

Hospital shuts down north pavilion



OSF Health Care Little Company of Mary Medical Center in Evergreen Park. **BRETT JOHNSON/DAILY SOUTHTOWN**

Concern raised at Evergreen Park’s Little Company of Mary about the chapel

By Olivia Stevens
Daily Southtown

OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center in Evergreen Park has closed its north pavilion that includes a historic chapel, OSF HealthCare said Friday. The hospital wrote in a social media statement it was aware of rumors circulating that the north pavilion was being torn down, but

“OSF HeathCare is still evaluating and no decision has been made about its future use.” “We understand the community’s interest and will share updates as soon as plans are finalized. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience and understanding,” the hospital said. The news follows the closure of neighboring St. Bernadette’s Catholic Church last spring, after

it merged with another parishes to pare down churches with declining membership rolls. OSF HealthCare at the time planned to buy the property, but the hospital group did not confirm Monday whether the purchase ever went through. OSF officials did not respond to questions beyond their prepared statement. A map of the hospital shows the north pavilion was home to Little Company of Mary’s outpatient facility, diabetes center, education conference rooms, endoscopy, physical therapy, wound

center and human resources and employee education departments. The chapel that was added to the hospital in 1960 is on the pavilion’s first floor and was a point of focus on social media as commenters worried about its future. John Ligda said he and his four siblings were born at Little Company of Mary and he has fond memories of regularly attending afternoon Mass at the hospital chapel with his mother, who was a teacher.

Turn to Hospital, Page 2



Elizabeth Wigton stands last spring with the outdoor food pantry she helped make at South Suburban Humane Society in Matteson as part of a Girl Scout project. She also donated an outdoor pet food pantry to Kendall County Animal Control. **ELIZABETH WIGTON**

Girl Scout’s love for animals leads to pet project

South Suburban Humane Society pet food pantry helps owners

By Janice Neumann

As an animal lover, Elizabeth Wigton wanted to help out people who were having trouble dealing with the expenses that come with owning pets. And she wanted to help their furry friends, too. She was also looking for a worthy Gold Award project to complete as an Ambassador Scout for Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 70785 last spring. She’s been participating in the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana since she was little.

So Wigton hit on the idea of an outdoor pet food pantry. She researched which animal shelters would be open to the idea and found out both South Suburban Humane Society in Matteson and Kendall County Animal Control were interested. They are among area shelters that have seen an increase in surrendered pets because people are struggling to afford the rising costs of veterinary care and supplies, as well as their own cost of living expenses, according to numerous shelter officials. “I’ve always loved animals, and one

of the biggest things I’ve heard is that people have to give up their pets to the shelters because they don’t have enough supplies or money to buy supplies,” said Wigton, now a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. “So I decided that since of course there are so many food pantries for humans, why not make ones for pets.” Wigton got to work organizing construction of the pantries at the two shelters with the help of a family friend who is a carpenter. Her parents, Jeff and Aimee Wigton, of Plainfield, were a big help, too.

Once complete, they transported the pantries to Matteson and Kendall County, coming back to touch up the paint job and stock them with supplies. Wigton has a dog and cat, as well as two Hermit crabs at home, which are among the reasons she’s in touch with pets and their needs. “It’s mostly cat and dog supplies, like food, but people can donate whatever they want,” said Wigton. “I’ve seen stuff for smaller animals, like ferrets.” Mika Carten, director of Impact and

Turn to Project, Page 2

Bears stadium in Arlington Heights would generate billions

But could possibly cost taxpayers \$855 million for infrastructure

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

Construction of a new Chicago Bears stadium in Arlington Heights would generate thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity, but would also require substantial taxpayer support for infrastructure, according to team projections released Tuesday. Infrastructure such as entrance and exit ramps from near Route 53 and changes to the adjacent Metra train line would cost \$855 million in public funds, the team’s consultant estimated in its report.

The report attempts to assuage concerns about the price tag by pointing to gross state tax revenues of almost \$1.3 billion over 40 years, according to projections from HR&A Advisors Inc. A village consultant’s review of the team’s report also provided new details on the size of the proposed mixed-use development around the stadium, with plans to include 1,150 multifamily housing units, two hotels with 400 rooms total, 300,000 square feet of retail and 200,000 square feet of office space. The 60,000-seat stadium would hold an estimated 370 events a year, with most of those dates being private events and tours, according to the village report. However, there are plans for 10

home Bears games, two college football showcases, two high school football games, one international soccer match, wrestling and boxing events, and eight concerts each year, generating an estimated 1.5 million visitors combined. The team also hopes to occasionally host major events such as the NCAA Final Four, Big Ten championships and a Super Bowl. According to the village consultant, stadium events would generate about 100,000 hotel stays annually in Arlington Heights, and another 375,000 to the Chicago area. Hunden Partners, the firm Arlington Heights hired to analyze the Bears’ projections, said the rooms would ensure a continued

Turn to Bears, Page 2



The Bears released an economic impact report that included architectural renderings of the proposed stadium in Arlington Heights on Tuesday. **MANICA ARCHITECTURE**