

## **Press Clippings 04-21-21**

**---The Courier-News---04/21/2021**

### **U-46 using federal relief money to offer summer programs**

Funding to allow district to run summer school, recreation classes

**By: Mike Danahey**



The Boys and Girls Club of Elgin is one of several community partner groups that will be given funding through School District U-46 to offer free recreational programs for students this summer. Courier-News 2018

School District U-46 is offering summer school and recreational programs for students this year free of charge thanks, in part, to federal COVID-19 relief funding.

U-46 Summer Connection will also offer programs aimed at easing the transition to new grade levels and preparing for college.

“We understand that this past school year didn’t allow students to connect with their friends and teachers as they would have in a normal year,” Superintendent Tony Sanders said in a news release. “Our U-46 Summer Connection programs aim to help students develop their learning communities, explore interests and catch up or get ahead academically for the 2021-22 school year.”

#### **Recreation programs**

The district will use more than \$1.1 million in money from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund and American Recovery Act to pay eight nonprofit organizations to provide a variety of expanded summertime recreational programs for elementary school students. The money awarded to “community partners” includes \$378,000 to Three Fires

Council, Boy Scouts of America; \$233,100 to Golden Corridor YMCA; \$214,200 to Boys & Girls Club of Elgin; \$147,735 to the city of Elgin; \$53,550 to Streamwood Park District; \$32,760 to The Learning Tree of East Elgin; \$32,760 to The Learning Tree of West Elgin and \$16,537 to Side Street Studio Arts in downtown Elgin.

Part- and full-time programs are available and no fees will be charged for any of them. Free transportation will be provided, U-46 spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

#### **Summer school**

Elementary school: Classes are designed for students who had low attendance during the regular school year or have been identified as needing more academic support in reading and math, according to the U-46 website. Classes will depend on teacher availability and students will be

invited to participate. Sessions runs from 8 a.m. to noon June 15 through July 21 and are structured so students can enroll in a recreation program in the afternoon, Fergus said.

Middle and high school: Classes are being offered so students can “earn original credit for courses, recover credit lost due to failing grades and, at the high school level, accelerate learning,” the district website said.

Registration is already under way for classes that will be held at Larkin High School in Elgin. There will be two semesters, each with classes scheduled for 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first semester is June 15 to July 1 (registration deadline is June 7) and the second July 6 to 22 (registration deadline is June 17).

Only in-person classes are available and students will be expected to follow pandemic protocols. Any summer school student who misses two classes will be dropped from the program and will not receive any credit.

Special needs students: Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett will operate its extended school year program and Harriet Gifford Elementary School in Elgin will offer services for students who are not yet in the district’s special needs program but have been identified as needing additional help, Fergus said.

### **Transition programs**

The district will offer three programs designed to prepare students who are making the transition to middle or high school or starting the process of applying to college.

The Middle School Experience will be open to all students entering 7th and 8th grade in the fall. The four-day, voluntary program is offered at each middle school and will give students a chance to familiarize themselves with the building and schedules as well as meet with teachers and fellow students.

Each of the high schools will offer the Freshman Connection. The voluntary, four-day program is similar to what is being presented at the middle school level, allowing students to acclimate to new surroundings in advance of the first day of school.

College Jumpstart is open to all incoming seniors and will be offered at each U-46 high school. Sessions will cover such topics as preparing for college and for life after high school.

## **With everyone 16 and up now vaccine-eligible, Chicago-area high schools look to help students get their shots**

**By: Karen Ann Cullotta**



COVID-19 vaccinations in the Chicago area

Determined to provide another layer of protection for students and teachers who are back in the classroom, officials at some Chicago-area high schools said they hope to take advantage of Illinois' recently expanded COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for those 16 and over.

With the expansion of vaccine eligibility for those 16 and older, which began on Monday in Chicago and earlier this month in the rest of Illinois, 53% of the state's 18 and older population, and 50% of those 16 and older, have now received at least one vaccine dose, the Illinois Department of Public Health said Monday.

The IDPH "recommends everyone 16 years and older be vaccinated and we are looking at the possibility of vaccination clinics for high school students," IDPH spokeswoman Melaney Arnold said.

The state health department is also working with public universities and local health departments to operate university student vaccination clinics, with expansion to other universities and colleges across the state, she said.



Dr. Ali Khan preps a syringe of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Steinmetz High School in Chicago on Feb. 14. (Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune)

Minors need parental consent for any medical care, including vaccines, Arnold said, adding that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for use in those 16 years and older.

"We strongly encourage parents and children to talk about the importance of vaccination," Arnold said.

A series of vaccine clinics launched in March at New Trier High School's Northfield campus and run by Cook County, retail pharmacies and a group of local emergency departments has gotten shots in the arms of 10,000 eligible teachers, senior citizens and first responders from more than 70 surrounding communities, New Trier High School spokeswoman Niki Dizon said Monday.

Now, with the state's expanded vaccine availability to the general public, including high school students ages 16 and over, around 500 New Trier students received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on April 13, Dizon said.

"We also know many other eligible students have obtained appointments elsewhere," Dizon said, adding: "We continue to hold second dose clinics for those who got their first doses on site and look for opportunities to hold more first-dose clinics as well."

At Elgin-based Unit School District 46, Superintendent Tony Sanders said officials at the northwest suburban district that enrolls roughly 37,000 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade are encouraging families to get their students vaccinated.

"As with our staff vaccinations, we will work with our local health departments, hospitals and community health agencies to support the vaccination effort," Sanders said.

"For staff and other eligible community members, we were able to host one, on-site clinic in the district and would be glad to support that again at the request of our health agencies," Sanders said.

While receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is not a requirement for school employees or students, Illinois State Board of Education spokesman Max Weiss said, “Protecting our school communities through vaccination is key to continuing progress toward our shared goal of full in-person learning.”



# 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  
April 21, 2021

Arbor Day honored  
via proclamation  
See ..... Page 4

Three trustee posts  
decided by election  
See ..... Page 8

## U-46 poised to embrace theoretical learning plan

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 is prepared to spend \$18.5 million on theoretical work over the next five years to change schooling.

The proposal is from Learning Sciences International (LSI) with a cost breakdown of \$4.4 million in 2021-2022, \$4.5 million in 2022-2023, \$4.9 million in 2023-2024, \$2.7 million in 2024-2025 and \$2 million in 2025-2026. It was presented at the April 12 Board of Education meeting with a vote expected on Mon-

day, April 26.

The cost is planned to be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through federal bailout funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund and American Recovery Act.

"In our post-COVID responses to learning, the goal is to align the entire system and achieve our highest priority – educating all students through high quality learning that empowers them to thrive in a global society," the proposal states.

Penny Sell, LSI's executive director, said: "Our mission at LSI is really to transform core instruction to develop both agency and academics within students to allow them to break the cycle of generational poverty.... This is not a program, this is second order change."

Snell said everyone has to "align our thinking" under the "theory of action" work which will allow the district to predict student achievement, again at a cost of \$18.5 million. She said: "We are strong believers in measurement theory."

"Your principals, your administrators, they're making a lot of non-trivial decisions every day in their work, and the average classroom teacher is making 1,500 instructional moves throughout the day," Snell said adding: "What we find... is sometimes those actions are not aligned in the same direction."

Deana Senn, LSI's senior director, said the \$18.5 million includes professional development, job-embedded coaching and resources (academic teaming toolkits, student evidence tracker).

"It's a multi-tiered approach across five years focusing heavily on leadership development, teacher empowerment with a strong focus on rigorous core instruction and metrics-based coaching so that we're always using data to adjust and look for root-cause analysis of any concerns that we might see," Snell said.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said the district spends between \$25 million to \$40 million on physical infrastructure, but claimed this is also "infrastructure." It's "a new direction for our school system," and "essential to try and create a different system... in the wake of this pandemic," Sanders said.

"If (teachers) do not buy into it, then it's not going to work," Sanders said, adding U-46 will "strongly encourage them to do so."

Bruce Phelps, director of business services, said: "We have the ability to back out of the contract with no penalties with a 30-day notice."

## Village Board approves bid for road resurfacing

By Kristin Carreno

At the Village Board meeting on Thursday, April 15, trustees voted unanimously to approve the low bid of \$860,436 from Brothers Asphalt Paving, Inc., Addison, for roadway resurfacing. The highest of the six bids received was \$980,973.

According to Director of Public Works Matt Mann, the 2021 street program budget includes contractor resurfacing of Roma Jean Parkway, Sunnysdale Boulevard, Lincoln Court, Brookstone Drive, Seneca Court, Clearwater Court, Whispering Court, Creekside Court and Truman Lane.

This project also includes concrete items on these streets.

"These funds for this project are Re-build Illinois funds which we have recently received," said Mann. "As a reminder these funds needs to be used for transportation improvements and that's what we plan on using them for."

The engineer's estimate was \$1,041,515, according to Mann.

Mann added that Brothers Asphalt has favorable references from other local municipalities.

"We have checked their work," Mann said.

## Various expense proposals slated for U-46 board vote

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on \$18.1 million in expenditure items at its upcoming meeting on Monday, April 26.

That's on top of an \$18.5 million proposal for theoretical work. The \$36.6 million in proposals were presented on April 12.

The largest item is \$6.6 million, from the education fund, with Dell Technologies, PACE Systems Inc. and Insight for 1,607 interactive boards along with monitors and cameras. From the nation's taxpayers through federal grant funds, the district is also asking for \$58,023 for 21 additional interactive boards from Dell.

Two bids, both education fund, the district is not choosing the lowest bidder including \$1 million to Kronos SaaS, Inc. for five years of time-keeping and absence management. Tyler Technologies was the lowest of five bids at \$691,729.

The district, in an emailed response to board questions, stated: "Tyler's lower cost gave them first place in the cost category, but it was not enough to overcome the functionality and implementation differences that we are asking for."

Follett School Solutions, Inc. was the second highest of four bids at \$142,077 for two years for its library management system. The lowest bid, at \$99,421 with SirsiDynix, is the district's current provider but the proposal states Follett "was selected for its comprehensive system, integration with our current platforms (Can-

vas, Infinite Campus and Clever), and ease of use."

There were 12 total education fund proposals totaling \$13 million including \$3 million for a seven-year contract renewal for Eureka Math, \$556,120 for kitchen equipment replacement, \$459,718 to purchase 14 driver education cars and go to all electric cars, \$328,676 for a six-year contract renewal for science resources, \$286,380 for a three-year contract renewal for Ombudsman, \$222,402 for secondary music instrument replacements, \$204,093 for 540 library iPads, \$98,820 for a three-year contract renewal of the district's visitor sign-in system and a \$60,652 contract renewal with AVID.

There were eight operations and maintenance items totaling \$4.9 million including domestic water piping replacement, cogeneration power plant elimination and generator installation, building demolitions, parking lot renovation and pavement and tennis court reconstruction projects at various sites.

Also from federal grants, the district is asking for \$135,513 for a News-2-You contract renewal.

From a state Career and Technical Education grant, U-46 wants to spend \$25,000 for what it calls a "collective equity proposal" with Corwin. The proposal states the district has 56 percent Hispanics, 34 percent English learners and 6 percent Blacks but only 41 percent, 2 percent and 4 percent respectively are enrolled in health care science courses.

There was no evidence provided on why there aren't equal numbers.



### Renovations in the works

The village fire station on Schaumburg Road is slated to receive needed renovations. The process began at the last village board meeting when trustees approved a professional services contract for six pending projects throughout the village, with the first work set for completion at the fire station. For details on the proposed projects see the story on page 2.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



# Incumbents, newcomer elected to village board

By Kristin Carreno

The April 6 general election results for the Village Board races favored trustee incumbents Michael Baumer and William Harper and newcomer Rezwanul Haque. Village President Billie Roth and Village Clerk Kittie Kopitke ran unopposed.

According to the Cook County Clerk’s website, with 100 percent of the precincts counted, Harper received 779 votes, Baumer 772 and Haque 746. Write-in candidate John David Gallione received 87 votes.

“I would like to thank the communi-

ty for their support,” said Baumer. “I will continue to represent our residents and businesses to the best of my ability. The delivery of services in a cost-effective manner remains my goal and I appreciate any input provided to help me address the needs of Streamwood.”

Haque, who stated during his campaign that his candidacy was based on his business acumen, diverse perspective and commitment to community outreach.

Gallione said he was a write-in candidate due to a “rookie mistake” in fil-

ing his paperwork.

“While I turned in my economic interest statement to the village clerk I did not know I needed to send a copy to the county as well,” Gallione explained.

Gallione said he wanted to congratulate Haque on his win.

“From the beginning I knew this was going to be an uphill battle,” Gallione said. “When you’re a write-in and there are three candidates on the ballot in a race where there are three seats open a majority of people will just select the three names they see. I am proud that my little write-in campaign started a conversation and hope the village board can see there’s an ap-

petite for change among the people who live here which is becoming more diverse. I just want this town to thrive in a way I know it can. Maybe someday we’ll have leadership that isn’t afraid to be bold.”

Harper did not respond to a an *Examiner* request for comments following the election.

According to Kopitke, the election results will be certified by the county after 5 p.m. on April 27. While all precincts have been tabulated, Kopitke said via email that some “mail-in ballots are still arriving and have until April 20 to be received at the county. The county then has seven days to certify the final results.”

## SHS baseball opens season with 2-1 week of play

By Seth Hancock

It’s been nearly two years since Streamwood’s last baseball game thanks to COVID-19 regulators cancelling spring sports last year.

But the Sabres are back on the diamond, and the opened the 2021 season going 2-1 in three nonconference road games.

Trailing 4-2, Streamwood scored four runs in the top of the seventh inning to rally for a 6-4 win in its opener against Hoffman Estates on Wednesday, April 14. And the win was also the first for Sabres coach Dan Jennings who was named the new head coach last year.

“It was amazing,” Jennings said. “The kids and coaches on both sides were grateful to be out here. It is what everyone needs. It felt ‘normal’ to be out and doing the thing we love on the field.”

Nick Weaver was 2-for-3 to lead the offense while Colin Blanchard drove in two runs and Chris Lara, Scott Wolfard and Jaden Manley each had one RBI.

Jennings was pleased with his pitching staff including Wolfard who tossed four innings in the start allowing three runs, all unearned. Isaiah Ortiz got the win in relief, and Isaiah Shafi tossed a hitless seventh with three strikeouts for the save.

“Obviously, we had some rust defensively, but I thought Scott Wolfard pitched really well,” Jennings said. “I thought Isaiah Ortiz came in and kept us in the game and Isaiah Shafi did a good job of closing it out. Our guys showed a lot of fight with four runs in the seventh to go ahead. It was a great moment for our team so early in the season.”

Jimmy Flynn (six strikeouts) tossed a complete game four-hitter in a 6-1 victory over Rolling Meadows on Thursday, April 15. Wolfard (2-for-3, double, triple, two RBI), Lara (2-for-4), Weaver (double) and Jacob Gama (two RBI) led at the plate.

The Sabres did suffer defensively, five errors, in an 18-0 loss to Huntley on Friday, April 16. Weaver had Streamwood’s only hit, and Eric Arroyo suffered the loss.

After last season’s cancellation, Jennings said it is tough to set goals early on but the IHSA did announce there will be a postseason.

“We have a lot of young talent and great senior leadership,” Jennings said. “We hope to compete in each game and get better every day. We are going to play a lot of games in a very short time and we hope to be at our best come regional time.”

## Deck fire at village house causes \$200,000 in damages



Fire-damaged home in the 700 block of Lacy Avenue.  
(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

According to the Streamwood Fire Department, on Sunday, April 18, at 6:23 a.m., the fire department responded to a report of a house fire in the 700 block of Lacy Avenue. Upon arrival, fire personnel reported heavy fire in the rear of a two-story single-family home.

Fire companies deployed three hose lines to extinguish a fire on the rear deck that extended into the home. Residents were home at the time of the fire but were able to escape prior to fire department’s arrival. One resident

suffered burn injuries and was transported to St. Alexius Hospital in Hoffman Estates. Firefighters located a cat in the building in good health.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined and remains under investigation. Damage is estimated at \$200,000.

Bartlett, Hanover Park and Hoffman Estates department firefighters assisted at the scene. South Elgin and Barrington fire personnel covered Streamwood fire stations during the incident.



## Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

Visit [pclib.org](http://pclib.org) for our latest news, current hours of operation, and calendar of virtual/in-library programs. Questions? Call 837-6800.

### Yarn Donations Needed!

The library is now accepting yarn donations for an upcoming special project. Colorful yarn of all types will be accepted (new, or like new condition). Look for donation boxes at the Main Library in Streamwood, or at the Sonya Crawshaw Branch Library in Hanover Park, then be sure to visit the library this summer to see if you can spot your donation!

### Foraging for Edibles Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. In-Library and Online

Our backyards, gardens, woods and meadows abound with nutritious and tasty wild plants. Join Dave Brooks from Spring Valley Nature Center in Schaumburg to learn to identify, properly harvest, and prepare a variety of plants commonly found in home landscapes and local natural areas. Registration is required. For in-library viewing, space is limited and social distancing measures will be in place; masks required. Sponsored by the Tri-Village Garden Club and Poplar Creek Library.

### Why Am I Not Landing the Job? Thursday, April 22, 10 a.m. to noon Online (Zoom)

Sign up for this online class and learn about what employers are saying, new interview techniques, questions they are asking, and more. Register online at [pclib.org](http://pclib.org) or call 483-4929.

### Guide to Cemetery Research Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m. In-Library (Meeting Room 3)

Come to this informative presentation on research in cemeteries, the information found there, death records and alternative records helpful when death records cannot be located. Register online at [pclib.org](http://pclib.org) or call 483-4929.

### Professional Photos with Your Smartphone Friday, April 23 at 12 p.m.

Learn tips on taking professional looking photos and videos without a high-end camera. This program will premiere on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PoplarCreekLibrary>. Questions? Call 438-4939. Looking for more “how to” video tutorials? Visit our Video Vault at [pclib.org](http://pclib.org).

### How to Use Morningstar Monday, April 26 at 2 p.m. Online (Zoom)

Learn how to use the Morningstar Investment Research Center, a free online library database that provides investment analysis and ratings for stocks, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and markets. Register online or call 483-2929.

### Leaving Lightly Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. Online (Zoom)

Regardless of your age and state of health, getting your affairs in order is

one of the kindest and most compassionate actions you can take to assure peace of mind for yourself and those you leave behind.

Author Janet Lee Kraft created an organized system for getting your affairs in order that will ultimately make everyone’s life easier and richer, in every sense of the word. Register online or call 483-4929.

### TED Talk Discussion: A Kinder, Gentler Philosophy of Success Tuesday, April 27 at 2 p.m. Online (Zoom)

Join us via Zoom for a TED Talk viewing followed by a discussion. TED videos are short, inspirational and/or educational videos on a wide range of topics. For detailed program description or to register, visit [pclib.org](http://pclib.org) or call 483-4929.

### Lyme Disease with Dr. Casey Kelley Monday, May 3 at 7 p.m. In-Library

Join Dr. Casey Kelley, MD, to find out what information we should be paying close attention to as tick season arrives. Identification, prevention, and treatment will be discussed in this program, held in Meeting Room 1 at the Main Library. Registration is required; space is limited and social distancing measures will be in place; masks required.

For a complete listing of scheduled classes/events at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit [www.pclib.org](http://www.pclib.org). Questions? Call 837-6800.

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