

The suburbs in 60 seconds

Trustee seeks reelection: Mount Prospect Trustee Colleen Saccotelli announced Tuesday she intends to run for reelection in April 2023. "I look forward to running for another term on the village board, because I want to help Mount Prospect reach its full potential" she said. That includes continuing the momentum of the downtown development and furthering the South Mount Prospect Plan, as well as focusing on sustainability and climate issues, she said. Saccotelli is in her second term, having first been elected to the village board in 2015.

DuPage board fills vacancy: A youth programs manager for the Naperville-based Conservation Foundation has been appointed to a vacant seat on the DuPage County Board. Amy Phillips, a former architect, will fill the seat previously held by Amy Chavez, a first-term Democrat who stepped down after announcing her family was moving out of state. County Board Chairman Dan Cronin nominated Phillips for the District 5 seat. Her appointed term will expire Dec. 5. Phillips also serves on the executive committee of the Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force. She previously was a senior technical sustainability consultant with Terrapin Bright Green, a New York firm. District 5 includes parts of Naperville, Aurora, Lisle, Woodridge and Warrenville.

Bartlett rail crossing closing: The rail crossing at Prospect Avenue between Railroad and Oneida avenues in Bartlett will be closed for more than a week, starting today, for construction work. Metra is performing the work, which is expected to be complete in time for the crossing to reopen Sept. 22. The crossing will be inaccessible during the construction period. Metra will also set up detour routes along the railroad crossing closure.

McHenry Crossing meeting: The Lake County Division of Transportation is hosting a public information meeting on the Old McHenry Crossing study from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28. The meeting will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church gym, 24500 N. Old McHenry Road in Hawthorn Woods. Officials will report feedback received to date and present design alternatives for public review and comment. The study is examining ways to improve safety, traffic operations, and connectivity for drivers, bikers and pedestrians within and surrounding the Old McHenry Road and CN railroad area and along Quentin Road in Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich and Kildeer. Materials from this hearing presentation will be available at omx.com shortly after the hearing.

Copley conversion celebrated

Once an eyesore, former hospital in Aurora now helps people enjoy independent living

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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Aurora officials celebrated a milestone in the renovation of old Copley Hospital on Tuesday with a ribbon-cutting at Weston Bridges — apartments for people with intellectual, cognitive and developmental concerns who want to live on their own.

"This has just been wonderful," said Mark LaRosa of Aurora, whose son, Parrish, now lives there. "We wanted him to be independent. That is what this building behind us is. It's impossible to thank them (the developers) enough."

Parrish LaRosa, 41, and others moved into part of the hospital complex last month. Work continues to transform the oldest part of the hospital into housing for seniors. A former nursing school now houses the headquarters of East Aurora School District 31.

The whole site has been renamed Bloomhaven. The project is being done by Fox Valley Developers, three pairs of brothers who grew up in Aurora. One of them is Paul Konrad, a WGN-TV weather forecaster; another is Alderman Ron Woerman.

Copley Hospital, at Lincoln and Weston streets, moved out in 1997. The 300,000-square-foot site fell victim to vandals. Students at Bardwell Elementary School, which is adjacent, were so afraid of the hulking eyesore that they would not walk on



Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin poses with residents during a Tuesday ribbon cutting event at Weston Bridges, Chicagoland's first independent apartment community for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

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that side of the street. Fourth Ward Alderman Bill Donnell said that 10 years ago, all he heard at neighborhood meetings was, "What's going to happen to Copley? What's going to happen to Copley?"

"Now we celebrate the renewal of this community anchor, which will provide jobs, health care and stability to this neighborhood," he said.

The Weston Bridges portion of the redevelopment meets the desire of high-functioning people with disabilities who want to live independently.

"They know what they are missing out," compared to other adults their age, said Lisa Fawver, director of

outreach and networking. But it also helps their parents, who worry about what will happen to their children as the parents get older and about their children's safety.

Several prospective tenants of a senior-living center being constructed elsewhere on the property have already asked about apartments for their children, she said.

People started moving into Weston Bridges on Aug. 1. Fourteen people, ages 22 to 42, live there now, and two more just signed up. It has space for 53 people.

Each of the apartments has a kitchenette. Breakfast and dinner meals served in a dining room are included in the rent, but the residents do not have to participate.

The evening meal is a communal experience, where residents are encouraged to talk about their day.

"Part of our goal is the social element," Fawver said.

Some residents knew each other from college programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are support coaches on site, including ones that help with employment.

"We walk a really great fine line between independence and offering a safety net," Fawver said.

Weston Bridges is a private-pay facility. Rent for a 470-square-foot, one-bedroom unit starts at \$3,970 a month. A 525-square-foot unit starts at \$4,100.

2 killed when car hits tree in E. Dundee

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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Two people died in a crash early Saturday morning in East Dundee, authorities said Tuesday.

According to the East Dundee and Countryside Fire Protection District, the victims were riding in a vehicle that struck a tree about 1:30 a.m. Saturday near Main and Van Buren streets.

Three of the vehicle's four occupants were ejected. The two survivors were hospitalized in critical condition, according to the fire district.

Authorities have not released the identities of those killed in the crash, which remains under investigation.

Lisle police now say fatality wasn't a hit-and-run

BY JONAH NINK
Daily Herald correspondent

Investigators said Tuesday that a fatal car crash in Lisle was not a hit-and-run as police originally reported.

Robert York, 52, of Lisle died after being struck by a vehicle early Monday morning and Ogden and Yackley avenues.

Authorities said officers originally were told that one vehicle hit York first and sent him into path of a second vehicle.

"The investigation has proven that to not be the case," said Lisle Police Chief Kevin Licko. "The one vehicle that struck Mr. York remained on the scene, and that driver called 911."

Authorities said no charges will be filed.

District 204 says health and sex ed classes won't change

BY KEVIN SCHMIT
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While state standards for health and sex education underwent changes after recent legislation, Indian Prairie Unit 204 officials say students and parents won't see any changes in district classrooms this school year.

Deputy Superintendent Doug Eccarius and Director of Elective Curriculum Grant Sahr detailed the district's ongoing approach to health and sex education at Monday's school board meeting.

They said certain standards require clarification. With that in mind, and because district schools already are meeting most of the standards, the curriculum from previous years remains in place. That includes the opportunity for parents to have their children opt out of sex education.

"In Illinois, one of the challenges is you have K-8 districts, you have high school districts, you have unit districts," Eccarius said. "It's definitely a challenge for unit districts to interpret what they're suggesting with the

new mandates." Eccarius said that after legislators last year passed Public Act 102-0522 and the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act, school districts with comprehensive sexual health education plans became required to adopt standards-based courses for grades six through 12.

In July, the Illinois State Board of Education adopted the national sex education standards that went into effect immediately.

Consent has been added to the topic of healthy relationships. And identity has been split into separate topics for gender identity and expression and for sexual orientation and identity.

In District 204, though, Sahr said the bulk of the standards already are represented in classrooms, including all seven topic strands listed for high school courses.

"This is pretty late in the phase to try to make changes for this school year," Eccarius said.

"There's quite a bit of clarification we would still like to have on this topic."

Through the Film Magnifier



The Daily Herald Archive, Assignment #29,939, Greg Warner photo: Chicago Blackhawks legend Stan Mikita signs autographs at Sports Specialties in Palatine in September 1973.



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