

Press Clippings 02-03-21

---Daily Herald--- 02/03/2021

Learn how to make your backyard a wildlife destination

Submitted by Gail Borden Public Library



Learn about how to create habitats that will attract monarch butterflies and other wildlife to your yard in a series of virtual programs from Northern Kane County Wild Ones and Gail Borden Library. *Courtesy of Doug Tallamy*

The Northern Kane County Wild Ones and Gail Borden Library are presenting a series of virtual discussions and programs based on the book "Nature's Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard" by Douglas W. Tallamy.

An author and professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, Tallamy explains in his book how homeowners can transform their yards into "Homegrown National Parks" to attract wildlife and provide habitats for them.

Each program is hosted by a local specialist. Reading the book prior to each discussion is recommended. All programs require registration at gailborden.info/register.

- "Nature's Best Hope" book discussion with restoration specialist June Keibler: 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. One of the founders of the Northern Kane County Wild Ones chapter, Keibler will bring her wealth of experience and her passion for restoring the land to this discussion of the ideas Doug Tallamy advocates.
- Getting Started with Native Gardening with Kane County certified naturalist Mary Alice Masonick: 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6. Masonick will cover the basics of adding native plants to your landscape. She will talk about tools and terminology, buying plants, how to choose a site and how to plant, keystone plants and other tips for getting started with native gardening.
- Invasive Plants with zoologist and naturalist Corey Begalka: 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8. If you're thinking about how you might alter your landscaping, one issue that will pop up is how to deal with invasive exotic plants. Begalka will explain how invasive plants impact our ecosystem, as well as give advice on how to deal with them before gardening season starts.
- Woodland Gardens with naturalist Valerie Blaine: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10. If you're considering planting native plants in a shady portion of your landscape -- or if you have woodland on your property -- you'll want to learn more about the woodland plants that thrive here. Blaine will explain how you can create a woodland garden in the shady part of a yard.

- "Nature's Best Hope" book discussion with environmental educator and advocate Gary Swick: 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. Swick will bring more than 30 years of experience as a naturalist to this book talk of "Nature's Best Hope." Having successfully landscaped five properties of his own with native habitat, he will bring invaluable experience to the discussion of Tallamy's ideas.
- Prairie Gardens with Conservation Foundation manager Jim Kleinwachter: 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18. If you're considering planting native plants in a sunny portion of your landscape, you'll want to learn more about the prairie plants that thrive in the sun. They're easy to grow and require little care once they're established. Kleinwachter will talk about prairie grasses and sedges, as well as prairie plants that bloom with vibrant colors.
- Growing Native Plant Communities with expert gardener Rory Klick: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. If you're a gardener and are considering adding some native plants to your palette, you might be asking: How is gardening with natives different from typical landscape gardening? Department chair for the Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture program at College of Lake County, Klick will explain how important and beneficial native plants are to our environment.
- The Biodynamic Engine That Drives Our Ecosystem with **Deb Perryman McMullen**: 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. Esteemed educator and scientist McMullen, coordinator of science and planetarium for **Elgin Area School District U-46**, will give a presentation on the role native plants play in reconnecting our yards to a system that draws down carbon, replenishes groundwater, prevents runoff, builds soil, feeds many, offers safe passage and provides shelter for those who share our space.

---Patch--- 02/03/2021

Elgin Public Schools Get \$29.4M In Coronavirus Relief

Illinois public school districts will split about \$2.25 billion in federal coronavirus relief, according to state officials.

By: Jason Addy



Illinois public school districts will split about \$2.25 billion in federal coronavirus relief, according to state officials. (Shutterstock)

ELGIN, IL — Elgin public schools are set to receive grants worth more than \$29.4 million from the second coronavirus-relief package approved last month by federal lawmakers.

That \$900 billion relief package included about \$2.25 billion for Illinois public school districts, more than four times the amount they received from the first federal relief package, according to Carmen Ayala, the state's superintendent of education.

114 Coronavirus Deaths, 6,700 Cases In Kane County During January

Elgin School District U-46 will get \$29.27 million, which Ayala and the Illinois State Board of Education are encouraging districts to spend on their "most urgent needs," like supplemental learning opportunities, mental health support and closing the digital divide.

The Elgin Math and Science Academy Charter School is also set to receive about \$174,000, according to state officials.

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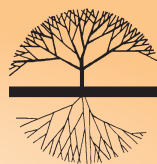
Coronavirus Vaccine Website Opens For Elgin Residents

Other districts in the area receiving federal coronavirus-relief funding include St. Charles District 303 (\$1.78 million), East Aurora District 131 (\$23.55 million), West Aurora District 129 (\$10.6 million) and Geneva District 304 (\$1.18 million).

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON



50 cents
February 3, 2021

Abatement project
slated for U-46 vote
See Page 3

Ratified resolutions
preface road work
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Capital projects for 2021 reviewed by U-46 board

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 was presented with a summary of 2021 capital projects at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 11.

There are 30 projects listed in the summary totaling \$28.2 million, the capital projects fund making up \$21 million of the work.

Sheila Downs, director of plant operations, said the projects come from the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

"Some of the projects, most of the projects, are going to be funded from... funds that are identified for capital projects," Downs said. "We do have health/life safety funds that have been allocated for items that have been identified for our health/life safety reports that you review each year. Maintenance and grounds budgets have allocations for particular projects, and then we received a \$50,000 school maintenance ground grant that will go towards the

Ridge Circle (Elementary School in Streamwood) domestic water project."

The highest price tag is \$7.2 million for the third phase of an interior build-out at 1019 East Chicago St., in Elgin, which was purchased recently by the district.

Elgin High School leads school buildings with three projects totaling \$3.2 million, one of which board member Melissa Owens asked about. The district will spend \$2 million on a mechanical work and remodel/replace lockers projects and Owens asked if those were separate projects.

"That's correct," Downs said. "While we're at each site, we try to be efficient as possible and so there is going to be work happening in the locker room at that location."

The additional projects at Elgin are the final phase of a domestic water project and a power pole replacement project.



Snowbound

Though snow makes spring and summer sports a potentially distant event at this time of year, the pandemic has added an additional layer of resistance to the normalcy of local routines. Hopefully, with the coming of 2021 and the eventual melting of all the white stuff deposited on the area, there will be warm weather rituals to enjoy this year such as those provided by village organizations.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Editorial

The Fate of Illinois Schools, the Fate of a Nation

Even as our United States quicken their collective sprint into socio-political ruin, Illinois remains positioned to outrun them all. On Feb. 16, the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules will vote on the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) pernicious recommendation to make it our state's official policy to politically indoctrinate all future generations of students into radical, neo-Marxist critical race theory.

Surely, you wonder if we exaggerate. So, after proceeding here, we encourage you to read the text of the proposed amendments in Illinois Register for yourself (start at p. 14574): https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/volume44/register_volume44_issue_37.pdf.

If the Committee adopts these new standards, our teachers will be fully immersed in and mandated to transmit to our children—as the only and irrefutable truth—the fully-realized anti-American, anti-human nostrums of the most rabidly diseased minds of the Left. Our founding ideals, our faith, and our families will be undermined, discredited, and—in time—erased. The proposed rules go so far and so unequivocally that we feel justified to morally equating them with the genital mutilation of prepubescent children whose maleficent parents have been possessed by the same Leftist demons. The stakes, for our nation, are that high.

Though the standards are designed to reprogram our teachers, program our students and remake our society into a Marxist dream/nightmare, they begin—as they must and as they always do—by rewriting human history and by denying the very existence of truth. For example, the teachers in this brave new world will “understand and value the notion that multiple lived experiences exist, that there is not one ‘correct’ way of doing or understanding something, and that what is seen as ‘correct’ is most often based on our lived experiences” (§24.50, a.1). With a neo-Marxist critical theory decoder in hand, we can translate that into the working proposition that the accumulated wisdom of mankind—from mathematics to human biology to language—is nothing more than the opinion of history's oppressors and their descendants (e.g. America). You know the ones, the ones who need deny themselves and their God, the ones who need to prostrate themselves—under threat of violence—at the feet of the shrieking woke rioters storming the gates. More specifically, the teachers will be required to “mitigate their own behavior (racism, sexism, homophobia, unearned privilege, Eurocentrism, etc.)” (§24.50, a.10). If you're wondering whether the unions claiming to represent these racist and sexist teachers will stand up against such a broad stroke of libel against its membership, you've not been paying attention to whose side they are on—not the teachers, not the parents, not the students, but the Left and the power their extorted union money can buy in Springfield and Washington.

Thus, $2 + 2 = 4$ is not “correct,” but rather the opinion of a systemically racist society and its fusty parents and old-timey teachers. Thus, your mother's womb that gestated your life and your father's ability to impregnate her are not evidence of any natural, biological process, but rather emblems of a cis-gendered, transphobic patriarchy. In paraphrased Orwellian terms, the ISBE seeks to make it official state policy that the past will be erased, the erasure will be forgotten, the lie will become the truth.

As for standards and grading, the goals shall be “holistic” and “accommodate multiple ways of demonstrating strengths and success” (§24.50, c.7). Decoded: Everyone gets and “A,” —the historically oppressed, anyway. Thus, if a class is reading Hamlet and requires an essay on the prince's fraught relationships, a student should be allowed to ignore the text, eschew his keyboard, and while slouching in his seat rap Lil Tjay's “F.N”: “F*ck n*ggas, I don't trust n*ggas/If you bust triggers and you tell, you a f*ck n*gga/If you tell, you a f*ck n*gga.”

And if you think for a minute that the woke professional educators at the ISBE would not applaud this demonstration of “strengths and success,” you've not been on a college campus or at an educational conference in the last 10 years. This is exactly the kind of thing that passes for educational rigor and expectations in 2021, and we've not yet hit bottom. Nota bene: The racial element in this example is irrelevant to us (even though it is an obsession to the Left and ISBE); we just as easily could have used (white)

See Fate, pg. 2

Apprehension of going to the dentist

Recently, I visited my dentist for my annual checkup after I received a reminder email about it. Normally I have no problem going to the dentist but it isn't fun like going shopping at my favorite store or having dinner at my favorite restaurant. I've always been a bit afraid when going to the dentist, even when it is just for a regular cleaning because I am nervous he'll find some bad cavities or tell me my teeth are getting bad. This is even more nerve racking during the COVID-19 pandemic. Things are so unclear and the numbers are thrown at us every minute of every day so going to an office where the mouth is open for an extended period of time is a little uncomfortable to think about. Of course my dentist's office is extremely clean and they make sure everything is sterilized but sitting in my car waiting to be called inside gave me second thoughts. Should I run and forget about going or should I bite the bullet and get it done?


I wondered what they would find inside my mouth. Maybe I'd need another root canal. Lord I hope not! Or maybe they might find a loose tooth and want to do implants. All the possibilities worried me because the truth of it all is that I am chicken. I was told that upon arriving in the parking lot I needed to call and let them know I was there. They instructed me to wear a mask and once inside they asked me to use the sanitizer that sat atop the counter. I was okay with it and waited my turn. I was the only one in the waiting room. I couldn't tell who was who because everyone was covered with a mask and it was difficult to tell if anyone smiled. It was my turn to go back to the dentist chair and while waiting I chatted with the dentist assistant. It was just the usual small talk. A new dentist came in and greeted me and it struck me how young he looked. I couldn't see his entire face of course since he was practically covered from head to toe. Actually I could see his shoes which looked enormous as he was definitely well over six feet tall. He was my new dentist so after being introduced he spoke through his mask with a muffled voice but it was hard to understand him due to the cover. I shook my head and answered the questions he asked to the best of my ability. Next he told me to open wide and remove my mask so he could see into my mouth and he gently checked around poking here and there to see if there were any problems.

He suggested taking a few x-rays and disappeared to his next patient. I watched as the dental assistant asked me to open my mouth as she inserted an uncomfortable gadget that would help capture the x-rays; however, she

first placed the heavy cover over my torso to protect me. My new dentist returned shortly with the results and after having studied them he showed me a video of some of the work my teeth needed. Fortunately it was nothing

Tidbits...

By Rachel



tidbits@examinerpublications.com

bad or fatal just a minor adjustment and cleaning. What a relief. No implants and no removal of any teeth. Curious about the way my new dentist looked I asked him if he would mind lifting his mask, at a distance, so I could see what he looked like. After all, he invaded my mouth and it seemed only fair that I should have a good understanding as to who was working on my teeth. Happily he complied and I was pleasantly surprised because he didn't scare me any longer.

I am not sure why I get so nervous about the dentist because I have always survived every procedure that has been done and all of them have been very nice people. If you are like me, remember to tell yourself to put your mind at ease because they are professional and will do everything to keep their patients safe. Smile.

Due to the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic, The Examiner strongly recommends that readers verify the status of any pending events.

Congratulations to Chamikara Dhar-masena of Streamwood who recently graduated with a master of science degree in computer science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Congratulations to the following Streamwood residents who were named to the dean's list for the 2020 fall semester at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb: Muhammad Ahmed, Carlos Alcantar Jr., Jason Alsum, Adriana Dinello, Matthew Freedman, Hope Hammond, Melissa Hart, Joel Katla, Taylor Kuester, Melvin Manalansan, Cody Motykowski, Jakub Mozdierz, Marissa Nielsson, Marina Reutenauer, Tia Ridings, Jonathan Rodriguez, Kendall Rugebregt and Jose Silva.

Congratulations to Jonah Michael

Exline, Joshua Theodore Kramp and Amber Nicole Thompson of Streamwood who were named to the dean's list for the 2020 fall semester at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Congratulations to Jazmine Barajas, Kylie Disanti, Kimberly Gamalo, Alexis Hoeffleur, Tania Huerta Chagoyan, Angel Lara, Ana Perales and Yuritzy Venegas of Streamwood who were named to the dean's list for the 2020 fall semester at Aurora University in Aurora.

Are you a senior citizen struggling to pay Cook County property taxes? This tax relief program can help. Seniors whose annual household income is \$55,000 or less can apply now for the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program, which issues loans to cover property tax payments. To apply, download the application from cookcountytreasurer.com and submit the completed application and copies of the required documents to the Treasurer's office by the deadline on March 1. Applications after that date cannot be accepted. Homeowners must reapply every year. The first installment for tax year 2020 is due March 2, but late charges are waived through May 3.

Want to help your fellow neighbors in need? The Food Pantry at Lutheran Church of the Master, 580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream is still accepting unexpired food and paper supply dona-

tions. They are most in need of: white and brown rice, pasta, pasta sauce, canned tomato products, bottled juice, flour, sugar, vegetable oil, peanut butter, grape jelly, canned fruit, tuna/chicken/salmon, salad dressing, condiments, pancake mix, oatmeal, syrup, paper towels, toilet paper and dish soap.

Food donations can be dropped off with a pantry worker during pantry hours Monday, 12:30 to 3 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please do NOT leave donations at the door. Monetary donations may be dropped off/mailed to the church, payable to: Neighborhood Food Pantries. Questions? Contact 665-5188. For safety concerns, all donations will be held for 24 hours before dispersing.

You can feed a family pet for less than \$10 a month. Brunos Pro Bone O Pet Pantry is a 501 (c)(3) charity pet food pantry that distributes free food to help elderly, disabled, or low-income pet owners who are struggling to keep food in the bowls of their beloved companions. Even \$10 a month for food may be too much to spend for someone who is trying to keep their furry family members at home-where they belong. Please help by donating food or funds to Brunos Pet Pantry: they believe no one should have to give up a dog or cat because of money. They need your help! Please call 926-3610, or www.brunospantry.com.

Dist. U-46 set to vote on repair, abatement project

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on a project costing \$89,075 at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Feb. 8.

The project, a domestic water piping replacement asbestos abatement at Streamwood's Ridge Circle Elementary School, was presented at the Jan. 25, meeting which was electronic due to COVID-19 regulations. The board had held its first in-person meeting since March on Jan. 11, the week the district started its hybrid model for students.

If approved, the project will be funded through the operations and maintenance fund, and the work will be done by Universal Asbestos Removal which submitted the lowest of 10 bids. "Ridge Circle Elementary School was built in 1969," the proposal states. "The domestic water piping has had many repairs and needs to be replaced. In an-

ticipation of the upcoming work, an inspection of the proposed work areas was conducted by the District Environmental Consultant. During the inspection, asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) were found to be present in the proposed work areas. In order to facilitate the work, the ACMs need to be removed by a licensed environmental contractor per county, state, and federal regulations."

The proposal adds: "The district maintains asbestos in place per the applicable regulations and only removes the materials when repair and/or replacement is necessary. Thus, this project will result in the removal of the ACMs present in the pipe insulation and will support the replacement of the domestic water piping project at Ridge Circle Elementary School."

The work is expected to take place over the summer with completion by June 19.

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