

# Press Clippings - 11/29/2023

- NBC 5 -

## Bartlett auto class gets invaluable lesson in giving

By: NBC 5

Nov 27, 2023



A group of suburban students received an important lesson in kindness just before Thanksgiving.

*To watch the full story please click [here](#).*

A group of suburban students received an important lesson in kindness just before Thanksgiving.

The auto classroom at **Bartlett High School** was transformed into a working shop, when students were presented with a unique job opportunity with tremendous impact.

Their school resource officer asked the auto teacher, Anthony Metallo, if the class would be willing to volunteer their time to help a community member in need.

She'd lost her husband and home and was living out of her car, which desperately needed repairs.

"Once we heard why I actually got excited," said senior, Luiz Maya. "This will be a nice helpful thing we're doing for a person in the community."

Students in the program get hands-on experience that prepares them for a future in the auto industry. Students also have the option to get certified as automotive technicians by graduation.

"With the amount of people that are retiring in this field, there's going to be such a huge need for mechanics. Whether it's diesel, body shop, just general automotive mechanics all over the place," said Metallo.

The experience is invaluable, but students say this opportunity to do a good deed is worth so much more.

"I felt honored and privileged that I go to do this, because I believe that you should always put out good things and always help others," said junior, Yazan Aburmishan.

# -Daily Herald -

## Elgin Area Chamber's annual event weaves together 'thanks' and 'giving'

By: Pat Szpekowski  
11/ 27/ 2023



Eight community volunteers were recognized at the 42nd annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon held Nov. 21 at Elgin Community College. The Outstanding 2023 Citizen Volunteers, from left, are: Tom Lesiewicz, Karen Smith, Tammie Wilson, Lisa Crowe, Deb Staky, Donna Goplerud, Alan Walters, and Bill Wright, who accepted the recognition on behalf of Bill Hoffer. ( Courtesy of James Harvey Photography)

Elgin Area Chamber board chair Yaneth Medina welcomed more than 125 chamber friends at the 42nd annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon held at Elgin Community College on Nov. 21. The event celebrated "thanks" and "giving" while singing the praises" of eight unsung community heroes.

"Thanksgiving is an ideal occasion to join together to give thanks for our bountiful blessings," said Carol Gieske, Elgin Area Chamber president and CEO. "One of the standing traditions in the Greater Elgin area is the annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon where we reach out in true gratitude and friendship to local service clubs and organizations and sponsor a community luncheon."

The focus of the program included singing the praises of eight special people by bringing them into the spotlight to thank them for giving back," Gieske said. Those who received recognition as Outstanding 2023 Citizen Volunteer were:

- Tammie Wilson, Hoof Woof & Meow Animal Rescue;
- Tom Lesiewicz, Community Crisis Center;
- Donna Goplerud, PADS of Elgin;
- Al Walters, Elgin History Museum and First United Methodist Church;
- Deb Stakey, Anderson Humane;
- Lisa Crowe, Marklund;
- Karen Smith, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning;
- Bill Hoffer, Alignment Collaborative for Education.

Each of these recipients have committed many meaningful years of volunteer service and involvement to their special not for profit organization and continue their heartfelt dedication.

"We truly have extraordinary people in our community that continue a tradition of giving," Gieske said. "This annual community Thanksgiving luncheon lets us reach out in true gratitude and friendship with our co-sponsors and highlight these amazing individuals."

Representatives from these organizations joined as co-sponsors of the luncheon and were recognized for the tremendous commitment made in making Elgin a great place to live, work and play. They were: Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, **School District U-46**, Black Women's Association, Marklund, Anderson Humane, Housing Authority of Elgin, Elgin Community College, PADS of Elgin, Elgin Area Leadership Academy, Gail Borden Public Library, IL MBDA, Community Crisis Center, Alignment Collaborative for Education, Boy Scouts of America Three Fires Council, Elgin History Museum, Hoof Woof Meow Animal Rescue and Boys and Girls Club.

Gieske also recognized grade school children and their art teachers from **Elgin Area School District U-46** who provided centerpieces decorated for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Find out more about the "Thanks" and "Giving" luncheon by viewing a short video presented at [www.facebook.com/elginareachamber](http://www.facebook.com/elginareachamber).

The Elgin Area Chamber is a proven collaborative business community resource and provides relevant, innovative, and impactful programming and services that ensure a healthy business climate and enhanced quality of life.

## **- The Examiner -**

### **Public mute on proposed U-46 property tax levy**

**By: Seth Hancock**  
**November 29, 2023**

A public hearing was held on the proposed **School District U-46** property tax levy, the district seeking the maximum allowed under the law, at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Nov. 20. No public comments were made.

The proposal shows the corporate and special purpose levy rising 8 percent from the 2022 extension of \$315.8 million to \$341 million and debt service from \$32.1 million last year to \$32.8 million making the total ask \$373.8 million.

The estimated tax rate is 5.1632 percent, and homeowners in DuPage and Kane counties will see a sharp rise in their **U-46** portion of the tax bill but Cook County will drop, based on presented estimates.

“Cook County’s different,” said Frank Williams, assistant superintendent of finance. “Kane and DuPage, they both go off of one-third of your property market value. Cook County goes off of 10 percent.”

The district used homes valued at \$200,000 in tax year 2020 with their accompanied rise in valuation based on estimates from the county assessors’ offices.

That home in Kane County would pay \$4,535 in tax year 2023, a 16.2 percent increase or \$633 from \$3,902 in tax year 2022 and DuPage County homeowners would pay \$4,077, an 11.6 percent increase or \$422 from \$3,655. The Cook County home would pay \$3,265, down 6 percent or \$207 from \$3,472.

The \$341 million corporate and special purpose levy is a defensive levy with the district expecting \$339 million, a 7.3 percent increase. The defensive levy is “to insure receipt of all property tax dollars to which the District is entitled,” the determination of tax levy presented on Nov. 6 stated.

“In order to have the maximum tax extensions, levy amounts must be high enough to reach the maximum amounts to be calculated in accordance with the ‘Tax Cap’ legislation. Since the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of property and new construction numbers are unknown, it is a common practice to establish a defensive levy,” the proposal stated.

A resolution and certificate of tax levy will be voted on at the upcoming Dec. 4 board of education meeting.

## **- The Examiner -**

### **Lower enrollment trend continues for Dist. U-46**

**By: Seth Hancock**  
**November 29, 2023**

For the ninth straight year, enrollment dropped in **School District U-46** with a 1.3 percent decline of 474 students (35,338 to 34,864) this year.

The numbers were presented to the Board of Education on Oct. 23.

Brian Lindholm, chief of staff, said the numbers are as of Sept. 30 and includes “students who were enrolled but never reported to school as well as students who enrolled some time after the first day of school.”

Of the historic data provided, enrollment has dropped 13.9 percent from 40,487 students in 2014-2015.

Current forecasts based on the trends, the district expects to “bottom out somewhere around 30,000 students within the next several years,” Lindholm said. The district expects to lose “several hundred” students annually through 2026.

Lindholm said the decline is “primarily due to declining birth rates in our attendance area.” Birth rate data, 2006 to 2021, showed a decline from 2,925 in 2020 to 2,773 in 2021, and the rates are down from around 4,500 in 2006.

The district has received questions, Lindholm said, from residents concerned with the “border crisis

and the bus loads of migrants... arriving in Chicago.”

“This is something that we will continue to closely monitor to determine how it may impact U-46,” Lindholm said. “I can tell you, we have seen an uptick in the last two years in new U46 students from outside of the U.S. including places that we have not typically received students like Ukraine, Columbia and Venezuela.”

Those students “represents a small 1 or 2 percent portion,” Lindholm said. He added: “So, it hasn’t made a significant difference in the overall enrollment, but it has helped to slow the declines that we have been experiencing.”

The only increase in students this year was with early childhood, 1,108 to 1,166 for an increase of 58.

Elementary school (16,808 to 16,634, a drop of 174), middle school (5,109 to 4,900, drop of 209) and high school (11,954 to 11,849, drop of 105) enrollment all declined. Half of 40 elementary schools, six of eight middle schools and four of five comprehensive high schools saw a decline.

## **- The Examiner -**

### **Expense proposals loom for U-46 board to ponder**

**By: Seth Hancock**  
**November 29, 2023**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on \$312,924 in expenditure proposals at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Dec. 4.

The items were presented at the Nov. 20 meeting.

Included is \$108,465, to be paid by the nation’s taxpayers through grant funds, with Haas Factory Outlet to purchase a 5-Axis CNC machine for South Elgin High School’s precision manufacturing program.

“The Precision Manufacturing Lab at South Elgin High School is well equipped to provide students skills in this area and now is offering dual credit as well as a National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certification,” the proposal states. “Adding 5- axis machining offers students another skill set that will give them a competitive edge. Currently, our students utilize Haas machines and controls to learn computer numeric control (CNC) machining.”

With Panorama Education, the district is seeking \$106,125 (coordinated early intervening services fund) to upgrade its student success dashboard and to provide professional development.

“This dashboard addresses the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education)- identified disproportionality in student identification for Individualized Education Programs (IEP) by streamlining data collection and facilitating the tracking and evaluation of student interventions,” the proposal states.

Costing \$61,000 (grant funds), the district is seeking a contract renewal with Electude, an automotive technology platform for preparation in automotive careers.

A contract renewal with ZSpace has a price tag of \$37,333 (grant funds). It provides an “augmented/virtual reality platform and software used for student learning” used for automotive technology and healthcare science courses, the proposal states.

“Students have access to automotive software that allows them to manipulate components and assemble/disassemble them,” the proposal states. “The healthcare science platforms allow the exploration of anatomical and biological models and include virtual dissection.”

Additionally, the board will vote on appointing Diane Belton as the district’s new authorized agent for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

## **- The Examiner -**

### **Sabres boys hoops win final game at tournament**

**By: Seth Hancock**  
**November 29, 2023**

The Streamwood boys basketball team kicked off the new season at the Batavia Classic Thanksgiving tournament.

The Sabres are coming off a tough season last year under then first-year coach Quentin Ruff going 1-32 overall, 0-18 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

One of the goals for Ruff when he came into the program was that his team battle no matter the score, and they kept fighting through some growing pains to earn a win in a regional quarterfinal. Although dropping their first three games this year, the Sabres did finish the Batavia tournament 1-3 to get that first win on the board in the first week of play this season.

“All I want [from] my dudes is to just never quit,” Ruff said. “My goal for the program is to change the way teams look at Streamwood basketball. Change the culture to where my boys compete with everything they have every night, and lastly to give Streamwood basketball an identity.”

The Sabres did jump out to a good start in their season opener grabbing a 20-12 lead after one quarter against Marmion Academy, but they scored just 11 more points in the game for a 69-31 loss on Monday, Nov. 20. Streamwood shot 26 percent from the field compared to 52 percent for Marmion.

Against Waubonsie Valley, the Sabres fell 89-29 on Tuesday, Nov. 21 after shooting 29 percent from the field compared to 58 percent from Waubonsie Valley. Streamwood shot 27 percent from the field in a 76-24 loss to Batavia, which shot 51 percent, on Friday, Nov. 24.

The Sabres turned things around in the finale with a 72-58 win over Al Raby as they shot 40 percent from the field, 42 percent from behind the arc and 62 percent from the free-throw line. Al Raby shot 36 percent from the field, 13 percent from three-point range and 46 percent from the line.

Streamwood has six players returning including senior guards Francis Sagadraca, Tre´ Sean Bush and Sincir Hunter as well as senior center James Donato, junior guard Terrell Young Jr. and junior forward Joseph Calderon.

## **-Daily Herald -**

### **Geneva shoots to big lead, holds off Bartlett**

**By: Dave Hess**

**11/ 28/ 2023**

It was a second and third quarter to remember for Geneva. It was two quarters to forget for Bartlett.

Geneva outscored the Hawks 32-10 in the middle two quarters and held on for a 59-51 win in nonconference action in Geneva Tuesday night.

Holding a 13-12 lead after 8 minutes, Geneva seized control of the game in the second quarter. Connecting on 5-of-8 from the field including 3-of-4 from 3-point range the Vikings outscored Bartlett 16-4 and led 29-16 at intermission.

Sophomore Gabe Jensen, Cole Engebretson and Jack Hatton hit 3s. The Hawks (0-5) were only 1-of-10 from the field.

The Vikings (5-1) continued their dominance in the third quarter outscoring the visitors 16-6 and led 45-22 heading into the final quarter.

Elliott Kroeyer, who led the Vikes with 10 points off the bench, paced the offensive attack in the third. He led the home team with 7 points including a 3-pointer. Jensen, who had a trey in the quarter, scored 9 for the Vikings. Bartlett made only 3-of-10 from the field and committed 7 turnovers in the quarter.

Coach Scott Hennig praised Jensen.

"He was on the freshman team last season but he played with us in the summer," said the Geneva coach. "He took good shots and has done a good job for us. We got off to a good start and shot lights out."

Hatton (8 rebounds) and Hudson Kirby added 7 apiece for the winners.

Geneva, who committed only 8 turnovers in the first 3 quarters, connected on 7-of-12 from 3-point range for 58%.

Trailing by 23 after 3 quarters, Bartlett made a valiant comeback in the fourth quarter. The Hawks got to within 57-51 on a 3-pointer by Brandon Peltz.

Brendan Campbell led the Hawks with 13 points.

Geneva's defense held Bartlett leading scorer Nathan Searce without a point until he scored a 3-pointer with 7:45 left.

"We didn't execute our game plan," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "We wanted to attack the middle and settled for jacking up 3s. We kept fighting in the fourth quarter. Peltz and Campbell kept fighting. We have lost to some good teams."