

THE COURIER-NEWS

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Elgin saves \$800K in lead water line fixes

By Gloria Casas
FOR THE NAPERVILLE SUN

Elgin was able to save \$800,000 last year in its lead service line replacement program, meaning even more properties can be fixed this year, officials said.

Contractors and city employees “found ways to make (the replacements) go a little easier, more efficiently,” Mayor Dave Kaptain said. “If they save money, they pass it back.”

However, that’s not to say there’s light at the end of the tunnel yet. The city has so far replaced lines at 3,949 homes and still has about 10,000 more to do, officials said.

“We’re making progress,”

Kaptain said. “But we have so many to do. It’s going to be a long, long process.”

Elgin awarded two contracts last year to IHC Construction Cos. to replace lead service lines bringing water into people’s homes through the city’s 2025 Lead Service Line Replacement Project. When the work was completed in December, more than \$800,000 remained unspent — enough to do another 102 homes beyond the 900 or so planned for 2026, officials said.

Beyond the work done under those two contracts, the city replaces a total of 1,165 lines in 2025.

Funding for the work is coming from an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loan, which

mandates the city spend the full value of the contract.

Lead service lines are those that convey drinking water from the city’s waters main in the street in front people’s home. Water mains are not made of lead and not all houses have lead lines; the majority are in homes built prior to the late-1970s and must be replaced with copper lines.

Lead pipes are dangerous because corrosion can result in lead being leached into the water people consume, posing health hazards like learning and behavioral problems in children and heart issues, high blood pressure and kidney problems in adults.



Copper water service line pipes are installed at a home in Elgin, replacing the lead pipes that had been installed when the house was built. CITY OF ELGIN

See WATER on Page A3



Books, equipment, furniture, even sports equipment are being moved at Hanover Countryside Elementary School in Streamwood and other District U-46 elementary schools as the transition of sixth-grade classes to middle schools begins. SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46

One big move No small task to move U-46 sixth-grade classes to middle schools

By Mike Danahey
FOR THE ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

School District U-46 officials have dubbed the huge relocation project they currently undertaking “Moving the U.”

“The transition of sixth grade to middle school is one important component of Moving the U, but it is only one part of a much larger effort,” said Lela Majstorovic, deputy superintendent of instruction.

The work is part of the district’s broader Unite U-46 plan, which aims to create equitable access to high-quality classrooms throughout the district by expanding preschool access, adjusting school boundaries, retiring aging buildings, renovating schools and constructing new campuses,

Majstorovic said.

“The effort is designed to better align our facilities, programs and resources with student needs across the district while ensuring that all students have access to modern learning environments and educational opportunities close to home,” she said.

Project contractor Bruce Phelps says it will cost more than \$426,000 and require the labor of 220 people — 113 of which are movers — to relocate equipment, furniture and other items to new locations by June 18 in advance of the 2026-27 school year’s start.

“Those items will move to other schools, and with respect to most of the sixth-grade curriculum, it will be retired as it is being replaced,” Phelps said. “The other curriculum, furniture and

equipment will be redistributed throughout the district as needed, with some of the older items being retired.”

All told, the work includes 933 individual moves of 25,000 boxes and an estimated 75,000 pieces of furniture and/or equipment to and from 47 school buildings in 11 communities spread out over 90 miles, including Elgin, South Elgin, Bartlett, Hanover Park and Streamwood, he said.

Planning took three stages, he said. First, staff created a master move document that outlined what classrooms, equipment and curriculum were moving either internally within a building or to another school.

Next was creating instructions about what to pack, how to pack it and how to label boxes, furniture

and other equipment, Phelps said.

“The third stage was the bid, conducted to contract with movers to move all classrooms on the master move file,” he said.

The district held several meetings with vendors to review the moving plans and to make sure their employees had been cleared to work on school district property before any physical moving was undertaken.

Classes don’t start until Aug. 27, but the goal is to have things done as early as possible so that there is plenty of time to do everything else that’s needed, including building maintenance, before the new school year starts, Phelps said.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

See POLICE on Page A2

CARPENTERSVILLE

Man killed by police at bar ID’d

Police: 44-year-old died after shooting two

By Mike Danahey
FOR THE ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

The man killed Saturday by Carpentersville police officers during the shooting of two people at a local restaurant/bar has been identified as Jenry Guadalupe Custodio Casimiro, also known as Henry Custodio, 44, of Carpentersville.

An autopsy conducted Monday by the Kane County coroner’s office determined Casimiro’s preliminary cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds, although toxicology test results are still pending.

The fatal shooting occurred shortly after midnight at La Ilusion Restaurant & Bar at 100 N. Kennedy Drive/Route 25 at Kings Road, police said. The two people shot by Casimiro remain hospitalized in stable condition. Carpentersville police have described it as being a domestic-related incident.

While the police department is handling the criminal investigation into the shooting allegedly carried out by Casimiro, the Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 is conducting an independent investigation into the officer-involved shooting, as required by state law.

Once the latter is completed, it will be turned over to the Kane County state’s attorney’s office for an independent review. In the meantime, the two officers involved have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the review’s outcome.

In an email sent to The Courier-News Tuesday, Carpentersville Deputy Police Chief Gregory Poulos said the state police have not said how long their investigation would take.

He also declined to provide more

Bears’ stadium tactics leave some Illinois leaders frustrated

By Jeremy Gerner, Olivia Olander and Jake Sheridan
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SPRINGFIELD — Following a marathon week in which a legislative deal to incentivize a new Chicago Bears stadium in Arlington Heights collapsed and the team announced it is eyeing northwest Indiana instead, some Illinois political leaders blamed the Bears while still holding out hope for an eventual deal in Illinois.

The Bears’ announcement Friday came about four months after the Indiana legislature passed a bill to aid the team in its move to Hammond. While Friday’s statement from the Bears said the team’s intention is to “advance our stadium project in Hammond, Indiana,” it continues: “with the exact site to be

selected.”

To key Illinois lawmakers, that left wiggle room.

State Rep. Kam Buckner and state Sen. Bill Cunningham, both Chicago Democrats and lead negotiators on the Bears stadium issue, said they spoke on Friday with Bears President and CEO Kevin Warren, who indicated that he looked forward to continuing discussions about a stadium, suggesting Illinois was still an option. Warren, however, made no mention of Illinois in the statement released by the team and said the team’s focus was now on the “exact site” in Indiana.

In a prepared statement, Buckner described his conversation with Warren as “forward-looking.”

“If a final decision had truly been made, I wouldn’t expect the focus to be on what comes next,” Buck-

ner said.

Cunningham also argued that the statement the Bears put out Friday is “not fundamentally different” than the one the team released Feb. 19 when the Indiana legislature inched closer to passing a bill to aid the team in its potential move to Hammond, before the bill eventually passed.

A spokesperson for Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson also downplayed the news Friday, emphasizing that team officials have said an out-of-state move is not an absolute certainty.

But as the team made its announcement, its tactics across years of negotiations — including ostensibly definitive statements about their intentions at a number



State Sen. Bill Cunningham updates reporters during the final night of the spring legislative session on May 31 in Springfield. After the spring session adjourned, Cunningham, in a sports talk radio interview, described his frustration in working with the Bears through negotiations. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

See STADIUM on Page A3