

# DeKalb/Sycamore Neighbors

Rochelle News-Leader • Wednesday, April 17, 2024 • Section 3

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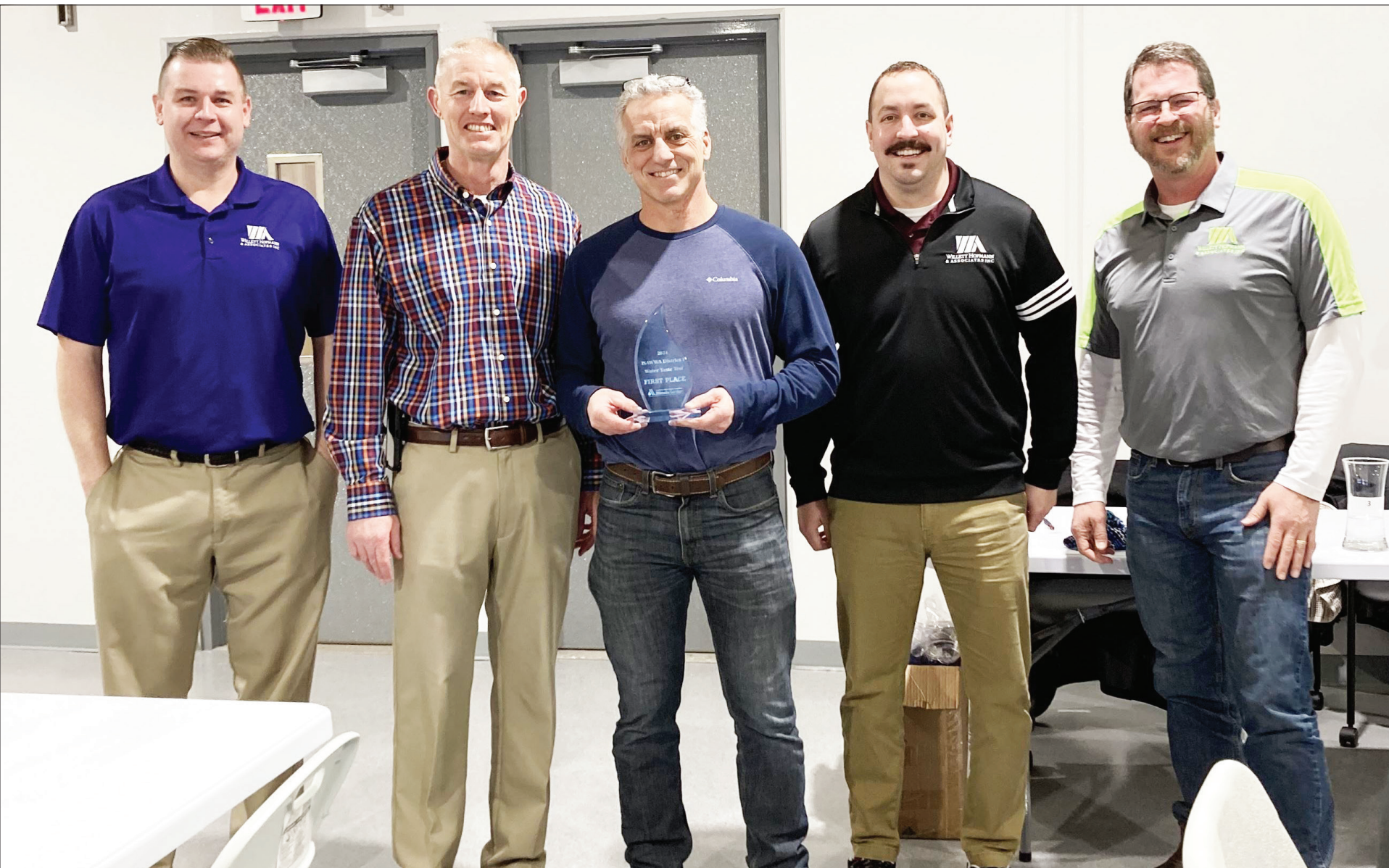
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# DEKALB/SYCAMORE NEIGHBORS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

DeKalb Director of Utilities and Transportation Bryan Faivre (center) was presented with the City's award for taking first place in the Illinois Section American WaterWorks Association District 1 Water Taste Test Competition on Jan. 26 in Freeport. He is joined by representatives of the engineering firm Willett Hofmann & Associates, which sponsored the competition.

## DeKalb wins water taste test competition

**DEKALB** — The City of DeKalb Water Division recently won the Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA) District 1 Water Taste Test Competition.

The contest was held on Jan. 26, 2024, in Freeport Illinois. The City

of DeKalb competed against other District 1 public water supplies, comprising of cities located in the northwestern part of the state including Rockford, North Park, Rock Island, Moline, and Freeport to name a few. Water was judged based on clarity, taste,

and odor.

DeKalb advanced compete against other district winners from the state at the annual ISAWWA WATERCON conference held on April 15, in Peoria. The winner of that competition will hold the distinct honor of “Best Tasting

Water” in the state. The winner will also be allowed to compete at the national level at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) conference in June, for a chance to be awarded “Best Tasting Water” in the nation.

This award recognizes

the hard work that our staff at the DeKalb Water Division put in every day to ensure that the water provided to the citizens of DeKalb is not only safe and reliable, but great tasting as well. The complexities of achieving this can at times be taken for granted.

The DeKalb Water Division is honored to represent the citizens of DeKalb and the other District 1 communities at the upcoming state water tasting competition. We are optimistic we can bring home “First Place” as winner of “Best Tasting Water” in the state.

# DEKALB/SYCAMORE NEIGHBORS

## Applications open for DeKalb 50/50 Parkway Tree Program

**DEKALB**—The City of DeKalb encourages the planting of trees to enhance the community through beautification and aid environmental sustainability. To support this effort, the City will cover half the cost to purchase and plant parkway trees. Along with sharing the costs with residents, the City will arrange the planting by a tree service.

For the program, the Public Works Department has selected species that grow well in parkways and will help diversify the community's tree population. The species are listed on the application form. The trunk size at the time of

planting is 2.25 to 3 inches in diameter.

### Guidelines

Residents may have up to two trees planted.

Trees are planted in the parkway, which is the area between the curb and sidewalk. Trees cannot be planted on private property.

Applicants must be the property owner, and payment is made at the time of application.

Trees may be planted under utility lines; however, the applicant must select a species identified as appropriate for under wires.

The property owner is responsible for watering the tree(s). After planting is

completed, the soil should be watered thoroughly and then watered weekly whenever a dry spell occurs during the first spring, summer and fall.

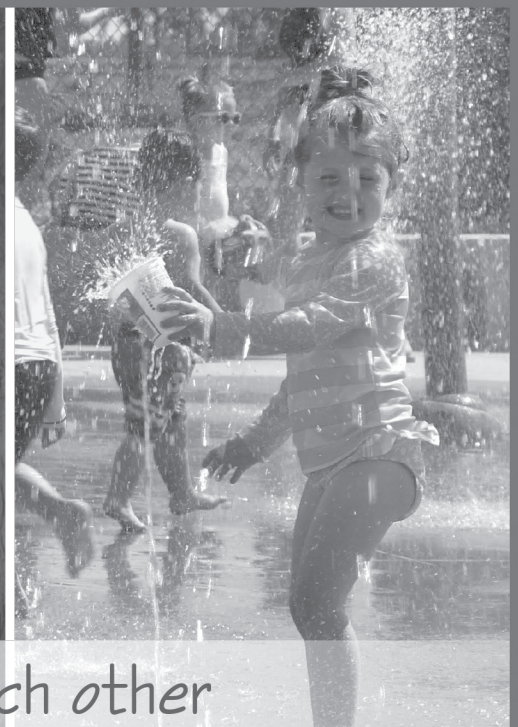
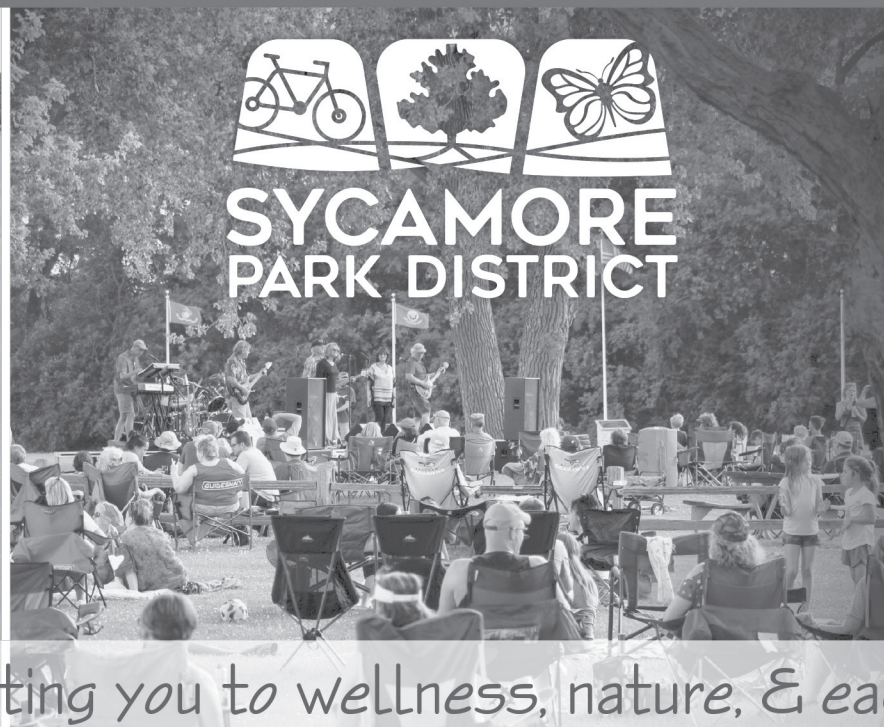
To participate in the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program, complete the application form at <https://www.cityofdekalb.com/DocumentCenter/View/16014/5050-Parkway-Tree-Program-Application-Form?bidId=>

The program continues until the application deadline or until the season's budget is expended.

The spring application deadline is May 3, and the fall application deadline is Sept. 20.



(COURTESY PHOTO)



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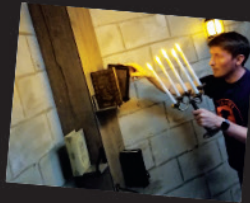


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# DEKALB/SYCAMORE NEIGHBORS

## Hall named winner of Kish College Paul Simon Student Essay Contest

**MALTA**— Pedro Hall was selected as Kishwaukee College's winner of the 2024 Paul Simon Student Essay Contest, where he described "How Kishwaukee College Changed My Life."

Hall, a Sycamore resident, received a scholarship for the spring 2024 semester and was recognized with a certificate of achievement at the April Board of Trustees meeting. Hall's entry was forwarded to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) for entry into the statewide Paul Simon Student Essay competition.

In his essay, Hall reflects on how Kishwaukee College provided the opportunity for him to revisit his goal of pursuing higher education after a 15-year hiatus due to life obstacles.

"I took a picture holding a sign that read, 'First Day of School! ¡Primer día de clases! Kishwaukee College, Malta. #estudiandoporunsueño#gokougars!' In the background, a frame read, 'Bloom Where You Are Planted.' This picture paints a summary of how that day was the beginning of my dream of obtaining a doctorate degree in education. One day I will, and when I do, I will always remember that it all began with an opportunity given at Kishwaukee College," Hall wrote in his essay.

When crafting his es-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Pedro Hall was named the winner of Kishwaukee College's 2024 Paul Simon Student Essay Contest. Hall was recognized at the April meeting of the Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees and is pictured with Bob Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.**

say, Hall said he received encouragement from multiple Kish instructors and saw the prompt as an opportunity to pass along further inspiration.

"I hope the people who read my essay enjoy it and

remember that it is never too late to work toward our goals regardless of how old the goal is or how old we are," Hall said. "Perhaps it wasn't your time then, but it may be now. Do a life assessment

and see if now the time is right. If it is not, don't give up on your dream. Wait, because your time will come. For me, this is my time, and I am elated to go full force in the pursuit of my lifelong dream."

Hall plans to graduate from Kish in May with an associate in science degree. Following Kish, he plans to transfer to a four-year university to pursue a bachelor's degree before obtaining a

doctoral degree in education. Hall intends to work in special education after completing his academic journey.

To read Hall's essay in its entirety, visit [kish.edu/iccta](http://kish.edu/iccta).

# DEKALB/SYCAMORE NEIGHBORS

## Kish College hosts floral expert for design demonstration

**MALTA** — The Kishwaukee College Horticulture program hosted Illinois Certified Professional Florist (ICPF) Coordinator Ronda Hess as part of the Artist In Residence (AIR) program offered through the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD).

Hess AIFD, certified floral designer (CFD), ICPF presented a floral design demonstration for Associate Professor of Horticulture Janet Gallagher's advanced floral students and Kish's Student American Institute of Floral Designers (SAIFD) Floral Club members. The presentation gave students hands-on experience in variations of triangle floral arrangements, emphasizing color harmonies, style techniques, and the principles and elements of floral design.

The AIR program is offered through the AIFD to bring together industry professionals and floral design students at colleges and universities that host student AIFD chapters like Kish. For horticulture students like Christina Fisher, who owns and operates a floral shop, hands-on opportunities through Kish's horticulture program, like the AIR demonstration, offer numerous educational and professional advantages.

"It is absolutely beneficial to see other professionals at work. Everybody designs differently, so it is very helpful to see the different tips and techniques you can pick



**Guest designer Ronda Hess explains floral arrangement techniques to Kishwaukee College horticulture students. Hess conducted a lecture and demonstration as part of the Artist In Residence (AIR) program offered by the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD).**

up," Fisher said. "Ronda explained the purpose behind her displays very thoroughly and in-depth."

Hess is a certified floral

designer (CFD) and was inducted into the AIFD in 2005. With more than 35 years of experience in the floral industry, Hess

is the state coordinator for the hands-on and online certification classes for designers looking to become Illinois Certi-

fied Professional Florists through the Illinois State Florists' Association. Hess currently works as a floral designer for Hy-Vee in

Bloomington.

For more information on Kish's Horticulture program, visit [kish.edu/horticulture](http://kish.edu/horticulture).

(COURTESY PHOTO)

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Enjoy year-round events and athletic and recreational programs through the Sports & Recreation Center, Haish Gymnasium & Fitness Center, and Hopkins Park Community Center facilities.

*Please note that Hopkins Pool will be closed in 2024 for renovation. Tentatively, it will reopen in the summer of 2025.*

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