

Press Clippings 10-07-20

---The Courier-News--- 10/07/2020

47% of U-46 parents want hybrid classes

Survey shows anxiety; district works to calm concerns of teachers

By: Karie Angell Luc

While preschool through second grade teachers have told District U-46 they're leery of switching to hybrid classes Oct. 26, it's the arrangement most district parents want, Superintendent Tony Sanders said.

Speaking to the school board Monday night, Sanders said some teachers have told district administrators they don't like the back-to-school plan unveiled last week in which the district's youngest students will attend in-person classes two days a week.

The district is trying to allay concerns, with Sanders telling the board he sent an email to teachers Monday providing more information on such things as minimum instruction thresholds and schedules required to comply with state guidelines so they know what's expected.

"I know this work is hard," Sanders said. "I know it's more work for teachers, it's more work for our principals, it's more work for our administrative staff, more importantly, it's more work for our students and their families who are at home trying to work their way through currently distance learning and also the decisions about coming back into hybrid."

According to parent survey results, 56% want their children to do hybrid learning and 37% prefer to continue remote learning.

About 625 families have not returned a district questionnaire so district officials are having to call them to confirm their preferences, Sanders said.

When taken as a whole, 47% of parents of pre-K through grade 12 students want their children in hybrid classes, 29% prefer e-learning only and 24% have not yet responded to the survey.

Any family who does not respond or cannot be reached will continue to have their children enrolled in remote learning, officials said.

Unlike the spring, when there was difficulty in getting some students to do e-learning, class attendance this school year has been more than 95%, Sanders said.

Board member Melissa Owens, whose child is a U-46 high school junior, said she's been overwhelmed by all the mail she's received from anxious parents and teachers.

"I feel the disappointment that everybody has," Owens said about the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and difficult decisions that have to be made. "We're learning and we're listening."

Board member Eva Porter said, "These are not normal times. I know that children learn best in the classroom and that's where we want them all to be."

The next group of students to do hybrid classes are those in grades three through six, who are expected to return to school around or after Thanksgiving, said Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction.

Middle school and high school students will return in January. Johnson said high school activities such as sports will be integrated in accordance with IHSA athletics mandates.

Sanders said he hoped families and teachers would understand how difficult it is for administrators to make adjustments during a pandemic.

“I wish I could say that there’s a model that’s perfect for everybody,” Sanders said. “Unfortunately, there is not.”

“I hope the general public would appreciate the complexity that goes into that but I know that they don’t live in the world that I live in, and the world that Dr. Johnson lives on a daily basis, so they don’t know the complexities of it,” Sanders said.

“I can tell you that we will get through this if we continue to demonstrate grace, if we continue to support one another.”

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
October 7, 2020

U-46 expenditures
increased in budget
See Page 6

Village board ratifies
goals for 2021
See Page 8

Restrictive approach taken to reopening U-46 schools

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 officials are stressing that the public follow the government's dictates if parents want schools to open under the COVID-19 restrictions.

At a virtual Board of Education meeting on Monday, Sept. 28, the district said they could "easily" open schools now like other neighboring districts, but that's not the intent of U-46's plan.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said U-46 "could easily get all kids back into school in a hybrid model pretty quickly," but the district's design isn't to get kids back into school quickly.

"One of the things that makes us a little bit different (from neighboring districts), in addition to our size, is really the intentionality behind the

types of models we're trying to build for families and for students," Sanders said.

Sanders added: "That is not the model that we're choosing to go. We're going a little more complex but really in a way we think will better suit the needs of our students where students who choose to be in an on-line distance-learning format for the remainder of this year or semester really will have that teacher that is devoted to them in a distance-learning classroom. And students and families who choose this hybrid mix and on-line will also have a teacher assigned to that group of students."

U-46 sent a survey to families seeking to find out which families wanted their kids in a hybrid model and which wanted to remain in distance-learning.

The hybrid day for a select few students, which is tentatively set for Oct. 26, is still in question according to Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction.

"We are sharing minimal expectations for the hybrid learning until we have additional details that should be finalized after the closure of the questionnaire this week," Johnson said.

The district admitted that data from the region and across the country showed that schools that have opened already aren't facing the problems it expected, but yet, U-46 has gotten more stringent on its reopening plan.

Responding in a memo to a question from board member Melissa Owens, the district said "it does seem both locally and nationally that hybrid elementary is not as problematic" as it originally thought.

When the board approved the reopening plan in July, the district expected to bring in small groups of students through the first quarter and start the hybrid model on Oct. 26 through middle school.

However, now the district will only start the hybrid model for kindergarten through second grade and some specialized groups of students. U-46 said third through sixth grade will return later in the fall or the winter, and middle and high school hybrid learning won't start until at least the

second semester in January.

Sanders said there's been a "never ending cycle of change" and he "overpromised and underdelivered." He said the decisions aren't being made locally but rather from health departments from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) down to the county departments.

Owens said it's frustrating to see neighboring districts already opening and there "really is an urgency" to get some students in for things like high school science labs. Sanders said "we agree," and Johnson said "that work is ongoing."

However, Owens and board member Kate Thommes along with Sanders said the schools can open if the public just obeys them.

"We really have to press our communities to really do the things we know keeps this disease at bay," Owens said, and Thommes said: "Please, just wear your mask. Stay away from people."

"Agreed.... You're absolutely right," Sanders said. He added: "We can prevent it really easily if we chose to do so."

The CDC has contradicted itself regarding wearing masks telling Americans originally they are not effective against COVID-19 to then saying they are. It also recently warned those fighting wildfires on the West Coast that masks are not effective as "they do not catch small, harmful particles in smoke that can harm your health."

According to the CDC, smoke particles (up to 0.7 microns) are much larger than COVID-19 particles (up to 0.3 microns).

Proclamation establishes Halloween rules, hours

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1, Village President Billie Roth announced a Halloween proclamation.

Roth said the proclamation was being presented earlier than usual because of numerous inquiries from residents asking if trick-or-treating was going to be allowed this year and if there were any safety precautions required by the village for Halloween as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roth asked Trustee Michael Baumer to read the proclamation.

In reading from the proclamation, Baumer said: "The president and board of trustees of the Village of Streamwood recognize the observance and tradition of Halloween trick-or-treating but urge caution and patience this year given the public health concerns of COVID-19. Those who participate in Halloween trick-or-treating should observe basic safety, courtesy and common sense guidelines including the requirements of proper face covering, hand sanitizing and social distancing of at

least six feet apart and has not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.

"Those who participate in Halloween trick-or-treating should observe social distancing recommendations, travel only with members of their own household and should wait to approach a house until a previous group has left.

"Those who offer candy are encouraged to turn their porch lights on, wear proper face coverings and gloves, consider distributing non-candy items that parents can easily sanitize like pencils, stickers or erasers and hard candy individually rather than allowing treats to be taken from a communal bowl or use a no-contact method such as placing treats on a table for easy collection at the end of a driveway or yard.

"Residents and trick-or-treaters are asked to be respectful of others and their decisions to participate or not in trick-or-treating this year."

Baumer added, per the proclamation, that Halloween trick-or-treating will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.



Still not business as usual

While public facilities such as the park district's Park Place are not as restricted as they were at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, however, their activities remain significantly reduced.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



District U-46 Board approves latest budget

By Seth Hancock

Without debate, the Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2021 budget which increases spending by \$6.2 million and revenue by \$6.4 million at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 28 which was held virtually due to COVID-19 regulations.

Expenditures will rise from \$594.3 million to \$599.5 million and revenue from \$596 million to \$602.4 million. The trend of spending increases along with enrollment declines continues as U-46 expects a loss of 483 students, from 37,886 students to 37,403, which would make this the sixth straight year with a loss in enrollment.

That trend is expected to continue in the budget projections which shows spending will increase by nearly \$200 million, \$430 million to \$624 million (45.1 percent), from 2012 to 2024 if the projections are realized. Enrollment will have dropped by 5,435 students, 40,687 to 35,252 (13.4 percent), under the projections.

The district again plans to seek the

largest property tax increase allowed under the law with revenue proposed to rise from \$306.9 million to \$319.1 million, a 4 percent increase. U-46 plans to seek an average of \$8 million additionally a year from property taxpayers reaching \$339 million by 2024.

Salary and benefits are set to rise 4 percent from \$404 million to \$420 million. Total staff has increased from 4,242 to 4,954 from 2016. Average salary and benefits for district staff will be \$84,780.

This year's approved budget represents an increase in spending of 5.2 percent and will take 6.4 percent more from federal down to local taxpayers.

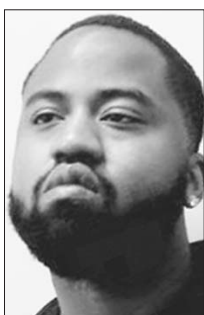
Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, called it "pretty much flat with the previous year" when presented in August, and board members Sue Kerr and Melissa Owens thanked the administration for the "flat" budget. No other board discussion occurred.

"I just wanted to thank the team for coming up with a budget that is holding the line from last year," Owens said.

Aurora resident charged with DUI after vehicle crash

On Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, Bartlett Police Department arrested Juan Walker, 27, of Aurora, Illinois. He was charged with a Class A misdemeanor for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was also cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

At approximately 4:30 a.m., Bartlett Police Department responded to the intersection of Schick Road and Woodland Hills Parkway to investigate a motor vehicle crash. Bartlett Police alleged Juan Walker was driving a 2011 GMC vehicle westbound on Schick Road



Juan Walker

when his vehicle drove off the roadway and into the retention pond west of Woodland Hills parkway. Juan Walker and his 26-year-old female passenger suffered non-life-threatening injuries as a result of the motor vehicle crash and were transported to Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield by the Bartlett Fire Protection District.

Juan Walker was released on a \$3,000 individual bond with an assigned court date of Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 at the DuPage County court facility located in Wheaton.

More deer, squirrel hunting dates announced by IDNR

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has announced an additional archery deer hunting opportunity in 2020 through the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP). IRAP has added a third archery deer hunting period Dec. 16 to 31.

"With archery deer hunting in high demand for IRAP, we asked landowners if they would allow for hunting in December and many were willing," said IRAP Manager Tammy Miller.

IRAP archery deer hunting will now be available this year Oct. 1 to 15, Oct. 16 to 31 and Dec. 16 to 31 for licensed hunters to hunt on private land. There are currently 256 hunting sites available through IRAP in 34 counties across Illinois.

IRAP this year has also added opportunities during the Illinois youth firearm deer season Oct. 10 to 12, with at least 24 private-land sites already enrolled in the program.

Applications for IRAP deer hunting are now being accepted through 5 p.m. Aug. 24. A lottery drawing will be held at the end of August and successful applicants will be notified and sent a site permit along with directions and a map of the property on which they will hunt. IRAP is open to both resident and non-resident hunters.

IRAP deer hunting applications can be found on the IDNR website at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/IRAP/Pages/Archery-Deer-Hunting.aspx>.

IRAP also has squirrel hunting opportunities available. There are more than 3,500 acres in 17 counties that IRAP hunters can access. To squirrel hunt on one of these sites, hunters must go online and register as an IRAP participant, then make a reservation online reserving their preferred site. Squirrel hunting on IRAP leased property will be available Aug. 1 to Sept. 15.

Reservation information for IRAP squirrel hunting can be found at online at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/IRAP/Pages/Small-Game-Hunting.aspx>.

The IRAP program has more than 24,000 acres leased in Illinois and is funded through a federal Voluntary Public Access Habitat Improvement Program grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. IRAP provides multiple public access opportunities such as turkey, archery deer, youth firearm deer, small game, waterfowl and upland bird hunting as well as pond and riverbank fishing. In addition to leasing private property, IRAP conducts habitat management on these leased properties.

For more information, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/IRAP/Pages/default.aspx> or email DNR.IRAP@illinois.gov.

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A View from the Cheap Seats



Toxic Journalism

By Rich Trzupek

Another Sunday and another hit piece by that fraud of a journalist Michael Hawthorne pollutes Page 1 of the publication that used to be the *Chicago Tribune*. Some things never change.

We really, really, really need to stop pretending that journalists are independent, unbiased transmitters of information whom would never be so boorish as to use their position to engage in ax grinding. With very few exceptions today's journalists are not observers, they are cheerleaders. Sometimes they're even players.

It is safe to assume that if you count on the MSM as your primary source of truthful information about a topic, you are misinformed. You'll get selected portions of the truth from these charlatans, but only by accident will you get truthful coverage.

Anyway, back to Messr. Hawthorne's latest assault on truthful journalism. The headline read "Decisions cloud goal for clean energy", with the sub-head "Illinois remains one of the nation's biggest coal suppliers".

The essence of the tale that followed was that J.B. "Jabba the Guv" Pritzker was failing to shut down Illinois coal mines. Rather, his administration was actually ENCOURAGING them to remain open by allowing the second largest coal mine in the state to discharge TOXIC waste into one of our precious rivers. Further crippling Illinois coal would OBVIOUSLY help fight global warming as Illinois is the fourth largest coal producing state in the union and it's not like people who burn coal or use it as a raw material could buy from one of approximately two gagillion coal mines located in the US and a plethora of other nations. Once Illinois coal shut down, all the plants using it would magically disappear!

Let's play a little game I just made up called "Mike is right, but..." to demonstrate once again how his selective use of pieces of truth results in a story that contains facts, but is not factual.

Michael says: "...only Wyoming, West Virginia and Pennsylvania mined more coal last year than the 45 million tons from Illinois. Mike is right, but..." Wyoming, West Virginia and Pennsylvania account for a little over 58 percent of the nation's coal production. Illinois produces about 7 percent of the total, a bit ahead of other small contributors like Indiana, New Mexico and Kentucky. We get it: Michael hates coal. But, the truth is Illinois is a relatively minor player and has been for quite a while.

Michael says the mining company, Foresight Energy "...wants to build a pipeline for "contaminated" water seeping into its Pond Creek mine..." Mike is right, but..." the implication is that this pipeline is going to increase water discharges from the mine into the local tributary system. It is not.

Foresight asked for permission to increase the number of outfalls (discharge points) for its runoff water from eight to eleven. That's actually good for the environment.

Michael says that burning coal "...is a major source of lung-damaging pollution..." linking to a Scientific American article that ties coal-fired power plant emissions to fine particulate pollution. Mike is right, but... Coal-fired power plants are only a major source of fine particulate pollution if one limits sources to industrial activity alone. EPA data clearly shows that industrial activity of all kind contribute to only about 15 percent of fine particulate emissions nationwide, and most of those emissions are so dispersed that they have an almost infinitesimal impact on the air we breathe. The other 85 percent? About 5 percent comes from mobile sources like cars, trucks, etc. The rest is classified as being generated by area sources, a category that includes everything else like camp fires and open-burning, but the majority of which is classified as biogenic (i.e.: natural).

Michael describes the Big Muddy, the waterway that will act as receiver for one of the new outfalls as "impaired", a term of art in the regulatory world that means it does not meet some water quality standard(s). Mike is right. The Big Muddy is impaired, but... the Big Muddy is not impaired for any of the pollutants identified in Foresight's permit, save dissolved iron. And the permit has this to say about the tiny amount of dissolved iron in the new outfall: "Iron (dissolved) is only a fraction of the Iron (total) and will meet the water quality standard at the end-of-pipe or at the edge of the mixing zone."

Michael says Foresight wants to "...dump millions of gallons of toxic waste into a Mississippi River tributary..." I cannot even give Mike a "right" on this one. This is a totally incorrect, irresponsible statement. By no one's standards, not even the ridiculously pristine standards that Mike's Sierra Club pals selectively apply to projects they don't like, can this discharge be described as "toxic". It's not only not toxic, it's drinkable!

The two main pollutants in the discharge are chlorides and sulfates, which water that runs through the mine picks up as it flows toward collection ponds. The World Health Organization has studied both and concluded that "no health based guidelines" were needed for either. The only concern is to make sure that discharging into the river does not create localized hot spots that could affect aquatic life. This will be done through dispersion and creation of mixing zones, a technique commonly used in the water quality world.

I could go on, but hopefully by now you get the idea. The only thing "toxic" in this story was the writer's disregard for telling the truth.

richtrzupek@gmail.com

Season winding down for SHS boys cross country

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys cross country team has been happy with its improvements through the year as the modified 2020 season, due to COVID-19 restrictions, is winding down.

The Sabres dropped a close match against Larkin in an Upstate Eight Conference on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at Larkin, but Streamwood coach Weert Goldenstein said his guys are setting personal records.

Leading the way for Streamwood was senior Emiliano Mendoza who was second with a time of 18 minutes, 19 seconds. Junior Uvaldo Ramirez (fourth, 18:55), senior Jose Banuelos (seventh, 19:35), sophomore Saul Villarreal (ninth, 21:45) and senior Juan Aguiere (16th, 25:40) followed.

"I've been happy with my team's performance so far this season," Goldenstein said. "The guys have been working hard and we've had some impressive personal records being set over the last few weeks."

The Sabres were coming off an UEC loss at East Aurora on Saturday, Sept. 26.

While most area conferences will be hosting a conference meet, the UEC has opted not to with its cross country teams competing against one opponent each meet. All-conference honors will be determined at the end of the season.

However, there will be some postseason competition that the Sabres will prepare for as they compete in the Lake Park Regional. Originally, the IHSA said the postseason would consist only of a regional race, but on Sept. 23 it expanded the postseason to include a sectional. The state meet is still not expected to occur.

"Moving forward, we're looking at remaining consistent with our training and keeping a competitive mindset even though we're only racing against one team at a time and aren't engaged in the bigger meets like we usually are," Goldenstein said.

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.

Audacity of some people

Dear Editor,

I have two Trump 2020 signs in my front yard. I walked out of my house this afternoon and found two sticky notes on

my front door telling me I should remove my signs. I can't believe that someone would have the audacity to walk up to my door and leave these notes telling me how wrong I am.
Jackie Mosen

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We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

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Village goals, objectives approved for 2021

By Kristin Carreno

At the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1, trustees voted unanimously in approval of a resolution to adopt the Village of Streamwood 2021 goals and objectives.

“Every year the village board has engaged in goals and objectives settings as the beginning of our budgetary process,” said Village Manager Sharon Caddigan.

According to Caddigan, the village board hired Executive Service Corps of Chicago (ESC) to develop goals and objectives for 2021. ESC consultants conducted interviews with the village board, senior and operational staff, select residents, intergovernmental partners, commission members and businesses to identify challenges and opportunities for the upcoming year. The village board held a series of workshop meetings with ESC and senior staff to review issues identified in the interview process, analyze responses to these challenges and prioritize actions to serve as a blueprint for the future.

“As in 2020 the goals and objectives established for 2021 are separated into two categories – ongoing goals and focus goals,” Caddigan said.

Ongoing goals represent multi-year plans related to either long-term projects or principles guiding continuing operations, according to Caddigan. Focus goals include specific projects, programs or directives guiding staff into 2021.

“These goals continue our focus on improving communication, connec-

tivity and collaboration as work towards implementing our comprehensive plan,” Caddigan said.

The first ongoing goal relates to commitment of fiscal stability, according to Caddigan. Strong infrastructure and proactive economic development are key elements in this.

“We want to keep Streamwood a good place to live and do business,” Caddigan added.

Caddigan said another ongoing goal is related to work culture and succession planning.

“We know that appreciating the efforts staff makes in service to the community is a key way in which to support our overall work culture and therefore we’re recommending adding this as an opportunity to explore this ongoing goal,” Caddigan said.

The focus goals were amended to reflect work completed and remaining, according to Caddigan.

Caddigan said the village board agreed to the potential update of the village website and opportunity for improved social media communication. Changes to the focus goal on paths and bridges recognize the status of engineering and work being done with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. A focus goal on new and expanding facilities recognizes the status of the work to be completed in 2021.

“We believe these modifications will be ongoing and focus goals do provide the framework for us,” Caddigan said.

Waiver of restrictions granted by village board

By Kristin Carreno

Trustees voted unanimously in favor of an ordinance approving a waiver of locational restrictions permitting live entertainment with the service of alcoholic beverages during the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1. The waiver was for The Seville, a banquet hall located at 700 S. Barrington Road.

According to Community Development Director John Peterson, the property is zoned C-2. The previous owner’s operation of over 35 years predated the current requirements to obtain a special use permit.

“A waiver of locational restrictions is required any time you have live entertainment with the sale or service of alcohol,” said Peterson. “As part of a

change in ownership the petitioner obtained a special use for alcohol sales and service in December 2019. Part of that approval was that a waiver of locational restrictions be granted within six months of the special use. That was slightly delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended in favor of the requested waiver during a meeting held in September, according to Peterson.

The petitioner, Ganesh Subramanian, told trustees he “is not changing anything from the previous owner” and the live entertainment will mainly consist of DJs and piano players.

“It’s pretty much for private parties and weddings,” Subramanian said.

Sabres girls cross country splits pair of UEC races

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood girls cross country team got had a week off entering the final stretch of the season, but the Sabres were coming off a strong week in which it split a pair of Upstate Eight Conference races.

Against Larkin, freshman Reyna Saldivar took first place to propel the Sabres to the UEC victory on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at Streamwood. Ashley Harrison was second and Victoria Sinclair fifth to help in the winning effort.

“I am pleased with how my team has performed this season,” said Streamwood coach Dylan Lau. “We have improved every race, and are looking forward to the regional.”

The Sabres did go onto drop an UEC race at East Aurora on Saturday, Sept. 26.

While most area conferences will be hosting a conference meet, the UEC has opted not to with its cross country teams competing against one opponent each meet. All-conference honors will be determined at the end of the season.

However, there will be some postseason competition that the Sabres will prepare for as they compete in the Lake Park Regional. Originally, the IHSA said the postseason would consist only of a regional race, but on Sept. 23 it expanded the postseason to include a sectional. The state meet is still not expected to occur.

“With postseason coming up, we are looking to run more complete races,” Lau said. “Our goal is to focus more on our splits in order to run our best times.”

Word Search

Have fun
finding GEMSTONES!



O	I	E	T	I	N	A	Z	N	A	T	R	N	U
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