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Judge halts District 47 action on school boundary changes

No vote will be taken on boundary changes to Crystal Lake elementary schools in November

By MICHELLE MEYER
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A McHenry County judge has barred Crystal Lake Elementary School District 47 from making any decisions on controversial proposed elementary school attendance boundary changes following a lawsuit filed by a district parent claiming violations of public agency transparency laws.

Last month, district parent Joe Keegan filed a lawsuit alleging the district violated the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act regarding the controversial boundary change proposals for its elementary schools.

The lawsuit asserts that the district violated the Open Meetings Act by not providing public notices, agendas or meeting minutes for the 14 times members of an advisory committee gathered to discuss potential ways to adjust the school's boundaries. The suit also contends the district improperly fulfilled Keegan's Freedom of Information Act requests by redacting or not providing requested documents.

Two options were presented by the district in July to address class size imbalances across the elementary schools. One would be "grade-level centers" at elementary schools that would house specific grades and another would create a language academy where all dual-language students would come together in one building.

The options sparked pushback from the pub-

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Longtime family-run funeral home in Cary under new ownership

New family owners strive to continue business's community connection

By MICHELLE MEYER
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Kahle-Moore Funeral Home in Cary, open since 1964, has been sold to Elgin-based Symonds Family Chapels.

The family- and veteran-owned company that now operates Kahle-Moore, located at 403 Silver Lake Road, has been serving families since 1921 in Elgin under the former name Symonds-Madison Funeral Home, according to the funeral home's news release.

"As a second-generation funeral director, I understand the importance of preserving the unique traditions of each family and community," Symonds Family Chapels owner Daniel Symonds said in the release. "We look forward to serving Cary and neighboring families with the same care and dedication that has been the hallmark of both Kahle-Moore and our family's funeral homes for generations."

Steve Moore, previous owner of Kahle-Moore Funeral Home, operated the Cary location from 1978 until he decided to retire, Symonds said. Moore remains at the funeral home during the ownership transition to support the new leadership team, according to the release.

"I'm confident that my partners, Daniel and Joy Symonds, will carry on our tradition of personal care and dedicated service to the Cary and Fox River Grove communities," Moore said in the release.

In partnership with the Cary-Area Chamber of Commerce, an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the Cary location.

More information can be found at the funeral home's website at symondsfamilychapels.com.



Michelle Meyer

Symonds Family Chapels owner Daniel Symonds stands outside his newest location at 403 Silver Lake Road in Cary, formerly known as Kahle-Moore Funeral Home.

• HICKEY

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and equal opportunity system for the employment, promotion, discipline and discharge" of sheriff's officers, according to the sheriff's website.

Van Hof said in her 2026 Shaw Local candidate questionnaire: "Our shared goal was to support the McHenry County Sheriff's Department in an advisory role by recruiting and training the most qualified candidates for law enforcement."

Van Hof, the County Board's only Black member, said voters can look at her record and her commitment to service and Hickey's background and make their decision based on that.

But Van Hof said Hickey has made comments while out talking to voters that people don't know who represents them in District 2, and she said the comments have upset her.

"People do know who I am," Van Hof said, noting she received the most votes out of five candidates in 2022. She said she has worked with numerous groups and organizations during her time living in McHenry County.

Hickey said the County Board race isn't about what happened in 2021.

"This race is about McHenry County, not what happened six years ago," he wrote.

Van Hof said in her Shaw Local candidate questionnaire that deciding to revisit the possibility of a so-called "look-back" tax levy increase, which was rejected by the board last year, "is a viable option."

Van Hof said she was more concerned with the county budget than the election. The county board needs to put something on review next week, and Van Hof said the county needs to increase revenues and cannot cut itself out of a $8.2 million deficit.

Early voting for the Nov. 3 election is ongoing and expands in McHenry County on Monday.

Huntley to study traffic on Main, Harmony Road

By CLAIRE O'BRIEN
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After recently reviewing developments that have triggered traffic concerns from Huntley officials, the Village Board has signed off on commissioning a traffic study.

The board recently agreed to have a traffic study done for the Main Street and Harmony Road corridors.

Huntley wants to review traffic patterns, school access and long-term transportation needs, Village Manager Dave Johnson said.

The study "will provide a coordinated evaluation of future traffic conditions and potential improvements" to the corridors, Johnson said.

Johnson said the scope of the contract includes field observations and multimodal traffic counts at key intersections. It also includes development and evaluation of three conceptual roadway alternatives involving Main Street, Harmony Road, Coyne Station Road, Reed Road and Charles H. Sass Parkway.

The work will include selecting and documenting a preferred corridor alternative and an assessment of "development-generated traffic, intersection capacity, queues, and potential improvements such as geometric changes, signals, or roundabouts," Johnson said.

The study will cost Huntley $68,500. It required a budget amendment because it was not included in this year's village budget, but Johnson said Huntley officials were confident the funds were available.

Board members approved the traffic study and budget amendment without discussion. Trustees Marilynn Berendt, Don Walz, John Piwko and Vito Benigno voted yes, while Trustees Ric Zydorowicz and JR Westberg were absent.

The traffic study comes as Huntley officials have reviewed development plans in the area, including a proposal by the builder Lennar at the intersection of Main Street and Coyne Station Road. That subdivision proposal has raised traffic concerns and some Huntley officials have said a traffic study would inform how they make decisions on the subdivision.