Renovation revelations

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Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher has pledged to hire an emergency operations coordinator for the city and create a “long-term recovery group” to respond to any future disasters following the June 29 storms that hit Sangamon County.

And Doug Brown, chief utility engineer for City Water, Light & Power, is planning more cross-training for his employees and better ways of communicating with the public and the news media.

These are some of the lessons Springfield officials said they learned from the June 29 storms – known collectively as a derecho – that caused widespread power outages and property damage.

“So while the storm was terrible, we didn’t lose any lives, which I’m thankful for,” Buscher said. “We’ve learned from the storm, and the community will be stronger because of the storm.”

City officials in early August said they submitted damage assessment details to state and federal agencies as they sought millions of dollars in federal disaster assistance for city government, businesses and residents.

The city hasn’t yet received word from those agencies, including the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, on what aid will be provided.

Haley Wilson, a spokesperson for Buscher, said Aug. 29 that information was unavailable on the status of measures mentioned by Buscher and Brown, as well as the total amount of money the city is requesting from the federal government in the wake of the derecho.

During recent public events and interviews with Illinois Times, Buscher and Brown shared some of the insight they gained.

The mayor told the audience at the July 28 meeting of the Citizens Club of Springfield that she didn’t plan to take on the role of emergency operations coordinator when she and other officials camped out in the basement of City Hall, in the emergency operations center, as the storms hit midday on June 29.

She learned that the coordinator job had gone unfilled since the administration of the late Mayor Tim Davlin.

Buscher, who defeated incumbent mayor Jim Langfelder in the April 4 election and was sworn in May 5, said she plans to assign that job to someone currently employed by the city because it won’t be a full-time position.

But someone needs to be trained and ready to coordinate the services of police, firefighters, Public Works and CWLP crews and other community resources in weather-related emergencies or mass-casualty events, she said.

The mayor commended city workers and Sangamon County 911 dispatchers who came to City Hall when the city’s radio communications antenna on top of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre broke in half during the storms.

As a result, emergency calls initially were automatically rerouted to dispatchers in Macon County. Buscher said Brown and other workers used laptop computers and notes on paper to make sure the rerouted calls were passed on quickly to Springfield police and fire and CWLP crews.

“It was all hands on deck – people working hand in hand,” the mayor said. “It was teamwork, and I cannot thank the people enough in the room who did all those things.”

She also applauded repair crews and the approximately 250 local and out-of-town electrical workers for the “huge undertaking restoring power. … I cannot thank our working men and women and City Water, Light & Power and all of the partners who came from other communities in getting that power restored to all our citizens.”

“What happened in Springfield – how quickly that got restored in Springfield – is amazing.”

During and immediately after the storms – which officials described as an “inland hurricane” that provided little warning before its arrival – as many as 40,000 of CWLP’s 68,000 customers went without electricity.

It took crews from CWLP and other communities nine days to get the number without power down to 50, Brown said. He said CWLP is requesting almost $9 million in federal assistance to reimburse the city-owned utility for materials and overtime costs and to pay contracted “mutual aid” rates for out-of-town crews.

Brown said the derecho was the most widespread weather disaster in Springfield since the Good Friday ice storm in 1978.

More information on the storms is available online from the National Weather Service at bit.ly/sangamonderecho.

Buscher thanked nonprofits such as the American Red Cross, Springfield YMCA and the BOS Center for assistance that included shelter, cooling centers and charging stations for cellphones and other mobile devices.

Buscher said Ethan Pose, the city’s community relations director, is organizing the long-term recovery group, made up of representatives from AARP, Springfield School District 186, the Red Cross, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, churches and civic organizations.

It will be a “community-based group that would respond to any natural or manmade disasters,” Buscher said. “When the community needs help, the community group deploys. It would be such a faster process of getting help and all hands onboard if we had that process in place.”

CWLP is looking into more efficient ways of informing the public through the news media and social media about the progress of restoring power in future outages, Brown said. In the days after the derecho, city officials held daily news conferences that were streamed on the internet.

The Springfield City Council heard debate in the weeks after the storms over whether the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters would have made a difference in the pace of restoring power.

The city currently uses automatic meter reading technology for CWLP customers that allows a CWLP vehicle to drive down a street and take wireless readings from nearby structures.

AMI readers would wirelessly connect to a central hub and allow city officials immediate and constant access to a customer’s electrical system and know when power is out, Brown said.

Conversion to such technology throughout CWLP’s territory would cost $20 million, he said. CWLP is considering switching to AMI readers, which also would allow the utility to charge differing rates at different times of the day, but Brown said several other capital projects have higher priority.

AMI readers would assist the city in handling small-scale outages but wouldn’t make much of a difference during a large-scale event such as a derecho, he said.

In mass outages, AMI “doesn’t speed up restoration,” Brown said. “When there’s something to fix, we still have to put somebody out there to review it and figure out what’s wrong and get the materials ordered or pulled from inventory.”

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer at Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolien@illinoistimes.com, 217-679-7810 or twitter.com/DolienTT.
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Delay in Scheels Sports Park groundbreaking

Developer says city council needs to extend time frame for business district incentives

DEVELOPMENT | Dean Olsen

Groundbreaking for the $67 million Scheels Sports Park at Legacy Pointe, originally expected in July, now could take place in September after action Aug. 29 by impatient Springfield City Council members.

“My tired of excuses and the changes and the ‘this-and-that,’” Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams said before the council decided to place three ordinances dealing with the sports complex on the Sept. 5 meeting agenda.

The measures would dissolve the South Central Business District and create a new one with a maximum 23-year lifespan that coincides with other economic incentives in the city’s agreement with the complex’s developer.

The identical lifespans are needed to satisfy banks and related institutions that Springfield-based Legacy Pointe Development is working with to arrange private financing for the project, according to Ryan McCrady, president and chief executive officer of the nonprofit Sangamon Growth Alliance.

The business district imposes an additional 1% sales tax on purchases at Scheels and other businesses there for use by the city. A development agreement first approved by the council in 2021, and then amended in April, goes to fund improvements in roads, sewers and other infrastructure within the district.

City officials said city government and taxpayers won’t be responsible financially if the complex never opens or fails later. The complex for baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball, among other sports, would be one of the largest of its kind in the country. It’s expected to create a huge boost in tourism related to competitive youth sports.

Some council members have said they are concerned the financial and recreational benefits of the 95-acre, privately owned complex wouldn’t be shared by all areas of the city.

Donelan said the developer made clear its intention to advance the complex’s construction costs over a 23-year period – totaling up to $33.5 million.

The developers must spend money first for construction to be reimbursed 50 cents on the dollar.

Ward 9 Ald. Jim Donelan said it’s unclear why the City Council wasn’t called upon earlier to create a new business district during the administration of former Mayor Jim Langfelder, who left office in the spring after being defeated by current Mayor Misty Buscher.

Donelan said he wants to focus on the future benefits of the complex. “I like to look forward,” he said.

But Williams said the delay is the fault of the developer. “This is not on the city,” he said.

Donelan told Williams at the Aug. 29 meeting: “I share your frustration. … We just want something to happen. This better be it. Let’s get earth moving and get this underway.”

McCrady said the developer made clear to city officials – both during Langfelder’s administration and to the Buscher administration – that the potential term of the business district needed to be extended to satisfy lending institutions.

“We don’t know why the city did not do that sooner,” McCrady said.

He noted that the business district is “a tool to help spur development” and won’t benefit the sports complex alone. He said the additional 1% sales tax collected in the district goes to fund improvements in roads, sewers and other infrastructure within the district.

City officials said city government and taxpayers won’t be responsible financially if the complex never opens or fails later. The complex for baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball, among other sports, would be one of the largest of its kind in the country. It’s expected to create a huge boost in tourism related to competitive youth sports.

Proposals for a youth sports complex in various parts of Springfield have been considered since the mid-1990s. The Scheels complex would be north of the Scheels sporting goods store on the city’s south side, on the west side of MacArthur Boulevard and north of the Interstate 72 interchange.

The complex would feature multiple fields for baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse and rugby, as well as a 27,000-square-foot specialty turf area with a concert stage and more than 25,000 square feet of buildings for support and administration.

There also would be a 150,000-square-foot air-supported structure, billed as the largest permanent inflated building of its type in the world. It would contain six indoor basketball courts or 12 volleyball courts and an artificial turf field, all of which could be used year-round.

Some council members have said they are concerned the financial and recreational benefits of the 95-acre, privately owned complex wouldn’t be shared by all areas of the city.

Scott Dahl, director of the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the sports complex would attract about 25,000 visitors to Springfield each year from across the country and would increase visitors to the city overall by 10% to 15% after the first year of operation.

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer at Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolen@illinoistimes.com, 217-679-7810 or twitter.com/DeanOlsenIT.
Supper and a Song

Event will be held outside under the stars at the Knob Hill Outdoor Living Showroom including three fire features, multiple water features, and intimate lighting making for a unique atmosphere for dinner and a show. Tickets will include a full farm-to-table dinner, 2-drink tickets, and the show for one price.

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Esports facility opening at UIS

A state-of-the-art intercollegiate sports facility opens Sept. 6 at University of Illinois Springfield, but don’t expect to see any of the competitors run, jump or throw. They’ll spend their time sitting, staring and clicking.

Videogaming, or esports, has become the latest team activity on the college campus.

“Esports is a rapidly growing sport that is extremely popular for collegiate and high school-aged students,” said James Koeppe, director of UIS Campus Recreation.

“Because of this, universities are investing resources to allow students to play on campus with top-of-the-line equipment. The esports arena will also help grow the skills of students interested in computer science and visual art degrees. Not only will students be playing games, they also will be broadcasting and producing events in the arena.”

With the addition of the UIS gaming arena, every state university in Illinois, except University of Illinois Chicago, will have its own esports team, Koeppe said.

Increasingly, high school students pondering what college to attend look at what esports opportunities exist on campus, said Jay Swenson, UIS assistant director of facilities and comparative sports.

“This will be quite the recruitment tool for the university,” he said.

The new facility is located in renovated space within Founders Residence Hall. The UIS Esports Arena features 13 computers that were built to meet the needs of competitive gaming. The arena also features a PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and Nintendo Switch. These tools will be used for both competitive gaming and recreational play.

“Any student is allowed to use the space, even if they are not interested in joining the team or even being part of the recreational club,” Koeppe said. “This was a major reason we purchased the consoles along with the PCs, as we want the space to be inviting to every student.”

The university hired William Rios to coach the team.

Rios, a Springfield native, is 23 and a recent graduate of Illinois College. During the day, he works in finance and in the evening, he will coach the team.

The competitive team, led by Rios, will be comprised of 15 to 25 students who will play in the National Esports Collegiate Conference. While currently focused on games like Rocket League and Valorant, the UIS esports team aims to expand its offerings based on student preferences, potentially including titles such as Super Smash Bros, League of Legends and Overwatch, the university said in a prepared statement.

Rios noted that some colleges already offer esports scholarships and added he is hopeful that will someday be the case at UIS.

Koeppe said it cost about $75,000 to refurbish the space that has become the esports arena. Another $30,000 was spent to add desks, computers and other equipment to the arena.

UIS spokesman Blake Wood said the money came from nine university departments and from the Springfield-based M.G. Nelson Family Foundation.

“As a lifelong gamer and firm believer in the transformative power of gaming and esports, I couldn’t be more thrilled about the opening of the esports program and arena at UIS,” said Mark Nelson, a member of the family foundation.

“Gaming has been a significant part of my life, honing invaluable skills like teamwork, communication, strategic thinking and perseverance. Now, with this facility, students will have the chance to embrace their gaming passions while also gaining essential skills and relationships for life in and outside of college.”

The Nelson Foundation has declined to publicly disclose the size of its donation. Swenson said the esports team will host teams from other colleges in the arena, will play away games on other campuses and will play matches where teams face off virtually.

“It’s part of the college experience for teams to travel to other campuses and we want those playing esports to experience this,” he said.

Rios said he anticipates this will be the first co-ed intercollegiate team to play for UIS. He said there is no perceived gender advantage for esports competitors.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.
Gov. JB Pritzker joined hundreds of people from across southern Illinois Aug. 25 to celebrate the opening of the state’s 14th casino on a rural estate just outside of Carterville, near Carbondale.

The Walker’s Bluff Casino Resort is the fourth casino to open in recent years that was authorized by a 2019 gambling expansion law that was a centerpiece of Pritzker’s first term. It features 650 slot machines and table games, a hotel, restaurants, a full-service spa and a 1,200-seat event center. It is expected to employ about 300 people.

“Hospitality, jobs, economic development – that is what today’s announcement represents,” Pritzker said. “When I proposed that we pass a casino gaming bill a few years ago, this is what I had envisioned.”

The 2019 law amending the Illinois Gambling Act authorized six new casinos, including the one in Carterville, four “racinos” – combination horse racetracks and casinos – online and retail sports betting, and expanded video gambling.

Proceeds from the gambling expansion were earmarked, in part, to provide funding for Rebuild Illinois, the state’s multiyear capital improvement program to repair and build new roads, bridges and government buildings across the state. The transportation-related portions of the capital improvement program are also supported by increases in the motor fuel tax and licensing fees.

Each casino is required to contribute one-time fees within 30 days of opening to the Rebuild Illinois fund. For Walker’s Bluff Casino Resort, that amounts to $25.3 million, according to the Illinois Gaming Board. Pritzker said the state has already committed Rebuild Illinois funding to numerous projects throughout the southern Illinois region, such as for new buildings at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and John A. Logan College in Carterville.

The $147 million project in southern Illinois has been in the making for years, an effort spurred by Cynde Bunch and her late husband, David, who opened an upscale restaurant and general store by the same name in 2008 on land that had been in Cynde’s family for generations. Elite Casino Resorts LLC is the majority owner and operator of the casino and resort, although Cynde is a partial owner as well.

The ribbon-cutting follows the openings of the Hard Rock Casino in Rockford in November 2021 and the American Place Casino in Waukegan in February 2022, both in upstate Illinois, as well as the Golden Nugget in central Illinois’ Danville in June. The Rockford and Waukegan casinos opened in temporary facilities.

The state’s land-based casinos are already attracting visitors. Last month, just shy of 150,000 people visited the three casinos, representing 15.6 percent of all visitors to the state’s 13 casinos, according to data from the Illinois Gaming Board.

These casino visitors bring in millions of dollars to the state and to local governments each month. In July, casinos allocated $38.3 million for taxes on admissions and gambling – with $30.7 million set aside for the state and $7.6 million for local governments.

The state portion of this money is separate from Rebuild Illinois infrastructure spending and pays for costs at the gaming board, with any excesses being used for educational spending.

There are two more land-based casinos set to open in the coming years. Perhaps the most high-profile casino is the $1.7 billion Bally’s development in Chicago’s River West neighborhood. The Rhode Island-based company operates more than a dozen other casinos around the country, including a riverboat casino in the Quad Cities.

Ahead of the resort’s opening, Bally’s is set to open a temporary operation in the Medinah Temple in Chicago’s River North neighborhood. The state’s gaming board has preliminarily deemed it suitable and is expected to conduct inspections in the first week of September, meaning the temporary casino could be open as early as the following week.

The sixth casino is slated to open in 2025 in the south suburban Chicago village of Homewood and East Hazel Crest near the Indiana border.

The 2019 gambling law represented the largest expansion of casino operations in Illinois in decades. It authorized the Illinois Gaming Board to issue up to 10 new casino permits, including for the four “racinos,” doubling the number of potential licenses.

However, none of the planned racetrack-
casino combos have come to fruition to date. Plans for two of them were abandoned. The operators of tracks in Collinsville in the Metro East and Cicero near Chicago have preliminary approval to add casinos but have yet to do so.

The recent expansion of gambling is the first major change to Illinois’ casino industry since 1990, when the Illinois legislature legalized riverboat gambling. It was only the second state to do so – behind Iowa – though numerous states along the Mississippi River followed suit. The first riverboat casino opened in Alton in 1991. Nine others later opened, spanning from Metropolis at the state’s southern border near Kentucky, to the Chicago suburbs.

That original law only authorized riverboat casinos. For years, they were required to traverse the waterways during gambling sessions. A change in law in 1999 allowed the riverboats to remain docked and most of them eventually stopped setting sail.

Contact Capitol News Illinois at news@capitolnewsillinois.com.

The Walker’s Bluff Casino Resort is on a rural estate outside of Carterville, near Carbondale. CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO BY JENNIFER FULLER
Park District plans projects citywide

PARK DISTRICT | Scott Reeder

Using a blend of state, private and local tax dollars, Springfield Park District is undergoing an aggressive program to upgrade its 34 parks, Leslie Sgro told Illinois Times.

Sgro, who has been president of the Park District Board for 32 years, said several factors have resulted in the district becoming more aggressive in improving its infrastructure.

“We’ve been very conservative financially for the last several years, getting on a solid footing,” she said. “We are still conservative, but now we have a little bit of saved up funds that we can put into some of these projects. The other thing that is of a critical importance is the partnerships that we’ve put together.”

For example, in July the Springfield Lucky Horseshoes baseball team started a private foundation to help raise money for repairs and improvements at Robin Roberts Stadium. The Park District recently completed a study on converting the tennis courts north of the stadium to parking.

“It looks like we could add 107 new parking spaces, which would be just terrific,” said Jamie Toole, an owner of the team. “They would be over the top of the tennis courts. The study would require minor alterations to the batting cages and clubhouse because we would put an entry over that way. The anticipated cost is approximately $200,000.”

Park District executive director Derek Harms said he envisions the new parking lot being paid for with tax money provided by the Park District as well as private funds raised by the foundation.

Such public/private partnerships are commonplace within the Park District.

The Springfield Zoological Society is helping fund new fencing along the Henson Robinson Zoo’s perimeter.

“They were able to fund $50,000 toward helping us get a little further along in that project,” Harms said. “They helped us fund some improvements to the spider monkey exhibit a couple years ago.”

But the biggest ongoing project at the zoo is the construction of a new lemur building, which is entirely being paid for with a $750,000 state museum grant.

Another example of private dollars assisting with a Park District project is the replacement of the conservatory dome at Washington Park.

“The Conservatory Dome replacement project will include demolition of the current acrylic conservatory dome and construction of a new one that is the same size and shape within the same location, replacement of entryway windows, and replacement of all heating and cooling systems.

Project costs at Iles, Kiwanis and Gietl parks also received state grants.

Iles Park received a $400,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The remainder, $380,000, is coming from the William Ed Quarry Trust.

Projects at Iles, Kiwanis and Giel parks also received state grants.

Iles Park received a $400,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The remainder is being funded with local tax dollars.

“The project we just completed there was about a $1.2 million project,” Harms said. “We put in a new play system – kind of a community-sized playground – which has been very popular. It’s accessible for people of all ability levels in the community. “We regraded the softball diamond there and we put in a skate park. … We put a looped walking path throughout the entire park, which was just a great addition,” Harms said.

Kiwanis Park also received a $400,000 grant from IDNR for $800,000 in improvements. The rest of the project is being paid for with local tax dollars, Harms said.

“This project is ongoing,” he said. “When it’s done, we’re going to regrade two soccer fields and upgrade the lighting for the fields, too. We’re going to remove an old, small, dated playground and put in a new state-of-the-art play system. It’s a heavily residential area and I think the need for a larger, modern playground system is absolutely there. We’re also going to resurface and expand the parking lot.”

Giel Park received a $600,000 IDNR grant to convert Veterans Pool to a splash pad. Another $200,000 in local tax money will be applied toward this project.

“Veterans Memorial Pool is an old, dated pool. It’s 60-plus years old,” Harms said. “We proposed demolishing the existing pool. … We knew we wanted to do something unique and something fun for that neighborhood. So, we’re going to construct a modern splash pad that will be fully accessible for people with mobility challenges. We kept Veterans Pool open this season for one last hurrah.”

In a negotiated agreement between the Park District and the city of Springfield, both Enos and Gehrmann parks received tax increment financing dollars for upgrades.

“The playground equipment in Enos Park was in bad shape,” said Caleb Payne, president of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association. “Foot traffic of families and kids in the park has at least doubled since the new playground has been installed.”
**LETTERS**

We welcome letters. Please include your full name, address and telephone number. We edit all letters. Send them to editor@illinoistimes.com.

**AVOIDABLE**

This situation should never have happened (“A ruff experience,” Aug. 24). Pam Deppe should have given the dog back right away. Thank you to reporter Scott Reeder for making this story public. There needs to be a policy at Sangamon County Animal Control to foster animals in this situation when there’s a medical emergency instead of adopting out the animal.

Connie Wise Holiday
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

**SPECIAL TREATMENT?**

This raises questions regarding possible special treatment given to an elected official, board member or county employee. Was the public even given the opportunity to adopt the dog through a public listing? Given the seriousness of the allegations, it would be prudent for the county board to conduct an external investigation into these claims.

Chip Gass
Via illinoistimes.com

**DO THE RIGHT THING**

Thank goodness! All it took was a news article and negative feedback from a bunch of people to get Ms. Deppe to do the right thing. Happy for Ms. Lincoln and Sam! Megan Holl Swanson
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

**MUZZLED**

One has to wonder why Sangamon County Animal Control recently terminated a veteran volunteer with over a dozen years of experience for commenting on a post on a public Facebook site. I was a weekly dog walker at the shelter and it’s public knowledge that Animal Control is over capacity with animals and has a desperate shortage of volunteers. In fact, during the month of July, nine volunteers recorded a total of over 500 hours of dog-walking. Three of these each gave over 80 hours, and two others over 50. Many volunteers stay four or five hours to make sure each dog gets out once a day. The facility is understaffed and mismanaged, so there’s little help from staff, but evidently someone has time to monitor Facebook posts.

I did comment on a post about conditions there that “Public needs to know about these and many more issues!” Yes, I’d like people to know that there’s a new commercial washer and dryer waiting for over six months just to be installed. I’d like people to know that there are open drains in front of every dog kennel where dog poop flows with the cleaning water. This not only leads to disease, this follows with the cleaning water. A safety mirror donated by a volunteer months ago to alert dog walkers for dogs going in and out of the garage area has yet to be installed. When the new director was hired, I don’t understand why the county board didn’t do a wide search for someone with animal shelter experience and extensive management skills. Now the volunteers are under a gag order and cannot express anything negative about the situation for fear of retribution. There is a clause to that effect in the revised volunteer policy that was not in the prior one. And some people who are anxious to join the volunteer group are finding that the wait for a background check, fingerprinting and mentoring sessions is not worth it.

Who suffers? Bosco, Evie, Tater, Pax, Katie – the animals at Sangamon County Animal Control.

Nancy Hunter
Auburn

**OPINION**

### Girl in Pram Fights Monkey

I spent a year in England, saved a clipping: “Girl in Pram Fights Monkey” I omit here the London suburban street, etc. “A two-year-old fought with a monkey which jumped into her pram yesterday.” She was eating a banana, bitten, scratched, but held tight to her prize. The mother is quoted, “I was paralyzed with fright! Vanessa fought the monkey, but it bit her on the arms and hands. A man got the beast out of the pram. He was bitten, too.” The monkey was on a long lead outside a pet shop. The child received an anti-tetanus shot plus penicillin for a week. The paper doesn’t tell if her rescuer received treatment, nor the fate of the banana. Today, the owner would be sued.

2023 Jacqueline Jackson

On Aug. 28, Edinah Lincoln was reunited with her dog, Sam, who was adopted out by Sangamon County Animal Control while she was hospitalized. PHOTO BY KALA WELLS

**ONLINE CALENDAR SUBMISSION**

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Gov. JB Pritzker has taken some heat for vetoing legislation to eliminate the state’s decades-old moratorium on constructing new nuclear power reactors.

Pritzker was asked about the topic again last week and he said he would sign a version of the bill if it limited new construction to only what are called Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

“Small Modular Reactors are very beneficial,” Pritzker told reporters, noting that the technology wasn’t yet ready to deploy. “They do seem to work very well, and they do seem to be safe, but there’s going to be several years of testing yet ahead,” he said.

Asked how he could be confident of stopping a veto override, he said many legislators didn’t know that the bill had been changed. “In the last week, things go very quickly,” Pritzker said about the end of spring legislative sessions. “It isn’t known to every legislator that an amendment actually made a major change, not just a minor change.”

But legislators who shepherded the bill through the General Assembly have taken umbrage with the governor’s claim, noting that nine days passed between the final amendment’s introduction and the House’s floor vote. They also claimed they worked the final bill hard, and members were fully aware of what was going on.

Senate Bill 76 as originally introduced by Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, would’ve opened the door specifically to SMRs. Pritzker indicated last week he would’ve signed something similar to that bill into law had it not been so significantly changed. “I believe strongly that we should bring Small Modular Reactors to Illinois,” he claimed.

But Sen. Rezin then amended her bill to delete her previous SMR regulatory language and limited it to merely deleting the state’s longstanding nuclear moratorium language. Rezin’s bill was further amended in the House by Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, to add in language requiring that all new nuke plants be an “advanced nuclear reactor” as defined in federal law. The governor claims drafting it that way would open the door to large-scale nuclear power plants, which he opposes. Others hotly dispute this notion, including Rezin.

The problem for Pritzker is that the bill passed the House with a strong, bipartisan majority of 84 votes, which is far more than the 71 needed to override his veto. The Senate, on the other hand, voted 36-14 to concur on Yednock’s amendment, the bare minimum needed for an override.

Rezin told a local radio station last week that House Speaker Chris Welch, “has indicated he will not be calling the bill.” Pritzker’s veto message declared he vetoed the bill, “at the request of the leadership team of the Speaker of the House and advocates.”

But the House Speaker himself has made no such public comments on the legislation, and a Welch spokesperson told me, “We’re going to put this to the caucus before any decision is made for an override.”

“The amendment in the House was in direct response to concerns expressed by the governor, so this really came out of left field for everyone,” Senate Republican Leader John Curran told a reporter last week. Others have claimed the same thing.

But a review of email messages between the bill’s sponsors and others show only one from the governor’s office, and that email was a simple thanks for giving the office a heads up about Yednock’s House amendment.

“Senator Rezin and I spoke with the governor in the spring,” said Yednock. “He said he was supportive of nuclear. I can’t say there was more than that.” Rezin said she and Yednock met with the governor for half an hour in the spring and the governor said he agreed with the concept of lifting the moratorium to make way for Small Modular Reactors.

Some of the nuclear energy proponents I’ve spoken with do seem to realize that if the governor successfully stops a veto override, their issue may stall out and even disappear.

The governor does appear to be playing both sides on this topic. The House Speaker’s staff, after all, was involved with the amendment’s drafting, so proponents believe the governor was looped in all along. Some environmentalists don’t want anything to do with any nuclear restart, small or large. So, the governor can appease them with the veto, but still publicly claim to be on the side of a zero-carbon energy source.

If he is bluffing, nuke proponents should call it, run a new bill that makes their intentions clear and put it on his desk.
The 2023 Parliament of the World’s Religions (POWR) convened at Chicago’s McCormick Place Aug. 14-18. To reach the registration hall, I passed under banners invoking previous parliaments, including the original one hosted in Chicago in 1893, as part of the Columbian Exposition. The more modern incarnations started in 1993, also in Chicago. This year’s theme was “A Civil Conscience: Defending Freedom and Human Rights.”

Once inside, almost immediately I began to meet former classmates from seminary and colleagues. We posed for selfies, chatted about our respective ministries and relationships. I began to meet other registrants, who had traveled from overseas. As we waited in line, we added the POWR app to track the week’s schedule and myriad workshops. Soon I was issued an ID badge and green canvas bag. I moved into an adjacent hall that featured a maze of booths peopled with vendors. On the first sweep, I tended to linger in front of each and glance at the display unless my eyes met those of the vendor. When that happened, an invitation was issued, and I found myself immediately engaged, chatting about meditation practices or perhaps the importance of social justice work.

I was grateful that I had attended a recent POWR pre-event in Springfield, a collaboration between the Liturgical Arts Exposition and the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association. That event had highlighted the breadth of inspiration to be found in our community and had whetted my appetite for more of the same, on a larger stage.

Clean-shaven monks milled about clad in gray, brown or orange, passing Catholic and Protestant clerics dressed in black. Other clerics, especially women, wore a vast array of colors. Many wore clerical collars; some even wore stoles. An equal number did not overtly identify themselves as clergy – one universal feature is that everyone, regardless of tradition or status, carried a cellphone or tablet. It was exciting to find myself among so many thousands who had made their way to this Parliament, all seeking to connect and learn. I wandered about, collecting books, buttons, brochures. Small groups prayed, sang, meditated, walked together. Together, we formed a living tapestry of faith.

One point emphasized by the organizers is that the goal of such Parliaments is not unity but harmony. We do not gather the world’s religions to convert, but to converse – to invite others into moments of appreciation, if not awe, and to catch a glimpse of the beauty that breathed life into ancient traditions. In the main hall and workshops, speakers emphasized the need for a new global ethic. I listened to a multitude of renowned speakers, including Jane Goodall, describe the environmental problems that have escalated in our lifetime and must be robustly addressed by our societies. Other notable speakers included the Rev. William Barber, co-leads the Poor People’s Campaign.

Participants were invited to sign the new Global Ethic document. I did this and signed up for alerts from many other groups that raise awareness about such ills as violence against women and children. Some of the language I encountered reminded me of the Charter for Compassion that I had also signed years ago. Perhaps, I thought, the grounding of our spirituality is universal while the forms and language keep evolving to meet the demands of the age.

In other venues I watched liturgical dances that breathed life into ancient traditions. I walked a labyrinth while one woman played singing bowls. Elsewhere, I talked with authors and artists whose passion was to express the beauty and depths of their spiritual insights and longings. On several occasions, I removed shoes and donned a head covering as I joined throngs who were served a free vegetarian lunch briskly served by the Sikh community. During those lunches, I chatted with new friends while, in the background, various musicians performed – one day, for example, a Jewish folk ensemble.

Outside the main hall, Lake Michigan was bathed in the magnificent colors of mid-August. I walked outside to enjoy the spectacle of nature. Nearby, a few people preached their gospel to small clusters, but my attention was drawn to an extensive orange display. A sign noted that its purpose was to commemorate the 30,000 children who have been victims of gun violence since the massacre at Sandy Hook.

At one point during this Parliament, I remembered some lyrics from the 1971 song “Chicago! We can change the world,” by Graham Nash:

“Somehow people must be free
I hope the day comes soon
Won’t you please come to Chicago? Show your face
From the bottom of the ocean
To the mountains of the moon
Won’t you please come to Chicago? No one else can take your place”

The most compelling religious call for action is not for one time and place, but it’s issued to every generation. The sentiment is that people of faith must respond. The invitation is to start wherever one happens to be, and to act in concert with others in good faith.

Rev. Martin Woulfe is minister of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Springfield.
The power of words

WEEKLY REEDER | Scott Reeder

An unexpected conversation with a college acquaintance this past week has me thinking about the power of words.

I first met Bill 40 years ago when I was a freshman in college. I was going through a rough time. I was away from home for the first time and was assigned a roommate that I just couldn’t stand.

Bill was a community college transfer from the Chicago suburbs. He had grown up in a devout home but wasn’t regularly attending church. One day I was sitting in the laundromat in the basement of my dorm when he came and sat beside me.

He asked what I was reading and I told him it was the New Testament. He asked where I went to church and I explained that I attended a congregation near campus but wasn’t particularly happy there. Although the church was the same denomination that I had grown up in, the pastor’s messages were about as deep as a coat of varnish.

For whatever reason, I shared this with Bill. He told me of a church that he visited once that met in the college student union. The pastor was elderly and battling cancer. But he was sincere.

During the past 40 years, I have lived in cities all over the United States. But the first thing I would do when moving to a new community is join a church. Some advice given 40 years ago by a casual acquaintance altered the trajectory of my life.

When Bill and I spoke this past week, his recollection of me was dim at best. I’m certain he doesn’t remember that conversation. But his words mattered.

There was no stained glass, pews or organs. Folks sat in folding chairs in a borrowed upper room.

Bill told me I should try that church.

I fell in love with the tiny congregation and adored the pastor and his wife. My cynicism dissipated. For the first time since leaving home, I felt like I had a place where I belonged.

The pastor joked that Bill made me a regular attender, even though he didn’t come himself.

“IT was my first-ever professional job review, and I think it might have been one of his first, because he had just become an assistant city editor when he did my evaluation. … In the summary, he said, ‘If Gary continues to apply himself and learn his craft, I can see him working his way up into management one day.’”

Schneeberger has gone on to a distinguished career heading up public relations for Focus on the Family and other endeavors. He added, the editor who gave him the encouragement has no recollection of doing so.

Ironically, the person Schneeberger said inspired him to greater things was the worst boss I’ve had in my 35 years in the workforce. He criticized me during a job evaluation for abstaining from alcohol and living too sheltered a life to be a good journalist.

The biblical book of Proverbs says: “The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.”

In my 58 years, I too have said things I have regretted. To this I can only ask the listener’s forgiveness. But I pray when I do speak, I’m offering words of encouragement.

Why? Because words matter.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.
Horse hair, hidden trusses and fire damage: Welcome to the $245 million North Wing renovation project at the Illinois State Capitol building in downtown Springfield.

Project workers have experienced the surprise of finding previously unknown, original elements of the building such as wall insulation made from horse hair and grass, hidden trusses and fireplaces, historic fire damage, and openings that haven't been seen in more than a century.

These revelations have combined with the sheer scale of the project's interior, exterior and underground components to instill a respectful sense of awe among those who are working on the iconic, 1876-vintage seat of state government that is at once an office building, a tourist attraction and a venerated historic landmark.

The innocuous plywood construction site door in the Capitol rotunda is a fantastic journey portal through the stripped-down guts of one-quarter of the massive building. The head-spinning agglomeration of original materials and finishes, new jack-hammered openings, and the noisy, dusty choreography of a major construction site is worlds apart from the bustling, echoing halls that have welcomed the elected and electors for decades. But in just 18 months the outcome promises to be even more impressive, and authentic, than the Capitol has been in more than a century.

“It is a pretty overwhelming feeling. To have this position, and to be in charge of such a historic renovation of this building, is great,” said Andrea Aggertt, the Architect of the Capitol. “I’m speechless, daily. I am excited to be leading this and I’m excited for the future of the Capitol building.”

“They grabbed whatever they could.”

Aggertt is a well-practiced tour guide for the active construction site. She knows where to duck, which sheets of plastic to pull back for a better view, and which sets of temporary construction stairs to climb. And there are a lot of stairs, because that’s the only way at the moment to access all six floors of the North Wing until the project’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) elevators are installed.

About halfway to the top, stair-weary workers have scrawled “You can do it! 112 steps, 138 more to go!” on an unfinished wall. But using state government’s ultimate Stairmaster is worth it, because each floor reveals wonders that no one has seen since previous generations of workers made their marks in the 1800s. That century-plus-year-old work is being uncovered for the first time as the current construction project has gotten down to the building’s original finishes.

“We have found horse hair and grass stuffed in walls. They grabbed whatever they could to insulate or to pack in a void,” said Aggertt as she pulled a sample of equine fur sandwiched between some bricks. “There literally is grass from the 1800s put in as part of the plaster backing. They also had some leftover marble and shims, so they put them there as well.”

The project discoveries also included some original doorways that had been bricked shut, and some hidden fireplaces on the second floor.

“We had no idea there was a fireplace and when we went to demo a wall there was actually a fire box that still remained,” Aggertt said. “We won't restore that fireplace but we will most likely manipulate the wood around it to make sure that people realize there used to be a fireplace there.”

Perhaps as a reminder why there are no longer active fireplaces in the Capitol, workers uncovered evidence of past fire damage to a ceiling. The now-exposed charred brick bears stark evidence of an 1866 blaze that was, thankfully, confined to a single room.
The biggest surprises, however, were the original trusses on the fourth and fifth floors that no one knew existed and that caused some modifications to the current construction project. Chris Vartek is the project architect for Vinci-Hamp Architects, a firm working on the Capitol that specializes in historic restoration work.

“There have been a few surprises on this project, especially the wrought-iron trusses that no one knew about that hold up some floors,” Vartek said. “Those were kind of a big surprise that we had to work around.”

More discoveries are made nearly every day on the North Wing project. Several areas have “exposure strips” where consultants like Vartek carefully remove all newer finishes to get down to the original paint colors and designs of certain rooms. One of the more fascinating reveals showed that a room was originally used as an agricultural museum with painted corn, wheat, grape and vine designs.

“We are being more efficient.”

The North Wing project isn’t all about finding and restoring long-ago history. It’s also about removing some much more recent history.

Mezzanine floors were added to the Capitol building in the late 1960s and early 1970s to double the square footage available for offices. Those mezzanines took the Capitol’s high-ceiling rooms and chopped them in half horizontally, hiding much of the original detail with drop ceilings. Closed-off stairwells added in the 20th century blocked much of the natural light coming in through the Capitol’s large windows.

The North Wing mezzanine floors are being removed and the rooms will return to their original majestic, high-ceiling spaces. Stairwells will be moved farther toward the wing’s interior to allow more light to flow into Capitol offices. Molds have been made of original architectural elements so new castings can be created to replace columns, finials and other details that were destroyed when mezzanine floors were added.

These major changes mean there will be fewer offices available in the Capitol.

“Each individual agency will need to determine its office needs,” Aggerett said. “We will have work station configurations to allow people to come here on a session day to work, but not a full office like people used to have. So while we may be reducing square footage, we are becoming more efficient in desk space.”

More state agency office space is being created in the State Armory Building just north of the Capitol in a separate but concurrent construction project (see sidebar story).

The second-floor hallway in the Capitol that recently ended with a door to the Comptroller’s Office has been opened up as it was originally, so now it is a long hallway like the South Wing hall across the Rotunda. Governor’s Office space in the North Wing, now mezzanine-free, will include a large conference room that can serve as the governor’s working office when the Capitol’s East Wing is renovated in coming years.

The Senate Chamber is currently filled with scaffolding and the senators’ desks covered with individual plywood protective coverings while workers install a new stained-glass ceiling lay light, a fixture that will mimic the room’s original natural light-reflecting device. Other than the new light and a host of ADA improvements, the Senate Chamber is being updated to bring the building into compliance with current building and accessibility codes. The historic facade will be restored but the interior will become a modern, open office plan with natural daylight flowing in. Approximately 700 employees are expected to work in the completed Armory.

Bids have yet to be let on Phase Two, but the overall project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2027.

The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB), which manages non-road, state-funded construction projects, is closely coordinating with the State Historic Preservation Office throughout the renovation to make sure the historic nature of the Armory is preserved. The renovation is being designed to obtain LEED Silver certification for its environmentally friendly and energy-efficient features.

Tilton, Kelly and Bell is the lead architect and design firm for the Armory project, and CDB project managers Craig Butler and Patrick Randle are overseeing the design and construction. Butler, Randle and the rest of CDB will have new offices in the Armory, as will numerous other state agencies.

And what about the Stratton Building? Once it is torn down, plans call for its current footprint to be transformed into the Capitol’s West Lawn, where large gatherings and rallies can be held. This new open area will do away with the traffic and safety issues that occur during large events on the Capitol’s east side, where large crowds often spill onto busy Second Street.

–David Blanchette
and its associated galleries will look largely the same as they did before the project started.

“...and the women’s restroom in the Senate area, however, will look entirely different.

“The men’s restroom is very nice, and the women’s restroom looked very much a product of the 1970s, and, most importantly, it wasn’t ADA accessible,” Aggertt said. “So it will be getting the same makeover that the men’s restroom got several years ago.”

New sidewalk “mimics the curvature of the former north drive”

Big changes are evident by the gaping holes around the outside of the Capitol. The North Wing renovation project is adding a new north entryway, a new conference center under the west lawn, and a new underground parking garage north of the Stratton Building.

“The north drive will not come back. It was deemed a security risk, allowing cars to be too close to the building,” Aggertt said. “However, the sidewalk we are putting in place mimics the curvature of the former north drive and strategically navigates around all of our historic trees.”

The completely ADA-accessible north entrance will allow visitors to walk directly off Monroe Street and get into the Capitol Building without navigating stairs or ramps. From there, they can access a tunnel to get to the new underground conference center, which will have small and large meeting spaces and will be illuminated by a skylight in the west lawn.

Tunnels will also connect to the Stratton Building and the new parking garage. A new additional tunnel is being built halfway underneath Monroe Street to connect to an anticipated future building across the street.

“The Capitol’s east and west entrances will remain open. There will be two north entrances, the existing one only for employees with state ID badges, while visitors and staff can use the new, lower-level entrance. That’s where the new tour guide offices and orientation space will be located, in underground space previously occupied by electrical switching gear.

The North Wing’s third through sixth floors, the area used by the Senate, are scheduled for completion in December 2024 so the Senate can convene there in January 2025. The basement through second floors should be completed several months after that, with the new north entrance and underground conference center ready in August 2025.

It’s an ambitious schedule that has been a challenge because of pandemic-related construction supply shortages. It took two full years just to get the new generators that can power the entire Capitol building and the underground parking garage in an emergency.

“We are still seeing a lag of electrical components that are so critical to run a building. Even though we are the State of Illinois and this is the Capitol building, we wait in line just like everybody else,” Aggertt said. “Knowing that, we were actually very proactive with a lot of materials and anything that could be six or eight months out, the contractor bought immediately and is storing it.”

“Yeah, I worked on that.”

Many of those involved in the North Wing project speak of it in reverential terms. Michael Burgard is a mechanical engineer and Henneman Engineering’s project manager.

“There are some days that you get caught up and you kind of forget the building you’re working on,” Burgard said. “But there are other days where you’re walking up to it and you see the scale and you’re like, ‘Holy cow, I get to work on that.’”

“In the future I’ll point everything out to my kids and grandkids. I’ll show them the North Wing and the garage and say ‘Yeah, I worked on that,’” Burgard said. “Then I will try to point out some of the little issues that came up that I had a part in helping to solve.”

Chris Vartek of Vinci-Hamp Architects oversees the project’s architectural details and coordinates the mechanical, plumbing and electrical work.

“The greatest reward is seeing the building restored to the greatness that it once was,” Vartek said. “It’s an enormous project for our office and it’s only a quarter of the building. You try not to think about the big picture sometimes because you’ll get lost. It’s exciting.”

Capitol Architect Aggertt is quick to share the credit for the North Wing project progress with her working group that consists of the contractors, the Office of the Capitol Architect Board, the secretary and assistant secretary of the Senate, and the clerk and assistant clerk of the House. She, and they, realize that $245 million sounds like a lot of money to restore just one-quarter of a government building.

“This isn’t just for the people who work here, but this is for every single visitor and every single resident of Illinois. I hope that generations from now people are still able to enjoy the building and see the things we are seeing right now,” Aggertt said. “A lot of private developers will say it’s just cheaper to tear it down and build something in its place. Thankfully, Illinois has been able to put the funds in to restore a building that is so iconic.”

“Every day that I can get away from my desk I love just to take the stairs and look at details,” Aggertt said. “There are still details that I walk by and think, ‘Wow, I didn’t see that until now.’ There is just so much to take in.”
Not at all *Rotten*

See Shakespeare’s wacky competitors in *Something Rotten!* Sept. 8-10 at the Hoogland.

**THEATER | Mary Young**

Hark, good citizens! Attend thee a mirthful spectacle unfolding upon the Hoogland stage. The most wondrous *Something Rotten!*—book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O’Farrell, music and lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick—isa musical comedy set in the 90s… the 1590s to be sure. Huzzah! *‘Tis the Renaissance, where struggling playwright brothers, Nick (Josh Ratz) and Nigel (Jakob Hankins) Bottom are desperately struggling to write a hit play as they seem unable to rise to the level of the popular rockstar playwright William Shakespeare, known as “The Bard” (Connor McNamara). Alack, alack, alack!*

The Bottoms and their merry band of players keep plugging away with no success. Nick, ultimately motivated by his jealousy of The Bard and his urgent need to succeed to provide for his resourceful and newly expectant wife, Bea (Zoey Zara), secretly seeks the help of a soothsayer to get a jump on the next big thing in theater. The mystic, Thomas Nostradamus (Gus Gordon), nephew of the famous Nostradamus, predicts the future of musical theater. Nick decides the troupe’s next production will be just that… a musical. Alas, the troupe ends up losing its wealthy benefactor, Lord Clapham (Eric Huber), after showing him their newest theatrical creation … a musical number about the Black Plague. Nick eventually makes another trip to the seer for guidance on how to intercept The Bard’s best idea, yet to come. This results in a hilarious misinterpretation of one of Shakespeare’s greatest masterpieces, complete with frying pans, witty alliterations and dancing eggs.

*Something Rotten!* also involves a love-at-first-sight subplot between the naive and lovelorn brother Nigel and his kindred spirit, Portia, daughter of the oppressively Puritan Brother Jeremiah (Meredith Crifasi and Brett Rutherford, respectively). No spoilers on whether these star-crossed lovers meet the same fate as one of Shakespeare’s other famous plays.

Forsooth, everything about the production is impressive, including the superb casting and tight direction by Joe-Michael Jackson and Ginny Racette. There’s not a weak performer in the bunch. Throughout the show, several performers move in and out of supporting characters and disguises, changing their costumes and facial hair, to keep upstairs the comic ante. Your eyes could wander at any moment to anyone onstage and see a fully engaged performer at work and having fun while doing it. The snappy pacing slipped along as actors, sets and scenes flowed easily from one to the next. Costumes by Rene Blank are suitably period, complete with bustles, codpieces (Welcome to the Renaissance!), and some sleek contemporary elements added in. Sets and scenic design by Steve Varble emphasize the colorful and cartoonish nature of the show, while choreography by Anna Maisenbacher and Casey Kulavic, including a wonderfully executed call-and-response tap conversation, is nonstop fun. Mary Watts Meyers, as Portia, always leads a fine-sounding orchestra. Lights by Kevin Zepp and sound by Duane Fant appropriately punctuate and enhance the musical numbers and scenes. For this article, I watched a tech rehearsal and they were all beyond audience-ready. I can only imagine how much higher they’ll go with an audience.

The show is airy and fun, bawdy and silly, but the music, for me, wasn’t entirely memorable and some of the jokes waned as the show went on. But none of that mattered much. For oh, what a wondrous spell is cast upon us by the performers who, like skillful conjurers, summoned forth our laughter, applause and admiration.

In case anyone is not sure about seeing it because of all the Shakespeare references here, fear not. This accessible show is much less *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and more like that Gilligan’s Island episode, “The Producer.” You’re going to “love it, love it, love it!”

The revelry continues next Friday through Sunday, Sept. 8, 9 and 10, upon the Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS boards. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets, those coveted tokens of entry, may be procured forthwith by visiting *your* link: https://www.hcfa.org/tickets. Should it please thee to engage in a spontaneous escapade, fret not, for the box office shall fling wide its doors upon the eve of the performance, bestowing tickets upon those with daring, last-minute spirits. Though methinks you may want to order in advance.

Mary Young, born and raised in Springfield, has been performing in, producing and directing live theater for decades. She’s done film and voice-over work, performs occasionally with local bands and likes to make up funny stuff with improv troupe *The Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company.*
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Giardiniera means “from the garden”

Make yours pickled or fermented, Italian-style or Chicago-style

**FOOD | Peter Glatz**

Summer’s end is just around the bend. My tomatoes and cucumbers are starting to get scarce, but the capiscum plants I’ve been faithfully tending are heavy with peppers and a blaze with color. It’s time to preserve some of this bounty for enjoyment over the winter months. Homemade giardiniera is a delicious way to preserve the summer in a jar.

For hundreds of years, people have been preserving vegetables by pickling them in vinegar or fermenting them in salt water. Pickling and fermenting are very different processes. Pickling is a sterile process for preserving food; there are no microorganisms involved. The pickling process utilizes hot acidic liquid to preserve the vegetables and prevent spoilage. Fermentation is a living process relying on acid production by beneficial microorganisms. During this process, lactobacillus, a salt-tolerant bacteria, converts the sugars in foods into lactic acid. This prevents food spoilage by creating an acidic environment that undesirable bacteria can’t tolerate.

Giardiniera (pronounced giar-di-nie-re) is an Italian word meaning “from the garden.” Traditionally in Italy, giardiniera is served with antipasto, a first course often consisting of pickled vegetables, olives, artichokes and cured meat. Giardiniera is also great on sandwiches, pairing especially well with prosciutto, cotto or mortadella. Italian giardiniera usually contains bite-sized pieces of peppers, celery, carrots, cauliflower and gherkins. Most modern giardiniera recipes rely on vinegar for flavor and preservation but, before 1823 when large-scale industrial production of vinegar was first introduced, people mostly relied on fermentation with salt.

A regional variant is known as Chicago-style giardiniera. Peppers predominate and the pieces are cut up smaller than the Italian version. Chicago-style giardiniera is usually served as a condiment for Italian beef sandwiches and hot dogs and is available in hot or mild styles. Some Chicago-style versions do not include vinegar, just oil. However, adding vinegar acts as a preservative and prolongs shelf life.

**Fermented Italian-style Giardiniera**

Makes about 1 quart

Ingredients:
- ½ medium cauliflower, separated into bite-sized pieces
- 2 bell peppers, sliced into bite-sized pieces
- 2-3 jalapenos, cut in half lengthwise
- 1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 3 cloves of garlic, peeled and halved
- 2 medium carrots, thinly sliced
- 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme
- Filtered water
- Kosher salt

Equipment needed:
- Quart wide-mouthed canning jar
- Vented fermentation lid (optional)
- Fermentation weight (optional)

Preparation

Wash and prep the vegetables as indicated.
Place a clean jar on the digital kitchen scale and "tare" (set to zero).
Tightly hand-pack the vegetables, bay leaves and thyme sprigs into the jar but leave 1 inch of space unfilled at the top of the jar.
Add enough filtered water to cover the vegetables. Record the total weight of the water and vegetables (minus the weight of the jar).
Pour out the water into a separate container. Multiply the total weight of the vegetables and water by .03 to calculate the amount of salt to add. Add the salt to the water, stir to dissolve, and pour the brine back into the jar with the vegetables.
Place a fermentation weight in the jar to keep all the vegetables submerged.
Alternatively, you can partially fill a resealable sandwich bag with some brine and place it atop the vegetables.
Cover the jar with a vented fermentation lid. If you don’t have a fermentation lid, use a regular lid. If you use a regular lid, you will need to loosen and retighten the lid every day to “burp” the jar and let the gases escape. The giardiniera will get very bubbly and liquid may flow out. Set the jar on a tray or plate to catch any overflow.
After 4 weeks of fermentation, remove the fermentation weight and move the giardiniera jar to refrigeration. It should keep for several months.

**Pickled Italian-style Giardiniera**

Makes about 1 quart

Ingredients
- ½ medium cauliflower, separated into bite-sized pieces
- 2 bell peppers, sliced into bite-sized pieces
- 2-3 jalapeno peppers, cut in half lengthwise
- 1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 3 cloves of garlic, peeled and halved
- 2 medium carrots, thinly sliced
- 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme
- Crushed red pepper flakes and ground black pepper (to taste)
- ½ teaspoon celery seeds
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup white wine vinegar
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon filtered water
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Preparation

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cauliflower, peppers, onion, garlic, carrots, and celery.
Make the pickling liquid: In a large saucepan, combine the two vinegars, water, salt and sugar. Bring to a boil. Turn off the heat and add the vegetables. Blanch for about one minute, then scoop the vegetables back into the mixing bowl, reserving the pickling liquid.
Place the basil, celery seed, bay leaf and black pepper into a clean wide-mouth quart canning jar. Tightly pack the vegetables into the jar, leaving 1 inch of space unfilled at the top of the jar.
Pour in the pickling liquid to cover the vegetables, leaving ½ inch of head space. Top with the olive oil. Cover tightly with a lid.
Refrigerate at least 2 days before using, to allow flavors to meld. It should keep for at least 2 months in the refrigerator.

**Homemade Chicago-Style Giardiniera**

Chicago-style giardiniera is a must for Italian beef sandwiches.

Makes about 1 quart

Ingredients
- ½ medium cauliflower, separated into bite-sized pieces
- 5 jalapeno peppers, diced (or substitute bell peppers for mild giardiniera)
- 5 serrano peppers, diced
- 1 medium carrot, thinly sliced
- 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup vinegar
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
- 1 tablespoon crushed red pepper (or to taste)
- Freshly ground black pepper (to taste)
- 1/2 cup green olives, chopped

Preparation

Wash and prep the vegetables as indicated.
In a large bowl, combine peppers with cauliflower, carrots and celery. Sprinkle with the salt. Add enough cold water to cover and refrigerate overnight.
The next day, drain the vegetables in a colander and rinse well. Add the chopped olives and set aside.
Make a vinaigrette. In a separate bowl, combine the garlic, oregano, celery seed, crushed pepper flakes and ground black pepper. Add oil and vinegar and whisk to combine.
Pack the vegetable mixture into jars, and cover with the vinaigrette.
Refrigerate at least 2 days before using to allow flavors to meld. Make sure the vegetables are submerged in the vinaigrette.
Store in the refrigerator and use within a month.
MUSIC

Violins of beauty, history and remembrance

MUSIC | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

Lithe, soulful and harmonic melodies played on violins will fill Springfield Sept. 7-13. Twelve violins from the international project Violins of Hope will be on display at the Illinois State Museum. Six of the violins will be featured in concerts across town and played by local musicians. The week of music is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Springfield.

Violins of Hope is a project set up by Israeli master violin maker and player Amnon Weinstein who wanted to memorialize Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust by meticulously restoring surviving violins. He and his son, Avshalom, also a master violin maker, have collected over 80 violins that have been played in concerts throughout the world, the first in 2001 in Istanbul.

The project showcases violins that were played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust. Some of the violin owners perished in a concentration camp, but the violins survived and have been restored. Each has a story. Karen Westbrook, president of the Jewish Federation of Springfield, says, “These violins embody the spirit of perseverance that can resonate across all cultures and communities. It is important to share these beautiful instruments and what they represent – a celebration of survival. We hope many will come, no matter one’s religion.”

On Sept. 7 the violins will go on display at the Illinois State Museum with a reception starting at 5:30 followed by an opening recital, A Celebration of Survival. A violin not in the display will be brought to town by Katrin Stamatis, principal second violinist with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra. She will join her sister, Dr. Yona Stamatis, associate professor of ethnomusicology and director of the music program at the University of Illinois, to share the unique story of their family’s violin, the Klingenenthaler violin. Yona will lead the lecture, followed by a recital including Katrin on violin, Lisa Nelson on viola, and Jacobsen Woolen on cello.

The grandfather of Yona and Katrin Stamatis was Arno Kahn who lived in Cologne, Germany, and was given the instrument by his parents after World War I. When the Nazis gained power in 1933, Kahn’s parents moved to the Netherlands, taking the violin and other valuables with them while Arno stayed in Cologne. He emigrated to New York in 1937. In the 1940s his parents attempted to get passage to New York, but the Netherlands was invaded by the Germans before they could leave. They buried the violin in their garden before being sent to Auschwitz, where they died. Kahn’s uncle survived, returned to the family home, and dug up the violin.

Six of the violins will be featured in the various concerts.


The Klezmer violin is handmade, around 120 years old, and decorated with a Star of David made of mother of pearl.

The Auschwitz violin was made around 1850 in a German workshop in Saxony or Tirol; it was originally owned and played by an inmate in the men’s orchestra at the Auschwitz concentration camp. After the war, a man named Abraham Davidowitz, working to help displaced Jews, approached by a man, needing money, who offered to sell his violin. Davidowitz bought it for $50, hoping his son, Freddy, would learn to play. Years later, Freddy donated the violin to Violins of Hope.

The Wagner and Weichold violins both belonged to the Palestine Orchestra, which was created in 1936 and in 1948 became the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Its musicians were considered first rate, playing in orchestras around Europe; they lost their positions when the Nazis came to power. After the war, Israel boycotted German goods and musicians refused to play German-made instruments. Moshe Weinstein bought instruments so they wouldn’t be destroyed but knew he could not sell them. The two instruments are now played worldwide in the Violins of Hope.

The Hakkert violin was handmade by a Dutch Jewish violin maker, Jacob Hakkert, around 1910. Hakkert died at Auschwitz in 1944.

The Weininger violin was owned and played by Erich Weininger, a butcher in Vienna. The violin went with him to Dachau. When he was sent to Buchenwald concentration camp, he was allowed to bring his violin but not allowed to play it. Released from Buchenwald, he returned to Vienna and was one of the last Jews to escape Nazi Europe. Boarding an illegal boat to Palestine, he was arrested because the country did not allow Jews to enter. Deported to Mauritius, he started a band, playing classical and local music in cafes. At the end of the war, he finally reached Palestine in 1945, carrying his violin. His son Zeev donated the violin to the Violins of Hope.

These violins have been restored and were played by Jewish musicians. But one violin, the Heil Hitler violin, will never be repaired or played. A few years ago, an American violin maker in Washington, D.C., bought the instrument. When he opened it up, he discovered the drawing of a large swastika next to the inscription Heil Hitler 1936. It is believed the violin may have been owned by a Jewish musician in 1936 who may have needed repair work done. The repairman could have added the items inside. The violin was donated to the Violins of Hope.

The Violins of Hope remind us of the people lost in the Holocaust yet bring messages of hope, resilience and survival.

About the performances, performers and composers

People may want to take in all the concerts throughout the week as each will offer something different: lectures about a particular violin, different music, and showcasing one or more of the violins. Most concerts require a reservation and some cost $15.

Sept. 7 – 5:30 p.m. Opening reception and recital, Illinois State Museum. See above for details.

Sept. 8 – A noon performance at Temple Israel – free

Sept. 10 – Two performances at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. will be held at University of Illinois Springfield. This concert will feature the six violins (listed above), played by three musicians plus a piano accompaniment, and will have a lineup of music that ranges from a Jewish prayer to the theme from Schindler’s List.

Sept. 12 – Held at 10 a.m. in the Trutter Center at Lincoln Land Community College, the concert is called A Violin’s Journey. A lecture and performance will focus on the Auschwitz violin and music composed during the Holocaust. Free, but reservations required through Lincoln Land.

Sept. 13 – Music of Hope Final Concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hoogland. This will be a joyful concert featuring several violins, with songs from jazz, pop and classical, all composed by Jewish composers. Pieces include the opening violin cadenza from Fiddler on the Roof, “Summertime” by George Gershwin, plus more. Musicians who will be performing include Yona and Katrin Stamatis, Carmen Abelson, an Adjunct Professor of Violin at UIS, and Roy Meyer, concertmaster with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra since 2015 who performs with the Chicago Philharmonic. In several concerts, piano accompaniment will be performed by Juan Camacho who is pursuing his doctorate at the University of Illinois in Piano Performance and Literature.

For more information: sjshalomspringfield.org – Cinda Klickna

August 31–September 6, 2023 | Illinois Times | 23
Good day to you, fellow followers of the Springfield-area music scene, and welcome to the official end of summer as Labor Day weekend is here. I don’t really go with official assessments usually, but it’s definitely a reminder that summer is behind us and fall is approaching before the upcoming you-know-what rears its cold, frosty head. Let’s enjoy it while we can.

First up, we all like to support our local original bands, especially when they’re doing things that could get them to another level. The Lovelorn are doing just such a thing right now in a contest called the Opening Act Competition. Basically, the winner of the whole deal gets to open for Audacy’s show, We Can Survive, a benefit concert for the American Society for Suicide Prevention at the Prudential Center in New York City later this year. The top prize includes $10,000 along with being the opening act for headliners One Republic, Kelly Clarkson and Maroon 5 at the concert.

Now this may sound far-fetched, out of reach and an unlikely goal, but The Lovelorn is already through several rounds and heading for the semi-finals. The results are based solely on votes, so if you want to help (and of course you do) use the link (https://theopenact.com/2023/the-lovelorn) to vote early and vote often, as folks around here like to say, and let’s see our band from Springfield make it to the big stage - this round ends Sept. 7.

For our second item, let’s see what live music can do to raise money for a good cause when Hipbone and the Joints play the Knights of Columbus Hall on Lake Springfield this Friday (6-9 p.m.) to benefit the Walk to End Alzheimer’s program. The band will donate its fee to the walk and the K of C hosts are dropping $1 for every drink sold into the tip bucket, too. Plus, you can add any amount you care to in the on-site donation containers. The actual walk for Greater Springfield happens Sept. 30 at Southwind Park and you can find all the info needed to participate in that event online at the walk’s website. Thanks to Hipbone and the J’s for giving their time to help this worthy cause. Here’s to music making good things get done one more time.

Friday, the final Springfield Area Arts Council-sponsored Artist on the Plaza performance for 2023 happens from noon to 1 p.m. on the south side of the Old State Capitol with Randy Erwin, or Cowboy Randy as he’s known to some, booked as the featured artist. I’m always amazed that so few folks in town seem to know of Randy’s stature as an artist on the national stage and how internationally recognized and respected he is out there. From his work yodeling in the Disney film Home on the Range (that ain’t Randy Quaid a-yodeling) to performances at Carnegie Hall, Schoenberg Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Library of Congress, Randy is an incredibly accomplished musician and singer.

Lately, he’s composed music used for an Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum exhibit (it’s available to stream on Randy’s website) where he works as the resident composer, musician and singer, as well as handling some acting duties. So if you can, wander downtown at noon Friday and listen to one of Springfield’s crown jewels performing free as the wind for an hour. I think you’ll be amazed.

Please check our listings for all the other delightful live music getting played in town this week. Happy Labor Day weekend to you.
Live music within 40 miles of Springfield. Dates, times and locations are subject to change, so we suggest calling before attending an event.

Attention bands, bars and musicians: submit your shows and photos online at www.illinoistimes.com or by email calendar@illinoistimes.com.

Thursday
Aug 31
Sam and Kortney open mic
The Blue Grouch Pub, 7-11pm
Lemon and Sweet Pickles
Curve Inn, 6-9pm
Jackpot Karaoke with Debbie Cakes
Curve Inn, 7-11pm
J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
La Fiesta Chatham, 6-10pm
JackAsh
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 6-9pm

Friday
Sep 1
J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
Bald Buddha Brewing, 7-11pm
Friday Night Jazz - Max Osawa Quartet
Boone’s, 5:30-7:30pm
Astrofix
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm
Deja Voodoo
Curve Inn, 7pm
Wayward Motel with Micah Walk Band
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 7pm
Me, Myself and Schy
El Taco Guapo, 6-9pm

Saturday
Sep 2
Off the Wall
Curve Inn, 6:30-9:30pm
Joel Honey
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm
Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors, Off the Wall, Mid-October
The Inn at 835, 12-5pm
Carl Bopp
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10pm
Into The Fury
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 8-11pm
Renegade Karaoke
Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-12:30am
Gage McCoy
Pier 55 Lounge, 8-11pm
Way Road Gypsy
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 10am-1pm

Sunday
Sep 3
Tricia Giacomini and Mandy Rose
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 2-5pm
Blue Country Revue
Sangamo Brewing Co., Chatham, 6:30-9pm
After School Special
Sheedy Shores WineGarden, Loami, 4-7pm
The Guilty Boys
Slaughterhouse Brewing Co., Auburn, 6-9pm
Bustin’ Loose
Springfield Elks Lodge #158, 6-10pm
Grand Theft Audio
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30pm

Monday
Sep 4
Captain Quirk
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm
Tom and Geoff
It’s All About Wine, 3pm
Wowie Zowie
Sheedy Shores WineGarden, Loami, 2-5pm
Keith Dunlap
The Crowbar, Decatur, 2-5pm

Wednesday
Sep 6
Open mic
Boone’s, 7-10pm
Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am
Karaoke
Crows Mill Pub, 8-11pm
Dave Littrell
Obed and Isaac’s, 6-8pm
Al Kitchen and friends
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 6-9pm.
Open mic with Roger and Mandy
Trails End Saloon, Curran, First Wednesday of every month, 6-9pm
Karaoke
Weebles Bar & Grill, 7-11pm
Karaoke
Whiskey Jack’s Sports Bar, 7pm-12am.

SHOP LOCAL
Support local businesses
CALENDAR

SOB Festival
Saturday, Sept. 2, 12-5 p.m.
Inn at 835
835 S. Second St.
217-522-3123
$35-$75

FESTIVALS | SOB Festival
OK, oyster lovers, it’s time for that annual rite of summer – the Springfield Oyster and Beer Festival at the Inn at 835. Festival organizers are preparing a whopping 6,000 oysters for the event. Now that’s a whole lot of oyster shucking and char-grilling. Not into oysters? Not a problem. The event will feature 150 varieties of beer plus three food trucks serving up pizza, gyros and more. Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors, Off the Wall and Mid-October will perform during the festivities. This festival, in its 13th year, has a solid tradition of raising money for local causes. This year is no different as proceeds will help Downtown Springfield Inc., the city’s nationally accredited Main Street organization dedicated to creating and supporting a vibrant neighborhood through collaboration, creativity and leadership. With two large tents at the site, this event will happen rain or shine. A $75 VIP ticket gets purchasers a SOB Festival tasting glass, food prepared by the Inn at 835’s chef and much more. Visit the website at sobfestival.com for advance tickets or pay at the gate.

Special Music Events
Artist on the Plaza

Carillon concerts

First Friday Concert


Healing Arts Festival
Sat., Sep. 2, 10am-5pm. Eight musical acts take the stage over eight hours. Demonstrations of holistic Reiki and nutritional practitioners. See buzzbombbrewingco.com for more info. Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 406 E. Adams St.

Thursday Nights at DIM
Fridays, 6-8pm. Artists get an opportunity to work on their projects while collaborating with professionals. dimathouse.com. Free. DIM Art House, 319 Chatham Road.

“Violins of Hope”
Sep. 7-9, 9am-4:30pm; Sep. 10, noon-4:30pm; Sep. 11-13, 9am-4:30pm. Internationally-known exhibit based on a private collection of violins, violas and cellos all collected since the end of World War II. Many of the instruments, which belonged to Jews before and during the war, represent the victory of the human spirit over evil and hatred. Free. Illinoisstatemuseum.org. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-785-0037.

Food & Drink
Springfield Oyster and Beer Festival
Sat., Sep. 2, 12-5pm. This event has raised more than $130,000 for area charities. Features 6,000 gourmet oysters and 50 different types of craft beers to wash them down. Live music and local food trucks. The Inn at 835, 835 S. Second St., 217-522-4666.

History
PrairieLand Chautauqua

Tuesdays on the Dock

Fairs & Festivals
Chatham Plaza Cruise-In
Sat., Sep. 2, 10am-5pm. Cool cars of all kinds, music, raffles, food and fun. See Facebook page for more details. Free. The Alamo, Chatham, 310 N. Main Plaza, 217-697-5080.

Fundraisers and Galas
Cardboard Boat Regatta
Sun., Sep. 3, 1-3pm. Think you can design, build and navigate a boat made of cardboard? Here’s your chance to create a cardboard craft and sail (or sink) in a competition for awards including “best design,” “fastest boat” and “fastest sinker.” An annual charity benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. Registration due 5pm Sep. 1. $50. Sheddies WineGarden, Loami, 10300 Johns Creek Road, 217-791-7291.

Golf fundraiser for Honor Flight
Thu., Aug. 31, 8am. Honor Flight is a nonprofit the mission of which is to transport veterans to Washington, DC to see the war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. All veterans
Nature, Science & Environment

Botanical Garden Group Tours

Prairie Hikes

Bulletin Board

Big Eli Ferris wheel rides

Cat adoption
First Saturday of every month, 12-2pm. Through Dec. 2. Forever Home Feline Ranch will have cats available for adoption. Opportunities also available for fostering and volunteering. Donations welcome. Ace Hardware, 1600 Wabash Ave., 217-787-5100.

Farmers Market
Sun., Sep. 3, 10am-2pm. Farmers market plus a flea market, crafts and food trucks. Call for more info. Knights of Columbus, Riverton, 335 S. Fourth St., 217-494-3366.

First Sunday Midwest Bazaar

First Day Midwest Depression Era Glass & Pottery Club

Illinois Product Farmers Market

Monarch National Championship Horse Show
Sep. 5-10. Showcases horses of many breeds and disciplines. Features three national finals throughout the week, two for youth riders as well as a working western trial national final which includes a course of trail obstacles each horse must work through. At Coliseum and covered arena. monarchshoseries.com. Free. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DEFENDANTS.

JARED PHARES; LUIZA PHARES;

vs.

MARKETPLACE

Enos Park / Medical ROOMMATE

www.illinoistimes.com

217-679-7814

IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER
ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Visit our website at http://
illirooicuresales.mrpllc.com.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalls
Realty & Insurance, LLC, Plaintiff’s
Attorneys, 1 N. Deerborn St., Suite 1200,
Chicago, IL 60661. Tel. No. (312) 346-
9899, FAX: 346-9898. PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT
COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF’S
ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT
_COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT
A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE
USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Plaintiff’s attorney is not required to
provide additional information other than
that in this notice of sale. 12345678

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DEFENDANTS.

VICTOR J. FUGNITTI, JR; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHOR-
ITY; CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND A RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.

CASE NO. 2022FC00246

PROPERTY IN THIS COUNTY, IL 62702

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on April 10, 2023, I, Sheriff Jack Campbell, of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on October 10, 2023, commencing at 9:00 a.m., at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:

12345 South 13th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

PUBLIC NOTICE

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VICTOR J. FUGNITTI, JR; ILLINOIS

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DEFENDANTS.

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CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DEFENDANTS.

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12345 South 13th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
For change of name to Queen Kristina La Paris
Case No. 2022-MR-000227
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on October 3, 2022, I, Paul H. Gerding, deceased, Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Paul H. Gerding, deceased,
1703 Chestnut Dr, Springfield, IL 62702
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 3, 2022 I will petition in said Court for the change of name from Elizabeth Grace Brogaard to Atlas Finch Bargoard in the matter of the Petition of
Estate of Margaret May Gerding, attached
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 3, 2022 I will petition in said Court for the change of name from Elizabeth Grace Brogaard to Atlas Finch Bargoard in the matter of said case and provided.
Adeq. Date: Aug. 17, 2023

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Elizabeth Grace Brogaard For change of name to Renay Barnes Case No. 2022-MR-000226
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 3, 2022 I will petition in said Court for the change of name from Elizabeth Grace Brogaard to Renay Barnes in the matter of said case and provided.
Adeq. Date: Aug. 17, 2023

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HEARTLAND BANK AND TRUST, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO TOWN & COUNTRY BANC MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff,
vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DESEASED, UNOWNED CLAINTANTS AND TENANT-OWNERS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PAUL H. GERDING, DECEASED, AND DEVISEES OF PAUL H. GERDING, DECEASED
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
This notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause on May 17, 2023, I, Sheriff Jack Campbell of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a public sale on June 19, 2023, at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62702, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit: Lot 88 AND LOT 89 OF GLEN AIRE, Second ADDITION, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

1827 NORTH 6TH STREET SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause on May 17, 2023, I, Sheriff Jack Campbell of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a public sale on June 19, 2023, in the boardroom of the Sangamon County Bldg, 200 South Ninth St, Springfield, IL 62702, at 9:00AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8) in Block Two (2) of Samuel Carpenter’s Subdivision of part of the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 16, North Range 5 West of the Third Principal Meridian, as platted by the Plat recorded in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Illinois in Book 56 of Deed at page 618, situated in Sangamon County, Illinois except as to an undivided 1/2 interest and 35 feet north-westerly therefrom, measured at right angles, and further except that part of said Lot 89 lying north and west of a line parallel to the southeasterly line of said Lot 89 and 50 feet northwesterly therefrom, measured at right angles except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in favor of the Easements in favor of the Estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any, situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.

TAX NO. 14-22-189-109 A 14-22-189-110
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1827 North 6th Street Springfield, IL 62702
Description of Improvements: The house is a single family residence; The home is made of brick. There is no garage. The color is brown with gray trim.
The Judgment amount was $71,922.91. Sale Terms: This is an “AS IS” sale for possession of the subject premises. The purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Title to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. No refunds.
IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Claudia R. Dickson,
Plaintiff,
v.
Tina Lan Williams,
Defendant.
Case No. 2023PR000312
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of September, 2023, at the hour of 11:00 AM a public hearing will be held in the office of Brown Hay and Stephens, LLP 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000, U.S. Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois. The subject of such public hearing will be the adoption of a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the East Side Fire Protection District.

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CLAIMANTS and LIENHOLDERS AGAINST AND DEVISEES OF PEGGY GERDING,
vs.
BANC MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RENAY N. SHAFER A/K/A RYAN SHAFER; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RYAN N. SHAFER A/K/A RYAN SHAFER; IL-HOA; ALAN DICKSON, SECRETARY;

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
The person to contact for information about the above assets is as follows:
Elizabeth Grace Brogaard
In the matter of the Petition of
J. W. Pierceall
Plaintiffs,
v.
CASSONDRA RENAY BARNES,
Defendants.
Case No. 2023-JC000197
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of September 2023, at the hour of 9:00 AM a public hearing will be held in the office of Brown Hay and Stephens, LLP 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000, U.S. Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois. The subject of such public hearing will be the adoption of a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the East Side Fire Protection District.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
The person to contact for information about the above assets is as follows: Cassondra Renay Barnes
In the matter of the Petition of
Claudia R. Dickson,
Plaintiff,
v.
Tina Lan Williams,
Defendant.
Case No. 2023PR000312
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of September, 2023, at the hour of 11:00 AM a public hearing will be held in the office of Brown Hay and Stephens, LLP 205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000, U.S. Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois. The subject of such public hearing will be the adoption of a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the East Side Fire Protection District.

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Elizabeth Grace Brogaard For change of name to Renay Barnes Case No. 2022-MR-000226
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct. 3, 2022 I will petition in said Court for the change of name from Elizabeth Grace Brogaard to Renay Barnes in the matter of said case and provided.
Adeq. Date: Aug. 17, 2023

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Elizabeth Grace Brogaard For change of name to Renay Barnes Case No. 2022-MR-000226
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In the matter of the Petition of
Elizabeth Grace Brogaard For change of name to Renay Barnes Case No. 2022-MR-000226
PUBLIC NOTICE
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Adeq. Date: Aug. 17, 2023
of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 28th day of August, 2023.

Timothy J. Rigby (ARDC #6225930)
Alexander S. Prillaman (ARDC #6339535)
Hart & Southworth
Attorneys for Executor
Suite 501 First of America Center
One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
8051-935777

IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

VICTOR J. FUGNITTI, JR., ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CHICAGO; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; Defendans.

CASE NO. 2023FC000246
Property Address: 2827 South 13th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on June 14, 2023, I, Sheriff Jack Campbell of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on October 10, 2023, commencing at 9:00AM, at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701 Room TBA, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:
Commonly known as: 2827 South 13th Street, Springfield, IL 62703
P.N. 21-10-0-102-026
First Lien Position; Single-Family Residen; Judgment Amount $84,241.98
In accordance with 775 ICS 17/23, 5/15-157(f)(1)(ii), and 1/1-2, 755 ICS 635/175(f)(1), and 765 ICS 650/15(f)-1, you are hereby notified that the Purchaser(s) of the property other than a Mortgagee, shall pay the Assessments and Legal Fees Required by subsection (b) of section 9 and the Assessments and Court Costs Required by subsection (a) of section 8 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.
Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is:
Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diel Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale. The communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC

Like candy

Across
1. Run cats and dogs
5. Surrounded by
9. Whispers
14. “Do others as…”
19. Hooper Bryant
20. Newarris product
21. Go through
26. One (kids’ game)
27. Superlative suffix
30. Cookie
32. Biblical beast
35. Prefix with byte
36. Violin’s need
44. “a stinker”-
45. Chapter in history
46. Supreme Court
count
47. Some Windows
systems
50. Lists
52. French pronoun
53. Fringe benefit
54. High-five, e.g.
56. Frozen dessert
brand
59. Heroic tales
63. Graff of “Mr. Belvedere”
64. “Hors d’oeuvres holder

Down
1. Insect stage
2. Change for a five
3. Area code 801
4. C-3PO or R2-D2
5. Alias
6. “Who, me?”
7. Son of, in Arabic
8. Dictator
9. Bookwork, e.g.
10. Put forth
11. Monthly unil bill
13. Alienate receivers
15. Stationery store
16. Books, to a
bartender
17. Ty with batting titles
18. “off”
19. Act Hawke
20. “Now you...”
22. Trains
31. Word the precedes the start of the starred clues
32. They cast no votes
33. Part of an act
40. Cobb’s supply
43. Dance, e.g.
44. Is charged
45. Indefatigable
47. War god
48. First name in
Communist

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 805
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.

Sudoku No. 805
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.
13th Annual Springfield Oyster & Beer Festival 2023

Feelin’ Shucky

SAVE $5 with discount code ILTIMES

150+ CRAFT BEERS
OYSTERS | FOOD TRUCKS

Chris Camp and his Blues Ambassadors LIVE BANDS Off the Wall

When
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
NOON - 5PM

Where
THE INN AT 835
835 S 2ND ST
SPRINGFIELD

Tickets: General Admission and VIP Admission (limited availability) available online at sobfestival.com or at the Gate on September 2.

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