



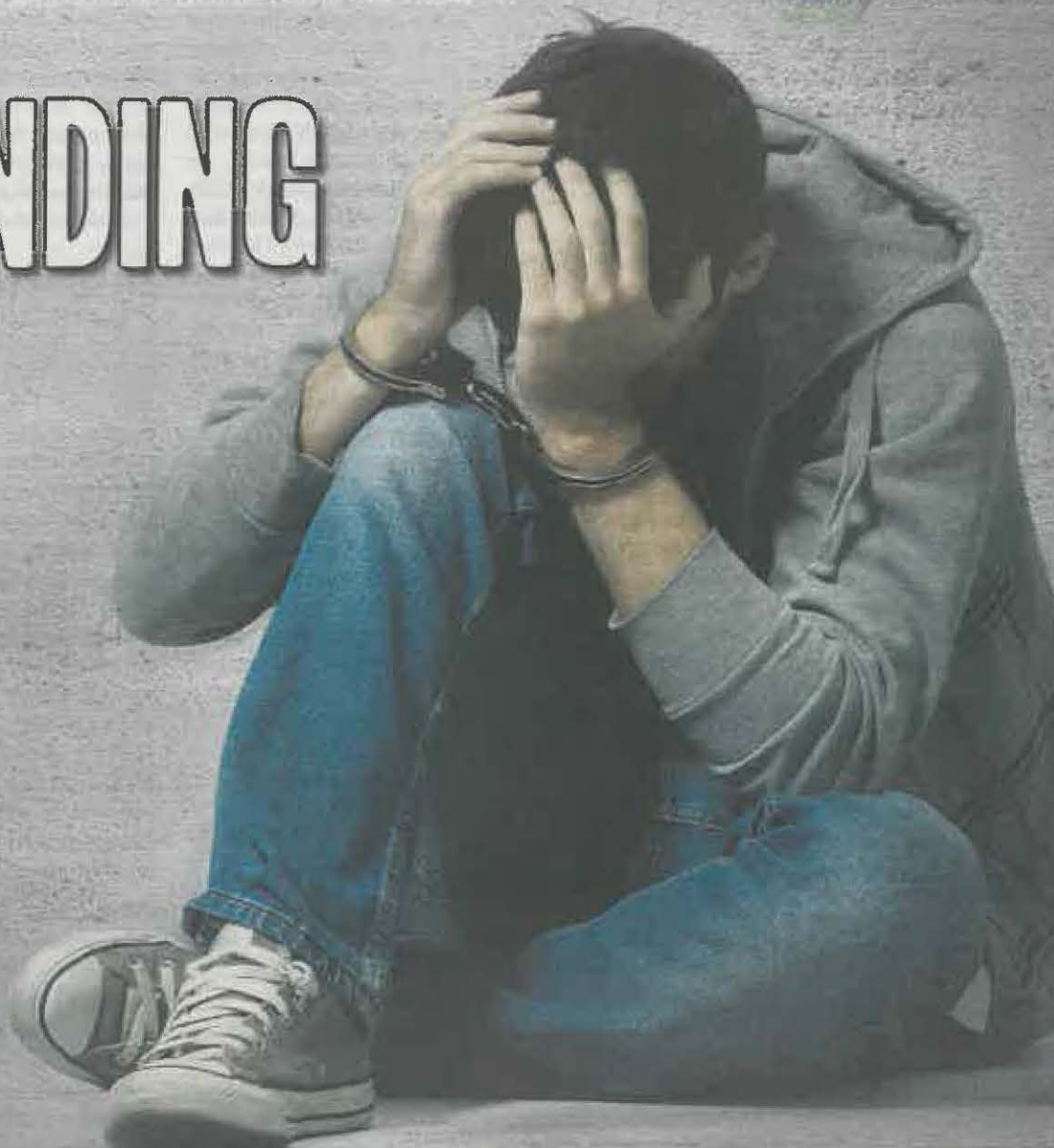
# THE LAKE FOREST LEADER™

Century PUBLICATION

## UNDERSTANDING MENTAL ILLNESS

Lake Forest Police  
Department introduces  
new Crisis Intervention  
Team Program at Town  
Hall Meeting, Page 3

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**SMELLY SEPTIC** 26 homes in Lake Forest may need  
to replace current septic system and install a sanitary sewer  
system, Page 4

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

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### SLATE TO SUCCESS

Lake Forest and Lake Bluff  
slate candidates for local  
elections in April, Page 8



**ews COVER STORY**

# Lake Forest Police create program dealing with mental illness

**DANIELLE GENSBURG**  
Freelance Reporter

To better protect the safety of people living with mental illness in Lake Forest, law enforcement officers and the overall community, the Lake Forest Police Department has created a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) that will improve how officers respond to a mental health crisis.

"Overall, I hope it brings the safety for the officers, safety for the person suffering in a crisis with mental illness and safety for the community," Commander Rick Anderson said to a small number of community members attending the first town hall meeting held by the Lake

Forest Police Department at the Gorton Community Center on Dec. 6. "Overall, safety for everyone and to find ways for our police department to de-escalate situations that could be potentially be violent and not have to use force against that person."

Anderson, Detective Wendy Dumont and Linda Porter, a licensed clinical professional counselor, used a power point presentation to explain why the Lake Forest Police Department decided to create a CIT program. They discussed when the first CIT program was established, gave statistics relating to mental illness on both a national and local level and described the new "Special Concerns

Response" forms that the police department has created for the program, in which individuals living with mental illness or family members who care for a loved one with mental illness in Lake Forest, can provide information related to their health concerns, medications, or special needs and even offer suggestions and techniques to officers that can be used to resolve a conflict. The forms, which are confidential, allow officers who might come into contact with individuals who have mental illness in crisis, a way to identify them before arriving on call.

The new team, which was developed by Anderson along with Dumont and Porter, who has

worked with the police department since 2014, helps officers de-escalate crisis situations involving mental illness by reducing their use-of-force, arrest and the number of times they have to respond to the same call. With a disproportionate number of people affected by serious mental illnesses in the criminal justice system and statistics from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administration showing that 1 in 5 Americans are affected by mental illness in a given year, CIT gives officers the tools they need to safely intervene and prevent individuals with serious mental illnesses from going to jail or entering the criminal justice system.

In Lake Forest alone, around 3,000 individuals are living with mental illness and of those 3,000 people, 621 are struggling with serious mental illness.

To become a member of CIT, Lake Forest Police officers are required to attend a 40-hour CIT training course and become certified with the Illinois Training and Standard Board.

Four officers have already completed the course and are certified. Lake Forest Police Department's Deputy Chief of Police, Robert Copeland, who is in charge of all training and operations for the police department, said he plans to send two officers a month to CIT

training, with the goal of having every officer in the department trained and at least 2-3 officers per shift who are CIT trained.

"Police are being called on to do more with less, and a lot of the more that we're asked to do is help people who have some type of crisis going on in their life and the initial training that most police get doesn't prepare them with the ability to deal with people with mental illness, substance abuse, Alzheimer's, any of the other myriad of problems on a daily basis that we have to deal with, so we're trying to give police officers more tools in his mental tool box in order

Please see CIT, 14



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# Lake Forest College welcomes new Board of Trustee member

CONTENT SUBMITTED BY LAKE FOREST COLLEGE

Lake Forest College announced the election of Randy Lauer of Winnetka, to its Board of Trustees.

Lauer will serve on the Post Graduate Outcomes and Property & Operations committees through 2020.

Lauer is a managing di-



Lauer

rector at Citigroup, where he oversees all institutional markets sales for the Midwest region. Lauer started his career at Salomon Brothers in New York and has held numerous sale leadership positions, all in institutional markets.

Prior to his work on Wall Street, Lauer was an officer in the United States Marine Corps, where he held leadership billets ranging from platoon commander to company commander. His service record

includes an overseas tour in Okinawa, Japan and deployment to the Republic of South Korea, the Philippine Islands and Thailand.

Lauer received his bachelor's degree from Lake Forest College in 1981, where he majored in politics. In 1988, he was awarded his master's degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Lauer and his wife, Wendi, reside in Winnetka and have six children.

## LAKE FOREST HIGH SCHOOL Model United Nations students win awards at conference

On Nov. 5, 19 students from the LFHS Model United Nations Club (MUN) traveled to Chicago to compete in the St. Ignatius High School Model United Nations Conference. Individual awards were won by Thomas Romanchek, Emma Johnson, Wyatt Verlen, Renee Huang and Litsa Kapsatis. The LFHS MUN Club's next conference will be at the Chicago International Model UN Conference, December 11-14th.

## Senior places 8th at solo Scholastic Bowl

Senior Alex Banta has an outstanding performance at the New Trier Solo Scholastic Bowl Tournament on Oct. 29 in Winnetka. Competing individually against 128 of the best players in the state from 29 schools, Banta made it to the championship round, eventually finishing in eighth place overall. He earned ribbons for perfect scores in four different competition categories, math, poetry, classical music and fine arts.

## Deerpath names geography bee winner

Deerpath middle School

named eighth-grader Dillon Hollingsworth, the winner of competition of the National Geographic Bee. The school Bee, at which students answered questions on geography, was the first round in the 29th annual National Geographic Bee. Dillon's next step is to take a qualifying test; up to 100 of the top scorers on that test will then be eligible to compete in the Illinois state Bee on March 31, 2017.

Eighth-grader Henry Skarecky was named the runner-up.

## CIT

From Page 3

to serve the community," Copeland said. "We don't want an interaction with the police and someone in crisis to turn into a further crisis or critical incident where we have to use force or it ends up in a deadly force situation."

The first CIT program, as Anderson described in his power point presentation was started in 1988 with the Memphis Police Department after police were called in to deal with a man in a housing project in south Memphis. The man had a serious mental illness and was stabbing himself several times, the situation resulted in the police having to shoot and kill him.

According to Anderson, there are 12,000 police and law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and around 3,000 participate in some type of CIT program.

The Lake Forest Police Department hired a company to teach officers de-escalation training and techniques, so when an officer gets into a situation that is

tense and dynamic, he or she knows how to help talk that situation down.

Janice Mason, a resident of Lake Forest, said she hopes more and more people recognize the need for a program like CIT.

"I think it's a wonderful program. I was kind of sorry more people didn't attend this evening," Mason said. "I also hope that Lake Forest hospital considers adding this kind of service in. I think there's a tremendous need in the community. I was also very impressed with how the officers don't want to have a stigma attached to the program, which is a fear of people who have mental illness in their family or are dealing with mental illness themselves. I think that's very crucial that they talked about how there's not a list [of people's names] floating and that it's handled very professionally so only the police officers have the information."

Anna and Carlton Marcyan, both Lake Forest residents whose son is autistic and worry about him running away, said they think

the CIT program will be a tremendous help.

"Our son is autistic," Carlton Marcyan said. "The CIT program will come in very well for us and its invaluable for the officers to have this information. It alleviates some anxiety. You always worry that if something happens, something even worse is going to happen, so this program just kind of tempers that."

"When our son disappeared, he ran away on the Friday after thanksgiving, the police heard the call and knew who our son was and what he looked like, so they all now identified him," Anna Marcyan said. "This is very important, and it's come along way from when we first moved here 15 years ago, and our son ran away one time, and the police carried him out struggling. Now, all they do is stop, get a can of coke and give it to him, and he'll sit down in the police car. The officers really care, and they're training each other to understand these things."

In addition to its CIT program, the Lake Forest

Police Department is one of seven police departments in Lake County offering "A Way Out Program", in which police can fast-track drug users to substance abuse programs and services. Officers are also trained on how to administer and carry Narcan, an antidote that saves the lives of those who overdose on opioids and offers prescription drug disposal boxes at its department for people in the community who need a place to throw away their old, unwanted, expired or unused prescription drugs and non prescription medications.

"We're just trying to better educate, better train our officers to serve our community," Copeland said. "We're trying to be proactive in that approach."

For more information about the Lake Forest Police Department's CIT program, contact Anderson (by email at AndersoR@cityoflakeforest.com or by phone at (847) 810-3811, Dumont (DumontW@cityoflakeforest.com or (847) 810-3819), or Porter (PorterL@cityoflakeforest.com or (847) 810-3856).

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