

Press Clippings 07/04/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.

Press Clippings 07/05/2019

---Courier News---07/05/2019

Fourth of July parade an 'old-fashioned' tradition

By: Gloria Casas



The Kane County Mounted Rangers were part of the Fourth of July parade in Elgin Thursday. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

Susan Tyler and Carlos Rivera got up at 5:30 a.m. Thursday to put 25 chairs outside their historic Douglas Avenue home in Elgin decked out in patriotic decorations. Hours later, family and friends filled the chairs to watch Elgin's Fourth of July parade

The couple have hosted a parade viewing party for years at their home, which is along the parade route. The two also walked in the parade for five years as members of ABODE - Admirers of Beautiful Old Dwellings of Elgin.

The last few years they've been spectators, Tyler said.

"I love the fact it's a small town, old-fashioned Fourth of July parade compared to a high-tech parade on Michigan Avenue," said Tyler, who moved to Elgin in 1996.

An estimated 10,000 to 12,000 people watch the parade, Elgin Special Events Coordinator Kate O'Leary said. This year there were 85 groups, organizations, schools, nonprofits and businesses participating, she said.

Elgin's Fourth of July parade travels down Douglas Avenue Thursday. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

Among the participants were the Elgin High School marching band, Larkin High School marching band, The Pack Drumline, American Legion Post 57, Town and County Gardens, Ballet Folklorico Girasol, Ballet Folklorico Huehuecoyotl, Kane County Mounted Rangers, Kane County Sheriff's Department, Elgin Police Chief Ana Lalley who headed the parade, and the Elgin Fire Department.

The Jesse White Tumblers got cheers from the crowd as young athletes performed tumbling and acrobatics.

Mexican dancing horses were also a popular sight as they galloped and danced on Douglas Avenue.

Jeanmarie Boyd, 4, laughed when she saw one of the horses performing.

"I love it," the little girl said of the parade.

Rosemarie Green just moved to Elgin and enjoyed watching the annual Fourth of July parade for the first time Thursday. Her granddaughter, Jeanmarie Boyd, loved everything about the parade. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

Her grandmother, Rosemarie Greene, just moved from Chicago and enjoyed her first Fourth of July parade in Elgin. She said she enjoyed "all of it," adding her favorites were the drum performances, the bands and the horses, including the Kane County Mounted Rangers.

She also loved how everyone came together for the parade, she said.

Elgin's Fourth of July parade will be rebroadcast on Channel 17 throughout the month of July.

The parade was just the start of a busy day for Tyler and Rivera, who host a barbeque in their backyard afterward.

"We always have angus burgers and everyone passes a dish," Tyler said. "We have a great dessert table. I make mojitos all afternoon until they are all gone."

While Christmas is her favorite holiday, the Fourth of July is her second favorite because “it’s a cool day that doesn’t have the pressure of other holidays,” Tyler said. “You can eat, drink and hang out.”

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

---Courier News---07/05/2019

Commission Oks fencing at new U46 bus depot

By: Rafael Guerrero



The Elgin Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended the Elgin City Council approve fencing and parking requests for 1019 E. Chicago St. so School District U46 can use the property for a new welcome/registration center and depot for small- and medium-size buses. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

Elgin planning and zoning commissioners are satisfied with fencing and parking lot proposals for School District U46’s new satellite bus depot and administrative/welcome center and are recommending they be approved by the Elgin City Council.

The council sign-off on the creation of more parking space for small- and medium-sized buses and for fencing on the 1019 E. Chicago St. site, is one of the last hurdles in completing the changes to the former Sherman Health Resource Center on Elgin’s east side.

It will go to the council for a vote at a future meeting.

Construction has already started on the site, with underground utilities work underway and work on the 95,512-square-foot building set to begin soon. Only the fencing and the parking lot expansion requires council approval, city senior planner Damir Latinovic said.

U46 is requesting permission to build an 8-foot-tall solid fence behind the building and on the east and west perimeter next to the building. A smaller 6-foot, open-design fence would line the rest of the east and west sides of the property, according to plans.

U46 Plant Operations Director Sheila Downs told the commission the fencing is needed to provide a secure area for the buses and to separate bus parking from the parking in front of the welcome and student registration center. The building will also be used for records storage and some administrative offices, including one for satellite bus operators, she said.

The solid fencing would be made from sound-dampening material to reduce noise for residential buildings nearby, Downs said.

“There were decisive measures taken in consideration of (noise concerns),” Downs said.

The need for space to accommodate 150 buses requires converting green space on the property’s west side to parking, the proposal said. Only smaller and wheelchair-accessible buses will be kept on the property; U46’s fleet of larger vehicles will be housed at the bus depot on Shales Parkway, Downs said.

Splitting bus operations between two facilities will eliminate the need to shuttle U46 transportation workers to and from the Shales Parkway depot, she said. Last school year, bus drivers parked at the East Chicago lot and were shuttled to and from the depot.

“Wherever their buses are located, they will be able to park there,” Downs said.

Some residents who live near the site expressed concerns about how the changes might affect the neighborhood.

One said the buses would create more traffic congestion on two-lane East Chicago Street, especially during peak hours for school buses.

Karen McDonald, who lives south of the site, said current construction is noisy and she fears it could be worse once school buses are using it on a daily basis. The pollution the buses create is another worry, she said.

“Those diesel fumes are coming right into our neighborhood,” McDonald said.

Press Clippings 07/06/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.

Press Clippings 07/07/2019

---Courier News---07/07/2019

Teens learn about leadership, careers and Elgin through a Boys and Girls Club summer program

By: Rafael Guerrero



Teens in the Elgin Boys and Girls Club's Junior Staff program visited the Imago Creative Studios in Elgin last month. The summer program takes the members to various businesses and organizations to learn leadership skills that they then try to use when they work with children at the club. (Michael Novelli / HANDOUT)

Dream2Be Image Photography is one of about two dozen Elgin-area businesses or organizations helping Elgin Boys and Girls Club's Junior Staff teens this summer learn more about potential careers and work on their leadership skills.

Much like city government officials or police officers, photographers require important skills to demonstrate leadership, studio co-owner Chantel Ferraro said. Eye contact and communication is key in photography, and Dream2Be emphasized those skills when the dozen teens stopped in recently.

"Everything we taught them was more on how we connect with fellow human beings, rather than what the job is itself," she said. Ferraro, too, told the teens about why she chose photography as a career.

"There are ways to make it in the creative fields," she said. "Not only can you make some money but also you can make a career."

The Junior Staff summer program is teaching participants about leadership and applying the skills they learn with the younger children.

So far, the field trips haven several of locations, including Elgin City Hall and the Elgin Police Department. This month they'll be going to Advocate Sherman Hospital, Side Street Studio Arts, an animal clinic and a few downtown Elgin restaurants. The trips

help members explore career options and demonstrate skills they have worked on at the Boys and Girls Club, said Kelly Rocks, one of two Junior Staff adult coordinators.

“(Our partners) really wanted to pore into the kids and watch them grow,” Rocks said.

The nine-week program has a dozen teens from Elgin and Streamwood who meet at the Boys and Girls Club building on Dundee Avenue Mondays through Thursdays. The first 90 minutes of the four-and-a-half hour days are spent in workshops, learning about topics like leadership styles, confidence and image, growth mindset, race and discrimination, and college and career preparation.

In the afternoons, the teens either work with the younger children enrolled at the club or go on field trips.

Michael Novelli, a Junior Staff adult coordinator, said the program culminates in late July with presentations on what they learned and observed.

“It’s like a greenhouse where we’ve been able to see this exponential growth” in their skills and qualities, Novelli said. “While the career exposure is important, what I’ve really enjoyed seeing is that it’s become about their growth as people, as social creatures, as leaders.”

Alexa Henry, 15, was one of the 12 teenagers accepted into the Junior Staff program. The Elgin resident and **Bartlett High School** student is interested in pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The program has offered her a chance to meet with possible employers, like Hoffer Plastics in South Elgin.

“We get to meet people and ask them about their jobs,” said Henry, who joined the Boys and Girls Club three years ago. “We also get to learn a bit more on what our opportunities could be here (in the Elgin area).”

Not only is Henry learning about careers, she is learning to incorporate leadership skills into her daily interactions with both children and adults. Learning on the importance of communication skills like eye contact can be passed down to the children she works with at the club, she said.

The teens are also learning about the Elgin community, Novelli said. Some had never been to City Hall or checked out some of the downtown Elgin businesses, he said.

“As they’re learning about Elgin, we want them to ask to themselves, ‘What do you see as the needs in this community?’” he said.

Mike Ferraro, who owns Dream2Be with his wife, Chantel, used the field trip to let the teens know there is more beyond high school besides a four-year college or university.

He didn't do a four-year degree, Ferraro said, and he and Chantel found some success in photography.

"To actually see professionals in their environment, I think for the kids it will make a big difference," he said.

Press Clippings 07/08/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.

Press Clippings 07/09/2019

There are no U-46 related news stories.