

## For Immediate Release

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### Wickland claims the title of Schaumburg Idol

The singing contest that began with ten contestants ended with only one Schaumburg Idol.

*Schaumburg Idol*, Schaumburg Park District's annual search for the next singing superstar, reached its final round last week with stunning performances from Melissa Wickland, 14, and Emilie Rose Danno, 17. At the fourth season's results show, Wickland went home with the title of this year's Schaumburg Idol.

Despite both girls amazing the judges from the start, only one was able to take home the title. The winner was determined by a combination of the judges' votes and the community.

Wickland, a freshman at Schaumburg High School, has been singing since she was 3 years old. She is part of her school and church choirs, was a member of the Palatine Children's Choir, takes voice lessons, competed in *Elk Grove Idol*, and has been doing musical theater since she was 8 years old. Her passion for singing comes from her mother's love for singing to her as a child.

Wickland is no stranger to the District's competitions. She and a friend won *Schaumburg's Got Talent* in 2010. She plans to continue her musical accomplishments in high school and college with the goal of one day becoming a Broadway actress.

"I feel accomplished," said Wickland. "It was a tough, nerve wrecking and exciting competition, but I'm happy I won."



Melissa Wickland stands with her Schaumburg Idol trophy.

Wickland competed against Danno for the title of Schaumburg Idol.



**Emilie Rose Danno and Melissa Wickland pose with their trophies at the Schaumburg Idol results show.**

Danno, a senior at Glenbard West High School, has been singing since she could talk. She takes singing lessons and is active in her school's theater and choir. Her past competitions include the NATS musical theater competition and *Glen Ellyn Idol*.

Like Wickland, Danno was surrounded by music. Her family is very musical and immersed her in it when she was younger. Danno, a budding YouTube star, is going to major in theater in college and wants to pursue a career performing in theater or musicals.

"I'm going to sing my way through life," said Danno.

This year's contestants also included Lauren Marine, Taylor Matos, Ondreya Ortiz, Arsenio Pascual, Ryan Sevilla, Alexis Traczyk, Kelly Wargo and Geraldine Truman.

The results show can be seen on WSPD-TV and [parkfun.com](http://parkfun.com) beginning Aug. 22.

For more information, call (847) 490-7015 or visit [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com).

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