

# MY SUN DAY NEWS

VOLUME 17 - NUMBER 21



WWW.MYSUNDAYNEWS.COM

OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 4, 2026

qu<sup>ick</sup>shot



**Just keep swimming  
... until you hit  
medal**

**10**

qu<sup>ick</sup>quote

***It is an important  
fundraising vehicle  
driven entirely by  
community support***

**7**

qu<sup>ick</sup>take

***Do I really need to  
keep every piece of  
paper, or is there a  
better way to orga-  
nize everything?***

**9**



**Houses across Sun City  
are getting a little...**

# SPOOKY



Tony Pratt | MSDN Photos

Every year at this time, Sun City gets a little spooky, as seen with Suzanne Eck's home, which is "haunted" by specters, witches, skeletons, pumpkin heads, and other ghastly creatures.



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Halloween**

lifeinfocus



I'm fine,  
thank you

I cried at my desk at the office today. Twice. Crying in a cubicle is a tricky feat because someone is usually on the other side of the flimsy wall. No matter how hard I try to cry silently, it's inevitable for one large intake of breath to escape, or a gulp, or some other distressing sound that will cause one of my cubicle mates to say, "Hey — you okay over there?"

When someone asks you if you are okay, it's not always an opportune time to get into the specifics of why you're not okay. Sometimes it's easier just to brush it off, even though the other person won't be entirely fooled. I wait for a beat, inhale slowly, and answer in the smoothest voice I can muster, "Yes, I'm fine!" The trick is to

shape your mouth in a smile to make your vocal inflection more convincing. Luckily the person on the other side of the cubicle can't see that I'm smiling only with my mouth, and not my eyes.

Considering that I've battled depression my entire adult life (tip of the hat to Prozac, huzzah!), and I'm currently in the throes of perimenopause, I'm really not fine. From one moment to the next, I'm a heap of violently shifting hormonal mood swings with a dash of headaches, sudden hot flashes, and lightly misted with a layer of cold night sweats. But hey, I share this with you because I know I'm not the only one. I want others to know they're not the only ones, either.

The advantage of age, however, is that now I have a backlog of history: previous crying fits and days where I could not get out of bed. I remember some tough days in my teens and 20s when I felt alone and hopeless. By my 30s, balancing depression with raising kids, compounded by postpartum depression, brought its own unique brand of heartache. By my 40s, I had done enough work on myself to know how to at least recognize the signs of an approaching "dark cloud," even though I could only occasionally ward it off of my own volition. Now, in my 50s, I've accepted that some days I'll be weeping in my cubicle for no obvious reason. The crying is the same, but the perspective has shifted. Now I know how to tell myself, "Tomorrow will be better."

Somebody told me that tomorrow would be better years ago, but I was too young and inexperienced to believe it. I know there are motivational quotes and memes that exclaim, "Live in the moment!" but when you're depressed, there has to be more than the present moment. Over time, I've slowly assembled a small trusted circle of cheerleaders, myself included, to remind me that even when things are feeling pretty dire, it's only temporary. Once you've experienced inexplicable feelings of sadness and despair enough times, the message finally breaks through: Tomorrow really will be better. It might only be a little bit better because you slept, or because the sun came out, or because the smell of toast and coffee in the kitchen reminds you of your grandparent's cottage on the

lake, but somehow, things get better tomorrow.

The other important lesson is this: it's not necessary to pinpoint what's wrong. Sometimes there isn't really a clear reason. The sadness just is. The sadness exists as its own entity, and takes over the normal operations of your brain for a little bit.

I remember being on the beach when I was about 13. I looked up and realized that I had waded into the water a little too far. My family was far off on the shore. To them, I probably appeared as a tiny bobblehead between the waves. This is depression. Depression and sadness is deep water. If you panic, or fight the waves, you will be beaten and battered both by the whitecaps and the undertow. Trying to control depression is as fruitless as trying to control the tides. But, if you wait a beat, steady your breathing, and allow the air in your lungs to propel you to the surface, you will end up floating on your back, looking up at the sky that you hadn't noticed until now. From there, with a little bit of luck or faith or whatever you throw at it, you will keep your eyes on the clouds and slowly float on the waves, closer and closer to the shore.

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The views in these letters are the writers' own.

First, I'd like to express my appreciation for the Huntley Area Public Library. With a library card, you can, of course, check out physical or e-books. What people may not realize is that you can stream videos for free on Kanopy and Hoopla through the library. It is a great benefit for users. There are popular films as well as educational films and documentaries.

I recently watched the documentary "Ghost Bird" on Kanopy. The film is about the extinct Ivory Billed Woodpecker and people who believe it may still exist. It is a classic case of "don't it always seem to go, you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?" The sad thing is that it was humans that brought the woodpecker as well as passenger pigeons, Carolina Parakeets and countless other species to extinction. Through indifference, greed and ignorance, it continues to happen around the world.

Even sadder is that, in a supposedly well-educated nation, we have a president who denies climate change, would like to exploit national parks for oil and minerals, while clearing woods for roads and, in the case of

Big Bend National Park, to build a border wall. This is a man who looks at the natural world as something to be exploited for profit. We can, and should do better. As individuals, we can support environmental organizations and make our concerns known to those who in authority.

To quote another song "oh, when will they ever learn?"

**Richard J Quigley**  
Huntley resident

For those who may not be aware, Ralph Wehnes recently passed away. Some in our community knew Ralph as the long time Computer Club Board Member responsible for organizing and scheduling the Club's classes. On behalf of the many members in the Club who had the pleasure of working with Ralph, I'd like to say a few words about our friend.

I would have to believe that every Computer Club member has participated in several of the club classes. And if you did, Ralph was probably the guy who worked to get it scheduled. I'm sure everyone in our community knows the challenges of putting together volunteer activities, right? We've either asked our friends and neighbors to be volunteers, or we've been asked—numerous times—to step up and volunteer. And we all know that finding the volunteers we need is not easy. But it is one of the key reasons our community is so great!

Ralph understood that. Through his determination and dedication to developing good class topics and finding instructors, he helped all of us enjoy a great selection of

classes over the years — classes that helped us improve our tech skills, and in many ways, enhanced our lives! Now, I can't tell you exactly when or how I started teaching the Android class, but I KNOW, Ralph had something to do with it!

Kidding aside, Ralph was a joy to work with. He would often sit in on my classes, and afterward we would talk about ideas on making the class even better. After a while, I realized, Ralph was having just as much trouble with his darn phone as the rest of us! There were times when he'd say, "Steve, I know you showed me this the last time, but I just can't get it to work now!" And we'd laugh — and go through it again. He had a wonderfully contagious laugh. As I think about Ralph today, there is one comforting thought, Ralph and Susie, his beloved wife, are back together again. Ralph frequently spoke so affectionately of Susie, who also recently passed. What a wonderful couple they are!

And you know, I can just see them up there right now, talking with people and hearing things like, "Oh, you put together computer and phone classes? Well, I should've run into you earlier, once I said these darn things were going to be the death of me! And now, here I am!" Why, I bet Ralph is already working on putting some classes together up there! And I'm looking forward to the day when we can once again work on some classes together.

Until then, my friend.

**Steve Klein**  
Sun City resident  
Rutland Township Trustee



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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Zamboni driver, engineer, Lego builder all collide in Sun City resident Robert Supernaw. Here, Supernaw poses before his Lego transit collection.

# Meet the Zamboni driver turned Lego builder

By Christine Such  
For My Sun Day News

For many adults, a lasting passion is discovered entirely by accident. For Sun City Huntley resident Robert Supernaw, a wet Florida afternoon, the tight quarters of a motorhome, and a box of plastic bricks changed everything. Long before he started assembling plastic wheels and gears, Supernaw had an opportunity that grown men envy and children only dream of. “I accepted a job offer to run the Zamboni machine for a small rink in Wisconsin,” Supernaw said. “I instantly turned into a local celebrity, completely stealing the spotlight from the action on the ice. The kids would run right past their fathers playing the game and come directly to me because they loved the Zamboni.” That passion for the ice eventually turned into a retirement gig. Supernaw stepped up as Ice Rink Manager, a part-time role he proudly held for nine years after retiring from his primary career. During this time, his Zamboni expertise paved the way for the opportunity of a lifetime. After moving to Illinois to retire in Sun City Huntley, Supernaw was listening to the radio one day when he heard the Chicago Blackhawks advertising an opening for a Zamboni operator at the United Center. He decided to throw his hat in the ring. When the NHL franchise asked for his resume, Supernaw’s unconventional approach worked perfectly. “I told them I didn’t have one,” he

laughed, “but I offered my phone number instead.” After a brief, ten-minute conversation, the franchise offered him the job the very next day, making him the envy of hockey fans everywhere. “The commute from my home here was very long,” Supernaw explained, “but I tried it out for two months.” That innate love for unique vehicles and complex machinery makes perfect sense given Supernaw’s professional background. Before retiring to the ice rink, he worked as an experimental engineer, a profession devoted to testing, problem-solving, and understanding how complex mechanisms function. When bad weather later left him looking for a way to pass the time inside his motorhome in Florida, that engineering brain naturally sought a challenge. He picked up a LEGO set that would ultimately spark a deep obsession. “I built the Maersk train car container set,” he said. What started as a simple rainy-day activity quickly became a creative, technical outlet. Supernaw now approaches his hobby with the same caution and methodology he once used in the engineering lab. To tackle highly complex, advanced sets, he developed a strict technique. “I take photographs at every single stage of the build process,” Supernaw said. “These snapshots serve as a safety net. It came in handy while building a blue car where the shades of blue were so close that I made a mistake, but the photos helped me backtrack and locate

LEGO | Pg. 21

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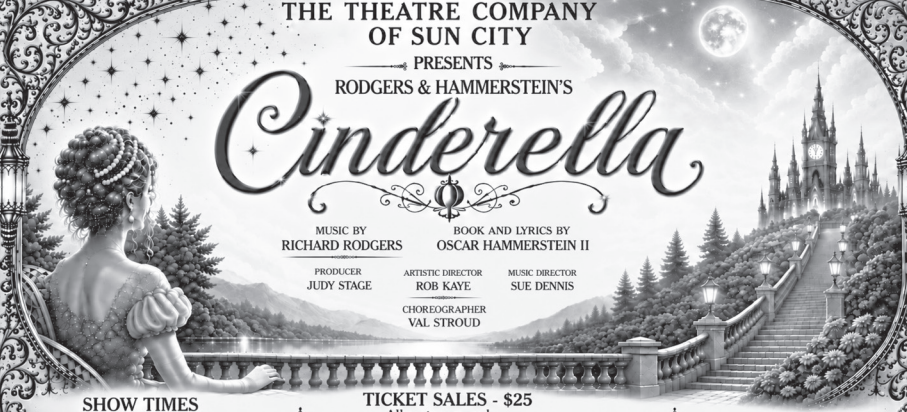
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# theviewfromplanetkerth

## October glory days for a chaos garden



As I write this, my garden is still standing — though some might say it's standing on borrowed time.

Some might glance at my wilted, withering wasteland of defunct flowers and “tsk” at my tardiness in cleaning things up, but to my way of thinking, those tsk-ers are dead wrong. To my way of thinking, an Illinois garden only arrives at its true calling in late October, when the colorful flower petals are long gone and the seeds cluster atop the dry, crispy stalks.

Because, after all, what is the true purpose of a flower? If you asked the plants, you might be surprised to learn that they couldn't care less how much you love their colorful blooms. Their fragrant, full-color display is only there to attract bees and butterflies, the plants will tell you in no uncertain terms.

And what's the point of all those bees and butterflies, you ask the plants?

Why, to carry pollen in and out to ripen our seeds, so we can make the next generation of ourselves, the plants insist. Nothing more than that.

If you could talk to the goldfinches, I'm sure they would approve. Right now nearly a dozen of them are clinging to waving stalks of dry coneflowers and heliopsis in my garden, plucking the ripe seeds for their lunch.

How do the plants feel about the finches' thievery? Well, finches are pretty sloppy with their dining habits, dropping more seeds to the ground than they get in their gullets. Those seeds will sprout next spring wherever they fall, and next year's garden will look whatever way randomness decides to make it look.

The plants are fine with that.

I am too.

It's called “chaos gardening,” and it's the latest trend in eco-friendly gardening. It's fun to learn that the world is just starting to come around to what I've been doing for the past decade or so.

According to Deryn Davidson, a sustainable landscape state specialist from Colorado State University, “Chaos gardening is the practice of mixing a wide variety of seeds...and scattering them over a planting area with minimal planning. The goal is to create a dense, colorful garden that surprises you with its variety... a bit like making soup from everything in your pantry.”

(For the record, that's pretty much how I've always made soup, too. I called it “Goop Mélange,” and my kids loved the adventure of eating it.)

So yes, if you're a lover of brightly colored fragrant blooms, my once-vibrant summer garden would look a bit ragged to you right now. But then again, if you trimmed your garden back a month ago, you're probably wondering where all those colorful finches have gone.

They're here, right outside my window, feasting on seeds. It's the late-season bounty, as colorful as a field of fresh

flowers, that makes autumn my favorite time of year.

But I've saved the best for last to tell you about, because right now in my garden I'm also enjoying a bounty that you may never have seen in all your life if you're a tidy trimmer.

That's because my late-season dying garden is also home to praying mantises, which always show up in late September and stick around to feast and breed. Just yesterday, I tallied seven different mantises lurking among the drying garden plants, plucking wasps, moths and box elder bugs to dine on.

Thanks to my great-grandkids, some of them now have names, like Chomp. Others are still anonymous. But they're there, and they're staying put, because my withering garden provides them everything they could hope for in the declining days of their lives—shelter, abundant insect food, and a place to lay their eggs for the next generation to begin.

Every praying mantis in northern Illinois will die when winter comes. That's just the way it is—not one will survive winter. And the only way for the species to survive is for them to pick a dead stalk on which to lay their eggs, a foamy blob that will dry to resemble a toasted marshmallow, which will hatch into a hundred or more tiny mantises next May or June.

Of course, I will have cut down the dead stalks long before then. So that's my early November task: to carefully search through the withered stalks and to save the egg cases—called ootheca — before cutting the garden back and getting out the yard-waste bags. I'll save the egg cases in a protected spot to survive through the winter, and sometime next spring the tiny mantises will emerge, no larger than a mosquito.

Once hatched, they will head off into the wild world of my blooming chaotic garden, so tiny that I won't see them all summer. They will lurk deep in the foliage, dining on whatever insect they can handle — aphids and tiny spiders at first, maybe beetles or grasshoppers later as they grow.

By September, after they've shed their skin a half dozen times, they will have grown to four inches long or more. Large enough now to have few natural enemies, they'll move up to the top of my chaos garden, where I'll find them breeding and munching on even the largest wasps and hornets.

Just this morning, I found my first seed case of the season, and it's only a matter of time before I find others. I have watched three of the females mating with males over the past few weeks, and this morning a new randy pair were getting acquainted in the withered leaves of my faded irises.

So that makes a total of nine mantises in my yard today. At least. With babies on the way next spring.

And it's all happening right now, right there outside my window, in my brown, borrowed-time chaos garden.

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

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Provided | MSDN Photo

HHS football player Rylan Thompson on stage at Huntley High School with MC Jennifer Hunt from JH Floral & Events at a previous year’s flower show. Part of the evening’s revenue funds the Huntley Area Lion’s Club.

# Annual flower show blooms again in Huntley

By Christine Such  
For My Sun Day News

On the calendar for some Sun City residents is the thirteenth annual flower show, hosted by the Huntley Area Lions Club. This year, it returns as an evening dedicated to local creativity and community support. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, running from 7-9 p.m. at Huntley High School.

This year’s showcase promises to deliver professional design demonstrations and opportunities for audience members to win beautifully styled floral creations.

Carol Didricksen, Lions Club member and Sun City resident, said, “The event is beyond a creative exhibition. It is an important fundraising vehicle driven entirely by community support.”

The evening’s central attraction features three professional and local florists who are designing custom, master-level floral arrangements live on stage.

Sun City resident Kathy Wendhack shared her excitement for the upcoming program, stating, “I really enjoy the flower show because it’s a great event. With all the beautiful centerpieces, it’s inspiring.”

St this two-hour event, these florists will create more than 40 unique arrangements.

Didricksen said, “They also will be sharing seasonal advice, styling tips, and

techniques.” She added, “We have Periwinkle Florist, Huntley Floral, and Town and Country Gardens together on stage.”

All on-stage arrangements will be raffled off to audience members, giving dozens of attendees a chance to bring a professional centerpiece home.

Nedra Reeves, Sun City resident said, “I love that the Huntly High School football players walk around displaying the newly created beautiful floral displays and you can win one, which I did.”

All of the profits from ticket sales and raffle items are reinvested directly into the community. Revenue raised from the evening funds the Huntley Area Lions Club’s core causes. These include vision and hearing assistance programs, including mobile screening units, recycling medical equipment, and support for Camp Lions for visually impaired youth. The club also supports local youth services, diabetes prevention, and hunger relief efforts through the Grafton Food Pantry.

**• Residents planning to attend are recommended to secure their admission early to take advantage of discounted pricing. Advance presale tickets are \$16, while tickets purchased at the door on the night of the event are \$20. You can purchase presale tickets directly from any active Huntley Area Lions Club member. Residents can contact Didricksen at [cdidricksen@yahoo.com](mailto:cdidricksen@yahoo.com) to secure their seating before the event sells out.**

## politicalplace

The views in these letters are the writers' own.

Our midterm elections are a month away. If you chose to vote in person at one of our local polling places, I want to remind you that within the 100' barrier there is no loud talking supporting one candidate over the other, no signs, and above no political clothing. No t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, coats, gloves anything showing or promoting a candidate or party. If you have those clothing items, leave them in the closet. Wear them on some other day.

The election judges and poll watchers at your polling place will be looking for violators of these laws. You will be asked to leave if it's determined that you're acting or wearing something that's inappropriate.

Our election judges have a big enough job and a long day to oversee that our elections are fair. Don't make their job any more difficult.

**Phil Heil**

Huntley resident

Are you, like many Americans, tired of being bombarded by repetitive political ads? Instead of clearly explaining where candidates stand on

the issues, these ads too often rely on feel-good promises to "fight for you" or "cut taxes" — even when the candidates' records suggest otherwise. Such claims can be hollow, especially when candidates take credit for bipartisan or even unanimous legislation.

Take, for example, the race for McHenry County Board. One prominent candidate with a big budget has been especially aggressive in appealing to voters to cut government "red tape" on local businesses and reduce regulations. Sounds good, but in many cases government regulations are created to protect voters. Without knowing what protections are being considered, it is impossible to know whether constituents will be helped or hurt by such general promises.

Voters need specifics, not platitudes. They deserve to know where candidates stand on data centers, immigration, the environment, abortion, guns, climate policy, local ICE deportations, and support for public schools.

Nor should voters be expected to pay for candidate's political messages even if they label such messages as "legislative

updates." This is an unethical practice but it's only in the fine print that voters learn that these political messages are at taxpayer expense. Although we've seen such deception on a national scale, it is still illegal whether locally or nationally!

The bottom line is that it is our responsibility as voters to do our homework so when we vote our votes are based on facts not deceptive political ads.

**Joan Davis**

Sun City resident

Let's not forget Ukraine. Putin's Russia is the aggressor, the real evil of today. Certainly not Ukraine and Zelensky. The deviation brought upon the people of Ukraine by Putin's Russia ought not be rewarded with reduced sanctions, oil deals and Trump's cutting of U.S. support of Ukrainian defense. The people of Ukraine have held their own, with the support of its allies, against the aggression of Putin's regime. For five years they have endured endless bombings of civilians, infrastructure and vital economic interests.

Trump says, "I find Zelensky

to be more difficult to deal with than Putin." Duh! Of course he is!! Zelensky is fighting for the survival of Ukraine while Trump cuts biased deals with Putin. Now Trump blames his out of control fuels prices on Zelensky! Even his MAGA buddies have seen through that lie.

I support the people of Ukraine and Zelensky. Should I get the \$90.00 Medicare bribe from Trump I will send it to support Ukraine. I won't get the \$5,000.00 bribe. I Voted Blue.

The majority, the vast majority of Citizens of the United States of America support Ukraine. Why doesn't the Trump administration? The real evil, with real fire power, is Putin.

**John Zeller**

Sun City Huntley Resident

The SCOTUS ruled that Trump can put together a massive database using social security numbers and other sensitive information. There are many states that will use this to purge voters. Hundreds of thousands of voters may not be able to vote. Check if you are registered to vote by going to your Secretary of State website and give them

the information they request to check if you are still registered to vote. Do it repeatedly. Check where your polling place is located and plan on getting there to vote. If your state offers early voting that would be good. Call your relatives and tell them to check in their states and make sure they are registered to vote.

The law says that within 90 days of an election they cannot purge the voter rolls. However, we have seen that this administration doesn't always follow the laws. We are living in a different world today, one that is trying to make us less confident in our voting. We must fight to secure our right to vote. We the people want change from high gas prices, high food prices, disappearing healthcare, and a stupid war. We want to remove people from powerful places who don't have the knowledge of how to do the job, all as Trump is raking money in for his family and billionaire buddies and affixing his name on things. We cannot allow the power of our vote to be taken away.

**Gail Talbot**

Huntley resident



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**Q** I'm 77 years old, and I've noticed that keeping track of my health has almost become a full-time job. Between my primary care doctor, cardiologist, eye doctor, and a few other specialists, it seems like I'm at a medical appointment every other week.

While I'm grateful to have such great doctors, my problem is remembering everything afterwards. Every visit ends with a stack of papers, from medication lists and lab reports to after-visit summaries and referral information. I also get summary notices from Medicare, paperwork from my supplemental insurance, and bills from different doctors' offices. Sometimes

I can't tell what's a bill, what's simply a record, and what I actually need to keep. Before long, I have a pile of paperwork on my kitchen table, and I can't remember what's important and what can be thrown away.

Is this just a part of getting older? Do I really need to keep every piece of paper, or is there a better way to organize everything? I'd appreciate any practical advice that could make managing my health a little less overwhelming.

**A** First, know that you are not alone. As we age, healthcare often becomes more complicated, and even older adults with excellent memories can feel overwhelmed by the amount of information they receive.

The good news is that a little

organization can go a long way. Here are a few tips to help:

Start by creating one binder, an expanded file, or separate file folders for medical information only. Give each section a purpose, including current medications, upcoming appointments, test results, insurance papers, and visit summaries. You may also want a separate file folder for each doctor or specialist. The point is to keep everything in one place so that you can find what you need much more easily.

Next, remember that you don't need to keep every piece of paper forever. Keep recent visit summaries, current medication lists, important test results, and any paperwork related to ongoing conditions or treatments. Once your medication list has been updated, recycle older

copies. Insurance Explanation of Benefits statements should be kept until you've confirmed the bill is correct and paid. You can then file that paper for your records and keep it as you see fit. It's common to keep them for about a year unless they involve a major medical event.

Before each appointment, write down any questions you have in a notepad or on your phone. During the visit, don't hesitate to take notes or ask your doctor to repeat something. If a trusted family member or friend can join you, they may catch details you miss and help you remember next steps afterwards.

Finally, don't feel embarrassed to ask for clarification. Doctors and nurses would much rather answer a question twice than have you leave unsure about your care. Should a ques-

tion slip your mind during the visit, remember that most practices offer patient portals. These digital tools provide a convenient way to send a message and get the clarity you need from your physician.

Managing your health shouldn't feel like sorting through a mountain of paperwork. With one organized system and a few simple habits, you'll spend less time searching for documents and more time focusing on taking good care of yourself.

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

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What can you do with MSDN after reading it?

It's pumpkin carving time! Not only can you carve the pumpkin on sheets of newspaper to reduce mess but also lay out a few pages to place the pulp on for easy disposal.

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# Just keep swimming ... until you hit medal

## SC resident David Rochlitz is like a fish *IN* water



Provided | MSDN Photos courtesy of William Kucera

Above: David Rochlitz competes in the butterfly.

Below: Rochlitz shows off his silver and bronze medals.



By Christine Such

For My Sun Day News

**D**avid Rochlitz, a Sun City resident and Special Olympics Master Swimmer, has a rigorous three-team training regimen that brought him national success. His passion for the water culminated in late June 2026, when he traveled to Minneapolis to represent Illinois at the highest level: the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games.

Rochlitz's journey in the water began when he first started swimming at five years old in outdoor pools with family and friends.

Rochlitz said, "I began swim lessons at summer camp at the age of eight in 1991. Basically, between 1991 and 2009, I would swim just for the fun of it."

He officially started competing when he joined the Libertyville Stars Swim Club, a year-round competitive program through Special Olympics Illinois. Over the years, he focused on his favorite strokes: breaststroke, freestyle, and the butterfly.

"I need to keep my head down, and eyes focused on the bottom of the pool to slice through the water with maximum speed," he shared.

To advance through the competitive Special Olympics, swimmers have to navigate a strict qualification process.

Rochlitz said, "In the world of Special Olympics swimmers, if you win at least one gold medal at district, you qualify to compete for that particular event at the State Summer Games. However, if you don't get gold in any of your two individual events, but you earn gold in your relay, you automatically qualify for all three events at State."

Rochlitz proved he had what it took, preparing the ground for a life-changing text message in May 2025. Shortly before Memorial Day weekend, Rochlitz had just finished his workday and was heading to his car when he received a message from his Libertyville Stars swim coach, Mike Reed, asking if they could talk that evening. Later that night, Coach Reed delivered the exciting news.

Rochlitz said, "He asked if I would like to be nominated to represent Team Illinois at the USA Games in Minnesota."

Rochlitz enthusiastically agreed, but there was a catch.

"I was sworn to secrecy until further notice," he said. "The very next day, Coach Reed emailed me a detailed questionnaire to complete."

The suspense lasted until late June 2025, right

after the State Summer Games. Coach Reed called Rochlitz with the news that he had officially been selected for the USA Games, but the gag order remained in place.

Considering the challenge of keeping such news under wraps, Rochlitz said, "I felt as if I were living the life of Batman and Bruce Wayne. I had my parents and other relatives each take the role of Alfred when it came to having to hide this from my friends and coworkers."

Once the secret was out, the arduous training schedule began. On July 26, 2025, Rochlitz traveled to Bloomington, Illinois, for his first official USA Games orientation day. Looking to maximize his potential, Coach Mike recommended in August 2025 that Rochlitz find an elite competitive program. This advice led him to join the Elgin Blue Wave Masters Swim Team, a highly competitive adult swimming club. To round out his preparation, he also joined the Sun City Stingrays in 2025, allowing him to train with three teams at once in his home community.

His local presence left a lasting impression on his teammates, according to Linda Kucera, President of the Sun City Stingrays Charter Club.

"David is an active member of the Stingray Swim Club," Kucera shared. "He swims with us on Saturdays when he is available. His speed and skill inspire all of us."

From September 2025 through March 2026, Rochlitz maintained an intense routine, traveling down to Bloomington one Sunday every single month to train with his fellow Team Illinois athletes. The preparation reached a fever pitch on April 25–26, 2026, during a rigorous, weekend-long training camp in Bloomington, followed by extra practice sessions throughout May and June 2026.

When the Games finally arrived in late June 2026 at the University of Minnesota, his years of preparation paid off in all three of his events. Swimming against the fastest athletes in the country, Rochlitz captured a second-place silver medal in the 50-yard butterfly. He kept the momentum going by taking Team Illinois to a third-place bronze medal in the 4x50-yard relay and finishing fourth in his final individual event.

His incredible journey from a kid swimming for the fun of it to a multi-team powerhouse and decorated national medalist is a demonstration of commitment, community support, and competitive energy.

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SEN. DAVE SYVERSON, REP. JOE SOSNOWSKI, & REP. JEFF KEICHER

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In August, the Governor raised sales and gas taxes in McHenry and Kane Counties to help fund Chicago-area transit. **We stood with your local leaders in opposing those new taxes.**

Now, Chicago is back asking for more. This time, Chicago Public Schools wants \$150 million that would come at the expense of schools across Illinois.

Once again, **we will stand with our local schools, community leaders, and taxpayers** in opposing another Chicago bailout that would take funding away from classrooms in McHenry and Kane Counties.

Families here already face some of the highest taxes in the country, especially when it comes to property taxes. They should not be expected to continually shoulder the burden of Chicago's financial problems.

Mayor Brandon Johnson and Chicago Public Schools need to make the difficult financial decisions necessary to address their own challenges, just as our local school districts have had to do, before asking taxpayers and schools across Illinois to bail them out.

Our local schools should not have to sacrifice their resources because Chicago leaders have failed to get their own finances under control. **We will continue fighting to make sure education dollars stay where they belong: supporting students and classrooms in the communities they were intended to serve.**

## NEED ASSISTANCE?

*We're here to help with:*

- Questions or feedback on legislation and state issues
- Assistance accessing state programs and resources
- FOID and CCL applications
- Information about upcoming local events featuring state services



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**AS ALWAYS, WE WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS.**



Steve Peterson | MSDN Photo

White Sox fans and White Sox Fan Club members Ed and Nellie Fabro attend a post-season White Sox game with other fans at Village Inn.

# CHICAGO BASEBALL WRAPS UP IN HUNTLEY

By Steve Peterson  
For My Sun Day News

As soon as the clock struck 10 p.m., the baseball season came to an end

for Chicago Cubs and White Sox fans Oct. 10. The Sox suffered a 2-0 loss to the Cleveland Guardians to fall three games to two in the American League Division Se-

ries. The Cubs had their season ended 10 days earlier with a 4-1 loss to San Diego in the NL wild-card round. It was a memorable summer, from Pete Crow-Armstrong's

40-40 season (40 home runs and 40 stolen bases) to Alex Bregman's second half and Seiya Suzuki's hitting and defense. The regular season went 89-73, and two playoff losses to the Padres followed. For the Sox, they became the first team to follow consecutive 100-loss seasons by making the wild-card round. There was Munetaka Murkami's home runs; team leaders Miguel Vargas, also Andrew Benintendi, and pitchers Grant Taylor and Sean Burke assisted in an 84-78 season. One day in the postseason, a group of White Sox fans gathered at the Village Inn for a White Sox Fan club dinner, and left celebrating after a 6-3 win over Houston in the first post-season game. A group of about 30 Chicago White Sox baseball fans, mostly Sun City residents, gathered on a Tuesday late-September evening at a Huntley restaurant to witness a game few thought was possible six months ago. The club, including many Sun City residents, was formed in 2019 by Glenn Groebli of Sun City and meets monthly, but this gathering was for a special occasion – a playoff season. The Sox secured the third American League wild-card spot. "It's been great," fan Chip Campbell said of the season. "I

didn't have any expectations for this season." But the fans watching the TV at the Village Inn shared highlights of this unlikely MLB Wild-Card season, which led to the series opener Sept. 29 at Houston. They were thrilled with the Sox's 5-0 lead early, then quieted with a comeback by the Astros. It was pins and needles time when the Sox tried to get the final out, which they did in a 6-3 decision. "It's been outstanding, unexpected and I've been extremely happy," Ed Fabro, attending with his wife Nellie, who wore a No. 79 jersey, said. "I've been a Sox fan all my life. I'll go with Miguel Vargas as my favorite player." Fabro gave a sigh of relief when relief pitcher Grant Taylor got the final out. "We had to sweat it out the final two innings, but there was clutch hitting and clutch relief pitching," he said. "I've been a Sox fan for many years," Don Engersiser, 91-years-young, said. "I like all the players," Harlan Tiesman said. "Wait 'till next year" is an almost annual battle cry (except 2005 for the Sox and 2016 for the Cubs' latest World Series wins), but labor strife in the MLB may delay that start. But here's hoping March 25's opening day occurs as planned.

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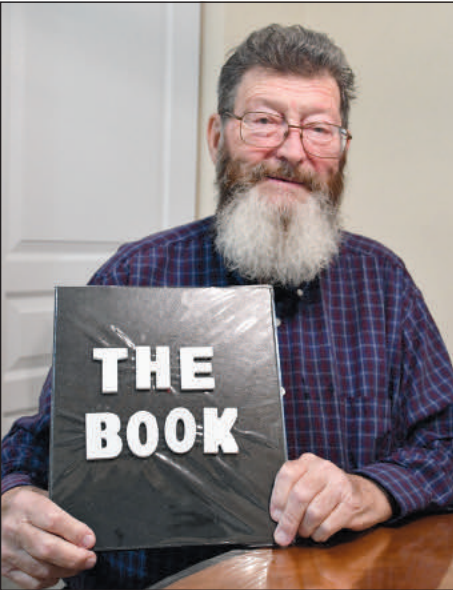
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Christine Such | MSDN Photo  
Santa actor Bob Begora with his book of nice children.

# Resident Santa calls for more helpers

By Christine Such  
For My Sun Day News

To his neighbors in Sun City, he is Bob Begora. But as winter approaches, a transformation takes place. Begora’s natural beard is bleached a snowy white, an international North Pole driver’s license is tucked into a velvet pocket, and he steps perfectly into the role of Santa Claus. For 14 years, he has mastered this craft - bringing smiles to the faces of numerous children and adults alike — and this season, he needs his neighbors’ help.

Begora’s transformation into Santa began entirely by accident. “I started playing Santa while growing my beard, which was just a tradition of mine for winter,” Begora said. Seeing his impressive facial hair, a friend suggested he step into the role. “When I started, I worked at the mall,” Begora recalled. That initial experience unlocked doors he never could have anticipated, bringing magnificent opportunities. Today, he stays busy on weekends with private home visits and restaurant holiday parties.

But this year, before the bleach is even applied, the North Pole is facing a serious crisis: a critical shortage of Santa Clauses, Mrs. Clauses, and elves.

“Santa simply can’t be everywhere at once,” Begora said, issuing an urgent plea to his fellow Sun City neighbors to help rescue the season. “The malls have a severe shortage of Santas, especially on the weekends. And of course, Santas get sick. They need someone to step in so the children are not disappointed.”

Fortunately, aspiring holiday performers don’t have to travel far for backup. Local volunteers can lean on the Northern Illinois Christmas Entertainers — perfectly abbreviated as N.I.C.E. About 50 people attend their meetings, including Santas, Mrs. Clauses, and elves.

For Begora, being Santa is a true craft that requires deep preparation, relentless professionalism, and personal dedication.

“Every year, I travel to attend specialized Santa training classes to keep my skills sharp,” he said. “Just like everything else, there are classes, and I always learn something each time.”

He even expanded his talents through N.I.C.E. meetings.

“I learned some sign language at one of these. It makes such a difference that I have picked up a few more phrases besides ‘Merry Christmas.’”

Today, Begora carries a sign language reference book with him in uniform. To connect with as many families as possible, he can also say Merry Christmas in 26 different languages.

He relies on this lifetime of careful preparation to answer the ultimate question.

“Children always ask if I am real,” Begora said with a smile. To prove it, his favorite pieces of evidence are tucked right inside his velvet suit.

“I have an international driver’s license,” Begora revealed.

The custom North Pole credential includes a bit of classic holiday humor: indicated under the ID section for weight, it says “plump.” Along with the license, Begora carries The Big Book, which lists all the children on the nice List, and special cards indicating whether a child is good, not sure, or naughty.

He also ensures his toy sack is prepared for any oversight.

“I always carry a teddy bear or stuffed dinosaur in my bag when I go to a home event,” Begora explained. “You never know when a child is left out accidentally, and it ruins the evening if there is no gift for them.”

Ultimately, Begora is completely in it for the children, especially when the requests brought to his lap go far deeper than toys.

“There was a little girl who just wanted to have her grandmother back for Christmas,” Begora recalled softly. Perceiving the deep grief wrapped in her wish, Begora found a gentle way to comfort her. “I was able to change the conversation and asked her if I could give her grandmother a special hug from her when I stopped to see her in heaven.” The impact was immediate. “She was happy with that.”

In another powerful moment at the mall, Begora encountered a young girl who had recently lost her mother and was completely overwhelmed by despair. Thinking quickly on his feet, he used a tiny light hidden inside his glove, a prop he normally saves for Rudolph games. He led the child to a massive Christmas tree to find a special bulb that would let her keep her mother forever.

He placed a glowing bulb into her small palm and asked her to close her fist. “I told her, when you open your fist, if the light bulb is no longer lit, that means the light, her spirit, has left your hand and is now inside of you, and you will have her forever.” When the child opened her hand and the bulb was out, her face lit up with joy. “The father was crying when the child’s face lit up,” Begora said.

Because magic can happen anywhere, Begora emphasizes that a Santa is never truly off-duty.

“Santa should always be in full dress when heading out,” he noted, recalling a quick trip to Walgreens for lozenges where he looked up to find a child staring in amazement. “Practice smiling,” he advised. “You should always have a smile on your face.”

“If anyone is interested, I would love to explain what it takes to be a Santa,” Begora said. If you are ready to help spread the Christmas spirit and answer the call, please get in touch with Begora directly at [santas-magicalexperience@gmail.com](mailto:santas-magicalexperience@gmail.com).



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politicalplace

The views in these letters are the writers' own.

**I**strongly disagree with Patricia White's statement in her article that data confirms non-citizen voting is not occurring in numbers that affect election outcomes, especially in local elections. I question where she obtained her information and whether her sources approached the issue from a politically left-leaning perspective while overlooking or disregarding other data.

Did Ms. White fact-check her sources? Did the editors of My Sunday News review her article and verify its claims?

The figures I am referring to put the number of undocumented immigrants in Kane County alone at approximately 43,000, with between 511,000 and 550,000 statewide. My concern is that these individuals were encouraged to vote to preserve the benefits available to them — benefits that include free or reduced-cost housing, schooling for their children, medical care, food stamps, welfare, Social Security, and other assistance.

Many local candidates lost their elections by fewer than 10,000 votes, and quite a few lost by fewer than 500. I suspect a statewide review would reveal a significant number of candidates who lost by fewer than 200,000 votes. Given my understanding that more than 500,000 undocumented immigrants live in Illinois, I believe the potential effect on election outcomes deserves serious scrutiny.

My contention is that voting by undocumented immigrants has affected our elections. That belief is based not only on the population figures and election margins I have cited, but also on what I believe I personally witnessed while serving as a poll worker. I observed people whom I know are non-citizens registering and voting. Election judges were instructed to register them and allow them to vote immediately, even when some did not appear to understand English or the question, “What country were you naturalized in?”

In one instance, a gentleman presented a purple identification card, which used to be issued to non-citizens. When an election judge told him he could not vote, he reached into another pocket and produced a red identification card, which indicate Illinois citizenship.

Which identification accurately reflected his status? I believed the purple card did. My understanding was that Governor Pritzker had directed that non-citizens receive red identification cards at no cost to them, with taxpayers covering the expense. The election judge was then required to allow this man to vote, despite the concerns about his citizenship and his apparent difficulty understanding English.

This was only one of many complaints filed with the clerk during the election process. To my knowledge, no action was taken. After 3 p.m. on Election Day 2024, I also was told by other poll workers a large influx of people registering and voting whom I believed to be non-citizens, especially in Aurora and Elgin in Kane County.

It is deeply aggravating to read articles that I consider biased and factually inaccurate. It is equally frustrating to believe that nothing will come of this letter and that the concerns I have raised will remain unaddressed.

In the 2024 presidential election, Donald Trump won the popular vote among those who voted at the Del Webb polling location in Huntley. I know this because I served there as a poll watcher on Election Day and requested the tally tapes after voting ended.

Based on that result, I suspect more than half of your Sun City readers share my frustration and do exactly what I do with your newspaper: throw it away because they view it as biased and unreliable.

**Cathy Flesburg**  
Huntley resident

iheardthisquote...

**By TR Kerth**  
Columnist

*The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.*

- Arthur C. Clarke

*There are few misfortunes in this world you cannot turn into personal triumphs if you have the iron will and necessary skills.*

- Nelson Mandela

*The tragedy in life is not what men suffer, but what they miss.*

- Thomas Carlyle

*The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.*

- John Ruskin

*Heroism...is endurance for one moment more.*

- George Kennan

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*- Jeff*

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Steve Peterson | MSDN Photo

The Sun City Women's 14-inch Softball Group players gather after their three-game season came to an end Oct. 12 at Veterans Memorial Field. Players were on the Maroon and Silver teams. Photo by Steve Peterson

WOMEN'S 14-INCH SOFTBALL CLOSSES YEAR AT MEMORIAL FIELD

By Steve Peterson  
For My Sun Day News

Sun City's Veterans Memorial Field's season continued on three Monday nights as ladies took to the diamond to continue their interest in the sport.

Sue Meyers of Sun City or-

ganized the Sun City Women's 14-inch Softball Group for its second year. The group is open for Sun City residents only.

"We're a group, not affiliated with the Sun City Softball Club, but we would like to thank Sun City Softball Club President Chuck Hund and the entire men's softball club for supporting us for the second straight

year. We really appreciate it."

It was a warm October 12 night and a good-size crowd gathered. They watched an entertaining game when the Maroon Team took on the Silver Team. As the sun set behind home plate, the final out was recorded. The Silver Team led 2-1 through six innings but the offense was about to come alive. The teams combined to score seven runs in the seventh inning and the game ended in a 5-5 tie.

There were sharp defensive plays, too, including a double play and a run-down.

"It was a perfect ending," Maroon Team's Kay Osborn, who played college softball, said. "It was fun, great."

Sue Meyers mentioned after the game of a tie result.

"It was an awesome game. They had beaten us 5-2 in the first game, so I thought maybe they would score one run in the seventh," Meyers said.

Both teams were smiling when it came for fun team pictures afterward.

Team Silver players were: Sue Meyers; Mary Kay Monaghan; Susie Flerlage; Angie Little; Connie Caraher; Pat Brice-Prutt; Diana Moles; Sharon Smith; Deb Aurand and Gigi Grob.

Team Maroon players were

Shari Clark; Julie Crittenden; Kay Osborn; Jeanne Bartels; Candi Campise; Cheryl Ross; Kris Bottleny; Sharon Johnson; and Delight Davenport.

Also, Diane Schneider played on both squads. Helping out Maroon team was Cindy Allen as pitcher. Sally Papak was a pinch runner for all players and base coach was Carolyn Floss. Susan Levels was the National Anthem singer.

Players gathered on Sept. 27 for a practice before the first game. The Maroon and the Silver squads had fielding drills as Shari Clark hit the ball to various positions.

"The 14-inch mush ball is much easier for the ladies to handle," Clark said.

There are also some unique rules, such as relay throws when the ball is hit into the outfield.

Players came with a variety of softball backgrounds. Many started playing before girls' sports were official in the Illinois High School Association.

"I used to play softball with the Hurricanes' men's team," Monaghan said. "I played 16-inch softball all the time and 12-inch travel softball all over on

the south side of Chicago."

She is especially proud of a softball accomplishment.

"I was inducted into the Illinois Softball Hall of Fame in its second year," Monaghan said.

Meanwhile, the shortstop for the Maroon team, Osborn played college softball.

"I played mostly the outfield positions at Illinois State University," she said. "Marjorie Wright, our coach, was the US Women's softball coach."

After the 90-minute practice session, Clark said it was a success.

"It's all about having a good time, being comfortable playing softball and being accepted," Clark said.

That was the same sentiment after the final game Oct. 12, on Columbus Day, when games at Veterans Memorial Field probably called it a season. See you back next fall for another Sun City Women's 14-inch Softball Group games.

Next year

Ladies interested in playing in the Sun City Women's 14-inch Softball Group next year should contact Sue Meyers at 847-927-7769 or suemeyers60@gmail.com.



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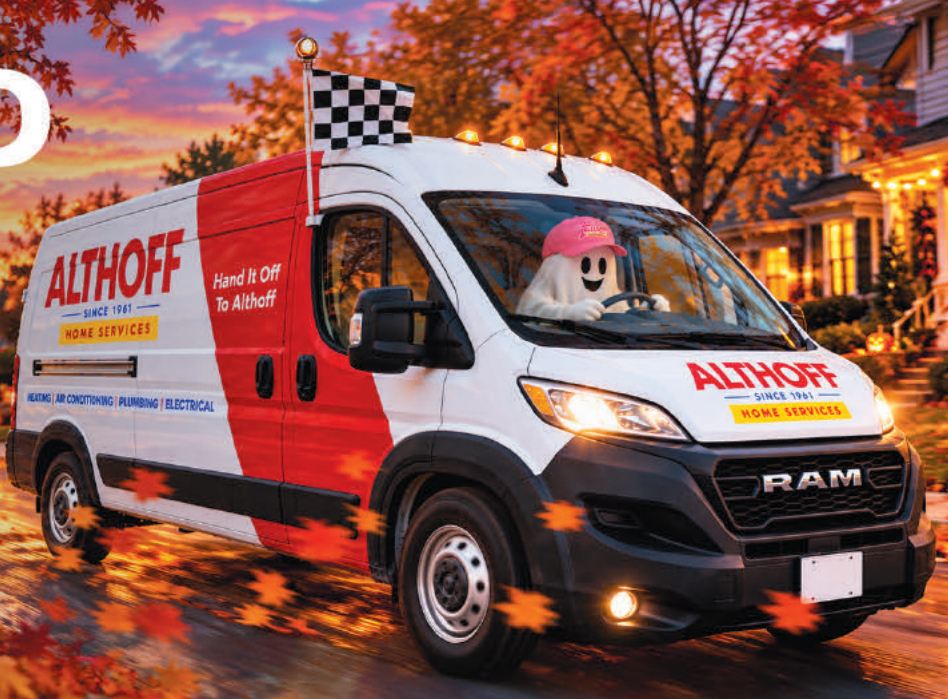
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money matters



Deborah Haglund  
Columnist

Thornton’s price for regular gas is up 39.03% since January. This, however, was more than offset by the decrease in the price of Walmart’s eggs, down 41.73% since January - in large part due to the “Manager’s Special” sale price of \$1.39/doz. Overall, even with the sale on eggs, prices for our basket of goods on October 13 were 7.31% higher than they were on January 15. Here are the numbers:

- Gas: \$4.74
- Onions: \$0.88
- Potatoes: \$0.96
- Bread: \$1.52
- Peanut Butter: \$2.24
- Ground beef/lb: \$6.74
- Chicken/lb: \$2.23
- Rice/lb: \$0.96
- Dried black beans/lb: \$1.54
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Although a White Sox supporter for one night with the White Sox Fan Club, Steve Peterson (L) is a lifelong Cubs fan, as seen here with Cubs owner Thomas Ricketts.



Steve Peterson  
Columnist

A Cubs fan at a Sox party

I checked my Chicago Cubs allegiance at the door, at least for a few hours on a late September Tuesday afternoon. A group of about 30 Chicago White Sox baseball fans, mostly Sun City residents, gathered at the Village Inn restaurant to witness a game few thought was possible six months ago. The White Sox Fan Club was formed in 2019 by Glenn Groebli of Sun City and meets monthly, but

this night was for a special occasion – a playoff season. The White Sox secured the third American League wild-card spot. “It’s been great,” fan Chip Campbell said of the season. “I didn’t have any expectations for this season.” But the fans watching the TV at the Village Inn shared highlights of this unlikely MLB Wild-card season, which led to the series opener Sept. 29 at Houston. They were thrilled with the Sox’s 5-0 lead early, then quieted with a comeback by the Astros. It was pins and needles time when the Sox tried to get the final out, which they did in a 6-3 decision. “It’s been outstanding, unexpected, and I’ve been extremely happy,” Ed Fabro, attending with his wife Nellie, who wore a No.79 jersey, said. “I’ve been a Sox fan all my life. I’ll go with Miguel Vargas as my favorite player.” Fabro gave a sigh of relief when relief pitcher Grant Taylor got the final out. “We had to sweat it out the final two innings, but there was clutch hitting and clutch relief pitching,” he said.

“I’ve been a Sox fan for many years,” Don Engersiser, 91-years-young, said. Fans wore jerseys with “I still call it Comiskey” and players’ names. They gave various responses to who their current favorite Sox player is. Some recalled the team’s prior glory days of the 2005 World Series championship. “I like all the players,” Harlan Tiesman said. “I remember their World Series year of 1959, when I was 16-years-old. It was wonderful.” The Sox lost that series to the Dodgers, 4 games to 2. They won it all in 2005, downing Houston and going 11-1 in the playoffs. But this night, the 6-3 win at Houston meant the 84-78 regular season was one win away from advancing, and their magical season keeps going. It was time for raffle drawings and more celebrating. For me, it was time to put my Cubs hat back on, (had my recent highlight of last week’s wild-card clincher win over Miami in person) then follow an 8-0 playoff loss in San Diego.

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the**dining**duo

A Mexican hat dance

*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 My Sun Day News.*

They say variety is the spice of life. That is why when we do our articles, we don't review Chinese, Chinese, Chinese, or Italian, Italian, Italian restaurants all in a row. We try to shake things up and spice it up. What better way to spice things up than with a Mexican restaurant. We accidentally came across the El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant in Fox River Grove and wanted to give it a try.

The location is less than picturesque. It is next door to a laundromat, across the street from an empty lot, and very close to the Fox River Grove train station. We've learned by now not to judge a book by its cover, so we threw caution to the wind and forged ahead. The inside décor was bland, not spicy. They had 12 tables and two high tops. It is a seat yourself restaurant, so that's just what we did.

Our waiter brought us the menu with chips and salsa to munch on. And we did exactly that while looking at the menu. The salsa was hot, hot, hot, and Jim's eyes were sweating.

We decided since we had chips and salsa to skip the appetizer and go directly to our entrees. Jim chose something new and interesting, the Carne Estilo Morelos (\$26.99). This was skirt steak topped with melted cheese and served with slices of poblano peppers, onions, and grilled crumbled chorizo. It came with refried beans which were creamy and rice that was outstanding, but the star of the dish was the steak with all the toppings. The steak had a nice tasty char on the outside, and the crumbled crispy chorizo on top was the crowning touch.

Nancy went with one of her favorites, a Chimichanga (\$16.99). This was a large fried flour tortilla stuffed with beans, cheese, and your choice of chicken, beef, pork, chorizo, or steak, and it was topped with sour cream and guacamole. She went with the steak and asked for her new favorite style which is Suiza (\$2.50 upcharge). For those of you who don't know Suiza style, it is a creamy tomato sauce with cheese. She asked if they could prepare her chimichanga without the refried beans and the waiter said no problem. Her entrée also came with a side of refried beans and rice and

she asked for no beans, extra rice. She is rapidly turning into a waiter's worst nightmare. With Nancy's first bite, she realized her chimichanga contained re-fried beans. They did give her extra rice and refried beans on the side. So close, but yet so far. She looked at me with the old "stink eye" and said, "you have lunch for another day." She would have sent it back, but then my food would get cold. Her opinion of this restaurant just took a nose dive.

Nancy was getting "hangrier" by the minute when she suddenly spotted an advertisement on our table for (6) Mini Churros (\$9.99). These were served with chocolate dipping sauce and whipped cream. They were the best churros we have ever had, but they were also the most expensive. Nancy, who only samples our desserts had four churros and I had two. For my own safety, I decided not to push the issue.

FYI: This restaurant is handicap accessible.

We are torn on this restaurant. Jim's entrée was delicious, but they messed up my meal. If you order right off the menu with no changes, then you will be okay. If not, do you feel lucky???

The price for our spicy meal was \$70.49. Not seeing one sombrero in the restaurant named El Sombrero, bummer....

He Said / She Said

JIM'S TAKE: I really enjoyed my meal in spite of Nancy glaring at me from across the table.

NANCY'S TAKE: Loved the churros, hated my meal.

• 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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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Robert Supernaw and wife, Arlene, sort LEGO pieces for Supernaw's next build.

•LEGO

exactly where the error occurred.”

He also saves every single LEGO box and instruction booklet.

While building is an engineered science for Supernaw, it is also a collaborative family activity. His wife, Arlene, actively participates by sorting and separating the plastic pieces before each build begins.

Arlene’s own tastes have also influenced the collection.

“I absolutely love all things Disney,” Arlene said, “and Bob happily accommodates my passion by bringing home and assembling magical pieces, including the LEGO Disney castle.”

The couple has even turned the hobby into a seasonal celebration. They carefully pack away their extensive collection of holiday projects, including an elaborate Christmas train, when the holidays end. Each year, they bring the boxes out of storage together and spread holiday cheer brick by brick.

While the Maersk train laid the foundation, the COVID-19 pandemic fanned the

flames. Amid lockdowns, social distancing, and more time at home, Bob suddenly found himself applying his engineering skills to his passion for transportation at full throttle.

“I lean toward working on LEGO transportation kits,” Bob said. “I have built trains, trolley cars, motorcycles, ships, and high-end supercars.” His favorite challenges include McLaren supercars, replicated in detail through LEGO Technic sets with working suspensions, gearboxes, and piston engines.

The hobby rapidly took over their living space. “It was crazy. I started to run out of room,” Bob admitted. Today, one dedicated room in his home features specialized shelves that display his prized transportation sets year-round.

While physical space might be at a premium, his loved ones certainly aren’t complaining. Bob’s obsession has solved the ultimate holiday dilemma, making it incredibly easy for family and friends to pick out the perfect presents. Bob showed a few of his gifts. “I have got LEGO-themed shoes and socks, and, of course, LEGO gift cards.”

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# Feeling kind of spooky

Crisp winds have been rushing through the trees at night with my window has been open. The weather, both day and night, has been the best it has been in ages. Perfect to listen to leaves dance across shingles and pavement. However, you must admit it can be slightly unsettling to hear that and nothing else. The early evening cricket chatter giving way to...what exactly? With that in mind, I started listen to a song by Dusty Springfield that felt appropriate. And like the lyrics, I am here to meet together and see movies.

A stroll to a theater will yield a milder result in Practical Magic 2. Seems fitting that the summer was bookended with this and The Devil Wears Prada 2. Both are legacy sequels of near-cult like features centering women coming into their own. Also, like Prada, Magic relies on fan service to tell its two-hour-and-ten-minute run time together. Also still, the originals told their stories much better in less. This isn't to completely knock these films. They kept me entertained, albeit you will barely remember a hint of dialogue or plot in a week's time.

Blame can't be dealt to screenwriters Kelly Marcel and Akiva Goldsman, as I found that this was based on author Alice Hoffman's own continuation. She should have left well enough alone. As for the story, Aidan Quinn's sheriff is out of the picture and Sandra Bullock's Sally Owens casts a spell so her daughters know nothing about magic. This comes back to bite them in the butt as Kylie falls in love with her boyfriend Gideon, instantly having him hurt and in a coma. Upon finding out the curse that has been a part of their family, Kylie uses a book her aunt finds in order to lift said curse once and for all. Sadly, the aunts played by Dianne Wiest and Stockard Channing are very underutilized. Bullock just moping through the film, more than she did in the first. And Nicole Kidman is just waltzing through, something she does best under frequent collaborator Susanne Bier's di-

rection.

Some Easter eggs is here for fans. Who else but us would turn out? We get to see the sisters practice magic on an incapacitated male. There is Stevie Nicks and midnight margaritas. What is missing in the alchemy: the things witches do best. It's the lack of a spark, conjured with breath on a candle wick.

Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma (mouthful of a title) is the third feature from Jane Schoenbrun. Their pervious film I Saw The TV Glow had irked me, especially with its ending. And by the time I finished this other film, it was plain to see why. Camp Miasma concerns an indie director Kris (Hannah Einbinder) who has been asked by a big studio to resurrect a long-dead slasher franchise. She has been now contacted Billie, the original actress who played the final girl in the first movie. Played with gusto by Gillian Anderson, her southern accent and odd demeanor plays into the faded starlet stereotype but not in a bad way. She wears a turban and a cape like Norma Desmond for heaven's sake. Living at the abandoned camp where they filmed the first movie, Billie begins to cast her spell on Kris in a pro-



found way. She hopes to direct this with the queer subtext, but becomes lost in the world of the film like Billie.

This year has been a boon for heady horror movies with deeper levels of meaning. And Camp Miasma is no exception. But that does make it without its charm. The painted backdrops and unrealistic bloodshed added to the film's unabashed nature. I laughed at the central rampage in the in-universe original film and its use of music. An ode to innocence lost and pleasure regained streaming on MUBI, Schoenbrun gives us a tale of joy, whether it is our first time finding a lover or that perfect piece



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The church is located at 11821 E Grant Highway, Hampshire, the corner of Route 20 and Harmony Road. For more information call the church office 815-923-4263, visit us on Facebook or at our website www.stjohnsuccharmory.org.

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The Bargain Barn located at First Congregational Church of Huntley, 11628 E. Main St., Huntley, IL is opening the first Saturday of May. Due to its' popularity, we have added a second Saturday each month and the dates are as follows: June 8 and 20, July 4 and 18, August 1 and 15, September 5 and 19, and October 3 and 17,2026: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information about donations or volunteering call Cheryl 847-331-1463 or Nancy 815-353-0597.

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Looking for softball players for the 2027 season, age 55+. Del Webb Sun City residents only. Hit, field, throw and run like you are in your twenties again. Make new friends, have loads of fun and experience team camaraderie. Season runs May thru early September. Three leagues to choose from, (all use mitts); 16" PM, 16" AM and 12" PM. Choose to play in one, two or all 3 leagues, if you wish. All games are played at our beautiful Veterans Memorial Field. Registration will be held at Fountain View Lodge on the east side (outside the Birch room), on the following 3 dates, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.: November 7 and December 5. Returning players must register by December 31st. For registration information, please contact club President Chuck Hund at 847-456-0229 or at suncityhuntley-softball@gmail.com

FIND THE HAT LOCATION:

Have you ever dropped a Lego piece on the floor while building a set? That dropped piece can be harder to find on the floor sometimes than a single stud in a whole pile of Lego pieces. Same goes for this editions Find the Hat. Look on the floor below the Lego display in the photo on Page 4. Like lots of dropped Lego pieces, it's nearly hiding under the shelving unit.

Try again next edition!



Christine Sucl

THANK YOU FOR READING MY SUN DAY NEWS!

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Current data available in the Multiple List Service (MLS) as of 1-1-06 to 10-12-26. © 2006

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