

ENCANTO

Governors State University
CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
Summer Musical Theater Camp: ENCANTO



June 20-24, 2022 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ages 8-15

Final Performance Friday, June 24 at 7 p.m.

Camp Registration Fee: \$250
(includes two tickets to the final performance)

CenterTickets.net (708) 235-2222



Parks financing ice arena work with \$5.5 million bond

BY MARILYN THOMAS
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The Homewood-Flossmoor Park District agreed to a plan to borrow up to \$5.5 million to cover costs of the updates at the H-F Ice Arena.

During a presentation at the April 5 board meeting, Aaron Gold of Speer Financial presented commissioners with a plan to use general obligation bond sales to finance the project. He said the park district would have until early June to finalize the deal. The interest rate won't be known until the board goes into the market to sell the bonds.

The district has the capacity to take on the debt because it took action in the fall to lower its debt payments by refinancing old debt. Because of that action, this additional borrowing should not raise property taxes.

The park board was forced to shut down the ice arena in November after its refrigeration system failed. The park board knew it was going to need to replace the system, but had anticipated it could keep the system running for another year or two hoping it could get state funding for part of the cost.

Parks crew members removed the old piping last month, and on March 29 commissioners approved a \$2.9 million contract with American Arena for a new refrigerant system. November 2022 is the target date for reopening the ice arena.

The board is continuing its work on the designs and additional equipment needed to run the new refrigerant system. W.B. Olson, Inc. is the project manager on the job and Williams Architect is the project architect.

State grant will help D161 to support mental health services

BY CHRONICLE STAFF

Flossmoor School District 161 received a \$635,000 Community Partnership Grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to support post-pandemic mental health services for students and educators.

"We originally wrote the grant for \$113,000, and they gave us \$635,000, so that was pretty exciting," said Jackie Janicke, director of special education. "Now that we are able to expand services to our general education population, we're really going to be revamping how we use SEL (social/emotional learning)."

In the grant application, Janicke laid out three specific goals:

- Addressing out-of-school barriers through partnerships with community health and services agencies.
- Establishing collaborative leadership practices in the community.
- Building active parent/guardian and community engagement.

Janicke has programs in place for goals one and two, and the administrative team

is exploring ways to establish community engagement.

District 161 partners with Minds Empowered, a counseling center in Homewood, for mental health counseling services for a select handful of district students. The funding will enable the district to offer free Minds Empowered counseling services to every student.

"This will be really important for parents to not have to worry about insurance," said Janicke.

The grant funding also will benefit District 161 staff with the implementation of the Second Step for Adults program geared toward supporting the district's ongoing efforts of fostering collaborative leadership practices. These include building a professional learning culture, establishing collective trust and shared responsibility.

The district will continue to explore additional community partnerships using the ISBE grant funding to enhance its social and emotional learning programming across the district.




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Chorale gives concert at St. Joe's

BY CHRONICLE STAFF

The 80-member South Holland Master Chorale will conclude its musical season with a 4 p.m. concert Sunday, May 15, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 17951 Dixie Highway in Homewood.

The concert also marks the retirement of music director Albert M. Jackson. He

founded the chorale in 1998 while a professor at South Suburban College.

The program opens with Haydn's "Missa Brevis No. 7," also known as the "Little Organ Mass," followed by "Requiem for the Living" by contemporary American composer Dan Forrest. Organist Graeme Shields accompanies singers.