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NEWS, 5A

The Bulletin

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Norwich Public Schools held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Moriarty Elementary School on June 8. Shown here is the second groundbreaking group, including teachers from Moriarty Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY MATT GRAHN/NORWICH BULLETIN

New elementary school on track to open in 2027

Matt Grahn
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

The ground has been cleared of grass, and the construction vehicles are in place.

Norwich Public Schools held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Moriarty Elementary School on June 8. The new school, to be built on the same land as the current Moriarty Elementary, will be completed for the 2027-2028 school year. The old building will be demolished after the new one is completed.

The ceremony started with Principal Ashley Favello reading what the students like about the school, from an environment where kids are always learning, to a school culture that supports

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Moriarty Elementary Principal Ashley Favello says the Pledge of Allegiance with a group of fifth-grade students.

Neighbors push back on shelter move plan

Matt Grahn
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

While the Thames Valley Council for Community Action is trying to expand its overnight winter shelter from 16 beds to 58 beds, some residents on Broadway and around Norwich Free Academy are not happy with the proposal to relocate the shelter to the St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church building at 248 Broadway.

The Commission on the City Plan is holding a public hearing and potential special zoning permit action for TVCCA to utilize the St. Mark building as an overnight homeless shelter from Nov. 15 to April 1 annually. Shelter hours would be 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and would use the building's Memorial Hall.

Why the St. Mark building is available

St. Mark Church put its building up for sale in 2025, with the intent on selling to another nonprofit entity. TVCCA agreed to buy the building in February, contingent on zoning approvals. St. Mark Church and other nonprofits would be permitted remain in the building.

If the zoning approval and sale goes through, TVCCA will get to work on upgrades related to city building code and fire marshal approval, including a fire alarm system and some modifications inside the building, TVCCA CEO Josh Kelly said.

There are no plans to expand the shelter to year-round service, and the actual shelter will not "have a larger footprint than the rearmost room," Kelly said.

Opposition to the new location

Shaun Richards, whose property,

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Thames River boat tours return for summer season

Beth McDermott
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Families looking for a unique way to explore the Thames River can hop aboard a boat this summer.

Thames River Heritage Park is bring-

ing back its historic boat tours and evening cruises, according to a community announcement. The park operates tours from four locations: Fort Trumbull State Park and City Pier in New London, and Nautilus Dock and Thames River Landing in Groton.

The Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruise,

locally known as the Water Taxi, will run Saturdays and Sundays between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The one-hour loop connects heritage sites along the river, with three stops on Saturdays and a fourth stop at Nautilus Dock in Groton on Sundays.

Riders can board at one location and hop off at another to visit parks, shops,

or restaurants. Walk-on passengers are welcome to pay as they board.

In honor of the park's 10th anniversary, youth ages 4-17 can ride for \$5 with the purchase of an adult ticket by a parent or guardian for historic boat tours

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