

Press Clippings 06/17/20

---The Courier-News---06/17/2020

Survey: 19% of students experience discrimination

District U-46 board approves resolution/call to action for equity

By: Rafael Guerrero



The results of a spring student survey on inclusion and equity were reviewed Monday by the U-46 School Board, which also approved a resolution/call to action for districtwide equity for students and staff.

Nineteen percent of School District U-46 students who responded to an equity and inclusion survey this spring said they've personally experienced discrimination or inequality based on their race, culture or ethnicity, district officials said.

The findings were shared with the U-46 School Board on Monday, and was followed by board approval of a resolution/call to action for districtwide equity for both students and staff.

More than 5,500 students in grades 4-12 — about 22% of the enrollment in those grades — completed the survey, U-46 Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Brian Lindholm said.

The low response means final results may not reflect the entire U-46 student population, Lindholm said.

More female students than male completed the survey and elementary and middle school students had a higher response rate than high school students, Lindholm said. The percentage of male black students to complete the survey was in the low teens, he said.

"There was some stuff that was hard to read," Lindholm said of survey responses. "There were things that made us uncomfortable."

The survey was taken before the May 25 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the protests, rallies, and discussions on police brutality, racism, and inequality that followed. Lindholm predicted response numbers would have been higher had the survey been done after Floyd's death.

The survey included some free response questions. One black student said he was made uncomfortable by fellow white classmates when black students voiced an opinion on the Black Lives Matter movement and noted that students threw items at their hair, Lindholm said.

In another response, a student said a teacher used the n-word during class.

"Maybe they were reading something like 'Huckleberry Finn,'" U-46 Coordinator of Assessment and Accountability Lisa Jackson said upon first reading the comment. "But then

the response to that would be, ‘Well, why read ‘Huckleberry Finn’ or something like it and not something that is culturally relevant to our students?’”

According to survey results, 49% of students said they were confident any student at their school could have an “honest conversation” on the topic of race. However, only 13% said they had been involved in a such a conversation.

“Could this mean we’re missing valuable opportunities to have these types of conversation with our students?” Lindholm asked.

Other survey highlights included:

86% of students responded favorably when asked if they felt all students at their school could be successful;

76% of students responded favorably when asked if they hung out often with students of different backgrounds.

The school board approved a “call to action” resolution on equity in U-46 schools. The resolution is an extension of the districtwide equity policy approved in 2014.

Among the things it calls for are equitable access to resources and materials for all students; creation of multiple pathways for success; recruiting and retaining a diverse teaching workforce; and improved representation in gifted, honors and AP programs.

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said the budget for the upcoming school year will set aside resources to address some of these areas, including the recruitment and retaining of teachers of color, implicit bias professional development for staff, and reducing the number of black male students over-identified for special education services.

“We are a values-driven organization, but sometimes I don’t know if we are explicit in the resources we’ve identified to really address the areas of need,” he said.

Board member Eva Porter, a retired teacher, called for greater recruitment of teachers of color. Schools and school libraries should have more books and texts from diverse authors and topics, she added.

“It is a step in the right direction. However, work must be followed by action that is ongoing,” she said of the resolution’s approval. “And I can see the district is ongoing in making sure all students get what they need.”

The rallies and protests that have occurred in the past several weeks, as well as the coronavirus pandemic, have exposed many inequities in U-46 and other school systems, Porter said. The district’s successful meal distribution program and its coronavirus tech rollout demonstrated several families lack of one or both items, she said.

“Did the pandemic cause us to act as quickly (as we did)? We need to act as if there is a pandemic every day, with a sense of urgency,” she said of the district’s equity push.

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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



75 cents
June 17, 2020

Noise complaint
lodged at meeting
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IHSA outlines
limited sports action
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Village Board approves BEDA program change

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees approved of a Bartlett Economic Development Assistance (BEDA) program modification at its meeting on Tuesday, June 2 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The vote was 4-2, trustees Adam Hopkins and Aaron Reinke voting no. Concerns were raised over this setting an unwanted precedent and the effectiveness of the BEDA program in general.

The modification request came from the owners of the Still Bar and Grill, Brett Gaylord and Jim Leo, who were approved for \$25,000 in BEDA funds last October on an expansion and update project with a projected \$72,535 cost.

Tony Fradin, economic development coordinator, stated in a memo that the project is to "attract new customers and retain existing ones in the heart of downtown Bartlett" and "included numerous improvements to the interior and exterior of the building as well as expanding into the vacant unit directly north of the restaurant."

The BEDA program was created in 2018 offering tax dollars to new or existing businesses as an economic incentive, and the original intent was that approved BEDA recipients would be reimbursed after full completion of the project. The Still's modification

will allow reimbursement to come in phases before full completion.

Three requirements were included in the modification including the installation of a trash enclosure, a phasing plan be submitted by the Still before funds are released and all other BEDA requirements must be complied. The owners did express concerns with the trash enclosure requirement after the vote but were told those concerns would have to be addressed at a later time.

"This will allow us to move forward on the project and also support the current obligations of the business during this period without having to choose between keeping the location open or doing the remodel work," Leo wrote in a letter. "Both are important to ensure we remain a central fixture in Bartlett."

Trustee Kristina Gabrenya asked why the BEDA program included the project completion requirement originally and why the village was willing to make an exception this time.

Fradin said that village wants "to make sure every single thing was done correctly" under village codes as to why the BEDA program was written the way it was. He said staff has spoken with restaurants about the COVID-19 shutdown and "since (the Still) requested it so directly" they felt it was worth the exception consider-

ing the shutdown, and he said this would not alter the program going forward.

"We know about a lot of the struggles that they're facing," Fradin said. "In particular, we want to continue encouraging further investment into the community even in spite of the current circumstances."

Village President Kevin Wallace said: "I think unprecedented times call for changes, especially cash flow situations. When we have a business that's willing to actually improve their property during this crazy time and the fact that they would have to wait until the end to get the full amount, the cash flow just doesn't make sense right now."

Trustee Raymond Deyne agreed call-

ing this "a creative way of distributing the funds" and "if it's anything to help one of our established business in this village, I'm all in favor of it."

Trustee Vince Carbonaro also agreed noting this BEDA application was approved before the shutdown and noted the difficulty to get funds from banks right now, but he said he wants it to be a one-time thing.

"I just don't want this to become a precedent and have everybody do the same thing," Carbonaro said.

Reinke asked if another already approved BEDA recipient called and asked for the same modification, how would the village respond to which Paula Schumacher, village adminis-

See BEDA, pg. 5

Intergovernmental pact approved at meeting

By Seth Hancock

By a unanimous vote, the Village Board of Trustees approved of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) at its meeting on Tuesday, June 2 which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Dan Dinges, director of public works, stated in a memo that the village had been awarded a grant through MWRD's Green Infrastructure Program.

"This program helps facilitate and fund projects that incorporate green infrastructure to help alleviate flooding and drainage issues," Dinges wrote. "MWRD will assist the Village by reimbursing \$127,000 towards the Village's West Bartlett Road/Devon Avenue Drainage Swale and Bike Path Replacement Project which is estimat-

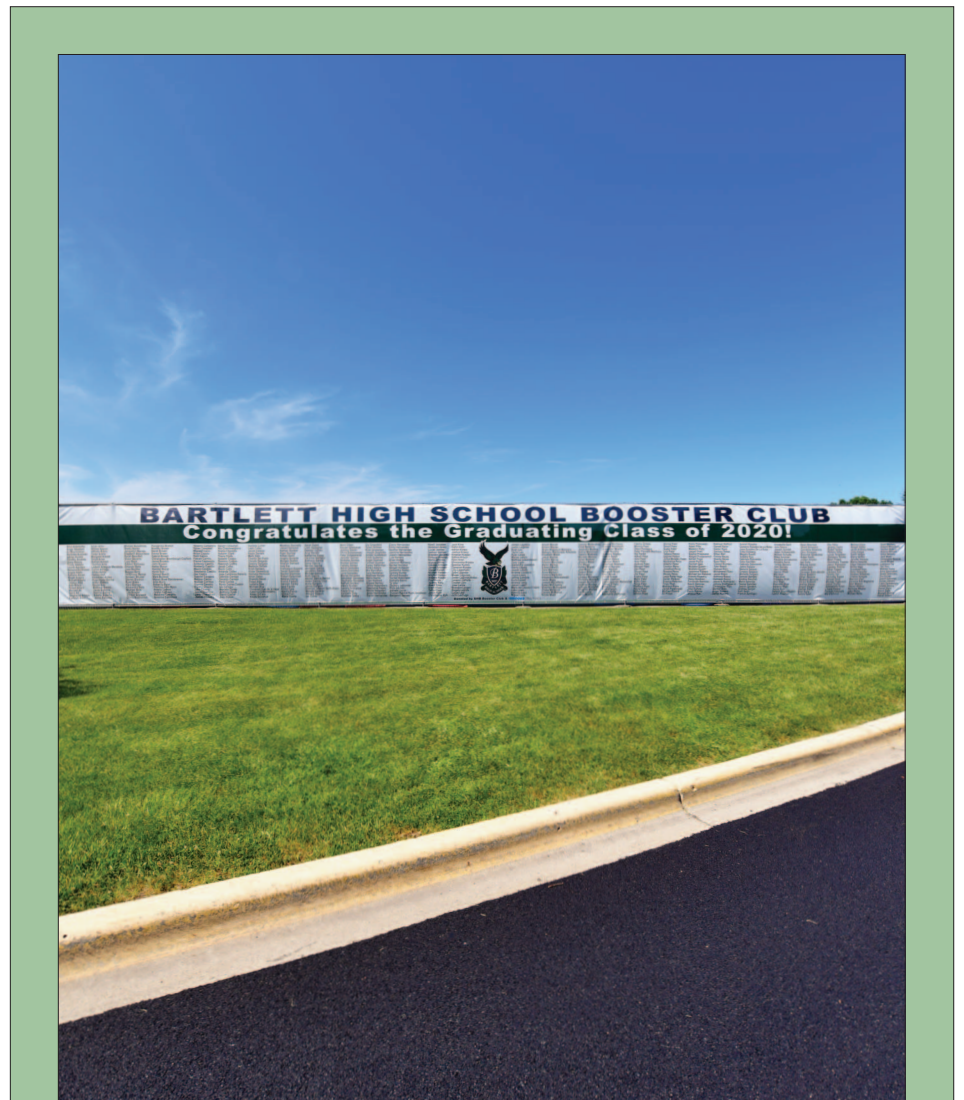
ed to cost approximately \$385,000, including engineering."

The engineering has been completed by Engineering Resource Associates which was funded through a Cook County grant.

"This project consists of replacing the bike path located north of the Village Church of Bartlett that has deteriorated due to the standing water and poor drainage in the area," according to Dinges. "The Village will also be installing a new storm sewer and bioswales to properly drain the area and to remove the standing water after rain or snow events."

Approval by the board of the IGA was required to receive the MWRD reimbursement.

Also unanimously approved was a bill list totaling \$493,451, the general (\$319,701) and sewer (\$118,609) funds making up the largest portions.



Large scale recognition

A huge banner spread across the Bartlett High School tennis courts listed the name of every graduate from the Class of 2020. In a time of virtual graduations, the banner, presented by the school's Booster Club, made a very large and definitive recognition in support of the Bartlett graduation class.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Outdoor dining permits supported by village trustees

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees voted unanimously to allow outdoor dining permits amidst the continued COVID-19 shutdown at its meeting on Tuesday, June 2 which was held virtually.

Under Gov. J.B. Pritzker's reopening plans, restaurants and bars are now allowed on-site service outdoors.

"Staff is proposing to temporarily modify the Village regulations to allow restaurants and bars to reopen with outdoor dining, regardless of whether a Special Use Permit for outdoor dining had previously been granted," Roberta Grill, planning and

development services director, wrote in a memo. "This would allow those restaurants that currently have indoor sit-down dining the ability to work with the Staff to provide an outdoor dining area that would be safe for both the public and their employees."

Grill added: "If a restaurant currently has an approved Special Use Permit for outdoor dining, they would also be allowed to expand this area provided all social distancing requirements are satisfied."

This ordinance will be in effect through Sept. 30 and allowed hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

on Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

All other restrictions under the village codes and liquor licenses would still be enforced, and barriers are required to separate dining areas where liquor is served.

As the heavy regulatory climate continues under Pritzker's edicts, he was seen recently violating his own orders by walking side by side without a face mask with a large group in a police-related protest. His orders ban gatherings of over 10 people and continue to mandate face masks be worn when social distancing cannot be observed.

Pet of the Week



Chewy needs a new planet (home)

Legendary Wookie-warrior Chewbacca, fondly known as Chewy, from ‘Star Wars’ fame, has sadly been stranded on planet DCAS. Chewy has all the sass one would expect from a Wookie combined with just the right amount of snugly sweetness. It is preferred that Chewy be placed in an adult-only home and one without other cats. Chewy is available as a foster to adopt pet so we can ensure that his new family is the absolute best fit. Due to social distancing recommendations from the CDC all adoption hours at DuPage County Animal Services have been suspended. To adopt please complete an application at: <https://www.dupageco.org/AnimalServices/AvailableAnimals.aspx> and a staff member will reach out to schedule a meet and greet appointment.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)



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U-46 releases data from virus-related survey

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 has released the results of a survey on community needs issued in late April and ending in early May amid the government mandated shutdown over COVID-19.

In a statement from Superintendent Tony Sanders, he said the survey will be used for planning for the 2020-2021 school year if distance learning continues.

“Once our doors were closed due the COVID-19 pandemic, our priorities shifted to 1) care and comfort of our families and students, 2) communication, and 3) learning,” Sanders wrote. “We all know that a child cannot learn if their basic needs are not met. This survey shows us that 95 percent of our families said their basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, and mental health support were met during the school closings.”

Around 27 percent, 6,308 families, of U-46 families responded to the survey according to Sanders.

Only 9 percent of students participated in the online learning all day, 29 percent most of the day, 46 percent some of the day, 15 percent a little bit of the day and 2 percent none of the day according to the results.

About 97 percent of students had access to technology, family-owned or taxpayer-funded, and 94 percent had access to the internet.

Another 3 percent said they had limited internet access, through cell-phones, and 3 percent did not have internet access. The district ordered 100 mobile hotspots, according to Sanders, and “prioritized our distribution to homeless students. We have also entered into an agreement with Comcast so that the District is providing the Internet Essentials program with no barriers for low-income families.”

The results showed that 79 percent of families said they were “food secure” while 20 percent said they relied on the taxpayer-funded meals U-46 has handed out, 86 percent said they were not or only slightly concerned about housing and 13 percent said they were concerned, 66 percent said they were not or slightly concerned about the emotional wellbeing of their children and 34 percent were concerned and 88 percent were not or slightly concerned about child care and 13 percent were concerned.

Only 43 percent of families were satisfied with U-46’s distance learning.

DuPage County opens new COVID-19 testing sites

Two new testing sites are being opened and made available to DuPage County residents in the next two weeks. A new drive-through COVID-19 testing site opened at the DuPage County Complex on Tuesday, June 16. All residents of DuPage County can be tested, and no appointment, doctor referral, or insurance is needed.

“Thanks to our collaboration with Gov. Pritzker, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, we now have a public COVID-19 testing facility in DuPage County for the convenience of our residents,” said DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin. “It’s my hope we can test thousands of individuals for the novel coronavirus, thus detecting and providing timely public health guidance and referral support for our residents who need it. We will continue to work with state and local experts utilizing best public health practices, including testing and contact tracing, to help us reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.”

The DuPage County COVID-19 testing site, which will be accessible through the County Campus’ main entrance off County Farm Road, will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until 400 tests are completed each day. The COVID-19 test is free.

“It’s important to have robust testing available to our residents, to assist us in learning how prevalent COVID-19 is, which will allow us to reduce the spread of the virus,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director, DuPage County Health Department.

To ensure the safety of testing personnel, the test will be done while individuals are sitting in their vehicle. Those being tested must be sitting at a functioning window and cannot exit their vehicle while at the test site. No motorcycles will be allowed to enter.

In addition, DuPage County is supporting a testing site in Willowbrook, which will double the number of individuals who are able to be tested and receive a physical health check. Beginning last week, and continuing until August, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, testing will be available through

Pillars Community Health with drive-up testing at Anne M. Jeans Elementary School in Willowbrook. Residents do not have to be an existing Pillars Community Health patient or enrolled at Anne Jeans School to be eligible.

Testing is available to anyone with symptoms of COVID-19; or anyone with a known exposure to COVID-19 (have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19); or asymptomatic, high-risk patients, first responders, health care workers, or essential workers who wish to be tested.

Limited tests are available and an appointment is required for this site. To schedule the appointment, please call 708-PILLARS (708-745-5277) and follow the prompts. Appointments will be scheduled in the following time slots: Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Insurance will be billed; for those without insurance, please call Pillars Community Health at 708-PILLARS (708-745-5277) to discuss options.

To learn more, visit the DuPage County COVID-19 Dashboard: www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data.

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Six U-46 schools set for parking lot repaving

By Seth Hancock

Six schools are having repaving work done this summer in School District U-46 at an estimated price of \$5.5 million. The district uses a 100-point scale system, the higher the score the less need for repaving, to grade each school on pavement needs. The schools planned for work include Bartlett High School (80.35), South Elgin's Kenyon Woods Middle School (69.85), Elgin's Abbott Middle School (69.65), Elgin's Creekside Elementary School (68.85), Carol Stream's Spring Trail Elementary School (68.5) and Elgin's Larsen Middle School (67.3).

Sheila Downs, director of plant operations, updated the Board of Education on the work at an April meeting as she presented the 2020 pavement condition inventory. She said the inventory was "initially created in 2014" and is updated each year.

"It really is a snapshot of the entire district and the pavement for the parking lots, playground services and the adjoining areas," Downs said. "The rationale obviously is that the natural lifecycle, assuming that it was engineered and taken care of appropriately, life cycle for asphalt is between 20 and 30 years. It's not designed to last forever."

U-46 virtual graduation honors 2,700 students

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 held a virtual graduation for seniors on Saturday, June 13 as over 2,700 students graduated according to a district press release.

According to the district, it has an 83 percent graduation rate which is behind the 86 percent state average. South Elgin High School had 628 graduates, Elgin 624, Bartlett 592, Elgin's Larkin 463 and Streamwood 438.

The district moved forward with the virtual graduation amid the COVID-19 shutdown despite pushback from students. U-46 had rescheduled its May graduation to July 11 at Hoffman Estate's Sears Centre before deciding to go with the virtual ceremony.

A petition, which has garnered over 2,000 signatures, was created asking for a creative graduation ceremony in person. Several school districts have already held in-person ceremonies with "social distancing" guidelines in place.

"This is not how any of us expected to celebrate the Class of 2020, but we have done our best to make this virtual ceremony meaningful for our graduates and their families," said Superintendent Tony Sanders for the release. "I am proud of how our seniors have faced this challenge, with resiliency, humor, kindness and understanding. We are celebrating differently this year, but we are still united."

Caps and gowns were distributed at schools and seniors took a photo to be uploaded for the virtual ceremony. Speeches were prerecorded at South Elgin High School by administrators and selected seniors.

The government mandated shutdown changed the school calendar this year, a final calendar having been approved by the Board of Education at its May 18 meeting by a unanimous vote.

The final day of school was May 26 while distance learning began after a March 16 emergency day. There were 176 total student attendance days and 184 teacher attendance days according to the final calendar.

Sanders stated at the May 18 board meeting that "it's a requirement of the law that we submit a final calendar to the state every year to recognize any emergency days or anything else that has happened."

Village Board receives amplified noise complaint

By Seth Hancock

A noise complaint was addressed at the Village Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 2 which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

A pair of residents addressed their complaint of a church which held an outdoor service and received a noise amplification permit. The residents stated excessive noise lasted for four hours distracting one from her own online religious service while the other stated his wife was an ER doctor and who had been woken up by the noise.

"There are obviously, even with an amplifying permit, certain restrictions

A civil engineering firm created the inventory for the district and developed a replacement cycle plan.

"This document has been very beneficial for plant operations. However, it is not the only factor. Even though things are rated on a yearly basis, there's additional atrophy," Downs said noting weather events like the polar vortex a few years ago effected the scores.

Although the schools selected for work this year are on the lower end, they were not all the lowest. Six schools had lower scores than Larsen's 67.3 and there are 23 sites from the lowest up to Bartlett High School's 80.35.

Board member Melissa Owens asked how the schools are prioritized.

Downs said "we try to go after as many as we can reasonably get done in a year," and "we really try to do our best and go after the ones that are causing the most problems with arival and dismissal primarily."

"There's a lot of factors," Downs said. "One is budget allowance for the year. Some of them are also congested traffic. There's some drainage issues where we have some standing water. We try to look at the ratings, but also include any other variables."

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I believe with the volume of noise you can have," said Village President Kevin Wallace who added it "doesn't mean they get to annoy an entire neighborhood for four hours."

Paula Schumacher, village administrator, said the village would address the complaint with the church which had plans for future outdoor services.

The village code bans the use of amplification devices "sounds are magnified and made heard over any public street or public place" unless a permit is issued.

The code does have some regulations for permit holders but no specific

See Noise, pg. 9

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New member of *Examiner* team



Gabriel Bolivar will be attending Kenyon Woods Middle School. His favorite subject is math and he is involved in wrestling, football and band club. During his free time he likes to play video games and hang out with friends and also enjoys watching the Star Wars and Indiana Jones series movies.

Bolivar will be delivering on Smoke-tree Lane, Spaulding Lane and Summersweet. *(Examiner photo)*

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Recent peaceful protests topical at board meeting

By Seth Hancock

Village President Kevin Wallace and officers from the Bartlett Police Department spoke to protesters on Monday, June 1 and Tuesday, June 2 according to a village press release.

The protest was organized in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis who was seen in a video with an officer kneeling on his neck for nearly nine minutes. The village stated the protest remained peaceful.

Wallace made a statement at the Board of Trustees meeting on June 2 which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

“For many, including some here in Bartlett, words alone are no longer an adequate expression of the heartbreak and outrage they feel and they have organized peaceful protests against the social disparities and racial inequities in our culture,” Wallace said.

Wallace added: “Peaceful protest is a basic tenet of our democracy and has taken place throughout our history. The Village Board and the Bartlett Police Department thank everyone who assembled on Main Street these past two days for their respect and decorum. We know that their protest is not directed at our own Village officers and we fully support them in exercising their constitutional right.”

At the meeting, a couple addressed the board. Samantha Bauer asked “what the Bartlett Police Department is doing to stay up to date on training

related to diversity, inclusion and social justice,” and her husband Andrew Bauer about hiring practices.

Wallace noted that the police department is accredited through Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). Bartlett’s police have been accredited since 1997 and have consistently received reaccreditation ever since.

“The primary responsibility is revolving around what you just described,” Wallace said of CALEA.

Paula Schumacher, village administrator, said the police department is committed to the CALEA standards which require nonviolence response, de-escalation tactics and bias training. She added that 85 percent of the force is crisis intervention certified.

“They have built a culture of respect in our community and to our residents and those that they encounter,” Schumacher said.

Regarding hiring, Schumacher said: “We reject more candidates than we accept. We go through many, many stages of background checks and mental screening and aptitude screening as well. We believe that the best practice is to hire the right people from the beginning. We do have a very rigorous hiring process, and the screening is, I believe, extensive as well.”

The village also released a letter from Chief of Police Patrick Ullrich to a resident who addressed concerns.

“Like you, I am deeply disturbed at

what I saw,” Ullrich wrote about the Floyd video. “Our officers are trained and directed to treat all individuals with respect, empathy and dignity and to only use the force necessary to effect the arrest.”

Ullrich added that “under no circumstances have our officers been trained to kneel on the neck of someone who is facedown and handcuffed, much less for a prolonged period of time, as is what happened in the case of Mr. Floyd” and when someone is handcuffed and laying face down “they should immediately sit them up to avoid the possibility of positional asphyxia.”

Training has been a top priority in the department in his 21 years in Bartlett,

Ullrich stated, and the police received over 13,000 hours of training last year and annually receive 10,000 hours on average.

Ullrich said the police undergoes state mandated training on “constitutional and proper use of law enforcement authority, procedural justice, civil rights, human rights, mental health awareness and response and cultural competency” along with additional training.

The Bartlett police always seek voluntary compliance and use de-escalation techniques according to Ullrich who added the “use of force is a topic our department takes seriously and officers train on use of force several times a year.”

Wayne Board deals with water-related issues

By Joe Hyland

The Wayne Village Board approved two water-related payments as part of the consent agenda at its teleconferenced Tuesday, June 2 meeting. The consent agenda was passed by a unanimous vote, with five votes cast due to Trustee Kate O'Rourke having resigned.

The first payment was to Sheridan Plumbing and Sewer, \$9,414, for clearing the village's storm drains.

“They were out two separate days to get that work completed,” said Village Engineer Dan Lynch.

Trustee Pete Connolly asked Lynch if it would have been a one-day job had the system not been surcharged with water. Lynch said that would indeed have been the case.

The board also ratified the emergency purchase of a pump for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,000.

Village President Eileen Phipps asked about flooding in Lake Eleanor and along Smith Road.

Lynch said the problem seems to have been caused by excessive seepage or sump failure, indicating high ground water levels.

“I have not seen any reports of surface flooding,” Lynch said

Lynch added that he had heard of cases of surface water standing in yards. In one case, this caused the septic system at a residence to fail due to standing water in the leach field.

Lynch said that with the official rain gauge in West Chicago showed just over 20 inches of rain during May As a result, water in the forest preserve had reached levels not seen in at least 25 years. The normal rainfall for May is less than four inches. He said that DuPage County highway and forest preserve officials walked the area during the previous weekend looking for blockages, but had not found any. He added that forest preserve officials told him they were going to look at the problem to see if they could do anything to alleviate it.

“This seems to be a pretty localized condition,” Lynch said. “I’ll continue to watch that.”

Lynch said that, in contrast to a flood, the problem was largely unseen.

“It’s the excessive groundwater that’s been a problem,” Lynch said. “It’s a tough problem to solve.”

IHSA issues guidelines for limited sports activity

By Seth Hancock

Limited workouts will be allowed by high school athletes in select portions of the state as of Saturday, June 6 after the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) released guidelines for returning to play amidst the continued COVID-19 shutdown orders by Gov. JB Pritzker.

The IHSA released those guidelines on June 5 which states only “voluntary strength and conditioning sessions” will be allowed while skill training is excluded, and it encourages outdoor workouts. These workouts, however, are only allowed in regions that are in Phase 3 of Pritzker’s reopening plan, and local school district administrations must approve the activities.

Students where these activities will be allowed are limited to three hours a day. Clinics, open gyms and summer camps are not allowed.

“The IHSA Return to Play Guidelines offer some important first steps in allowing student-athletes to reacclimate both physically and mentally to athletics, but more importantly, they allow each school to assess their own individual situation and determine if and when they want to proceed,” said Craig Anderson, the IHSA’s executive director, in a press release.

There have been high school athletic associations in 18 states that have already allowed summer activities and more set to allow it this week. Most give more latitude to local districts to

determine precautions than the IHSA.

The IHSA guidelines state that social distancing, remaining six-feet apart, must be followed and gatherings can only be with groups of 10 or fewer, including coaches and other staff. Students cannot change groups and “interaction between groups shall be avoided.”

Athletes must be monitored by coaches who have to keep tabs on the students tracking their temperature and other symptoms. Cleaning and disinfecting guidelines are included, and students must bring their own items like towels and water bottles.

The guidelines also state face masks must be worn if social distancing is not maintained, but the IHSA provides no warning of the risks of wearing masks while taking part in physical activity.

In China, at least two children have died of cardiac arrest taking part in physical education while wearing a face mask, and in New Jersey a man passed out while driving with a mask on leading to a crash. Some masks are coming with a warning label stating that “this product is not a respirator and will not provide any protections against COVID-19 (coronavirus) and other viruses or contaminants.”

The continued shutdown and excessive regulatory climate continue despite the Centers for Disease Control recently projecting a death rate of 0.26 percent which is akin to the seasonal flu.

sounds, or any false representations of any matter, product or project advertised thereby, the sale of which is prohibited by any law ordinance or statute.”

The code also states: “An amplifier permit may be denied by the Community Development Director or designee from an applicant who has previously received documented complaints by the Police Department or Code Enforcement of excessive noise or extending the amplification beyond the permitted hours of operation.”

More Storm athletes leave their enduring mark

By Seth Hancock

This is the second of two stories highlighting Storm senior athletes.

The COVID-19 shutdown has led to the loss of spring athletics meaning seniors lost out on their final seasons, but those seniors have dedicated years and will leave lasting impacts to their respective programs.

The South Elgin girls programs will lose 41 seniors, both athletes and managers.

The Storm softball team will lose three players including McKenna Eichholz, Kaylie Humes and Sophia Salazar as well as manager Anna Winterhalder.

“Our three seniors mean the world to our program,” said South Elgin softball coach Brad Reynard. “We were coming off a season where we lost three all-conference seniors from the year before so these girls were ready to make a mark of their own since we won back-to-back conference championships.”

Reynard added: “They set up all off-season workouts, rallied for fundraising and were our go-to leaders of the program. It was finally their chance to lead. Personally, for me it’s been very difficult. In 23 seasons as a head coach, this is something I never thought we would have to deal with, a cancelled season.”

The track and field team at South Elgin will lose five athletes in Adrienne Adams, Asia Bullocks, India Bullocks, Jenna Cochran and Kristin Delaney as well as manager Kellie Flanagan.

Storm track coach Tushebra Crump

spoke directly to her seniors: “My heart goes out to each and every one of you. I know that the cancellation of our season was hard for all of us to come to grips with. I truly believe that this season was supposed to be our season of great successes. All of you have put in tons of hard work and given great efforts over the past four years.”

Crump added: “I want you all to take pride in being the student athletes that you are, and cherish all of the memories that we have created together as a team. As your coach I could not be prouder of each and every one of you. I wish you all the best of luck in the pursuit of all of your goals and aspirations. Know that I will always be there for you and that you all will be truly missed.”

The badminton team will lose 12 including Allison Cuncliffe, Amtul Farah, Danzel Gerona, Jennifer Ketdy, Jordan Lenox, Isabella McManus, Alexandra Polly, Abby Stoner, Haley Szymczak, Karolina Terlikowski, Caroline Thompson and Emily Zozokos.

The lacrosse team will lose nine in Casey Byrne, Lauren Byrne, Shannon Martin, Madison Procnier, Alyssa Raval, Rebecca Reinhofer, Sarah Seabolt, Heather Tutak and Rielly Vanis.

The soccer team will lose 10 including Danielle Kucharski, Kaleigh LaRue, Taylor Latsonas, Kayla Mathis, Megan McClure, Haley Molidor, Nicole Peeters, Olivia Piaskowy, Brianna Saenz and Isabella Tusa.

Noise

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rules on how much noise is allowable or how it will be measured.

Permitted noise amplification hours under the code are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Permit holders are not allowed to emit “any lewd, obscene, profane or indecent language,