

Press Clippings 12/15/2021

---Daily Herald--- 12/15/2021

Hoffman Estates: Sears headquarters to be up for sale in 2022

By Eric Peterson



The 2.4-million-square-foot headquarters developed by Sears in Hoffman Estates 30 ago, as well as 120 surrounding acres, is planned to be put on the market in early 2022, according to village officials. *Joe Lewnard | Staff Photographer, 2020*

The company born from the bankruptcy of Sears has informed the village of Hoffman Estates that it intends to put its corporate headquarters and 120 surrounding acres in the Northwest suburb on the market at the start of the new year.

The announcement comes only a month after Transformco closed its last Sears department store in Illinois, at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg.

Transformco representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday, but Hoffman Estates officials said the company has not indicated what the sale would mean for its presence in the village.

Since its move from Chicago 30 years ago, Sears' corporate headquarters has consisted of seven interconnected office buildings totaling 2.4 million square feet in western Hoffman Estates. Transformco also owns 120 undeveloped acres around the headquarters.

Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod and Village Manager Eric Palm said Tuesday that Transformco informed them Monday of plans to list its property for sale after the first of the year.

"Everything that they own would be part of that listing," Palm said.

McLeod said a change of ownership for the struggling property would likely be positive news.

"I think it's another opportunity, just like Bell Works at the AT&T campus," McLeod said, referring to the redevelopment of the former AT&T corporate center along I-90. "We'll see what kind of offers they get. It's a beautiful building."

The assessed value of the corporate campus was \$50 million last year, down from \$150 million in 2013.

The Hoffman Estates village board next Monday is scheduled to vote on plans to dissolve, as of Dec. 31, the Economic Development Area that forged the business park and Sears headquarters three decades ago with a tax break.

A settlement and indemnification agreement approved by the board this week resolves a legal and financial dispute with Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 and other taxing bodies regarding the extension of the EDA beyond its original 2012 expiration date.

Hoffman Estates Corporation Counsel Art Janura said creditors to whom the bankrupt Sears owed money will share \$12.5 million, while Transformco will drop its tax appeal for approximately \$15 million.

District 300 will receive \$1.4 million directly from Transformco, while it and the other taxing bodies will begin to receive a greater annual share of the business park's property taxes in the absence of the EDA, Janura said.

Some of those other taxing bodies include the Barrington Library District, Elgin Community College, Barrington Township, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and **Elgin Area School District U-46**.

Sears last year ended its 14-year run as the naming-rights sponsor of the 11,000-seat arena owned by Hoffman Estates in the same Prairie Stone Business Park as the company's corporate headquarters. Formerly known as the Sears Centre, the venue is now called the Now Arena after the Bloomingdale-based Now Health Group, Inc.

Though there are no longer any Sears stores in the company's home state, its website lists remaining locations in a number of other states, including as far away as Hawaii.

---The Examiner of South Elgin--- 12/15/2021
Split Dist. U-46 board vote denies expelling student
By Seth Hancock; Note – this story also ran in The Examiner of Bartlett

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** voted down a request by the district on a disciplinary measure against a student at its Nov. 15 meeting.

The district sought to expel the unnamed student, but it was voted down 4-3.

“The matter before the board is whether or not to expel Student A for the term of two semesters, the first and second semesters of the 2021-2022 school year,” said Superintendent Tony Sanders. “Student A will have the opportunity to enroll in an alternative education program.”

Board members John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland and Eva Porter voted against the measure.

By law, the district cannot divulge the name of the student. However, no discussion was had or information provided as to why the expulsion was being sought except reference to board policy 7.190, which concerns student conduct and lists 19 infractions for which a student may be punished.

The board did vote unanimously for disciplinary items under the consent agenda which included termination of three driver's assistants, a paraeducator and a dean's assistant.

---The Examiner of Bartlett--- 12/15/2021

LEAD program students interact with shoppers

By Seth Hancock; Note – this story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin

Request was sent to reporter Seth to clarify story. The LEAD students did not visit the grocery stores. It was a staff member/group advisor who distributed the greeting cards to shoppers.

A group of students from **School District U-46** spread kindness to unsuspecting shoppers.

For World Kindness Day on Nov. 13, the students created greeting cards and went to grocery stores in the U-46 area to give them to random shoppers, according to a Dec. 6 district press release.

“The girls planted seeds of kindness with those beautiful notes that were filled with warmth,” Lisa Jackson, director of equity and inclusion, said for the press release.

The students are part of the Living Elegantly, Ambitiously, and Dauntlessly (LEAD), which is an enrichment program for girls.

Jackson called LEAD “a wonderful enrichment program that helps the girls to build their confidence and self-esteem.”

According to the district’s LEAD webpage, the program began at Ellis Middle School in Elgin in 2014 but has expanded to five middle and three elementary schools since then. There were 150 students in the program in 2019-2020.

The page states that LEAD is “centered around supporting and mentoring [fifth through eighth grade girls].” It is focused on “African American heritage, however, all girls are welcome,” and it “aims to help girls develop their self-esteem, cultural awareness, leadership, and conflict resolution skills.”

Jocelyn Ashford-Yarbrough, a district paraeducator and co-leader of LEAD, said the program has 135 students this year at eight schools.

“LEAD provides a wide variety of activities,” the press release stated. “The girls work on service projects together. They put puzzles together. And they recently attended a play at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, there will be a LEAD conference with guest speakers.”

---Daily Herald--- 12/15/2021

Bartlett’s bench shines in win over Elgin

By Allen Oshinski, Daily Herald Correspondent

With **Bartlett** building a big early lead Tuesday, the Hawks' bench players saw plenty of action, and they took full advantage of the extra playing time.

Bartlett reserves scored 35 points, outscoring the Hawk starters as well as their opponent, **Elgin**, in a 68-22 win at Chesbrough Field House.

Kelton McEwen led all scorers with 14 points. Will Poulopoulos scored 13 off the bench, and Nathan Scarce scored 8. Conrad Luczynski had 6 points, 9 rebounds, 3 blocks, and 2 assists in less than 12 minutes for the Hawks (6-3, 3-1 Upstate Eight).

Elgin didn't score until 2:50 remained in the first quarter, by which time Bartlett led 15-0. The Hawks extended the lead to 21-5 after one quarter and 42-13 by halftime.

"We've just got to always stay ready," said Poulopoulos, who posted a season high. "We've got to take the opportunity when we get it. Everyone just came in to bring it today."

"I was really impressed with how well the bench played," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "Everybody on that bench went out and played great defense. Offensively, the ball was moving. Really impressed with them."

Defensively, the Hawks forced 26 turnovers while holding the Maroons to 15 points through three quarters.

Offensively, there weren't too many bright spots for Elgin, but Izaiah Cheperka scored all 7 of his points in the fourth quarter to lead the Maroons (3-8, 0-4).

For the Hawks, the game provided a chance to give the starters a rest while also working on a few things.

"This was the kind of game where you want to get things done," Wolfsmith said. "There were things we wanted to accomplish defensively. I thought we did a great job with what we

wanted to do defensively. Offensively, we wanted to run certain things and get certain looks. We did a great job with that."

Keegan Kunzer and Ethan Hedeem each scored 5 points off the bench for Bartlett as all 12 Hawks who saw action scored.

---Elgin Courier-News--- 12/15/2021

East Aurora's Anastasia Bellamy, 'day and night' better from last year, continues breakout season with double-double against **Streamwood**

By Paul Johnson for the Aurora Beacon-News



East Aurora's Anastasia Bellamy (55) powers through traffic to score against **Streamwood** during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Streamwood on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

When practice started for this season, East Aurora coach Lee Clayborn was happy to see the progress made by sophomore center Anastasia Bellamy.

"She's a lot better, day and night from last year," Clayborn said. "We knew coming back she got better. She took it upon herself to get into better shape.

"She worked out. She trains a little bit. She's doing a lot better."

The 6-foot-1 Bellamy continued her breakout season Tuesday night for the Tomcats in a 52-11 Upstate Eight Conference victory at **Streamwood**. She scored a game-high 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

“We’ve been working a lot on trying to get into the post,” Bellamy said. “That’s something we’re working on.

“We’re doing it. We’re getting it. I’ve been working on my post moves and stuff like that. The confidence is there.”

Bellamy got her feet wet during the spring season, but Clayborn confirmed the long layoff and unconventional season were tough on her.

“It was an adjustment with the layoff,” Clayborn said. “That kind of hurt last year. But she’s made adjustments this year. She’s a little more focused. I’m just trying to tell her to make sure she’s consistent.”

In the offseason, Bellamy got to work developing that consistency.

“I went to the gym a lot,” Bellamy said. “We worked over the summer. A lot of my teammates would text, ‘Let’s go to the gym.’ We’d work on stuff that we needed to work on. I think that helped a lot.”

Clayborn, who is impressed with Bellamy’s natural ability, is trying to unlock more of her potential as the season goes on.

“She’s still learning the game,” Clayborn said. “She’s young. Like I told her, the sky is the limit as long as she maintains everything she’s doing off the court with her classroom work.

“It will take her to high places if she can keep playing, keep developing and get into better shape.”

Indeed, Bellamy scored six points as East Aurora (3-7, 2-2) jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter.

Streamwood (1-10, 1-4) didn’t score until seven minutes into the game. The deficit swelled to 17-2 before Sayuri Ishikawa scored six of her team-high nine points to pull Streamwood within 23-8 at halftime.

East Aurora overwhelmed the Sabres in the second half, limiting them to three points and forcing 17 turnovers.

The pressure of junior guard Mia Moore was a big part of that. The Oswego transfer scored 18 points, adding 10 steals and six assists for the Tomcats. Jazmin Kuppler scored 11 points.



Streamwood's Sayuri Ishikawa (20) drives against East Aurora's N'Dya Fields (2) during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Streamwood on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

“Very tough matchup,” Streamwood coach George Rosner said. “We had no answer for either one.

“(Bellamy) was going to pretty much score at will. We told the girls, ‘Don’t try to block her shot. If she brings the ball down, try to attack it.’ We did a few times. She’s a good player.”

Moore and Bellamy developed chemistry soon after Moore transferred, and that bond showed Tuesday. The majority of Moore’s assists were getting the ball to Bellamy around the rim.

“When she first came in the gym, we got paired together and we clicked immediately,” Bellamy said. “It was a really good experience to have somebody that can handle the ball as well as she does.”

---The Examiner of Bartlett--- 12/15/2021

Storm dominates Sabres, remain perfect on season

By Seth Hancock – Note: This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin

The **South Elgin girls' basketball team** dominated in a 75- 13 victory over Streamwood in Upstate Eight Conference play to remain undefeated on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Streamwood.

Juniors Caitlyn Tolentino scored eight of her 16 points and Raina Yang six of her 10 points as the Storm bolted to a 21- 0 lead before Streamwood got on the board with 2:19 left in the first half.

From there, South Elgin didn't look back not allowing more than five points in a period. The Storm led 47-5 at halftime, 62-8 after three quarters.

"I think the key so far this season has been our defense and hustle," said senior Caroline Croft, who scored six points. "That has really sparked us. I think we're playing really well together as well and getting everyone involved."

Junior Chloe Kmiec led the scoring with 18 points including four three-pointers. Junior Zoie Lewis scored 12 points and senior Tianna Bongiovanni eight with two treys.

The Storm, including a 67-27 win over East Aurora later in the week, have averaged an over 31-point margin of victory with a double-digit win every game except its 50-46 victory over Hononegah during Thanksgiving tournament play.

"We've talked about building each game," said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "We don't want to peak now. We're 7-0 now, and we've beat some teams by massive margins but we want to prepare for later in the season."

With the UEC win at East Aurora on Friday, Dec. 10, South Elgin improved to 8-0 overall and 4-0 in the UEC.

Senior Ella Winterhalder, who is nearing 1,000 career points, led with 16 points. Croft added 14 points, Lewis 13 and Yang 12.

"We're super small, but we're super athletic," Mandernack said. "We'll be able to adjust to the team we're facing on any given night. Right now, I just enjoy coaching them."