

Press Clippings - 6/13/2023

– The Courier News –

June 13,, 2023

By Mike Danahey - The Courier News

South Elgin cancels its July 4 parade for second year due to lack of participants



The village of South Elgin has canceled its Fourth of July parade for the second consecutive year due to an insufficient number of floats, bands and other entries. (Village of South Elgin/HANDOUT)

As was the case last year as well, the village of South Elgin has pulled the plug on its Fourth of July Parade for lack of entries.

“We’re reluctantly canceling it,” Village President Steve Ward said. “Our parks and recreation director and staff did a phenomenal job trying to recruit people, but in the end we didn’t feel we had enough participants to move forward with the parade.”

They had been hoping for about 60 to 80 entries but only 28 had signed up as of this week — not enough to hold a parade of reasonable length, a post on the village’s Facebook page said.

Village leaders thought attendees would be disappointed if the parade lasted only 10 to 15 minutes, Ward said.

“If we would have had 40 or more units, we could have gone on with the parade. But with the number we have signed up, it would be just too much work,” he said.

Holding a parade requires “shutting down nearly a mile of Spring Street, moving large public works vehicles to block intersections and providing heightened law enforcement and security,” the Facebook post said.

Parks and Recreation Department staff mailed more than 500 postcards inviting all South Elgin businesses and organizations to take part in the event, officials said. They also sent four separate emails to all previous parade participants, posted notices on Facebook eight times, and included information in their spring and summer village newsletters and summer events guide.

“We’ve heard from many businesses that staff shortages have altered their plans and they prefer to give their staff a full holiday,” the village Facebook post says. “Others have cited safety concerns due to tragedies like the one in Highland Park last year. Others have simply made new holiday weekend plans.”

Ward said people in South Elgin and other towns have told village officials they are leery about taking part in parades after the mass shooting at the Highland Park July 4 parade last year.

No decision has been made about whether the village will attempt to organize a parade for 2024, South Elgin Communications Coordinator Craig Pierce said. The event, once

organized by the village's Lions Club, has been an annual occurrence since the 1960s, he said.

However, the village has not held one since 2019. Last year's parade was canceled after they signed up only 26 entries, and in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the 2022 parade was canceled, the village quickly put together a July 4 community picnic in Panton Mill Park featuring musicians from **South Elgin High School**, a local dance studio and a local karate studio. While it was fun, Ward said, a lot of people stayed only long enough to see the act in which their family members or friends were participating.

Although the city of Elgin also holds an annual Fourth of July parade, Ward said he didn't think it had an effect on participation in South Elgin's event since both have been held simultaneously over many years. That said, he's glad it's still on in light of South Elgin's being canceled, he said.

"With Elgin our neighbor, people can still enjoy a parade there," he said.

Despite the disappointing parade news, Ward said the village has had a lot of success with its other summer events, including weekly concerts, cruise nights and movie nights. This year's concerts have drawn more than 400 people each night to Panton Mill Park, he said.

– Daily Herald –

June 13, 2023

By Chris Walker - Daily Herald Correspondent

Fox Girls Soccer All-Area Team



Jacobs' Gabby Wojtarowicz, left, is part of the Daily Herald's 2023 Fox Girls Soccer All-Area Team. Gregory Shaver/gshaver@shawmedia.com

Fox Girls Soccer All-Area Team

Player School Team Pos.

Grace Apgar Cary-Grove Sr. F

Geneieve Bangert Hampshire Sr. F

Brooke Baumann **Bartlett** Sr. D

Ella Dihel **South Elgin** Jr. F

Ava Elders Burlington Central Jr. F

Kayla Floyd St. Charles North Jr. MF

Brigid Gannon Kaneland Sr. MF

Kailey Hansen Batavia Sr. MF

Rilee Hasegawa Geneva Sr. MF

Grace Helzer Huntley Sr. F

Emily Kunzer Kaneland Jr. MF
Mackenzie Loomis St. Charles East Jr. D
* Bella Najera St. Charles North Sr. MF
Dahlia Perez **Elgin** Jr. MF
Chloe Pfaff Huntley Sr. MF
Laney Stark St. Charles North Jr. F
Bella Vargas West Aurora Sr. F/MF
Isabella Walls Geneva Sr. D
Grace Williams St. Charles East Sr. F
Gabby Wojtarowicz Jacobs So. MF
* Fox All-Area Captain

Honorable Mention Cameron Bishop, Geneva, jr., Lilly Coats, Geneva, jr., Eva Boer, Burlington Central, sr., Karissa Cruz, **South Elgin**, sr., Macey DeMoss, Rosary, sr., Riley DiBiase, Batavia, sr., Sabrina Gomez, **Elgin**, sr., Ariana Hernandez, Dundee-Crown, sr., Dayanara Huerta, **Streamwood**, sr., Jinni Jimenez, **Larkin**, sr., Claudia Kaczmarczyk, Crystal Lake South, sr., Sophie Kirsten, St. Charles North, sr., Kara Machala, St. Charles East, sr., Morgan McCaughn, Huntley, sr., Kaelyn Nash, Aurora Central Catholic, sr., Helen Negron, Hampshire, jr., Olivia Rawls, Geneva, jr., Eva Samuelian Burlington Central, jr., Ellie Semerau, Harvest Christian Academy, so., Delaney Roimiser, Jacobs, sr., Alli Saviano St. Charles East, jr., Sam Skerl, Cary-Grove, so., Lesly Ulloa, **South Elgin**, sr., Abby Vichich, St. Charles North, sr.