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Drone helps amateur photographer win photo contest

Inside Northwest

Reporting from around the Northwest Suburbs

Amateur photographer Adam Pearson has used landscapes in the suburbs, the city of Chicago and a family lake house as his real world classroom, but it's his captivating photo of Lake Arlington during a fall sunrise that's award winning.

The image, captured by the Arlington Heights resident by use of a drone, is the winner of the 2020 Village Hall Photography Competition, as chosen by the village's arts commission.

The contest was delayed a year because of the pandemic, but it was during that downtime that Pearson decided to hone his skills in drone photography.

He started flying drones before the pandemic but began learning more about photography after picking up an old camera that belonged to his father. The camera sat unused for a year after his father's death, until Pearson's wife booked an Alaskan cruise that inspired him to start taking photos.

One morning he decided to take his drone to Lake



This photo, "Lake Arlington Fall Sunrise," is the winner of the 2020 Arlington Heights Village Hall Photography Competition.

Arlington — a popular spot for walking, running, and taking in the natural landscape.

"I knew I wanted to catch the fall colors somewhere, and I knew Lake Arlington would definitely show those off very well," Pearson said. "So I woke up early one morning and I took that picture."

Arts Commission Chair Kristen Schurtz said the panel received many excellent

photos as part of the competition, but Pearson's stood out. The commission used criteria including technical expertise, image interest and creativity to pick a winner.

The photograph — formally titled "Lake Arlington Fall Sunrise" — has been enlarged and framed and is now on display at the village hall.

— Christopher Placek, cplacek@dailyherald.com

Another artist to keep an eye on

Artwork created by a 10-year-old Buffalo Grove girl will adorn U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider's congressional holiday cards this season, his office announced.

Lucille Holloway, a fifth-grader at Prairie Elementary School in Buffalo Grove, designed the colorful image,



COURTESY OF U.S. REP. BRAD SCHNEIDER
Lucille Holloway of Buffalo Grove, left, shows off the artwork that will appear on U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider's office holiday cards during a meeting with Schneider, right.



COURTESY OF U.S. REP. BRAD SCHNEIDER

which depicts a woman in the doorway of a house waving to people outside in the snow.

A snowman, a horse pulling a cut tree and a Hanukkah menorah on a windowsill help decorate the scene.

Lucille was among the 10th House District students who submitted artistic entries. The theme of this year's contest was "Time Together."

"Lucy's beautiful artwork

shows the many ways we can spend time together this holiday season, especially after the last holiday season spent apart," said Schneider, a Deerfield Democrat, in a news release.

"My hope is that Lucy's creativity will inspire all of us to come together in health, happiness and peace this holiday season."

— Russell Lissau, rlissau@dailyherald.com

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Serving up a happy holiday

Foundation, businesses team to deliver 350 Thanksgiving dinners to residents in need

Submitted by Aimee Lisa DeBat

The Des Plaines Community Foundation, Sysco Chicago and Sunrise Grill all worked together to provide and deliver Thanksgiving Day dinners.

As a result, more than 350 individuals, including home-bound seniors and people with disabilities, had a very happy holiday.

"This is our 11th year making the meals and delivering the turkey dinners," said Rosemary Argus, executive director of the DPCF. "It's a group effort. Turkey dinners were delivered to those in wheelchairs, on oxygen and the blind, all who have difficulty leaving their homes."

Sunrise Grill, 1928-30 E. Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, joined in on the Thanksgiving Day dinners. The owner, Chef Jose Medina, his wife Maria, and staff donated their time and skills to help. The restaurant roasted all the turkey breasts and fixings for the dinners this year.

Sysco Chicago provided all the food, including 220 pounds of turkey breasts, stuffing and sweet potatoes, while volunteers packaged corn, sweet potatoes, the main entree, bread and Apple Blossom deserts.

Peeet's Coffee donated more than 300 pounds of coffee, enough to put a one-pound bag in each person's dinner.

In addition to the dinner, Northwest Suburban Day Care provided handmade place mats for each meal, which included handprints made into turkeys. Written on the placements was "Happy Thanksgiving."

Children from Saint Zachary created personal handmade cards wishing residents a "Happy Thanksgiving."

According to Argus, the list of people who were served dinner through the Thanksgiving Day program consisted of Des Plaines residents who requested assistance by calling the Neighbors Helping Neighbors hotline at (888) 646-8898.

"Everyone on both the Neighbors Helping Neighbors list and the city of Des Plaines' lists were called to confirm they would be home on Thanksgiving Day and enjoyed having a cooked meal delivered," said Kathy Puetz, from the city of Des Plaines Health and Human Services division.

The GIS staff at the city's Engineering Department created route maps for the volunteer drivers. Sysco volunteers delivered meals



Pictured, from left, Rosemary Argus and her son Bob Argus; Des Plaines Community Foundation board member Chris Hassett and his sons, Mathew and Alexander. The Des Plaines Community Foundation worked to provide and deliver Thanksgiving Day dinners to 350 individuals, including homebound seniors and people with disabilities.



Volunteers, from left, Tim Muellemann and Tashawna Gutbe, both Sysco employees, load a car with Thanksgiving dinners to deliver to families in need.

between 10 a.m. and noon on Thanksgiving.

Lynne England, administrative assistant-sales at Sysco Chicago Inc., coordinated the Sysco driver pickup.

"We are thankful for all the Sysco volunteers and drivers, which include Julie Alicea, Keith Butts, Tashawna

Gutbe, Rich Jurczak, Tony and Tina Jung, Josh Kackley, Nick LaRocco, Steve Luczak, Eric McLearn, Tim Muellemann, Mark Ragusi, Nino Resto, Theresa Roberts, Shawn Tortoriello and Bobby Wenger," said England.

DPCF board trustees who came to work were President

and changing lives in our communities."

Argus said a donation of this magnitude goes a long way to enhance DPCF programs.

"We are honored that Sysco Chicago chose to support the vital work we do in the community to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families," said Argus.

"We are fortunate to have such a support system of sponsors, friends and family that have come together to help the DPCF initiatives.

"This is a really touching program to provide for these families," Argus added. "We appreciate all the volunteers' hard work on Thanksgiving. This is one of the most satisfying things that we've done."

Neighbors Helping Neighbors delivers on about 500 requests for help from Des Plaines residents in need every year. The NHN Program links the community with information on where they can get financial assistance and where food can be received.

Every year the DPCF and Sysco Chicago work together to provide, cook and deliver Thanksgiving Day dinners. The foundation also helps to keep the elderly living in their homes for as long as possible by cutting grass, shoveling snow and providing emergency plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning repairs as they occur.

"We want seniors to live with dignity and independence for as long as possible," Argus said.

The DPCF recently donated \$24,000 to area food pantries.

"Our foundation donates to all the local pantries, as well as many of the religious organizations that provide meals during the week for the needy of Des Plaines," Argus said.

Some of the DPCF programs include: Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program committee; Healthy Community/Healthy Youth Program committee; Intergenerational Program committee; and Seasons of Service Program committee.

The foundation has no paid employees and is a 501c3 organization. Funds are obtained from individuals, businesses, and corporate tax-deductible contributions, as well as from other foundations.

For information on becoming a student volunteer, visit www.desplainescommunity-foundation.org.

Future volunteers can also call Rosemary Argus at (847) 525-5566.



COURTESY OF DEBAT MEDIA INC.
Sysco employees and volunteers Tim Muellemann and Josh Kackley prepare to deliver Thanksgiving Day dinners.

Rich Holke, Kathy Puetz, Bob Argus and Chris Hassett. Brothers Mathew and Alexander Hassett helped pack the meals into travel boxes.

Sysco Chicago also recently donated \$15,000 to support DPCF programs. The donation was a result of Sysco Chicago's "Nourishing Neighbors" initiative for community outreach in Des Plaines.

"Nourishing Neighbors is an endeavor that directs Sysco's charitable donations primarily to local agencies working to get healthy and nutritious food where it's needed," said England. "We care for people by giving back, doing well