



Shimer Square it is!

Mount Carroll Mayor Carl Bates shows Economic Growth Corporation Administration Director Beth Payne the result of the coin toss held at Mayfest Saturday afternoon, May 25, confirming the campus and buildings will now be officially known as Shimer Square. The winning name along with Shimer Woods had each received 94 votes in a recent election to rename the former Campbell Center campus, which has been acquired by Rock Island-based Economic Growth Corporation. A new website is to be launched soon showcasing a new video of Economic Growth's redevelopment vision.

Bob Watson Photo

Code Red alert for Mt. Carroll

By SAMANTHA PIDDE

The City of Mount Carroll is moving toward new methods of communicating with the public.

During its Tuesday, May 14, meeting, the Mount Carroll City Council approved utilizing the Code Red alert system at an annual cost of \$1,500.

The system will allow the city to distribute alerts to citizens through landline telephones, cell phones, email and social media.

Mount Carroll Police Chief Fred Cass told the council the system, which is used by Jo Daviess County, can be used to disburse information about weather issues, boil orders, road closures and more.

The program's geo-mapping would allow the city to even target a specific area affected by the issue for the message. Cass said the city could also use the system to remind the public about upcoming events, such as garage sale days or Mayfest.

The council authorized Mayor Carl Bates to sign a contract for the Code Red system, to be paid from the civil defense fund. Ald. Paul Kazcmarski

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West Carroll makes changes for insurance savings

By SAMANTHA PIDDE

Multiple changes to the district's insurance in order to see savings next year were approved by the West Carroll School Board at its May 20 meeting

Presentations were made by Tricia Franklin from the Illinois Scholastic Cooperative (ISC) along with Brad Toone from the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative.

West Carroll is one of seven school districts within the ISC, allowing the district to receive renewals earlier. Franklin presented insurance renewal rates for the district as well as options for reducing the increase.

The district's annual employee insurance costs were estimated to increase to \$1.251 million (from \$1.15 million) Franklin estimated West Carroll's overall increase at 9.2 percent, but presented some recommended changes to the current premiums and co-pays to decrease that percentage to 8.2.

Recommendations include increasing the out-of-pocket costs per person from \$3,500 to \$4,000. Also, co-pays would increase from \$150 to \$250 for emergency room visits; \$20 to \$30 for primary care visits; and \$40 to \$50 for specialist visits. Franklin said the \$2,500 deductible will not change.

Prescription co-pays also will not change, but Franklin said the co-op is negotiating savings and tightening up contracts with manufacturers, adding that there will be some prescription coverage structure changes which will require prior authorizations from doctors.

The prescription changes will go into effect Sept. 1 and individuals impacted by them will receive letters. Franklin assured the board that out of the district's 113 employees (plus spouses and children), only five will be affected by the changes.

The board approved making the changes to insurance to reduce the estimated increase as well as joining the Prairie State Insurance Co-op for property and casualty insurance.

Two bids for insurance were received — \$91,989 from Lockhart and Law (the district's current insurer) and \$73,048 from the Prairie State Insurance Cooperative (through Gallagher insurance). The board approved contracting with Prairie State, which also required the district to join the co-operative for at least three years.

Toone presented information on the co-op, which currently has 197 members. West Carroll will join as number 200. He said the cooperative offers a wide variety of coverages, including cyber liability, student accident, both regular and catastrophic accident liability and

pollution liability. West Carroll was specifically interested in sewer backup (water damage) coverage, which Lockhart and Law did not include, but Prairie State did. This coverage would protect in cases of water damage, which occurred last year at the high school.

Toone said districts in his coverage area last year saw a 7 percent decrease this year. Prairie State is a "non-assessable co-operative" that receives "fixed rates" from insurance companies, he said, meaning if the district has a "bad year," the insurance company can not come back for more money. However, if the district sees a "good year" with few claims, the

district can receive money back.

The board approved joining the co-operative for three years.

In other business, the West Carroll School Board:

- Approved purchasing a 2017 Chevrolet Traverse from Kunes Country Auto in Mount Carroll at a cost of \$23,314 for special education services. The purchase will be entirely paid through an IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) grant. The district also received a bid of \$24,304 for a 2016 Chevrolet Traverse from JC Carey Motors in Savanna.

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Mount Carroll Memorial Day service

Veterans of all major wars are honored by veterans during the Mount Carroll Memorial Day service Monday, May 27, held in its entirety at the West Carroll Middle School gymnasium due to inclement weather. Mount Carroll American Legion Commander Rich Ottens was the Memorial Day program coordinator and guest speaker was Maj. Spencer Beatty, front row center, from the Rock Island Arsenal. More photographs from the program are inside this week's M-D.

Bob Watson Photo

