

## Press Clippings 6/25/2022 to 6/27/2022

### Daily Herald

#### Seigle Foundation awards \$193,000 in education grants --- 6/24/2022

Submitted by Mark Seigle



The Elgin Public Museum of Natural History & Anthropology is one of eight recipients of the Seigle Foundation's summer grants. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer, 2021*

The Seigle Foundation recently announced the award of \$193,000 in grants to the eight local organizations.

- Alignment Collaborative for Education, a collective impact organization of business and community leaders from 11 communities working in partnership with **Elgin Area School District U-46** to deliver a qualified, future workforce eager to live and work within their communities
- Elgin Partnership for Early Learning, a nonprofit early childhood community collaboration that partners with organizations in the 11 communities within the 90 miles of **U-46** boundaries.
- Elgin Public Museum of Natural History & Anthropology, offering exhibits and educational programs with natural history and cultural themes.

- Kids Above All Illinois, building better lives for more than 150,000 impoverished children and families in the Chicago area.
- Marklund, making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities
- Summit School Inc., providing programs that build a solid foundation for educational and lifelong success
- The Literacy Connection, helping individuals acquire fundamental literacy skills and learn to read, write, speak and understand English.
- U-46 Educational Foundation, creating opportunities that expand student learning and well-being.

These donations support Education in the Elgin/Dundee area, the geographic focus of the foundation.

The foundation is committed to high-quality education opportunities that prepare young people in the Elgin and Dundee area for success in their lives and careers. This work may include (but is not limited to) early childhood education, K-12 programming, after school programs, and community colleges. Currently, 33% of Elgin's adult population have an Associate degree or higher, well below the statewide average of 51%, and 61% of students in the local district are low income, well above the statewide average of 48%.

Mark Seigle stated, "Having completed our third cycle of grant awards, the Seigle Foundation is excited to have received so many quality applications from within our Elgin/Dundee service area. More importantly, we are so impressed and grateful for the brilliant role these agencies play in our local communities."

For more information, visit [SeigleFoundation.org](http://SeigleFoundation.org).

The foundation operates four grant cycles per year, one for each focus area. The focus of the fall cycle will be housing; grant applications will be accepted between Oct. 1-31.

# Daily Herald

## Elgin Woman's Club to celebrate 135 years of touching lives - -- 6/24/2022

Submitted by Pat Szpekowski



Members of the Elgin Women's Club look forward to meeting guests at their 135th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, July 23, at the Elgin History Museum. Pictured, from left, are: Beth Nawara, Elgin History Museum; Betty Brown, past president-Elgin Woman's Club; Audrey Gilbert; Liz Marston, Elgin History Museum; Rita Corbett, president, Elgin Women's Club; Joy Jensen; Janice Kane; and Linda Fagan. *Courtesy of James Harvey*

Continuing the yearlong celebration of its 135th anniversary, the Elgin Woman's Club, a nonprofit organization, will hold a free informal reception on Saturday, July 23.

It will be 2 to 4 p.m. at the Elgin History Museum, 360 Park St. in Elgin. Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Local Elgin historian Jerry Turnquist returns to provide another insightful presentation, "Elgin Woman's Club -- Touching Elgin's Lives Everywhere," to document the tremendous impact the club has had on residents of the Elgin area.

"From its determination and beginnings in 1887 and the creation of Sherman Hospital," Turnquist said. "I applaud the Elgin Woman's Club and its members for their continued inspiration and example of helping others."

The Elgin Woman's Club has a rich history from its past founders to its present membership of awarding scholarships to students seeking a career in health care.

This year's Elgin Woman's Club \$1,500 scholarships have been awarded to Liliana Hernandez and Ariana Mattos Cruz. Hernandez, a graduate of **South Elgin High School**, is heading to the University of Wisconsin to study global health/neurobiology.

Cruz, majoring in biomedical engineering, will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology beginning June.

The Elgin Woman's Club is involved in many community outreach activities and support including Sherman Hospital with nurse training funds; Community Crisis Center with clothing and Christmas gift drives; PADS of Elgin with cold weather packs; veterans organizations with books for vets; a program coordinated with American Legion Auxiliary (Department of Illinois Dist. 11) with supplies for Midwest Center for Homeless Veterans, McHenry Transitional Home for Veterans and donations to American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State and flags for club members.

In addition, the club supports the Elgin Police Department with Socks of Love; Salvation Army with daily living supplies; **Elgin Area School District U-46** with two \$1,500 annual scholarships; Elgin Boys and Girls Club with treat baskets; and greetings and tray favors to Sheridan at Tyler Creek and Highland Oaks Apostolic Home, Oak Crest Assisted Living, The Vines Care Center, James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, and International Heifer Project.

A display of historical artifacts remains on display at the Elgin History Museum until the end of 2022.

Members of the Elgin Woman's Club's "135th Anniversary Celebration" are: Betty Brown, Rita Corbett, Linda Fagan, Audrey Gilbert, Joy Jensen, and Janice Kane.

For more information, email Corbett at [rjcons2@att.net](mailto:rjcons2@att.net) or call (630) 240-2192

## Daily Herald

### Daily Herald opinion: South Elgin gets inventive in saving July 4 celebration --- 6/24/2022

By the Daily Herald Editorial Board



South Elgin is canceling its annual Fourth of July parade due to lack of participants this year but will have a reverse parade at Pantan Mill Park instead. *COURTESY OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ELGIN*

*This editorial is the consensus opinion of the Daily Herald Editorial Board*

So, there are some things we've learned from the pandemic after all.

You surely remember the drive-by birthday parties of 2020 and 2021, at which revelers, safely ensconced in their cars and SUVs, drove past the home of the honoree, horns blaring and streamers streaming.

We didn't allow a deadly virus to stop us from feting someone important to us.

Fast forward to 2022, and faced with another important birthday, South Elgin officials summoned some of that COVID-19 out-of-the-box thinking.

Our Rick West wrote this week that only a third as many participants from a normal South Elgin Fourth of July parade had signed up to march this year, putting the parade in jeopardy.

The village made calls and put the word out on social media that the parade was in need of bands and floats and such.

But it seems after two years without a parade, many people are busying themselves with other things this year. Just 26 entries, said village spokesman Craig Pierce, would amount to a 10-minute parade.

"Everyone is disappointed," Pierce said. "We just didn't get enough participation to make it work."

How satisfying would it be after you had to slog the blankets and lawn chairs out to a prime spot along the parade route only to pack up again after 10 minutes?

And how cost efficient would it be to commit the same amount of resources to closing off streets, providing emergency personnel and police as it would for a full-length parade?

These are the questions South Elgin officials faced.

Rather than disappoint everyone by simply throwing their hands in the air and canceling, they came up with a different way to celebrate the nation's 246th birthday.

In a reversal of the drive-by birthday concept, the village is inviting residents to meet up at Panton Mill Park for a concert and picnic instead.

The **South Elgin High School Marching Storm**, which had already committed to be in the parade, will perform at the park's soundstage.



The other two dozen participants have been invited to park their floats and decorated cars at the park. The bonus here is that parade participants can do a lot more than wave to the crowd. They can actually talk to them.

"I think that what we're going to do is still going to be a very welcoming celebration," Pierce said.

Kudos to South Elgin for turning lemons into lemonade. We hope this picnic reminds residents that the Fourth of July is always worth celebrating. Here's to more entries next year so the parade can go on.

## Daily Herald

### Why South Elgin canceled its Fourth of July parade in favor of a patriotic celebration --- 6/21/2022

By Rick West



South Elgin is canceling its annual Fourth of July parade due to lack of participants. But the South Elgin High School marching band will perform at Pantan Mill Park during a "reverse parade" that day. *Courtesy of the Village of South Elgin.*

With commitments from only about a third of the normal number of participants, the South Elgin board has canceled the Fourth of July parade for this year and will replace it with a patriotic celebration at Pantan Mill Park.

The annual event normally draws 60 to 80 groups and businesses that take part in the parade, said Craig Pierce, communications specialist with the village.

Only 26 had signed up this year, which would have made for about a 10-minute parade.

"Everyone is disappointed," Pierce said. "We just didn't get enough participation to make it work."

The village made numerous calls for participants on social media and in village communications, in addition to reaching out to past participants. Groups cited staff shortages, different plans following a two-year COVID absence, out-of-town sports tournaments, and more as reasons they couldn't take part this year.

Pierce said the board weighed the brevity of the parade against the amount of time and money that would go into securing all the intersections and staffing emergency management and police personnel.

"We were still incurring this amount of work for a very short parade," he said. "People showing up and getting a 10-minute parade would be rightfully disappointed when it's wrapped up so fast."

To fill the void, the village will hold a Fourth of July celebration from 11 a.m. to noon on July 4 at the park.

The **South Elgin High School Marching Storm**, which had already committed to participate in the parade, will perform at the soundstage during the celebration. The other 25 parade participants have been invited to set up their floats or decorated vehicles at the park for something akin to a reverse parade -- where people can walk past the participants, learn about businesses or organizations or just admire the groups' display.

Parks and Rec staff members are working on refreshment options and other additions to the celebration as well.

"I think that what we're going to do is still going to be a very welcoming celebration," Pierce said.

The village plans to try to hold the parade again next year.

"We're hoping it's a one-year aberration," Pierce said. "Hopefully, in 2023 the parade will take place just like all the ones in the past."