

Ground broken to create Shabbona Pathway

By **KATRINA MILTON**
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SHABBONA – Ground was broken Saturday, July 25, to mark the start of the construction for the first section of the Shabbona Pathway.

This first section of the Shabbona Pathway will provide a safe path for students to walk from near Indian Creek Elementary School to Indian Creek High School.

Leading the groundbreaking was Shabbona Pathway President Dan Nolan. He was joined by state Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, DeKalb County Forest Preserve Superintendent Terry Hannan, DeKalb County Forest Preserve Natural Resource Manager Josh Clark, Shabbona Village President Don Goncher, Indian Creek School Board member Mark Peterson, Shabbona Township Supervisor and Shabbona Pathway Treasurer James Johnson and Shabbona Fire Chief Frank Ottengheime.

The Shabbona Pathway Committee started as a village committee in January 2013 and later became a nonprofit organization.



Photo provided

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“The idea of a pathway connecting the village, schools, state park, golf course and subdivisions began in the early 1980s,” Shabbona Pathway Committee President Dan Nolan said. “There are about 425,000 visitors to the state park every year. We need a pathway linking Shabbona’s entities. There’s no way to get into the village other than driving. A pathway gives another option.”

Jim Johnson, Shabbona Township supervisor and treasurer of the Shabbona Pathway Committee, said that building a pathway is “a safety issue.”

“I’ve seen a number of close calls of people walking on the roads,” Johnson said. “There is no shoulder room for them. They have to walk where cars drive. It’s dangerous and we need to do something before something happens.”

A pathway would be a great asset to the community and allow people to walk, run and bicycle with greater safety.”

When completed, the pathway will be about 2.5 miles in length and 20 feet wide. The pathway’s width will allow 10 feet of asphalt and 5 feet of green space on each side of the path.

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DEKALB COUNTY

Another resident of Willow Crest dies from COVID-19

11 new cases were reported Wednesday in DeKalb County

DAILY CHRONICLE

For the second day in a row, another resident of Willow Crest Nursing Pavilion in Sandwich died due to complications from the novel coronavirus.

The death, a woman in her 70s, marks the seventh at the long-term care facility and raises the countywide death toll to 25. The majority of deaths in the county are connected to long-term care facilities, with 12 reported at Pine Acres Rehab and Nursing Center in DeKalb and seven at Willow Crest.

There remains 81 cases at Pine Acres (26 in staff, 55 in residents), and 55 at Willow Crest (20 in staff, 35 in residents), as no new cases were linked to long-term care facilities Wednesday.

There were 11 new cases of COVID-19 reported in DeKalb County residents, according to the DeKalb County Health Department Tuesday, bringing the total number of cases to 822 Wednesday, although 567 have fully recovered as of July 24.

New cases include one in a resident 19 or younger, one in their 20s, two in their 30s, three in their 40s, and two each in their 50s and 60s.

To date, there are 86 cases reported in residents 19 or younger, 208 in residents in their 20s, 139 in their 30s, 110 in their 40s, 104 in their 50s, 60 in their 60s, 54 in their 70s and 61 older than 80.

According to county data, the city of DeKalb reports between 386 and 390. There are 106 to 110 cases in Sycamore; 111 to 115 in Sandwich; 76 to 80 cases in Genoa; 41 to 45 cases in Cortland; 11 to

15 in Kirkland, Somonauk, Kingston, Malta and Hinckley; and six to 10 cases in Waterman. Esmond, Earlville, Shabbona and Maple Park each reports one to five cases.

The IDPH lists cases and tests performed by ZIP code, while the county health department lists cases by municipality. Numbers vary from state and health departments because of data lags.

The 60115 ZIP code (including DeKalb) had 377 cases reported and 5,784 tests administered. The 60178 ZIP code (including Sycamore) had 112 cases and 2,382 tests. The 60548 ZIP code (including Sandwich) had 2,481 tests and 162 cases. The 60112 ZIP code (including Cortland) had 41 cases and 525 tests. The 60135 ZIP code (including Genoa) had 72 cases and 856 tests, the 60145 ZIP code (including Kingston) had 12 cases and 217 tests, and the 60146 ZIP code (including Kirkland) had 15 cases and 293 tests.

In total, IDPH reported 175,124 people in Illinois have tested positive for COVID-19, while 7,462 people have died statewide. As of Wednesday, 2,608,652 tests have been performed. The site also lists statewide recovery rates, calculated by recovered cases divided by the sum of recovered cases and fatal cases. The statewide recovery remained at 95%.

In data released Friday, 567 out of the total cases have fully recovered. To date, there have been 15,955 tests run in the county with a positivity rate of 4.9%. As of Friday, of the 15,955 tests performed on residents of DeKalb County, 15,168 have come back negative. Updated testing and recovery numbers are expected weekly.

• PATHWAY

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The entire project is expected to cost about \$1.25 million and will be completed in phases. Grants will help cover land acquisition costs, the initial engineering services and the construction of the pathway between the two schools. Construction on the first part of the pathway will begin by early

August.

"The pathway will make it easier for people to come to and from the park and downtown Shabbona," Shabbona Lake State Park site supervisor Joe Lenkaitis said. "We're all excited to see the pathway finally getting started."

For more information about the Shabbona Pathway or to make a donation, visit www.shabbonapathway.com.



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