

Elmhurst INDEPENDENT

Elmhurst's Hometown Newspaper



VOL. 24 • No. 29

WWW.ELMHURSTINDEPENDENT.COM

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

Garden Club's annual Walk & Faire set for July 12



Tickets for the event sold online only

The Elmhurst Garden Club's 2026 Garden Walk and Faire will take place Sunday, July 12.

In addition to showcasing six private gardens, this year's event will include a vendor and craft boutique fair in Wilder Park, 211 S. Prospect Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets for the garden walk, which are \$25 per person, are sold online only.

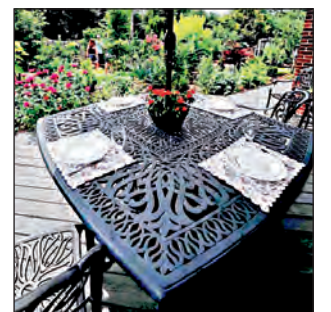
For tickets, donations, and additional information, visit www.elmhurstgardenclub.org. A list of participating gardens will be provided with a ticket purchase.

Proceeds from the event support the Elmhurst Garden Club's college scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to graduating York High School and college students pursuing studies in horticul-

ture, environmental conservation, and related fields. Since 1999, the club has funded 135 scholarships totaling more than \$283,000.

Proceeds from the Garden Walk and Faire also support several community projects and organizations, including holiday decorating at the Elmhurst Public Library, maintaining the herb garden in Wilder Park, contributing to horticultural development at the Elmhurst University Arboretum, mentoring York High School Garden Club members, and improving and maintaining the grounds at the Ray Graham Association's Community Learning Center, 420 W. Madison St., Elmhurst.

The Elmhurst Garden Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.



The photos above are from previous Elmhurst Garden Club Garden Walk and Faire events. The main photo shows Louellen Rossi. This year's Garden Walk and Faire will take place rain or shine on Sunday, July 12. Proceeds from the event support the Elmhurst Garden Club's college scholarship fund. (Submitted photos)

INSIDE:

Police reports	5	Sports	11
Viewpoint	6	Classifieds	14-15

PRINTED
ON RECYCLED
PAPER
BY THE
DUPAGE
COMMUNITY
NEWS GROUP

All systems are go for Running Club's annual 4 on the 4th

Runners, start your America 250 celebrations!

The 21st Elmhurst Running Club 4 on the 4th is set to go at 7:15 a.m. Saturday, starting and finishing at Elmhurst University.

The annual Fourth of July 4-miler will be followed at 8:20 a.m. by the Kids 1K for ages 5-12. All Kids 1K finishers will receive medals.

"The event is a competitive race, but it's also about community, helping local charities and showcasing Elmhurst to out-of-town participants," race director Bob Richards of the Elmhurst Running Club said.

Pre-race day packet pickup is available from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday at Fleet Feet Elmhurst, 124 Schiller, Elmhurst. It is highly recommended so entrants can

See 4 ON THE 4TH, Page 4

Library programs

630-279-8696 • elmlib.org/events

Friday, July 3, 2-4:30 p.m.

Friday Features: *Independence Day*. Enjoy an afternoon at the movies. Find each week's featured film at elmlib.org/Friday. No registration required.

Monday, July 6, 10 a.m.-noon

Scrabble. All skill levels are welcome. No registration required.

Monday, July 6, 7-8 p.m.

Countdown to 250: Celebrating Our Freedom. The Semiquincentennial marks our nation's 250th birthday. Discover how previous milestones like the 50th Jubilee, Centennial and Bicentennial were commemorated. Live in-person and virtually on Zoom. Registration required.

Tuesday, July 7, 1-3 p.m.

Bridge and Pinochle. Prior experience is required. Live in-person. No registration required.

Tuesday, July 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Staying Mentally Fit. Join us for fun mental enrichment including games, puzzles, and other activities that boost memory, reasoning, and other cognitive abilities. Live in-person. Registration required.

Wednesday, July 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

American Mah Jongg: Open Play. Gather every Wednesday for American Mah Jongg, a game of skill, strategy, calculation, and a certain amount of chance. Prior experience is required. No registration required.

Wednesday, July 8, 7-8 p.m.

Route 66: From Chicago to St. Louis. You don't have to drive all the way to California to enjoy Route 66 during its 100th anniversary year! Take a long weekend to explore the cool towns, great food, interesting history, and quirky roadside attractions that line the Mother Road from here to The Lou. Live in-person and virtually on Zoom. Registration required.

Thursday, July 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Culture Club: Memorials in Washington, D.C. Explore the capital without leaving your chair. Tour D.C.'s monuments and memorials built to honor individuals and troops who served our country. Live in-person and virtually on Zoom. Registration required.

Friday July 10, 2-3:30 p.m.

Photoshop Elements. Learn to use Adobe's consumer-level program for editing and organizing photographs. Registration with a library card required.

Friday, July 10, 2-4:30 p.m.

Friday Features: *All the President's Men*. Enjoy an afternoon at the movies. No registration required.

Community Calendar

Recurring on Sundays

Elmhurst Model Railroad Club Sunday open house. From 1-4 p.m. every Sunday at the Elmhurst Model Railroad Club, 111 E. First St., and visit the club's three operating model railroad layouts. For more information, call 630-530-9584 or email: emrrc@comcast.net

Recurring on Wednesdays

Elmhurst Farmers Market. Recurring weekly on Wednesdays from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. until Oct. 28 at 149 W. Brush Hill Road in the parking lot of Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, visit the market for an array of baked goods, pastries, breads, local honey, olives, fresh salsa, focaccias, dairy, eggs, meats, cheeses, eggrolls, homemade ice cream, kettle corn and crunchy cheese. New this year: fresh pressed juices, roasted nuts/candies, loose leaf teas, mushrooms, and fermented vegetables. Our farmers bring the freshest in organic vegetables, organic fruits, herbs, microgreens and fresh-cut flowers. For more information, visit: <https://elmhurstfarmersmarket.org>

Recurring daily

Umbrella Sky Elmhurst 2026. Presented free, the Elmhurst City Centre is excited to bring back one of the world's most famous and beautiful art installations back to the centre: Umbrella Sky Elmhurst 2026. Snap a photo under the Umbrellas at Schiller Court, Color Rain at 110 S. Cottage Hill, and Color Dots at 254 N. York. A new set of art, featuring a fresh color palette, will replace the initial installations in early July and will be on display until mid-September. For more information, visit: elmhurstcitycentre.com.

Recurring daily until July 3

Happy Birthday, America! Free at the Elmhurst Public Library, for families. Stop by the Kids Library the week of June 29 to celebrate America's 250th birthday. The library will have fun and interactive activities perfect for families to enjoy together. No registration required. Drop in and join the celebration. For more information, visit: <https://elmhurst-publiclibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events>

Recurring daily through July 24

Public signing of the Declaration of Independence. In honor of America's 250th anniversary, the City of Elmhurst invites you to take part in a unique community experience—sign the Declaration of Independence at locations throughout town. Signing dates: July 1-July 23 (during normal business hours). Participating Locations: Brewpoint Craft, 617 N. York; Community Bank of Elmhurst, 133 N. York; John Noldan—Rate—115 W. Adelaide; Community Bank of Elmhurst, 330 W. Butterfield. Final signing opportunity: July 24, Elmhurst History Museum event.

Now through Aug. 9

History of Her: Women who Shaped Chicagoland. This original exhibit at the Elmhurst History Museum explores the impact women and girls have had, and continue to have, in the Chicagoland area. From trailblazing activists to ground-breaking artists, educators, athletes and community pioneers, the exhibit features countless women's stories, including Ida B. Wells, journalist, sociologist, educator, and early leader in the civil rights movement; Alta M. Hulette, the first female attorney admitted to the Illinois Bar; Ella Flag Young, the first woman to serve as superintendent of Chicago Public Schools; Jane Addams, a leading figure in Progressive era social reform; Jane Byrne, Chicago's first female mayor; U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth; Former First Ladies Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama; TV personality Oprah Winfrey; All-American Girls Baseball League athletes and many, many more. Free to members; \$8 for nonmembers. For more information, visit: <https://www.elmhursthhistory.org/exhibits>

Mondays July 20 and Aug. 10

Summer Storytime at the Museum. Presented on the above dates by the Elmhurst History Museum, visit the museum this summer to enjoy stories and movement to boost literacy skills in this lively story time in partnership with the Elmhurst Public Library. Enjoy a new story each month at 10 a.m., then explore the museum's exhibits and complete a craft (while supplies last). Appropriate for children up to 8 years old; no registration required. Book and craft activity changes monthly.

Thursday, July 2

Abraham Lincoln: A New Birth of Freedom. From 7-8:30 p.m. presented free by the Elmhurst Public Library, adults and children alike will enjoy hearing a first-hand account from Abraham Lincoln himself of the history of the United States of America during his time—from his childhood on the frontier to the twelve turbulent years which nearly destroyed our young nation but instead eventually resulted in a "new birth of freedom." Lincoln is portrayed by Kevin Wood, a professional Lincoln presenter who bears a remarkable resemblance to "the Great Emancipator" and who is extremely knowledgeable about his life and times. Live in-person and virtually on Zoom. Registration is required. For more information, visit: <https://elmhurstpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events>

Saturday, July 4

Elmhurst Running Club 4 on the 4th. From 7:15-9 a.m., enjoy the 21st edition of this Fourth of July tradition on the streets of Elmhurst. Bring family and friends to run and celebrate America's 250th. Pre-register soon. This event sold out last year. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.4on4th.run/>

Sunday, July 12

Fearless & Fun Summer Jam. From 1-4:30 p.m., in honor of America's 250th anniversary, the Elmhurst History Museum and Elmhurst City Centre are bringing a day of family-friendly summer celebration to downtown Elmhurst. Guests are invited to enjoy old-fashioned lawn games, patriotic crafts and engage with community groups and local merchants outdoors on the beautiful museum grounds, and head inside to explore the museum's *History of Her: Women Who Shaped Chicagoland* exhibit. From 1:30-2:30 p.m., and 3-4 p.m., guests can also dance and sing along to Fearless, an energetic Taylor Swift tribute band, on the museum's outdoor stage.

Thursday, July 16

York High School mixer. The York High School Alumni Association will be hosting a mixer social event at Bottle Theory (542 S. Spring Road) from 7-9:30 pm. Join York alumni of every age for a summer evening chatting with friends, meeting fellow Dukes, and trying your hand at some York trivia. Free admission. Complimentary appetizers while they last. An array of pay as you go beverages. Stop by for music at the Gazebo at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, July 25

History in your Hands: Journaling 101. From noon-2 p.m. presented by the Elmhurst History Museum, if you're interested in learning how to preserve your most cherished memories, attend this beginner-friendly journaling workshop in partnership with Elmhurst-based Papel Arcano. Journaling is a fantastic method to keep track of your own personal history. The Journaling 101 workshop will introduce attendees to the basics of journaling, such as types of supplies, an overview of popular technique and how to get over the fear of the blank page, including prompts and time to practice journaling. Each participant will receive their own Leuchtturm notebook and a Marks pen. Additional supplies, including paper, scissors, washi tape, stickers and pens will be provided, and guests are invited to bring their own photographs, stickers and other supplies to personalize journals. Registration: \$45 per person. Recommended for ages 15-and-over. Space is limited to 20. For more information, visit: <https://www.elmhurst-history.org/event/history-in-your-hands%3A-journaling-101/1023>

Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31

De Colores Spanish Summer Camp and De Colores Service Squad. From 9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily (lunch included) for children entering kindergarten to fifth grade, drop the kids off for a fun-filled week at the De Colores Spanish Summer Camp and let your child discover the magic of Spanish through games, music, and art. Secure your child's spot here: <https://elmhurstucc.org/de-colores-summer-camp/> Also, sign up your child who is entering grades sixth through eighth for the De Colores Service Squad from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch included). There are limited spots available. For more information and to register, visit: <https://elmhurstucc.org/de-colores-summer-camp/>



Slices of life

Today's your birthday, and hating grief isn't a reason to ignore it

Today would have been your birthday. This is the sixth one with you not being here. Six years of me making memories without you. Six years of me learning to be me without you.

In some ways that feels like forever. In others, it feels like just yesterday. Dichotomy rules my life.

Today would have been your birthday. I guess it still is your birthday, but I don't think it's meaningful to you anymore.

Birthdays are inconsequential when you've crossed to the other side.

We never were much for birthday celebrations, even when you were here to celebrate them. Neither of us liked the hoopla involved with a flaming cake, the silly song or the goofy pointed hats. We lived life to celebrate every day.

At least we tried.

So your birthday shouldn't be a big deal.

And it isn't, I guess.

Still, a fog of melancholy has surrounded me today.

Honestly, it caught me by surprise. I thought I was past all this.

But I suppose there are aspects you never get past.

You simply learn to live alongside them.

Today, I've been off. More quiet than usual. Needing more personal time and space than usual. I haven't been able to get things done. It's like I'm stuck. But that's okay. I give myself grace for that. There are bound to be sticky days.

Thankfully they come less frequently than they used to.

Still.

I miss you today — on your birthday.

Again, I believe this doesn't have any significant meaning for you anymore. Years and birthdays don't exist in a place that does not know the constraints of time.

Time is an earthly invention. And I'm guessing it becomes rather meaningless — annoying even — when you travel to a space that only knows the true purpose of joy and peace and love. I believe you are triangulated between this strand of three cords right now, and I only wish I could share that wonderment with you — to somehow channel it through you.



BY
JILL
PERTLER
COLUMNIST

We are separated, yet I know you are close. I just can't (always) perceive it. I'm too caught up with the constraints of time, gravity and the physicality of life on planet earth to grasp the reality of you being right here next to me. So close, but out of reach. So close, but so far. Again, the dichotomy.

You still being close is a nice thought. I know I have no proof, but if it brings me comfort (which it does) then I offer no apologies for my beliefs. When your world has been cut to the quick by grief, you learn to choose the nice thoughts — unapologetically so.

I also offer no apologies for contemplating and sharing my personal experience with grief. As a society, we hate grief.

I can personally attest to the fact that I super-duperly hate grief.

But here's the real truth: hating something is not a reason to ignore it. Instead, it is a really good reason to try to understand it. And talk about it.

And bring its truths out into the open.

Just about everyone will experience significant grief at some point in their life. That is the uncomfortable truth with a capital T. Yet, we don't really want to think about it — or talk about it — because it's unpleasant. And, honestly, why dwell on the negative?

I get that. And most days I'm okay following along with that algorithm.

But today is different. Today would have been your birthday. And that's worth remembering, and acknowledging and contemplating yet another dichotomy: the strength of love measured against the tenuous nature of life.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



Demanding answers on the Iran agreement

BY U.S. REP. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

The Trump Administration recently released a memorandum of understanding with Iran after days of refusing to share its contents with Congress or the American people.



The broad outlines of the agreement offer little to suggest it will permanently end the conflict, prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, or achieve the objectives President Trump cited to justify the war in the first place.

After months of war, Americans deserve confidence that this agreement will deliver lasting security rather than simply postpone future risks.

The agreement includes at least \$300 billion in international reconstruction and economic development funding for Iran. Yet while it reopens the Strait of Hormuz during the 60-day negotiating period, it does not prevent Iran from once again restricting commercial shipping, imposing tolls or using access to one of the world's most important waterways as leverage in future disputes. Congress and the American people deserve answers about why the agreement provides substantial benefits to Iran without resolving these fundamental concerns.

Throughout this conflict, I opposed this unauthorized and unconstitutional war and called for greater transparency from the Administration.

Now that the agreement has been released, Congress and the public still deserve answers about how it would be enforced, what consequences Iran would face if it violates its commitments, and whether it can deliver the lasting security its supporters have promised.

Protecting the right to vote free from intimidation: Recently, I demanded answers from Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin regarding reports that the Department of Homeland Security may consider deploying ICE or other DHS personnel at or near polling places during the 2026 midterm elections. The right to vote is one of the most fundamental rights in our democracy, and every eligible American should be able to cast a ballot free from intimidation, interference, or fear.

I also have introduced an amendment to prohibit the use of a declared national emergency as a justification for deploying federal law enforcement, including ICE and CBP, to polling places, vote-counting locations, or election certification sites.

Armed federal officers do not belong at the ballot box. Even the perception that immigration enforcement personnel may be present near polling locations could discourage law-

ful participation and undermine confidence in our elections. That is why I am demanding clarity from DHS and continuing to push for safeguards that protect voters, election workers, and the integrity of our democratic process.

Protecting taxpayer dollars with bipartisan fraud prevention legislation: The House unanimously passed my bipartisan Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act by a vote of 393-0. Fraud and waste in government are a central concern of the American people, and every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar that cannot be used to serve families, strengthen communities, or invest in priorities that matter. That is why my legislation would establish a government-wide training program to equip federal employees with the tools they need to identify fraud risks, implement proven anti-fraud practices, and avoid costly spending mistakes before they happen.

Protecting taxpayer dollars should never be a partisan issue. By helping stop waste before it occurs and strengthening accountability across government, this bipartisan legislation would better safeguard taxpayer dollars and help restore trust that government is spending public resources responsibly. I was proud to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this bill, and I will continue fighting for commonsense solutions that strengthen oversight and deliver better results for the American people.

Opposing Todd Blanche's nomination for Attorney General: I recently joined nine Members of Congress in urging Senate Majority Leader John Thune to reject President Trump's nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as Attorney General. The Attorney General must be independent, impartial, and committed to pursuing justice wherever the facts lead. Unfortunately, Mr. Blanche's record raises serious concerns about whether he can fulfill that responsibility.

For months, Americans were promised transparency regarding the Epstein files, yet key records remain withheld, millions of pages of documents have not been released, and survivors continue to seek answers. As scrutiny mounted, Mr. Blanche became a central figure in the Justice Department's handling of the matter, including his controversial meeting with Ghislaine Maxwell. Survivors deserve the truth, the public deserves confidence that justice is being applied fairly, and the Department of Justice deserves leadership whose foremost loyalty is to the Constitution and the rule of law.

Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th Congressional District of Illinois, which includes part of Addison, Wood Dale and Bensenville.

Interesting facts related to Independence Day in the United States

METRO EDITORIAL

Americans celebrate Independence Day every July 4.

The holiday has become synonymous with summer fun, as grand fireworks displays and backyard barbecues are integral components of many people's July 4 celebrations.

As Americans and residents of the United States prepare for some festive Fourth of July celebrations, they can keep these interesting facts related to Independence Day in mind.

- There have been many iterations of the American flag. The American flag has become an iconic symbol of freedom recognized across the globe since the United States declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776. But few July 4 celebrants may know that the current version is the 27th iteration of the American flag. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the current version of the flag officially became the flag on July 4, 1960.
- More than half of all Americans own an American flag. A 2023 poll from WalletHub found that 57 percent of Americans own an American flag. And that's not the only way Americans show their national pride, as the same poll found that roughly one in three Americans intended to purchase patriotic merchandise for July 4.
- The United States is not the only place to celebrate American independence. Such celebrations occur in various countries, including

Australia, Denmark, Ireland, and Norway. The festivities in Rebild National Park in Denmark is believed to be the largest celebration of American independence outside the United States.

- The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates that 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4. Though there's no corresponding estimate related to how many hamburgers Americans eat on July 4, various reports suggest Americans eat roughly 50 billion burgers annually, so it's fair to conclude many a burger will be consumed this Independence Day.
- July is a popular month for nations to celebrate their independence. In addition to the United States, various countries, including Algeria (July 5), Argentina (July 9), The Bahamas (July 10), Belarus (July 3), Burundi (July 1), Canada (July 1), Cape Verde (July 1), Colombia (July 20), Kiribati (July 12), and Liberia (July 26), celebrate their Independence Day in July.
- John Adams, a Founding Father of the United States and the second president in the country's history, felt Americans should celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 2. That's because the Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776. However, the Declaration of Independence was not approved for two more days, thus making July 4 the day to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.



Few July 4 celebrants may know that the current version is the 27th iteration of the American flag. The most recent version officially became the flag on July 4, 1960. (Adobe Stock Image)

Did you know?

Americans are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States this summer, and the word “semiquincentennial” may come up in conversation at many gatherings. Some people may not be familiar with the term and what it means. A semiquincentennial is the 250th anniversary of something. It breaks down to “half” of a “quincentennial,” which is 500 years. Synonyms may include sestercentennial, bisequicentennial or quatermillennial. Each term refers to a period of 250 years. It's a rather large word for a simple meaning, but people are bound to hear more of it as Independence Day is celebrated on July 4.

**HAPPY
4TH OF JULY!**



Addison
INDEPENDENT

Bensenville
INDEPENDENT

Elmhurst
INDEPENDENT

Lombardian

Villa Park
REVIEW

dupagecommunitynews.com

Community Bank of Elmhurst

Member
FDIC

330 W. Butterfield - 133 N. York
(630)782-1234 - www.communityelmhurst.com

“Lap Your Competition!”



Finish in First with CBE!

SPORTS

JULY 2, 2026 • 11

IC Catholic Prep girls basketball enjoys productive summer

Knights competed in Lisle summer league

BY MIKE MIAZGA
CORRESPONDENT

With the IC Catholic Prep girls basketball team having graduated a number of key seniors from last year's team, coach Todd Fisher knew this recent summer session would be an important one.

And he couldn't be any more happier with how the month of June unfolded.

"We graduated a good amount of key seniors," Fisher said. "We went into the summer from the coaching standpoint trying to see who is coming up, what sophomores we have coming up and who are the returning varsity kids and trying to see what works and what doesn't work and work on some things this summer. In our last get-together, I told them I was happy. We were very happy with what we saw."

Fisher foresees the Knights "having a very balanced team next year," he said. "We have inside strength and outside strength and we have shooters. We have kids who can get to the basket and we have a very good inside presence. We saw a lot of potential this summer. The kids said it, too. They are looking forward to the first day of practice. We had a lot of kids who did well and showed potential from Day 1 of summer to the last day of summer. Everyone got better and from my standpoint, that was awesome to see."

In addition to the team's standard camp days, the Knights competed in the Lisle summer league.

"I will say our last day at Lisle we played three games and every game came down to the last possession," Fisher said. "One of the other coaches came over and was talking and said, 'I don't know how you guys end the season any

"Those are important learning opportunities for the kids and learning opportunities for us as coaches, putting kids in late-game situations and seeing how they perform. We're trying different things. I told the kids on our last day together, it was an appropriate way to end in terms of those situations. I was very happy."

IC Catholic Prep coach Todd Fisher

better.' We played some good competition. Of course, you want to win to end the season.

"Maybe we were 1-2 in those last three games, but every one of them came down to the end.

"Those are important learning opportunities for the kids and learning opportunities for us as coaches, putting kids in late-game situations and seeing how they perform. We're trying different things. I told the kids on our last day together, it was an appropriate way to end in terms of those situations. I was very happy."

Returning all-conference player Libby Phillips was among many Knights who turned in notable summers. "Libby had a good summer," Fisher said.

While Fisher said superlatives happened up and down the roster throughout the summer, he also cited strong play from juniors-to-be Mia Leischner, Emerson Hyland and Lucy Lee, along with returning senior Ali Fromelt.

"The juniors-to-be looked good and Ali looked good as a returning senior," he said.

"I was happy with everyone from the returning kids to the varsity newcomers. I thought every player looked good and improved. At one point recently, we went kid by kid and it was very easy for me to say this is what you did well this summer. From the first game to the last game, we saw that growth and improvement that I hope would happen and it did. It showed."

IC Catholic Prep will play in an expanded Girls Catholic Athletic Conference that welcomes in the teams from the old East Suburban Catholic Conference.

IC Catholic Prep will compete in one of three divisions. The Knights' grouping includes Wheaton St. Francis, Chicago Resurrection, St. Viator out of Arlington Heights, Joliet Catholic, Marmion Academy (now co-ed) and Chicago De La Salle.

The Knights have crossover games scheduled with one team from each of the other two divisions (Aurora Central Catholic and Chicago Marist).

Fisher noted in the expanded conference everybody plays the teams in their division once and there is no end-of-season conference tournament.

And Fisher can't wait for the 2026-2027 season to get underway.

"I liked how it all ended," Fisher said. "Everybody from the players to the coaches had a productive summer. We are all looking forward to next year already."

Three York girls water polo players collect all-state honors

Giuliani named state coach of the year

BY MIKE MIAZGA
CORRESPONDENT

The York girls water polo team's historic season was punctuated further with three players earning all-state honors.

Senior Tessa Schultz was named to the all-state first team, as was junior Kate McCarthy. Junior Emily Jensen earned all-state second-team honors.

McCarthy, Schultz and Jensen played key roles in the Dukes finishing second in the state — the highest-ever finish in program history.

York lost 16-11 to now four-time defending state-champion Lincolnshire Stevenson in the state-title game.

Schultz finished the season with 88 goals and 45 assists, while McCarthy had 80 goals and 23 assists. Jensen had 77 goals and 26 assists.

Against Stevenson (35-1, 71-1 over the last 2 years and 140-3-1 in the last 4 years), York trailed 5-3 after the first quarter and 10-5 at halftime. Each team scored six goals in the second half.

Kate McCarthy led the Dukes with four goals and one assist, while Sophia Kamenica had three goals and three assists. Tessa Schultz added two goals, while Sam Szejner had one goal and one assist. Kayla Sullivan and Maya Czech each had one assist. York lost to Stevenson 10-9 during the regular season.

York finished the season 24-7-1 overall and made its fifth state appearance since 2021. The Dukes took third in 2023 and fourth in 2025.

York reached the state-title game after a close 13-12 win

over Chicago St. Ignatius in the state semifinals. St. Ignatius led 3-2 after the first quarter, but the Dukes outscored

St. Ignatius 6-1 in the second quarter to take an 8-4 lead into halftime. The Wolfpack outscored York 4-2 in the third quarter and 4-3 in the fourth quarter.

Emily Jensen led the Dukes with five goals, while Schultz and McCarthy had three goals each. Czech had two goals. Szejner and Kamenica each had two assists, while Ella Graefe had one assist.

York's path to the state runner-up finish started with wins against Morton (11-2), Chicago Northside (15-2) and Oak Park Fenwick (9-7) to win the Fenwick sectional.

The Dukes then defeated New Trier 10-7 to win the Glenbrook South super-sectional title in Glenview, which stamped their spot in the state semifinals. York was 1-1 during the regular season against New Trier.

In addition to the offensive firepower from Schultz, McCarthy and Jensen, Kamenica had 17 goals and 41 assists heading into the state semifinals, while Czech had 17 goals and 10 assists.

Sullivan had 16 goals and 15 assists. Szejner had 14 goals and 16 assists, while Graefe had 14 goals and 13 assists. Nora Dewbray had 12 goals and 16 assists.

York goalie Caroline Lemeka had 148 saves and a 6.79 goals-against average heading into the state semifinals.

Additionally on the awards front, York coach Mark Giuliani was named the state girls water polo coach of the year. Giuliani is 253-110-2 in 13 seasons at York and has coached the Dukes to the three state top-four finishes since 2021. York is 135-35-1 since 2021

Player of the week sponsored by

Community Bank

Member
FDIC



www.communityelmhurst.com
(630)782-1234

proudly presents

**YORK HIGH SCHOOL
PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**Tessa Schultz, Kate McCarthy and
Emily Jensen; York girls water polo**

Schultz and McCarthy were recently named to the girls water polo all-state first team, while Jensen earned all-state second-team honors.

This trio helped York finish second in the state, the program's highest-finish ever. Schultz scored 88 goals and had 45 assists, while McCarthy had 80 goals and 23 assists. Jensen ended the year with 77 goals and 26 assists.

We want to print your news!

Special awards and recognition, Dean's list, graduations, scholarships ... send your college news to independent@ourkemediagroup.com