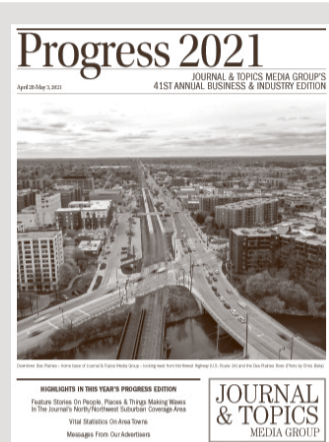


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SPECIAL SECTION

Our Annual
 'Progress'
 Business &
 Industry
 Edition

Inside This
 Week's Journal!

Expanding For Area's Homeless

Right: The shovels await as nonprofit Journeys: The Road Home conducts a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday for the nonprofit's upcoming building expansion project. **Read more on page 5A.**

(Shawn Clisham/Journal photo)



First Look At Proposed New D15 Boundaries

By **RICHARD MAYER**
 Associate Editor

The largest elementary school district in Illinois is starting the process to change its school attendance boundaries. Palatine Elementary School Dist. 15 administrators and board members discussed proposed new school boundaries for the first time Wednesday, April 21, which could be implemented as early as the 2022-23 school year, to ensure students are attending their neighborhood schools.

After months of significant work between administrators and consultants, recommendations were shared with the board that they believe address the district's capacity needs, from revised school boundary lines to overall health of facilities.

"These recommendations address community values and work we have done through community engagement," Supt. Laurie Heinz said.

The district, which includes 20 schools, was consolidated more than 70 years ago. Current boundaries are outdated, and some schools are overcrowded while others are underutilized, board members were told.

Over the last three years,
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Journeys Breaks Ground On Facility Expansion

Groundbreaking was held Saturday, April 24 for an expansion project at Journeys: The Road Home, a local nonprofit serving the area's homeless population.

Journeys' 8,000 sq. ft. facility and parking lot on Northwest Highway just east of Route 53 in Palatine will become a 24-hour, two-story facility offering year-round shelter, a clinical service day center and more.

The facility's second-story will house the year-round shelter with separate accommodations for men, women and families. Seven permanent, affordable apartment



Tossing a ceremonial shovel of dirt at the Journeys facility groundbreaking Saturday were (from l. to r.) Margaret Brueck, board member; Terry Graber, CEO of Power Construction; Todd Stull, clinical director, Journeys; Beth Nabors, executive director of Journeys; Fernando Egea, board president; Palatine Mayor Jim Schwantz, Tony Butler, board VP; Mark Haave, board member and Cornerstone National Bank executive VP; Mark Hopkins, HKM Architects; Paul Adamczyk, board treasurer.

units will be offered on site.

Other supportive services to be offered include long-term case management, primary health-

care, substance abuse treatment, vocational development, food assistance, affordable housing and more. Approximately \$5 million

has been raised for the project, with another \$1.2 million still needed. The new facility is expected to be complete by next spring.



Beth Nabors, executive director of Journeys, gives a shout-out to those who brought the plans to fruition, during Saturday's groundbreaking.



Mark Haave, VP (left), and Gerry Fitzgerald, chairman/president/CEO, both of Cornerstone Bank, which is financing the construction project. (Shawn Clisham/Journal photos)

Hometown Fest Still On -- With Modifications

While the Palatine Jaycees were hopeful to be able to organize a full Hometown Fest earlier this year, the COVID-19 trajectory is still very uncertain regarding what reopening phase and regulations will be in effect during the 4th of July celebrations.

As opposed to canceling the festival, officials have decided to scale back the activities with the communities' safety at their forefront.

Due to the uncertainty of the timeline of reopening, the Jaycees are canceling the annual Hometown Fest parade, fireworks display, and live music at the Fred P. Hall Amphitheater. Additionally, they are postponing Family Day activities until later this year.

This year, the fest will still take place at Community Park July 1-5 with a full carnival; art, craft and business expo on Saturday and Sunday, July 3-4; a community showcase of entertainment; food and beverage offerings; a bags tournament; and scavenger hunt during the festival. The inaugural Kickoff Kickball tournament leading up to the fest will be held June 12 with registration opening May 1.

Library Hours Return To Normal May 1

The Palatine Public Library, starting Saturday, May 1, will resume pre-COVID-19 pandemic hours of operation.

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The library asks that patrons continue to adhere to the library's safety guidelines.

This week, the library begins preparation for Phase 2 construction, with shelving being moved, and the Youth and Teen area being temporarily closed for the week. Staff will be available at a temporary desk and will help place holds on materials from other libraries. Beginning May 1, patrons will see a new construction wall installed on the first floor so that crews can start working on the next phase.

Youth and Teen Collections will shift to a temporary location on the first floor. Service desks on both floors will be temporarily relocated and Youth Area and Story rooms will be blocked off for construction. Also, a new North Entrance will be created for easier access from the west and east parking lots.

Bill Would Streamline Annexations

Elk Grove Village, Will County Lawsuits Inspire State Senator's Legislation

By **TOM ROBB**
Journal & Topics Reporter

A bill introduced by State Sen. Laura Murphy (D-28th), partially inspired by a now settled Elk Grove Village lawsuit, to clarify the process of municipal annexations, unanimously passed out of the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee.

Murphy's bill is headed to a vote in the full Senate in a new process placing non-controversial bills on a consent agenda within the next three weeks. She said State Rep. Marty Moylan (D-55th) also introduced a companion bill in the House.

"Current laws and recent rulings surrounding annexation have com-

plicated the process and opened local governments up to lawsuits," Murphy said. "This legislation more clearly outlines the requirements municipalities must follow to annex property legally."

Murphy said a now-settled lawsuit seeking to stop an Elk Grove Village annexation, brought by Mario Gullo several years ago, partially inspired the legislation along with a 2018 appellate court ruling in Will County finding a municipal annexation there invalid.

A Murphy press release on the Will County case said: "The appellate court rendered an annexation invalid, even though the annexation appeared to meet all statutory requirements. The ambiguity of this decision has caused

problems for municipalities in other areas of the state, including Elk Grove Village (in the district Murphy represents), where some property owners have attempted to legally challenge previous annexations meeting all statutory requirements in order to block future annexations."

Municipalities have the right to annex property contiguous to their borders. Murphy said the ruling in the Will County case forced municipalities to provide the intent behind an annexation, which she said is wrong. She said the legislation would better clarify what steps municipalities need to follow performing annexations and give courts clearer guidance on state law governing municipal

annexations.

In the Elk Grove Village case, the village first annexed a small parcel owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, then went to annex properties that included a gravel lot owned by Gullo used to rent space to park commercial trucks -- something not allowed under village ordinance, but which Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson said at the time would be grandfathered to allow. At the time, Johnson said the annexation was simply an attempt to "clean up" Elk Grove Village's borders.

The Elk Grove Village-Gullo lawsuit settlement included a non-disparagement clause for both parties.