

# Hometown Heroes

Each edition of the *Orland Park Public* includes a list of village residents who are currently serving in the United States military. Please join us in saluting and remembering the Orland Park residents listed below as they serve our country.

**Tech Sergeant Adam Moore**

United States Air Force  
Illinois State University Class of 2007  
Taylorville Community High School  
Class of 1998

**Private First Class**

**Patrick Joseph Burke, Jr.**

United States Army  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2006

**Private Sean Patrick Pratl**

Illinois Army National Guard  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2008

**Private First Class Glenn M. Hurt**

United States Army  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2006

**Private First Class**

**Christopher M. Waugh**

United States Army Infantry  
Victor Andrew High School Class of 2001

**Seaman Wayne E. Sobanski, III**

United States Navy  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2008

**Corporal Adam Thomas Bradach**

United States Marine Corps  
Moraine Valley Community College  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2003

**LCPL Efrain Antonio Cruz, Jr.**

United States Marine Corps  
Moraine Valley Community College  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2007

**Airman Apprentice**

**Wayne Edward Sobanski III**

United States Navy  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2008

**Private First Class Joseph Kowalczyk**

United States Marine Corps  
Carl Sandburg High School Class of 2009

To have your loved one's name added to this quarterly list, e-mail the information to [info@orland-park.il.us](mailto:info@orland-park.il.us) or fax the details to 708/403-6171.

In each issue of the *Orland Park Public*, Mayor McLaughlin is proud to recognize the youth of the community for their outstanding achievements. Congratulations to the "pride of our community" on their recent accomplishments.

Congratulations to **Colin Burnett, Rick Grenda** and **Kevin Germino** for earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 318.

Named to The Regional News 2009 All-Area Basketball Teams are Sandburg students **Mitch Thompson**, All-Area First Team, **Fahad Nazir**, Third Team, and **Steve Demogerontas**, Honorable Mention. **Ashley Teresiak** and **Jenna Hoffman** both received Honorable Mentions on the Girls' All-Area Basketball Team. Congratulations to all of these fine young athletes!

Congratulations to **Orland Park Cub Scout Pack 383** for receiving the National Summertime Pack Award. Pack 383 was honored for offering a number of summer events, making its pack a year round organization.

**Taylor Wenzel** was selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. Congratulations on achieving this wonderful distinction.

Congratulations to Century Junior High students **Dylan Klouda** and **Justin Gallagher**. Both students scored 99% on the Mount Carmel High School entrance exam and received scholarships. **Bridget Downes**, a seventh grader at Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School, placed 32<sup>nd</sup> in the World Championships of Irish Dance in Philadelphia, PA. Bridget placed ninth in the 2008 North American Championships and second in the Midwest Championships to qualify to compete at the World Championship. *continued*

# Outstanding Youth

Four Carl Sandburg High School alumni were inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society at Indiana University during their freshman year in 2009. The current sophomores include **David Cameli**, **Courtney Gallagher**, **Jennifer Hirschman**, and **Conor Sullivan**. Orland Park had one of the largest groups in the society which is noteworthy since relatively few students from Orland Park attend Indiana University.

Orland Park native **Brandon Precin**, a member of the Northwestern University Wildcats Wrestling Team, placed third in the country at 125 pounds in the NCAA Championships in March. Precin's stellar postseason elevated him to All-American status for the second time in two years.

Congratulations to Sandburg student **Billy Strnad** for capturing first place in the field of engineering graphics in this year's Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Regional Competition, and second place in sectionals. Strnad went on to place fifth in the state competition sponsored by the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

**DJ Bennett**, a junior at Carl Sandburg High School, was crowned IHSA Class 4A Slam Dunk Champion in March at the state basketball finals in Peoria. Bennett became the first Sandburg basketball player to receive this honor.

Sixteen year old Orland Park violinist **Vincent Meklis** took second place honors at the Corpus Christi International Competition for Piano and Strings. The competition drew applicants from across the United States and international applicants from 20 countries. The age limit was 26 and Vince was one of only two high school students invited. In March he performed as a soloist and with the award winning Polaris Quartet at the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C.

Congratulations to the following Carl Sandburg High School students named to the Chicago Fire/SouthtownStar Girls All-Area Soccer Team: **Victoria Kappel**, **Taylor Moesle**, **Allie Osoba** and **Lauren Solomon**.

The American Legion Orland Memorial Post #111 recently announced the recipients of the annual American Legion Scholl Award medal designed to recognize students deemed most worthy of the high qualities of Citizenship of true Americanism.

This award is the highest honor awarded American youth by the American Legion.

The Class of 2009 recipients include **Hannah Mathew** and **Lucas Stevenson** of Christian Hills Church Grade School, **Claire Bessette** and **Mitchell Siwa** of Cardinal Joseph Bernadin Catholic Grade School, **Clare Allison**



Mayor Dan McLaughlin recently honored Eagle Scouts (l to r) Rick Grenda, Colin Burnett and Kevin Germino of Boy Scout Troop 318. These young men recently completed extensive criteria to achieve the highest rank in Boy Scouts, Eagle Scout.

and **Brendan McGovern** of Saint Michael Catholic Grade School, **Aneta Rychtarczyk** and **Daniel Fleming** of Norbert Jerling Junior High School, **Paige Dauparas** and **Ben Marks** of Century Junior High School, and **Shannon McKane** and **Tyler Hartman** of Orland Junior High School. Congratulations to all of these graduates on receiving this prestigious award!

The Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce announced its 2009 scholarship winners. The chamber awarded three \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents own or are employed by chamber businesses. The scholarships were awarded based on community service involvement, school performance and activity involvement and consideration of employment during the school year.

Congratulations to Orland Park resident and Carl Sandburg High School graduate, Class of 2009 **Leah Hollaway** on being selected to receive this scholarship. Leah will attend Loyola University in the fall and plans to major in chemistry, with a future career goal of becoming a dentist.

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