

The

Examiner of BARTLETT

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"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

75 cents
June 23, 2021



Fire Dept. assists at
chemical blaze site
See Page 5

Guest Seat:
New world order
See Page 7

Village Board discusses business opening delay

By Seth Hancock

Frustrations were expressed about the slow-going development of a planned bar and restaurant, More Brewing, at the Village Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 1.

In 2018, the board approved of the sale of the former Lucky Jacks bar location off of East Railroad Avenue for \$101,000 to Perry and Sunny Patel, owners of the More Brewing Company which currently has two sites open

in Huntley and Villa Park.

After some extensions approved by the board, some partly due to COVID-19 regulations slowing things down, the Patel's closed on the property last August. Paula Schumacher, village administrator, said at the time that More Brewing was indicating a hope to open by the final quarter of this year, but it sounds like it will be a little longer after the June 1 meeting.

"When is More Brewing going to

break ground?" asked Trustee Aaron Reinke.

Scott Skrycki, assistant village administrator, said that the village has communication with the Patel's "on a weekly basis," and just a few weeks prior they had shown their preliminary plans.

"They've been doing some work and they keep spending money," Skrycki said. "They are telling their customers they'll be open spring of next year, but obviously they have some work to do on our end to meet that."

Schumacher said they have spoken to architects and engineers which is "always a good sign."

"Let them know that we're eager to see them get started," Reinke said.

Trustee Adam Hopkins asked if More Brewing will need any contract extensions to which Bryan Mraz, village administrator, said they own the property but there is a covenant in the sales agreement which would allow the village to buy back the property at the same price.

Hopkins said the deal was a good deal when it was made, but "right now, properties are going up. So, if they don't want to build, I'm sure we'll find someone else that will. And I think that point needs to be made to them because taxpayers expect this property to be developed."

"I agree, and I'm getting tired of answering questions as we all are," said Village President Kevin Wallace.



More delay encountered

The lot that was formerly occupied by Lucky Jacks Bar and Grill remains vacant as the anticipated arrival of a new business to the village, More Brewing Company, has been delayed. The latest information discussed at a recent village board meeting has the new enterprise not opening until at least next spring. (Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Removal of dead trees approved by village board

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved, 6-0 vote, of a resolution allowing the removal of dead trees within the Heritage Oaks Tree Preservation Easement at its meeting on Tuesday, June 1.

The request came from homeowner Lisa Kann to remove two dead trees from her property on South Oak Avenue.

Sarah Christensen, village forester, wrote in a memo that Town and Country Builders, developer of the Heritage Oaks Subdivision, entered into an agreement with the village in 1978.

The agreement included a tree preservation and drainage easement which "restricted the ability of future property owners to remove any dead

trees or branches within the easement without the approval, by resolution, of the Village Board," Christensen wrote.

"[Kann] is requesting permission to remove the dangerous trees located within the fifty (50) foot Tree Preservation Easement," according to Christensen. "I inspected the trees on May 6, 2021 and determined that these trees are dead and should be removed as soon as possible."

A letter from Kann stated: "The trees could fall at any time and are dangerous not only to us but our neighbors who have little kids with a swing set near the trees.... [Christensen] has already come out to inspect. She confirmed they are dead and do need to be removed. If approved, we would contract out the removal."

School resource officers to return to village schools

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved an agreement with School District U-46 to provide school resource officers (SRO) at its meeting on Tuesday, June 15.

The contract, which is for SROs for two schools, will run from Aug. 9, 2021 to June 10, 2022 according to a memo from Sgt. Michael Tavalacci. The salary, \$71,842, and overtime hourly rate, \$73.39, will remain the same, and "School District U-46 would be responsible for reimbursing the Village of Bartlett for the annual cost of a non-probationary police officer's salary," Tavalacci wrote.

"School District U-46 is requesting the Village of Bartlett to approve the proposed annual agreement to have school resource officers to Eastview Middle School and Bartlett High School on a contract basis for the 2021-2022 school year," Tavalacci wrote. "It has also requested minor changes to the language contained in last year's agreement to better reflect its current practices."

Changes include requiring SROs to attend district-led professional development, to take part in student-led violence prevention activities and to be the point person for Run, Hide, Fight safety drills. Language changes were also made regarding who will receive monthly crime reports from SROs and on the use of body cameras.

Last fall, the U-46 Board of Education discussed a desire to eliminate SROs from district schools. Its board offered no criticism of any SROs in its district but rather it wanted to follow political groups, one board member saying: "The power and the versatility of the Black Lives Matter movement is telling us what our black and brown communities feel about the police."

The U-46 board did approve SRO contracts last year but suggested eliminating them in the future, but the Bartlett Police Department's Deputy Chief of Support Services Geoffrey Pretkelis told *The Examiner* after the village board meeting that U-46 still plans to use SROs in the coming school year.

Village police to be enforcing illegal fireworks use ordinance

The Bartlett Police Department is requesting the community's assistance to refrain from possessing, using, or setting off illegal fireworks during the upcoming Fourth of July holiday. Fireworks can be extremely dangerous and most of them are illegal in Illinois and the Village of Bartlett with the exception of sparklers, smoke devices and snakes or glow worm pellets. Also, residents are asked to please be respectful of veterans and pets living in our neighborhoods. Unexpected loud explosions from illegal fireworks may

cause anxiety and nervousness for some individuals and pets.

Police will be proactively enforcing fireworks laws this year. Any individual using professional grade fireworks or any other fireworks in a dangerous manner towards other people or other people's property will be cited under the village's fireworks ordinance. Anyone previously cited under the village's fireworks ordinance could possibly be charged with a Class A misdemeanor offense if they violate the village's fireworks ordinance again this year.



Pet of the Week



Special friend needs another home

Gentle, independent beauty, Paisley, is the shelter's newest 'Bashful Buddy' available for adoption. She's special because she was a feral kitten that was trapped and brought to the shelter 12 years ago when it was much more difficult to place cats like her. And we know there's a sweet friend behind her petrified eyes because she gives tiny nudges when we offer patient company in her cage. Unfortunately, she lost the woman who understood and loved her all that time, but we are crossing our fingers that she can connect her with another family who will appreciate her circumspect affection. Paisley is really not stressed out by other cat-friendly pets and may become comfortable in a new home faster with another cat in it. Paisley's adoption fee is only \$11.

All those interested may get the adoption process started by completing an adoption application at bit.ly/OurAdoptables and a staff member will reach out to schedule a time for a meet and greet.

(Photo courtesy of DuPage County Animal Services)

Lawsuit settlement lingers, U-46 ratifies resolutions

By Seth Hancock

A lawsuit from various governing units, including School District U-46, against Sears Holdings Corporation continues to linger despite a settlement reached last November.

The lawsuit, originally filed by SD300 in Algonquin, pertains to an 1989 economic incentive given by Hoffman Estates to attract Sears, which was unable to maintain the required number of jobs promised after its 2018 bankruptcy.

Earlier this year, the U-46 Board of Education approved of an amendment to that settlement agreement, which says Sears will payout \$1.4 million.

Miguel Rodriguez, chief legal officer, said "this is just another step to try to settle with the old Sears and then move on to negotiating with the new corporation."

The U-46 vote was 6-0, board member Veronica Noland was absent, at the May 17 meeting, and it was among several resolutions unanimously approved that evening.

The board also approved of an amendment to an agreement with Right at School to provide what the district calls "summer enrichment camps" between June 7 and Aug. 6.

"This is just a modification so they can provide services at eight of our schools over the summer as an additional learning component.... We did put out for registration for 11. We reduced it to eight because we had three of them that had less than 20 kids at them. So, we moved them to the next nearest school," said Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations.

The sites include eight elementary schools: Bartlett, Elgin's Coleman, South Elgin's Fox Meadow, Stream-

wood's Glenbrook, Bartlett's Nature Ridge, Bartlett's Prairieview, Carol Stream's Spring Trail and Bartlett's Sycamore Trails.

U-46 will pay \$1.1 million to Right at School, while the district will also pay for meals. King said: "We will feed breakfast and lunch, and I think at some sites we're doing a take home dinner."

Also approved was a resolution allowing the district to intervene, with Franczek P.C., in proceedings with the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board when property taxpayers appeal their property evaluations.

The board also unanimously approved the final school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.



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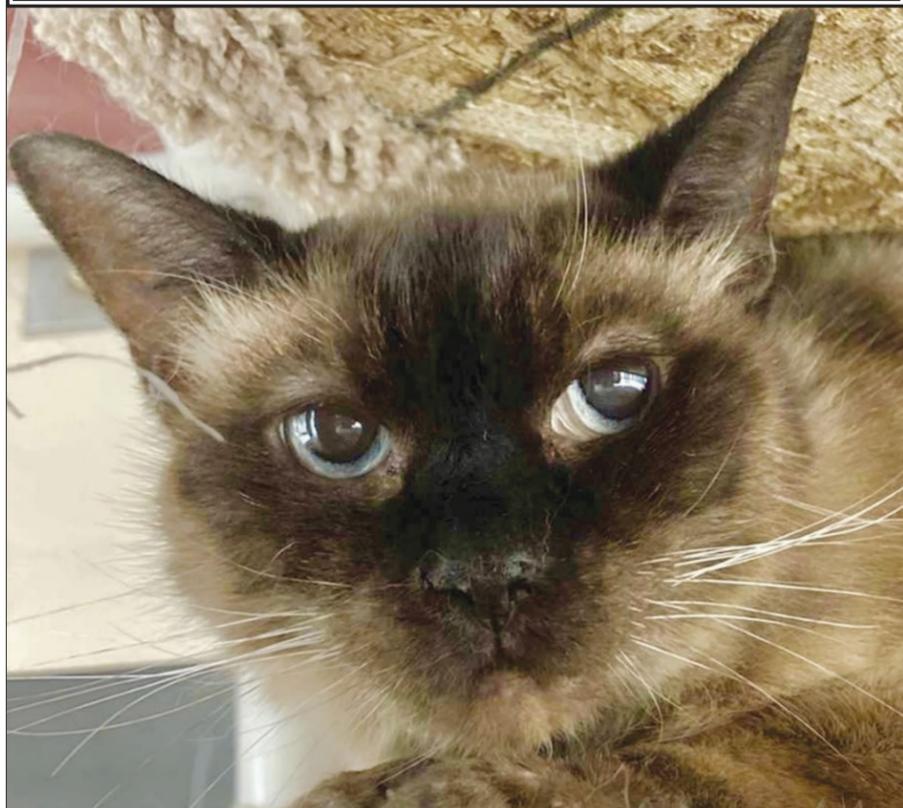
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Pet of the Week



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(Photo courtesy of DuPage County Animal Services)

U-46 sets plan in motion to switch bus fuel type

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 plans to convert its bus fleet from the use of diesel fuel to gasoline in the coming years.

Jeffrey Prowell, director of transportation, stated that goal as he presented the district's annual age and obsolescence plan to the Board of Education earlier this year.

The district purchased two gasoline buses in 2019, part of a total 43 buses purchased, as a test.

"Gasoline buses are less expensive to purchase, less expensive to maintain, less expensive to fuel, do not have cold start issues, breakdown less, emit less emissions, and do not have to be plugged in during the winter months," Prowell wrote in the report.

Prowell said at the meeting the district will "be heavily diesel for many years still" as currently the district's fleet is mostly diesel.

The district's current fleet includes 345 total school buses, 178 large and 167 small, as well as five activity buses. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the district purchased 20 buses at \$1.4 million, and there is no recommendations to purchase buses this year as Prowell said most buses drove under 5,000 miles this last school year as distanced learning was in place most of the year.

"The buses did not gain a lot of mileage in the past year, and that contributed to some of the buses that would have been due for replacement not needing to be replaced," Prowell said.

The age and obsolescence plan standards state buses should be under 11 years old with fewer than 150,000 miles. The next expected purchase is 44 buses in 2022-2023, all small buses.

Additionally, Prowell noted a change in the latest contract with the district's transportation union allowing U-46 to assign up to 20 percent of buses.

"In the past, drivers have been able to pick any bus in the fleet," Prowell wrote in the report. "This prevented administration from managing the mileage of the fleet and caused large variances amongst buses that were purchased in the same year. In fact, there are numerous instances of mileage variances as high as 30,000 miles between buses purchased at the same time. The ability to manage the mileage of the fleet will allow the district to better manage bus replacement and extend the replacement cycle."



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