

OUR neighborhood

Evanston-Northwestern
Community News
Fall 2017

NEWS



“ I love being here.
We are just like a family.”

Juan Morales

(left, with University Police commander
Ken Jones and Tami Soto)

Local Business Helps Secure Victory

On a cold Saturday afternoon, Juan Morales is cheerful and alert as crowds file into Ryan Field in anticipation of an exciting football game against Michigan State. “We’re the first people fans see when they arrive,” says Morales, who for more than 20 years has helped provide security at stadiums and events throughout the Chicago area. “We get to greet everyone but also keep them safe.”

Morales works for Luna Security, a local minority-owned company that provides extra support during Northwestern’s largest

events, including football games and Dillo Day. Luna is one of many organizations—which also include Evanston’s fire and police departments—that partner with the University to support safe and enjoyable experiences for attendees.

“We are committed to our partnerships with local businesses and to building and maintaining trust with our community,” says Bruce Lewis, chief of University Police. “The safety and security of the community relies upon our valuable relationships with the city of Evanston and our security vendors.”

Luna has continued to grow since adding Northwestern as one of its first major clients. “We bring a dedicated group of management staff like Juan to Northwestern,” says company owner and cofounder Tami Soto, a Northwestern alumna. “Luna has been a cohesive part of game-day operations at Ryan Field for over 20 years.”

In addition to Evanston and Northwestern police, some 250 Luna staff are at the stadium gates, performing security checks, examining bags, and managing crowds.

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WARD PROFILE: NINTH WARD

With the highest population of school-age children in Evanston, the Ninth Ward forms a close-knit neighborhood on the city's southern side.

"The Ninth Ward is home to a great variety of residents and contributes to the racial and socioeconomic diversity of Evanston," says ward alderman Cicely Fleming.

The neighborhood's quiet, residential feel is a draw for families from Chicago who have young children and want to access excellent public schools and own homes. Several District 65 schools in the ward serve its diverse population.

A business district on the ward's western side includes such stores as Home Depot, Aldi, and PetSmart. A network of local business owners and home-based businesses strengthens the ward's economic growth and promotes entrepreneurship.

Organizations based in the ward include the Ridgeville Park District, which operates many of the ward's parks; Reba Place Development Corporation, which provides affordable housing; and many churches. The Ninth Ward is also home to a fire station.

Upcoming improvements in the ward include crosswalks to enhance safety for residents.

Shooting Hoops at Twiggs Park



With the newly renovated basketball court at Twiggs Park, Evanston youth now have another place to shoot hoops.

The renovations—made thanks to a partnership of Northwestern, Evanston, and local energy provider Dynege—included a new textured playing surface, repainted lines, and new backboards and rims.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony featured Fifth Ward alderman Robin Rue Simmons; members of the Northwestern men's and women's basketball teams; Chris Collins, the Sullivan-Ubben Head Men's Basketball Coach; and Jim Phillips, the University's vice president for athletics and recreation.

"The partnership has turned this court into something all of us in the community can be proud of—a place where our children can fall in love with the game of basketball," Phillips said at the ceremony.

This past summer, the new court was the site of camps, neighborhood gatherings, and friendly pickup games. The space complements many Twiggs Park activities throughout the year, including the city's free Starlight Concert and Movies in the Park series.

"Our entire community is strengthened when we invest in neighborhood spaces for our

children to play and grow," says Lawrence C. Hemingway, Evanston's director of parks, recreation, and community services. "This basketball court will bring families and neighbors together for years to come."

The new court is just north of Payne Street and west of Dewey Avenue, in the northeast section of Twiggs Park.

CONNECT WITH US

Our email newsletter includes a monthly Northwestern events calendar. Email Shayla Butler at shayla.butler@northwestern.edu to sign up.

Do you have a business or non-profit in Evanston? We can help increase your visibility, facilitate connections to the Northwestern community, and find student volunteers.

For details, visit northwestern.edu/communityrelations or contact Neighborhood and Community Relations executive director Alan Anderson at alan.anderson@northwestern.edu or 847-467-5762.

Preparing for College Success

At Evanston Township High School, the Evanston Scholars program guides students as they begin their higher education journey.

Working with juniors and seniors as they apply to and eventually attend colleges and universities, the program supports students from

low-income households, students of color, and those who will be the first in their families to go to college.

Senior Chris Tobin says his college search process has benefited from the program's biweekly workshops, ACT test preparation, and after-school college counseling. "I don't know how I would get through the

deadlines without the support of this program and having a place to get it all done," he says.

"My mentor has created a family within a family and has believed in me the whole time."

"Evanston Scholars addresses an important need in our community," says Steve Newman, the nonprofit's founder and executive director as well as a 20-year veteran teacher at ETHS. "Too many of our brightest students are not getting the opportunity to get to and finish college."

Students who are the first in their families to attend a college or university can face challenges that go beyond academics. "They can be unprepared to navigate the financial, academic, and social systems in higher education," Newman says. "We provide that knowledge and back it up with a support system that stays with them until they graduate."

Once in college, students stay in contact with their mentors and Evanston Scholars staff, who check in and share skills for success.

Since 2011, the organization has helped 200 students achieve their educational goals. Nearly 96 percent of Evanston Scholars students graduate from college, compared with the national rate of 11 percent of students from similar socioeconomic backgrounds.

Northwestern graduate and undergraduate students—including many from the University's student-run Dance Marathon fundraiser—volunteer in the program as tutors for the high schoolers.

"College has always been a dream," Tobin says. With aspirations to become an engineer, he is proud that he'll be the first in his family to graduate from college and hopes to set an example for his younger siblings.

“College has always been a dream.”

Chris Tobin
ETHS senior



TO LEARN MORE about Evanston Scholars and to get involved, email Kay Israelite at kisraelite@evanstonscholars.org.



Securing Victory

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As the eyes and ears on the ground, they often act as the first responders to emerging situations; leaders depend on their judgment to resolve problems.

When necessary, incidents are moved up to the command center. The room is usually silent, interrupted only by the occasional crackle of a voice reporting over radio. On game days, leadership from University Police and key security partners meet in the room so they can instantly dispatch officers or ambulances, deploy clean-up crews, assist lost children, and send emergency notifications. They monitor a wall of television screens showing just a few of the more than 1,000 closed-circuit feeds from Ryan Field.

If there are reports of a disturbance in the stands, leaders leap into action to summon additional support from their teams on site. They work together to coordinate a response, all while watching live on screen as Luna staff and Northwestern police resolve incidents.

Greg Klaiber, director of emergency management at Northwestern and retired chief of the Evanston Fire Department, says the



seamless response is no accident: “The University, the city of Evanston, and security partners like Luna constantly collaborate and regularly conduct joint exercises. This builds the trust and strong relationships needed to respond effectively in an emergency.”

Back at Ryan Field, Morales says, “I love being here. We are just like a family.” It’s especially exciting on a day like this, as Northwestern upsets Michigan State in triple overtime, 39–31. Go ‘Cats!

TO LEARN MORE about Northwestern safety and security, contact Gloria Graham, deputy chief of University Police, at gloria.graham@northwestern.edu.

EVENTS

NORTHWESTERN ICE RINK THROUGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Norris University Center,
1999 Campus Drive.

You don’t have to be a Wildcat to enjoy Northwestern’s ice rink this winter! For detailed hours, information, and an online waiver, visit northwestern.edu/norris/arts-and-recreation/ice-rink. Skate rentals \$6–9.



MEN’S BASKETBALL NORTHWESTERN VS. VALPARAISO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 7 P.M.

Allstate Arena, Rosemont.
Northwestern welcomes Valparaiso to Allstate Arena, home of the Wildcats for the 2017–18 season. Tickets start at \$22.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 6 P.M.
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall,
50 Arts Circle Drive.
A celebration featuring music and performances by Northwestern student groups and a keynote address by *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow.

STAFF PROFILE: SHAYLA BUTLER

Northwestern welcomes Shayla Butler as partner relationship administrator in the Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations.

Butler works on efforts to strengthen existing partnerships between the University and the city of Evanston while also cultivating new collaborations.

Expanding opportunities is key to Butler’s work. “This role allows me to impact the Evanston community by connecting



people to the many resources Northwestern has to offer,” she says.

Butler looks forward to working with campus and community partners to continue to strengthen Evanston’s neighborhoods.

TO LEARN MORE about the Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, visit northwestern.edu/communityrelations or email ncr@northwestern.edu.