

# Pay-It-Forward House, NFP to host estate sale

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SYCAMORE – Pay-It-Forward House, NFP will host an estate sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 719 Somonauk St.

The nonprofit organization provides a home away from home to the family members and friends of patients receiving medical treatment in DeKalb County. The Pay-It-Forward House has provided more than 21,660 nights of rest for guests since opening in 2005.

Changes in hospital room privacy and insurance rules suppressed the demand for rooms at the house.

“We went from nearly 2,000 nights provided each year to just over half that, and then the pandemic hit,” Board President Teresa Jacobson said in a news release.

“Suddenly last year, we were unable to fulfill our mission at all,” founder MaryLou Eubanks said. “Hospitals around the world were banning visitors. No one wanted or could use our space.”

The board decided that an operation pivot was in order, transitioning from providing nights of rest in the cozy house on Somonauk Street to providing patients’ family and friends with vouchers for hotel rooms at participating hotels.

The house at 719 Somonauk St. in Sycamore was put on the market July 1, and has since been sold. The house’s



Photo provided

The nonprofit Pay-It-Forward House in Sycamore aims to provide affordable housing for families whose loved ones are receiving extended care at Kindred Hospital.

sale closes Sept. 30 and it will be used as a private residence.

The organization plans to put money aside to purchase a house where each bedroom will have its own bathroom.

The Somonauk Street house’s furniture and décor will be sold at an estate sale this weekend through Heirloom Estate Sales.

“Our goal is to use the money from

the estate sale to provide nights rest at hotel rooms, as well as look for a house to purchase in the future,” said interim Executive Director Lisa Heckmann. “We plan on continuing to pay it forward and continuing our mission in the future.”

For more information or to donate to Pay-It-Forward House, NFP, visit [www.payitforwardhouse.org](http://www.payitforwardhouse.org).

## DEKALB

# Facebook donates \$12K to robotics program

### DAILY CHRONICLE

DeKALB – A \$12,000 donation made by social media giant Facebook to DeKalb District 428 schools will go to supporting robotics programs in three schools, according to a news release from the school district this week.

The \$12,042 donation by Facebook will go to the robotics clubs at DeKalb High School, Clinton Rosette Middle School and Huntley Middle School, allowing students more resources to fuel their interest in Science, Tech-

nology, Engineering, Art and Math programs, according to an announcement by Superintendent Minerva Garcia-Sanchez and Facebook.

The donation will grant middle school STEAM classes the opportunity to experience an in-school, hands-on robotics program for the first time.

For middle school students, the opportunity will include a chance to compete with the robotics team.

For high school students, the robotics club will offer more hands-on time with the robotic pro-

cess and increase leadership opportunities, according to the news release.

“Students are at the heart of the District’s work, and we are grateful to Facebook for supporting our commitment to preparing them for the future,” Garcia-Sanchez said in a statement. “Technology is critical to everything we do, and we hope that partnerships like these will help students develop their problem-solving skills and unleash their creativity to eventually pursue careers in STEAM.”

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### DeKalb police warn residents to watch for Facebook scam

DeKALB – DeKalb police are warning residents to look for signs regarding a Facebook scam making its rounds.

The department announced Thursday it has received complaints that the scam is affecting local residents.

In the scam, an email or message appears to come from an acquaintance and directed to the victim, police said. It might be a “friend request” or chat and then the suspect tries to solicit money.

The scammer might also offer to send a link for a financial opportunity. Any person who gets a message like this should immediately delete it, police said. If any resident has replied to the money solicitation and lost that money, they should contact the police to make a report.

Residents should never disclose personal information such as birthdays or social security numbers to an unknown party on the internet or telephone, police said.

All citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to the DeKalb Police Department at 815-748-8400 or dial 911 in an emergency.

### DeKalb Sondra King Memorial CROP Hunger Walk set for Oct. 3

The annual DeKalb Sondra King Memorial CROP Hunger Walk, organized by the Voluntary Action Center of Northern Illinois, is set for Oct. 3 this year, and will raise money to address local food insecurity.

Sign-in for the walk starts at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 3 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 830 N. Annie Glidden Road in DeKalb. The walk begins at 2 p.m. with options for a 1-, 2- or 3-mile walk.

This year’s local walk supports four local organizations, with 25% of funds raised to support the missions of The United Methodist Church Sycamore Food Pantry, Westminster Church, Feed My Sheep and the Voluntary Action Center of Northern Illinois. The remaining 75% goes to Church World Service, which distributes the funds to various programs related to hunger in developing countries.

Those interested in participating or donating can visit through the Sondra King Memorial CROP Hunger Walk at [www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil). It’s easy to sign up on VAC’s team through that site, as well. Participants can form a team at any number.

Follow the Sandra King Crop Walk on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sondrakingcrop](http://www.facebook.com/sondrakingcrop).

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