

U-46 again pursuing largest allowable levy

By Seth Hancock

Śchool District U-46 plans to continue seeking the largest property tax levy increase allowed under the law with a levy proposal nearly \$10 million higher than last year.

The determination of tax levy as well as a resolution regarding the levy was presented to the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 21 and the board is expected to vote on the levy on Nov. 4. There was no discussion from the board.

This is the first step for another U-46 property tax hike while a certificate of tax levy and another tax levy resolution will be presented on Nov. 18 and voted on at the Dec. 16 meeting.

The proposed 2019 levy is set at \$288.5 million, up from the \$278.8 million in the 2018 extension, but the district expects \$285.6 million. The proposed property tax increase represents a 3.5 percent hike, and the expected increase is 2.4 percent higher.

Additionally, the district expects a \$42.3 million levy on debt services and public building commission leases for 2019 which is a 0.39 per-

cent increase from the \$42.2 million extended in 2018, not "a decrease of 0.39 [percent] over the previous year" as is stated in the resolution.

That brings the total property tax levy proposal \$330.8 million, a 3.1 percent increase from the total 2018 extension of \$320.9 million.

Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, said the district can increase property taxes by the Consumer Price Index, which is 1.9 percent, as well as new construction.

The Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of properties within U-46 was \$4.8 billion in 2018 and the district's levy proposal is based on an assumption of the EAV increasing to \$5.6 billion, but the district expects it to be \$5.4 billion.

The levy is a defensive levy according to Burnidge as the district seeks to receive the most taxpayer dollars it legally can from property owners in the district as it feels it is "entitled."

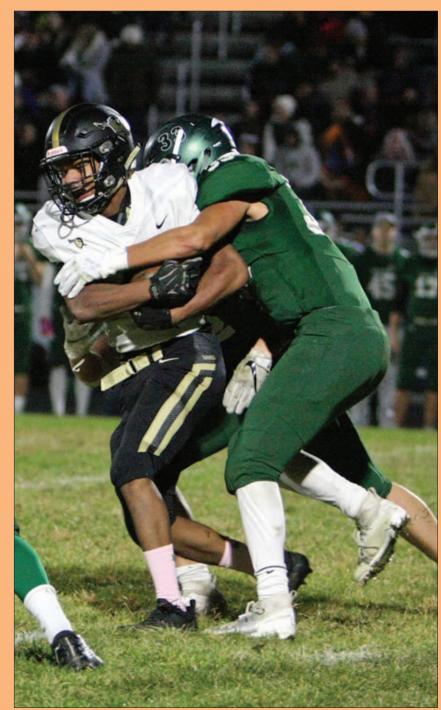
"EAV is not known until approximately April for Kane and DuPage Counties and July for Cook," the determination proposal states. "Since levies are filed by the last Tuesday in December of the previous year, it is still necessary to defensive levy to insure receipt of all property tax dollars to which the District is entitled."

The proposal adds: "Calculating both the maximum allowable levy (MAL) and the final effective tax rate is not done until late summer."

As reported by *The Examiner* during the Fiscal Year 2020 budget discussions, U-46 could theoretically keep the property tax levy flat and still significantly increase spending.

The budget was approved with unanimous support and no debate from the board in September. It increased spending by \$36.2 million to \$594.3 million total, this despite the district expecting to continue seeing a sizable decline in enrollment which projects a loss of 950 students to 37,444 total this year.

That budget estimated \$3.1 million in additional property tax revenue. If the levy were kept flat, the district could have still increased spending by \$33.1 million.



District U-46 approves lawsuit settlement deal

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of a settlement agreement with the family of Henry Sembdner who suffered a brain injury at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin after a beating by a classmate in 2017.

The approval was among several items voted on, all by 7-0 votes, at the board meeting on Monday, Oct. 21.

Sembdner's family filed a lawsuit in 2017. No details of the settlement have been released, and there was no discussion by the board prior to the vote.

Also approved was a contract renewal with Workforce Software costing \$93,960, which will be paid through the education fund. The contract covers an annual license and rental of time clocks which track em-

ployees work hours.

According to the proposal, the contract will run between Dec. 1, through Nov. 30, 2020. The contract will replace older time clocks that were purchased by the district in 2013.

Board member John Devereux noted that it was listed as contract renewal but the proposal stated there was a "new contract."

Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, said the new contract is for "the new time clocks, the actual hardware," but the licensing for the Workforce software is a renewal.

Also approved was a personnel report and workers' compensation cases as well as \$10.2 million in itemized bills. The report included four workers' compensation cases totaling \$62,575, a \$30,003 case to a para educator being the largest.

Halloween Safety Tips

The Village of Streamwood has set Halloween trick-or-treat hours as 3 until 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31. Residents are encouraged to turn on their front porch lights if they want to pass out candy on Halloween.

The Streamwood Police Department encourages everyone to have a safe and fun Halloween by following these important safety tips while trick-ortreating:



Children are reminded to bring their Halloween candy home and have their parents properly inspect the candy before eating it.

A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children.

Older children should walk together with a large group of friends and stay in their immediate neighborhoods.

Children should always walk on the sidewalk and should avoid trick-or-treating near busy streets.

Motorists are reminded to drive carefully in residential neighborhoods and watch out for children crossing the street.

Children should carry glow sticks or

flashlights when trick-or-treating during the evening hours and only go to homes where the porch light is turned on.

Children should never enter a residence or a vehicle to accept Halloween candy.

The police department will also be conducting extra patrols in the residential neighborhoods on Halloween. Parents and children are encouraged to immediately dial 9-1-1 if they observe any suspicious activity while trick-or-treating.



Being subdued

Streamwood's Sirrion Dixon dragged Bartlett's Abel Serrato a few yards before being halted at Bartlett on Friday, Oct. 25. For story and more photos see page 4. (Examiner photo by Caroline Hollis)

Committee discusses potential new restaurant

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees discussed a potential new restaurant, 120 Live, at its committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Roberta Grill, planning and development services director, wrote in a memo that the petitioners, Mary Ann Bollman and Dana Bollman, are planning a sit down restaurant off of West Bartlett Avenue that would include serving alcohol and live entertainment.

"The Site Plan includes creating a fenced outdoor seating area on the west side of the existing building," Grill wrote. "The interior of the building will undergo a substantial remodel which will include the creation of an entertainment area which will host special events such as karaoke."

The site is on the north side of West Bartlett Avenue between Oak and Eastern avenues. Surrounding the property is commercial to the north, east and west and railroad tracks to the south.

The restaurant would be in an existing building that is owned and operated by the Bollman's who were seeking a site plan review, special use permits and variations.

Special use permits would include those to allow a restaurant with alcohol service, outdoor seating and live entertainment indoors and outdoors. Variations would include reducing the number of required off-street parking spaces, reduction in required open space and an increase in the maximum wall sign square footage.

The planned hours of operation would be 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. on weeknights and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends. Staff recommended limiting hours for outdoor entertainment to 11 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Regarding parking, Grill stated the petitioners plan to maintain three offstreet spaces while ordinance requirements would be for 46 spaces. However, Grill said the "anticipated parking demand could be accommodated offsite."

Trustee Raymond Deyne said "there is sufficient parking" in the downtown area and Grill said there's 700 available spaces in downtown after 6 p.m.

Trustee Aaron Reinke asked if it was possible to make those spaces available earlier to around 5 p.m. Grill said "we have been looking into that," and they possibly could make them available earlier than 5 p.m.

The petitioners are seeking a 99 percent reduction in open spaces but have "proposed to maintain large planters on the patio, planters along the Oneida Avenue lot line, and the existing landscaping between the new patio area and the West Bartlett Avenue sidewalk," according to Grill.

The maximum allowed signage space is 22 square feet on front façade and 27 square feet on the rear façade. The petitioners are requesting 60 square feet of wall signage on the front façade.

Overall, Village President Kevin Wallace liked the plan stating: "I think that outdoor area is going to be fantastic. We don't have really anything like that right now.... I think that's going to be a really neat place to go visit."

The proposal will move to the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for further review and public hearings.

District U-46 Board to vote on pair of proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on a pair of expenditure items totaling \$329,303 at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Nov. 4. The items were presented on Oct. 21.

Included is a \$188,239 expenditure, to come from the education fund, if approved, with Connection Public Sector for three years of anti-virus software.

The proposal states: "Kaspersky is the current anti-virus software for the district. Features include real-time protection, detection and removal of viruses, trojans, worms, spyware, adware, keyloggers, malicious tools and auto-dialers, as well as detection and removal of rootkits. It also includes instantaneous automatic updates via the Kaspersky Security Network service." Also set for a vote is a \$141,064 proposal, to come from the operations and maintenance fund, if approved, for snow removal services. The proposal is split between three contractors: Valley Enterprises (\$80,580), KCG Management (\$38,484) and TNT Landscape Construction (\$22,000).

best interest of the district to have multiple contractors with fewer zones per contractor due to issues in the past with one contractor having a large portion of the work."

It adds: "On two occasions when school was called due to weather conditions they pulled off our schools and would not come back until just before school opened again, leaving us to try and clear those facilities in-house. They did return and do the work that remained and the quality was subpar. They were written up on both occasions. Last year when it snowed at the end of April they refused to come back out stating that they were done for the year and yet they were observed clearing at other corporate accounts." Board member Melissa Owens noted that KCG came in with the lowest bid on every region with a total cost of \$109,194, nearly \$32,000 less than the presented contract. She said she understood why the district wants several contractors but asked how the district determined who got what region considering some regions awarded to Valley were "considerably higher" than KCG, one being over \$10,000 more. Sheila Downs, director of plant operations, said that "although cost is one of the variables that we considered, there's a lot of factors that go into that." Downs said "Valley is a much bigger outfit, so that was one consideration," while geography was also a consideration. She said the district did not want one contractor servicing more than two high schools.





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The contract will last for three years with a possible three-year extension.

U-46 split up the district into 10 regions and previously had one contractor for seven zones which included 23 schools which led to issues.

"The additional snow removal services are required to assure that the schools are cleared in a timely manner," the proposal states. "These services have been contracted multiple times and are being rebid. It is in the

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Fire Dist.Board starts annul budgetary process

By Joe Hyland

At the Wednesday, Oct. 16 meeting of the Bartlett Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, accountant James Howard outlined the process for the district's annual tax levy. He reminded trustees that there are limits.

"We can ask for whatever we want, but the CPI (Consumer Price Index) plus new growth will always pull us back," said Howard, noting that this year's increase in the CPI of 1.9 percent coupled with a 0.20 percent increase in growth limits the levy increases to a total of 2.1 percent.. Howard said that this represents about 7 percent of the typical homeowner's property tax bill. The district's only other steady revenue stream is ambulance fees.

Chief Bill Gabrenya told trustees that the proposed budget is balanced.

"Our expenditures are aligned with our available resources," Gabrenya said, explaining that the \$9.3 million budget is broken into \$1.3 million for capital and \$8 million for operations.

Gabrenya went on to say that line item budgets only increased by \$74,000, mainly in areas related to training. This, however, is what he termed as a "place holder" item until the district can decide exactly what will be needed in this area. "Training our personnel is one of the most important thing we can do," Gabrenya said,

Gabrenya noted that one type of training the department will be undertaking is active shooter training in conjunction with the Bartlett Police Department. To that end, the department will be purchasing nine ballistic vests.

Gabrenya said that the department will be replacing four vehicles including two engines and a tender. These had received failing grades under a National Public Works Association standard.

Howard then reviewed the history of the district's fund balances. He said that the district had been unable to replenish what they were using prior to the referendum.

"Again, the idea was to rebuild," Howard said of the reasoning behind the referendum.

Howard said the district would be consolidating some of the line items in the upcoming budget, which he said would show a 1.95 percent increase in total, excluding internal transfers. He said the district should receive an additional \$127,000 in property tax revenues based on the CPI. He said he was estimating a 7.9 percent increase in expenditures across all line items. He said that the district was planning

Village Girl Scout Troop to collect, donate candy

According to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Troop #1618 in Bartlett will be collecting unwanted Halloween candy between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4 and Tuesday, Nov. 5 on the corner of North and Eastern avenues just across the street from Bartlett Elementary School where the girls are currently fourth grade students. This collection event is in addition to the girls trick-or-treating for a soldier as they head out on Halloween to not only collect treats for themselves but also for those who serve.

All collected candy will be sent to U.S. service members deployed overseas, and hand delivered to veterans and first responders serving in their local communities. Each care package that is shipped includes a handful of candy and represents a warm memory from home as well as the candy can be used as a goodwill gesture to bond with the local children. Last year 167 pounds of candy was collected from the community at this event and shipped overseas to deployed soldiers! Anyone interested in donating unwanted or leftover candy can bring it to the corner during the above hours.

Americans spend an estimated \$2.5 billion on a whopping 600 million pounds of Halloween candy each year. In 2018, more than 440,000 pounds of candy was donated to Operation Gratitude and distributed to America's heroes in signature Operation Gratitude care packages and local deliveries around the country.

"Operation Gratitude's mission is to thank all who serve, forging strong bonds between grateful Americans and the Heroes who serve and protect them," said Lt. Col. Kevin Schmiegel, USMC (Retired) and CEO of Operation Gratitude. "The Halloween Candy Give-Back Program provides every American child the opportunity to learn about service, sacrifice and generosity."

Candy and hand-written thank you letters for deployed service members, veterans, and first responders will be collected in front of the Bartlett Log Cabin on Monday, Nov. 4 and Tuesday Nov. 5 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.operationgratitude.com/expres s-your-thanks/halloween-candy to learn more. to fund some of the capital projects that had been deferred due to a lack of funds prior to passage of the referendum.

"All capital expenditures would be paid from reserves," Howard said.

"Right now we have no additional debt."

Howard summarized his report by saying he was projecting a \$1.1 million operating surplus for the coming fiscal year.

Park Board provided with department report

By Joe Hyland

Superintendent of Recreation Kim Dasbach reminded the Bartlett Park District Board of Commissioner that it was now "everyone's favorite time of year," namely time for the recreation department's annual report.

Dasbach lead off by telling commissioners that the department's activities were not just limited to recreation.

"The recreation department continues to be active within the community," said Dasbach.

Dasbach then reviewed the department's staff numbers, noting that this also included a considerable number of volunteers in the form of youth sport coaches.

"We do have a lot of volunteers that coach multiple teams," Dasbach said, reporting that one man coached seven different teams.

Dasbach said that the department had instituted 58 new programs, using Constant Contact and social media to get the word out.

"We do have nine Facebook pages," Dasbach said, also reporting that the park district's website has had over 346,000 page views between April 30 and Oct. 17. She did note that this did not represent unique website visits as a single visit might include several page views.

Commissioner Diana Gunsteen

asked how that compared to the year before. Dasbach said they didn't have that information at present. Gunsteen suggested that the department should start keeping track of that going forward.

"That would be good information to have," Gunsteen said.

Dasbach also reported that the open gym program came back after a slow prior year. She said that the department is at 60 percent of its budgeted revenue and 33 percent of expenses at five months into its fiscal year, and was on track to meet budgeted figures.

Dasbach said that several programs had shown increases in participation and that there had been an increase in fall soccer participation especially at younger age brackets. A couple of programs, however, had been exceptional.

"Our after school program has exploded this year," Dasbach said. "We've been very busy over there."

Dasbach also said that overall summer program registrations were nearly 300 higher than last year.

Dasbach did have one piece of bad news. That was the upcoming increase in the minimum wage.

"This is going to have a large impact on our recreation program," Dasbach said.

Hawks soccer blanked by Hilltoppers at regional

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett soccer team was unable to get its offense going as the No. 11 Hawks fell 2-0 to No. 6 Glenbard West in the Conant Regional semifinals on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

The loss made it 160 minutes of scoreless soccer against Glenbard West as the Hawks finished in a 0-0 tie earlier this season. In the rematch, it took over 30 minutes for either team to break up the shutout when Glenbard West scored in the final 10 minutes of the first half.

The score went to 2-0 early in the second half. Bartlett had its best scoring chances shortly after with a strong shot on goal by Cesar Palomares while senior Mauricio Vigil had a solid chance as well. "We didn't have the same spark that made us competitive all year," said Bartlett coach Vince Revak. "We've come from behind several times this season, but we never looked fluid or dangerous in this game. Maybe it was nerves, maybe it was fatigue from a long year, but it was unfortunate that we couldn't capitalize on all of our hard work and play like we had against most teams this year." Bartlett ends the season 8-6-8 overall. Revak called his seniors the "heart of our team" which comprised the bulk of his roster, but he also noted there is a lot of young talent returning. This will be a tough class to lose," Revak said. "We have a lot of leaders and contributors in this group, and they're all exceptional young men. They've really been the catalyst for our best season in years."

the makeup of the majority of this team, but we do have some exciting young players coming through the ranks, including some sophomores that earned some significant playing time this year. Our team will look very different next year, but we know we'll have a number of players that will be able to lead and teach our newer players."

The Hawks seniors include Francesco Espana, Hernan Garcia, Nicolas Gomez, Sebastian Gonzalez, Kamil Jarzabek, Connor Medendorp, Amine Medmoun, Raj Parikh, Ethan Sproule, Jeremy Taylor, Craig Vargas



Girl Scout Troop #1618 collecting Halloween candy.

(Courtesy photo)

Revak added: "Our senior class was

and Zander Zamora.

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list of suspects is constantly changing. Terror and suspense explode as it all comes to a terrifying shocking end. Previously self published books include **Captured Pearl** and **One Size Fits Most**.

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Press Clippings 10/30/19 ---Daily Herald---10/30/2019 Students petition for holiday after Halloween; U-46 CEO sugarcoats his reply

By: Eric Peterson

Tony Sanders @TonySandersU46 - 14h I particularly enjoyed replying to the Halloween petition using candy names. Tony Sanders @TonySandersU46 - 14h Replying to @babyygirl_em and @bluetrashcan03 In honor of your petition, I will respond using candy names. You make me Snicker. You must think I'm one of the Dum Dums or maybe one of the Nerds. Take 5 and think about this. I'd be giving you a day Now & Later given the winter forecast. Sorry, but I'm a Milk Dud. Q 7 0 35 11 2 C.

Elgin Area School District U-46 Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders responds on Twitter to a petition for the district to cancel classes the day after Halloween.

Several suburban school districts are among those targeted by a <u>nationwide wave of</u> <u>largely tongue-in-cheek petitions on change.org</u> to have classes canceled the day after Halloween due to the anticipated exhaustion of partied-out students.

The petition for Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 was posted by Ryan Burton, who wrote "School after Halloween is very inconvenient." More than 4,600 people had signed the petition as of Tuesday afternoon.

District 211 officials declined to comment on the day-off request.

But a similar petition for Elgin Area School District U-46 received a direct response on social media from district Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders that sticks to the spirit of the request.

"In honor of your petition, I will respond using candy names," Sanders posted. "You make me Snicker. You must think I'm one of the Dum Dums or maybe one of the Nerds. Take 5 and think about this. I'd be giving you a day Now & Later given the winter forecast. Sorry, but I'm a Milk Dud."

Among more than 5,700 responses on the U-46 petition, Haley Maguire posted, "i hope the nurse is ready for 400+ kids coming in w stomachaches and puking everywhere if we got school:)"

Lismari Vargas asked, "We don't have school on other holidays so why not this one?"

Adriana Lebensztejn declared: "Everybody will be high on SUGAR!!!"

Other suburban districts named in petitions include Cary Elementary District 26, Naperville Unit District 203, Geneva Unit District 304, Huntley Unit District 158, Libertyville-Vernon Hills High School District 128, Mundelein High School District 120 and West Aurora Unit District 129.

Officials from districts 203 and 304 also did not respond to requests for comment Thursday. District 120 Public Information Officer Ron Girard said administrators were unaware of the petition.

Given the lack of evidence that any district is treating the requests any more seriously than Sanders, the biggest question is whether the hundreds of petitions from across the country will significantly lower the success rate of <u>change.org</u>.

Also unclear is the possibility of future online referendums on snow days, homework assignments and Monday classes.

For many Halloween is not just for children

alloween is coming and witches will be after you." These are some words from a song we sang in kindergarten decades ago which was great fun and made us excited for trick-or-treating. What about when you're an adult? Should you still indulge is such silliness by dressing up in some goofy getup trying to scare the neighborhood kids who come to your door begging for candy and causing them nightmares? Of course you should dress in any goofy looking outfit you put together and come up with some contraption making crazy sounds to scare everyone. Why not feel like a kid again and run to the store buying gobs of candy that will probably cause a lot of cavities but hey, so what? Halloween is coming and comes once a year and how fun is that?

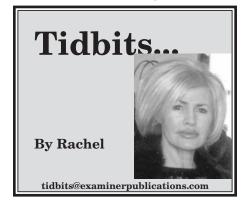
Most stores began loading up on candy and decorations since early July making kids wish Halloween would arrive sooner rather than later. What about all the spooky decorations that have been patiently waiting to be dug out of boxes and dispersed across the lawn and in the windows that make October a month to celebrate witches, ghosts, goblins, vampires and monsters of all shapes and sizes? Then there are the costumes to go through so you can be ready to lurk by the front door watching for the wee ones to ring your doorbell yelling trick-or-treat! The doorbell will finally ring and you will slowly open the door while those little ghosts and goblins are waiting with bated breath holding out their small bags for you to fill them with mouth-watering candy; however, that's after they yell trick-or-treat! Of course, you will happily fill up their bags with treats and wait for the next group of munchkins to ring your bell.

This will go on for several hours until dawn becomes night and then the wee ones go home with their tightly held booty. Soon after, some of your silly, aging friends who are still children at heart will come ringing your bell even though your porch light is turned off, but isn't that what Halloween is all about? Having friends come to your door dressed in silly costumes and sharing good times until the early hours of the morning makes Halloween a fun night for the adults too.

Yes, every year many of us look forward to this fun and spooky day Oct. 31 and enjoy the celebration of Halloween. Once the costumes are off and the tummies are aching, heads hit their pillows and sleep usually comes quickly. Then the next day we store away all of the ghosts, goblins, witches and monsters to keep them safe and ready for next Halloween and yes, we then begin planning for our next exciting holiday. Of course, those holiday decorations have also been on display in most stores since the beginning of July. While we love to fill our carts with all the holiday goodies we know that first we need to rush downstairs and dig out boxes filled with more stuff. It is now time to decorate for the winter holidays which is fun but also a ton of work. Instead of orange and black spiders, we will be first thinking about turkey and then putting out the red, green and blue decorations and a lot of sparkling lights. We will hope for warmer weather until those outdoor items are secure in the yard and attached to the house. Once done, the snow can fly and we can celebrate once again!

ture food and entertainment from a wide variety of ethnicities and cultures.

* * * * * * The Tri-Village Garden Club of Bartlett, Hanover Park and Streamwood will host Bill Karges, a natural-



ist from the Pioneer Garden Center of Villa Park on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Poplar Creek Public Library at 1405 S. Park, Streamwood, at 6:30 p.m. Karges will be demonstrating how to force bulbs during the upcoming winter season for indoor floral beauty. For additional information, please contact Wally Groble 497-1958 or Sandy Swenson 837-0281 or visit their website at www.trivillagegardenclub.org. * * * * *

Take time to give back to your local community by joining the Streamwood Woman's Club. Enjoy fellowship with members who work on local philanthropic projects to help the community become a better place to live. They meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month, September through May, at the Streamwood Police Station. Membership is open to any woman who is 18 years and older. Not restricted to Streamwood residents. Contact Anita at 247-2359 for more information.

The Tri-Village Garden Club of Bartlett, Hanover Park and Streamwood holds general meetings at the Poplar Creek Public Library at 1405 S. Park, Streamwood, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month from February through November. For additional information, please contact Wally Groble at 497-1958 or Sandy Swenson at 837-0281 or visit the web site at www.trivillagegardenclub.org.

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In the days before the American Revolution, patriots would gather in local taverns to discuss the issues of the day and consider remedies to their grievances. Continuing on this tradition, West Suburban Patriots invites you to Patriots' Pub. This is a casual get together with no guest speaker or structured program, just an opportunity to gather with like-minded citizens. Cash bar and pub food available for purchase. Patriot's Pub Nights will be held every other Tuesday at Chrissy's, 552 N. Gary Ave., Carol Stream from 7 to 10 p.m. For more details, see westsuburbanpatriots.com.

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Interested in playing bridge? Join in at the Hanover Township Senior Center, Illinois Route 59, Bartlett. Bridge is played on the second and fourth Tuesdays (duplicate bridge on the first and third) from 1 to 4 p.m. Open to all residents in the area. For more information, call 483-5600.

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Operation Airlift–Donations are being accepted at the following locations: VFW Post 5151, 520 S. Bartlett Road, 483-0055, email contact@vfw5151.org; and Streamwood Chamber of Commerce, 820 S. Bartlett Road, Suite 108, Streamwood.

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Animal Shelter Supply Drive supporting various animal rescue groups. Kitten/cat/dog food, cat litter/pans, collars, leashes, carriers/crates/cages, toys, scratching posts, cat condos, pet beds, old towels. Donation bin located at Heartland Animal Hospital on Stearns and Illinois Route 59.



FAFSA Workshop Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Studio 1405

Need help filling out the FAFSA online? You'll have the opportunity to ask someone who understands all about it at this program. Bring your laptop, your taxes and a parent to help answer the really hard questions. Register online or call the Teen Department at 483-4928.

Library Blood Drive Monday, Nov. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. Meeting Room 1

Donate blood at Poplar Creek Public Library and help save lives! Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome. To schedule your appointment, visit versiti.org/IL, call 800-7TO-GIVE, or download the Versiti Donor app (Android and iOS). All donors will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Colonial Café! Questions? Please call 483-4910.

Cultures of Our Community Saturday, Nov. 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Village of Streamwood Community Relations Commission, in partnership with Poplar Creek Public Library, will be hosting its annual diversity event that will consist of live performances, each representing a different culture. Come learn about the different cultures present in Streamwood. Also be sure to stop by various departments in the library for handson cultural crafts, as well as free henna tattoos! All ages welcome; no registration necessary--just stop by!

STEAM Sunday at the Branch Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m.

Are you a curious or creative person? If so, stop by the branch in Hanover Park and explore the possibilities of STEAM learning. All supplies will be provided, but are limited. Ages 5 and up. Register online or call the Branch at 372-3131. NaNoWriMo: Write-In Tuesdays, Nov 5, 12, 19, and 26 5 to 8 p.m. in Meeting Room 2

Join other NaNoWriMo writers and get help and encouragement from each other, if needed, to continue on the grueling challenge of writing 50,000 words in just one month for National Novel Writing Month! Adults and teens welcome to sign up. Register online or call 483-4928.

Special Storytime at Branch! Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

Join us for a very special performance at the Sonya Crawshaw Branch Library in Hanover Park as cast members from Streamwood Park District's theater group perform songs from Into the Woods followed by a storytime featuring Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella. Enjoy a photo op with cast members afterwards! Ages 3 and up. Register online or call the Branch at 372-3131.

Drop-in Craft

Adults: Nov. 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Seniors: Nov. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. It's turkey time! Create a cute turkey door hanger using some wood and scrapbook paper to greet all of your Thanksgiving guests. No registration required, but sign-up at the door; meets in Meeting Room 1; supplies are limited.

Teen Tech Sewing: Binder Pencil Pouches

Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. Meeting Room 2

Teens, come and learn how to sew a pencil pouch for your three ring binder. Register online or call 483-4928. For a complete listing of scheduled classes/events at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.pclib.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.

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The Village of Streamwood Community Relations Commission proudly presents "Cultures of Our Community" on Saturday, Nov. 2, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park, Streamwood. Learn about the different cultures that make up the community! This free event will fea-

Streamwood volleyball tops Larkin in straight sets

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood volleyball team will enter the postseason with a confidence boost after defeating Larkin 26-24, 25-18 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Streamwood.

The win snapped a five-game losing streak and the Sabres had lost eight of their last nine games.

"I thought we definitely came out and competed," said Streamwood coach Shelly Mueller. "I saw a lot of really good things offensively from our outsides, and I thought our serve-receive and defense looked better too."

Mueller added: "The team really needed to feel that success of a win again. We had a really busy first half of the season and our schedule really slowed down match wise in October. It was nice to see them bounce back from struggling a little bit with a confident win."

The win also came on senior night and Streamwood was led by senior Mariely Sotelo (eight kills, 10 digs). Other seniors include Kaylee Angle (two kills), Peyton Hedger (two kills), Leandra Gottschalk (10 assists), Mary Rackow (nine assists), Alexa Silva, Idalyd Ocampo, Victoria Segura and Jenna Manzano.

Hannah Jenig (10 digs), Vivian Sumoski (three kills, one block) and Natalie Stoch (two kills, seven digs) all contributed.

The Sabres end the regular season 9-20-1 overall, 3-6 in the UEC, as they prepare for the Rockford Guilford Regional. Streamwood, seeded 13th, will open against No. 3 St. Charles East.



Proclamation honors Green's volunteer service

By Seth Hancock

Village President Kevin Wallace made a proclamation declaring the village's gratitude to Cecilia Green for nearly two decades of volunteering in the municipal government at the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Green stepped down recently after serving for 19 years on the Economic Development Commission (EDC), and Wallace said she brought with her experience in public relations during her time on the EDC.

"Commissioner Green began her tenure on the EDC during the earliest stages of some of Bartlett's most notable business developments, including in those is Brewster Creek Business Park and the redevelopment of downtown Bartlett, and generously shared her time, her insight and her input with the village to help shape these important projects," Wallace said.

Wallace added: "With her wealth of experience and long participation in the arts, including her leadership roles in the Arts in Bartlett and with the Bartlett Heritage Days, Cecilia was able to provide the EDC with a unique perspective on how community arts and cultural events can help drive vibrant economic growth within a municipality.... Cecilia's proven commitment to advancing the good of the village and her demonstrated affection for our community calls forth our great pride in calling her a Bartlett resident and one of our tremendous civic volunteers."

Green thanked the village for the opportunity to serve on the EDC and encouraged residents to serve on its various commissions.

"I've seen a lot happen in the last 19 years, and definitely the administration department and the EDC department has certainly earned my respect

Bartlett volleyball places focus on postseason play

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett volleyball team opened the final week of the regular season with a 25-14, 25-11 win on senior night over Elgin in Upstate Eight Conference play on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Bartlett.

The Hawks, who finished second in the UEC with a 7-2 mark, saw a nice lead trimmed to 17-14 in Game 1 before scoring the final eight points, and they dominated throughout Game 2.

Bartlett coach Bob Schwantz was happy with the overall effort and the chance at getting every player some time.

"My seniors definitely had fun, and it was just a great night for everyone," Schwantz said. "Got a little scared in set one when Elgin was able to cut our lead to 17-14, but I knew all along that we would be able to take care of business."

Bartlett's seniors include Riyana Chacko, Amanda Collier, Bella Diaz, Dakota Johnson, Taylor Leo, Jessica Morrissey and Mili Shah.

The focus turns to postseason as the Hawks wrapped up their schedule at the Lake Park Invite on Saturday, Oct. 26.

"We need to realize that the postsea-

son is the end for seven of our girls," Schwantz said. "Each point is huge, and I know my seniors won't want it to end so they just need to fight until the very end."

With an adjusted lineup and some starters missing at Lake Park, the Hawks defeated Hersey in a 25-18, 25-16 match but dropped games against Prospect (25-17, 25-16) and Dundee-Crown (25-20, 25-16). Bartlett is 20-11 overall.

The Hawks are seeded 11th in the Downers Grove North Regional and will open the postseason against No. 6 Glenbard West. Bartlett hopes to carry over some momentum from their upset win over rival and UEC champs South Elgin from the previous week.

"We know our postseason is going to be a challenge," Schwantz said. "Going in as underdogs means we will need to push just a little bit harder than usual, but I know with my group of girls when they want to really turn it on, they are capable of doing some amazing things."

Schwantz added: "I want them to replicate the way they played against South Elgin. "I told them that was our high watermark for the season, but I'm positive we can go even higher."

where they work day in and day out year after year to keep the Bartlett

business community healthy," Green said.

South Elgin volleyball wins first conference title

By Seth Hancock

For the first time in program history, the South Elgin volleyball team is conference champions.

The Storm defeated Glenbard East 25-22, 25-10 to finish 8-1 in the Upstate Eight Conference on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Glenbard East and South Elgin then finished the regular season with a 25-15, 25-14 win in nonconference play to improve to 27-7 overall, tying last season's program record for wins, on Thursday, Oct. 24 at Schaumburg.

In the UEC clincher, Game 1 saw the Storm hang on for the win after seeing a sizable lead slip away late, but they dominated throughout Game 2.

"After that first game, I was like 'we have to get this done a lot cleaner, a lot faster,'" said South Elgin coach Joni Plach. "That's what the girls did the second game. We just took the lead and just went with it, and they played hard."

The conference title was not only the Storm's first but also the first by a U-46 team since 1997.

South Elgin senior Angie Negron led the effort with 12 kills, eight digs, two blocks and an ace. She's a four-year varsity player and was the only returning player from last year as she said the young squad defied the odds.

"It makes me really proud of the team that we have this year," Negron said. "We had more club volleyball players, more experienced players, the past few years. This year, we were the underdogs and nobody expected

Letters

Continued from page 8

Valinda Rowe IllinoisCarry.com spokesperson

Time to get serious about pension reform Dear Editor,

Illinoisans are fed up with high property taxes and want lawmakers to address the state's financial problems, including its unaffordable pension systems.

Most Illinoisans agree, including progressive Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. AARP released new poll data through the Center for Illinois Politics. The poll, taken at the end of former Gov. Bruce Rauner's administration, surveyed 1,200 voters over the age of 25 and found that 85 percent of respondents say lawmakers should address the state's backlogged bills and pension debt. "Our state's deep fiscal problems, including the \$6 billion unpaid bill backlog, \$130 billion pension deficit, and nearjunk level credit rating hurts Illinoisans of all ages on a daily basis," AARP Director Ryan Gruenenfelder said. "To display the true impact of the state's troubling finances, it was important this poll reveal how important solving these problems is to Illinoisans of all ages. On Wednesday, Lightfoot used her budget address to the Chicago City Council to call on the Illinois General Assembly to make changes to state pension laws. She wants lawmakers to "develop a statewide pension reform package." The mayor didn't provide any specifics on what changes she thinks should be made to address the state's pension crisis or what that reform package should include, but at this point it is clear that nibbling around the edges or simply ignoring the problem altogether won't help Chicago or the rest of the state.

us to be winning the conference, but we're setting records for our school."

Alyssa Worden (nine kills, 13 digs, two aces), Brooke Elders (four kills, two digs), Isabella Tusa (three kills), Emma Hunter ((nine digs, ace), Maggie McGough (five digs) and Allison Cunniffe (28 assists, four digs) all contributed.

Against Schaumburg, the Storm took the lead for good in Game 1 with a 6-0 run for a 15-9 lead with Worden (11 kills, seven digs, three aces) starting it with a kill and ending the rally with an ace. The Storm used a 4-0 run in Game 2 to go from a 7-5 deficit to a 9-7 lead which they didn't relinquish, and a kill by Elders (three kills) eventually ended it.

"We did what we needed to do tonight," Plach said. "I feel like it's been a long week for us with the whole emotion of Tuesday. I feel like we're still on the whole emotional high of Tuesday and just wanted to get in and get things done tonight."

Negron (six kills, ace), Tusa (three kills, ace), McGough (nine digs, ace), Loreal Wilson (three blocks), Cunniffe (20 assists, five digs) and Hunter (ace) contributed.

South Elgin, seeded fifth, will open the Larkin Regional against No. 12 Harlem.

"We know what we have to do, we're prepared," Negron said. "We just have to get our heads into the game and realize that if we lose, it's the end of the season."

At an estimated \$46 billion, Chicago has higher pension liabilities than many states. In Lightfoot's budget, the city's total pension contribution has increased by \$346 million to \$1.7 billion.

The state spends about a quarter of its annual operating budget on pension payments. And it's not making headway on reducing the state's overall pension liability. Without changes, that cost will continue to grow, squeezing out other needed expenses.

The state's pension protection clause needs to be scrapped and benefits need to be reduced.

Until lawmakers in Springfield get serious about the problem, little can be done to address the state's declining population, poor credit rating or other fiscal problems. In fact, without action, Illinois will continue to circle the drain.

University of Chicago Professor Roger

Storm soccer rout Grant but then fall in double OT

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin soccer team saw its

season end in double overtime in the Huntley Regional finals on Friday, Oct. 25.

The game between the No. 3 Storm and No. 6 Huntley went scoreless for nearly 100 minutes, but the host found the net late in the second overtime period for the 1-0 win.

Elias Hernandez and Danny Quintana had South Elgin's best scoring opportunities, both coming in the extra periods, and goalie Zachary Juszko finished with six saves.

The defensive game came after a scoring onslaught by the Storm in the semifinals when South Elgin defeated No. 14 Grant 7-0 on Tuesday, Oct. 22. South Elgin built a 5-0 lead by halftime.

"What these boys were able to do was special to watch," said South Elgin coach Jerzy Skowron. "I told them at halftime that they turned me into a fan, and that I almost forgot I was a coach. They took what we've been working on in training since our last game against Glenbard South, and we put it all together." shots, 11 of which were on goal. Grant finished with three shots on goal, all saved by Juszko.

The Storm dominated with 20 total

Leading the way for South Elgin's offense were Nick Flores (two assists) and senior Angel Garcia-Resendiz (one assist) who both netted a hat trick. Senior Lucas Reutimann also scored a goal, and both Bryce Jungers and Ryan Doherty had an assist.

"Nick and Angel played out of their minds," Skowron said. "They didn't start the game but surely did show everyone that they're two of the most talented players in the state. The chemistry those two have is a dream for a coach, and their ability to put balls wherever they want is a nightmare to defend against."

Also producing scoring chances were seniors Jeremy Castro, Grayson Downing and Anthony Sisler as well as Quintana and Alex Wano.

The Storm finish the season 12-9-4 overall after winning just three games last year. South Elgin will lose eight seniors including Jose Rangel, Andres Rivera and Aiden Hogan. Myerson recently told WGN that the state's high taxes aren't the reason people are leaving Illinois.

"Of course there is some cost to having to pay more taxes, that's true. But, it's not going to ruin the state of Illinois," Myerson told WGN. "What is more ruinous to Illinois is the systematic unwillingness to face the realities of budgeting, and accumulating debts that will just increase the burden in the future." Myerson won the 2007 Nobel Prize in Economics, so he knows about money. I'm not sure I agree with him about reasons people are packing up and heading to other states but I do agree that a headin-the-sand approach won't work. Polls, including AARP's latest, consistently show that high taxes are a top rea-

son people either leave or consider leaving Illinois.

So, let's see if elected lawmakers in Springfield will heed the calls from constituents and Chicago's mayor to address this crisis before it gets worse.

By Brett Rowland The Center Square

Hawks trounce Sabres, win share of UEC title





Bartlett's Brenden Gran pulling down Streamwood's Sean Thompson during the first half of the game on Friday, Oct. 25.

By Seth Hancock

Seven different Bartlett football players found the end zone as the Hawks rolled to a 47-6 victory over Streamwood to clinch a share of the Upstate Eight Conference title with Glenbard East and South Elgin on Friday, Oct. 25 at Bartlett.

The Hawks built a 21-0 lead in the first quarter, a 27-0 lead with the first score of the third and after Stream-wood scored Bartlett closed out the game with the final 20 points. Tyler Rivelli (seven carriers, 42 yards) scored on a three-yard run to start the game, and the Hawks never looked back.

"Our goal was to stay focused," said Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh. "We can't be looking ahead. We've got to make sure that we were playing this game and the most important thing was going 1-0 tonight, and the most important play is that next play. That was the message to the guys, and they took that message to heart and came out and played their butts off. Really proud of them, and really proud of our seniors."

Quarterback Michael Priami (6-for-9, 169 yards) threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Hayden Angell (two receptions, 47 yards), a 29-yard TD pass to Alec Palella and a 55-yard touchdown pass to Mathew Young (two receptions, 73 yards), and Priami found the end zone himself on a 14-yard run. Nicholas Bucaro, who led the Hawks with 56 rushing yards on five carries, had a special teams touchdown on an 80-yard punt return, and Jordan Snyder had a three-yard TD run while kicker Xander Salyers was 5-for-7 on extra point attempts. Nicholas Mangoni had an interception for the Hawks defense.

Bartlett's offense outgained Streamwood 332-155 in total yards with a balanced attack, 169 yards through the air and 163 yards on the ground.

The Hawks have now won seven straight to improve to 8-1 overall and in the UEC as they now prepare for the playoffs. Bartlett, seeded ninth, will host No. 24 Brother Rice (5-4) in the opener.

"This win is great," Priami said. "This team has a lot of momentum right now, and we're trying to carry that over into next week. Whoever we play, we're looking to dominate, and we're looking to move onto the second round."

Priami added: "We just have to be mentally prepared for what's going to come. A lot of fans are going to be there and there's going to be a lot of drama. We just have to look forward and do what we do best, which is score points."

A wide open Mathew Young make a pass reception for the Hawks in the third quarter.



Bartlett's Jordan Snyder, left, managed to hang onto Streamwood's Noah Strickland despite a stiff arm from the running back.





Bartlett's Nicholas Bucaro broke away for a touchdown in the third quarter.

Bartlett's Ali Aburmishan blocked for his teammate Jordan Snyder as he headed for the end zone in the third quarter.. (Examiner photos by Caroline Hollis)

Storm bounce back to run over Fenton 56-13

By Seth Hancock

A week after suffering its first loss, 17-14 against rival Bartlett, the South Elgin football team bounced back with a big 56-13 win over Fenton in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Oct. 25 at South Elgin.

The win clinched a share of the UEC title for the Storm along with Bartlett and Glenbard East, all three finishing the regular season 8-1 overall and in the league.

The Storm outgained Fenton 340-194 in total yards, got a pair of special teams touchdowns from Alex Noworol and their defense forced two turnovers including a Shiking Marshall interception.

"I thought we played really well in all three phases," said South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic. "We've got a couple of situational things that we probably need to address, but I'm really proud of the kids."

Marquis Gillespie II had a huge game running for 123 yards on seven carries and added 63 receiving yards. He ran in the game's first touchdown from 18 yards, added a five-yard TD run and caught a 63-yard TD pass from quarterback Ben Karpowicz (5-for-5, 111 yards).

Noworol had a 44-yard punt return for a touchdown for a 14-0 lead and ended the first half with a 40-yard punt return score for a 42-7 lead at halftime. Karpowicz threw a 26-yard TD pass to Corve King for a 21-0 lead, and after Fenton scored King, who had 67 rushing yards, added a 48-yard TD run.

"It's always great to get going early," Karpowicz said. "It makes everybody play easier. Especially after last week after we had a tough time moving the football, it was good to get out here and get back to normal."

King added an eight-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, and kicker Andrew Bucaro was 8-for-8 on extra point attempts.

South Elgin will host the first round of the playoffs. The No. 8 Storm opens against No. 25 Oswego East (5-4).



South Elgin's robby Gilman tried to make a tackle on Fenton running back Andre Bess as the Storm's Vince Clinite prepared to help with the tackle. (Examiner photos by George Niman)



Storm running back Corve King broke through a hole into daylight and gained a good chunk of yardage.



South Elgin's Marquis Gillespie II signaling that he scored late in the game against Fenton.





South Elgin quarterback Payton Dennis pitching the ball to his running back late in the game against Fenton.

Sabres top Cary-Grove, eliminated by Chargers

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood soccer team came up shy of a regional title as the No. 7 Sabres fell 3-2 after penalty kicks against No. 2 regional host Dundee-Crown in the title game on Saturday, Oct. 26.

On a rainy day, both teams finished regulation in a 2-2 tie and went scoreless over two overtime periods. In penalty kicks, the Sabres fell 4-3.

The game was scoreless until 23:05 remained in the second half when senior Leo Magana's corner kick led to a goal from freshman Michael Garcia. Dundee-Crown roared back for a 2-1 lead, but senior Edwin Peralta netted the equalizer in the final six minutes.

Senior goalie Antonio Herrera finished with six saves.

Streamwood, which advanced to the super sectionals last year, finished the season 10-9-4 overall. It'll lose six seniors including Eduardo Del Rio, Josh Taboada and Erick Esteves.

"Our kids gave a great, great effort in horrible, garbage conditions," said Streamwood coach Matt Polovin. "We went to the supers last season, so bowing out in the regionals is very disappointing. We had six freshmen play significant minutes today, so we should be strong again next season."

In the regional semifinals, the Sabres defeated No. 10 Cary-Grove in a 2-1 game on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

The game was scoreless through the first half, and it was tied 1-1 when Streamwood scored the winner with 4:30 left in the game on a penalty kick. Peralta made his way through five defenders and was taken down in the box, and he took the game-winning PK.

"I felt overall the team played a great brand of possession soccer," Polovin said. "I just wish we would have finished even half the chances we had on goal and the score would have been much different. We kept Cary-Grove in the game a little too long with so many opportunities to put them away and just missing."

After the 0-0 first half, Streamwood came out quick in the second half when Garcia found the corner of the net off a Peralta pass for a 1-0 lead eight minutes into the half.

"My message at halftime was be more composed in and around the penalty box and let's finish our chances," Polovin said.

Jon Castillo (two saves) and Del Rio (two saves) split time in the net.



The Sabres' Edwin Peralta, left, and Cary-Grove's Mateo Nunez locked in a physical battle while in joint pursuit of the ball.



Alejandro Morales of the Sabres in some open space as he turned toward the Cary-Grove goal during Streamwood's 2-1 Dundee Crown Regional victory over the Trojans.



While encountering the Trojans' Dario Gamboa, the Sabres' Leo Magana attempted to
dribble past the Cary-Grove midfielder.Cary-Grove Leighty(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

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The Trojans' Dario Gamboa, left, crowding Streamwood's Jose Banuelos along a sideline as Banuelos worked to control the ball and keep it in play.