

# What? Some are not using their dishwashers?

20% don't, data shows, but they're important for saving water and energy

BY JENNY WHIDDEN  
jwhidden@dailyherald.com

Nearly 20% of all dishwasher machines nationwide go unused, data from the Energy Information Administration shows. If your dishwasher is one of them, experts say you could save time, energy and water by putting down the sponges and letting your appliance do the work. (Dishwashers) definitely save compared to

handwashing. It does seem to be kind of counterintuitive to people," said Joe Vukovich, staff attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It feels rare to have something that's saving you time and effort that's actually also the better thing for the environment." The most recent standards for dishwashers were set by the federal Department of Energy in 2012, requiring that the appliances use no more than

five gallons of water per cycle. Meanwhile, running your tap can consume as much as 2.2 gallons per minute. "You'd have to do an entire load of dishes in less than 2.5 minutes of running your faucet for the water use to be comparable to the least efficient product you can buy today," Vukovich said. Dishwashers certified by Energy Star, an energy efficiency program run by the Department of Energy and

the Environmental Protection Agency, use even less water at a current maximum of 3.2 gallons per cycle. Energy Star-certified dishwashers cost about \$35 a year to run and can save an average of 3,870 gallons of water over their lifetime, according to the program. From an environmental standpoint, using your dishwasher also conserves the energy needed to filter, heat

See **DISHWASHERS** on **PAGE 4**



Dishwashers on display at Abt Electronics have labels showing their estimated yearly energy cost. They can save water, too.



Actual bookmarks are some of the most common items left inside books borrowed from libraries.

## Look at what they're finding inside books



Arlington Heights Memorial Library materials handling supervisor Carmel Evangelista inspects returned books for possible damage as well as anything extra left behind inside the book, which happens pretty regularly, librarians say.

## Suburban librarians often find extras in returns: \$500, credit cards, something they hope was a candy bar ...

BY JAKE GRIFFIN  
jgriffin@dailyherald.com

When borrowed books make their way back to a library, oftentimes librarians find a little something extra tucked inside. "This is fairly common," said Ritu Chhabra, customer services supervisor at the Naperville Public Library's 95th Street branch. "When people are reading books in bed or on their couch and need to put it down, they're looking for anything to use as a bookmark, and sometimes they can be so creative." Suburban librarians say that because they find all sorts of items inside returned books, almost on a daily basis, only the really unusual things stick with them. "I'm guessing it was about 10 years ago that I found \$500 in cash in an envelope tucked inside a book that



Photos, like these found inside returned books at Arlington Heights Memorial Library, are some of the most common items left behind by library patrons who use all types of things as makeshift bookmarks, librarians say.

had been returned the day before or early that morning," said Rachael Rezek, community services librarian at Fremont Public Library in Mundelein. "We

were able to hunt the person down who had left it in the book, and they were quite grateful to get it back." The money was intended to be someone's graduation

gift, Rezek recalled. "Sometimes, though, you find things you wish you hadn't," she said. "I once found what I hope was a candy bar." New — and sometimes used — Band-Aids, tissues and hair ties also show up with some frequency, librarians said. Those types of things get tossed. Almost every suburban library has a bin of misplaced items waiting to be reunited with their owners, but librarians in Oakland, California, have taken the curation of these tchotchkes to the next level. Oakland librarians created the wildly popular "Found in a Library Book" Web page at their oaklandlibrary.org website, where such items are cataloged and documented as a sort of online museum.

See **LIBRARIES** on **PAGE 4**

## Daughter of Putin backer dies in blast

'Russian world' theorist may have been target of car bomb

BY JIM HEINTZ  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The daughter of an influential Russian political theorist often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed in a car bombing on the outskirts of Moscow, authorities said Sunday. The Moscow branch of the Russian Investigative Committee said preliminary information indicated 29-year-old TV commentator Daria Dugina was killed by an explosive planted in the SUV she was driving Saturday night.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the bloodshed gave rise to suspicions that the intended target was her father, Alexander Dugin, a nationalist philosopher and writer. Dugin is a prominent proponent of the "Russian world" concept, a spiritual and



Alexander Dugin

See **BLAST** on **PAGE 5**



The groundbreaking for a Congregation Kneseth Israel addition was in 1957. Since 1892, the synagogue has been the heart of the Jewish community in the Fox Valley. It is celebrating its 130th anniversary starting this month with a number of events.

## After 130 years, change is synagogue's constant

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY  
mkrishnamurthy@dailyherald.com

Embracing change and diversity has been essential to how one suburban Jewish congregation has managed to stay relevant and thriving for 130 years — and even grow during the pandemic, its leaders say. Since 1892, Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin has been the beating heart of the Jewish community in the Fox Valley. The synagogue,

considered the fourth-oldest Jewish congregation in Illinois, is commemorating its 130th anniversary starting this month with a number of events, including an a cappella performance blending Jewish and secular music this past weekend. Over the years, leaders say the congregation's mission has changed to reflect the spiritual needs and

See **SYNAGOGUE** on **PAGE 9**



LC



MARK BUSCH/Shaw Local News Network

Kayakers paddle downstream in the Kishwaukee River from the ramp at David Carrol Memorial Citizens Park in Genoa. An Illinois Supreme Court ruling this summer has raised concerns about the ability of kayakers and others to use small rivers like the Kishwaukee for recreational purposes.

# What ruling means for access to small rivers in Illinois

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD AND FELIX SARVER  
Shaw Local News Network

Advocates and supporters of public waterways are concerned about the implications a recent Illinois Supreme Court decision could have on the DuPage and Kishwaukee rivers.

The state’s highest court ruled in June that the public has no right to use part of the Mazon River in Grundy County that flows across private property for recreation purposes.

The case, *Holm v. Kodat*, involved a dispute over who could kayak and access the nonnavigable river. Under Illinois law, a waterway is considered nonnavigable if it is not deep enough for commercial vessels to use.

The plaintiffs initially sought a court order in 2018 stating they had the right to kayak the length of the 28-mile river, including through property they did not own.

A Grundy County court initially sided with the plaintiffs in October 2019, but reversed its own decision about three months later, stating that long-standing Illinois common law state that land owners hold a private property interest to the middle of a waterway, including a right to exclude others from the property.

In a decision handed down June 16, the Illinois Supreme Court upheld that decision. But Justice P. Scott Neville, joined by Chief Justice Anne Burke, wrote in a separate opinion that the state legislature should redefine navigability to be more inclusive and promote recreational uses of waterways for all.

Chad Layton, the attorney for the defendants, said his clients view the outcome of the case favorably.

“We certainly feel that the court followed legal precedent that has existed for over 100 years,” Layton said.

Layton acknowledged that the could prompt other property owners elsewhere to follow suit and restrict public access to a private waterway.

“It’s a small body of water, but anybody who owns private property certainly could use the opinion to protect their private property,” Layton said.

## DuPage River

It’s been about a year since controversy first came to surface over whether the public has a right to use the DuPage River, which runs through parts of Naperville, Plainfield, Bolingbrook and Shorewood, for recreation purposes.

Around that time, a Change.org petition began circulating from Plainfield resident Ralph Osuch urging people to protect public access to the DuPage River. The petition has gathered 11,272 signatures as of Thursday.

The effort was driven, in part, because of a complaint lodged by another Plainfield resident, William Sima, with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Sima cited trespassing and littering concerns, and called for public access to the waterway to be prohibited until all tubing, boating and fishing

regulations could be reviewed by authorities.

Osuch said the Illinois Supreme Court decision has not made him apprehensive about using the river.

“It has probably influenced it more to get things done through legislation,” Osuch said.

State Rep. Mark Batinick, a Republican from Plainfield, said the Illinois Supreme Court’s decision was “an unfortunate ruling.” One solution, he said, is to create a broader definition of navigable waters and continue to allow owners to keep land but not the water running over the land, which is common in other states.

State Rep. Janet Yang Rohr, a Democrat from Naperville, said she’s working on legislation to ensure the public has access to waterways such as the DuPage River while at the same time respecting the rights of property owners.

“I’m working with all the stakeholders, like the property owners and the businesses and constituents and residents who care about maintaining access to the DuPage River,” she said. “I think the DuPage River is probably one of our gems in terms of natural resources.”

## Kishwaukee River

Matt Cape, owner of Genoa-based Paddle On! Outfitters, said he’s heard stories of kayakers and canoeists being badgered by property owners who live around the Kishwaukee River, a nearly 65-mile waterway which runs through DeKalb, Boone, McHenry and Winnebago counties.

Rolling Meadows residents John and Elizabeth Hambleton, who both kayaked the Kishwaukee River this summer, said they were unfamiliar with the Illinois Supreme Court ruling and the impact it could have on smaller waterways.

“That’d be a bummer,” John Hambleton said. “This is our first time coming on this river.”

Sarah Fox, associate professor of law for Northern Illinois University, said she believes the decision clarifies the state’s river rules and eliminates some ambiguity.

“What it essentially does is give (property owners) more power to fight back,” she said, but added that it doesn’t resolve all conflicts over river access in the state.

“We could see certainly different kinds of situations, but I do think it tees up for additional action by the legislature to address this concept of navigability and what actually counts as a public waterway,” Fox said. “And different states have different laws on this.”

Cape said he’s noticed over the years growing complaints from property owners.

“It’s a sad thing, but what we try to do at Paddle On! is encourage everybody with a speech: ‘Do not pollute the river,’” Cape said. “There’s some hidden gems out here in northern Illinois that people should experience and should see the beauty of it. There’s not a whole lot going on in the outdoor world besides hiking out in this area, northern Illinois, Chicago area. ... That’s why I love kayaking.”

# Revised apartment plan in spotlight today

BY ERIC SCHELKOPF  
Shaw Local News Network

The St. Charles City Council’s Planning and Development Committee today is set to review plans for a proposed apartment building near the Fox River that has been scaled back after neighbors voiced concerns about the building’s height.

Newly revised plans for the River East Lofts project call for reducing the building from five stories to four stories. The project is proposed to be built at the southeast corner of Illinois and Riverside avenues, on the site of the former St. Charles

Chamber of Commerce building.

Previous plans had called for the building to be 59 feet, 8 inches tall. The zoning district for the area allows for a maximum building height of 50 feet.

The current plans show the building would be a maximum of 50 feet tall, so the developer is no longer requesting a zoning variance from the city.

The apartments would be located on the building’s upper floors while commercial and retail space would be on the first floor.

In addition, the number of units has been reduced from

43 to 42, and the unit mix has changed from 27 one-bedroom and 16 two-bedroom units to 12 one-bedroom and 30 two-bedroom units. Revised architectural plans have been submitted.

Other changes include reorientation of the building to follow Riverside Avenue, removal of an ATM and increasing the number of parking spaces from 53 to 60 — that would put 36 spaces in a private parking lot and 24 spaces along 2nd Avenue.

Plan commissioners last month unanimously recommended approval of the revised plans, with one

commissioner abstaining because of a conflict. Developer Curt Hurst and his son, Conrad, own Frontier Development, which has been involved in several projects in downtown St. Charles.

Commissioners said they liked the changes that have been made and suggested ways to further improve the project, including enhancing the sidewalk connection from Indiana Avenue through the site, using brick piers for more substantial balconies on the south elevation to create a covered walkway, and extending the public sidewalk down the east side of Riverside Avenue.

# Dishwashers: How to make yours even more efficient

Continued from Page 1

and pump water to your home, which in turn reduces your carbon footprint.

Using less water also keeps more of it in our ecosystems, the health of which is more and more threatened by climate change. Global warming is expected to shrink freshwater supplies and bring water shortages to one-third of all counties in the lower 48 states, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

“There’s a huge, huge infrastructure that goes into making sure the water that comes to your home is safe and drinkable,” Vukovich said. “In a warming climate, reservoirs are going to be harder and harder to maintain because the air is going to be hotter more of the time, and that problem isn’t going away.”

Shirley Hood, the appliance expert at Abt Electronics in Glenview, said she’s

heard a number of misconceptions about dishwashers that prompt people to rely on handwashing instead, a common one being that the machine isn’t going to clean dishes as well as the hands-on method.

Hood said she often points out to customers that dishwashers sanitize at unreplicable temperatures — going up to 170 degrees. She added that people typically hand-wash dishes by reusing sponges and towels, which isn’t as sanitary as using the machine.

“The bottom line is it gets your dishes cleaner because of the length of time that they are in the water as well as the temperature of the water,” she said.

For those who do use the dishwasher, Hood said there are three ways to increase the appliance’s energy and water use efficiency: Always run full loads, avoid pre-rinsing and let your dishes air dry.

Typical dishwashers use the same amount of energy and water each cycle regardless of the number of dishes. Prioritizing full loads is one of the most effective ways to maximize the machine’s use, Hood said.

Avoiding rinsing dishes before they make it into the dishwasher can save up to 20 gallons of water, according to Energy Star.

Hood said people should instead scrape off as much food residue as possible, and avoid overloading the appliance to make sure dishes are cleaned completely. Most dishwashers will catch excess food scraps in a filter, which should be cleaned periodically.

Opting for a no-heat drying option can also save energy, Hood said.

Though it can be difficult for people to visualize the amount of water they can save by practicing efficiency — or

the positive impact individual actions can have on the environment — Vukovich said these choices can go beyond just one person.

“Twenty percent of dishwashers go unused — imagine if all those people went from doing dishes by hand to using the dishwasher,” Vukovich said. “For all of those people, possibly doing dishes more than once a week, that’s an enormous amount of water over the course of one week, let alone an entire year.”

• *Jenny Whidden is a climate change and environment writer working with the Daily Herald through a partnership with Report For America. To contribute to the costs of the project, see [www.reportforamerica.org/newsrooms/the-daily-herald-2/](http://www.reportforamerica.org/newsrooms/the-daily-herald-2/).*



# Libraries: ‘Reading is part of the rhythm of everyday life’

Continued from Page 1

“I had a couple things I saved that I enjoyed just because they were fun or funny,” Oakland librarian Sharon McKellar told WGN News earlier this month. “We started a new website about 10 years ago, and I thought it would be fun to start sharing some of those items with the public.”

Suburban librarians say if they can track down the owner, they will.

“A few weeks ago I had a gentleman who had a (traffic) ticket from Chicago in a book that we contacted because we didn’t want him to accrue a

higher fine by being late,” said Shannon Halikias, the director of Messenger Public Library in North Aurora.

Gift cards, losing lottery tickets, bank statements, medical bills, insurance papers, candy wrappers, hotel key cards, trading cards, paychecks and all denominations of cash have been found in returned books.

“Just recently we reunited a lost photograph that was returned in a book to one of our customers,” said Megan Maier, circulation supervisor at Arlington Heights Memorial Library. “It was a picture of her dad who had recently passed, and when we handed it back

to her she got pretty teary-eyed at the desk.”

Borrowed items, not just books, get inspected by someone at most public libraries before they are returned to the stacks. But it’s the books that most frequently contain forgotten items.

Another common item found inside returned books are actual bookmarks.

“We tend to discard anything that looks pretty generic,” said Warrenville Public Library Director Sandy Whitmer. “But if it’s a bookmark that looks like it’s important to someone, if it’s ornate in some way, or made from wood or metal, or it looks

like it was colored by someone’s child or something like that, we’ll reach out to reunite things that way.”

Every librarian has a story about finding something odd inside a book, they said.

“We always talk about connecting with our community,” said Denise Raleigh, division chief of public relations and development at Elgin’s Gail Borden Library District. “The little extras that are left in books remind us that these (books) have become part of someone’s life when they have them. And we love the notion that reading is part of the rhythm of everyday life.”

# SICK OF JUNK?

## We have the REMEDY!

No contact pick-ups available!

- Full service residential & commercial junk removal company.
- FREE estimate. Same day service.
- Fully Licensed and Insured.
- No job is too big or too small!

Mention this ad and get \$25 off!

877-722-JUNK | [junkremedy.com](http://junkremedy.com)  
(5865)

“The remedy to all your junk removal needs.”

# TICKS, HAY FEVER AND TORNADOES. OH, MY!

Warmer weather has lots of unexpected consequences.

HELP US COVER LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE STORIES.

GO TO [events.dailyherald.com/climate](http://events.dailyherald.com/climate)

**SUPPORT**  
**LOCAL**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**JOURNALISM**

Daily Herald MEDIA GROUP DailyHerald.com

REPORT FOR AMERICA ReportForAmerica.org

Help us fund a free press