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Volunteer honored with 'hero' award



Food for Greater Elgin volunteer Mary Fontaine stands with the Meijer Hunger Relief Hero Award she received from the Michigan-based retailer. She's one of 18 people across the Midwest to be recognized for their efforts to feed people in need. MIKE DANAHEY/THE COURIER-NEWS

Meijer recognizes her for years of work with Food for Greater Elgin

By Mike Danahey
FOR THE ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

Food for Greater Elgin volunteer Mary Fontaine is one of 18 people across the Midwest to be honored with a Meijer Hunger Relief Hero Award.

"I'm not one who seeks recognition like this, but it's great. It's awesome. I hope the attention can lead to us getting more volunteers and to raising awareness about what we do here at Food for Greater Elgin," Fontaine said.

Big-box retailer Meijer created the award "to highlight the dedication and impact of volunteers working to address food insecurity in their local communities," according to the company's website. It received nearly 400 nominations.

Fontaine was nominated for the award by the CEO of the nonprofit, where Fontaine has offered her services for about 12 years after retiring as a management consultant.

"I learned about Food for Greater Elgin and appreciate their mission. Everybody needs a way to get their food," Fontaine said.

Volunteering gives her a way to put her tech skills, business systems knowledge and organizational/

management abilities to use, she said.

She's part of the nonprofit's logistics projects team, which helps oversee the food pantry registration system and coordinates its delivery program for people who are housebound.

She also assists drop-off programs at local schools, mobile pantries set up for seniors or income-qualifying residents, and initiatives benefiting the homeless. The work can involve everything from creating route lists and to putting together inventory distribution plans to creating a document system for training new volunteers

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Union claims bad faith bargaining by hospitals

Prime, Elgin hospital's parent, in battle after acquiring 8 workplaces

By Lisa Schencker
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A union for skilled maintenance workers is alleging that Prime Healthcare is bargaining in bad faith at eight of its Illinois hospitals — the latest union battle at the healthcare system.

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 399 filed 10 unfair labor practice charges against the Prime hospitals and MedSpace Services with the National Labor Relations Board on Wednesday.

Prime bought the eight hospitals from Ascension last year. MedSpace is a subsidiary of Prime Healthcare Management Inc., which provides management and support services within the Prime system, including St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin.

Each of the charges alleges that Prime "has intentionally and repeatedly bargained in bad faith with its employees' exclusive bargaining representative." The union represents about 12 to 24 skilled maintenance employees at each site, including those who work on HVAC systems and plumbing, according to the union.

Prime is "fully committed to acting in good faith in all our bargaining practices," a Prime spokesperson said in a statement Thursday.

"We are reviewing the allegations made by IUOE 399 as we remain engaged with our skilled maintenance workers at our Illinois hospitals, working together to provide safe, high-quality facilities and patient care to the communities that count on us," the Prime spokesperson said in the statement.

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These are some of the items the Elgin High School class of 1976 chose to include in the time capsule they put together 50 years ago. Among the things removed from the box during its unveiling Friday were magazines, catalogs, a yearbook, newspaper clippings — and a Pet Rock.

GLORIA CASAS/THE COURIER-NEWS

Time capsule's opening reveals mementos of 1976

Elgin High School filled box during nation's bicentennial

By Gloria Casas
FOR THE NAPERVILLE SUN

There weren't any IBM stock certificates inside the bicentennial time capsule put together by 50

years ago by the Elgin High School class of 1976. No mood rings or bell-bottom pants or copies of "Frampton Comes Alive!" either.

But there was one priceless item: a Pet Rock.

"We were so silly back in the '70s," said Gale Miller, a member of the school's bicentennial committee, who joined Principal Avelira Rodríguez González Friday in revealing the locked

wooden box's contents last seen in 1976.

"I thought we were going to find things like a pack of smokes or silly stuff. Apparently they didn't allow that stuff in there because I'm pretty sure someone would have snuck something funny in there. But I'm very pleased with the stuff they had," Miller said.

Among the items that did make the cut was a folder of photos of

the high school, then-Principal Richard Felicetti, students and the staff member who played the guitar and sang the daily announcements. It was the country's bicentennial year, so some were of Miller, then a junior, and other students wearing homemade costumes and riding in a horse-drawn wagon to elementary

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Police kill man after 2 people shot in restaurant



A man was killed by Carpentersville police early Saturday when they encountered him allegedly shooting at two people at La Ilusion Restaurant & Bar on Route 25. Illinois State Police, who are handling the investigation, say the incident stemmed from a domestic violence situation. MIKE DANAHEY/THE COURIER-NEWS

Carpentersville officers allege he was 'actively shooting at a person'

ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

A man has been killed by Carpentersville police officers after shooting two people early Saturday morning at a Carpentersville restaurant, officials said.

The shooting occurred shortly after midnight at La Ilusion Restaurant & Bar at 100 N. Kennedy Drive/Route 25 at Kings Road. One victim is in critical condition and the other in stable, according to a news release from the Illinois State Police, which is handling the portion of the investigation related to the officer-involved shooting.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a suspect actively shooting at a person and fired their service weapons,

striking the suspect, who has been pronounced deceased," the release said.

It's believed the shooting stemmed from a domestic violence situation, which is being investigated by the Carpentersville Police Department, a village news release said.

Carpentersville Police Chief Kevin Stankowitz, speaking via text message, said the two officers involved in the case have been placed on administrative leave during the state police investigation per department policy. He did not know when the victim's identity would be released, he said.

The investigation remains ongoing, and will be reviewed by the Kane County state's attorney's office when finished, the release said.

Elgin Courier-News freelance reporter Mike Danahey contributed.

WEATHER FORECAST

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