

# MY SUNDAY NEWS

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APRIL 18 - MAY 1, 2024

qu<sup>ick</sup>shot



**SC runner makes sweet repeat 11**

qu<sup>ick</sup>quote

**The solar eclipse viewing was a remarkable learning opportunity...8**



Charles Kupsky

Story Page 4

Provided | MSDN Photo

Charles Kupsky was a top turret gunner/engineer on a B-17 during WWII. Between 1944-45, Kupsky participated in some of the most dangerous missions of the war over Poland, France, and Germany. This photo was taken September 18, 1944 before a mission over Warsaw.


**Masters of the air Air series prompts SC resident to investigate details of father's WWII experiences on B-17**

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lifeinfocus

# Waiting for the sun



**Carol Pavlik**  
Columnist

I'm nestled cozily in my chair, still wearing my pajamas, socks, and slippers. Hat and gloves ward off the damp chill of the early morning. My husband hands me a cup of coffee, and I take it gratefully, watching the steam rise, curl, and dissipate into the morning air.

The sky has that expectant pink hue to it. We are also expectant, having risen early from our little camping trailer to greet the sunrise. This was a planned thing, involving Google searches of when the sun would rise, earlier bedtime the night before,

and several alarms set. Waking up on a campsite, in the middle of the woods with a view of a lake, is a much more pleasant experience than waking up on a weekday at home, when we are tending to mundane things like emptying the dishwasher and transferring wet clothes to the dryer before we rush off to work trying not to spill hot coffee on ourselves or the car.

Even though no one else is near us at the campsite, we still whisper to each other between sips of coffee. There are long silences, too, as we each drift into our own thoughts. We comment on the layers and layers of birdsong, the way the birds call and answer each other from treetops. To me it always sounds like the songbirds are performing an avant garde symphony, complete with percussion from

the woodpeckers. The geese, who flit and land ungracefully with a splash on the calm surface of the water sound to me like they are gossiping. Their honks and screeches sound like laughter, but not happy laughter — mean girl laughter.

When I think the sky can't get any pinker, it does, over and over, deepening its hue. There are some clouds on the horizon, or so we think. It is hard to tell whether anything will happen at all. I yawn; he gets up to pour another cup of coffee. The squirrels are awake now, too. I wonder if they wait for the sunrise each morning, or if some squirrels burrow down deeper into their nests, wanting to snooze for 10 more minutes like I often do.

It feels as though we've been waiting for a long time already.

I eye the clouds at the horizon. "Maybe it's not going to happen today...because of the clouds," I say.

"It'll come," he tells me. "Let's wait another minute."

We fall back into silence. The birds are getting louder. More geese are gathering on the lake.

"Hmmm," he says. "Maybe there are too many clouds. Maybe we won't see much of a sunrise this morning after all."

It's my turn to say, "It'll come. Let's wait another minute."

The sun crowns at the horizon when it's good and ready; the most beautiful, pink sun, just peeking over the hills beyond the lake. We've been waiting for so long that we practically feel honored that the sun decided to show at all, much less in such a glorious, glowing fashion. From that moment, time speeds up, and we hold our breath as light floods the sky, the trees, even the gossiping geese.



The views in these letters are the writers' own.

Kerth wants us to consider the cost of ignorance. That's what I do with a lot of what I read. He just can't get enough of creating expectations via lowered requirements and standards, and fearfully justifying it as saving children from the experiencing Great Depression hardships. He mentions that the skillset bar requirement is increased relative to previous educational levels as if children today don't grow up in a higher day to day technical skill set environment. (Heard any good get my grandkids to program the remote jokes lately?) Oh, and I love his com-

paring setting debtors free to releasing prisoners for time served. Almost sounds like Trump calling January 6 rioters in prison hostages.


His article ends with a list of what his critics will write to the editor so he can preemptively say, "See, I told you they would say that." Pretty non-ignorant of him, so I'll just thank him for including the obvious rebuttals for all to see. If I were to mention the debt consequences of bad decisions, and the oft ignored trade school option, the rebuttal list would only grow. So, let's just say that this is another debt consequence that he says it's time for us to dig into our pockets to pay as if we are not already paying for the list of debts his articles regularly espouse.

But I won't say anything about any of that. What Kerth fails to acknowledge is the value personal investment cost provides. Personal investment develops a different skillset that an unmerited award does not.

Personal investment also instills self-appreciation of one's abilities. Kerth identified the struggles he had paying his debts. Good for him, me and millions of others who are better for the experience. Struggle accompanies personal investment. Kirth's plan substitutes struggle with expectation which has no contributing value.

Education through high school guides people into adulthood in a (an overly?) protective environment. If from the view of many who responsibly over time paid their debts, the young people today are less prepared for adulthood than generations of yore, it's not biological or economical. It's "Kerthical."

**Doug Jenks**  
Sun City resident




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# Fischer: 'He was always my hero'

By Carol Pavlik  
For My Sun Day News

**D**olores Fischer of Sun City never knew much about her father's service in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. With only a plain brown box she found among her parents' things containing pictures and military forms, she thought she'd never know the full details of her father's bravery. But 25 years after his death, Dolores made the discovery of a lifetime.

When Dolores Fischer was a junior in high school studying WWII, her U.S. History teacher suggested that his students interview their fathers who were war veterans. Fischer knew that her father flew in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, flying Boeing B-17s, a four-engined heavy bomber aircraft. Beyond that, details were scarce. When she asked him to let her interview him, he seemed uneasy.

"I'd love to help you, Dolores, but I just can't talk about it," he told his daughter.

"At 16, I really didn't understand. I didn't know the extent of his service,

but he was always very proud that he served," she says.

Dolores, now 76, has finally pieced together about her father's service between July 1, 1943 - January, 1945, thanks to a miniseries, knowledgeable friends, a memorial foundation, and a searchable database.

"God bless the internet!" exclaims Dolores. "I mean, seriously."

Dolores' friends, Jim and Barb Belmont, invited her to watch "Masters of the Air," a 9-episode miniseries on Apple TV+, produced by Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, and Gary Goetzman. The series is based on the actual 100th Bombardment Group in WWII, known as the "Bloody 100th." Dolores was instantly drawn into the historical drama, seeing for the first time a depiction similar to what her father might have lived.

"I saw this episode where 23 planes went on a bomb mission, and one returned. They showed the planes getting destroyed and all these men dying. Now I understand why my father could not talk about it," she says.

Wanting to learn more, Dolores started doggedly searching online, listening to podcasts and YouTube interviews, learning as much as she could about the men who flew the B-17s. But she hit the jackpot when she connected with Gerald Grove, an historian and volunteer with the 95th Bomb Group Memorial Foundation.

"I knew my dad's serial number, and I told him the story," says Dolores. Gerald directed Dolores to the website's searchable database. Together, they discovered that her father, Charles R. Kupsky, was



Charles H. Kupsky

an Engineer and Top Turret Gunner who completed 35 missions, primarily over Germany, France, and Poland in 1944-45.

"Masters of the Air" suggests that after 20 missions, airmen were typically allowed to go home. Dolores believes that her father may have chosen to stay longer, wanting to finish the job. "[The men] were so patriotic and believed they were helping," she says.

"Here I am, 76 years old, and I never knew anything except for this box of pictures and military forms. I knew it was a treasure, but I didn't understand it," she says. "Jim Belmont helped me understand all the documents I have, and

Gerald Grove provided me with a wealth of information."

Even now, when Dolores talks about her father, it brings tears to her eyes.

"I feel so fulfilled, now that I know that my dad was a hero," she says. "He was always my hero."



Provided | MSDN Photo

Mildred and Charles Krupsky pose in 1944: Mildred wearing a United States Post Office uniform, Charles in his U.S. Army Air Forces uniform. When Charles was drafted in 1944, Mildred took over his job at the Post Office so he wouldn't lose his position while he was on active duty.

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theviewfromplanetkerth

A long-awaited dinner date with a bug



**TR Kerth**  
 Columnist

If history is any measure, I'll be eating a big bug sometime soon. Maybe several of them.

That's because the long-awaited 17-year cicadas are clearing their throats underground just beneath the trees right now, and soon the branches above will ring with their robust songs. And every other time in my life that they've come to visit—four times in total before this time — they somehow found a way into my mouth.

My first encounter with the gigantic periodic bugs was in 1956, when I was eight years old. I lived in Elmwood Park at the time, a town whose very name must warm the cockles of a tree-loving cicada's soul.

They were everywhere, and because they were new to us, my friends and I devised a hundred ways to have fun with them—many of those capers admittedly too cruel to mention in these kinder, gentler times. But, hey, we were eight-year-old cinder-alley free-range boys on a very long leash.

At some point in our games, someone dared someone else to eat one. Double-dog dares darted back and forth, putting our burgeoning manhood on the line. And so, to prove to every kid on the block that I wasn't chicken, I ate a bug — which is pretty much exactly what a chicken would do, proof that burgeoning manhood doesn't include a keen understanding of irony.

Everybody laughed and then refused to eat one themselves, though that was the pre-arranged agreement.

As a result, today I'm the only one of that group able to write a column about eating a bug. The other guys probably went on to write about how to trick some other chump into eating a bug. It is thus that a nation's great literary tradition is formed.

The next time, in 1973, I was a

young family man, teaching English at Maine South High School, located directly across the street from a massive forest preserve along the Des Plaines River in Park Ridge. That forest has been a mecca for 17-year cicadas for hundreds of thousands of years, and perhaps for millions of years, ever since the land rose from the sea and sprouted with trees.

My parents were looking for a spot to hold a family reunion. I suggested the pavilion in that forest preserve, and so, in early June, we all gathered to roast hot dogs and hamburgers on the built-in barbecue grills. Although we didn't plan it, several million cicadas showed up for our party.

And when I went to extinguish the coals after we had finished grilling and eating, I noticed that one of them had flown into the embers and crisped itself crunchy — and pretty tasty smelling. I popped him into my mouth in secret, because I didn't want to give my entire extended family any more reasons to wonder when I might finally grow up. I can reveal this to you today because most of those family members now sleep with the pre-teen cicadas — or if they are still above ground, they learned to stop reading me decades ago.

My third experience with the cicadas, in 1990, was at another barbecue, a season-end party for the girls' soccer team I coached. I was in charge of grilling the burgers and hot dogs, and when I yelled "They're ready," a flock of girls dashed over, paper plates in hand.

And just then, a wayward cicada fluttered over and plopped into the melted cheese atop one of the burgers, flipping and flopping until it was fully cheddared.

"Ew-w-w!" the girls sang in unison.

"That's OK," I said. "I'll eat that one."

"Ew-w-w-w-w!!" they sang, louder this time. One of them said, "I'm not hungry anymore."

"Oh, don't be silly," I said. "It's just protein," and I popped it into my mouth.

"E-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-ah!!!" they chorused, somehow finding a way to draw out their song through several syllables.

But they all ate a burger or a hot dog, some of them with an extra bit of daring protein on top. Sometimes being a good teacher means setting a good example.

The last time I encountered the cicadas was in 2007, just after I had retired from teaching and was finding new things to do with my time. It was at the Hines Ronald McDonald House at Loyola, where I volunteered each Friday. We were walking back to the car at the end of the day, trying not to crunch the blanket of cicadas that covered the lawns and sidewalks.

"Have you ever eaten one?" my buddy Bill asked, suspecting the answer already.

"Yes, of course I have," I said. "Have you?" I asked, certain of the answer already.

"No, of course not," he said. "Did you eat it raw?"

"Well, not since I was a kid," I said, and when he asked how it tasted, I had to admit that I didn't remember.

And so, I bit one in half and chewed it up, because when you're an older gentleman, you don't want to confess that there's anything you don't remember.

I hope it's not a spoiler alert to say that it had a bland, earthy, vegetative taste, sort of like a raw potato with the skin left on. Pretty much exactly what you'd expect from a critter that spent the last 17 years underground, sucking sap from a tree root.

But don't just take my word for it, because the Big Bug Jamboree is coming up soon — round 5 for me — and you'll have the chance to find out for yourself how they taste.

And if you come up with any interesting recipes, let me know.

I'll be searching for a nice wine to pair it with.

• *TR Kerth is the author of the book "Revenge of the Sardines." Contact him at trkerth@yahoo.com*

WHITE SOX FAN CLUB

The Chicago White Sox Fan Club will hold its next meeting on Wednesday April 24 6 p.m. It will be held at the Village Inn Restaurant located in the Huntley Square. This will be "Trivia Night" as Bill McMahon (Sun City Trivia Club) and our own trivia guru, Jim O'Connor plan an exciting evening. All members will get involved and have the opportunity to win some excellent prizes. They will test your Chicago White Sox knowledge and a little bit about Chicago sports.

As always, we will have our 50/50, door prizes and some great food (Pulled Pork sandwiches, coleslaw, chips, soft drinks & coffee \$10pp). Beer and mixed drinks can be purchased. Guest are always welcome. Club information call Glenn Groebli at 847-515-8336



# Hands-only CPR training part of public health in Sun City and Huntley

By Christine Such

For My Sun Day News

The Huntley Fire Department organized a hands-only CPR event and provided essential instruction on using the AED for the Sun City Woodchucks. This demonstration was a significant opportunity for everyone to practice life-saving techniques on an adult mannequin. Lt. Kelly Gitzke, Director of Mobile Integrated Health, Huntley Fire Protection District, provided this training.

Steve Klein, a Woodchuck Charter Club member, said, "Lt. Kelly does a fantastic job showing the process of saving a person's life. She then explains it in a way that's easy to follow and gives hands-on training that takes attendees from I can't do that to yes, I can do this. We all know that when a medical emergency happens, seconds count. I'm very grateful we have a professional like Lt. Kelly that we can count on. I look forward to doing this refresher class every year."

The training takes approximately 45 minutes.

Gitzke said, "We can host this in conjunction with a meeting for your group at your location of choice.



Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Lt. Kelly Gitzke receives a Woodchuck thank you for her presentation to the club.

There is no certification with this demonstration."

Woodchuck Vice President Mike Shortridge said, "We are so grateful for the training she provides us. We have the training twice a year, and it fills up. I've attended the sessions each time, and I have learned something each time. I was so grateful to have Lt Kelly available to provide

us with these skills. She is so open and friendly, and I am so inspired by what she does."

Gitzke said, "We have conducted many hands-on CPR events throughout the Del Webb Community. The Huntley Fire Protection District hopes to get more people to learn how to perform compression-only CPR and how to use an AED. For every cardiac arrest SAVE we had last year, bystander CPR was done and successful. We want everyone in the community to contact 911 immediately and get an AED if available. They also need to know how to push hard and fast and practice with a mannequin. It is not easy, but with practice, it can be done. Lives are saved in the Huntley community due to bystander CPR."

A certification CPR/AED class can be arranged for any group. This is a certification class through the American Heart Association. This class covers adult, child, and infant CPR and AED use, including choking. It is three hours long. The class can accommodate 15 people at once. Cost is \$35/person. It is held at the Huntley Fire Station at 11118 Main St., Huntley, IL. To sign up for an entire CPR class with certification, visit the Huntley Fire Protection District webpage at [www.huntleyfpd.org](http://www.huntleyfpd.org).

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### SHALOM GROUP

The Shalom Group of Sun City Huntley offers fun and fellowship for members of the Sun City Huntley Jewish community, their spouses, significant others, singles, and Jewish inter-faith couples. For further information contact Lynne Shkolnik, program chair, at [lynneshkolnik48@gmail.com](mailto:lynneshkolnik48@gmail.com).

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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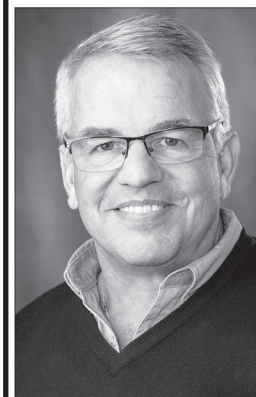
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# askanangel



**Arlene Petersen**  
Columnist

**Q** I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out to you because I am feeling overwhelmed and stressed, and I could use some guidance on how to cope better.

Recently, I've been dealing with a lot of stress due to the increasing demands of caregiving for my husband, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Every day seems like a new challenge as I try to balance his care, household responsibilities, and my emotional well-being. Watching someone you love slowly slip away is incredibly difficult, and it feels like the weight of the world is on my shoulders.

I've always considered my-

self to be resilient, but lately, the stress has been taking its toll on me both mentally and physically. I find myself feeling exhausted all the time, struggling to sleep at night, and unable to concentrate on simple tasks. I'm constantly on edge, waiting for the next crisis to hit.

I know that I need to find better ways to manage my stress before it starts affecting my health even more. That's why I'm reaching out to you for advice. I would appreciate any tips or techniques you could share to help me reduce my chronic stress and find some peace amidst the chaos.

**A** Thank you for reaching out and sharing your story with me. I can only imagine how challenging it must be for you to navigate the complexities of caregiving

while dealing with the emotional strain of your husband's Alzheimer's diagnosis.

First and foremost, I want to commend you for your strength and resilience. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to face such difficult circumstances, and the fact that you're reaching out for help speaks volumes about your determination to find a way through this.

Based on your situation, I can understand why you're feeling overwhelmed and stressed. Caregiving can be incredibly demanding, both physically and emotionally, and it's essential to prioritize your well-being as much as possible. Here are some tips that may help you manage your chronic stress more effectively.

Start with self-care. Remember that taking care of yourself is just as important as taking

care of your husband. Make self-care a non-negotiable part of your daily routine, whether it's taking a soothing bath, indulging in your favorite hobby, or simply taking a few moments to breathe deeply and center yourself.

Next, get help. It's unrealistic to expect that you can do everything alone. Acknowledge what you can accomplish in a day and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

Whether it's enlisting the support of family members, hiring a professional caregiver, or reaching out to local resources, asking for help can reduce your stress significantly.

Don't isolate yourself from friends and loved ones. Reach out to your support network for companionship, encouragement, and practical assistance. Sharing your feelings with oth-

ers who understand what you're going through can provide comfort and validation.

Consider talking to a therapist or counselor who specializes in caregiver support. They can provide you with strategies for managing stress, coping with difficult emotions, and finding healthy ways to care for yourself while caring for your husband.

Remember, you are stronger than you know, and there is hope even amid difficult circumstances. Best wishes to you!

*• Have a question for our angel correspondent? Send our angel an email at [jbarrett@visitingangels.com](mailto:jbarrett@visitingangels.com), or write in at Ask An Angel, 65 Woodbury St., South Elgin, IL 60177.*

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## SHELDON CLARK'S CREATIVE CORNER

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## D158 students, staff witness eclipse history

By Christine Such  
For My Sun Day News

On April 8, District 158 got to leave the classroom to witness history. The streets, parking lots, driveways, and Huntley Community School District 158 schoolyards were filled with students who paused their activities to witness a solar eclipse. At precisely 1:30 on Monday, April 8, students stepped outdoors, equipped with their eclipse glasses, to witness the convergence of the sun and the moon from Earth's vantage point, a sight that sparked wonder

and excitement.

Denise Barr, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Huntley Community School District 158, emphasized, "Our utmost priority was the safety of our students. The solar eclipse viewing was a remarkable learning opportunity, and we had meticulously procured the eclipse viewing glasses well in advance, ensuring their safety was never compromised."

Eclipse glasses are often made with a polyester film coated in aluminum, and they are highly specialized. Proper eclipse glasses are 100,000 times darker

than regular sunglasses, blocking nearly all visible, infrared, and ultraviolet light and protecting our sensitive retinas when looking skyward.

Barr said, "We communicated extensively with the families of students. We wanted them to know that we were keeping them safe."

Teachers, staff members, and the school Superintendent joined the students.

Barr said, "Our Superintendent, Jessica Lombard, led the students outside to watch the total solar eclipse. She loves being with the kids."

For those who traverse the globe in pursuit of total solar eclipses, the experience is nothing short of transformative. The moon's shadow obscuring the sun is a sight that leaves an incredible memory.

Barr said, "The next time they will probably see this event happen will be 2044. They will be adults. Their perspective now is through a child's eyes. It will be different the next time."

Superintendent Jessica Lombard, Ed.S., said, "I'd like to credit our learning and innovation department for recognizing the educational value in giving our students this unique opportunity to participate in this event safely. We hope being able to witness the solar eclipse firsthand is something our students and staff will remember for a long time to come."

## iheardthisquote...

By TR Kerth  
Columnist

A compilation of quotes worth thinking about

*I don't like spinach, and I'm glad I don't, because if I liked it I'd eat it, and I'd just hate it.*

- Clarence Darrow

*If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to treat everything as if it were a nail.*

- Maslov

*When chickens quit quarrelling over their food they often find that there is enough for all of them. I wonder if it might not be the same with the human race.*

- Don Marquis

*We have not the reverent feeling for the rainbow that the savage has, because we know how it is made. We have lost as much as we gained by prying into that matter.*

- Mark Twain

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Christine Such | MSDN Photo  
Sunflower Garden Club President Paulette Carrion with Bob Kolze of Kolze Corner Gardens at a nursery greenhouse.

# Sunflower Garden Club prepares for Spring Basket Sale

By Christine Such  
For My Sun Day News

Sun City's Sunflower Charter Club will hold its annual Spring Basket Sale on May 11 at Fountain View Pavil-

ion. This fundraiser will raise funds for the Garden Club's Scholarship Fund for Huntley Community School District 158.

Vice-President Marsha Geist of the Sunflower Garden Club said, "The Sunflower Garden

Club has been very active in fundraising and this past year has donated over \$10,000 to various organizations."

The club's president, Paulette Carrion, said, "When possible, we try to contribute to local

organizations like the Grafton Food Pantry, Huntley's Lion Club, Ride for Hope (Ovarian Cancer Awareness), Illinois JDRF Diabetes Chapter Support, Regional Economic Community Action Program of Illinois, St Jude's Hospital, and Huntley Community School District 158."

This fundraiser will support the Garden Club's scholarship, which will help two students defray some of the costs of an accredited two to four-year college or university.

Geist said, "Laura Martens from Huntley High School helps us select recipients. Students must graduate this spring, be residents of District 158, and pursue a degree in agriculture, botany, horticulture, or environmental sciences."

Kolze Corner Gardens of Woodstock provides the flower baskets. Bob Kolze has continued his family tradition. The Kolze family were farmers from the 1850s. Kolze's Dad started the garden center in 1969.

Kolze said, "I have been a lifelong student. There is a lot of trial and error in gardening. I attend Cultivate, a gardening conference and trade show at Ohio State every year. It's a premier event for the entire green industry. Workshops offer best practices, fresh ideas, and creative solutions."

Kolze's two greenhouses are filled with plants at different stages of growth. "We give the plants what they need, when they need it, by controlling their environment so that they can thrive," he said.

Carrion said, "By manipulating the plant's environment, we can speed up or slow down the plants' growth process so they bloom at just the right time for our plant sale."

Kolze said, "Our signature plants are nonstop Begonias, which are easy for consumers to grow. This year, our greenhouses are growing 190,000 pots of different plant varieties that were all planted by hand. Only ten percent are started from seed. The majority are started from patented cuttings. We have geraniums, Calibrachoa in various colors, and 22,000 Sunpatiens. We also have plants that repel mosquitos and beautiful hanging combination pots I've nicknamed 'porch potatoes.' They are not potatoes; repeat customers ask for them yearly."

Kolze will deliver 450 hand-planted and cultivated hanging baskets for the fundraiser on Saturday, May 11th, at the Fountain View Pavilion. The event opens at 9 a.m. The baskets are \$23, and there is a limit of four baskets per household. There will be several varieties and colors of both sun and shade baskets.

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Landscaping that stands the test of time: making wise choices saves money



**Kathleen Carr**  
Columnist

Weddings are such happy family occasions. They are filled with joy, laughter, dancing and help to create memories that the couple will cherish for years. It is with great anticipation that Chris, my husband, and I look forward to celebrating our eldest daughter, Mary's wedding. Both Mary and her fiancé will work hard to create the day of their dreams. As the mother of the bride, the only decision I need to make is "What am I wearing to the wedding?" Honestly, the answer is a 15-year-old dress. This is a dress that is of high quality, has been cleaned and stored properly, blends with the bridal party color scheme, and it still fits (a miracle!). The wise purchase of the dress back in 2009, will save me \$600-800 and hours of my time in 2024.

Like any major purchase, landscaping is an investment. If done properly, there are ways to save time and money immediately and every year going forward. This column will highlight ways to save money while creating a landscaping that you love.

One of the biggest ways to save money on your landscaping is by creating a landscape design with

the maintenance costs in mind. A Miss Kim lilac shrub, while initially may only cost \$42, however because this 'dwarf' plant can grow to 6-8' tall, if it is planted in front of a window or near a sidewalk, the annual costs of pruning this plant will far exceed the initial investment of \$42. Certain perennial flowers such as obedient plant (physostegia) and Joe Pye weed (eupatorium) prefer to grow in moist soil. If you don't have an area in your yard that is consistently wet then keeping the roots watered, will cost you time and money each summer. Planning and choosing wisely prior to planting is a must when considering how to save money on your landscaping.

Unfortunately, plants occasionally die. Sometimes, no matter what type of care is given to them, they do not do well in a certain area. Before purchasing plants, make sure they are guaranteed. Read the guarantee and get a copy in writing. Keep your receipts and should the plants not do well, ask that the guarantee be honored. A guarantee gives you, the consumer, rights within the framework of the guarantee and can save you quite a bit of money. It also helps to ensure that the company selling the plants has a vested interest in their survival.

The gift of someone's time is often more valuable than a physical present. Do you have a relative or friend that wants to give you a present for your birthday, Mother's

Day or Father's Day? An afternoon planting flowers, pulling weeds or spreading mulch may be the perfect present. The memories created on that afternoon are truly a gift.

As the saying goes, sometimes less is more. A smaller planting bed with less plants can bring more joy than one that is filled with plant that are too big for the space giving the appearance of an untended garden. Knowing the mature height and width of plants prior to purchasing them is key to a saving time and money on your landscaping. The mature width will give you an indication of the recommended spacing. If you are planting 3 panicle hydrangeas that each have a mature width of 4', then the closest that you may want to plant them is 5' from the center of one plant to the center of the other plant. This insures that at maturity they do not touch and that you are able to enjoy seeing them flower from all sides. If you are planting 3 arborvitae to create some privacy and those arborvitae grow 4' wide at maturity then you may want to plant them 3 1/2' on center. This allows them to create a bit of a privacy screen.

Annual flowers fill our lives with color each summer. Flats of annuals cost approximately \$30. A packet of annual flowers seeds costs approximately \$3. For 1/10 of the cost, you may be able to purchase and plant seeds with a very similar, if not better, outcome than purchasing a flat of flowers. Flowers such as marigolds, cosmos, bachelor

buttons and zinnias can be grown very easily from seed. Vegetable plants can also be purchased in seed form and either started indoors or directly sown into the ground or planters.

Seed exchanges and plant swaps are fantastic ways to get wonderful plants for free. Garden clubs and libraries often host these great events. Sharing plants among neighbors is a good way to learn more about what works in the area, what other gardeners recommend and expand your own plant knowledge. It was through one of these events that I learned out a black flowering hibiscus. It is very unique and beautiful!

Native plants are beauty and practicality combined. Frequently they have showy flowers with foliage that changes seasonally. In addition to benefiting our local wildlife they also benefit us. By requiring less watering they save us time and money. Native plants naturally require less maintenance once they have become established.

About 25 years ago I hired a group of farm laborers to remove the weeds that were growing amongst 2 acres of pumpkins. They efficiently and professionally tackled the job of hoeing carefully around each plant. The problem was I hired them about two weeks too late. It cost me dearly to hire them to remove weeds that were often above their knees. If I had planned ahead and scheduled the work earlier when the weeds were smaller, I would have saved

hundreds of dollars. Tackling time sensitive landscaping chores when they should be done is a lesson that I learned the hard way but it is also a mistake I have never made again.

Underneath all of our yards is a matrix of utility lines. There are gas, water, sewer, electric, phone and cable lines some of which may be buried just a few inches deep. J.U.L.I.E., the Joint Underground Locating Information for Excavators offers a free locating service. Make sure you, if you're doing the digging or your contractor if they are doing the digging calls 811 prior to any work being done. Not calling carries the risk of damaging an underground utility line and can cost you or the contractor hundreds if not thousands of dollars. It is also against the law.

Plants have different growth patterns. Some spread, some are clump forming and some behave relatively well by staying where they planted. By avoiding plants that spread aggressively you may be saving yourself years of frustration, time and money. Plants that have a reputation for spreading include ribbon grass (phalaris), snow on the mountain (aegopodium), lily of the valley (convallaris), mint (mentha), honeysuckle (lonicera), garlic mustard (alliaria) and chives (allium).

Making well thought out planting decisions and performing maintenance in a timely manner a landscape can and will stand the test of time, much like our favorite old clothes.



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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

SC resident Todd Kane poses next to a Sun City map. He has for the second time run past every house in the community.

## SC RESIDENT ACHIEVES GOAL OF RUNNING PAST EVERY SC HOME FOR THE SECOND TIME

By Christine Such  
For My Sun Day News

In 2021, Todd Kane managed to run by every home in Sun City. He started on January 1, 2021, and it took 66 days and 228 miles to run past 5400 homes. He decided to do it again.

Kane said, "I completed the final 2½ miles on March 2, 2024. This time, it took 61 days. The coldest run was on January 15, at -6 degrees F. You just dress for it. There's no bad weather, just bad clothes. The warmest day was January 2 at 54 degrees F."

Kane passed walkers and dog walkers regularly. "I say hi to everyone I pass. I did it again because I registered for a half marathon, 13.1 miles, in Philadelphia. The race gave me an incentive to do the

challenge again for training."

The Philadelphia Love Run took place on March 24, 2024. Since its inception, the race has sold out to more than 11,000 runners yearly. The race takes the runner through all of Philadelphia's incredible sights and sounds. Kane finished the race.

Kane said, "Let's just say I wasn't last." Kane has run 15 full 26.2-mile marathons, including the Chicago Marathon (three times). The Love Run was his 32nd half marathon.

Kane's love for running extends to helping others do their best. "2024 will be my sixth year as an assistant volunteer coach of the Huntley Boys Track Team. On the weekends, I will see some boys I coach running. I get a cheery 'Hi, Coach.' It's nice to see them out and training."

Spotting Coach Kane would be easy. He still sports his colorful beard. When asked what his favorite color is on that beard, Kane replies, "Green. The green is a result of the yellow and blue interacting. If you know the color wheel, you see how green got on the beard."

This year, he has had some challenges. There were days with icy sidewalks, and Kane took steps to ensure his safety on the run. He took a pair of running shoes and screwed little screws into the bottom. The altered shoes gave him the traction needed to keep safe on his run.

Kane said, "I hadn't planned on taking on this challenge again, but I did. My tracking watch records and syncs to my phone, showing my path. Like I did the last time, I went home and colored in the streets on the map I completed that day. I had forgotten a cul-de-sac, so I made an additional trip to complete that area."

Kane has recorded over 45,000 miles of running in 41 years.

"I have completed one lap around the equator, so to speak, 25000 miles. The earth is widest at its equator. My goal is to complete a second lap around 50,000 miles. It will likely take me five or six years. My diaries are my life story; in addition to my recorded runs, I include notes on when I ran, sightings, family events, etc. I refer back to old diaries frequently."

Maps are available at the lodge for anyone who wants to pick one up and see if they can walk, run, or bike the 97 miles of paved roads.

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## politicalplace

Today, free speech and supporting one or another political candidate is not a sign of rebellion but a sign of the freedom upon which our county is based. It is a way of showing support for a candidate and it is not meant to diminish other neighbors' signs for candidates they choose to support.

In the Sun City community, people supporting a candidate are prohibited putting signs up, not even in their windows. If a sign appears in a window, the homeowner receives citations from the HOA to take them down. If they do not comply, they receive a letter that warns them that the HOA will come to their home, enter their home, and take the sign down. I believe that anyone who trespasses into a homeowner's private property is committing a

The views in these letters are the writers' own.

crime, but that aside, it leaves a bland atmosphere in the community.

It would be wonderful to see signs going up in the neighborhoods that show there is life and breath and differences, all while we get together at our neighborhood gathering as friends.

**Gail Talbot**  
Sun City resident

Thank you, Larry Casey, for your article on what the Democratic Party has brought you. I pray it enlightens voters to make the correct choice at the polls.

**Joni Riley**  
Sun City resident

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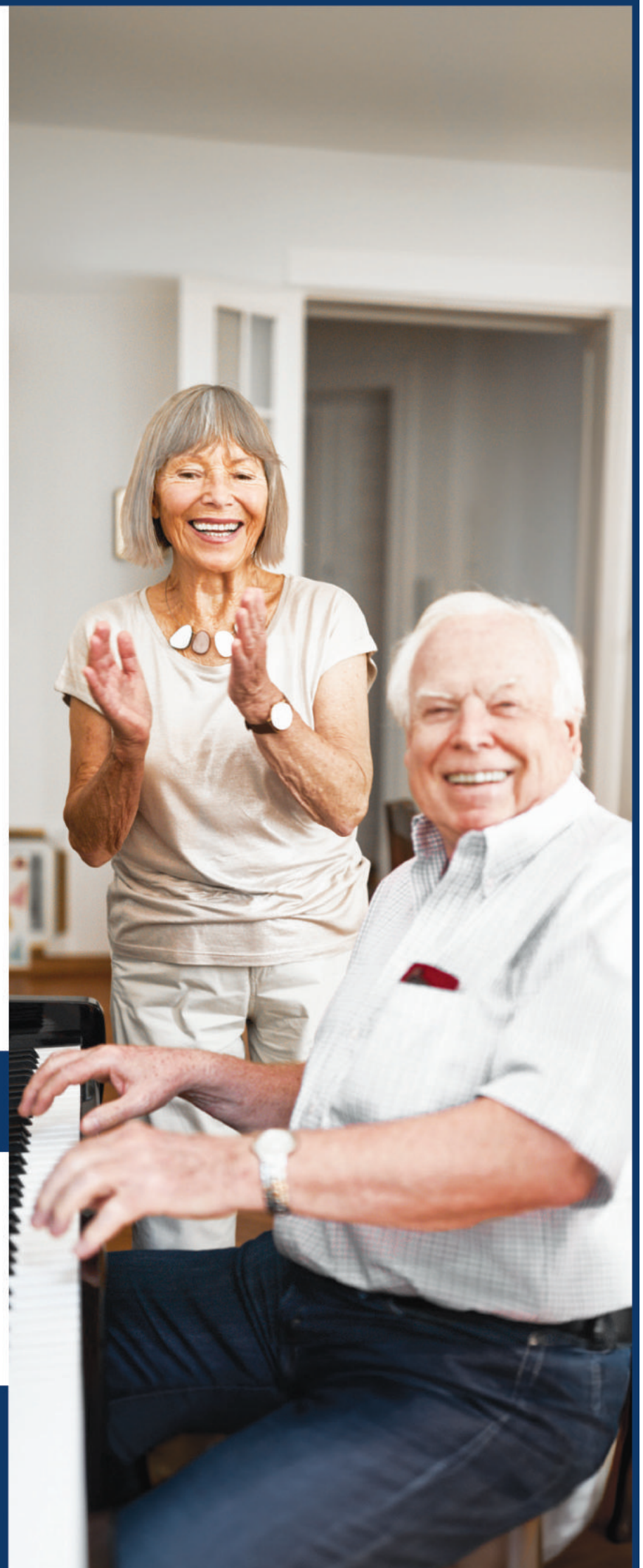
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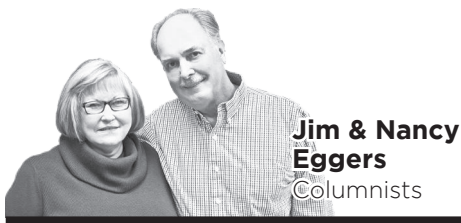
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## thediningduo

# Great Tata's



**Jim & Nancy Eggers**  
Columnists

*Jim and Nancy do not disclose the fact that they will review a restaurant before they attend, ensuring their reviews are unbiased and uninfluenced by their position with the Sun Day.*

When searching for restaurants to review, we seem to have fallen into a somewhat disturbing pattern. Unfortunately, our “golden years” are spent going from one doctor visit to another. We find ourselves googling for restaurants that are close to our next doctor appointment. Upon searching for restaurants in the Elk Grove Village area, our trained eyes spotted something totally different. It was a Polish restaurant based upon our favorite Polish dish, pierogis. We jailed up little Rosie in her crate and sped off to Tata's Pierogis.

This is a small store front venue that is handicap accessible. We walked in on a Wednesday afternoon and we were able to secure the last available table. The décor was modern with some European touches like their bucket chairs that are really comfy.

The format of this restaurant is different. You look at the menu, decide what you would like, then go up to the counter to place your order. You choose your drink from the nearby cooler. When placing your order, check out the small blackboard for the soup of the day. After ordering, you are given a number which you place on a stand at your table and wait for the goodness to arrive.

They offer ten varieties of savory pierogis, such as potato/cheddar/bacon and sauerkraut. They also offer three varieties of sweet pierogis: blueberry, chocolate, and sweet cheese. Also, on the menu are such Polish staples as Golabki (stuffed cabbage), Pyzy (potato dumplings stuffed with meat), and the ever-popular Baba Halina's Kartazce (a pork sausage in a cooked potato that weighs one pound). If that wasn't enough, it comes with three pierogis.

Dining Duo Tip: Read the menu closely. A lot of selections come with pierogis, potato pancakes, or a bite sized side of salad.

We spotted an item on the menu that we will always order. The addicting (5) Potato Pancakes (\$10.60). These were large, seasoned to perfection, and crispy around the edges. They were served with sour cream and apple sauce. Nancy's first forkful was a sight to behold. Her eyes rolled up in her head as she started mumbling in Polish. The funny thing is, she's

not Polish and she doesn't speak it. She has a hard enough time speaking English! They were the closest we have found to the ones that Nancy makes. Don't pass them up.

As usual, Jim ordered an item that contains basically everything in the restaurant, namely the Polish Plate (\$14.64). This was one huge potato pancake, one Polish sausage, and six pierogis of your choice (he chose sauerkraut). The entrée comes with a bite sized salad, a serving of their Goulash (fried sauerkraut with diced Polish sausage), and a pickle. The pierogis are topped with sauteed onions and bacon. Everything was amazing, and the Polish sausage was charred for that extra snap. Half his meal came home in a doggie bag.

Nancy had the 12 Pierogis (\$14.48) and she had her choice of two types. She chose the potato/cheddar/bacon and sauerkraut. This was also topped with bacon and sauteed onions. She liked the potato/cheddar/bacon ones, but the sauerkraut ones were a bit too sour for her taste. She took half her meal home in a doggie bag.

The restaurant is now on our list of go to venues when we are in the area. They also have a freezer where you can go in and pick up packages of your favorite Polish dishes to take home. As they say in Poland, Smacznego (bon appetit)!!!

The price for our Polish cuisine was \$47.90, finding authentic Polish cuisine, priceless....

### He Said / She Said

**JIM'S TAKE:** I loved the sampler platter. You get a little bit of everything, or in this case, a lot of everything.

**NANCY'S TAKE:** Jim's Polish sausage was delish, but the potato pancakes stole my heart.

*• Have comments or restaurant suggestions for the Dining Duo? Send them an email at [thediningduo@gmail.com](mailto:thediningduo@gmail.com)*



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## let'sgetreel

## Shrouded in darkness



**Will Moore**  
Columnist

**A**pril 8 was quite a momentous day for the nation. Hopefully, dear readers, you were able to catch even the minute of glimpses. A thunderhead came over the skies as our beloved moon fell into orbit, just transiting our sun. That star became like obsidian to some, varying degrees of shade for others. Vacationing in Indiana, I was able to witness ninety-eight percent coverage from the comfort of a lake house, bloody Mary in hand. Although not complete totality, the sight was beautiful just the same. Sudden shadows and birdsong transfixed me as the extremely waning crescent hung above us; an eerie experience indeed, but gorgeous as well.

That may also be the best way to describe Netflix's latest sensation Ripley. This is the third attempt at adapting Patricia Highsmith's labyrinthine novel. But this has to be the murkiest. Having went to the theater in 1999 to watch the Matt Damon version, director Minghella's light touch brought us into lush hotels

and riviervas regardless of the proceedings. It may have even brought about my love of jazz. Later I found appreciation for the 1960s French take starring Alain Delon, his suave demeanor oozing sex appeal across the screen.

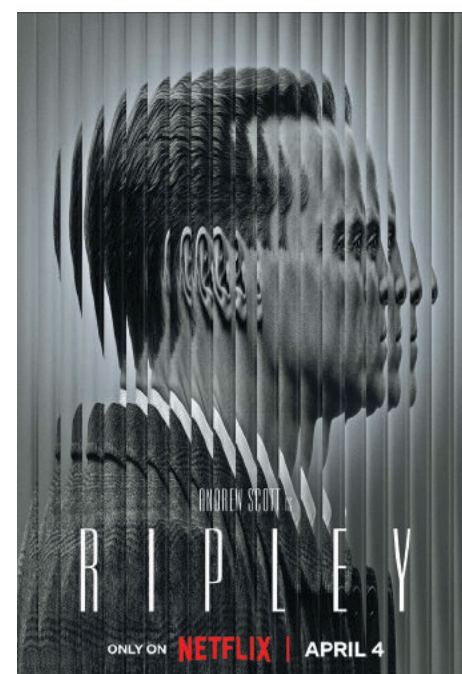
Fresh off All of Us Strangers (and Hot Priest from "Fleabag" for some), Andrew Scott finds yet another facet in this prism of a character. Tom's awkward body movement and facial expressions hide any true nature in the opening episodes. Is he just socially inept or unable to completely obscure his more dangerous tendencies? A smile can be just mechanical, functional; lacking any empathy. Yet he knows what to observe and use to his benefit, secure in his scheming. When we find him in New York, scams are as natural as breathing to him. When Mr. Greenleaf extends Tom an invitation to bring his son Dickie back, he jumps at leaving for Europe.

One thing immediately different; the black and white photography, though lacking in vibrancy, lends austere grandeur to Highsmith's tale. Writer/director Steven Zaillian has claimed in interviews that choice was due to a photo on his hardcover copy. But Robert Elswit's monochrome, not unlike his work in Good Night and Good Luck, isn't grainy

nor lacking in texture. Whereas there, it was about expressing gravitas towards journalism. Here, it obscures Ripley and his underlying motives. Detailed focus on surroundings either lit or bathed in dark silhouettes, he evokes Ripley's beloved Caravaggio paintings. The stilted acting, which could get annoying, only delves further into Tom's twisted mind. Through imaginary conversations and expository letter reading; this is Tom's story no one else's.

Johnny Flynn is commendable as Dickie as is Eliot Sumner as his pal Freddie Miles. The MVP would have to go to Dakota Fanning as Marge Sherwood. Her deadpan delivery becomes much more engaging coupled with each flit of her eyelash or slight curl of a smirk. No emotion is left unpunctuated, nor devoid of nuance. She can go toe-to-toe with anything Scott throws at her, an adversarial tango by the last episode.

A dark sense of perverse humor is peppered around, as characters are forced to walk innumerable flights of stairs or as Ripley bumbles through disposing of bodies, never a dull moment for anyone into more arty fare. Only one complaint I have is the more obligatory call-backs to previous Ripley films. A stray reference in the music here, a minor motif



there is all well and good. Casting John Malkovich in a meta-conversation about art dealing was an exercise in fourth wall breaking I thought reserved for Tarantino. Nevertheless, Netflix is to be commended for presenting such a masterful bauble of a miniseries; fit for a night with some red wine and fun company. Just be careful to whom you make those friendships with.

Insured, Bonded  
Fully Vaccinated

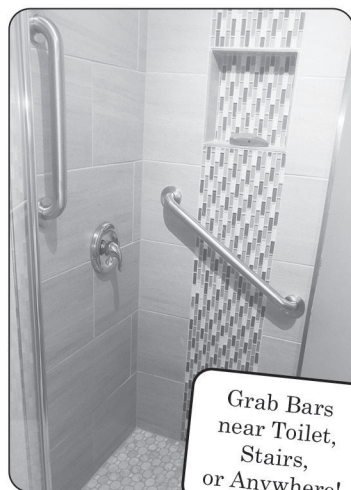
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**SEEKING**  
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**ONGOING SEEKING GOLFERS**  
The Sun City Tuesday Men's (golf) League is accepting new members and substitutes for the 2024 season.  
We play at Pinecrest Tuesday mornings starting at 7:20 a.m. off both #1 & #10 tees.  
This is an 18-hole Match Play handicap league with two divisions. One for lower handicaps and one for higher handicaps,  
We also encourage golfers who can't commit to every Tuesday for 20 weeks, to sign up as a sub. With 6 to 8 subs playing each week, they are an important part of the league.  
Cash prizes are awarded each week for "Closest to the hole," "Longest putt," and "Skins." Subs are included!  
Year-end cash prizes are awarded based on match play points earned each week, at our end of season luncheon.  
The top half of each division receive the awards. We are entering our 25th season. Last year we had 60 regulars and 40 subs.  
For more information e-mail Ron Hawley (ronaldhawley@yahoo.com)

**APRIL 25-28 HELLO DOLLY**  
The Sun City Theatre Company's Spring musical is, Hello Dolly. Show dates are: April 25th 7pm, April 26th, 7pm, April 27th 3pm, April 28 1:30pm. Mark your calendars!  
Ticket sale dates are Monday, April 8, 9:30 to 1 pm Cedar Room, Monday April 15th, 12 to 3 pm Cedar Room. Tickets are \$20.00. Checks or cash for the exact amount please. If tickets are for someone using a wheelchair or scooter please let us know. Ticket information: 847-515-1583 or 847-515-8545.  
If you or anyone you know is interested in Directing, Set design, helping with set build or Costumer for the Theatre Com-

**ONGOING CALLING ALL CHICAGO SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS!!!!**  
The Chi-Town Sports Trivia Group is up and running. Friendly competition - the FIRST FRI-DAY of each month, 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Huntley Library. All questions covering the BEARS, BLACKHAWKS, BULLS, CUBS, WHITESOX, and the Chicago sports scene.  
**ONGOING WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY**  
Walkers and Bicyclists for a Safer Community is dedicated to promoting safe street conditions in Sun City Huntley for walkers and cyclists. Remember, It's Right to be Bright. Please be ALERT for Pedestrians in our crosswalks, and Cyclists and Golf Carts on our streets. As daylight hours shorten it will be more difficult to see walkers, bicycles, and golf carts. Safety tip: Some walkers prefer to use the streets over the sidewalks. Always walk facing the flow of traffic and wear bright reflective clothing as an outer layer. It's better to be seen.  
If you are concerned about safe streets in Sun City for walkers, bicycles, and golf carts, or for more information email WBSC at: wbscsig@gmail.com.

**JUNE 4 & 5 THE SUN CITY STRUTTERS**  
The Sun City Strutters will be presenting their 21st Spring Show, "Dancing with the Strutters," on Tuesday June 4 and Wednesday June 5 in Drendel Ballroom.  
The show will feature tap, ballet,

and jazz dance routines. Guest performers will be joining us to perform a variety of entertaining selections. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at Prairie Lodge and Meadow View Lodge Fitness Desks only. Seating will be reserved at time of ticket purchase.  
The Strutters group is made up of ladies with a love of dance... ranging in age from 50+ to 80+. We always welcome new dancers and invite interested dancers to join us next fall. We offer beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes in tap, ballet, and jazz. If you like to dance but don't want to be in a show, we offer non-performance classes in Ballet and Jazz.  
It's a good place to learn or improve your dance skills and it's a wonderful way to meet people and exercise both the body and mind. Please come and join us.

pany don't hesitate to call Dick Storer at: 847-494-2587.  
The Theatre Company of Sun City now has its own Facebook page!  
<https://www.Facebook.com/TheatreCompanySCHuntley>

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It's a good place to learn or improve your dance skills and it's a wonderful way to meet people and exercise both the body and mind. Please come and join us.

**MAY 4, 11, 18, AND 25 FREE STINGRAY SWIM CLINIC/LEARN TO SWIM**  
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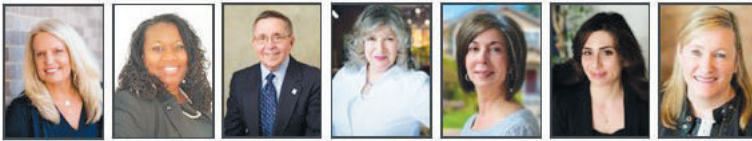
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