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Neighbors



JULY 2022

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LETTER TO RESIDENTS

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Now that summer is in full swing, I hope you are enjoying all of the events and activities that the Deerfield community offers this season. This month, we feature local artist Karen Ross, who gives us a look into Deerfield's creative community.

This issue also includes:

- Tips from Expert Contributor Debbie Hymen on how to prep a house for putting it on the market
- An article about US Army Major General James Mukoyama, who is the president and executive director of Military Outreach USA nonprofit organization and recently received a special commendation from the Consul General of Japan for contributions to Japanese-American relations
- Information about Reading Power, a Lake Country-based literacy nonprofit that provides one-to-one literacy tutoring for at-risk students in North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion
- Photos of the Deerfield High School Class of 2022 graduation ceremony
- July's calendar of events
- Profiles of two pets, Polly and Trixie, who are looking for homes and are available for adoption from Orphans of the Storm animal shelter in Riverwoods

Thank you to all our sponsors for supporting Deerfield Neighbors' mission to bring neighbors together by featuring monthly stories about Deerfield residents, community events, charities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

Thank you to our audience for sending those great emails about people, charities, businesses, and organizations we should feature, as well as your pet photos and recipes.

Thank you to Content Coordinator Elizabeth Jakaitis, Photographer Sari Pina, and Designer Briana Martino!

Sincerely,



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847-835-5197

Deerfield Neighbors

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Publisher David Strouse

Content Coordinator Elizabeth Jakaitis

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ADVERTISING

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FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS:

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: dstrouse@bestversionmedia.com.

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Are you on the association board for your subdivision? Contact us for information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events and more to the residents. We create customized homeowners association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

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CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

DUE DATE	MAGAZINE EDITION
December 10	January
January 10	February
February 10	March
March 10	April
April 10	May
May 10	June
June 10	July
July 10	August
August 10	September
September 10	October
October 10	November
November 10	December

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Deerfield's Community of Artists

By Elizabeth Jakaitis | Photos by Sari P. Photography



Deerfield artist Karen Ross is pictured in her home studio alongside some of her work. She specializes in encaustic painting, an ancient painting technique in which colored pigments are mixed with molten wax and resin and are fused layer by layer to a wood surface with a torch or heat gun.



Karen Ross began her journey as an artist before she moved to Deerfield in 2005, but it was only in the last couple of years that she started building connections with other artists living and working in Deerfield. Through social media, she has formed friendships with fellow Deerfield artists Lauren Lichtenstein, Ros Smith, and Bari Wieselmann Schulman. They all grew up in other places and later settled in Deerfield.

"This is really a story of transplants discovering each other and bonding over the town of Deerfield as our place where we make beautiful art and raise our families," Ross says. "Meeting the artists in Deerfield has been invigorating! We share information about opportunities and encourage each other when there is self-doubt that most artists struggle with. We believe there is room for everyone's art, and our styles are all so different, so there is no competition."

Ross is a self-taught artist and describes her artistic style as abstract. "I paint with an encaustic medium (molten filtered beeswax that has a small amount of resin in it to increase the melting point of the wax and create a shiny, harder surface once cured) on wood," Ross explains. "Each layer of wax must be fused to the next layer before continuing the painting. You really need to see them in person to capture the texture and luminosity of this work."

Ross notes that she has always been a creative person, even as a child. She earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore and became a psychotherapist. In the late 1990s, she began selling hand-painted boxes and home accessories in boutiques. When she moved to Deerfield in 2005, she transitioned into abstract painting to create art for her new home.

"With no budget to purchase fine art, I painted on canvas with acrylics and mixed media but could never get the textural effects I longed for," she says. "I used to watch YouTube videos to learn about abstract artists and how they paint. I still do, actually! Around 2008, I saw a suggested video on the sidebar that said, 'Encaustic Painting,' and I recognized the term but didn't know what it was. After watching the video, I was mesmerized, and I knew I had to pursue this medium. I began amassing the supplies and experimenting on tiny pieces of wood. It's a big investment and commitment with all the supplies needed. Eventually my skills developed and I was able to move to much larger paintings, and here I am today!"

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COMPASS





Pictured is Karen Ross with her husband, Jay Shmikler.

RESIDENT FEATURE

As a seventeen-year resident of Deerfield, Ross describes the community as a place where she has really enjoyed raising her children. "I met my second husband, Jay Shmikler, in Deerfield in 2011, and we have a beautiful life together with our five children!" she says. Her two sons will be heading into their freshman and senior years at Deerfield High School in the fall, and two of her three step children will also be entering their freshman and senior years at DHS. Her oldest step child will be a sophomore in college next year. Her oldest son participates in track and field at DHS and in the Deerfield Park District basketball league.



Pictured are Karen and Jay's children, from left: incoming DHS freshman Jeremy Ross, incoming DHS senior Jordan Ross, incoming DHS freshman Ashley Shmikler, incoming University of Colorado Boulder sophomore Lexi Shmikler, and incoming DHS senior Jake Shmikler.

"I have met incredible creative souls and truly found people who 'get' me. I've had the privilege of showing my work in various exhibits and galleries around the country, giving artist talks, winning awards and having a couple of solo shows, as well. I stay connected to the artist community by attending events, including openings of art shows/exhibits and being a part of an artist group on the North Shore called Art Makers North."

In describing the impact that her artistic work has had on her life, Ross says, "I have met incredible creative souls and truly found people who 'get' me. I've had the privilege of showing my work in various exhibits and galleries around the country, giving artist talks, winning awards and having a couple of solo shows, as well. I stay connected to the artist community by attending events, including openings of art shows/exhibits and being a part of an artist group on the North Shore called Art Makers North." She is now being represented by the new Laughlin Gallery in Highland Park and is a part of its group show that opened on June 24th. Ross also credits The Art Center of Highland Park as being one of the most supportive and inclusive organizations that has been exhibiting and promoting her work since the very beginning of her encaustic journey.

And the friendships Ross has formed with her fellow Deerfield artists remain as strong as ever. "We stay in touch via social media, texts, and through meeting up in person socially, sometimes together and sometimes individually for coffee or walks," Ross says. "It's been so fun getting to know them."

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5 Steps to Prep a Home for Putting It on the Market

By Debbie Hymen



Headshot by Zach Lipp Photography

Today, more often than not, I am asked by homeowners to view their homes with a “marketability” or “sellable” focus. Honestly (the only way I roll), that is the way I have always viewed a potential listing because when a seller makes the decision to move, their property should be prepared to be in, not on the market. Follow these five tips to make your home even more appealing to potential buyers.

1. Declutter—We have all heard this term, and it sends chills up most spines, but it doesn't have to. This process could be as simple as removing items that will either eventually be packed and moved, given away, or trashed, so why not do it prior to having the home photographed? Eliminate unnecessary surfaces on which many of the previously mentioned items were placed.

2. Neutralize—Pops of color are very trendy and personal, so if one room, for example, has an accent wall, that is not an issue. When an entire home or many rooms are in a specific palate or one that brings in the room sizes or ceilings, it can make a huge difference to paint all or most of the walls white, off-white, or grey. The home will open up and what the potential purchasers will focus on will be the size of the rooms, as opposed to the decorating.

3. Staging—This is a discussion most associate with vacant properties, and I would definitely advocate for this. Statistics show that furnished homes sell faster than vacant ones, and that is because most people have difficulty visualizing the actual size of rooms and the ability for their own or other furniture to fit into particular spaces. Virtual staging of online photographs of vacant properties is also helpful, and I have utilized this tool.

Staging is also important for an occupied, furnished home. Placement of furniture, once the home has been decluttered, away from doorways and closet openings, is extremely important. It should be very easy for a potential viewer to move throughout the home.

4. Removal of Personal Items—The reason that this is suggested is because you want viewers to picture themselves in the home. There is nothing wrong with having a few items around as you are still living there, however many personal and valuable items can and should be removed and packed away. You are moving, so you can begin the process now.

5. Remodeling/Replacing—This is always an expensive proposition. If carpeting can be picked up and hardwood flooring underneath can be refinished, that is usually a preference. Putting down new hardwood flooring is another story. If new, inexpensive carpeting is an option or you are able to clean existing carpeting, choose the more affordable option.



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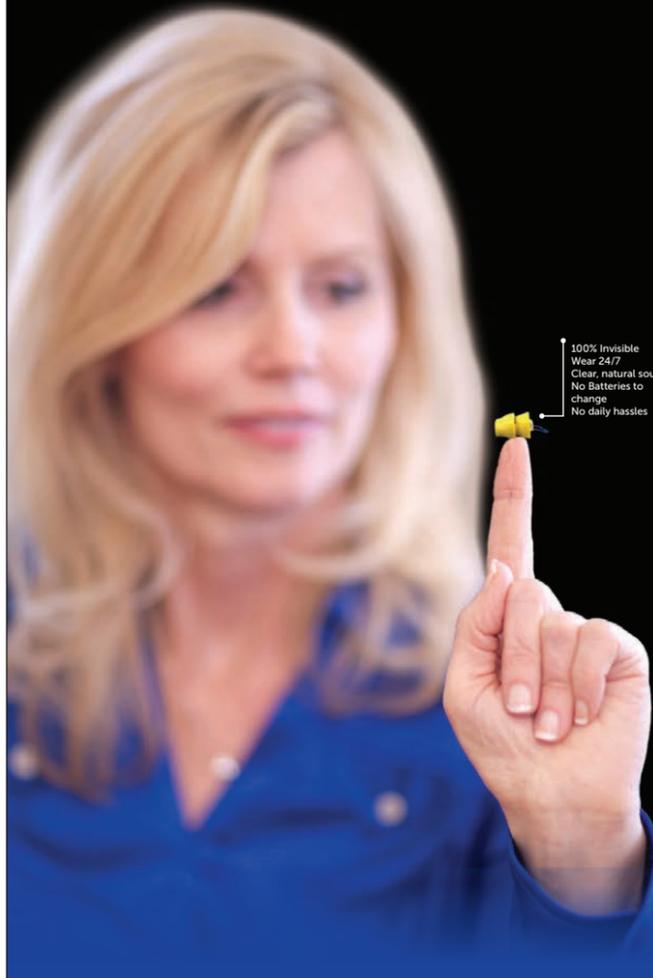
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Pet Corner

Orphans of the Month

By Stephanie Levitt

Orphans of the Storm animal shelter is proud to introduce two pets who are available for adoption.

MEET POLLY!

Do you love the outdoors? So does Polly! Her favorite thing to do is go on adventures with her friends. She is quite curious but attentive to her people. She loves to cuddle up with humans and be super sweet to them! She has completed a six-week training course at Two Paws Up, and she really enjoyed the experience. She is a quick learner and seems to adjust well to new things. She loves children, too! She has some dog friends but is very selective when choosing new playmates. If you're looking for a new adventure buddy, she will be there to greet you with a tail wag and a smile. Come meet her today!

MEET TRIXIE!

Trixie came to Orphans when she was surrendered by her owner along with her two sisters who have already been adopted. She is very shy when meeting new people and may come off a bit feisty. Her ideal home would be a quiet environment with someone who is willing to be patient and understand that she will need extra time and space to adjust to a new home. Because of this, she would do best in an adult-only home. Once a bond is established between her and her new person, she will begin asking for some pets! She has the cutest little meow and would love to talk to you. She gets along well with other cats and has been seen snuggling up to them. She can also be food-motivated at times; her favorite food is freeze-dried chicken. Her friends at Orphans believe that once she has a home of her own, she'll blossom into the confident companion they know she could be. Could you be her purrfect match?

COME VISIT US!
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The main shelter is open Wednesday through Monday from 12pm to 4pm. Please call ahead or visit our website to book an appointment to meet the animals or to learn more about volunteer opportunities. We also have Adoption Showcase sites, open on weekends, at Hawthorn Mall and Northbrook Court.

Dr. Josh Alpert is a proud Deerfield resident and area native, as well as a board-certified and fellowship trained orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine and work-related injuries.

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Recent Real Estate Activity

SINGLE FAMILY	# Homes Sold	% Average Ratio of Sale to List Price	🕒 Average Days on Market	\$ Average Sold Price
DETACHED	38	100%	24	\$656,326
ATTACHED	14	100%	8	\$356,257

Source: MRED, data for month of May, 2022 in Deerfield.

Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but represents the activity of the real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement.

Reading Power Kicks Off 20th Year of One-to-One Tutoring with New Leadership This Fall

By Kate Burke

Reading Power, which is a Lake Country-based literacy nonprofit that provides one-to-one literacy tutoring for at-risk students in North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion, will kick off the 2022-2023 program year this September under new leadership.

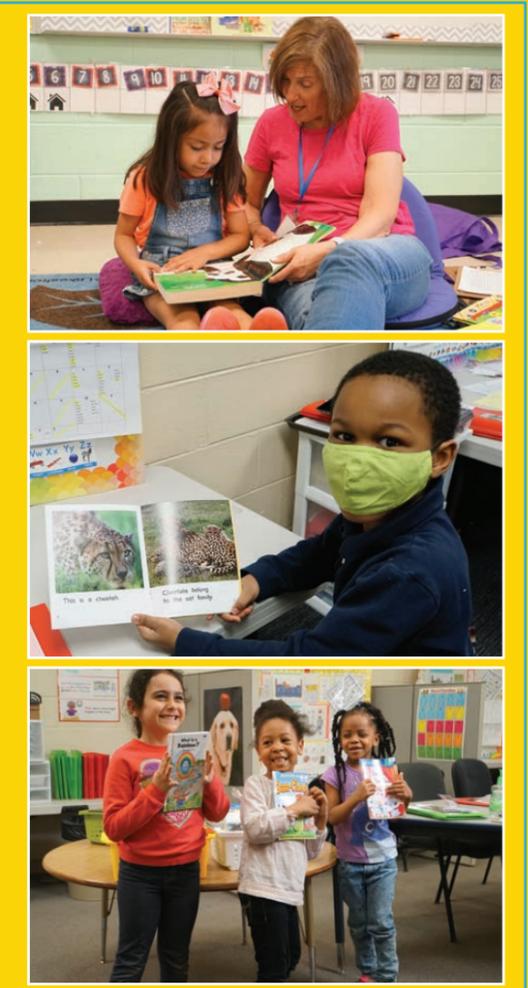
Former Deerfield resident Lisa Bulzoni, MEd, was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer this May and current longtime Deerfield resident Kristin Fine, MEd, assumed the Director of Programs role. As CEO, Lisa will bring her innovative thinking, passion, and above all, dedication to the organization's mission to foster the promise of literacy.

"My life's work and passion have been to make a difference in the lives of children," Bulzoni says. "Reading Power is at the forefront of improving the literacy lives of children and I look forward to finding additional ways to bring the joy of literacy to even more students."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the literacy needs of the at-risk students Reading Power serves rapidly grew. School closures and low engagement in virtual learning were added barriers to learning. Students are now even further behind than ever. Statistics show us the devastation that results from not being able to read proficiently. Two-thirds of children who cannot read proficiently by the end of third grade will statistically end up in jail or on welfare. The cost of not providing early intervention is devastating. The need is urgent. The good news is that Reading Power is a part of the solution. Research shows that the kind of one-to-one support Reading Power provides students is a proven catalyst for accelerated learning. Reading Power can provide young children with the reading intervention they need for \$2,000 per student each year. Visit www.readingpowerinc.org to learn about supporting the organization or becoming a volunteer tutor.

Mark Your Calendar!

Reading Power will be hosting its second annual Play for Literacy Golf & Games Event on Monday, September 12, 2022, at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest. Tickets are now available at www.playforliteracy.com.



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Congratulations Deerfield High School Class of 2022!

By Karen Warner, Deerfield High School Director of Communications & Alumni Relations | Photos: Stuart-Rodgers Photography

The graduation ceremony for the Deerfield High School Class of 2022 was held at Ravinia on May 25. It was the first time that it has been safe to hold a graduation ceremony since 2019. The DHS Class of 2022 was made up of 420 graduates. The class speaker was Jonah Simon and the class marshals were Simone Orleans and Max Kaufman. Congratulations, graduates!



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Deerfield Neighbors Salutes Our Veterans

By Elizabeth Jakaitis



On June 10, 2022, Major General James H. Mukoyama, Jr., of Glenview was honored by the Consul General of Japan with a special Commendation at a dinner in Evanston. The Commendation

cited his more than fifty years of contributions to Japan-United States relations in the areas of military cooperation and involvement in promoting Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) issues on the local and national level.

Major General Mukoyama served in the US Army for more than thirty years, including active and reserve component service and two combat tours. He was commissioned as a Regular Army Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1965. During his five years on active duty, he served as a platoon leader in the demilitarized zone in the Republic of Korea and as an infantry company commander in the 9th Division in Vietnam. He was the youngest General Officer in the entire United States Army in 1987, and subsequently the youngest Major General three years later. In 1989, he became the first Asian-American in the history of the United States to command an Army division.

Among General Mukoyama's decorations and badges are the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, 3 Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Since his retirement from active federal service in 1995, General Mukoyama has volunteered and participated in numerous organizations, both governmental and nonprofit charitable, benefitting our military, veterans, and the community.

During the dinner in which he was presented with a special Commendation from the Consul General of Japan, General Mukoyama said, "I accept this honor on behalf of the previous first generations of Americans of Japanese ancestry, or AJA's, the Issei and Nisei, who, by their sacrifices and personal example established the foundation upon which all future generations of AJA's have benefitted. Their reputation and contributions to our nation opened up the doors of equal opportunity to those such as myself and others to follow."

General Mukoyama serves as the President and Executive Director of Military Outreach USA, a faith-based 501(c)(3) organization serving our military—Active, Guard, Reserve, Veterans—and their families, to cope with the visible and invisible wounds associated with military service. Military Outreach USA provides services nationwide, including service to first responders, active military, and veterans from Deerfield, Bannockburn, and Riverwoods upon referral from the Lovell, Hines, or Jesse Brown VA Medical Centers as well as from local veterans service organizations.

Military Outreach USA appreciates all forms of support and is actively seeking volunteers to help with events and fundraising. Please visit www.militaryoutreachusa.org for more information.

Send Us Submissions About Veterans in Our Community

Deerfield Neighbors will feature a tribute to our local veterans who live, grew up or work in Deerfield, Bannockburn or Riverwoods in the November issue. Please send us details about veterans you know who live in Deerfield, Bannockburn, and Riverwoods. Email publisher David Strouse (dstrouse@bestversionmedia.com) with responses to the following questions as well as 2-3 high-resolution photos (650 KB-1 MB or higher, please).

1. Name
2. Address
3. Branch of service
4. Years of service
5. Where did you serve?
6. Have you been deployed overseas?
7. Why did you join the military?
8. How did you enter the service?
9. Veterans Benefits that have helped
10. Experiences in the military that you would like to share, that you cherish, and/or that helped you in civilian life
11. Describe your career, family, and civilian life
12. Current community or charitable activities that you take part in
13. Do you have a special message to share with the Deerfield community?
14. Any additional information you would like to share?



CONTENT COORDINATOR

The Content Coordinator is responsible for gathering local content, connecting with residents, interviewing families, coordinating and writing articles, meeting monthly deadlines and proofreading.

Contact

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July

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Sun., July 3 & Mon., July 4

Deerfield Family Days
@Brickyard Park on July 3 and Jewett Park on July 4

This two-day event will feature fireworks, food vendors, carnival games, rides, the Deerfield Rotary Club 5K race, a 4th of July parade, arts & crafts sales, a flower show, and more!

Time: July 3: 5pm-fireworks at dusk, July 4: 8am-3pm

Cost: FREE

www.deerfield.il.us/FamilyDays

Sat., July 9

Northern Illinois Raptor Presentation

@Deerfield Public Library

Visit the Deerfield Public Library for an interactive, fun, and educational presentation about hawks, owls, and falcons, featuring special feathered guests.

Time: 11:15am-12:15pm

Cost: FREE

deerfield.libnet.info/events

Sat., July 16

Woofstock

@Jaycee Park, 1026 Wilmot Rd., Deerfield

Enjoy games and activities, music, snacks, and more at the Deerfield Park District's very own dog park!

Time: 1pm-3:30pm

Cost: \$25 per dog

www.deerfieldparks.org

Sun., July 17

Assemble Backpacks and Bye Bye Boredom Bags

@815 Rosemary Terrace, Deerfield

Join Gratitude Generation to assemble supplies for children in need.

Time: 10am-12pm

Cost: FREE

www.gratitudegeneration.org

Sun., July 17

Summer Concert Series: Dancing Queen

@Floral Park, 951 Wilmot Road, Deerfield

Bring a picnic dinner, chairs, or a blanket for an evening of live music and fun, featuring Dancing Queen, an ABBA tribute band.

Time: 5-6:30pm

Cost: FREE

www.deerfieldparks.org

Wed., July 20

Ryerson Woods Guided Walk: Fireflies

@Ryerson Woods, Riverwoods, 21950 North Riverwoods Road

Firefly or lightning bug? Whatever name you call them, they are a magical treat of summer. We'll learn a bit about firefly biology then hit the trails to experience nature's light show. Ages 12+. Register online.

Time: 7:30-9pm

Cost: FREE

deerfield.libnet.info/events

Sat., July 30

Fundraising Gala and Benefit Concert For Ukraine

@3150 Commercial Ave., Northbrook

Take part in an incredible event benefitting the rebuilding and restoration of the historic Kharkiv Special School for Visually Impaired Children that was recently destroyed. The evening will include performances by A-list Ukrainian and American artists, a live auction, and food!

Time: 7:30pm

Cost: \$5,000+

www.chicago4ukraine.com

IF THERE IS AN EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE LISTED IN OUR CALENDAR, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID STROUSE AT dstrouse@bestversionmedia.com or 847-835-5197



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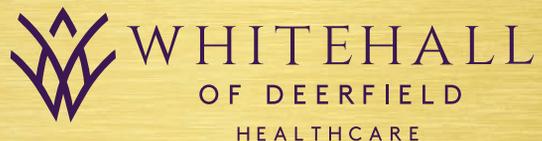
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