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COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY

The College of Lake County's Campus Farm plans to host an indoor market Thursday in honor of Earth Day.

Day expands as concern for environment grows

By FRANK ABDERHOLDEN
News-Sun

Earth Day started out when Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin believed that an issue as important as our environment was not addressed in politics or by the media, so he created the first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, according to America's Library.

On the brink of celebrating 50 years of Earth Day, David Husemoller, sustainability manager for the College of Lake County, it among those who feel

there are more issues than ever. "It's more relevant than ever before, especially with climate change," said Husemoller, who added that CLC is going above and beyond Earth Day and turning it into two weekends and a week of activities.

"This is an opportunity to explore different ways the environment impacts us and gives us tools to do something about it," he said.

On Saturday, two days before Monday's official commemoration of Earth Day, a campus

cleanup is planned in Grayslake with the CLC Environmental Club from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with everyone meeting at the science building.

On Earth Day itself, students and staff will meet at the Café Willow from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to talk about how every day can become Earth Day.

From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan, which is located at 1 N. Genesee St., scientists and residents will

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WAUKEGAN

Proposed budget \$3.5M in the red

Revenues flat or down, while some operating expenses to increase

By EMILY K. COLEMAN
News-Sun

The city of Waukegan is holding a special meeting Monday evening to discuss its budget, which proposes a \$3.5 million operating deficit while keeping the personnel headcount flat, upping overtime so that all fire stations are fully manned and continuing an emphasis on infrastructure improvements.

The city's new fiscal year starts May 1, shortly after which four new aldermen will join the ranks of the Waukegan City Council and vote on the proposed budget.

The \$180 million budget includes a \$75 million general fund budget plus infrastructure improvements funded through debt taken out last year, according to the proposed budget.

Those improvements include \$9 million for roads, \$3 million for sidewalks and \$3 million for alleys, street signs, lights and traffic signals, according to Mayor Sam Cunningham's letter to the council and public. More than \$13 million in improvements is also proposed for the city's water plant and the larger water, sanitary and stormwater system.

Cunningham said he's still trying to chip away at the deficit piece by piece despite his proposal projecting a larger deficit than last year's.

He said part of the challenge is that the Waukegan City Council voted unanimously to keep its property tax levy for operational and pension expenses flat despite the city being locked into nine union contracts that promise raises.

The city is also estimating its share of sales and income tax revenue will fall this coming year, according to the proposed

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NATION & WORLD

Trump angry over aides' testimony to Mueller

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DAN MORAN/NEWS-SUN

A bike trail map directs users toward Lake Michigan at Illinois Beach State Park in Zion. Plans are moving forward to link the Zion trails with other communities along the lakefront.

Trail better a century late than never



DAN MORAN

On a recent blustery April day, the unfortunately meager trail that makes up almost the entirety of Lake County's non-motorized path along Lake Michigan looked especially lonely.

From the Wisconsin state line down to Lake Cook Road, the county is blessed with some 25 miles of waterfront on a Great Lake. And, give or take a relatively short public path here and there at places like the Fort Sheridan Forest

Planned Lake Michigan shoreline path system would open the waterfront

Preserve in Lake Forest and Foss Park in North Chicago, there are roughly five miles of public hiking/biking trails — all of them at Illinois Beach — that can arguably be described as near Lake Michigan.

To break that down even more, only about a mile of the Illinois Beach trails is truly close to the shoreline. If you're among those who have walked or biked it, you know that this trail offers a beautiful view on a summer day with a breeze off the Big Lake — but if you blink, you missed the beauty.

By sharp contrast, Chicago's lakefront is blessed with an 18.5-mile non-motorized path

that runs from Ardmore Avenue in Lincoln Park all the way down to 71st Street in Washington Park.

According to the Chicago Architecture Center, the trail's formation dates back to 1963, when Mayor Richard J. Daley looked to establish a lakefront bicycle path. But the roots really go back to the 1909 Plan for Chicago, when Daniel Burnham envisioned an uninterrupted public lakefront.

Much of Lake County's end of Lake Michigan is, of course, reserved for the old- and new-money landowners who built private fortresses on the water, mostly south of what is now

Route 137.

But from North Chicago up to Wisconsin, there are vast swaths of shoreline wide open for something like Chicago's lakefront trail. This week's news that northern lakefront communities along that stretch are looking to build a public trail system is good news indeed, even if it is arriving up to a century late.

As reported by the News-Sun's Emily Coleman, officials in North Chicago, Waukegan, Beach Park, Zion and Winthrop Harbor are teaming with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to draw up a \$160,000 plan that will "develop a vision for a trail system in an area covering 12

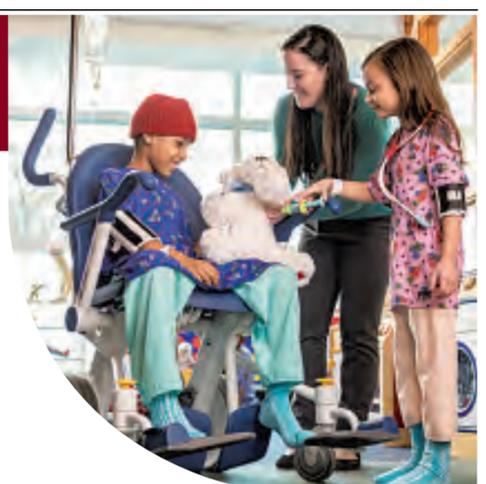
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