

## Business

LOCAL  
Upside

Inland Private Capital \$9.81 +2.51%  
Tenneco \$44.35 +2.35%  
Federal Signal \$8.76 +2.1%

Dow Jones  
Close: 14,910.14  
**+149.83**

Nasdaq  
Close: 3,376.22  
**+28.33**

## Graue Mill can resume grinding next week

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The 161-year-old Graue Mill could be producing authentic stone-ground cornmeal again by next week.

But it may cost officials at the museum and historic mill along York Road in Oak Brook double the \$3,000 they originally planned for.

Grinding at the mill stopped earlier this month after a structural analysis found the gear system and heavy timber supports used in the process were unsafe.

The mill is owned by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District but operated by an independent board. As the only operating water wheel gristmill in the Chicago area, Graue Mill's primary source of revenue is the roughly \$60,000 it brings in each season through the sale of cornmeal.

With grinding at a halt, officials say, the mill's viability is in danger.

Rus Strahan, a miller who serves as vice president of the museum board, said Wednesday he has located and is ready to purchase a \$6,000 corn grinder that can do the job, but the museum board only authorized him to spend \$3,000.

"I've done my research and in order to produce the quality of cornmeal we are known for, and for it to be stone-ground, we can't do it for \$3,000," Strahan said. "If I can get the board to agree to the higher price point, I can be grinding quality corn by next week."

The forest preserve district is also working behind the scenes to get the mill up and running. As of late Wednesday, forest preserve staff and board members were talking to Strahan about how they could help.

"I'm very optimistic that we can work out a very good public-private partnership to help one of our greatest assets make it through the season," Commissioner Mary Lou Wehrli said. "I'm only

one commissioner, but I think that at Tuesday's (forest preserve) meeting, we'll be willing, as a board, to support funding at least half the expense."

The historic Graue Mill, built on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Restored to reflect life in the 1800s, it's a popular stop for those seeking the cornmeal that was made at the site and for those interested in its historic significance.

But concerns about safety have delayed the mill's reopening. Work began surfacing earlier this month, but experts were called to check for hollowed-out spots in the mill's foundation near the mill, according to the forest preserve district's architect supervisor.

More serious safety concerns

See GRIND

## LOCAL FOCUS

## Bank executive to retire

NAPERVILLE — J. Patrick Benton, president and director of First Community Financial Bank — Naperville, will retire on June 30. Benton will continue as a member of the bank's advisory board and will remain on staff focusing on business development and community relations for the company until a successor is named. Mike Thiel has recently been named as the branch manager for the Naperville bank and is in charge of the day to day operations. Benton spent nearly 40 years serving local banking clients throughout the Naperville area. He has been very active in the community and has served in leadership roles for municipal and not-for-profit organizations.



COURTESY OF ADVOCATE  
An artist's rendering of the north side of Advocate Good Shepherd