

---The Daily Herald---

Sep. 09, 2022

New South Elgin clubhouse for Boys & Girls Club nears completion

By: Rick West



**The Boys & Girls Club of Elgin hopes to open its new South Elgin clubhouse for programs in early 2023.
Rick West | Staff Photographer**

The new South Elgin clubhouse for the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin is starting to look a lot more like welcoming place for kids and a lot less like a dingy former public works building.

Gone are the bare cinder-block walls, oil-stained concrete floors, dim fluorescent lighting and faint smell of truck exhaust. In are bright new rooms with colorful furniture, a gym without its first sneaker scuff, and a new director waiting to welcome kids early next year.

"I love that we're starting with a blank slate and we have the opportunity to reach out to so many kids and families in this area," said Casey Puehler, the new South Elgin-area director.

The roughly 20,000-square-foot facility at 735 Martin Drive will provide daily education, meals and activities for about 250 children from kindergarten through eighth grade.

While the occupancy day is "kind of in flux right now," Puehler said, the group hopes to begin programming in January. Early enrollment begins Friday.

Those programs are based on the Boys & Girls Club pillars of social-emotional learning, education, social justice and leadership, workforce development and arts.

From 2 to 7 p.m. each day, kids from the four **South Elgin elementary schools** and **Kenyon Woods Middle School** will be able to take advantage of the new facility. The building has a STEM lab, an art room, a sensory room, study spaces for homework and a separate social and study area for teens.

"The goal is that kids get a diverse experience," Puehler said. "They get a little bit of everything, and there's some structure to it."

And knowing that kids will be kids and will want to play video games, those are available as well. But kids will have to work for it using "exerbikes," which make them pedal a stationary bike to play the game.

"They're going to play video games regardless, so this way, you keep them active while doing it," Puehler said.

Until they're ready to open, Puehler, whose background includes stints with Big Brothers Big Sisters and AmeriCorps, is getting to know the principals at area schools and giving tours of the new facility.

"We're just trying to get people in the door and get them excited about what we're working on," Puehler said.

They're also still trying to fill the building with the needed supplies for all that programming. They're working with businesses, churches and local groups to collect donations and have

created an Amazon [wish list](#) with requests ranging from Play-Doh and Post-its to board games to basketballs.

A November grand opening is planned for the project that has been several years in the making.

Puehler said she's glad to be a part of it.

"I just really appreciate the mission of creating a safe environment for kids where they can have fun while being able to develop relationships with peers."

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'We are here': Hundreds of cars expected for Hispanic Heritage Caravana in Elgin

By: Rick West

Elgin streets will be awash with rippling green, white and red Mexican flags hanging from the windows of hundreds of cars expected to take part next weekend in the third annual Hispanic Heritage Caravana.

The event, which organizers say is aimed at uniting the Hispanic community in Elgin, will stage at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at **Elgin High School**. The caravan will head out at 2 p.m. and wend through numerous Elgin neighborhoods on a five-mile route that ends at Lords Park.

Event organizer Anthony Ortiz said the car parade, which used to take place in Elgin in the early 2000s, was revived in 2020 as a safe way of celebrating Mexican Independence Day during the pandemic.

They arranged the initial event with the cooperation of the Elgin Police Department, expecting only 20 to 30 cars to participate.

They ended up with 60. Last year the number swelled to well over 150.

"We're probably going to triple the number again this year," Ortiz said.

The Mexican Independence Day holiday celebrates the moment when Father Hidalgo, a priest and leader, called for Mexico's independence from Spain on Sept. 16, 1810.

Ortiz said that while the event is a celebration, it has other goals as well.

"Our goal is to let the city know that the Hispanic community is about 45 to 50% and that we have a voice," Ortiz said. "It seems like the Hispanic community gets forgotten about, even though we're half the population of Elgin."

Ortiz cited the loss of the city's Cinco de Mayo event and a parade that used to be held downtown.

"We can't count on other people to represent us or embrace our culture," he said. "We have to do it ourselves and let people know that we are here."

The event is organized by Friends of Masons, a nonprofit offshoot of the Elgin Masonic Lodge. Through sponsorships, the group collected more than enough money to cover the roughly \$3,800 in required permits and will donate the leftover funds to charitable organizations like Food For Greater Elgin.

Food vendors will be on hand for those who want to stick around after the parade. Plans to host a carnival afterward didn't come to fruition this year, but Ortiz hopes to add one next year.

"I just think we need more awareness of our culture," Ortiz said. "Every year, we plan to make this bigger and better."

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Sep. 09, 2022

Onside kicks help Streamwood topple Elgin

By: Dave Hess

After opening the 2022 season with Upstate Eight Conference gut-wrenching losses to **Bartlett** and **Larkin** by a total of 10 points, **Streamwood** coach Keith McMaster dug deep into his bag of tricks hoping to produce the **Sabres**' first win of the season.

Mission accomplished.

Recovering an onside kick by kicker Toviell Peter Parayno, **Streamwood** had the ball on its own 42-yard line to start the initial drive of the game.

The drive lasted one play as Jaiden Thomas rambled 58 yards for a touchdown with only 4 seconds elapsed. Thomas converted the 2-point conversion and the **Sabres** led 8-0.

Thomas, who ran for 273 yards on 37 carries and scored 4 touchdowns, led the **Sabres** to a 40-28 win over **Elgin** at Memorial Stadium in UEC action Friday night.

"We had two really tough losses and the onside kick and the early touchdown set the tone and the dynamic for the game," said Thomas. "It gave us early momentum. We work on the onside kick and special teams for 30 minutes every day. My line was great and the other backs blocked well for me."

McMaster praised Thomas's effort.

"Jaiden was a man and was impressive tonight," said the **Streamwood** coach. "He did a whale of a job. I was proud of the effort. We didn't finish in the first two games. The defense was

great when it had to. We showed a lot of poise when **Elgin** made a comeback. It was a great win."

After Thomas's early score, the **Sabres** (1-2, 1-2) recovered the ensuing onside kick.

John Ray scored from 4 yards out and **Streamwood** led 14-0 with 8:29 left in the first quarter.

Thomas scored 2 more touchdowns in the first half and the **Sabres** led 28-6 at intermission.

The host **Maroons** (1-2, 1-2) didn't quit.

Elgin scored two unanswered touchdowns in the third quarter.

Quarterback Jim Syrek scored from 8 yards out and followed with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Nathan Aquino.

Streamwood held a narrow 28-20 lead after three quarters. The **Maroons** couldn't get any closer.

Syrek completed 13-of-23 passes for 173 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Streamwood recovered 5 onside kicks in the game.

---Chicago Tribune---

Sep. 10, 2022

Mr. Everything: All-purpose Koleman Salyers scores all 3 TDs as Bartlett holds off East Aurora. 'The football field is my home.'

By: Paul Johnson



Bartlett's Koleman Salyers celebrates with his teammates one of his three touchdowns against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

It feels like the only thing Bartlett senior Koleman Salyers doesn't do is paint the lines on the field and cook the hot dogs on game day.

He's got quite a list of things to do.

"I'm the punt returner," Salyers said. "I'm on kick return. I was the punter. I'm the running back, the outside linebacker. I guess I'm on everything."

Salyers was on everything once again Friday night — and Bartlett needed every bit of it.



Bartlett's Koleman Salyers (7) runs in for a touchdown against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

He scored all three touchdowns as the Hawks held on for a 21-14 Upstate Eight Conference victory over East Aurora.

Besides rushing for 88 yards and TDs of 16 and 8 yards on 17 carries, Salyers also caught two passes for 25 yards, including a 13-yard TD for Bartlett (3-0, 3-0).

On top of that, he intercepted a pass and returned it 32 yards.

“He is 5-foot-8, 160 pounds and he plays like he’s 6-foot-2, 225,” Bartlett coach Milan Vuckovich said. “He is literally the heart and soul of the team.

“He’s the captain. He was, by far, the No. 1 voted captain on the team. As soon as I got the job he was like, ‘I got you ‘Vuck.’ I’ll be here for you.’”

Salyers’ first TD, the 16-yard run, came with 4:18 left in the first quarter.

East Aurora (1-2, 1-2) countered immediately, however, as [Kenneth Cooley](#) scooped up the ensuing kickoff on a bounce and returned it 90 yards to force a 7-7 tie.



Bartlett's Malcolm Babers (22) gains extra yardage against East Aurora during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

“I was a special teams coordinator,” Vuckovich said. “When that happens, that just rips your heart out.”

Bartlett responded, though, with an 11-play, 67-yard drive that was capped by Salyers' 8-yard TD run.

After East Aurora turned the ball over on downs, Bartlett struck again, this time on a 13-yard TD pass from Matthew Teruel to Salyers with 34 seconds left in the first half.

It pushed the lead to 21-7.

"That was massive," Vuckovich said. "I literally said right when we got the ball back, 'We have to score going into halftime.' That changed the game. That was the winning touchdown."

Salyers said he has become a bigger part of the passing game this season.

"We're trying to get our new junior quarterback more involved," Salyers said.



East Aurora's Kenneth Cooley (3) scores a touchdown against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

East Aurora hung around, however.

The Tomcats pitched a shutout defensively in the second half. A 22-yard TD run from [Michael Moravek](#) with 5:10 left in the third quarter cut the deficit to 21-14.

They just weren't able to get back into the end zone the rest of the game.

"I was happy with the way we played in the second half," [East Aurora coach Nick Kukuc](#) said. "One thing that's different about our team this year — especially with last week, our overtime win (over Elgin) — we have guys that believe to the very end."

“We don’t let it hurt until the last whistle goes.”

[Ralph Clark](#) led East Aurora with 68 yards on 13 carries. Dontain Williams added 71 yards on 18 carries for Bartlett.

Vuckovich lamented how the Hawks couldn’t put East Aurora away in the second half.



East Aurora's Michael Moravek (12) battles for extra yards against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. (Mark Black / The Beacon-News)

“They completely shut us down in the second half,” Vuckovich said. “That’s on me. I have to get better at what we do offensively to have the adjustment to their adjustment.

“We have to shore that stuff up on the O-line, then we’ll be OK. The run game is there.”

Salyers, meanwhile, said he’s fine with wearing as many hats as his team needs.

“I’m pretty comfortable with it,” Salyers said. “I started both ways last year, too.

“The football field is my home. I love it out here. It’s what I live for — Friday night lights.”