avoid fires with proper battery care. According to Instructor Celestra Warren, no FAA laws need to be followed because these are non-commercial drones.

In weeks two through five, participants built the remote controls and the bodies of their SkyViper 1700 stunt drones. Warren walked the participants through the detailed instructions, helped them identify and assemble complex parts—motor connectors, power sockets, and flight controller boards—and encouraged them each step of the way. "This is what I love about this job," she said. "Getting to know these individuals, even if it's only for a few weeks."

The six-week course culminated with the students flying their own drones and attempting to maneuver them through a new drone obstacle course set up in the Eisenhower Center gym. Though the skills are

similar to those required in video games, students found that other factors can influence real-life situations—battery power, loose wires, and depth perception. Warren enjoyed watching them learn and make adjustments throughout the course.

To see video of the final class, search for this story online at [thelansingjournal.com/news](http://thelansingjournal.com/news).

The Park District intends to offer this youth program class again and is also considering adding a more advanced drone-making class for teens. The class costs \$47.00 for residents or \$52.00 for non-residents. That cost includes the drone kit, and students keep the drones at the end of the class.

Lan-Oak Park District offers these classes and other programs at the Eisenhower Center, 2550 178th Street. Their Fall 2018 program brochure can be viewed online at [www.lanoakparkdistrict.org](http://www.lanoakparkdistrict.org).



Joshua Hall gets help from Instructor Celestra Warren during the culminating session of Drone-Making 101. The class got to fly their drones in the Eisenhower Center gym. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Above, from left: Celestra Warren guides Szion Pullin, Joshua Hall, Jalyn Anderson, and Jalen Ivy through the process of assembling the drone bodies.

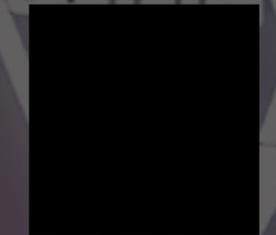
Left: Jasen Ivy studies the assembly instructions for his drone. Warren enjoyed helping the kids realize that skills and processes can actually be studied, learned, and developed. (Photos: Jennifer Yos)



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*"My Kids and I are already planning on a couple family outings at Gamma VR to fuel our family game nights."*

Fabian Newman  
[Village of Lansing's Communications and Technology Director]

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