

**VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
LOCAL TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM**

GENERAL INFORMATION

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Organization: | Lombard Junior Women's Club (LJWC) | | |
| Name of event: | Lilac Princess Program | | |
| Date of event: | 5/16/2021 | Event location: | Village, Park District, and Chamber sponsored events at multiple Lombard venues throughout Lilac Time in Lombard, including events at Lombard businesses and virtual events |
| Contact person: | Brittney Conway | Title: | Chair, Lilac Princess Program, LJWC |
| Business address: | 837 S. Westmore Ave., A2-G | City & Zip | Lombard, IL 60148 |
| Telephone: | 217-649-7180 | Email: | lilacprincessprogram@gmail.com |

PROJECT OVERVIEW

| | |
|---|--|
| Total cost of the project: | \$ 11,015.00 |
| Cost of city services requested in this application (if any): | \$ 0.00 |
| Total funding requested in this application: | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Percent of total project cost being requested: | 16.6% of project costs over \$5,000 Princess scholarships |
| Anticipated attendance: | Tiara Presentation – <50 in-person, 100+ virtual; Lombard Park District Easter Egg Hunt – 100; Village Blood Drive – 100; Little Lady Lilac Ball – 100; Coronation – <50 in-person, 100+ virtual; Lilac Ball – 225; Virtual Princess Party – 100; Lilac Day Parade – 2,500; TLC Camp Carnival – 100 virtual; Instagram live promo - 75 virtual |
| Anticipated number of overnight hotel stays: | At least 10 overnight stays directly related to overnight guests associated with the Lilac Princess families attending the Coronation, Lilac Ball, & Lilac Parade. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Additionally, we anticipate numerous other hotel stays that will occur that are associated with Lilac Time events in which the Princesses participate. This number is dependent on state and local guidelines that allow Lilac Time events to occur.</p> |
|--|---|

Briefly describe the project for which are funds are being requested:

The Lilac Queen and her Court have been a cornerstone of the Lilac Festival in Lombard since 1930. The Lilac Princesses and the Queen serve as ambassadors for the Village of Lombard during Lilac Time, making many community appearances including the Park District Easter Egg Hunt, Little Lady Lilac Ball, Lilac Ball, and the Lilac Parade. They serve as positive role models, volunteering at various community events throughout the spring and summer, including the Village Blood Drive and TLC Camp, a camp for children with cancer held annually in Lombard. Each Princess (4) and the Queen receives a \$1,000 scholarship, which was established by the Village in 2001, at the time the Lombard Junior Women’s Club was asked by the Park District to run the program.

The grant funds requested in this application would be used to support the selection of the Lilac Queen and her Court, to support a portion of the expenses associated with their participation in numerous Lilac Time Events, and to provide the five (5) \$1,000 scholarships that have been awarded by the Village of Lombard since 2001. In addition, a portion of the grant may be used to support the costs of a 2nd and 3rd float in the Lilac Parade for the 2019 Lilac Court and 2020 Lilac Court. Due to weather circumstances, the 2019 Lilac Parade was cancelled, and due to COVID-19, the 2020 Lilac Parade was cancelled. It is important for us to provide these past Lilac Courts with an opportunity to participate in the parade, which is an honored tradition in Lombard. While we are expecting to find in-kind support for this expense, it has been included as a line item in the budget.

ORGANIZATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of years that the organization has been in existence: | 90 |
| Number of years that the project or event has been in existence: | 90 |
| Number of years the project has been supported by Village of Lombard funds: | The Village of Lombard has supported the scholarships for 20 years and additional program |

| | |
|--|--|
| | expenses for the past 6 years. |
| How many years does the organization anticipate it will request grant funding? | Undetermined for scholarship funds; the LJWC continues to find opportunities to raise more money to support program expenses and to decrease the grant request beyond the scholarships. In 2020 the grant represented 23.5% of program expenses beyond the scholarship and in 2021 the grant request represents 16.6% of program expenses. |

1) Describe the organization (include brief history, mission, and ability to carry out this project):

The Lombard Junior Women’s Club (LJWC) was established in 1930 by members of the Lombard Woman’s Club. LJWC is part of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community service. LJWC embraces this mission and participates in many local service projects with organizations such as, Easterseals, Reclaim 13, SCARCE, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Hines VA Hospital, Feed My Starving Children, cooking and providing food for DuPage PADS, providing Christmas gifts for low-income families in York Township, and providing Thanksgiving baskets through York Center, to name a few.

The LJWC has successfully run the Lilac Princess Program for the past 20 years in addition to TLC Camp, our day camp for children with cancer and a sibling, which is in its 39th year. These programs require dedication, leadership, management, fundraising, organizational, and collaboration skills. We take great pride in the countless hours our members have worked to improve our community through service and philanthropy, and we have built strong relationships with community organizations through this program throughout the years. We remain confident in our ability to carry out the Lilac Princess Program in 2021.

- 2) Please describe how the program and any proceeds from the event support the goals and objectives of the organization, other local groups or initiatives, and the community at large:

Lombard has been called the Lilac Village since the late 1920s, and the first Lilac Festival was held in 1930. The Lilac Queen and her Court have reigned over Lilac Time since this first festival and their presence at these events continues to be an exciting tradition for the Lombard community. By supporting Lilac Time, the Lilac Princess Program supports the Village of Lombard's brand, a priority identified by the community, as well as the Village's vision of creating a distinctive sense of spirit and an outstanding quality of life for its residents. The Lilac Queen and her Court also support Lombard Park District and Lombard Chamber of Commerce events during Lilac Time. In addition, the Princess Program supports the LJWC's goals of service to the community and developing leadership, organizational, and management skills in our members.

A new element being added to the program in 2021 is a professional development workshop for the Lilac Court, sponsored by Weselak & Associates, a local Lombard business. The Lilac Court will learn skills on presentation and communication, media interviews, and virtual presentations. Adding this opportunity to the program will support the development of young women in the Lombard community by providing them invaluable life skills.

There are no direct proceeds from the Lilac Princess Program. The Lilac Princesses support the Park District at events including the Little Lady Lilac Ball and the Easter Egg Hunt and the Chamber of Commerce at the Lilac Ball and Arts & Crafts Fair where funds are raised. However, these funds do not directly benefit the Lilac Princess Program or the LJWC.

- 3) What is the organization's plan to make the project self-sustaining?

The LJWC financially supported the Lilac Princess Program expenses from 2001-2014 at a cost of \$2,500-\$4,500 per year. This figure does not include the \$5,000 in scholarships that were provided by the Village of Lombard or the float for the Lilac Parade provided by the Park District at a cost of \$650.

Since 2015, LJWC has received a grant from the Village to support a portion of program expenses plus \$5,000 for the scholarships. Each year, the LJWC has requested less grant funding and has increased its own fundraising for the program. In 2016 through 2018, the LJWC held a Floral Showcase to raise funds for the Lilac Princess Program expenses. In 2019, we decided to sunset the Floral Showcase event, due to low ROI, and we introduced a new fundraising concept and partnered with Nothing Bundt Cakes to donate a portion of sales back to the program (we raised \$120). In 2020, we planned for a new fundraising event, the 90th Lilac Court Reunion, however it was cancelled due to COVID-19. We expect to hold this event in 2022.

We have outlined our 2021 fundraising plan which includes sponsorship opportunities, "dining nights out" at local restaurants to support the program, donation solicitation (through platforms like Facebook and Instagram), and requests for more in-kind donations. In addition to fundraising specifically for the Lilac Princess Program, the LJWC appropriates philanthropic funds raised to support its other projects, like TLC Camp, to the Lilac Princess Program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Is the event open to the general public? Yes No
- Do you intend to apply for a liquor license for this project? Yes No
- Will any revenues from this event be returned to the community? Yes No
- Have you requested grant funding in the past? Yes No

If yes, provide grant awards for past 5 years:

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2016: \$6,945 | 2017: \$6,645 | 2018: \$6,029 | 2019: \$6,029 | 2020: \$6,500 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

1) Provide a full detailed description of the proposed project or event.

A detailed timeline of events has been attached to this application and reflects several months of planning and preparation prior to January 2021 and the selection of the Lilac Court at Preliminary Judging on February 28, 2021. From mid-March through mid-May, the Lilac Queen and her Court, along with their LJWC sponsors, will be actively involved in numerous community events as outlined, and additional events will be considered and accepted as time allows. During the month of June, the Queen and her Court will volunteer with TLC Camp, making this program a nearly year-long commitment for the LJWC sponsors.

2) If your application is accepted, how will the tourism grant funds be used?

Grant funds will be used to support the Lilac Princess Program from the selection of the Court on February 28, 2021 to their appearance in the Lilac Parade on May 16, 2021. A detailed budget is included at the bottom of this application and reflects the following needs: \$5,000 in scholarships (\$1,000 per eligible Princess*), flowers for many appearances, Lilac Ball expenses, printing and mailing costs, and other expenses related to the selection and public appearances of the Lilac Court.

While many of the community sponsored events are subject to state and local guidelines due to COVID-19, for the events planned and sponsored by the LJWC there are backup plans that include alternate location options or completely virtual options. During the 2020 program year, we learned we were able to adapt many of our signature events, like the Tiara Presentation and Coronation, to either be virtual or include a livestream of the event, which reached more members of the Lombard community and beyond.

*The LJWC understands that Village grant funds cannot be used to provide a scholarship for a Village employee’s child. If necessary, we will address this as our financial situation allows.

3) What modifications to the event or other steps will be taken to increase event attendance over previous years (not applicable to first time events)?

Based on previous experience, we plan to continue to review local school calendars to avoid conflicts with Preliminary Interviews and will continue to work to increase advertising for potential Princesses via posters in and outside of local high schools, via local newspapers and via social media. We went from having about 11 young women apply for the program in 2019 to having over 20 young women apply in 2020. This can likely be credited to the creation of an Instagram account for the program and increased social media presence.

We have also created roles on our Lilac Princess Program committee aimed at increasing communication with community partners with the goal of increasing visitor attendance at Lilac Time events. We plan to continue to leverage social media to draw former residents back to Lombard and Lilac Time, including past Princesses, their friends and families. In 2020, over 60 past Lilac Court members reached out to us to be included in our new Lilac Court database. We plan to continue to leverage this database to send communications to past Lilac Court members regarding Lilac Time events.

In addition to the abovementioned tactics, we plan to continue to livestream events where the Lilac Court is in attendance. Livestreaming events was new for the program in 2020 and we found that it increased exposure both of the Lilac Princess Program and of Lombard in general (over 850 people viewed the Tiara Presentation and over 200 people viewed the Coronation).

LOCATION

Provide the location of the event or project. If a location has not been secured, list the venue(s) being proposed or considered.

Preliminary Interviews – Sunset Knoll Recreation Center
Parent & Princess Orientation – LJWC Clubhouse
Lilac Court Communication Skills Workshop – LJWC Clubhouse
Tiara Presentation – Maple Street Chapel (First Church of Lombard)
Mother-Princess Tea – Local Lombard restaurant or club member backyard
Easter Egg Hunt – Lombard Common
Princess Out to Dinner Fundraising Nights – Rosemary & Jeans, Culvers, Bumper to Burger
Final Interviews – Embassy Suites Lombard
Village Blood Drive – Village Hall
Little Lady Lilac Ball – Lombard Common
Coronation – Lilacia Park
Arts & Crafts Fair – Downtown Lombard (potentially lunch at Babcock's Grove House prior to event)
Tuxedo Selection for Lilac Ball – Men's Wearhouse
Lilac Ball – Hyatt Lodge
Lilac Day Parade – Main St. Lombard
TLC Camp – Drop off craft kits

**All events and locations are subject to change and/or cancellation pending state and local guidelines.*

MILESTONES AND TIMETABLES

Describe the milestones that will mark the progress towards implementing the project and provide a timetable for the completion of each milestone.

Please see the attached detailed timeline for the 2021 Lilac Princess Program.

IMPACT

- 1) Please describe how the event or program will promote overnight stays and/or tourism within the Village of Lombard.

The Lilac Court serves as community ambassadors throughout Lilac Time in Lombard at numerous events. Directly we can attribute at least 15 overnight stays in 2019 to relatives and friends of the Lilac Court (due to the impact of COVID-19, we could not attribute any hotel stays related to the program in 2020). Indirectly, Lilac Time events supported by the Lilac Court, accounted for many more overnight stays as well as visitors to local merchants and restaurants. In 2020, it was planned to host a 90th Lilac Court Reunion, which would have directly impacted hotel stays in the area. Due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled. However, we plan to hold this reunion in 2022, once the risk of holding a large gathering has decreased.

- 2) Please describe the economic benefit to local businesses and the Lombard community. How will your event draw more people from outside the local market (50 miles or more) or attract a new visitor audience?

We continue to work with other community organizations to promote Lilac Time to new potential visitor groups. We will continue to invite former Lilac Court members to Lilac Time events (we now have a database of over 60 former Lilac Court members). Many of these women live outside of the area and would travel over 50 miles with their friends and/or families to attend Lilac Time events. We will also continue to encourage Princess families to invite their own out of town guests to attend Lilac Time events.

We also hope that by offering sponsorship opportunities to local businesses it will encourage patronage by out-of-town visitors. We plan to include a listing of sponsors on event programs (e.g., Tiara Presentation, Coronation, etc.) and in social media postings related to program events. We expect this would encourage out of town guests to visit these businesses while they are in town for Princess Program events.

We also expect that livestreaming events related to the Lilac Princess Program and their appearance at Lilac Time events would entice out of town visitors to come to Lombard. In addition, we plan to hold three Lilac Princess Dining Out fundraising nights at local businesses, which we will promote on social media, and expect out of town visitors to support.

3) Who is the target audience for your event or project? What is your anticipated attendance?

The target audience for this program is primarily Lombard residents. We take pride in this program and giving young adults an opportunity to celebrate their personal accomplishments. They serve as positive role models, dedicating their time to many community events throughout the year. The Lilac Princess Program has become a staple to our community through the years and we believe that every Lombard resident, past, present and future, could be identified as a target audience.

4) Please identify and detail the estimated cost of any Village of Lombard services anticipated as part of the event (e.g., Police, Public Works, barricades, etc.). For each cost, confirm whether the costs for such services be reimbursed to the Village or are requested to be covered under this grant.

We do not anticipate any Village of Lombard services being required as part of the Lilac Princess Program.

5) Please describe any collaborative arrangements developed or anticipated with other organizations to fund or otherwise implement the project (including in-kind donations).

The Lombard Service League purchases the tiaras for the Princesses to be gifted at the Tiara Presentation and they provide refreshments at Coronation.

The Lombard Park District provides the float for the Lilac Parade up to \$650 value. They also provide venues as a nominal cost for the Lilac Princess Preliminary Interviews.

Glenbard East Music Department student musicians donate their time to provide music at the Tiara Presentation and Coronation. We donate \$100 to the GE Music Department for each event.

Maple Street Chapel allows us to use the chapel and multipurpose room for the Tiara Presentation and reception. We donate \$100 for their contribution.

The InkWell donates program advertisement posters and invitations for the Tiara Presentation and Coronation. They also provide programs for the Tiara Presentation and Coronation at a nominal cost.

The Lombard Chamber of Commerce provides 10 tickets to the Lilac Ball for the Lilac Court and their escorts.

Many local organizations and business present gifts to the Lilac Court at the Tiara Presentation. Past presenters have included the Park District, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, Lombard Garden Club, Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society, Helen Plum Library, The Fringe, ClaSha Boutique, and Drytini. We anticipate many of these same organizations to contribute to the event in 2021.

- 6) Please describe your marketing plan. Detail the strategies your organization will use to promote the event or project (e.g., advertising, public relations, marketing, print materials, promotional pieces).

We plan to market to potential Princesses via the Park District Spring Activity brochure, the Lombardian newspaper, and posters in and outside of local high schools and businesses. We work jointly with the Park District, the Village, the Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations as needed to promote Lilac Time events prior to and during the events via appearances and participation. Over the past several years, we have utilized social media, specifically Facebook and Instagram, to promote events. We also launched our new LJWC website in 2020 and use that to promote the program events.

- 7) Funding for the Local Tourism Grant Program for 2021 is constrained. The Committee anticipates the possibility of reduced funding over prior year grant awards. What have you done to reduce the amount of funds your organization is requesting under this grant? If you do not receive the full funding you requested for 2021, how will your organization adjust? What modifications can/will you make to your budget or event if full grant funding is not made available?

As noted on page 1 of the application, we are requesting less grant funding in 2021 than we have in previous years. One reason why we are able to request less funding this year is because our expenses for the program were less than anticipated in 2020 and we are able to carry over about \$1,500 more from our budget than we have in previous years. However, due to the pandemic, the LJWC had to cancel a few of our large fundraisers (e.g., lottery cards, in-club fundraisers, etc.) last year, which will impact the amount of funding the LJWC will be able to provide to the program (we expect about \$1,000 less than in previous years). In addition to the carryover balance, the Lilac Princess Program is planning to hold 3 dining out events in April and other small fundraisers for the program. We are hoping these events will be successful.

If we do not receive the full funding requested for 2021, we will need to reevaluate the budget and cut some of the events planned that are not community-facing, such as the Lilac Court ice cream social and tie dye party. While these events are important for the young women to bond over this experience, Lilac Court appearances at Lilac Time events is the foundation of this program. Our main concern is being able to provide each Lilac Court member with the \$1,000 scholarship that has been part of the program since 2001 and to provide opportunities for community interaction (even if it is virtual).

FINANCES

- Please include a detailed itemized budget for your entire event on the attached budget form (2 years of past actuals and estimates for upcoming event).
- Attach a copy of the most recently completed agency audit and Federal Form 990. If these documents are not available, please explain why they are not available.

CHECKLIST

- Completed Local Tourism Grant Program Application Form.
- Completed detailed budget form.

- Promotional materials from past events (not applicable to first time events).
- Post event summary from past event (not applicable to first time events).
- Copy of the most recently completed agency audit or explanation of why it is not available.
- Copy of the most recent Federal Form 990 for the agency or explanation of why it is not available.

Additional Notes, Comments or Explanations:

Our organization does not employ an agency to perform an audit. However, we have practices in place to maintain the integrity of our accounts. All payments require a receipt attached to a check voucher that is signed by the requestor, the chair of the committee, and the Vice-President or President of the LJWC. At the end of the year, the Treasurer, along with several board and at-large club members, audit our books. We are no longer required to submit a Federal Form 990. We submit electronically.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that data in this application are true and correct, the application has been duly authorized by the organization and any funds received under this grant will be used for the purposes described in this application.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|---------|
| Name: | Brittney Conway | | |
| Title or office held: | Chair, Lilac Princess Program, Lombard Junior Women's Club | Date: | 1/25/21 |

Signature: Brittney Conway



2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(*required events)

*February 28 - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. (set-up 9:00 a.m.)

Preliminary Interviews - Sunset Knoll Recreation Center

*February 28 - Sunday, 6:00 p.m. (set-up 5:00 p.m.)

Princess and Parent Orientation - Lombard Junior Women's Clubhouse

March 10 - Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Lilac Court Communications Workshop - Lombard Junior Women's Clubhouse

*March 15 - Monday, 7:00 p.m. (set-up 6:00 p.m.)

Tiara Presentation - Maple Street Chapel (First Church of Lombard) (livestreamed to public)

March 27 - Saturday, TBD

Lombard Park District Easter Egg Hunt - Lombard Common

April 6 - Tuesday, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Princess Tuesdays - Location TBD

April 7 - Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

LJWC Awards Dinner - Location TBD

April 9 - Friday, TBD

Lilac Court Community Service Project / Ice Cream Social - Location TBD

April 13 - Tuesday, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Princess Tuesdays - Location TBD

April 14 - Wednesday, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Lombard Village Blood Drive - Village Hall

April 16 - Friday, TBD

Lilac Princess Virtual Storytime

April 20 - Tuesday, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Princess Tuesdays - Location TBD

*April 24 - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. (set-up 10:00 a.m.)

Final Interviews - Embassy Suites Lombard/Oakbrook

April TBD - 4:00 p.m.

Tuxedo Selection - Men's Wearhouse

April 30 - Friday, 6:30 p.m. (arrive 6:15 p.m.)

Little Lady Lilac Ball - Lombard Common

*May 1 - Saturday, 1:00 p.m. (set-up 11:00 a.m.)

Coronation - Lilacia Park (Lombard Common if inclement weather) (livestreamed to public)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (cont.)

(*required events)

May 2 - Sunday, 12:30pm-3:00 p.m. (event runs 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)
Arts & Craft Fair - Downtown Lombard

*May TBD - 6:00 p.m.
Rehearsal for the Lilac Ball - Hyatt Lodge, Oak Brook

*May 7 - Friday, 6:00 p.m. (arrive 5:00 p.m.)
Lilac Ball - Hyatt Lodge, 2815 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook

May 8 - Saturday, TBD
Lilac Court Tie Dye Social - Location TBD

May 15 - Saturday, TBD
Mother-Daughter Tea - Location TBD

*May 16 - Sunday, 1:30 p.m. (set-up 12:00 p.m.)
Lilac Day Parade

June 24 - Wednesday, TBD
TLC Camp - Drop-off kits to campers

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS: Include an itemized list of all actual and estimated in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions are non-cash donations, contributions or gifts which can be given a cash value (include Village of Lombard in-kind services, where applicable)

Estimated value of in-kind contributions (explain)

| ACTUAL 2019 | ACTUAL 2020 | ANTICIPATED 2021 |
|--|--|--|
| \$970 Parade float provided by the Lombard Park District, posters and invitations provided by The InkWell, tiaras and reception provided by Lombard Service League, and food donations provided by LJWC members | \$760.71 Posters and invitations provided by The InkWell, tiaras provided by Lombard Service League, and food donations provided by LJWC members. | \$2,080 Parade float provided by the Lombard Park District, posters and invitations provided by The InkWell, tiaras and reception provided by Lombard Service League, food donations provided by LJWC members, and 10 Lilac Ball tickets provided by Lombard Chamber of Commerce. |

**VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
LOCAL TOURISM GRANT – POST EVENT SUMMARY**

This post event summary must be completed within 90 days of the event completion. Failure to submit a post-event summary may affect the applicant’s ability to receive future grant funds.

GENERAL INFORMATION

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Organization: | Lombard Junior Women’s Club (LJWC) | Name of event: | 2020 Lilac Princess Program |
| Date of event: | 7/25/2020 | Event location: | Sunset Knoll Recreation Center, Lilacia Park, and virtual live streaming events |
| Contact person: | Brittney Conway | Title: | Chair, Lilac Princess Program, LJWC |
| Business address: | PO Box 512 | City & Zip: | Lombard 60148 |
| Telephone: | 217-649-7180 | E-mail address: | lilacprincessprogram@gmail.com |
| Estimated attendance: | 2,300 across all events (mostly virtual attendance) | Estimated hotel stays: | Due to the virtual nature of this year’s program and the cancellation of Lilac Time, it’s unlikely the program resulted in hotel stays |
| Method for estimating attendance: | Sign-in sheet at Preliminary Judging event, headcount at Coronation in Lilacia Park, and number of views for virtual events livestreamed on Facebook. | | |

- 1) Please summarize the advertising and marketing placed to promote the event. Please attach examples of event marketing pieces, advertisements and attribution given to the Village grant program.

The Lilac Princess Program was promoted through various local advertising channels. Posters, donated by The InkWell, were created to advertise the call for applicants. The posters were distributed to the area high schools and local businesses. An advertisement and the application were also included in the Lombard Park District Winter Activity Brochure. In addition, a paid advertisement and an editorial was included in The Lombardian, along with a snippet of the application. The LJWC also ran an announcement on the Village electronic sign.

New this year was the creation of a Lilac Princess Program Instagram account (@lilacprincessprogram). The program was promoted throughout the months of January 2020 – July 2020 to engage the community and promote the virtual events. Announcements and advertisements were also made through the Lombard Junior Women’s Club Facebook account (@LombardJuniors). Although the program was mostly virtual in nature this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Lombardian still covered many Lilac Princess Program events, with a few front-page covers, including the announcement of the Lilac Princesses and Coronation and the 2020 Lilac Queen. The Coronation of the 2020 Lilac Queen was also livestreamed on Facebook. Lastly, the Park District engaged with the program to design the Lilac Time commemorative pin this year which celebrated 90 years of Lilac Queens.

- 2) Provide a general assessment of the event. What were the successes of the event? Are there any concerns or recommendations of changes for future events?

Given the unique circumstances this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Lilac Princess Program was still successful. At Preliminary Judging on March 8th, 23 young women interviewed for the 2020 Lilac Court. This was up 109% from 2019! We contribute the increased interest in the program to the new Lilac Princess Program Instagram account where we have over 120 followers, most of which are high school-aged young women in Lombard. The program was affected by the Stay at Home Order that was implemented in March 2020 and the cancellation of Lilac Time events. However, we were able to host virtual events and we finished out the program in July 2020. Being forced to pivot to virtual was a very positive outcome. We hosted a virtual Tiara Presentation and a virtual Lilac Princess Party (in lieu of the Little Lady Lilac Ball), both of which were livestreamed on Facebook. In addition, while Coronation was able to be held in Lilacia Park with the immediate families of the Lilac Court, we livestreamed the event on Facebook. We found that by livestreaming these events, we were able to reach more people than when the events were hosted in-person. People from around the country, including Lilac Court alumnae, were all able to tune in to participate in our Lilac Village traditions. While we hope that we can go back to in-person events in 2021, we will continue to livestream the events as much as possible so that everyone can be a part of Lilac Time.

- 3) How did the actual outcomes of the program or event compare to your original expectations? How did the event compare to the proposal and concept as initially presented to the Village?

The actual outcomes of the program were quite different than what we expected and what was presented to the Village due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of Lilac Time. We were not able to host the Lilac Court Reunion event, were not able to participate in the Lilac Parade or Lilac Ball, and the Lilac Court was not able to make any public appearances. However, the outcomes were still successful as we were able to complete the 2020 Lilac Princess Program by crowning a 2020 Lilac Queen and by gaining additional interest in the program through livestreamed virtual events on Facebook.

- 4) Summarize how the program performed from a budgetary standpoint and describe how the program and any proceeds from the event were supportive of the organization, other local groups, initiatives or the community at large.

The program performed within budget for the 2020 program year. Expenses were down slightly as many of the Lilac Time events that were budgeted for were cancelled. There are no direct proceeds related to the Lilac Princess Program as it functions as a local scholarship awarded to five young female members of the community. However, the Program continues to engage Lombard businesses as much as possible when purchasing supplies or hosting events. Businesses and organizations impacted in 2020 include: The InkWell, Image 360, Prairie Honey Floral Studio, Righteous Kitchen, Embassy Suites, the Lombard Chamber of Commerce, the Lombard Park District, Dunkin Donuts, Mariano's, Jewel-Osco, Glenbard East High School, and the Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society. It is estimated that the Lombard Junior Women's Club spent over \$2,000 at these local businesses and organizations.

5) Describe your organization's long-term plans for funding this project or event.

The Lombard Junior Women's Club will continue to strive to provide additional financial support for this program beyond the grant provided by the Village for the scholarships. However, as the program and the events are public appearances and are not revenue generating, we have continued to explore alternative fundraising opportunities. There are many sponsorship opportunities, via our sponsorship packages brochure, for businesses to engage with the program and provide in-kind donations. We were able to secure a floral sponsor through Prairie Honey Floral Studio this year, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the wedding industry, we felt we needed to support their business and decided to purchase the flowers for the events. We had planned to hold a Lilac Court Reunion event in May that would have been a large fundraiser for the program. Again, due to the pandemic, this event was cancelled. However, a small fundraiser was held on Facebook for the Program Chair's birthday that generated over \$200 in donations for the program. We plan to revisit sponsorship opportunities and the Lilac Court Reunion event for the 2021 Lilac Princess Program year.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit the completed form **within 90 days of the event completion** to Nicole Aranas, Assistant Village Manger, by e-mailing aranasn@villageoflombard.org or returning to 255 E. Wilson Avenue, Lombard, IL 60187.

2020 LILAC PRINCESS PROGRAM

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of Lombard history as we celebrate the 90th Coronation of the Lilac Queen.

Sunday, March 8, 2020
Sunset Knoll Recreation Center
820 S. Finley Road, Lombard, IL
Registration 12:00-12:30 p.m.
Judging starts at 12:30 p.m.

Young women, ages 15-21 who are residents of Lombard, including Butterfield Unincorporated, are eligible to apply. Applications are available on the Lombard Junior Women's Club website, at local high schools, in the Lombard Park District Spring brochure, or by emailing the program.

Apply to be a member of the 2020 Lilac Court.

Interested in learning more?

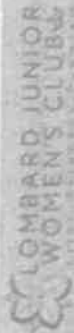
Join us on Facebook and Instagram Live to learn more and ask questions!

Facebook: [lombardjuniorwomensclub](#)

Instagram: [lilacprincessprogram](#)

February 17th at 8:30pm

Questions? Contact Brittny Conway at lilacprincessprogram@gmail.com.



Opinion

Letter to the editor

Lombard to celebrate crowning of 90th Lilac Queen

The search has begun for the 2020 Lilac Queen and her Court!

The Lilac Princess Program, sponsored by the Lombard Junior Women's Club (LJWC), is an annual scholarship program that provides five \$1,000 scholarships to young women of Lombard. This time-honored tradition has been in existence in our community for 90 years and is an important part of Lilac Time.

The Lilac Court members participate in a variety of activities, including the Lombard Park District Easter Egg Hunt, the Village Blood Drive, the Lilac Time Art & Craft Fair, and honored as special guests at the Lilac Ball, to name a few.

Applications can be found in high school guidance offices or obtained by emailing lilacprincess-program@gmail.com. Young women between the ages of 16-21 who are residents of Lombard (including Butterfield unincorporated) are encouraged to apply.

The program kicks off with preliminary judging to be held on Sunday, March 8 at noon at Sunset Knoll Recreation Center.

Applicants are interviewed by non-biased judges who live and work outside of the Villages of Lombard and Villa Park and are scored on four weighted categories: community and school involvement (including academics), public speaking ability, poise and grace, and personal presentation.

Candidates are given equal interview time and are asked three random questions. The five young women selected, known as the Lilac Princesses, move on to final interviews in April to determine the Lilac Queen.

This year is particularly exciting as we will be crowning the 90th Lilac Queen!

The community is invited to the Coronation in Lilacia Park which will be held on May 2 at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be provided after the ceremony by the Lombard Service League.

In addition to the exciting Lilac Time activities that the Princesses

participate in, to commemorate the 90th coronation of the Queen, the LJWC will host a reunion for past Lilac Court members on May 16 at Rosemary and Jeans. More information about this event will be announced in the coming month. If you are a past Lilac Court member, or know someone who is, please contact the program. We'd love to hear from you!

The Lombard Junior Women's Club takes the process of selecting the Lilac Queen and her Court very seriously and appreciates the support of the community.

GFWC Lombard Junior Women's Club

We want to hear from you! Guidelines for writing a letter to the editor

We at the *Lombardian* and *Villa Park Review* encourage our readers to reach out to the community by writing a letter to the editor.

Letters must be signed, and limited to 400 words. If the letter exceeds 400 words, it will be sent back to the author to reduce the length of the letter. Authors should include a phone number where they can be reached in case of questions. E-mail letters to: news1@rvpublishing.com. Our fax number is: 630-627-7027.

No letters directed to a third party will be accepted for publication.

We reserve the right to edit a letter for reasons of clarity, space restrictions and libel.

WANT MORE INFO ON THE
2020 LILAC PRINCESS PROGRAM?

JOIN US LIVE!

February 17th at 8:30pm

Facebook @Lombard Junior Women's Club
Instagram @lilacprincessprogram

Learn more about the program and ask questions.



**Junior Women's club
to meet March 4**

Lombard Junior Women's club will be holding their monthly meeting on

March 4 at their clubhouse, 827 S. Westmore. Social begins at 7 p.m., meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Lombard Jr's will begin the process for the selection of the 2020 Lilac Court on March 8. Applications can be obtained at the local high school guidance office, Lombard Park District spring brochure, Lombardjrs.com website and lilacprincessprogram@gmail.com. For further information contact www.lombardjrs.club.

See EVENTS, Page 18

**Lilac Court selection
process begins March 8**

Lombard Jr's will begin the process for the selection of the 2020 Lilac Court on March 8. Applications can be obtained at the local high school guidance office, Lombard Park District spring brochure, Lombardjrs.com website and lilacprincessprogram@gmail.com. For further information contact: www.lombardjrs.club. Lombard Junior Women's club next monthly meeting is their annual awards dinner, which will be held on April 4. For further information contact www.lombardjrs.club. Social begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.



2020 Lilac Princess Program
Preliminary Judging

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020
REGISTRATION 12:00 P.M. - JUDGING 12:30 P.M.
SUNSET KNOLL RECREATION CENTER

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL LILACPRINCESSPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM



*2020 Lilac Princess Program
Preliminary Judging*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

REGISTRATION 12:00 P.M. - JUDGING 12:30 P.M.
SUNSET KNOLL RECREATION CENTER

Lombardian

A LOMBARD NEWSPAPER FOR LOMBARD PEOPLE

Vol. 62 No. 11

Thursday, March 12, 2020

60¢



The members of 2020 Lilac Court were selected on Sunday, March 8. Pictured right are: Princess Caeiro, Princess L Florey, Princess K Wilson, Princess Lynch and Princess Jamya Whitman. The Lombard Junior Women's Club held its annual Lilac Princess Program Preliminary Judging earlier in the day at Sunset Knob Recreation Center. Five princesses were chosen from a field of 23 contestants who visited the Lombard Junior Women's Club clubhouse in East Shopping Center on Sunday evening for orientation. In addition to posing for photographs at the clubhouse, the princesses received gifts and their flower crown tiaras. Three of the princesses (Caeiro, Florey and Wilson) are seniors at Willowbrook High School, while two of the princesses (Lynch and Whitman) are juniors at Glenview East High School. The names of the princesses will be named the 2020 Lilac Queen during the coronation ceremony at Lilacia Park on March 12. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the naming of Lombard's first Lilac Queen.

The 2020 Lilac Court

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Lombardian

Choosing the Lilac Court



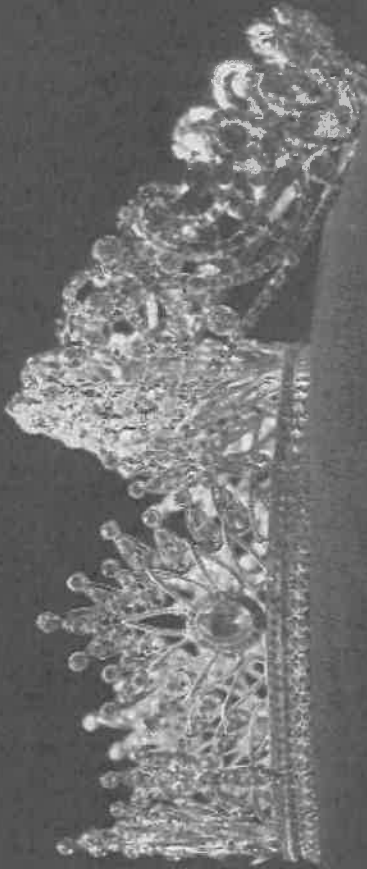
A panel of judges selected the five members of the 2020 Lilac Court on Sunday. The judges chose the five princesses from a field of 23 contestants. The members of this year's court are: Princess Stacy Caeiro, Princess Lizzy Florey, Princess Abby Lynch, Princess Jamya Whitman and Princess Karil Wilson. This year's judges, pictured (front row) left to right on Sunday, are: Christine Chestnut, Kathi Parisi and Sarah Kirs. The judges who select the annual Lilac Court do not live or work in Lombard or Villa Park. Pictured (left to right) in the back row are 2019 Lilac Court members Madison Crowe, Elaine Westling, Emily Hansel and Sydney Wilson. Crowe is the 2019 Lilac Queen. The 2020 Lilac Queen will be named during a May 2 coronation ceremony in Lilacia Park.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian



2020
VIRTUAL
TIARA
PRESENTATION

LOMBARD JUNIOR
WOMEN'S CLUB
EST. 1914



**2020 Lilac Queen
coronation July 25**

Join the Lombard Junior Women's Club as they crown the 90th Lilac Queen. The coronation will be held on Saturday, July 25, at 10 a.m. You can watch the crowning of the Lilac Queen live on Facebook by searching for the Lombard Junior Women's Club.

This year's Lilac Queen coronation ceremony is worth the wait

Jamya Whitman crowned as this year's queen; Lilacia Park service delayed nearly three months by the pandemic

STAFF REPORT

The 2020 Lilac Queen coronation was originally scheduled to take place on May 2. That ceremony, like so many other events this year, was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's coronation ceremony took place on Saturday morning, in front of a limited audience, at Lombard's Lilacia Park. Jamya Whitman was named the 2020 Lilac Queen during the ceremony. She was one of five Lilac Princesses to take the stage at the beginning of the ceremony. Minutes later, she accepted the crown, sash and cape as this year's queen.

The four princesses in this year's court are Stacy Caeiro, Lizzy Florey, Abby Lynch and Karli Wilson. Everyone who participated in this year's ceremony wore masks. The coronation ceremony is usually open to the public, but attendance at this year's event was limited to immediate family members of the princesses.

Brittney Conway, who chairs the Lilac Princess Program for the Lombard Junior Women's Club, introduced the members of the court and

See QUEEN, Page 8



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian

The 2020 Lilac Queen coronation ceremony took place on Saturday morning at Lilacia Park in Lombard. This year's coronation event was supposed to take place on May 2, but was delayed 12 weeks because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of the participants in Saturday's ceremony wore masks, and attendance was limited to mostly immediate family members of this year's Lilac Court. One photo, taken moments after the coronation, shows this year's Lilac Court. Pictured left to right are: Princess Abby Lynch, Princess Karli Wilson, Queen Jamya Whitman, Princess Lizzy Florey and Princess Stacy Caeiro. Whitman and Lynch are about to begin their senior year at Glenbard East High School. Caeiro, Florey and Wilson are members of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2020. Caeiro will attend Northwestern University. Florey will attend the University of Minnesota, while Wilson will attend Augustana College. Another photo (left) shows Whitman with 2019 Lilac Queen Madison Crowe—a Glenbard East graduate who will soon begin her senior year at Lewis University.

Lombardian

A LOMBARD NEWSPAPER FOR LOMBARD PEOPLE

Vol. 62 No. 31

Thursday, July 30, 2020

60¢



CHRIS FOX PHOTO

Jamya Whitman was named the 2020 Lilac Queen during Saturday's coronation ceremony in Lilacia Park. This year's ceremony was originally scheduled to take place on May 2, but it was postponed for more than two months

because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Queen Jamya is the daughter of [Name] Whitman. She will soon begin her senior year at Glenbard East High School. See story and more photos on Page 2.

Lilac Court evolves over 90 years

1930, and a popular crowned Adeline Fleege Lilac Queen by the first of many come over the next 90

it, archivist for the Lilac Society, related the crown was crowned in Lilacia Park when the Lilac League held the pageant, which through 1936. In 1937 and 1946, the pageant was held, Crockett said, during World War II and gas rationing, etc.

to 300-people pageants happen," she pointed out. The Lombard Camera Club event, Crockett continued, that while the early Lilacs were chosen based on popularity, "the judges" shifted somewhat over time. The club looked for eligible girls between the ages of 16-22 to submit an application," she added, "The judges looked for young women who were photogenic and could [lilac] blossoms."



RIS FOX PHOTO Lombardian Jamya Whelan is crowned the first Lilac Queen after the first Lilacs crowned, Jamya Whelan received the honor for COVID-19 pandemic.

"It kind of reflected the beauty of the lilacs," Crockett said. "It wasn't going to be a popularity contest."

She said the judges were not from Lombard and the girls each received a number before being interviewed. The judges used a point system to narrow the field to five girls.

"The girls modeled formal attire, holding court at Lilacia Park for photographers and visitors," Crockett said, with Betty Bean being chosen as the 1947 Lilac Queen.

The archivist said the Lombard Camera Club continued running the annual Lilac Court contest until 1959, when the Lombard Service League, Lombard Jaycees and Lombard Junior Women's Club all worked together on the program.

"The emphasis on choosing the young women changed from being a photogenic assessment to being based on their personal appearance, their personality plus their scholastic achievements and their community involvement [civic duties]," Crockett outlined, adding that the Lombard Service League replaced the dull tin crowns with a rhinestone version.

She said that during the 1960s, the girls' biographies were featured in the local newspapers, and in addition to their accomplishments and career goals, the narratives even contained their height and weight!

The emphasis further shifted over time to "who they are and what they do," Crockett said, adding that while she is not sure when the princesses themselves started receiving tiaras, the queen's crown (passed along each year) has been updated every 10 years or so.

Donna (DeForest) Eisner remembers how she felt about being honored to wear the Lilac Queen crown



Adeline Fleege was crowned the first Lilac Queen in 1930, in a ceremony held at the time, it was a popularity contest.

in 1974. Growing up in Lombard, just seeing the parade float with the Lilac Court "would get me bouncing-on-my-tippytoes giddy!"

When she was selected as a princess, Eisner said she admired her fellow princesses, and she thought "becoming queen was a seemingly untouchable prize."

The former queen related that at that time, the Tiara Ceremony was more of a private event, with parents, the Lombard Service League director and village president in attendance, along with local photographers and reporters. Back then, she continued, there was no scholarship program, but a Lombard Park District commissioner, whose hobby was gemology, gave each of the girls a jade pendant.

Then-Village President Frank Jir-

sa gave each of the girls a silver seal of Lombard for their charm bracelet, and Eisner later gave it to her niece, Ashley DeForest, who was a Lilac Princess in 2002.

Eisner recalled that the Lombard Park Players "staged an extravagant pageant, replete with medieval costumed characters and sets, for our coronation ceremony; images from which were put on postcards for sale throughout the village."

When she reigned, the Lilac Parade ended at Maple and Main streets, "where the Lilac Court had its own viewing stand," after leading off the Lilac Parade.

Eisner described that during her reign, she received invitations to appear in parades all around the state, adding, "What a heady experience!"

Brittney Conway, chair of the 2020 Lilac Princess Program, highlighted that the Lombard Junior Women's Club took over the program in 2001, and that the judges still live or work outside of Lombard, to ensure impartiality.

To commemorate the first pageant in 1930, the junior women's club had planned to hold a reunion this year, and reached out to former Lilac Court members. Conway said the club received over 50 responses from women who served between 1954 and 2019, but had to postpone a May gathering due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic made the club have to rethink how this year's court was going to work," the chairperson narrated, adding that there was a virtual tiara presentation on April 23, made

come up with to continue the program as much as possible," Conway

The princess opportunity to be as much as chairperson were able to have ice cream socialing and wear the 2019 queen her mother, S

Jamya Whelan Queen, comment on the way a expected due first it was kind of confusing."

However, the best of the sisters experienced the perspective school was supporting a big help," she

Whitman said reassured each other little things for

"This group truly demonstrates how we were selected as they have lived up to their role model," commented Conway. She handled the pandemic on

As for the Lilac Parade held on Sunday, Sept. 13, saying that the girls that represent the Lilac Society is "an honor of that."



Meet Princess Abby Lynch

By Britney Conway

Abigail Marie Lynch is proud to represent Lombard as a Lilac Princess.

"This is a really cool program to be a part of because you get to have so much influence on other young women in the town," she said.

Princess Abby has also appreciated the opportunity to get to know the other princesses and members of the Lombard Junior Women's Club.

"It's empowering to be a part of a program that really highlights and emphasizes being involved as a woman," said the princess.

Princess Abby, who just completed her junior year at Glenbard East High School, is a member of the English, German and math honor societies; is the treasurer of the social studies honor society; and was named Academic All-Conference for softball.

Outside of the classroom, she plays softball and tennis for Glenbard East; is a RISE mentor; a Link Crew student mentor; a member of German Club; and a member of the orchestra where she plays viola and manages the group's Instagram account.

As a viola player for nine years, she said orchestra has been one of her favorite activities.

"I really enjoy orchestra because it's a way to come together with a bunch of kids and make music," said Princess Abby. "It's a way to build a community and where I've met all of my really close friends.

"There's an automatic bond once you start playing together," she added.

As a RISE mentor—a program that focuses on the social and emotional growth of students—the princess was part of a team that led in-school events for other students.

"The program is a way to meet new people and check in on students," explained Princess Abby.

"People go into an event very tentatively, but you can see the change in them throughout the day," she said.

"They get the chance to be heard and everyone leaves empowered and 'risen'," she continued.

Outside of school, the princess has been a volunteer for her church's summer bible camp and for the Helen Plum Library Summer Reading Program, both of which she will miss this summer. She also works at Menards and is a nanny for a family.

Princess Abby was recently selected to participate in the GAPP (German American Partnership



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian

Princess Abby Lynch

Program) Exchange at Glenbard East. The princess and her family will host a German student who will stay with them and attend classes at Glenbard East for a few weeks. Next summer, Princess Abby will travel to Tettang, Germany to stay with her partner's family and attend her school. This will be the third time the princess' family has hosted a German exchange student.

"I'm looking forward to going to school in Germany and experiencing the cultural differences," she said. "I'm also excited to go hiking. There are amazing mountains there and we can even go to Austria or Switzerland for a weekend trip."

The princess, who is one of six siblings, says there is never a dull moment at her house.

"During quarantine it's been fun because it's never quiet in my house," she said. "There is always someone to talk to."

Princess Abby is the daughter of Andy and Therese Lynch; and sister of Jimmy, 20; Ellie, 18; Eddie, 15; Tommy, 12; and Penny, 7.

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of five profiles of the 202 Lilac Court.

By Brittney Conway
Jamya Ayana Whitman has a resume that can rival even the most seasoned professional.

"Sometimes juggling everything is very difficult, to be honest," she said. "But I love all of the things I do!"

Princess Jamya, who just completed her junior year at Glenbard East High School, is a member of the Spanish and English honor societies; received Academic All-Conference for cheerleading; and received the MVP award for Glenbard East Cheer her sophomore year.

Beyond the classroom, she is a member of both the choir and Eastwind a capella choir where she sings soprano; a member of the orchestra and the Honors String Ensemble, where she plays the violin; a varsity cheerleader; a sprinter and jumper on the varsity track team; a member of Rams Committed; a Link Crew student mentor; a member of the Black Student Union; and she will be a Senior Leader for the upcoming school year.

"One of my teammates told me about the Black Student Union," said the princess. "We've visited college campuses and have heard from keynote speakers who talk about ways to reach our goals and motivate us for success," she shared.

"The goal is to get more students in the black community involved and to better themselves," she continued.

Princess Jamya notes that her passion is cheerleading, which she has done for over a decade.

"I love that you're competing as a team and not as an individual," she said. "Some people have trouble staying accountable to their team but with cheer, you absolutely cannot miss something," she said. "Your stunt group needs you; the pyramid needs you; part of the puzzle is missing if you're not there."

Princess Jamya plans to continue her cheerleading career in college.

Outside of school, the princess is very involved with her church, where she is a member of the choir and the praise dance team, and a leader for the sign language team.

"Each of these is a different way of worship and a way to entertain the congregation," explained the princess.

Princess Jamya is also a volunteer with IMPACT youth ministry; a volunteer for the Salvation Army Food Pantry; and is the president of AKA-DETTES, a mentoring program for young women run by the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

"AKA-DETTES is for girls ranging in age from 12-17," she explained. "We teach them basic etiquette, ways to be confident, and other important life lessons," continued the princess. "We've done presentations on things like bullying and higher education," she added.

The AKA-DETTES are also hostesses for the Miss FASHIONETTA® debutante cotillion where many members, including Princess Jamya, go on to be debutantes in the cotillion.

When asked about her plans post-high school, Princess Jamya noted that she is interested in majoring in computer science and video game development.

"One of my most vivid memories growing up was going into my older brother's room and watching him play video games," she recalled. "He'd hand me a controller that wasn't plugged in and let me 'play.'"

The princess has been staying busy this summer and is looking



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Lombardian*

Princess Jamya Whitman

Meet Princess Karli Wilson

By Brittney Conway

Karli Alyssa Wilson is an activist in her community and hopes she can serve as a role model. She credits her values to the environment that her parents cultivated growing up.

"I'm proud to be part of a family that's not only a family to each other but to others," she said.

A recent graduate of Willowbrook High School, Princess Karli was inducted into the National Honor Society, Civitas, and math and English honor societies; was named Outstanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) Student of the Quarter; received Willowbrook's Human Relations Award for exhibiting outstanding character; received All-Conference and was a sectional qualifier for gymnastics; and graduated in the top two percent of her class.

Beyond the classroom, she was a member of Kiwanis Key Club; a member of the environmental club; involved in producing the yearbook; a varsity gymnast all four years; and worked with The Brook Catering Co., which provides catering for many events within the school building during the school year.

However, when it comes to being in the kitchen, the princess says her true love is baking.

"My specialty is cupcakes!" noted the princess. "I make everything from scratch."

In addition to baking, the princess is also passionate about gymnastics. She describes herself as the therapist for her team.

"I was the one everyone could go to if they had a problem or needed help," she explained.

As the team's captain for four years, Princess Karli described her teammates as friends she could turn to for anything. She enjoyed being able to take out her energy on the equipment, and she confirmed it is not as effortless as the gymnasts might make it seem.

"Gymnastics is so mental," she said. "It takes a certain amount of crazy to get up on a 4-inch wide balance beam and do the flips we do."

Outside of school, the princess is in the First Church of Lombard's youth community, where she has had the opportunity to go on several summer mission trips around the country.

"Youth group is definitely my second family," said Princess Karli. "It's given me such a support system through the leaders and kids in the group. I was devastated when the trip was cancelled this year because it's such a huge part of my life," she related.

Princess Karli was prepared to go on a mission trip this summer to Kentucky with 30 other youth group members. The group had planned to build an equine therapy camp from the ground up. However, she is hopeful that she will be able to join the group on a mission trip next summer.

The princess is also involved with Action Gymnastics, where she has been both a gymnast for several years and most recently a coach.

She will be attending Augustana College in the fall and is most looking forward to the new opportunities.

"I think college is whatever you make of it, and I'm excited to squeeze out all the juice of the college experience," said the princess.

Before she goes to college though, she is planning to soak up the last few weeks of summer with her family. The princess and her family enjoy camping and game nights. Princess Karli's sister, Sydney, was a member of the 2019 Lilac Court.

Princess Karli is the daughter of Eric and Lynda Wilson; and sister of Tera, 21; and Sydney, 19.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian

Princess Karli Wilson

Meet Princess Lizzy Florey

By Brittney Conway

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of five profiles of the 2020 Lilac Court.

Lizzy Grace Florey was inspired by the princesses from a young age.

"When I was little, I loved seeing the princesses and thought they were so pretty," she said.

Princess Lizzy grew up attending Lilac Time events, where the princesses made appearances, with her family.

"When I got older, I realized the program wasn't a beauty contest but about your character and being a good person," said the princess. "The older princesses inspired me to be a better young woman."

A recent Willowbrook High School graduate, Princess Lizzy was inducted into the National Honor Society, Civitas, and math and English honor societies; received Willowbrook's Human Relations Award for exhibiting outstanding character; was named Student of the Quarter her freshman year; was an Illinois State Scholar; and graduated in the top 5 percent of her class.

Beyond the classroom, she was a Student Council representative; a member of the Blue Crew; a board member for Relay for Life; and played forward for the Warriors girls soccer team where she was named to the IHSSCA All Sectional Team.

As a board member for Relay for Life throughout most of her high school career, Princess Lizzy was passionate about the fundraiser, even if it meant staying up late the night before preliminary interviews for the Lilac Princess Program.

"I think I got four hours of sleep that night!" she laughed. "The most emotional part of the night is when we light the luminaria and we honor cancer survivors and people who have passed away from cancer."

"I've enjoyed sharing this event with family and friends and I'm going to miss being a part of it."

Outside of school, the princess has been a player with the Firebirds Soccer Club, a sport she started playing at just 3 years old. When asked why she has continued to play soccer her whole life, she paused.

"Honestly, it's just the love of the game," she mused. "I've met so many good friends through this sport and being on my travel team has allowed me to compete against teams from around the country."

Princess Lizzy has also volunteered at Good Samaritan Hospital in the neonatal intensive care unit and juggles two jobs—nannying for a family and working at Oberweis Ice Cream and Dairy Store. She will be attending the University of Minnesota in the fall to study nursing.

When asked what she is most looking forward to when she goes off to college in the fall, the family focused princess said, "I'm really excited I'll be there with my sister." Princess Lizzy's sister, Melissa, was a member of the 2019 Lilac Court and also attends the University of Minnesota.

The princess has enjoyed time at home with her family these last few months, especially since her older siblings are home from college.

"We do a lot of family game nights and movie nights," she said.

She has also spent more time outdoors running and staying active.

Princess Lizzy is the daughter of Ken and Kristi Florey; and sister of Patrick, 20; Melissa, 19; and Tommy, 16.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Lombardian*

Princess Lizzy Florey

Meet Princess Stacy Caeiro

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of five profiles of the 2020 Lilac Court.

By Brittney Conway

Stacy Ann Caeiro says that her goal in life is to live simply and help others.

"I'd love to be able to donate most of my money to charities that focus on the environment or whatever issues are facing society," said the princess.

The recent Willowbrook High School graduate said she is proud of Lombard's strong history and the role that the Lilac Princesses have during Lilac Time.

"Maybe I'm biased because I live here, but Lombard has a really strong community vibe," she said. "It's really nice that the princesses are the role models of the community and it's a great tradition," she continued.

At Willowbrook High School, Princess Stacy was inducted into the National Honor Society, Civitas, and math and world languages honor societies; served as President of Tri-M Honor Society; was named District 88's Best October 2019; received the Outstanding Freshman Award; was an Illinois State Scholar and Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors; and was named to the Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her high school career.

Beyond the classroom, she was a member of the school's marching band and wind ensemble, where she played clarinet; was a member of CenterStage show choir and the concert choir; was involved in the environmental club; and was a member of the math team where she was a two-time state qualifier.

The princess shared that she cherished her time as a member of the marching band and the wind ensemble. "I really liked working together with everyone with the purpose of creating music as the end goal," she related.

She also fondly recounted a trip to New York that she attended with the concert choir earlier this year. "I'm so glad we were able to share that experience together before graduation," she said.

Outside of school, the Lilac Princess has worked as an official and supervisor for the Village of Villa Park's Parks and Recreation department. She will be attending Northwestern University in the fall to study environmental engineering.

While stuck at home during the COVID-19 quarantine, Princess Stacy has taken advantage of the extra time to catch up on reading and video-chatting with friends.

"I really appreciate having technology to connect with my friends," she said. "If this would have happened 50 years ago, we wouldn't have been able to do this," the princess commented in hindsight.

Princess Stacy has also gotten involved in the Black Lives Matter movement by donating to charities and contacting both local and national public officials.

"As an Asian American, it's important to me to educate myself on this topic," she said.

Due to the pandemic, this year has looked different for the Lilac Court as most Lilac Time events were cancelled. However, Princess Stacy keeps a positive attitude.

"Even though it's been different, we've been able to participate in new activities, like Zoom calls and Facebook live events, that past princesses haven't been able to do," said the princess. "Some of the other princesses have even dropped off gifts for each other."

She also emphasized, "I'm really grateful to my dad. He and his family immigrated from India to America and I appreciate the sacrifices he's made so that I can live a comfortable life."

Her brother, who also attended Northwestern University, has served as a role model in her life, along with her Aunt Annie.

Princess Stacy is the daughter of Sam Caeiro and the late Sandra Caeiro; and sister of Shawn, 26.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian

Princess Stacy Ann Caeiro

• Queen (Continued from page 2)

their parents at the start of Saturday's ceremony, which took place in bright and warm conditions. Conway noted the challenges that faced the court this year. Lombard's first Lilac Queen was crowned in 1930. Ninety years later, the 2020 Lilac season took place in unique circumstances.

"It's a beautiful day for such a joyous occasion, and even more so, for our Lilac princesses and their families, as we are finally able to gather in person after navigating through these last few months," said Conway during Saturday's ceremony. "Although this year has been different for the program, I've still had the privilege of getting to know these young women through Zoom calls, Facebook Live events and newspaper interviews, and I'm proud of not only their accomplishments that have led them to this stage, but I'm proud of how they've handled the uncertainties, the changes and the cancellations with such grace."

This year's court of five princesses was selected on March 8, just days before the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the country. All K-12 schools in Illinois were closed to in-person instruction following the end of classes on Friday, March 13. The state's schools remained closed to on-site instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

This year's Lilac Court was supposed to hold its tiara presentation at the Maple Street Chapel on March 16. That event, and several other traditional Lilac Court events, were canceled or altered by the pandemic.

This year's tiara presentation eventually took place virtually. The final judging to determine this year's Lilac Queen also took place virtually, with a panel of four judges interviewing the princesses via Zoom on June 27. Conway drew the princesses' names randomly to determine the order of their interviews with the panel. When each princess was ready for her interview, she joined the four-judge panel online in a "breakout room." At the end of the interviews, the judges compiled their scores from the final judging with the scores from the preliminary judging on March 8. The judges then wrote the 2020 queen's name on a sheet of paper and sealed it in an envelope.

"They were all instructed not to tell me anything," said Conway after Saturday's ceremony. Conway learned this year's queen when she opened the envelope on the stage. Seconds later, she announced Jamya Whitman as this year's Lilac Queen.

Madison Crowe, the 2019 Lilac Queen, joined Susie Denz of the Lombard Junior Women's Club in placing the crown on Queen Jamya's head. The pandemic led to Queen Madison likely having the longest reign in the history of the program. Her time as the reigning Lilac Queen was supposed to end on May 2, but wound up lasting an additional 12 weeks.

Before the crowning, Conway's remarks,

Jim Scalzo, the president of the Lombard Park District Board of Park Commissioners, delivered a brief speech. Lombard Village President Keith Giagnorio also spoke during the ceremony.

"If you were to tell me a year ago I'd be standing here in the middle of July celebrating a Lilac Time program with a mask on, I would have told you you were nuts, but here we are," Giagnorio said.

"Today we celebrate one of Lombard's longest-running traditions—the crowning of our Lilac Queen," Giagnorio added. "Traditionally, this happens in May. But as you know, nothing about this year has been traditional, and it has been difficult for us all."

Giagnorio saluted this year's Lilac Court for helping to bring the community together during challenging times.

"The 2020 Lilac Court will always symbolize a unique moment in our history—a time when we persevered and came together to support the needs of others," he said.

Queen Madison Crowe also spoke during Saturday's ceremony. She stated it had been a pleasure to serve as a role model and an ambassador for the community.

"I'm proud to see how the town has come together to stay healthy and safe," said the 2019 Lilac Queen, a Glenbard East High School graduate who will soon begin her senior year at Lewis University. The outgoing queen concluded her speech by saying she was very excited to pass on the crown to the next queen.

Moments later, Conway opened the sealed envelope and announced Whitman as the 2020 Lilac Queen.

"I just want to thank all of those who not only made this coronation possible, but the Lilac Princess Program in general," said this year's queen, who is about to begin her senior year at Glenbard East High School. She went on to thank the Lombard Junior Women's Club, the Lombard Chamber of Commerce, the Lombard Service League and the Lombard Park District.

"I just want to express how amazing this community is," continued the new queen in her acceptance speech. "We moved to Lombard when I was only a couple months old, and being in Lombard has truly changed not only my life, but my family and my friends' lives as well. I've been blessed to be here. I can't express that enough. From education to sports to extracurriculars and beyond that, Lombard motivated me exponentially to succeed."

Whitman added that the village and its residents have motivated her to be confident, to love and cherish others and to appreciate the little things.

"Thank you so very much for this opportunity," stated Whitman, the daughter of Janise Whitman. "The little girl I was a decade ago would have never thought she'd be where she is today, especially a queen at that."