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Returning home to educate

Meet Dr. Cheryl Green

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Summer Fun Returns!

The arrival of June has officially put us in the summer season. Gone are the days of chilly mornings with frost hiding in the shadows of tree trunks and fence posts. June mornings build on the momentum of May's promise of more sunshine and warmth, which often ushers in a new perspective that starts with getting outdoors. June is when the outdoor fun really begins. Outdoor concerts are plentiful, baseball and softball games are played non-stop, local festivals dot the calendar every weekend, and Farmers Markets and Car Shows are staples. I especially enjoy a long walk and the chance to exchange 'hellos' with my neighbors and have the opportunity to get caught up with how they are doing. Don't miss our local Calendar listings inside for a great slice of summer life, there's something for everyone to do. To all the fathers out there – have a wonderful Father's Day!



Scott Duff, Publisher
Homewood-Flossmoor Neighbors
Matthew 22:39

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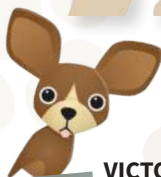
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Looking for a Forever Home

Captions/photos provided by Jeremy Manthey

VICTORIA

Hello there, I'm Victoria. Age has brought me wisdom, patience, and an abundance of love. My days are filled with soft purrs and gentle nuzzles, sharing my affection with anyone who takes a moment to say hello. I've been told I have a calming presence, a gentle spirit that brings comfort and warmth. I love to sit beside people, providing company and a soothing purr to brighten their day. I'm a simple cat with a heart full of love, ready to share it with a family who needs a little extra

sweetness in their lives. If you're

looking for a companion who will bring peace and joy to your home, consider adopting me. I promise to fill your days with love and contentment.



MARTHA

Hello, I'm Martha. My world is one of curiosity and playfulness. I'm a bit of a smarty pants, you see. I've mastered 'sit' and I'm eager to learn more tricks, especially if treats are involved! I'm sweet as pie, with a gentle soul that loves to give and receive affection. I'm dog-friendly too, and always ready to make new friends. I love exploring my surroundings, sniffing out new adventures and

challenges. I believe every day is a gift, and I can't wait to share it with you. Why should you adopt me? Well, because life is simply better with a friend like me. I promise to bring joy, love, and a dash of mischief into your life. Martha is also eligible for foster care, sign up to foster here: <https://forms.gle/oknYBjKJVYUqYb3D7>



For more information on adoptions, visit: www.southsuburbanhumane.org/adopt. We do not require applications or appointments to visit with our shelter pets! Contact us about adoption fees for all our pets.

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Returning home to educate

Meet Dr. Cheryl Green

By John Stein | Photos by Ven Sherrod

Dr. Cheryl Green, the first African American woman to serve as President of Governors State University (GovState), moved back to Chicago's South Suburbs four years ago during the pandemic to take on this role. She now calls a quiet enclave north of Steger Road her home. However, her home away from home is in University Park, where the university sits on sprawling prairie land, complete with an arboretum and a huge outdoor sculpture park. GovState is also a place where many Homewood-Flossmoor students attend for college studies.

Growing up in Cottage Grove Heights on the South Side of Chicago, Cheryl's education has been solidly rooted in the Midwest. She attended Lindblom Technical High School in Chicago, where there was select enrollment and a college preparatory focus. She attended Manchester University in North Manchester, Indiana, earning a Bachelor of Science-Psychology degree. From that point, she headed to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where she received a Master of Arts/M.A. and a Doctor of Philosophy/

Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. She'd lived in Tennessee before moving back to Chicago in 2020.

With more than 35 years in the field of Education, Cheryl has served across the country in institutions such as the University of Florida; University of Michigan-Flint; Chicago State University; Tennessee State University; University of Wisconsin Oshkosh; and the University of Wisconsin Whitewater.

Leading Governors State

A dream come true is how Cheryl describes her role leading Governors State University, a four-year comprehensive institution that is a diverse and welcoming place for nearly 5,000 students and an estimated 300 faculty members. Cheryl described GovState's mission as providing an exceptional and accessible education to students, the majority of whom remain in the area after graduation. This includes adult students, Dual Degree



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Program participants, MBA online programs, health care, and education professionals, as well as veterans.

When she was named the GovState president in July 2020, it was significantly complicated by the impact of the ongoing pandemic. Four months into the pandemic, there was increasing social unrest in the country as an unprecedented virus challenged everyone to navigate workspaces in unique and creative ways.

Despite the initial challenges, Cheryl says



she is grateful to Governor Pritzker for his increased allocation of state-appropriated dollars and to GovState's talented faculty and staff for creative problem solving that allowed the university to continue providing a high-quality education to students, which facilitates academic success and degree completion.

"Being named the sixth president of Governors State University in 2020 was a dream come true to bring all my academic and life experiences to this position. It is a high honor and privilege to serve our students and make a regional economic impact as the jewel of the Southland."

Today, that jewel shines with programs and initiatives across GovState's campus.

In 2023, the university expanded its 3+3 pathway to a law degree to include Northern Illinois University (NIU). The partnership, initially formed in 2022 with Southern Illinois University (SIU), allows students to earn a bachelor's at GovState and a juris doctorate at SIU or NIU in six years. GovState students interested in social justice, will be able to meet soon at a \$2.5M Social Justice Center on campus.

To support its growing Hispanic population, GovState launched a Latinx Resource Center in January, and the university recently celebrated the largest gift in its history with the renaming of the Honors program to Dr. Curtis J. and Mrs. Gina Crawford Honors College (Crawford

Honors College). The CHC is the fifth such college in the state.

Cheryl says there are more successes on the horizon for Governor State University. "I'm looking forward to creating even more programs to serve our diverse students and to elevating our outstanding faculty. We have lives to change and communities to impact," Cheryl says.

Free Time

Cheryl says that while her responsibilities at Governors State University keep her very busy seven days a week, she plans to get more involved in the community. Her hobbies include antiques, biking, reading—anything historical, live theater, live concerts, community festivals, and international travel.

Her choice of volunteer organizations includes Gift of Adoption, Top Ladies of Distinction/Will County, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. "I look forward to joining a book club. I absolutely love to read. I cannot play any card games well, but I am a fierce teammate at charades or Trivial Pursuit!"

In Chicago, she enjoys the home teams. "I love the White Sox. I grew up as a South Sider and dated a professional baseball player who won two World Series rings," says Cheryl. "I like the Chicago Bulls, especially the Michael Jordan-era players. I prefer to watch any sport live and in person."



St. Coletta's of Illinois expands services to include behavioral health

Article/photos provided by Charla Brautigam

St. Coletta's of Illinois, a leading provider of comprehensive services for developmentally disabled children and adults, is proud to announce the expansion of its offerings with the launch of a Behavioral Health Clinic.

This new clinic will cater specifically to individuals with developmental disabilities who struggle with behavioral issues, providing them with specialized care and support. Obtaining its licensing from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services marks a significant milestone for St. Coletta's of Illinois, enabling the nonprofit social service organization to fulfill its mission of enhancing the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities through innovative and tailored services.

The Behavioral Health Clinic will offer a range of services designed to address the unique needs of each individual, including assessment, diagnosis and personalized treatment plans. The clinic's team of experienced clinical therapists, including counselors and social workers, will work collaboratively with clients and their families to develop strategies for managing challenging behaviors and improving overall well-being.

"We are thrilled to announce the opening of our Behavioral Health Clinic, which represents a significant step forward in our commitment to serving individuals with developmental disabilities," says St. Coletta's CEO Heather Benedick. "Behavioral challenges can present significant barriers to a fulfilling life, and our goal is to provide the specialized care and support needed to help individuals thrive."

Based in Tinley Park, St. Coletta's of Illinois has a long-standing reputation for excellence in the field of developmental disabilities, offering a comprehensive array of services, including educational, residential and vocational training services. The addition of the Behavioral Health Clinic further strengthens the organization's ability to meet the diverse needs of the individuals it serves.

For 75 years, St. Coletta's of Illinois has been nurturing the potential of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through its educational, residential, and vocational training services. Its therapeutic day school, the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. School for Exceptional Children, serves developmentally delayed students ages 3-22 while its Community Day Services program works with adults, helping them build adaptive learning skills, improve economic self-sufficiency and become more independent.

For more information about the nonprofit social service agency, please visit www.stcolettasofil.org or call 708-342-5200.



5,000+ pounds of trout added to fishing lakes



By Stacina Stagner

The Forest Preserves of Cook County is pleased to announce the 2024 spring inland trout fishing season, opening on Saturday, Apr. 6, at Axehead Lake and Belleau Lake in Park Ridge, Sag Quarry East in Lemont, Horsetail Lake in Palos Park and Green Lake in Calumet City.

The Forest Preserves is stocking approximately 1,000 pounds of rainbow trout at Sag Quarry East; 1,500 pounds at Axehead Lake; and 1,500 pounds at Belleau Lake; while the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is stocking 700 pounds at Green Lake; and 600 pounds at Horsetail Lake. These are catchable sized rainbow trout, in the 0.5-1 pound size range.

As part of the IDNR's stocking program, fishing for and possession of any trout is illegal from Mar. 15 until 5 a.m. on Apr. 1. In addition, the Forest Preserves' trout lakes will be closed to all fishing from Monday, Apr. 1, until sunrise on Saturday, Apr. 6. The lake closings allow the trout to disperse throughout the lakes prior to opening.

Once the season opens, there is a five trout per day creel limit with no size restrictions. No more than two lines per person with no more than two hooks per line may be used.

A valid Illinois sport fishing license with an Inland Trout Stamp is required for anglers 16 years of age and older. An Illinois sport fishing license is not required for Illinois residents who are disabled and have a State of Illinois disabled I.D. card showing a Class 2 or 2A disability or a Veterans Disability Card, and Illinois residents who are on active military duty and are home on leave.

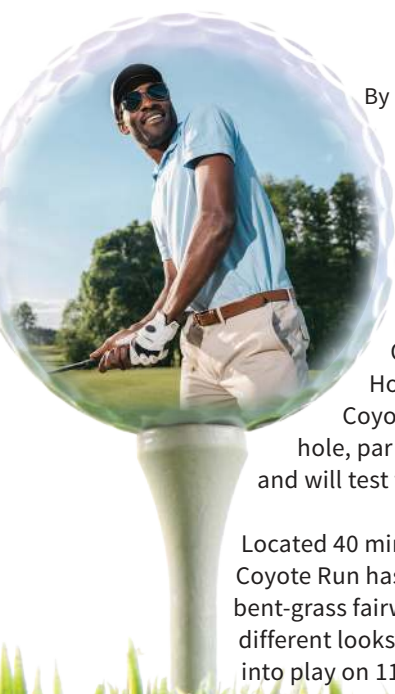
For a list of all lakes and waters open to public fishing within the Forest Preserves of Cook County, visit fpdcc.com/fishing/, and download the Fishing Guide. The guide includes maps that show location and depth of each lake, as well as main fish species.

The public can contact the Forest Preserves' Fisheries Section at 708-403-6951 for further information.

RESIDENT SUBMISSION

Golf season arrives in style

By Mark Berman



The arrival of May and the spring season also means the golfers will be out as the weather warms up and the fairways and greens firm up.

Owned and operated by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Coyote Run Golf Course is a public 18-hole, par 71 course; it measures 6,478 yards and will test the skill level of all golfers.

Located 40 minutes from downtown Chicago, Coyote Run has three tee boxes on each hole with bent-grass fairways, tees, and greens. Featuring different looks from all tees, water hazards come into play on 11 of Coyote Run's 18 holes.

Your golf experience begins with a 367-yard, par 4, with carry-over water on your tee shot and a generous landing area. Course management is a premium and good approach shots to sloped greens will make for a quality round.

Services and amenities offered at Coyote Run Golf Course include:

- Generous practice area including a lighted driving range with grass tee, four target greens, putting and chipping greens and artificial mats for use in wet conditions.
- Three-hole practice and teaching course with lessons and player development programs.
- Golf pro-shop fully stocked with the latest equipment, products and clothing.
- Wiley's Grill – full-service restaurant, catering and spacious tent located next to the clubhouse for outings and events.



1970 Road Runner has Iowa roots

By Rudy Host, Jr.

Mike Chenoweth bought his 1970 Plymouth Road Runner when he was just 15 years old. He was originally looking at a different car when his father said he saw something they should go and check out just over the Mississippi River in Iowa.

Pulling up in front of the Iowa home Mike and his father immediately saw a Limelight Green 1970 Road Runner, FJ5, with stand-out wheels and tires. Mike was immediately sold on the car.

Over the years, there have been a few different drivetrains on Mike's Road Runner. The car originally came with a 383-cubic-inch engine, a 4-speed transmission, and a Dana 60 rear-end unit. Now there is a 540-cubic-inch engine with World Products Diamond pistons, Edelbrock Victor Series heads, Oliver connecting rods, a Holley EFI Dominator fuel system, and Precision 76 mm twin turbos.

The 727 transmission, with the popular Pistol Grip shifter, has been reworked to handle the bigger power plant, complete with a Gear Vendor overdrive unit. The original Dana 60 still puts the power to the pavement.

Still an all-steel car, Mike says he repainted it in the same factory color. It was at this time he also replaced the trunk pan. The only body damage Mike's had to his car was when he was racing at Midwest Drags (a Drag and Drive event), at The Edgewater Raceway Park in Cleves, Ohio. Halfway down the track, a deer decided to cross. Mike was uninjured, but the deer wasn't as lucky.

Mike says he has installed a Chrome Molly Cert Cage and new Kirkey bucket seats were added and upholstered to match the rest of the interior. The dash has been upgraded with a Holley 7-inch digital gauge unit. Aftermarket power windows were also installed, and an aftermarket Hellcat console was put in.

Just as it should be, Mike drives his Road Runner more than most people drive their everyday vehicles! He likes to take his car to Friday Night Lights and Cars and Coffee. Although he admits his first choice will always be the racetrack.

If you have a car you would like to see featured in Classic Wheels, contact Rudy Host, Jr. at Classic.Wheels.Rudy@gmail.com.



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Franciscan Olympia Fields gets Blue Distinction Center+ for Maternity Care

By Maria Ramos
Franciscan Health

Franciscan Health Olympia Fields has been recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois with a Blue Distinction® Centers+ for Maternity Care designation as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

The program plays a key role in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's National Health Equity Strategy aimed at reducing racial health disparities across the care spectrum and improving patient outcomes for all Americans.

To align with this strategy, the Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program enhanced its quality and measurement standards to recognize higher-quality facilities that have taken action to respond effectively to obstetric emergencies, reduce racial disparities, and improve maternal health outcomes.

Based on data from the current designation cycle, facilities designated under the Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program demonstrate higher-quality care compared to non-Blue Distinction Center facilities, with overall average rates of 26 percent lower episiotomies, 60 percent fewer elective deliveries and 17 percent lower cesarean births, all of which point to healthier outcomes for patients. Designated facilities also exhibited an average savings of 21 percent for maternity care.

"We recognize the importance of providing safe, quality care to our mothers and babies and this achievement means that new parents can count on us at this important time in their lives," Franciscan Health Olympia Fields Director of Patient Care Services Joan Culver said. "The Family Birth Center advocates for quality healthcare for women by maintaining the highest standards of clinical practice and patient satisfaction. Our entire staff is focused on providing compassionate, patient-centered care to ensure the best outcomes to everyone we are privileged to serve."

The Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care program's selection criteria were devised to close clinical care gaps and reduce inequities that persist throughout the maternal care spectrum.

The selection criteria include components of BCBSA's Maternal Health Equity Actions which dismantle the cultural, operational, and structural barriers that have created inequities that persist in maternal care.

To be designated under this program, each applicant facility was evaluated on a combination of objective data on patient outcomes as well as the practices implemented to reduce racial disparities and improve maternal health outcomes.



"We are pleased to recognize Franciscan Health Olympia Fields for their attention to delivering high-quality care that addresses maternal health," said Derek Robinson, M.D., chief medical officer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. "Their Blue Distinction Specialty Care approach will help lead to healthier outcomes for members."

More information on the Franciscan Health Family Birth Center Olympia Fields, including a virtual tour, is available at FranciscanHealth.org, or by calling 708-852-2600.

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Thursdays
Miss Rosie's Movie Club

@Homewood Public Library
Join us every Thursday this summer for screenings of the best action and adventure flicks known to man: 6/6: The Goonies; 6/20: Jaws; 6/27: Adventures in Babysitting.
Time: 6:30pm
Cost: Free
www.homewoodlibrary.org

Saturdays
Homewood: Meet the Mayor

@Village Hall
Mayor Rich Hofeld is available every Saturday to meet with residents at Village Hall from 9 a.m. until Noon. He often brings guests to help facilitate productive conversation; you will find a department head from public safety, public works, or economic and community development, along with the Village Manager and Trustees on any given Saturday.
Time: 9am-Noon
Cost: Free
www.village.homewood

Saturdays through October 12
Outdoor Farmers Market

@Martin Square
The Farmers Market moves outdoors on May 25. There will be an Outdoor Farmers Market on the last Saturday of each month through October 12 on Martin Avenue.
Time: 8am-Noon
Cost: Free entry
Info Email: farmersmarket@homewoodil.gov

Monday, June 10
Echoes of Earth: Finding Ourselves in the Origins of the Plane

@Homewood Public Library
Journey with award-winning author Sue Baugh and her colleague Lynn Martinelli, who traveled 54,000 miles by camper car, fishing boat, floatplane, and river raft to capture the power and beauty of the world's oldest rock and mineral sites. Explore the startling, profound connection between ourselves and our planet, and experience breathtaking images from Australia, Greenland, Northwest Canada, and the Grand Canyon.
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
Cost: Free
www.homewoodlibrary.org

Thursday, June 13
Adult Computer Class: Beginning Computer

@Flossmoor Public Library
Sign-up starts Monday, June 3. No prior experience with computers is necessary. Registration is required. Please contact Adult Services to register for this program.
Time: 10am-Noon
Cost: Free
www.flossmoorlibrary.org

Wednesday, June 19
Juneteenth Parade

@Starts Western Ave. School
The 3rd annual Juneteenth Parade will begin at Western Avenue School and end at Parker Junior High. For more details visit: www.flossmoor.org.
Time: 9am-Noon
Cost: Free
www.flossmoor.org

Friday, June 21
Pirate Day

@Lions Club Pool
Ahoy matey! Bring ye scallywags over to Lions Club Pool because the Captain is docking ship. Every hour, on the hour during adult swim there will be a pirate game, craft, or activity happening. Captain Jack may even make a special appearance.
Concessions – \$4 Root Beer Floats and \$2 Pirates Booty (Combo – both for \$5).
Time: Noon-5pm
Cost: Free
www.hfparks.com

Sunday, June 26
H-F Community Band Concert

@Irwin Park, 18120 Highland Ave.
The Homewood-Flossmoor Community Band returns this summer for its 59th season of twilight concerts, and its fifth under the baton of director Matt Johnson. Enjoy an evening of FREE classical music in the park.
Time: 6-8pm
Cost: Free
www.hfparks.com

Tuesday, June 28
Gaming Night

@Homewood Public Library
Hang out at the Homewood Public Library, after hours, and enjoy gaming and snacks! Xbox One, Wii, Nintendo Switch, board games, card games, and more!
Time: 6pm
Cost: Free
www.homewoodlibrary.org

Thursday, July 4
Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Dept July 4th Parade

@Flossmoor
A Flossmoor tradition since 1931, the Flossmoor Volunteer Fire Department Independence Parade returns on Thursday, July 4! Decorate your bikes and wagons in red, white, and blue then join the Flossmoor Fire Department, Police Department and Village representatives for a parade down Flossmoor Road! For the safety of participants and spectators, motorized vehicles are not allowed to participate in the parade. Parade line up will start at 9:30 am in the Parker Junior High parking lot. The parade will step off at 10 am and is followed by a demonstration of Fire Department operations in Downtown Flossmoor.
Time: 10am
Cost: Free
www.flossmoor.org

Students turn cafeteria into dazzling prom venue for disabled

By Charla Brautigam

In a heartwarming display of compassion, area Andrew High School students transformed the cafeteria at Kennedy School into a dazzling prom venue. The group of student council leaders blew up balloons and hung streamers, turning the space into a magical wonderland fit for a prom celebration.

"It's heartwarming," says junior Abby Zurek as she worked alongside classmates, stringing a series of silver letters and numbers together to read "Prom 2024." The students purchased the decorations and party favors from student council funds raised at Andrew's own school dances.

"We enjoy seeing how happy it makes (the Kennedy students)," says sophomore Eva Urban. There's such "joy on their faces," agrees senior Sia Desai.

Decorating Kennedy School has been a long-standing tradition for Andrew's student council. Every May, they send a team of students to create a prom for everyone to remember. The annual tradition has become so popular among students that student council advisors Barb Sopiartz and Tracy Sukalo have to limit the number of volunteers each year by rotating teams of students.

"So many kids want to participate," says Sopiartz. "It's cool to work with students beyond our high school," explains Andrew senior Brian Ondras. "It's awesome to celebrate all the successes of these students."

The student volunteers not only decorate the cafeteria but stick around to dance and eat with the Kennedy School students. They also pass out prom-themed T-shirts and trinkets, such as necklaces, wristbands, and sunglasses, that they purchase with student council funds. The highlight is the crowning of the prom king and queen who receive specially crafted Build-a-Bears and crowns from the Andrew students.

"We try to make it special for the kids," says Sukalo. "We want (their prom) to be similar to (Andrew's) prom."

The time and effort students put into making prom so special is greatly appreciated by Kennedy School students and staff. "We are incredibly grateful to the students of

Andrew High School for their generosity and thoughtfulness," says Kennedy School Principal Dawn Angelini. "Their dedication to creating an inclusive space where everyone feels welcome and valued is truly inspiring."

Based in Tinley Park, St. Coletta's of Illinois has been serving children and adults from the south and southwest suburbs for 75 years. Its therapeutic day school, the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. School for Exceptional Children, serves developmentally delayed students ages 3-22 while its Community Day Services program works with adults, helping them build adaptive learning skills, improve economic self-sufficiency and become more independent.

To learn more about the nonprofit social service agency, please visit www.stcolettasofil.org or call 708-342-5200.



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June 19 - 8-week classes begin
June 20 - Last day to register for 8-week classes
July 1 - Second 5-week classes begin
July 10 - Last day to register for second 5-week classes

IMPORTANT FALL DATES

August 19 - 16- and first 8-week classes begin
September 3 - 14-week classes begin
September 13 - 12-week classes begin
October 14 - Second 8-week classes begin

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