

## Press Clippings 10-14-20

---The Courier-News--- 10/14/2020

### Ceremony held to rename the Elgin post office for fallen Marine Cpl. Alex Martinez

By: Gloria Casas



A group gathers around the plaque that was unveiled Tuesday at a ceremony in which the post office in downtown Elgin was renamed for Marine Cpl. Alex Martinez, an Elgin native killed in Afghanistan in 2012. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

Marine Cpl. Alex Martinez's name was immortalized Tuesday when the Elgin Post Office was renamed in his honor.

"Alex's name and sacrifice will never be forgotten," his widow, Julianna, told the crowd gathered for a dedication ceremony outside the 66 Grove Court building. "I would like to thank everyone who came out here today once again honoring Alex in the city."

Martinez, 21, and three other Marines were killed April 5, 2012, in Afghanistan during a explosives cleaning mission in the Helmand Province.



Marine Cpl. Alex Martinez's widow, Julianna, and his sister, Eileen Bethke, speak Tuesday at a dedication ceremony in which the Elgin post office on Grove Street was renamed in his honor. Martinez was killed in Afghanistan in April 2012. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

He was the first Elgin resident to lose his life in military action since the U.S. terrorist attacks in 2001. He was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for valor and a Purple Heart and the city recognized him with an honorary street designation near his Elgin home.

U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Schaumburg, sponsored the legislation required to change the post office name to the Cpl. Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building.

"Cpl. Martinez was a brilliant star in the fabric of our lives and his light will continue to shine brightly in our hearts and our minds for years to come," said Krishnamoorthi, one of several speakers Tuesday at the dedication ceremony.

Krishnamoorthi thanked Martinez's widow; his mother, Socorro; and his father, Enrique for sharing "his incredible life and legacy with us," he said.



Marine Cpl. Alex Martinez, an Elgin native, was killed in Afghanistan on April 5, 2012. (Family photo)

Martinez was born and raised in Elgin. He graduated from **Larkin High School** and he was inspired to follow in his father's military footsteps, Krishnamoorthi said. Enrique Martinez was in the Navy Reserve and served in Iraq in 2006.

Alex Martinez was so eager to enlist that he took summer courses so he could graduate early and join the Marines at age 18. Martinez married his high school sweetheart, Julianna, before deploying to Afghanistan.

He had wanted to join the military since he was a child, his sister, Eileen Bethke, said.

"Alex loved being a Marine. Alex was born to be Marine," Bethke said. "Throughout his childhood, he would surround himself playing with things that were Marine-like. He would play with toy soldiers, toy guns, and he would go paintball shooting with my dad."

"Despite his young age, Cpl. Martinez had the quiet reserve of someone who already knew who he was and what he stood for," Krishnamoorthi said. "He balanced that seriousness of purpose with a wonderful sense of humor and a penchant for movie character impressions."



A plaque in the lobby of the downtown Elgin post office identifies the building as being named for Marine Cpl. Alex Martinez, an Elgin native who was killed in Afghanistan in 2012. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

Renaming the post office after Alex will help the "community recognize who he is and remember what he did and the sacrifices he made for this country," Bethke said. "Alex loved this country."

Mayor Dave Kaptain called it "a happy day for the city of Elgin."

"It's not a sad day," Kaptain said. "We're honoring one of our own."

The plaque bearing Martinez's name should serve as a reminder that all leaders have the "obligation to be honest and do the best we can for our community, our family and our friends," he said. "That's what Cpl. Martinez did."



# The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 26  
Number 22

"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 14, 2020

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by District U-46  
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Decline of freedom?  
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## Expense items, bills approved by U-46 board

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved a pair of expenditure items costing \$261,907 at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 5 which was held virtually due to COVID-19 regulations.

Both items were presented and approved that evening, and both will be paid through the education fund.

Included was \$230,580 with Polar Electro, Inc. to purchase 2,093 polar heart rate monitors. The proposal states that "the last two years and students have increasingly chosen to participate in fitness-based courses. This proposal would provide polar heart rate monitors for all students in a fitness-based physical education class," like walking for wellness and functional fitness at district high schools.

Board member Melissa Owens asked if students keep the monitors. Tracey Jakaitis, coordinator of student wellness, said it is "just like a textbook" in which they get checked out at the beginning of the

semester and return it once they are no longer in a fitness-based class.

Jakaitis also said school administrators are "brainstorming plans" to get the monitors to students as schools remain closed.

Also approved was \$31,327 to School Specialty to purchase schools supplies, like glue sticks and stickers to alphabet charts, to give to 1,200 preschool students.

"Early Childhood students require hands-on materials in order to engage in learning. Our current context of distance learning has created an inequity in the materials available for our early learners," the proposal states.

Bruce Phelps, senior business official, said "parents will pick them up" from their child's school.

The board also unanimously approved \$4.8 million in itemized bills.

At its two September meetings, the board approved (7-0 votes) of \$1.1 million in expenditure items including \$704,311 over six education fund proposals. The remaining included \$357,500 split between the education fund and grant funds, paid by the nation's taxpayers, to One Hope United for in-person extended day childcare and \$28,800 in operation and maintenance funds for a pipe insulation project at Elgin High School with Falls Mechanical Insulation, Inc.

The board also unanimously approved of \$26.2 million in itemized bills over the two meetings.

## Village Board approves street sealing contract

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1, trustees voted unanimously in approval of a resolution to authorize a unit price contract with Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC, South Roxana, Illinois, for street restorative seal at a cost of \$53,600.

According to Public Works Director Matt Mann, CRF restorative seal is a proprietary product used for extending the life of asphalt pavements.

The product is a spray applied asphalt emulsion that is covered by fine aggregate to allow traffic within 45 minutes, according to Mann.

"The CRF and fine aggregate penetrate cracks and the pave-

ment surface to help extend the life of the pavement," said Mann.

According to Mann, the excess fine aggregate is swept up and taken to the landfill after a couple of days.

Mann said Corrective Asphalt Materials is the only contractor licensed to apply CRF in the state of Illinois.

"We've used this product with success for about 10 years," Mann said.

The streets to be sealed are Joyce Lane, Linda Lane, Diane Drive, Myrtle Lane, Patricia Parkway, Kimberly Road, Beaver Drive, Country Lane, Concord Drive, Cedarcrest Drive, Chase Court and Holly Court, according to Mann.

## Sabres tennis team beaten by Larkin and Bartlett

By Seth Hancock

Despite inexperience, the Streamwood tennis team has competed throughout the modified, due to COVID-19 restrictions, 2020 season.

The Sabres wrapped up the regular season with a pair of Upstate Eight Conference losses against Larkin on Monday, Oct. 5 at Larkin and against Bartlett on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Streamwood.

The Larkin match, which Streamwood lost 6-1, was competitive up and down the lineup. The Sabres win came by default at No. 4 doubles with Streamwood's Kaleigh Allender and Maryann Soria, both freshmen, recording the win.

At No. 1 singles, junior Kaitlyn Esteban went the distance before suffering a tough loss in three sets (2-6, 6-3, 6-3). Across the lineup, the Sabres competed with only two of the team's 12 set losses being 6-0.

The season has seen some growing pains for the Sabres with no seniors and seven players who were entering only their second season of playing tennis and four coming in with no tennis experience. Sabres coach Daniela Necs said her

team has worked hard, and this year the wins and losses were not the measure of the team's success.

"If I am the one asked how my team has competed this year, I will definitely see behind the match scores and my answer for you is: better than I expected," Necs said. "Throughout the entire season, each one of the girls put their best effort both into practice and during competitions."

The Sabres will now enter the postseason meets with an UEC and sectional meet. The state tournament remains cancelled by the IHSA.

"My biggest goal is to make it out safely and healthy at the end of the season," Necs said. "It has been a challenging time from many aspects for many of us, and I appreciate all the athletes and their families who proved not only to be brave during these times but also to be extremely flexible and adapting to the many changes we had in our schedule and all the rules that were put in place. I am also very thankful to all the students and parents who had to make extra sacrifices and efforts so that they can attend practices and meets."



## Shifting into autumn

As the seasons move from summer to fall, there are normally many village activities for families to enjoy. That practice has been severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions this year but village banners clearly reflect the change.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)





# The Examiner of SOUTH ELGIN



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Committee hears  
subdivision plan  
See ..... Page 5

Guest Seat:  
Decline of freedom?  
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## Village Board approves crack sealing contract

By Frank Muisenga Jr.

A \$24,511 independent contractor agreement with Patriot Pavement Maintenance, Des Plaines, for the 2020 crack sealing program was unanimously ratified by trustees at the Monday, Oct. 5 Village Board meeting.

Director of Public Works Mike Millette said Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers requested quotes on the village's behalf since it seems similar to work such as painting.

"We're asking for a bid waiver with respect to this work in that we received basically getting price quotes, which Baxter did that on our behalf," said Millette. "In the past several years, trying to bid out crack sealing there's a lot of paperwork for such a small return of investment on any potential savings."

According to an email, Behm Pavement Maintenance, Crystal Lake and

SKC Construction Inc., Elgin, provided the two other bids.

"We're trying to hit our budget number, which is generally \$20,000, we're a little bit over," Millette said. "The work we want to do on Sundown, specifically, some grass growing between the gutter flag and the asphalt; we don't want plant life there because it holds water and makes the damage worse."

Millette said the work encompasses mostly the 2017 road program area.

Roads included are Concord, Cornwall, Hancock, Independence, Liberty and Valley Forge avenues; Brookline, Collins and Spring streets; Boston, Cedar, Chatham, Coventry courts; Camden Lane; Medford Drive; and Sundown Road, according to the email.

Millette said the work would likely start the week of Oct. 12.

## U-46 seeks consultant to provide data analysis

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 is asking for \$169,500 to hire a consultant for nine months to do data analysis and hold monthly meetings.

The item was presented at the Oct. 5 meeting, held virtually due to COVID-19 regulations, and will be voted on at the Monday, Oct. 19 meeting. The proposal is with Virtuoso Education Consulting, LLC and will be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through grant funds if approved.

"This relates to the disproportionality of our over identification of black students as being emotionally disturbed," said Superintendent Tony Sanders.

The proposal states: "The district needs assistance from an expert in disproportionality. The goal is for staff to understand and address academic and behavioral challenges prior to

consideration for special education services. Schools will strategically implement processes around restorative practices, positive academic and behavior intervention support, cultural responsiveness, and other aids to increase attendance, decrease behavioral referrals, increase academic data, and empower students to truly fulfill their potential."

Although not yet approved, the district already has started the work according to the proposal. It states the work started on Oct. 6 and will run through June 30, 2021.

The monthly meetings "shall be competed virtually," the proposal states, and other costs will be incurred.

"Other costs or resources (including administrative costs) that are not part of this item, but are needed in order to complete the project," the proposal states.

ard," Millette said. "We also will be adding to this approximately another \$21,000 that was originally part of the resurfacing program, this year, specifically, for the sidewalk that is on the west side of Kingsport Drive as it touches Spring Street."

The sidewalk was removed but the prior contractor said the cost would be charged at a premium since unforeseen work would be required, according to Millette.

"We decided, add it in to this contract which was going to go to bid anyway so we had the market to bear on the bid prices," Millette said.

"It's much needed," said Trustee Greg Lieser in referencing the missing sidewalk.

## Endorsement Jeanne Ives for the 6th Congressional District

America, now more than ever, needs sane public voices and elected officials who are independent thinkers who put principles above party. In the 6th Congressional District for the U.S. House of Representatives, only one candidate fits that bill: Republican candidate **Jeanne Ives** of Wheaton.

**Ives** is seeking to unseat first-term Congressman Sean Casten (D-Downers Grove) who flipped the longtime Republican district in 2018 by beating six-term Congressman Peter Roskam with 53.6 percent of the vote. The district's current configuration had been represented by Republicans since 1949, including 16 terms from Henry Hyde. The 6th is a Republican district, and it now has a principled alternative in 2020 with **Ives'** candidacy.

With the advent of COVID-19, the American people have witnessed the arrogance and conceit that permeates nearly every state capitol and Washington, D.C., as governments have proclaimed supreme authority to deem businesses as either "essential" or "nonessential." Instead of serving the people, our governments—through our elected so-called "leaders" and unelected bureaucrats—seem to think that the people serve them.

In Illinois, the man-child who thinks he's king, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D-Chicago), has marched our state into fascism, telling private businesses that they must enforce his unlawful orders. At the federal level, spending is wildly out of control and, even worse, funds the tyranny of the state dictators. At \$6 trillion in spending and Federal Reserve monetary measures, the CARES Act was the largest spending bill in American history, while the nation's debt sits at \$26.8 trillion and is projected to reach \$46.1 trillion by 2024, according to usdebtclock.org. Most recently, the Centers for Disease Control has effectively declared itself the nation's landlord, thus eliminating any notion of property rights.

Nobody epitomizes this arrogance more than Casten, whose hubris was recently on full display with just two words: "small genitals." Those are the words he used to describe those who support our Second Amendment right to gun ownership. Such a blithe attitude towards one God-given right must be expected to be taken for all of our God-given rights. That means your First Amendment right to religion, free speech and a free press or your rights to life, liberty, property and due process, among others in the Bill of Rights, are subject to the whims of feckless politicians like Casten.

The question must be asked: What would lead someone to desire power and control over other people? One must wonder if it's Casten who may be overcompensating for something.

Such hubris is enough to vote against a candidate, but the people of the 6th Congressional District also have a candidate to vote for.

**Ives** has dedicated her life to public service with a fiercely independent track record. She is a 1987 graduate of West Point and a United States Army veteran. **Ives**, who has been a 27-year resident of Wheaton, with her husband Paul and five kids, served on the Wheaton City Council before serving three terms as a State Representative. All along, she has kept the taxpayers first in mind.

Leaving her safe seat in Springfield, Ives showed her independence in 2018 when she chose to take on her party's sitting governor in the primary. Gov. Bruce Rauner had betrayed the Republican base throughout his tenure, and with a last-minute campaign and being vastly outspent **Ives** nearly upset the billionaire Rauner—losing by just a 51.5 percent to 48.5 percent margin.

**Ives'** priority in Springfield was seeking real pension reform, tax reform, ethics reform, more transparency from government, and school choice for the parents and children of Illinois. Ives also refused taxpayer funded benefits, both health care and pension.

In Washington, D.C., Ives has stated that her "highest priority" will be ensuring the protection of the Americans' God-given rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. **Ives** wants to protect the health insurance and healthcare freedom of Americans; she wants to lower the cost to do business and create a strong climate for job creation through tax and regulatory reform and she wants to "reduce federal spending over time."

On foreign policy, **Ives** stands for "strong Armed Services, strong alliances, light footprints and rule of law on our borders." **Ives** not only has principles but also a personal stake in foreign policy with two sons currently serving in the military. Thus, we can be assured that she will take a thoughtful approach to questions of foreign intervention.

**Ives** is the right candidate at the right time for the 6th Congressional District, and **Ives is endorsed.**



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## New ‘Hunt Illinois’ website launch announced by IDNR

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has announced the launch of the new “Hunt Illinois” website, an online resource for Illinois residents and visitors to the state interested in hunting in the Land of Lincoln.

The website includes information on Illinois hunting seasons, places to hunt, licenses and permits needed, hunting and trapping regulations, hunter harvest reporting, hunter safe-

See Hunt, pg. 9



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# Pet of the Week



## Feline buddies need a new home

Kane County Animal Control has two, 2-year-old male felines that need to be adopted together. Their names are Percy and Buzz and they were owner-surrendered. Percy is an orange tabby and Buzz is gray and white. Both are domestic shorthair cats. Each are very laid-back that enjoy just laying around and snuggling up to each other. Both boys are microchipped.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, KCAC is asking any potential adopters to call ahead and make an appointment to visit with any one of KCAC's adoptable animals. All Kane County Animal Control adoptable cats and dogs are spayed/neutered, microchipped, up-to-date on all vaccines including rabies. They are tested for feline leukemia/FIV and heartworm. The adoption fee for dogs is \$200 and \$100 for cats. Adoption of two dogs is \$300 and it is \$150 to adopt two cats.

For more information regarding Kane County Animal Control's adoptable animals and for an adoption application, please go to [www.kanecountypets.org](http://www.kanecountypets.org).

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

# 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 online 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 online 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 lo-

cally 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).

Kane County Treasurer, David J. Rickert, has announced that the annual property tax sale will be delayed.

This sale was originally scheduled for Oct. 26. This year, concerns over protecting the legal interests of sale participants and property owners led the States Attorney's office to advise delaying the sale pending further guidance from the Illinois Department of Revenue. A new date has not been announced.

An additional concern of Rickert was ensuring that property owners struggling to meet this obligation due to COVID 19 were afforded additional time to pay.

Taxpayers will still be subject to a state required penalty charge of 1.5 percent per month until payment is made; however, tax sale costs and fees will be avoided until a sale can take place.

For additional information please contact the Treasurer's office at 630-232-3565.

# Kane County elects to delay annual property tax sale

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