

## Press Clippings 05/13/20

---The Courier-News---05/13/2020

### EMSA asks city to turn over ownership of school campus

By: Rafael Guerrero



The Elgin Math and Science Academy charter school has asked the city of Elgin to transfer ownership of the campus to the charter school so they can save money on planned renovation work. Right now, EMSA leases the campus from the city for \$1 a year.



The Elgin Math and Science Academy provided these renderings of what the former gymnasium building would look like under renovations proposed as part of its campus master plan. Construction is tentatively planned to start this summer, officials said.

Elgin City Council members will consider a request from the Elgin Math and Science Academy Wednesday to give the charter school ownership of the city-owned property on which it's located.

The ownership transfer would save the school at least \$350,000 as it moves forward on a master plan for renovating and modernizing some of the unused buildings on what had been the Fox River Country Day School complex at 1600 Dundee Ave.

"We are asking the city to entrust us with the balance of the property so we can develop our campus into a major education landmark that will showcase Elgin as a forward-thinking city that is willing to support new forms of education while removing the burden of this property and maintenance from the city's shoulders," EMSA Principal Lezlie Fuhr said.

EMSA and the city are two years into a five-year lease in which the school pays \$1 a year to rent the property. The deal ends in June 2023, with the school having an option to renew the lease for five additional five-year terms through 2048, contingent on the school having its charter with the state renewed.

EMSA anticipates it will enroll more than 300 K-5 students in the 2020-21 academic year, and that number will increase annually as the first classes of students progress into high grades that will be added.

The first step in the three-phase master plan would be the renovation of the 24,000-square-foot gymnasium building for classrooms, a multipurpose room, a stage and gym at a cost of about \$5 million, Fuhr said. Construction could start this summer and be completed in January 2021, she said.

The former administration building and cabin/dining hall would be renovated in 2023 and 2025 respectively, Fuhr said. Improvements to the property's parking space and driveway are also under consideration.

EMSA School Board Chairwoman Kerry Kelly said if the school owns the property, they could secure a loan at a 3.5% interest rate for the gymnasium renovation work. If they don't own it, the interest rate would be between 5.5% and 6.5% — adding about \$350,000 to the cost of the project, Kelly said.

"Our builder says actually this may be a better time to build because not everyone is building right now," she said.

Under the proposal, the city would convey simple ownership of the property to EMSA. The school is also requesting \$350,000 to demolish a former dormitory building and repair the dining hall building and an unspecified amount for asphalt resurfacing.

Mayor Dave Kaptain said he needs more information on the demolition and infrastructure requests as city money is tight with the big drop in sales tax money from coronavirus-related business closures.

"I want to hear what their final proposal is," Kaptain said. "I anticipate the council will be all over this discussion."

If the EMSA request moves forward, the school and city would have to work out a contract that lays out the terms of the ownership change, he said. Contract approval by the council would occur at a future meeting.

**---Chicago Morning Star---05/13/2020**

## **Illinois schools spend millions of dollars on technology even before federal rescue checks**

**By: Josephine Poot**

According to a report, Illinois school leaders spent millions of dollars within weeks to cope with the coronavirus outbreak. The abrupt closure of the schools forced the school leaders to spend huge amounts. The school officials purchased technology quickly to roll out remote learning plans.

According to the report, the larger school districts purchased thousands of laptops and tablets before the federal government promised to provide \$678 million in emergency aid to Illinois schools. There are still hundreds of students who do not have reliable access to technology

and the internet. The school officials are finding whether the investment in the technology is paying off.

In Peoria, fewer than two-third of the high school students are participating in remote learning. The largest school district of Illinois, Chicago Public Schools, is unable to track how many students are engaged in school work through internet technology. The community and parents are asking for transparency in terms of spending decisions made by the schools.

Jianan Shi, a member of the parent group Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education, said, “No one has a playbook on how to navigate this.” Shi demanded the participation of the parents in the spending decisions. Shi added, “We expect the district to be in partnership with its families for the solutions.” The officials of the Illinois administration said, “We do not know when we will receive federal dollars.”

According to the report, Chicago school district bought 53000 Chromebooks, iPads, and laptops since March. Elgin U-46 spent \$1 million on Chromebooks, iPads, and laptops after the coronavirus outbreak. Tony Sanders, the superintendent of Elgin, said, “We placed an order for as many Chromebooks as we could.” In Rockford, every student has one device after buying 16000 new devices. Ehren Jarret, the superintendent of Rockford, said, “We took a risk as we do not know whether the federal funds will cover the device purchases.”





Due to the unique nature of our present times and all school activities being cancelled, many high school students have been deprived of attending time-honored events such as proms. *The Examiner* is providing a virtual option for would-be prom attendees to submit a photograph for publication in a ‘virtual prom’ pose of their choice. Send digital files and full name captions to [news@examinerpublications.com](mailto:news@examinerpublications.com).

# The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 26  
Number 1

"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  
May 13, 2020

Village ratifies bid  
for road maintenance  
See ..... Page 5

For some baseball is  
significantly missed  
See ..... Page 8

## Two surveys distributed by School District U-46

By Seth Hancock

As schools remain closed during the COVID-19 shutdown, School District U-46 has released a pair of surveys including one on "Community Needs" that wrapped last week and another "just for students" that started this week.

The student survey started on Monday, May 11 and asked "students to tell us how well they feel included and represented," according to a district press release.

The survey, which the district states can take between 20 to 30 minutes, includes questions under three categories mostly being purely subjective questions.

There are six questions under the "Diversity and Inclusion" category which ask about a student's friendships with other racial and ethnic groups to determine "how diverse, integrated, and fair school is for students from different races, ethnicities, or cultures," the survey states.

Examples include asking "how fairly" students and adults "at your school treat people from different races, ethnicities, or cultures?"

There are eight questions under the "Cultural Awareness and Action" category seeking to find "how often students learn about, discuss, and confront issues of race, ethnicity, and culture in school."

An example question is: "How well does your school help students speak out against racism?"

There are five questions under the "Sense of Belonging" category seek-

ing "how much students feel that they are valued members of the school community." An example: "Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?"

The district release asks all fourth through 12th graders to take the survey and asked parents who did not want their students to take part to fill out an "opt out" form by last Thursday, May 7. Although the "opt out" form request implies the survey is mandatory, the district said it was not required when asked.

"This student survey is not required," said Mary Fergus, director of school and community relations. "The results will be used as another resource to review and reflect how we might improve our services per our Strategic Plan and Equity Plan."

The community survey started in late April and ran through Tuesday, May 5. The district stated it would release the results this month.

The survey, according to the district, asked questions on "food and housing needs, technology and internet service, their child's distance learning experience to date" with an aim "to help the District improve its academic and social-emotional services to families during the COVID-19 pandemic and the roll out of its Distance Learning Program."

While seemingly it is not the role of a government

school system to provide for the "food and housing needs" of residents, Fergus said it is the role of schools. She cited the Illinois State Board of Education's resources on nutrition and wellness as well as homelessness.

"Healthy meals are part of what schools typically distribute to our families during the school year," Fergus said. "We have continued to offer that meal distribution during distance learning. We also have long served students without permanent shelter as required under the McKinney Vento Act. These services are not unique to U-46."

During the COVID-19 shutdown, the district has been handing out meals to what its states are for "all children 18 and under," but it comes with little oversight.

"These to-go packed meals include a breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack," a district release stated. "No paperwork is required to pick up the meals - just visit the pick-up location most convenient for you. The children do not have to be present and a friend, relative, or neighbor can pick up your family's meal if you are not able to pick it up."

Asked if the district will directly intervene when a respondent to the survey stated a "need" or provide information to other organizations that can help, Fergus said both.

"Most likely a hybrid," Fergus said. "If the need falls under the school district's domain and responsibility, we will respond with services. If not, we will respond with referrals to other agencies and organizations that may be able to help."

## U-46 election appoints officers, student advisor

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 held an election of officers and welcomed a new student advisor to the board at its meeting on Monday, May 4 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Officers remain largely the same with one change as each officer was approved by a 6-0 vote, board member Veronica Noland was absent.

Sue Kerr will remain the board's president and John Devereux the vice president. Melissa Owens will be the new secretary pro-tempore replacing Noland.

South Elgin High School junior Olivia Howell will be the new student advisor to the board replacing Hallie Furtak who will be graduating from Streamwood High School.

"I know this isn't how we expected the year to end, but I'm just grateful that both the board and the district has continued to try to do its best to have everyone keep

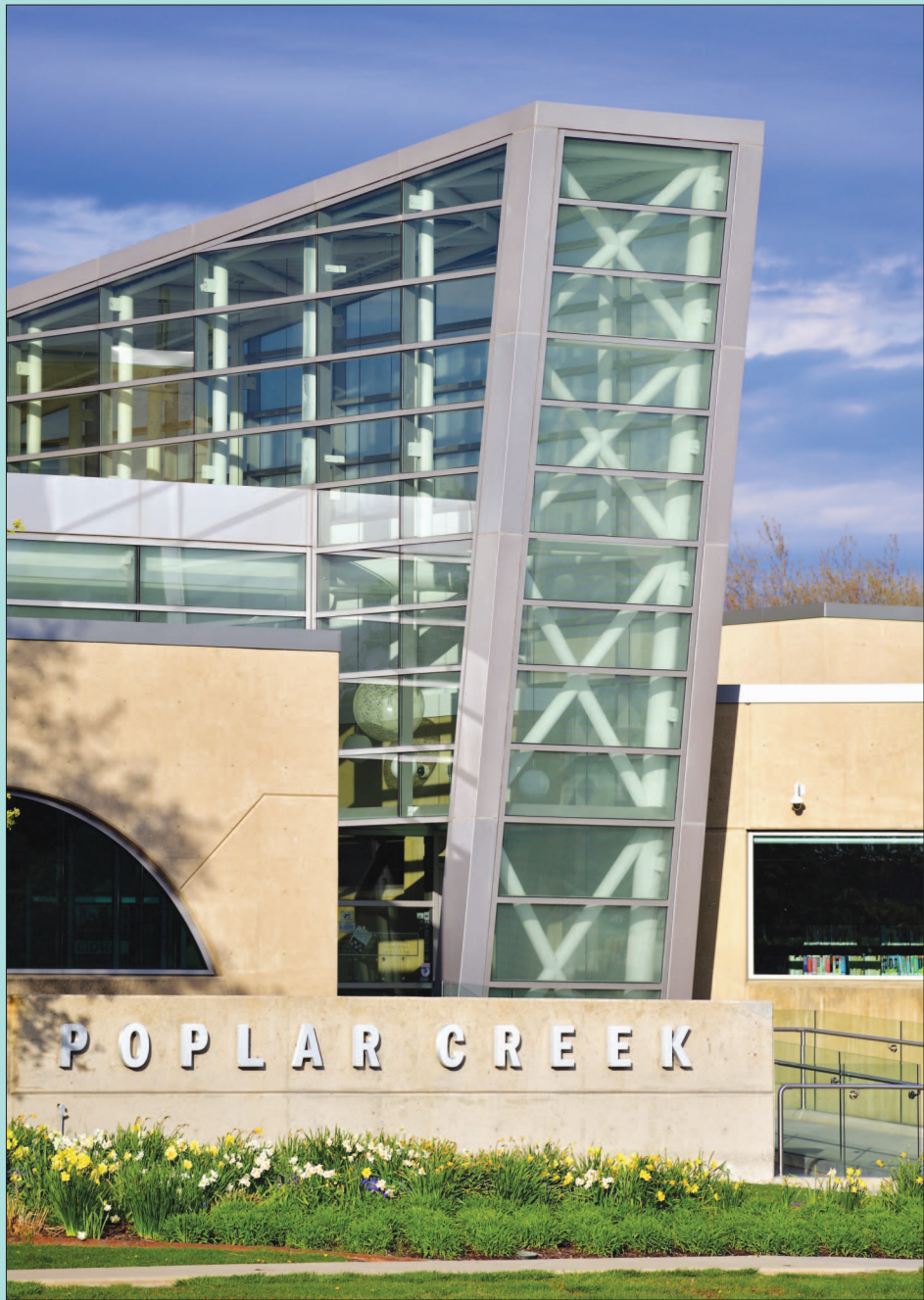
things running," Furtak said.

Furtak added: "I'm so happy to have had this opportunity to represent the student body, and I'm truly grateful that the district values student voices so much. It's really a powerful asset and I know you guys will continue to improve and create a better environment for students and staff."

Howell was chosen as the student representative by Superintendent Tony Sanders' student advisory council. Maria Joseph, also a South Elgin junior, was selected as the backup if Howell is unable or unwilling to complete her one-year term.

The student advisory council's recommendation of Howell was approved by the board by a unanimous vote at its April 20 meeting.

"I'm just so grateful to have this opportunity," Howell said. "I'm super excited to be your recommendation to represent the students of U-46. I'm so passionate about the change for the greater good of all students."



### Waiting for an all clear

While some businesses have been allowed to open with the extended shelter-in-place orders in the state, libraries remain closed to the public. The Poplar Creek Public Library is hopeful that soon as the coronavirus storm clears, the sun will shine on its reopening.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



# Police Reports

## STREAMWOOD

**Monday, May 4**

★ At 1:05 a.m. police responded to a report of an unknown problem on Ridge Circle. Richard M. Spejcher, 34, of the responded to Ridge Circle address was arrested for domestic battery /bodily harm. Spejcher was transported to the police department where he was held pending bond call.

**Tuesday, May 5**

★ At 10:33 p.m. in the Walmart parking lot, 850 S. Barrington Road, police arrested Alejandro M. Mota, 32, of 345 Ascot Lane, for an outstanding Cook County warrant. Mota was transported to the police department where he later was released on an I-bond with an unspecified court date.

## BARTLETT

**Sunday, May 3**

★ At 3:22 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Patricia for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer separated the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 5:17 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Nicole for a neighbor dispute.

★ At 9:12 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of James for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer separated the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 9:49 p.m., in the vicinity of Lake and North Bartlett, Antonio Adame, 40, of the 400 block of Hubbard, Elgin, was arrested for DUI and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Adame was transported to the police department for processing and later released on an I-bond.

**Monday, May 4**

★ At 10:22 a.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Beaumont for a report of a fraudulent check being received via FedEx.

★ At 10:45 a.m., police responded to the 100 block of Oak for a report of criminal damage to property. Complainant advised unknown offender(s) had turned on the water on the exterior of his business, causing damage to the basement.

★ At 1:22 p.m., in the vicinity of Illinois

Route 59 and Schick, Amir D. Harrell, 18, of the 22299 block of West Ocala, Plainfield, was issued a local ordinance citation for possession of cannabis under the age of 21.

★ At 2:20 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Hillcrest for a report of a domestic.

**Tuesday, May 5**

★ At 11:12 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of Voyager for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer separated the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 4:49 p.m., in the vicinity of Oneida and Robert, Kerry M. Heaberlin, 50, of the 100 block of Fourth, was arrested for improper lane usage, driving with a suspended license and DUI-drugs. Heaberlin was processed per departmental procedure and later released on an I-bond.

★ At 10:42 p.m., in the vicinity of Illinois Route 59 and Norwood, Melton Morales, 41, of the 1500 block of McKool, Streamwood, was arrested for no valid license and disobeying a traffic control signal. Morales was released on an I-bond for the traffic offenses. He was also found to have an outstanding warrant where he was able to post bond.

**Wednesday, May 6**

★ At 3:48 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Marcia for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer separated the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

**Thursday, May 7**

★ At 3:29 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Fourth for a neighbor dispute over an unleashed dog.

★ At 6:21 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Silbury for a child custody dispute.

**Friday, May 8**

★ At 12:46 a.m., police responded to the 100 block of 11th for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer separated the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 9:03 a.m., police responded to the 200 block of Norwich. Amar P. Mehta, 19, of the 9000 block of Neenah, Morton Grove, was arrested and charged with violation of an order of protection. Piyushumar J. Mehta, 47, of the Norwich address, was arrested for domestic battery. Both individuals were processed per departmental procedure and then transported to Cook County Jail for bond call.

★ At 11:19 a.m., police responded to the 900 block of Voyager for a report of theft. Complainant advised unknown offender(s) had hacked into an online account and used her bank account to make numerous unauthorized purchases.

★ At 4:45 p.m., in the vicinity of Lake and Illinois Route 59, Deanna Houston, 26, of the 1000 block of Court, Hanover Park, was arrested for aggravated speeding. Houston was processed per departmental procedure and later released on an I-bond.

★ At 6:13 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of Marina Terrace East for a child custody dispute.

★ At 7:28 p.m., police responded to the 1000 block of Spaulding for a report of a fight. A 12-year old female, of the Spaulding address was petitioned to juvenile court for battery. A 13-year old male and a 15-year old female, also of the Spaulding address, each received a local ordinance citation for fighting. Marcos Puebla, 18, of the 800 block of South Iowa, Addison, also received a lo-

See Police Reports, pg. 3

# U-46 releases more data regarding school year

**By Seth Hancock**

School District U-46 announced that the final day of distance learning classes this year will be Tuesday, May 26.

Schools have been closed in the district since Monday, March 16 in the district as an “emergency day” by Superintendent Tony Sanders while Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s COVID-19 shutdown orders started on March 17 as “Act of God” days.

“Pursuant to updated guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), we need to adjust our calendar so that students will not make up that day,” Sanders wrote in a Friday, May 8 statement. The original school year calendar designated May 27 as the final day of classes.

Additionally, this Friday, May 15 is a non-attendance day for a planning day for teachers.

As schools remain closed, principals will be in touch with families to schedule plans for students to pick up personal property left at their respective schools according to Sanders. He added that secondary students who are facing an “incomplete” in a course will be contacted by staff.

The district is still moving forward with a virtual graduation on June 13 after scrapping the July 11 ceremony at the Sears Centre based on the ISBE cancelling in-person ceremonies.

Sanders noted that the ISBE and Illinois Department of Public Health has reversed “what had been a directive for no in-person commencements,” but the virtual graduation remains the current plan for U-46. He said the district is discussing other options to recognize seniors, but graduation will be virtual.

U-46 is “working with local health and safety officials to determine if we can provide an additional meaningful, yet safe, opportunity to recognize the Class of 2020 across all five high schools,” Sanders wrote.

For the virtual ceremony, seniors will be asked to provide a photo in their cap and gown to be uploaded. Caps and gowns are being distributed at high schools this week.

The district is making updates to its distance learning program based on feedback while Sanders suggested this form of school may last beyond this school year. In a May 6 statement, he wrote that a districtwide goal has been set “to move toward using just one online learning management system (LMS), Canvas, by fall 2020.”

Additionally, Sanders updated on social media how many taxpayer funded meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) have been handed, indicating 901,602 meals have been distributed and 300,534 snacks.

## Letters to the Editor

**Deadline for letters is noon on Monday. Please include a phone number for verification, and submit letters electronically.**

All letters are printed as received. Grammatical and spelling errors are the responsibility of the author.

**Proposing an extension for property tax payments**

Dear Editor,

One of the first actions taken to assist taxpayers during the pandemic crisis was an extension on state and federal tax filings and now I am pushing legislation to give Illinois residents more time to pay their property taxes.

The government mandated shutdown of our economy is taking a toll on homeowners across the state. People are hurting right now through no fault of their own. The least we can do is give property owners a little more time to pay their tax bill.

I have filed House Bill 5768 which pushes back the first installment of property tax payments 90 days when the governor declares a disaster for all counties in Illinois due to a public health emergency. Additionally, no penalties or interest would accrue during the extension.

All this legislation does is give homeowners a little more time to pay their property taxes without accruing additional costs as a result of penalties and interest. Once we get the extension done, then we can work on drastically reducing the property tax burden in Illinois beginning this year.

House Bill 5768 has been filed and awaits assignment to a legislation committee.

That legislation will force schools to spread the fiction, spread the “politically correct” propaganda, that there are more than two genders. Anyone who respects science, logic, and natural law knows there are only two human genders: heterosexual males and heterosexual females. There are, on the other hand, all kinds of sexual or gender identity disorders: e.g., homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, sadism, masochism, pedophilia, etc., etc. This was the commonsense position of the American Psychiatric Association for years before it became corrupted by irrational, ever-so-trendy “political correctness.”

To basically equate disorders with non-disorders is as absurd as equating morality with immorality or health with illness. Those paying attention can see that the “logic” of heterophobic homosexuals is rapidly leading this society down a slippery slope to a more aberrant, disordered, and irrational society. Legal polygamy is coming soon. Maybe down the line we’ll see “marriage” between straight and homosexual consenting-adult incestuous people! Whoopee!

Anyone who thinks this is progress is deluding him/herself. These are strange times we live in, where people whose values are upside-down and backward actually think they are “progressive” while they are trying to take us back over 2000 years to the ancient Greek and Roman times when relatively primitive and ignorant people irrationally valued homosexual activity. Talk about being on the wrong side of history! Unreal. Beam me up, Scotty!

The inmates are taking over the asylum! Please urge your legislators to oppose this nonsensical bill.

Wayne Lela

## Congratulations 2020 Graduate!

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**Name and School Here!**

**Celebrate your 2020 graduate! Recognize their achievements with an ad in the Examiner!**

**Include your graduate’s name, school, achievements, special message and photo (optional).**

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4 units (5” wide x 7-7/8” height) = \$80  
This sample is 2 units\*

**Email your copy to:**  
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# Village Board approves road maintenance bid

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Thursday, May 7, trustees voted unanimously in approval of accepting the low bid of \$1,750,466 from Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc., Huntley, for roadway maintenance on several village streets. The highest of the five bids received was \$1,830,143.

The 2020 street program budget includes in-house resurfacing and hot mix asphalt removal on Larkspur Lane, Magnolia Court, Jonquil Court, Bittersweet Court, Emerald Drive, Blackberry Court, Somerset Drive, Huntington Drive, Plymouth Drive, Sarasota Drive, Exmoor Drive, Filbert Drive, Ash Court, Aspen Court, Bay-

berry Court and East Avenue south of Sunset Circle, according to Village Manager Sharon Caddigan.

"This is the big-ticket item for the 2020 roadway maintenance contract," said Caddigan.

The project also includes crack sealing and pavement patching on various streets in the village, according to Caddigan.

"Schroeder has worked in town many times with success," Caddigan added. "I know they want to get started soon on this and they're kind of excited that schools are closed and they can get started."

According to Caddigan, the engineer's estimate was \$1,788,568.

# Closed session minutes to remain confidential

By Kristin Carreno

At the Thursday, May 7 Village Board meeting, trustees voted unanimously in approval of a resolution to authorize the village clerk to keep closed session meeting minutes confidential.

According to attorney Thomas Bastian, the Open Meetings Act requires municipalities to conduct a semi-annual review of all closed session minutes and make a public statement as to

whether there is still a need to maintain such matters in confidence or if minutes or portions of minutes from closed meetings no longer require confidential treatment. Minutes no longer requiring confidential treatment are then made available to the public.

"I have reviewed closed session minutes and it is my recommendation to keep those minutes confidential," said Bastian.

# District U-46 recognizes its teachers, nurses

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 recognized nurses and teachers at its meeting on Monday, May 4 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The week, May 3 through 9, was National Teacher Appreciation Week and Tuesday, May 5, National Teacher Day.

According to a district press release, U-46 has 2,583 teachers.

Barb Bettis, president of the U-46 teacher's union, accepted the recognition and noted the distance learning that is now underway as schools remain shut down.

"I want to thank the school board for recognizing us this week.... This is even more important this year during this unexpected event of distance learning," Bettis said. "It's impacted us in many, many ways as our district and our teachers rose to deliver instruction to students in a way we never could have imagined."

Additionally, National School Nurses Day was on Wednesday, May 6. Last week was also National Nurses Week.

U-46 states that it has 65 registered nurses and 22 certified school nurses on staff.

"The team of Certified and Registered Nurses of U-46 work collaboratively to promote health, safety, medical needs and remove barriers of learning for all students," Jeff Judge, supervisor of health services, said for a release. He added: "I could not be

more proud of our entire Health Services team. They have been determined and creative to help keep everyone safe and they are dedicated to supporting our students, their families, and our community, anyway they can."

The national week was also recognized by President Donald Trump who addressed the importance of nurses through the coronavirus pandemic in a proclamation.

"Few times has our reliance on nurses been more profoundly evident than during the coronavirus outbreak," Trump stated. "In the midst of this crisis, nurses have displayed incredible examples of humanity, selflessness, and sacrifice as they have fought to care for their fellow citizens and save lives. Nationwide, in hospitals, clinics, and other treatment centers where Americans are suffering from the virus, these warriors have steadfastly provided remarkable care and vital assistance to patients."



## Special recognition

Eighth-graders from St. John the Evangelist School in Streamwood were recently surprised by yard signs delivered by their teachers to celebrate their 2020 graduation. Pictured, next to her sign is Brooke Tegtmeyer.

(Courtesy photo)

## Word Search

### Have fun finding BUGS!



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M P G H R V C O L O N Y A N T S K V H K  
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| COLONY        | PRAYING MANTIS | ANTS      | BUTTERFLY   |
| FIREFLY       | DRAGON FLY     | SCORPION  | CATERPILLAR |
| MOTH          | MOSQUITO       |           |             |

## VETERANS...

# Thank You

## for your Service & Sacrifice

## THE DARKNESS WITHIN

Rachel Gies surprises her readers with this suspenseful thriller. **The Darkness Within** is a murder mystery that is hot, hot, hot. Kate and her brother, Nick, are being terrorized. Someone is playing cat and mouse with them as they unveil illegal shipments and are in danger of becoming the beast's next victim as they get closer to the truth.

The list of suspects is constantly changing. Terror and suspense explode as it all comes to a terrifying shocking end.

Previously self published books include **Captured Pearl** and **One Size Fits Most**.

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