

Homer Glen's new board gets sworn in

Approval of contract for \$1M road resurfacing project among first acts

By Michelle Mullins
Daily Southtown

The new Homer Glen Village Board, including four members elected in April who campaigned against the previous board's imposition of the village's first ever property tax, voted Wednesday to approve a \$1 million road resurfacing project for the new public works department.

This year's road resurfacing program was initiated by the Homer Township Road District, which previously handled maintaining Homer Glen's roads until the village acquired the road district's assets and equipment last month.

Village officials said HR Green Inc. prepared bid specifications earlier this year for the Homer Township Road District to resurface 4.1 miles of roads that are both in the village and township limits.

After being sworn in Wednesday, the new trustees joined continuing trustees in approving the contract with PT Ferro Construction Co. for just over \$1 million. PT Ferro was the lowest bidder.

The money will be paid from the village's motor fuel tax fund. The board budgeted \$1.6 million for the project, and the winning bid came in under budget.

The roads were selected based on condition and input from road district and village staff. Some of these roads, including 146th Place, South 135th Avenue and a portion of roads in the Cedar Glen subdivision, are in unincorporated areas.

Because the project specifications were worked out earlier this year before the village acquired the road district's assets, Mayor George Yulch said village officials plan to sit down with the incoming township board about this year's road resurfacing program.

The new township board gets seated next week. The Homer Township Road District will have to pay for any work on township roads, which is about \$191,000. If the township road district does not pay for the

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NATION & WORLD Vaccinated given welcome advice

Inoculated people can mostly forgo masks, CDC says, Page 6

BASEBALL

Jimmy Burke in the saddle again

Bulpen mainstay wins first start since opening day as Sandberg rallies to turn back Lockport. Sports, Page 12

WEEKEND



Time for some laughs
Steve Trelivo will perform at Chicago Improv in Schaumburg on May 27-30. Page 4



'Harvesting Ethnic Roots' is made up of three rows of drawings depicting cultural foods of groups that historically lived in Morgan Park. CAROL FLYNN/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Local history of food becomes gallery exhibit

'Harvesting Ethnic Roots' on display at site in Morgan Park

By Carol Flynn
For Daily Southtown

Chicago artist Joanne Anono creatively captures the intersection of art, community history and social commentary in a new exhibit, "Harvesting Ethnic Roots." The installation is on display at boundary, a visual arts project space in Chicago's Morgan

Park neighborhood, through June 5.

Anono, a holistic farmer as well as a visual artist, addresses identity, immigration, and the environment in her works. "Harvesting Ethnic Roots" explores the cultural identity of three distinct groups who established themselves in Morgan Park through the foods they gathered or harvested

on the land.

"When boundary invited me to exhibit, my interest in food sovereignty led me to research the history of Morgan Park," Anono said. "I identified three groups — Indigenous peoples, European settlers, and Black Americans — who gathered and cultivated food from the land, specific to their cultures. This exhibit symbolizes the harvest and sharing of traditional dishes."

The concept of food sovereignty was introduced in 1996 by members of Via Campesina,

an international farmers' organization. It's defined as the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. In contrast to the present global system dominated by corporations, food sovereignty emphasizes local, culturally appropriate, and sustainable food availability.

The exhibit is composed of

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Frances McDormand's character cuts her own hair in the film "Nomadland," which won 2021 Oscars for best picture and best actress. SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

A lot of people self-cut their hair during the pandemic

I have been one of them, and I plan to continue doing so

This is a personal choice. I encourage others to patronize professionals who cut hair. They belong to a noble profession, one that will always be in demand. Their services contribute to the economy.

I think the decision to continue cutting my own hair is an example of how the pandemic has permanently changed someone.

I look forward to returning to dining in person at restaurants, hearing live music and resuming other activities. I have missed seeing many people during the past 14 months and

can't wait to socialize and go to public events.

But I feel like a different person today than I was in March 2020. Now, I don't care what people think of my haircut.

I rarely cut my own hair before the pandemic. It looked like you would expect an amateur self-haircut would. I attempted to trim my locks a couple times but the results were disappointing. Cutting one's own hair was among activities that seemed

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Small plane lands safely on I-355 after engine trouble

By Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas and Rosemary Sobol
Chicago Tribune

The 39-year-old pilot of a small plane had to make an emergency landing Thursday morning on Interstate 355 in New Lenox because of a stalled engine, according to Illinois State Police.

The pilot, Jason Bufton, took three female passengers, all of whom are from Wilmington, up in a "small, white Beechcraft airplane," which landed on the southbound lanes of I-355 near Interstate 80 about 11:18 a.m., according to Master Sgt. Jettan McKinney of the state police 15th District.

The plane was flying south when it started to experience an "unknown engine problem," according to a late Thursday afternoon state police statement.

When Bufton made an emergency landing on the interstate, it caused damage to the plane's front end and left wing but no serious injuries to any of the four on board.

After impact, McKinney said the pilot and three passengers complained of minor neck pain and were being evaluated by paramedics on scene.

The pilot, Paige Bufton, 20, a Wilmington girl, 15, and Kirstyn McKim, 21, were all taken to a hospital with injuries that were

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Gallery

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three rows of large-scale, elegant drawings depicting food plants. The back row of drawings depicts the foods gathered or cultivated by Indigenous people who predominated in the area until the 1830s. These include wild rice, strawberries and onions as well as cultivated corn, beans and squash.

The second row depicts the foods raised by the European settlers who arrived beginning in the 1830s. The crops include celery, squash, rye and cabbage.

The front row depicts the food items grown by Black Americans — collards, turnips, okra and sweet potatoes. Black Americans started settling in Morgan Park in the 1880s, and the Great Migration from the southern states led many more to move here beginning around 1915.

"My project is about harvesting food, not just through farming," Aono said. "The Indigenous peoples were largely hunters/gatherers. They gathered the wild rice, strawberries and onions, and cultivated some crops like the Three Sisters — corn, beans, and squash. The Europeans created farms, and more contemporary residents have small gardens in their yards and community gardens."

Aono did some of her research through the Ridge Historical Society in Beverly/Morgan Park, utilizing the expertise of RHS historian Linda Lambersy. "Joanne had already done considerable research before reaching out, and I

enjoyed learning about some of the sources she'd used," Lambersy said. "Those of us who are hooked on history approach historical research through our own interests. The fresh perspective which both Joanne and her unique project brought to the table — no pun intended — opens up new insights all around."

The images were created in pencil, colored pencil, and marker on sheer material that is regularly used to cover crop rows. The panels are hung to overlap and sway in the breeze as the viewer walks through them. The delicate drawings and sheer white material create a ghostly, dreamlike experience of days past when the Blue Island Ridge area was natural and rural, and parts of the land were used for food gathering and farming.

A second part of the exhibit is an outside installation called "Harvest," which consists of a base covered with seeds. Nature — squirrels, birds, wind, and weather — will scatter the seeds and eventually reveal a quote underneath, by Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper and civil rights activist. The quote states, "If you give a hungry man food, he will eat it. If you give him land, he will grow his own food."

Aono and her husband, Brian Leber, run Bray Grove Farm outside of Morris, where they engage in holistic farming, down to using two draft mules, Emorylou and Loretta, for work in the fields.

The farm offers home delivery of their produce (or pick up at the farm) throughout the west and southwest suburbs through a Community Supported Agriculture program in

Joanne Aono stands at her exhibit "Harvesting Ethnic Roots" boundary, an art gallery in Chicago's Morgan Park neighborhood.

CAROL FLYNN/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

which purchasers contract to receive "share boxes" of the vegetables grown on the farm.

Aono has her art studio at the farm and manages an alternative art exhibitions program, Cultivator — Chicago Art Exhibitions & Farm Art Projects, that

holds exhibits at Bray Grove Farm and various locations in Chicago.

The visual arts project space hosting Aono's exhibit, boundary, is in a renovated garage at 2334 W. 111th Place, Chicago. Gallery hours for Aono's exhibit are from noon to 4 p.m. Satur-



days, or by appointment, which can be booked by calling 773-316-0562 or emailing boundaryrychicago@gmail.com.

Susannah Pupish, owner and director of boundary, established the space in 2017. In support of bringing art out of downtown and

into neighborhoods, making it more accessible and less intimidating, Aono's exhibit expands that concept, using her art to bring the history and culture of the neighborhood right into boundary.

Carol Flynn is a freelance reporter.



Nicole La Ha prepares to join the Homer Glen Village Board after being sworn in Wednesday by Will County Judge Art Smigielski. MICHELLE MULLINS/DAILY SOUTHTOWN PHOTOS

Board

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roads, then those projects can be removed from the village contract, officials said.

Village roads to be resurfaced include Bell Road from 159th Street to Country View Lane, Crème Road from 143rd to 151st streets, Edgewood Drive, Kerry Lane, Meadowland Drive, Walnut Court, Willow Court, Country View subdivision and a portion of Cedar Glen subdivision.

The previous Village Board created Homer Glen's first public works department to handle road maintenance. A Will County Circuit Court judge ruled last month that the Homer Township Road District could transfer its assets to the village. Homer Township, which believed the township road district commissioner was not authorized to transfer township property, has filed an appeal.

The four new trustees sworn in before the vote were part of the People Not Politics slate elected in April. Jennifer Consolino, Dan Faliko and Rose Reyners were elected four-year terms and Nicole La Ha was elected a two-year term.

The new trustees thanked residents for their support and encouraged residents to talk with them about their interests and concerns.

"To the people of Homer Glen, unity, respect and inclusivity are values that I hold near and dear," La Ha said. "I look forward to working with you and for you to create an even stronger community in harmony, a place where all are represented and heard no matter political party, physical or mental ability or demographic."

Michelle Mullins is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.



Jennifer Consolino takes the oath of office to become a Homer Glen trustee Wednesday.



Rose Reyners takes the oath of office from Smigielski. The four-member People Not Politics slate was elected in April.



Dan Faliko is sworn in as a Homer Glen village board member Wednesday by Will County Judge Art Smigielski.

Aircraft

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not considered life-threatening, state police said.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which was investigating the incident, did not have many details yet. Elizabeth Islam Cory, an agency spokeswoman,

said in an email.

Details about where the flight originated, its ultimate destination or how long it had been in flight were not immediately known.

Islam Cory provided the plane's tail number, which can be used to identify its owner.

In a written message, the registered owner said he

did not wish to comment.

All lanes were reopened around 3:30 p.m. after the stricken plane was blocking two southbound lanes of I-55 just about a mile north of I-80, McKinney said.

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