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Data center seeks zoning approval in Logan County

County Board could take final vote as soon as Jan. 20

UTILITIES | Dean Olsen

A publicly traded company wants to build a large-scale data center in rural Logan County near Latham, about 30 miles northeast of Springfield, while local residents scramble to find out more details and delay what could be a mid-January vote on a zoning change that's needed for the plan to proceed.

"There's a huge lack of public information," Franklin Rager, 32, a Latham resident, told *Illinois Times*. "I'd like to postpone this for a few months."

Miami-based Hut 8 Corp. is asking the Logan County Board to change zoning on 250 acres of farmland in Laenna Township from agricultural to industrial to accommodate the data center.

It's unclear how large the center would be, according to Allan Green, the county's zoning officer, but he said the company is expected to provide more details in the next few days.

Green said an intermediary representing Hut 8 told him the center would create 100 full-time, permanent jobs – about the same number as the \$500 million, 636-megawatt data center proposed for rural southwestern Sangamon County by CyrusOne, a privately held company based in Dallas.

One hundred jobs is a large number for Logan County, Green said. In recent years, the community has experienced the loss of hundreds of jobs through the 2024 closure of Lincoln Christian University, the 2022 closure of Lincoln College and the 2019 closure of Ardagh Group's glass container production plant.

"I understand the benefits – everyone needs jobs," Rager said of the Hut 8 project. "I would just like to know more about it."

Unlike CyrusOne officials, who have been relatively open in speaking with the news media and the public about the company's plans, Hut

8 hasn't responded to repeated requests for comment.

Little is known about the proposal other than a terse notice published in legal advertisements earlier this month in two online-only newspapers, the *New Herald News* and *Lincoln Daily News*, that lists the four parcel numbers for properties affected by the rezoning.

The notice invites people to a Logan County Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing on the proposal at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Oasis Senior Center, 2800 Woodlawn Road, Lincoln.

Green said he was told the data center, which would be built in unincorporated Logan County a mile west of Latham along a two-lane township road, would rent space to technology companies for computer servers that power the internet.

That's the same business model described by CyrusOne for its data center campus in Talkington Township. The CyrusOne facility would use 636 megawatts of electricity and consist of six one-story, 232,000-square-foot buildings.

For the Hut 8 proposal, the Logan County Regional Planning Commission, an appointed group, is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Oasis Senior Center to discuss the matter and hear comments from the public before making a nonbinding recommendation.

The county's Zoning Board of Appeals, a five-member appointed group, will meet the next night to conduct the public hearing and make a nonbinding recommendation to the County Board. More time for public comment on the proposal will be available at this meeting than at any other meeting, Green said.

The Logan County Board is tentatively set to gather for a meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 15 at the County Courthouse when the proposal could be discussed and scheduled for a final vote.



Opponents of a proposed Hut 8 Corp. data center in southeastern Logan County, who gathered at the historic train station depot in Latham, include, from left, Larry Atwood, Phyllis Atwood, Sydnee Usherwood and Betti Atwood. Two other opponents were unidentified. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

The soonest that a final vote could occur would be the tentative 6 p.m. Jan. 20 County Board meeting at the courthouse, Green said.

Rachel Smith, 48, who lives with her family just outside Latham and would like more information about the proposal, said it has been difficult to gather information on the project during the end-of-the-year holiday period.

Sydnee Usherwood, 23, who lives outside the Logan County community of Atlanta, said she worries about the data center contributing to climate change by prolonging the need for power plants that burn fossil fuels.

The main beneficiary of any additional property tax revenue from the data center site would be the Mount Pulaski School District, and not the Warrensburg-Latham School District, which serves children in Latham.

Kevin Knauer, a Mount Pulaski resident, sits on the 12-member, all-Republican County Board and represents the area that includes Latham and the proposed Hut 8 site. He said he hasn't made up his mind about the proposal, which county officials learned about two or three months ago. But he said the current schedule should provide ample time for the public and county officials to pose questions and get answers.

Rager disagreed.

He is a bartender in Latham, a village with no stoplights and no gas stations with a population of 350 people in a county of about 28,000. He recently started a petition against the proposal. The petition is available at the Latham post office, and an online petition is at tinyurl.com/LoganDataCenter.

Rager and other area residents said they

wonder whether the data center, which would support the growth of artificial intelligence, will put a strain on local water supplies, boost rates for Ameren customers, harm wildlife through low-frequency noise, take prime farmland out of production and otherwise disrupt their rural lifestyle.

"We're in the middle of nowhere, and it's quiet," Smith said. "That's going to be a huge, huge disruption to our lives. It's like the equivalent of taking a small town and moving it to an industrial section of a large city. ... I would have to see proof that the noise would not affect the town."

Green said local water supplies for Logan County communities wouldn't be at risk from the Hut 8 data center because, as Hut 8 and CyrusOne have proposed, cooling for computer servers would be handled by a closed-loop system with recirculated water.

Hut 8 is planning to truck in water for the closed-loop system and dig a well at the site for water for its employees because municipal water pipes aren't available, Green said.

Hut 8 would purchase land for the site – all owned by members of a family who once lived in the area but now are out of state – if the rezoning is approved, Green said.

The data center would get power to operate through an Ameren substation near the site, he said.

Latham Village President Theo Allen, 68, said he only has heard opposition from village residents, and he is opposed, too.

"We're a small community," he said. "It doesn't benefit us in any way." □

Editor's note

It's Christmas and the country is falling apart. A week ago South Carolina seceded from the union; a month ago he was elected president. Reporters and job-seekers have flocked to Springfield to see the president-elect, who remains cool, practicing what was called then "a masterly inactivity" as he awaits the trouble and responsibility ahead of him. On Christmas Eve, 1860, Abraham Lincoln walks downtown to do some shopping, buying some fabric for his wife, and 11 handkerchiefs for gifts. The next morning he briefly joins his sons in the parlor to check Christmas stockings for gifts. Then it is back to the office for political talks with a delegation from St. Louis. He often repeats the prayer he offered after first learning he was elected: "God help me, God help me." – *Fletcher Farrar, editor*

Capital Airport could be cutting edge

Has applied for a pilot program for hybrid airplanes that would draw power from its solar farm

AIRPORT | Adrian Dater

Mark Hanna knew the first question at the Citizens Club of Springfield's Dec. 19 public policy forum regarding the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport would be something along the lines of, "Any new commercial airline routes coming soon?"

Not much to report, Hanna said, although there have been some preliminary talks about possible Allegiant Airlines routes to Las Vegas, Phoenix and some destinations in Florida. As it stands, only three commercial airlines – American, Breeze and Allegiant – offer regular or semi-regular flights from Springfield to three cities – Chicago, Orlando and Punta Gorda, Florida.

And the longtime airport director spoke plainly to attendees at the Hoagland Center for the Arts as to why there isn't much commercial airline activity.

"Since I've lived here, I don't think the population sign you see on the road for Springfield has changed. And that's not funny," Hanna said. "Loads are not well. American Airlines changed their schedule (to) what we have given the community, the schedule that they begged and pleaded for, and I can't sit here right now and tell you that it's been a massive success. The schedule the community has asked for? It's not working. You guys aren't filling the seats. So I can't imagine us going to American Airlines and saying, 'Hey, let's add Dallas or Charlotte or Phoenix or what have you.'"

Hope always sells, though, which is why Hanna spoke with what seemed like real enthusiasm about a new initiative for the airport. While it's not quite out of "The Jetsons," it involves hybrid aircraft – part fossil fuel, part electric power – which, if the engineers get it all right, would provide multiple flights per day on legacy airlines such as United for service of up to 30 passengers at a time from Springfield to Chicago.

There could also be four-passenger



From left to right: Mark Hanna, executive director of the Springfield Airport Authority; Clayton Stambaugh, deputy director for aeronautics at Illinois Department of Transportation and chair of the National Association of State Aviation Officials; and Susan Zellers, senior project manager and aviation planning lead at Hanson Professional Services Inc., take part in a discussion about the future of Capital Airport at the Dec. 19 Citizens Club meeting. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

aircraft – known as Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing – from Springfield to Chicago, but they wouldn't have to land at O'Hare or Midway. They could land at designated spots right downtown or close by.

The cost? Maybe \$150 one-way, which would be about half the fares currently offered on American. While none of the new aircraft will be available until the end of the decade at the earliest, plans are well underway to give the airport better footing for the future.

"This dovetails into (commercial) air service," Hanna said. "The roadmap for us going into the future is to be able to accept and develop some of these new technologies that are coming on board. These manufacturers are moving into developing electric propellant engines for these new aircraft. They have already struck deals with Mesa and United Airlines to order some of these aircraft, these 30-seat aircraft for passengers. And, that's the perfect size for a market like Springfield, to reinstate more

frequency to places like Chicago."

Hanna said the Springfield Airport Authority has filed grant applications for increased electrical capacity for these advanced air mobility vehicles, which would be provided by City Water, Light and Power, or potentially a new utility that wants to get in the game.

"We want to be on the cutting edge of the technology and ready when these vehicles come available," Hanna said. "This is a worldwide race with these kinds of aircraft."

Springfield might already have a leg up on competing regional airports when it comes to electrical efficiencies. A solar farm already serves the northern side of the airport, with another coming online soon that will help power other buildings. When the added power needed to service the new hybrid aircraft is due, Springfield's existing, less-costly infrastructure could convince airlines to make Capital Airport their hub of choice.

"Springfield is fortunate that the buildings

the Airport Authority is offering will be primarily served by its solar systems," said Susan Zellers, senior project manager and aviation planning lead at Hanson Professional Services Inc., which could partner with the airport on the new initiatives. "They won't have to add any (power) needs to that."

For such aircraft to be fully functional for commercial and private use, such as air ambulances or charter travel, more electric power will have to be generated, probably up to three megawatts for the passenger hybrid planes and one megawatt for the smaller ones. But, Hanna said, he doesn't foresee that being added to any CWLP customer bills. Government grants and private funding likely would pay for it.

"The reason I'm so excited about this is because our application in this pilot program is the only one from the state of Illinois," Hanna said. "The airports in Chicago have endorsed (it) and will participate in our program. What does that mean for Springfield? It means jobs,

high-tech investment here at the airport, and we can really collaborate with the general aviation community and move into the next generation of these new technologies."

Which, in turn, could spur population growth in the city and better fill those airplane loads that Hanna said have been lacking.

"I need you all to tell me what the silver bullet is, so I can tell American (Airlines) I need three or four flights (to Chicago) or I need Dallas back and be able to tell them that I can put 75-80% load factors on these planes, with the majority of them being business travelers that are flying at least a couple times a month," Hanna said.

"That's not the case right now." □

Adrian Dater, a longtime former sportswriter in Denver and author of seven books, moved to Springfield in 2023 to get his first taste of life in the Midwest.

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Rail consolidation a long time coming

Final phase of Springfield Rail Improvement Project to begin in January

DEVELOPMENT | Carey Smith

Construction for Springfield's Rail Improvement Project began in 2014 with construction of an underpass at Carpenter and 10th streets and the final phase will begin next month.

Over the last decade-plus, new railroad bridges have been constructed at Fifth, Sixth, Ash, Laurel and Cook streets and South Grand Avenue with underpasses constructed at Madison and Jefferson streets.

The Springfield Sangamon County Transportation Hub, known as The Hub, is centered between Washington and Monroe streets downtown. Construction of the Springfield Mass Transit District Transfer Center, situated along the east side of the tracks, was completed in 2025.

Construction is ongoing for a new Amtrak station and parking garage, which will be on the west side of the tracks. A pedestrian bridge will connect the two. This project has a completion date of 2027.

In January, the last of the railroad track improvements will begin where it started, on Springfield's north side, with Usable Segment 6a and 6b. However, the section of North Grand Avenue between Sixth and 11th streets has already been an active construction zone for several months. Utility work in the form of water main reconstruction is set to conclude at the end of 2025, weather permitting.

Mike Mendenhall, senior structural engineer at Hanson Professional Services, said that underpass construction at North Grand Avenue from Ninth to 11th streets is scheduled to begin in early January. This construction phase for Usable Segment 6b will take approximately one year.

A section of the 10th Street railroad tracks that swings east and then north of Carpenter Street before meeting up with the 19th Street tracks will soon be rerouted directly north, passing through the bisected Illinois Environmental Protection Agency building. The tracks will continue between Caritas Bingo Hall and Computer Banc, joining with the current Third Street tracks at Converse. Once this underpass is completed, contractors will construct an at-grade crossing at Converse Street.

Usable Segment 6a will begin construction about the same time and is expected to be completed by fall of 2027. The major focus of Usable Segment 6a is to build a new overpass and roadway that will be constructed just south of the current North Grand Avenue over the 19th Street tracks. The roadway will tie back into the existing North Grand Avenue



Jamie Toole and Melissa Gaynor, co-owners of the Lucky Horseshoes, are pictured in front of Robin Roberts Stadium on North Grand Avenue. In January, construction will begin on a new overpass and roadway that will be constructed just south of the current North Grand Avenue over the 19th Street tracks. A portion of North Grand Avenue will be converted into an access road for the baseball stadium. PHOTO COURTESY JAMIE TOOLE

between 11th and 19th streets.

"There will be a portion of the old North Grand Avenue that will remain," Mendenhall said. "It will be an access road to Memorial Stadium and Robin Roberts Stadium and will be renamed Robin Roberts Road."

The road will provide one lane of traffic in each direction with parking on each side of the roadway. Construction with parking has already been completed along Michigan Avenue.

Jamie Toole, co-owner and manager of the Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, said he knows there are going to be growing pains throughout the two-year construction but is confident that it will be worth it.

"From our perspective, it's great for our community and great for the north end," said Toole. He noted the sweeping changes on Springfield's north side, which includes not just the railroad construction along North

Grand Avenue, but the renovations at Lanhier High School and the demolition of the former Pillsbury Mills complex.

The Lucky Horseshoes have their own changes in the works, with the transfer of ownership of Robin Roberts Stadium from the Springfield Park District to Friends of Robin Roberts Stadium, a nonprofit dedicated to the revitalization and sustainability of the facility. Last year, the group unveiled architectural plans prepared by Springfield firm J.H. Petty and Associates that outlined significant proposed improvements and renovations.

"We're going to get creative for parking and other challenges over the next couple of seasons," said Toole. "This is good for our community and good for us."

Toole is pleased that cars on the overpass will be able to look down and see what's happening in Robin Roberts Stadium. "The onus is on us to make sure this facility looks as good as the overpass when it's completed," he said.

Mendenhall remarked that he, a lifetime resident of Springfield, and the staff at Hanson Professional Services are pleased about the project. "The whole project will transform the whole city," he said.

Mendenhall said that ballast – the large rocks under the concrete or wooden ties for the tracks – has been brought in by the contractor over the last couple of months to begin track construction, which is also expected to be wrapped up by fall 2027. Mendenhall said he hopes drivers will "use extreme caution in work zones as there will be a lot of construction in the North Grand Avenue area as well as the at-grade crossings in 2026 and 2027."

Once work is completed in 2027 and the tracks shift, the current Third Street tracks will be decommissioned with plans to transform the former railway into The Linc, a shared-use pedestrian and bike trail that connects the city from north to south. It will connect the Illinois State Fairgrounds to Junction Circle near the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Wabash Avenue.

The city of Springfield is working on plans for a feasibility study for the current 19th Street rail corridor with hopes that future improvements will mimic the proposed infrastructure and quality of life improvements of the Third Street corridor. □

Carey Smith is a north end resident who is over the moon to see how the north end is transformed in the coming years.



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Saving big money (eventually) at Menards

COURTS | Dilpreet Raju



Menards, just off of North Dirksen Parkway, in northeast Springfield. PHOTO BY DILPREET RAJU

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced a settlement this week with Menards to resolve a suit Raoul and nine other attorneys general filed claiming the home improvement chain violated consumer fraud laws by deceptively marketing its 11% rebate program as a way for customers to save money when they were really receiving future store credit.

The settlement will require Menards to “clearly and conspicuously” explain the store’s rebate policy as one that offers no discount at time of purchase, but rather store credit for purchasing goods. The attorneys general also accused Menards of price gouging items in early 2020 during the onset of COVID, though the settlement “is neither an admission nor denial of liability by Menards.”

“Raoul and the attorneys general allege that Menards’ advertised prices reflected an 11% discount, which falsely implied that customers could realize savings at the time of purchase. According to the attorneys general, Menards failed to appropriately disclose the details of

the rebate program, which were detailed in small print,” states a press release from Raoul’s office. “The attorneys general also allege that Menards engaged in price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic by raising prices on a few important items, such as garbage bags, isopropyl alcohol, dish soap and neoprene gloves in early 2020.”

Illinois will receive about \$950,000 of the total \$4.25 million settlement. In response to an inquiry from *Illinois Times* about the intended use of the funds, a spokesperson from the AG’s office said, “It will go to the state to be used for future consumer protection efforts.”

Menards is also required to look into building an online infrastructure to accept “merchandise credit” and is prohibited from price gouging items “during a period of abnormal economic disruption.” □

WQNA returning to local airwaves soon

COMMUNITY | Scott Faingold



Standing, left to right: Tom Huber, Ken Pacha and Mike Hayer; seated, left to right: Rachel Schroeder, Lana Wildman and Jim Pemberton are the board members for the Springfield Community Broadcasters nonprofit that is working to get WQNA back on the air. Board member Mike Goza is not pictured. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

After six years of fits and starts, community radio station WQNA is nearly ready to begin broadcasting again, this time from the space in the Myers building in downtown Springfield that most recently housed Prairie State Hemp.

In 2019, the Capital Area Career Center unceremoniously pulled the plug on the station which, starting in 1980, had served as a teaching tool and from 1998 was also a place where community members could test their DJ skills. The station was one of the only outlets in the region where music genres such as hip-hop, blues, Americana, punk and metal could be heard, along with other esoteric programming that doesn’t fit on commercial radio or within the tightly-programmed confines of NPR stations.

Community members who served WQNA in various capacities reacted to the closure by forming the nonprofit Springfield Community Broadcasters (SCB) which, spearheaded by “Hip-Hop Humpday” host Ken Pacha, has been working ever since to find a new home for WQNA. After jumping through seemingly

endless bureaucratic hoops and weathering various setbacks big and small – not least of which was the pandemic – the revitalized station is projected to be on the air at 95.7 FM by March 2026.

“All we really have left are the hard pieces,” Pacha said at an event Dec. 16 in the new space. “We have enough to get the tower put up and the wiring run.”

The goal is for the new WQNA to be an ongoing, vital part of the Springfield community as a whole. In addition to broadcasting, the station will offer classes and opportunities for people in the area to get involved.

“We’re going to be soliciting ideas from the community,” Pacha said. “A lot of people have turned their radios off because there’s just nothing particularly compelling to them on the dial. And what we’re hoping to do is give those people a reason to turn their radios back on.”

For additional information or to donate, visit scbradio.org. □

OPINION



Normal adopted a Downtown Renewal Plan in 2000 and created a TIF district in 2003 to spur reinvestment. The area now includes many new businesses, and two hotels and a multimodal transportation center were constructed. The town center includes a tree-lined roundabout and plaza, with a water feature that serves as a splash pad. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

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

NOT THAT EASY

I'm a Springfield native who moved back a couple of years ago, but was a resident of Normal for many years. Leah Wilson's column is an apples and pineapples comparison with Springfield ("From planning to implementation" Dec. 18). I lived there throughout that progression, for almost 30 years.

Uptown Normal may look good, but the people there are taxed to death. Uptown Normal has lost a lot of its college town charm. It is more for the non-students in the community, so much so that the students go to Bloomington for any sense of night life.

I do agree that Springfield needs to modernize downtown, but I think the city should be looking at how larger communities do it. Normal just approved another tax increase to help fund a \$40 million pedestrian underpass that no one asked for. I want to see Springfield's downtown thrive but the changes that were made in Normal are not as simple as the article seems to indicate.

*Cheryl Jones
Springfield*

NEED STUDENTS

The critical phrase in this article, and a critical difference between Normal and Springfield is this: "...the student population at Illinois State University, which is embedded in downtown."

*David Finnigan
Via illinoistimes.com*

STOP IT

I hope we can stop the monstrosity that's proposed for our community. The whole thing is sneaky. The site CyrusOne chose is literally a stone's throw from the county line. What does

that mean? It means all talks, meetings and votes about it take place almost 30 miles away from the building site.

The developer also said the construction would bring jobs, but the truth is, they are using pre-fabricated structures. Finally, they claimed the local utilities wouldn't increase. By local, they mean in Springfield, the county seat – they failed to even mention the utilities in the rural area of this center, which is misleading.

I haven't seen many people who actually live in this area who are for the project.

*Heather Wolf
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes*

CHRISTMAS MEMORY

When I was a boy growing up in Peoria, I remember one Christmas in particular. I was in charge of decorating the house, which included a full-scale nativity on the porch roof. I also used stencils to paint decorations on the door and windows and hung lights on the porch with one of those multicolored lights changing colors and Christmas music.

This year was no different. Gram was deaf-mute and lived with us. My mother had learned to use sign language from birth and was a volunteer interpreter for the deaf, signing at funerals, court appearances, weddings and other legal activities.

This year there was a deaf couple who were being married at the courthouse. I remember them coming to the house to arrange for my mother to interpret their marriage. They stopped at our house just before going to the courthouse.

After the wedding they brought Mom back to the house to drop her off. It was then that I noticed my painted wreath stencil on the glass of the front door was gone.

After they left, my dad explained that earlier she had bumped the wreath with her behind coming into the house. At the wedding, those in attendance stood for the bride and were treated to Merry Christmas and a wreath. Nobody ever said a word.

*Jerald Jacobs
Springfield*

My mother wrote this lullaby for my oldest sister on her first Christmas, 1925.

Sleep, little baby, the daylight is fading;
Dim yellow stars the dark heavens adorn;
Once, long ago, in a Bethlehem manger
The little Lord Jesus was born.
Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, little baby, sleep.

Sleep, little baby, my arms are about thee,
A circle of love which enfolds thee secure;
So Mary cradled the wee baby Jesus,
The little Lord Jesus, so pure.
Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, little baby, sleep.

Sleep, little baby, thine eyelids are dropping,
Thy warm, tender body relaxing to rest;
Jesus thus slept in the arms of sweet Mary,
His dear little head on her breast.
Lullaby, lullaby, sleep little baby, sleep.
Lullaby, lullaby, sleep little baby, sleep.

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Don't slide backward on disability services

GUESTWORK | Josh Evans



For years, Illinois was known as a state that chronically underfunded services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – the essential workers who provide daily care, skill building, medication assistance and community access – were paid wages that made retention nearly impossible. People with disabilities faced years-long waiting lists, limited community options and instability in the support system they depend on to live safe and meaningful lives.

In recent years, however, that narrative began to change. Under the Pritzker administration, and with bipartisan support in the General Assembly, Illinois has made steady and substantial progress. We have raised DSP wages, serviced more Illinoisans under the Ligas Consent Decree, and taken major steps to stabilize a workforce that is the backbone of community inclusion.

We cannot let that progress slip away.

Beginning Jan. 1, the state intends to reduce funded DSP service hours in 24-hour Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs). These homes support more than

10,000 adults with I/DD – people who rely on trusted staff to help them navigate each day. The planned cuts would reduce critical hours of support, especially for individuals with the most complex behavioral or medical needs.

This is not an abstract policy shift. It means fewer opportunities to hold a job, socialize or simply participate in the community. It means providers – already facing workforce shortages – will have to stretch staff even thinner, fueling burnout and turnover.

As with many decisions in state government, this cut was meant to be temporary, a budget placeholder until Illinois is ready to fully fund a better model known as “zero hour” staffing. That model ensures providers have the resources needed to staff homes 24/7, something everyone agrees is long overdue.

But cutting hours now, only to add hours later, makes no fiscal or operational sense. It needlessly destabilizes people's lives.

Layer on top of that the looming threat of deep federal Medicaid reductions over the next two years. If state cuts proceed at the same time federal dollars shrink, the result will

be a service system pushed to – and over – the breaking point.

The people who would pay the price are among the most vulnerable in our state.

We want to be clear: IARF has been proud to partner with state leaders on every step of the progress we've made. We know Gov. JB Pritzker and lawmakers share our commitment to a stronger, more equitable I/DD system. We are deeply grateful for that shared vision.

That is what makes this moment so important.

The question before us is whether we continue forward – investing in a stable, high-quality workforce, honoring our commitment to community inclusion and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities – or whether we take a step backward that jeopardizes all we have achieved together.

We are asking the administration to do one essential thing: Delay the implementation of DSP service hour cuts until the zero hour model is ready and funded.

This is a reasonable, responsible approach that protects continuity for individuals and families, maintains compliance with federal

mandates and ensures providers have the time and stability needed to plan for systemwide changes.

Illinois has finally begun to correct the decades of underinvestment that left people with disabilities without the support they deserved. We have momentum. We have a plan. And we have leaders who understand what's at stake.

Now we must protect the progress we have made.

Delaying the Jan. 1 cuts isn't just a budget decision – it's a promise kept. It's a commitment to stability, dignity and community for tens of thousands of Illinoisans who deserve nothing less.

The road ahead includes big challenges, no doubt. But together, we can continue moving forward – not backward – and build a future where every person with disabilities has the support needed to thrive in the place they call home. □

Josh Evans is president and CEO of the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, a Springfield-based nonprofit that assists in the development and improvement of services to Illinois rehabilitation facilities.

Power shortages predicted

POLITICS | Rich Miller

A recent study published by three state agencies warns electricity shortages are coming to Illinois.

The shortages will start in PJM's regional transmission system by 2029, with the shortage hitting Illinois' ComEd territory (which is within PJM) beginning in 2030, and then kicks in hard by 2032.

Capacity shortages in downstate Ameren's territory are expected to begin in 2031 and escalate through 2035, when the stuff hits the fan. Ameren is in the MISO regional transmission network.

The report acknowledges that some fossil fuel power plants might have to remain open at least in the short-term, despite the state's ambitious climate goals. A bill passed the legislature in October to facilitate that.

The Illinois Power Agency, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Commerce Commission conducted the study.

Massive increases in power needs by data centers are the "primary driver" of increased electricity demand, according to the report. Those gigantic increases were not foreseen when the state designed its landmark clean energy law in 2021 requiring net-zero carbon energy by 2045.

Coal and gas plants "are planned to retire across both (PJM and MISO) due to age, economics and emissions limits," the new report points out, and that's also contributing to the coming shortage.

Also problematic is the fact that new gas plant equipment takes five to seven years to purchase and install, and the plants face additional siting and permitting barriers. Wind and solar face serious obstacles as well.

All that results in this warning from the three state agencies: "These conditions create a credible risk of regional capacity shortfalls that will impact Illinois' future ability to import power during critical hours and may cause reliability issues in Illinois even if Illinois market zones have enough capacity to meet their (resource adequacy) requirements as determined by (PJM and MISO)."

Translation: Even if Illinois produces more power, we still might be in big trouble because other states are facing similar problems.

In the ComEd region alone, projected load growth "drives a 24% increase in resource adequacy requirements between 2025 and 2030, which contributes to growing dependence on external capacity even before the onset of an outright shortfall in 2032."

However, the report claims, "The state can successfully navigate both near-term reliability risks and longer-term decarbonization goals through a diversified resource strategy." That strategy includes "the continued use" of fossil fuel plants "even as their energy output

declines with higher renewable penetration."

Another study will be published in 2027. The report said that study will likely include increased renewables and battery storage, but will also look at "delays and/or reductions" to emissions requirements allowed by the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, which passed in October.

That's cutting it awful close. Some business groups, including the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, want the state to act immediately to keep existing fossil fuel plants open.

Forty years ago, Illinois had some of the highest electric utility rates in the Midwest. Then, after the state deregulated the industry, our costs became far more competitive and the state used those low rates to lure new businesses.

But then abundant supply (encouraged by deregulation) pushed rates to a point where some nuclear power plant owners couldn't afford to operate, so Illinois had to force consumers to subsidize the plants.

Then, with the gigantic data center and resulting artificial intelligence booms, along with aging plants going offline, electricity started becoming scarce again and rates have gone up.

Unilaterally cutting off data center expansion here won't work because the state is part of those two large regional power distribution networks. They'll just cross the state lines and continue consuming our juice.

Maybe the AI bubble will burst. But what is clear is that Illinois laws have to be flexible enough to deal with the unexpected, and that obviously hasn't been the case

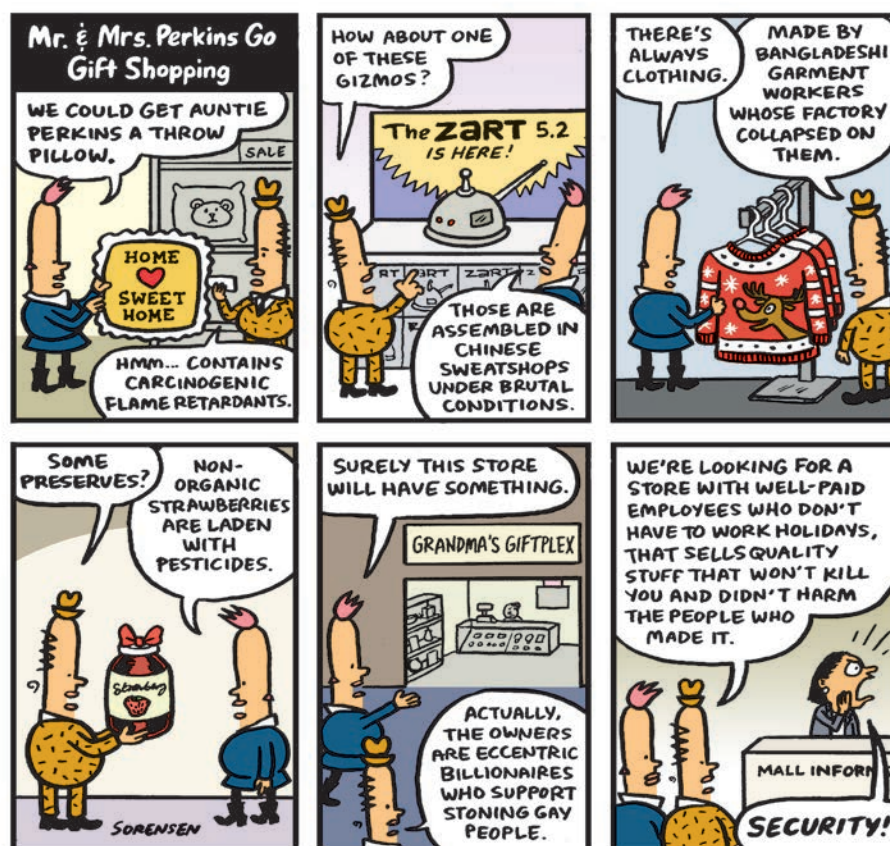
Yes, coal plants were closing anyway because they aren't cost competitive. Same with some gas plants. But government operates so

slowly that few have confidence it can turn the ship around in time to avert a coming shortage.

Everyone is pointing to the recently passed Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act as a possible solution because it gives the state more pollution control flexibility, but even that may not be adequate if there's not enough will at the top to make extra sure we don't enter a crisis stage.

The governor has expressed confidence that the state can handle this. But businesspeople are rightly freaking out.

Climate change is real. But if the lights don't go on, or the local factories close, nobody will care about excuses. They'll just want it fixed. □



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Beth Rees with Santa Claus at her third annual Breakfast with the Big Guy event Dec. 20. The event at Kumler United Methodist Church provided a free breakfast, toys and kids' activities to dozens of children and their families. PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

Meet Springfield's lasagna lady

Beth Rees keeps families fed and assists the lonely and less fortunate

COMMUNITY | Dilpreet Raju

Beth Rees is trying to make Springfield a better place, one lasagna at a time. She rents a modest house on the north end with her husband and two daughters, works a full-time job and, like many people, has sometimes struggled to keep the bills paid and put food on the table. For the past five years, she has also made thousands of lasagnas – more than 100,000 individual meals – for people in the Springfield community who might have otherwise gone without one.

Rees works at the Dick Van Dyke Appliance World warehouse during the day

and spends one to two evenings every week with her family preparing, on average, more than 100 ready-to-bake pans of lasagna for people around Springfield. What began as a way to help a few families during the early days of the pandemic has now evolved into a year-round community outreach.

"It gave me a purpose to do something, and from that point on we were doing weekly lasagnas for whoever needed them," Rees told *Illinois Times* earlier this month. "You message my (Facebook) page; we have people that come to my house and pick them up to

deliver them."

Lasagna is what her grandmother would make for Christmas Eve dinner when Rees was growing up, and the idea came to her as something that would be fillin', but with reasonably affordable ingredients. Rees once tried prepackaged frozen lasagna for her family years ago, right before COVID, and was so displeased she's never bought one since.

Rees has a methodical way of tracking the lasagnas she's made and had delivered, often by volunteers from various businesses and community organizations around town.

But the process of preparing the lasagnas is a familial one where Beth and her daughters – and in recent years, joined by her husband, Josh Rees – layer marinara sauce between sheets of oven-ready lasagna noodles and Italian cheeses, with hamburger meat and seasonings.

"I eat it every chance I can," Josh said, lamenting that the others in the Rees family have gotten a bit tired of the dish. He and Beth have been married for only a year and a half. "When we have an event or if we cater and there's leftover lasagna and they're like,



Josh and Beth Rees prepare lasagnas Dec. 12 for one of the weekly distributions. Feeding Springfield One Lasagna at a Time provided more than 9,500 lasagnas this year to people in need of a meal. PHOTO BY DILPREET RAJU

‘Here, just take it, we don’t want it,’ then I’ll get a piece of lasagna.”

Unlike many food pantries and social service agencies, Rees doesn’t require identification, proof of poverty or anything other than basic information so she knows how big of a pan to fix and deliver.

“I don’t ask you your income; I don’t ask you anything except name, address and how many are in your family, and that’s how I keep track of everything,” Rees said. “I don’t cook a lot of them – unless you don’t have an oven, then I’ll cook it – they’re handed to you with heating instructions and that’s how you go.”

In October and November, her Facebook page, Feeding Springfield One Lasagna at a Time, was listed on online flyers aggregating food resources for Springfield residents with dwindling SNAP benefits and government workers who were without paychecks. The resulting surge in requests from people in need ultimately forced Rees to learn when and where food distributions were happening throughout town so she could refer people to additional help.

“My phone would go off from 2 a.m. until midnight. It was nonstop, and we had people that didn’t know if they were going to get their next paycheck because of the shutdown. A lot of people were so worried about (SNAP

benefits),” Rees said. “People just didn’t know how they were going to eat. It was literally, ‘I can give you one lasagna, but here, let’s gather up some more resources.’”

She also puts together community events around major holidays as a way for children and families to get together. This year, for the first time, Rees surrendered control of the kitchen for her second annual Breakfast with the Big Guy holiday party, which she hosted Dec. 20 at Kumler United Methodist Church, 600 N. Fifth St.

“Normally, I do it,” she said. “I don’t

relinquish control very well, but I’m very excited about this one.”

Employees from the Wabash IHOP used the same kitchen in the basement of Kumler that Rees typically uses for preparing her lasagnas to make a free breakfast, complete with pancakes, sausage and eggs, for dozens of families. Many were the same families that have received lasagnas from Beth. In addition to breakfast, there were kids’ activities and photo ops with Santa and the Grinch, and each child got to select a toy to take home.

For more than five years now, Rees has been using Kumler’s kitchen for her weekly ritual of making lasagnas.

“They were the only ones during COVID that would open up their kitchen,” she said. “I can’t make 100 lasagnas in this itty-bitty kitchen of mine,” she said of her small house on Peoria Road. “They opened it up not knowing me, not knowing anything about me.”

Sharon Brown, executive director of Kumler Outreach Ministries, said the church’s trustees agreed to open the space to Rees.

“Our building is an asset for us and so if we can share that to help somebody else reach out to the community, we’re all for that,” Brown said. “We’ve typically had volunteers from the church that have helped at (Beth’s) events so we’ve also been involved that way. We want to do as much as we can for the community, and this is a way we can pool resources,” Brown said.

Rees made 67 lasagnas the first year, and initially didn’t plan for it to become an ongoing project. But even after the pandemic, the need remained constant, and in 2021 she



Beth Rees with daughters Stratus and Sable at an April 12 community event that provided free Easter baskets and kids’ activities. PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

distributed 3,677 lasagnas. Rees wrapped up this year with a new record – 9,585 lasagnas. As word spread about the “lasagna lady” and more people reached out for help, she realized she would need to enlist some assistance from community members.

Pease’s at BUNN Gourmet has been a partner since the beginning, providing 100% black Angus beef from the Bunn farm. Many other businesses have donated ingredients for lasagnas or merchandise and gift cards that Beth uses for weekly drawings, with proceeds going to support her outreach efforts.

Two years ago, Rees reached out to The Stadium Smokehouse Bar and Grill, 2300 N. Peoria Road, to see if the business would donate some ingredients for the lasagnas. She ended up forming a partnership with co-owner Jade Hart, who was happy to help by donating cheese and sauce while buying other supplies.

Hart also praised Beth for her holiday events, which she said provides kids with a fun, new alternative to Springfield’s typical offerings for children.

“I don’t know how she does it, she organizes all these people,” Hart said. “Springfield doesn’t have a lot of things to do with kids – it’s nice at the holidays that there’s something extra for people to take their kids to.”

Beth and Josh’s generosity has spread to those close to them, said Ryan Alexander, owner of Alexander Custom Improvements, who has helped connect the couple to veterans in need of meals.

“I like to help out veterans,” Alexander said. “My wife lost her brother in the military.

Feeding Springfield one lasagna at a time

Beth Rees’ ledger shows she’s made almost 30,000 pans of lasagna in the past five years for people across Springfield.

	Lasagnas distributed	Individual meals provided
2020	67	330
2021	3,677	11,373
2022	3,038	10,543
2023	5,970	21,905
2024	7,545	27,705
2025	9,585	34,240



Children at the Dec. 20 event were allowed to visit Santa's Workshop (no adults allowed) and select a toy to take home. PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

We just try to give back wherever we can; veterans just seem to be a big thing because there's a lack of help for them.”

This past Veterans Day, Beth mobilized her team of community volunteers to provide lasagna meals to 200 veterans and their families, along with care packages of candy. For Valentine's Day, she gave out 312 lasagnas and 643 care packages to veterans and seniors, asking people in the community to commit to \$5-\$10 to sponsor an individual or \$50 to sponsor an entire floor of a high-rise

apartment building. In addition to helping those struggling with food insecurity, Rees said it's important to her to make sure those who live alone know the community cares for them.

She is also motivated to help others because she knows what it feels like to worry about how you are going to provide for your family. Rees said she has been in a position of food insecurity for herself and her two daughters.

“There's been a time when I didn't know how I was going to feed them,” Rees said.

But regardless of her own challenges, “There's always people that are less fortunate.”

Beth and Josh have both previously struggled with managing their substance use, but together are on a streak of sobriety since their marriage that they say is propelled by helping others.

“I just want to give back to people,” Beth said. “I'm not who I was five years ago. Definitely not who I was 10 years ago. Even with my sobriety now, I'm not who I was a year and a half ago, and I wanted my kids more than anything to see that. I wanted to be somebody that my kids were super proud of.”

Her daughters Sable, 20, and Stratus, 22 – who she lovingly calls “Bit and Brat, I can't remember the last time I used their real names” – give back to the community in their own way. The sisters have a nonprofit called BB Boutique, housed at Kumler, which provides free prom dresses and jewelry to high schoolers who are attending school dances.

Beth and Josh agree that community volunteers have been a vital piece of their operation. In addition to helping deliver hundreds of lasagnas each month, people from various businesses and community organizations often refer people who might not have otherwise known that Beth has been providing free lasagnas for years. Sometimes they ask Beth if she can provide a lasagna or

two for an event, which she often obliges.

Whitney Devine, program manager for the Sangamon County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Council, or ROSC, said she reached out to Beth's Facebook page when scheduling a recovery-focused event but is also a resource for Beth with her many events. ROSCs are collaborations of organizations that support people going through recovery.

“She's helped us out (with providing food) at our events in the past. We try to show you can still have fun, even without any substances or alcohol involved,” Devine said. “We just try to help her with her events as well... She's the type of person, if there's a need, she just she shows up. Sometimes I feel like she has superpowers because the way she pulls stuff off and getting the community together for these things, it's just amazing work that she does.”

Devine had plenty of praise for Beth's signature dish: “I'm a huge fan, and I've had many, many lasagnas” and for all of Beth and Josh's efforts.

“They both have huge hearts, and we need more people like them in the community that have a passion for it. They always need more help – so if there are people out there that are interested in helping volunteer at events, helping deliver lasagnas – it takes a village, and I know she would love to have more people's help and support,” Devine said. □



Employees from the Wabash IHOP served a breakfast of pancakes, eggs and sausage to attendees at the Breakfast with the Big Guy. PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

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Yule Log cake

Culinary showpiece as we know it today was first created in 1870s

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

The Bûche de Noël, or Yule Log cake, is a stunning culinary showpiece that traces its roots far back to the ancient celebration of Yule. Derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *geōl*, Yule references the midwinter solstice celebrations that were widely practiced throughout the ancient world to welcome in longer days and the impending sunshine of spring. Once Christianity made its way to the British Isles, some facets of the pagan celebration were eventually absorbed into the celebration of Christmas, including the medieval tradition of burning a massive log continuously in the fireplace for days starting on Christmas Eve. Centuries later, when many people had moved from the country to smaller urban dwellings with a woodstove, it simply wasn't feasible to burn an enormous hunk of tree in the sitting room. The concept of the Yule Log was by then so deeply entrenched in the culture of Christmastide that it wasn't long before the tradition was adapted yet again, this time into a decadent cake.

The Bûche de Noël as we know it today was first created in a Paris pâtisserie in the late 1870s. Consisting of sponge cake rolled up with a swirl of rich buttercream filling, the presentation of these cakes can range from simple and rustic to ornately decorated. My iteration lands somewhere in the middle, with a cheerful peppermint swirl and decadent whipped ganache frosting. Whimsical meringue mushrooms provide the finishing touch. Deceptively realistic in appearance, the mushrooms are not only simple to prepare but also delicious to eat.

The cake can be fashioned from any good jelly roll cake recipe, and while they can be made ahead and frozen, the project is approachable enough to tackle as a same-day Christmas day bake.

Ingredients for the cake:

½ cup all purpose flour
 ½ cup cocoa
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 2 tablespoons corn starch
 5 eggs, at room temperature
 2/3 cup sugar
 A generous pinch of salt
 1 teaspoon espresso powder
 2 teaspoons vanilla or liqueur such as Kahlua
 1/4 cup neutral vegetable oil
 ½ cup plain yogurt (not Greek), at room temperature
 Powdered sugar, for dusting



A Yule Log or Bûche de Noël cake consists of sponge cake rolled up with a swirl of rich buttercream filling. STOCK IMAGE

Ingredients for the Swiss meringue butter cream and mushrooms:

6 egg whites
 2 1/4 cups sugar
 A pinch of salt
 Three sticks butter (24 tablespoons), cut into cubes, at room temperature (65 degrees F)
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 ¼ teaspoon peppermint extract, to taste
 ¼ cup semisweet chocolate chips, to assemble the mushrooms

For the whipped ganache:

1 cup semisweet or dark chocolate chips
 ½ cup heavy cream
 6 tablespoons butter, cubed, at room temperature
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract or liqueur

First, make the cake. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line a 13-by-18 rimmed half sheet pan with parchment paper. Lightly coat the parchment and pan with cooking spray or butter. Sift together flour, cocoa, cornstarch and espresso powder. In the large bowl of a stand mixer, whisk the eggs on high speed until they

become light and foamy, then slowly add the sugar, salt and extract or liqueur. Whisk on high until the mixture is viscous and leaves a ribbon that dissolves back into itself, about two to three minutes. Add a third of the dry ingredients into the egg mixture and use a rubber spatula to gently fold together. Repeat with two more additions of dry ingredients until fully combined. Mix the oil and yogurt together before folding into the batter until just combined.

Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and use the spatula to level the top. Place into the pre-heated oven and bake for just 10-12 minutes or until the cake springs back when touched.

Allow the cake to cool in the pan for a couple minutes and then use a sharp knife to release the edges from the pan. Dust the cake lightly with confectioners' sugar. Then use the parchment on the bottom of the pan to roll up the cake longways. Transfer the rolled up cake to a rack and allow it to cool completely.

While the cake is cooling, prepare the ganache and filling. To make the ganache, put the cream in a bowl and heat in the microwave until it begins to bubble. Add the chocolate

chips to the bowl with the hot cream and let it sit to allow the chocolate to melt, then stir until smooth. Set aside to cool while you prepare the filling and make the mushrooms.

Next, make the meringue for the filling and mushrooms. Whisk together the egg whites, sugar and salt in a heatproof mixing bowl. Place the mixing bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and whisk continuously until the egg white mixture reaches a temperature of 165 degrees, about five minutes. Take the mixing bowl off the heat and whisk until stiff, glossy peaks have formed, about 10 minutes. Start out on medium and gradually increase the speed to high. When done the meringue should have cooled to slightly warm room temperature.

Place half the meringue in a piping bag or resealable zip-close bag. Use the remaining meringue to make the buttercream filling. With the whisk attachment of the mixer on medium-high speed, add the room temperature cubed butter to the remaining meringue one piece at a time, whisking on high until all the butter is fully incorporated. Add the vanilla and peppermint extracts.

Preheat the oven to 225 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and snip a hole about a quarter inch in diameter in the corner of the bag with the meringue. Make the stems by holding the bag directly over the baking sheet and squeezing while lifting straight up. Snip the hole in the bag slightly larger to make the caps. Slowly squeeze the bag while gently lifting up, then stop squeezing before pulling the tip of the bag away. Bake in the preheated 225-degree oven for three hours until dry and hard, then remove from the oven and allow to cool completely. To assemble the mushrooms, melt the chocolate in a small bowl in the microwave. Dip the flat end of the stem in the melted chocolate and use it to glue the stem to the flat side of the cap.

To assemble the cake, unroll the cake and spread about one cup of the peppermint frosting over the unrolled cake. Roll the cake back up and place it seam side down on a serving tray. Finish the ganache by whipping the cooled chocolate and cream in the stand mixer on medium-high and add the butter one piece at a time until it is light and fluffy. Use the ganache to frost the cake and decorate with the meringue mushrooms. □

Ashley Meyer is a chef, freelance writer and mom of two based in Springfield.

The real story of *A Christmas Carol*

HISTORY | Tara McClellan McAndrew



"Marley's Ghost" by John Leech, one of the original illustrations for *A Christmas Carol*.

The well-loved tale of redemption popular this time of year, *A Christmas Carol*, wasn't sparked by joy, but sorrow. When London journalist and author Charles Dickens wrote what became the most copied secular Christmas fiction, he was dejected, financially stressed and fighting for societal reform.

To publish Scrooge's trials in time for Christmas, he had to write it in six weeks, according to his great-great-great granddaughter, British author Lucinda Dickens Hawksley. She researched the circumstances behind her ancestor's greatest hit for her books *Dickens and Christmas* and *Victorian Christmas*.

A Christmas Carol was published in December 1843, after a rough year for Dickens. "He was struggling with what we would call depression," she told *Illinois Times*. His last two books hadn't done well. One of those, *American Notes*, was about his travels through the U.S., including Illinois. He criticized American slavery and our state, calling our prairies monotonous and our southernmost, somewhat marshy region (Cairo) a "hotbed of disease" with nothing to "commend" it. To no surprise, the book didn't do well here, but it fared the same in his homeland.

"People didn't understand travel writing at that time," said Hawksley. Dickens' follow-up

novel, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, didn't do much better. (In it, he bashed Cairo again.)

His publisher was losing faith in Dickens' ability. Adding pressure, his wife was pregnant with their fifth child and the author was already overdrawn at the bank, with relatives asking for handouts, according to Hawksley. "His father was always in debt, as was one of his brothers. They would constantly come to him to pay off their debts."

Dickens needed a hit. But he wanted to make a difference, too.

When Dickens was a child, his family was imprisoned for debt. His parents felt his oldest sister would be the family breadwinner through her musical talents and let her stay in school while they were jailed, but they pulled 12-year-old Charles out of school. He lived alone in a lodging house and worked in a factory for about a year.

"Dickens had to pay for his family to get decent food in prison," said Hawksley. "He knew what it was to be hungry."

The experience scarred him. As an adult, Dickens worked with a reformer advocating for changes in child labor laws and increased poverty assistance. At that time, children worked long hours in dangerous coal mines and other industries. Dickens saw plenty of poverty and begging children on London's streets. But he couldn't believe the depth of

the problem in northern England when he visited his sister and her disabled son there in October 1843, according to Hawksley's website. The boy became the basis for Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*.

"Sadly," writes Hawksley, "unlike his fictional counterpart, (his nephew) did not survive – despite his uncle's best efforts to pay doctors to save him."

While Dickens was returning to London after that visit, Hawksley said, "he wrote to a friend that he had an idea for a story that he said would 'strike a sledgehammer blow in favor of the poor man's child.'" He worked quickly to have *A Christmas Carol* ready for holiday sales. Adding pressure, he had to pay for the publication himself. Dickens' publishers refused to front the money due to his poor previous sales and desire for expensive illustrations.

The beloved holiday fantasy is a plea for reform, both societal and personal.

"The children in *A Christmas Carol*, Tiny Tim and the two children who appear with the Ghost of Christmas – they are called Ignorance and Want – they are the whole meaning of the story," said Hawksley. In the book, miserly employer Ebenezer Scrooge becomes charitable and kind after being visited by three ghosts that show him – sometimes frighteningly – the repercussions

of his ways. He gives his employee, Bob Cratchitt, a raise, helps the man's disabled son, Tiny Tim, and keeps the spirit of Christmas forever.

The tale changed more hearts than Scrooge's, according to Hawksley. It was published on Dec. 19, 1843, and sold out by Christmas Eve. A third printing was gone by New Year's Eve. "It has never been out of print since," she said.

After Dickens' book was published, "there were more charities handing out food at Christmas," according to Hawksley. While Christmas was a workday in England when Dickens wrote the story, by the end of his life it became an official holiday for all but domestic servants. They got the next day, Boxing Day, off work, when their employers brought them gifts and sometimes Christmas leftovers (which the servants themselves may have prepared).

Dickens tried to repeat his holiday blockbuster by writing four more books about Christmas, but none achieved the fame of his first. □

Tara McClellan McAndrew is a freelance writer based in Springfield who enjoys writing about history. She is currently on a trip to London, and while researching places to visit she learned about the Charles Dickens Museum and the history of his most famous Christmas story.

MUSIC



Alex Pearce makes a holiday mini-tour in the area this weekend.

Betwixt the holidays

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Welcome to our in between edition, as we slip on through to the other side of Christmas, headed headlong toward the New Year's celebration. With the double holidays landing on Thursdays this year, our *IT* issue is a day early both weeks, so take that under consideration when deciding where to look for what to do.

We have a lone Christmas gig on the books as Alex Pearce drifts into town from his Nashville abode to hit us up with a show at Locals in Pawnee. Alex has had the good fortune of doing some pickin' and grinnin' at the world-famous Tootsie's Orchid Lounge located in the heart of Music City USA where many a Grand Old Opry performer would wet their whistle in the golden days of country music. Still a hot spot on the strip, congrats to our able troubadour for landing playing time at the storied venue. You can catch Alex at Brookhills Golf Club on Friday and Trails End in Curran on Saturday for more holiday-at-home shows.

Friday comes calling in a post-Christmas blast with plenty of acoustic shows and a few band items, plus five karaoke nights. For your rockin' pleasure check out Grounded at Goodfellas and OAT Band at George Rank's, while Dave Littrell goes HoliDave at The Bird Tavern, Thomas J. Beverly brings it all back home at Mowie's Cue, Joel Honey plays it sweet at Bar Bella, Devin C. Williams Delta-fies Buckhart Tavern and Ben Bedford completes his Dana-Thomas House seasonal residency.

Saturday turns up the heat with nearly 30 shows, including several bands and a few repeat performers from Friday night, along with six karaoke nights. The rockin' returns with Deja Voodoo doing what they do so well at Motorheads, Joel Gragg and the Filaments visiting from Indy with Tom Beverly guesting at the Brewhaus, Branded firing up the Curve Inn, The Meerkats staying cool at George Rank's and

the Blues Deacons dropping in from Champaign to the Harvest Market upstairs stage.

Solo acts setting the mood include Robert Sampson at Mother Road Diner (check out Robert's *Christmas with Lefty Preacher* online album) and Manny Lee singing up a storm at Boone's (and brother, can he sing!), while Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo featuring Rick Gasparin covers the bases at Lime Street Cafe.

Now, for something completely different, bring a non-perishable food item for free admission to Innervision, Love Lost, Totaled, Severance and Winning Ticket at Dumb Records downtown for an all-ages show for the ages. And in our bittersweet category, Devin C. Williams plays the Delta blues one last time at Buzz Bomb as the popular venue closes down on Jan. 1, 2026.

For out-of-town stuff, head to Petersburg to listen to the original and more songs of Brandon Elliott in the cozy confines of Cafe Amulet or shoot south to Chatham as Joel Honey rides into the Range or bust on over to Jacksonville for a Backwoods Burden experience at Kuhl Tyme Korner.

Sunday swings by with plenty of action starting with Kortney Leatherwood hosting a Blues in the Schools fundraiser open mic jam at the Alamo (2-5 p.m.). Then catch Eric & Kortney later at The Library Pizza and Sports Bar (former Crows Mill), while Ricarda Rosalina lands at Trails End (Curran), Curt Smith springs out to Hill Prairie Winery (Oakford), Josh Holland runs into Buckhart Tavern, Amy Battles and me cook it at Golden Hour Bake House and the Harris Trio entertains at Mother Road Diner.

And... next Wednesday is none other than New Year's Eve with all the hoopla happening, so prepare yourself and I'll have the skinny in next week's early issue. □

A poster for "SKATING IN THE PARK" at ALPLM'S UNION SQUARE PARK. The poster features a teal background with a sketch of a large building and people skating. At the top, there's a string of colorful lights. A red stamp-like graphic says "FREE". The text "SKATING IN THE PARK" is in large, bold, teal letters. Below it, a red banner says "NOV 29 - FEB 16". Underneath the banner, it says "ALPLM'S UNION SQUARE PARK". At the bottom, it lists "MUSIC * HOT CHOCOLATE * SKATE RENTAL" with "on select nights" and "free" under the respective items. The website "presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/events" is at the very bottom.

An advertisement for the Illinois Literacy Foundation. It features a man and a woman in a library setting, looking at a book together. The text "Become a Reading Tutor." is prominently displayed in large white letters. Below it, the phrase "Change a Life Forever." is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, it says "Email info@illinoisliteracy.org for more info." and the Illinois Literacy Foundation logo is shown.

MUSIC

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 Dec 25

Karaoke Night with DJ Nattie Beats
Benderz, Auburn, 8pm

Open mic with Bob the Brewer
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 6:30-10pm

Alex Pearce
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 7-10pm

Open mic with Silas Tockey
Spirited Republic/Limerick Brewing Company, Lincoln, 7-10pm

Karaoke
The Tipsy Toad, 8pm-12am

Friday Dec 26

Joel Honey
Bar Bella, 7-9pm

Dave Littrell
The Bird Tavern, 6-9pm

it Alex Pearce
Brookhills Golf Club, 7-10pm

Devin C. Williams
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

Karaoke with Gary and Stephanie Williams
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8-11:30pm

Tim Duggan
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-9:30pm

Ben Bedford
Dana-Thomas House, 5-6:30pm

Boots, Hats and Pearl Snaps Band
El Campesino Mexican Restaurant, Girard, 5:30-7:30pm

Karaoke
Foxhole Pub N Grub, Lincoln, 8pm-12am

OAT Band
George Rank's, 7-10pm

Grounded
Goodfellas Pub, 8-11pm

Karaoke
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

Thomas J Beverly
Mowie's Cue, 7-10pm

Karaoke
Pickles Package and Pub, Pawnee, 9pm-2am

Friday Night Karaoke
Pier 55 Lounge, 8pm

AllNighter
Rocco's, Decatur, 8-11pm

Saturday Dec 27

Double H Karaoke
American Legion Post 32, 7-11pm

Hat Trick
AMVETS Post 100, Jacksonville, 8pm-12am

Manny Lee
Boone's, 6-9pm

Joel Gragg & the Filaments with Thomas J Beverly
Brewhaus Bar, 8-11pm

AllNighter
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

Devin C. Williams
Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm

Brandon Elliott
Cafe Amulet, Petersburg, 3-6pm

Voodoo Exiles
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30-10:30pm

Branded
Curve Inn, 6-10pm

it Innervision, Love Lost, Totaled, Severance, Winning Ticket
Dumb Records, 7pm

The Meerkats
George Rank's, 8-11pm

Karaoke
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

The Blues Deacons
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Backwoods Burden
Kuhl Tyme Korner, Jacksonville, 8pm-12am

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Hi-Tek Redneck Karaoke
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 9pm-1am

Robert Sampson
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

Renegade Karaoke
Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-12:30am

James Crosby
Patriots Pub, Waverly, 8pm

Joel Honey
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 6-9pm

Deja Voodoo
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 8pm

Karaoke
Silver Sevens Gaming Pub & Parlor, 8pm-12am

Open mic
Stella Coffee & Tea, 10am-12:30pm

Karaoke
The Next Stop Saloon, Mount Pulaski, 8pm-12am

Alex Pearce
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 4-7pm

Sunday Dec 28

Kortney Leatherwood
The Alamo, 2-5pm

Open mic with Kortney Leatherwood
The Alamo, 2-5pm

Wolf Crick Boys
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

Josh Holland
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Mid-October
Door 4 Brewing Co., Decatur, 12pm.

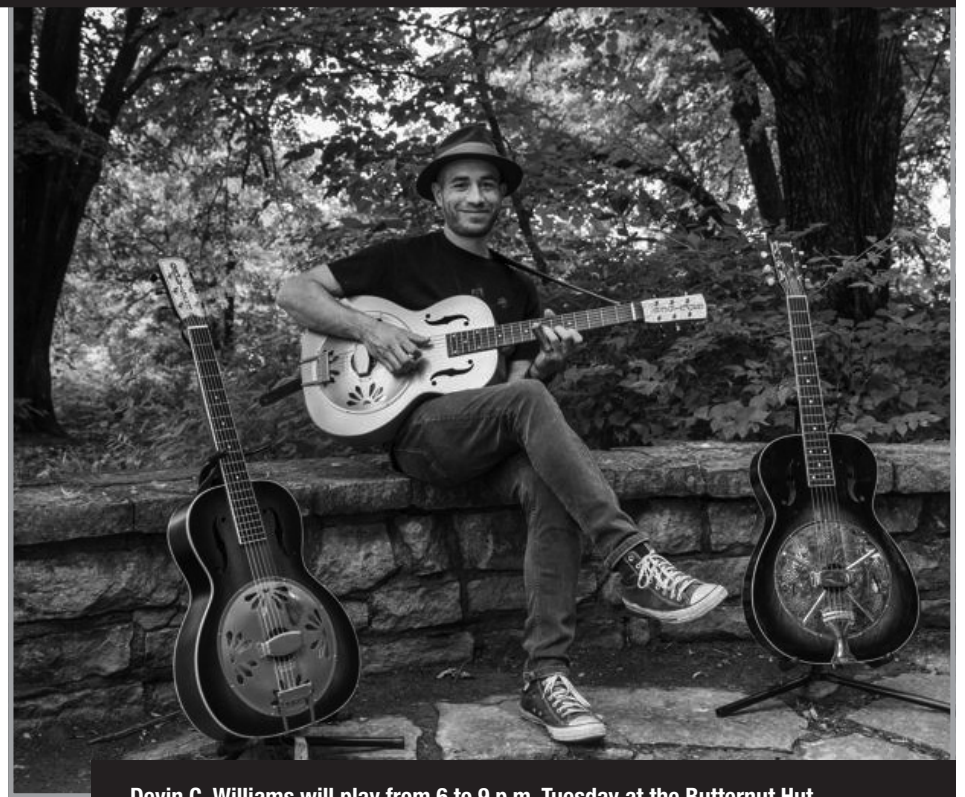
Rich Hogan
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 4-7pm

Curt Smith
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

Eric & Kortney
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 7-10pm

Harris Trio
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

Marty "Big Dog" Mercer
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm



Devin C. Williams will play from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Butternut Hut.

Ricarda Rosalina
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

Monday Dec 29

Marty "Big Dog" Mercer
The Alamo, 7pm

Al Kitchen
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm.

Tuesday Dec 30

Devin C. Williams
Butternut Hut, 6-9pm

Allan Harris
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm.

Songwriter open mic with Tom Irwin
It's All About Wine, 6-9pm

Karaoke
Oogie and JJ's Bar, Glenarm, 7-10pm

Karaoke with Suzi
The Rusty Rail Pub, Lincoln, 8pm-12am

Wednesday Dec 31

Lick Creek
Boondocks, 8pm

Open mic with Joel Honey and Silas Tockey
Boone's, 7-10pm

Grand Theft Audio
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 9pm-12am

Karaoke
Clique, 9pm-1am

X-Krush
Curve Inn, 8:30pm-12:30am

Karaoke
The Filling Station, Rochester, 7-11pm

Araiza
Foxhole Pub N Grub, Lincoln, 9pm-1:30am

Robert Sampson
Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta, 6-9pm.

Rezzin8
The Funky Monkey, Taylorville, 9:30pm

All Lit Up
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 8pm-12:30am

Johnnie Owens
Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 5-5:45pm

Square of the Roots
Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 6-6:45pm

Ben Bedford
Hoogland Center for the Arts Club Room, 7-7:45pm

NIL8
Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 7-7:45pm

Chris Vallillo
Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 5-5:45pm

FReSh RAIN
Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 7-7:45pm

99 Proof
JB's Hideout, Blue Mound, 9pm-1am

Future Entertainment Karaoke
Lucky's on the Square, Petersburg, 8pm

Renegade Karaoke
Northern Lights Lounge, 8:30pm-1am

it Kapital Sound, The Marquise Henderson Band, Nfinite Soul
Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center, 8pm-1am

Afterthought
Pop's Place, Decatur, 8pm-12am

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters and Dallas Whitaker
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 5:30pm-12am

Not Petty
The Bean, Mechanicsburg, 9pm-12am

Karaoke
Town Hall Pub, Loami, 9pm-1am

The 66 Ramblers
VFW Post 10302, 8pm-12am

THE CALENDAR



First Night Springfield | Wed., Dec. 31, noon-8:30 p.m.
Hoogland Center for the Arts | Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum | Union Square Park | 217-753-3519

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS | Annual event rings in new year with style

it Head downtown on New Year's Eve for this annual family-friendly event at three iconic locations. This year's event features children's activities at the ALPLM and Hoogland Center, a special around-the-world midnight countdown with confetti cannons at the ALPLM, ice skating at Union Square Park and a dazzling fireworks spectacular. A full schedule of activities starts at the ALPLM after a noon ribbon-cutting ceremony. Several musical acts also are scheduled at the Hoogland. In its 39th year, this event is the longest-running First Night event west of the Alleghenies. Guests will receive schedules and maps upon arrival. Fireworks take place at Fourth Street and Capitol Avenue at 8 p.m. Tickets for ages 16 and older are \$25 while those 15 and younger are free. Get tickets at hcfta.org. Find more info at springfieldartsco.org.

■ Special Music Events Free Fall Concerts at the Carillon

Sat., Dec. 27, 2-2:30pm and Sun., Dec. 28, 2-2:30, 4-4:30pm. Enjoy beautiful music at the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon. Relax in the park and soak in the sounds of music echoing through Washington Park. carillon-rees.org. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Lick Creek

Wed., Dec. 31, 7pm. Celebrate New Year's Eve with one of the area's most popular bands. \$26.66-\$97.73. Boondocks, 2909 N. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-679-0145.

Quiet Riot with Big Guns

Mon., Dec. 29, 7pm. Quiet Riot became an overnight rock sensation in 1983 after its monster smash hit album "Metal Health." Big Guns will open the show. \$30.19-\$42.26. Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 141 N. Main St., 217-454-4583.

■ Books & Authors

Stella's Silent Reading Club

Mondays, 10-11am. This club is a gathering of readers reading their own book - parallel but together. A big table will be set aside for participants to assemble and share what they are reading and then silently read for the next hour. A book lover's dream. Free. Stella Coffee & Tea, 1135 W. Governor St., 262-622-3151.

■ Theater & Comedy

Brent Terhune, Justin Seymour and Cole Peterson

Wed., Dec. 31, 8pm. Three of America's funniest national touring comedians bring their show to Decatur. \$25-\$30. Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 3025 Kandy Lane, 217-330-9993.

Ken Bradbury New Year's Eve Joke Show

Wed., Dec. 31, 5-6pm. An all-star cast of characters bring in the new year with laughs. Proceeds will benefit the Ken Bradbury Foundation. Cash bar. \$10 at door. K's Creek Golf Club & Restaurant, Jacksonville, 1265 Sandusky Road, 217-602-0533.

Learnmore Jonasi

Wed., Dec. 31, 7, 9:30pm. Learnmore Jonasi, a stand-up comedian and actor from Zimbabwe, is back by popular demand. Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 2200 S. Meadowbrook Road, 217-891-4858.

Open Podcast

Wednesdays, 6-7pm. This is an open mic, "late-night TV"-style podcast Pizza Records records

and posts on YouTube and other platforms each week. will feature comedy, original music and interviews. Pizza Records will turn the camera off on request. See the Facebook page for more info. Free. Pizza Records, Jacksonville, 59 E. Central Park Plaza, 217-200-0896.

■ Spoken Word

Springfield poets and writers

Wed., Dec. 31, 6-6:45pm. Hear readings from nine dynamic voices from the local literary community. Part of First Night Springfield. 16 and older \$25, 15 and younger free. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-753-3519.

■ Lectures & Meetings

Stronger Together: Parents of Special Needs Kiddos

Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m. Join others who are raising special needs children for discussion, support and connection. Special needs included but not limited to autism, Down syndrome, physical and developmental disabilities and medically fragile children. Mothers will meet Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23. Fathers will meet Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and 16 and March 2. No child care available. Open to all. RSVP at event link. Continues through March 2. Hope Church, 3000 Lenhart Road, 217-787-1446, ktaylor@myhope.church.

■ Dance

Springfield International Folk Dancers

Mondays, 7-9pm. Experience the joy of folk dancing from many cultures. All skill levels welcome and no partners necessary. Free. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-793-8035.

■ Art & Architecture

Mansion Tours

Saturdays, Sundays, 1:45-2:45, 3-4pm. Illinois Department of Natural Resources trained staff and volunteers lead this tour of the official residence of Gov. JB and first lady MK Pritzker. Tour focuses on the history of the mansion. No self-guided tours are permitted. Reserve a spot on eventbrite.com. Free. Illinois Governor's Mansion, 410 E. Jackson St., 217-782-6450.

■ Faith & Philosophy

Burning Bowl Releasing Ceremony

Sun., Dec. 28, 10-11am. Take part in the annual Burning Bowl Ceremony during the Sunday Service. Release all that no longer serves us as we start the New Year. Also available is the Youth Sunday Celebration. unityofspringfieldil.org. Donations accepted. Unity of Springfield, 417 Cordelia, 2175235897.

Celebrate Recovery

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm. Celebrate Recovery is a scripture-based, 12-step recovery program that helps individuals work through hurts, hangups and habits. Meetings begin with \$5 meal. For more info, see the Celebrate Recovery at Together Church page on Facebook. \$5 meal, free first time. Together Church, 225 N. Grand Ave. East, 217-299-8767.

Christmas Masses

Thu., Dec. 25, 9:30am. On Christmas Eve, music begins 30 minutes before service times. Communion open to all baptized Christians. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 815 S. Second St., 217-544-5135.

■ Holiday Happenings

All is Calm, All is Bright

Fridays, 5-6pm. Through Dec. 26. Enjoy an hour of quiet reflection during the chaotic holiday season with piano music by Terri Benz. A State Street ministry production. Centenary UM Church, Jacksonville, 331 East State Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650, 217-245-8417.

Dana-Thomas House Festive Fridays

Fri., Dec. 26, 4-7pm. Step into the spirit of the holidays with decor arranged by the Springfield Civic Garden Club. Enjoy the sparkle of art glass throughout the house. Tours every 15 minutes. Enjoy cocoa and s'mores in the courtyard. Live music with Ben Bedford from 5 to 6:30pm. in December. Registration available through Eventbrite but not required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

First Night Springfield

Wed., Dec. 31, 12-8:30pm. Look for children's activities, live performances and special around-the-world midnight countdown with confetti cannons at ALPLM, ice skating at Union Square Park, live performances and arts activities at the Hoogland and a fireworks spectacular. 16 and older \$25, 15 and younger free. Downtown Springfield, Downtown, 217-753-3519.

Ice Skating

Saturdays, 1-4pm, Sundays, 1-4pm and Wed., Dec. 31, 1-4pm. Through Feb. 15. An age-old holiday tradition. Skating and skate rental are free, though donations are welcome to help maintain equipment. A full schedule can be found on ALPLM website. Free, donations accepted. Union Square Park, 212 N. Sixth St.

Jacksonville Festival of Lights
Thursdays, 5-8pm, Fridays,
5-9pm, Saturdays, 5-9pm and
Sundays, 5-8pm. Through Dec.
28. This dazzling drive-thru light
display for the whole family is
a sparkling holiday tradition.
Morgan County Fairgrounds,
Jacksonville, 110 N. Westgate,
217-245-5119.

Kwanzaa Celebration
Mon., Dec. 29, 3-7pm. In
the Carnegie Room. Annual
community celebration. Lincoln
Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-
753-4900.

Light Up The Park
Thursdays-Sundays, 6-9pm.
Through Dec. 25. Through Dec.
25. A local holiday tradition. Get
ready to be wowed by the nearly
1-mile drive through hundreds of
thousands of lights and beautiful
displays. A \$5 per-vehicle
donation is requested. Donation
benefits Chatham Friends of
the Park. Vans and buses are
welcome. \$5 per vehicle donation
requested. Chatham Community
Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St.,
217-415-8513.

**Temple B'rith Sholom & Temple
Israel Interfaith Breakfast**
Thu., Dec. 25, 8:30am-12pm.
This heartwarming event, in
its 20th year, aims to bring the
community together for food and
festive cheer while also serving
a noble cause. All proceeds from
the breakfast will be donated to
the Boys & Girls Club of Central
Illinois. Tickets available at the
door. Cash or checks accepted.
Adults \$10, children 5-12 \$5.
Temple B'rith Sholom, 1004 S.
Fourth St., 217-525-1360.

Ultimate NYE 2026 Celebration
Wed., Dec. 31, 8pm-1am. Ring
in the new year at the Ultimate
NYE Celebration featuring three
live bands—Kapital Sound, The
Marquise Henderson Band, and
Nfinite Soul—plus DJs Riq James
on the 1's and 2's. Includes open
bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, party
favors, surprises and a midnight
champagne toast. Take advantage
of a special hotel rate when
booked by Dec. 26. Must be 21 or
older. \$99. Northfield Inn, Suites
and Conference Center, 3280
Northfield Dr., 217-993-4998.

Wintree Wonderland
Through Dec. 31. Wintree
Wonderland, a new mall tradition,
will include the beloved elements
found each Christmas at the
mall and incorporate a festive
forest of trees decorated by the
public. Includes Santa's Workshop
Make It/Take It, a selfie station,
Gingerbread Playhouse, window
murals, photos with Santa, train
rides and more. Free admission.

White Oaks Mall, 2501 Wabash
Ave., 217-787-0110.

■ Fundraisers & Galas
**Penny Powell's Surprise Drive-
Thru Birthday**
Fri., Dec. 26, 4-6pm. Drop
off donations for Fifth Street
Renaissance in honor of Executive
Director Penny Powell's birthday.
Enter the St. Joseph Church
parking lot on Sixth street and
exit on Fifth street. Receive a
slice of birthday cake as you drive
through. Being accepted are cash,
checks or grocery cards, pantry
items, home furnishings and
personal care items. St. Joseph
Church parking lot, 1345 N. Sixth
St., 217-544-5040.

■ Community Organizing
Free Community Breakfast
Sundays, 7:30-8:30am. Through
Dec. 28. Enjoy a breakfast and
friendly fellowship. The mission
of the F.I.R.M. Family Foundation
is to serve underrepresented
communities by providing much
needed services and resources to
aid in the upliftment of the family
unit. Free. The F.I.R.M. Family
Foundation, 520 S. Livingston St.,
217-707-8850.

■ Children's Corner
Noon Year's Eve Party
Wed., Dec. 31, 9am. Celebrate
the start of a new year! Event
is free with paid admission. The
ball drops at noon. kidzeum.org.
Children ages 2 and older \$11.
Kidzeum of Health and Science,
412 E. Adams St., 217-679-2123.

■ Lectures & Meetings
Life Recovery 12-Step Group
Mondays, 6:30-7:45pm. Work
through the 12 steps of life
recovery, a set of biblical
principles in addiction treatment
that outline a course of action for
tackling problems such as drug
and alcohol addiction, overeating,
sex addiction and more. See the
Facebook page for more info.
Destiny Church, 1425 N. Fifth St.,
217-685-4124, 217-553-2025.

MomCo
Fourth Thursday of every month,
6:30-8:30pm. MomCo is a place
where mothers can meet to
receive support, make meaningful
connections and grow a
community. Child care is provided.
trinity-lutheran.com. Free. Trinity
Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 515
S. MacArthur Blvd., 217-787-
2323.

Pride on the Eastside
Fourth Thursday of every month,
5:30-6:30pm. A social group and
support meeting for LGBT and
people of color. Phoenix Center
OUT East, 704 S. Dirksen Pkwy.,
217-528-5253.

Step Into Recovery
Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm. A 12-
step recovery group for LGBTQ+
and allies. This group is for
anyone struggling with alcohol,
chemical or process addictions.
Enter through rainbow ramp in
rear of the building. Free. Phoenix
Center: Out On Second, 120 E.
Scarritt St., 2174148953.

■ Bulletin Board
Barrel Building Flea Market
Fourth Saturday of every month,
8am-2pm. In the Barrel Building
next to Stella Coffee & Tea.
Multiple vendors will offer items
made of wood, ceramic and
metals. Free. Stella Coffee & Tea,
1135 W. Governor St., 262-622-
3151.

Cat adoptions
Fourth Saturday of every month,
12-3pm. Forever Home Feline
Ranch will have cats available
for adoption. Opportunities are
also available for fostering and
volunteering. Donations welcome.
Ace Hardware, 1600 Wabash Ave.,
217-787-5100.

Free Community Cat Cafe Time
Sundays, 11:30am-12pm,
4-4:30pm. Through Jan. 25. Enjoy
a complimentary 30-minute visit
with café cats every Sunday.
Guests should be patient with
capacity limits and potential wait
times. spicatpjs.com. Free. The
Cats' Pyjamas Cat Cafe, 524 E.
Capitol Ave., 217-836-7120.

**Sweet Endings with Sweeter
Beginnings New Year's Eve
Party**
Wed., Dec. 31, 11:30am-12pm.
Close the year on a sweet
note and welcoming an even
sweeter new beginning at this
party. Sponsored by Meridian.
centralilseiors.org. Senior
Services of Central Illinois, 701 W.
Mason St., 217-503-4643.

Weekly Mahjong Club
Thursdays. Curious about
Mahjong but not sure where to
start? The Mahjong Club is the
perfect place to pick up the game
in a fun, relaxed and welcoming
environment. chathamlib.org.
Free. Chatham Area Public
Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce
St., 2174832713.

**New Year essential basket
giveaway**
Sat., Jan. 3, 10-11 a.m. Freedom
in Holiness Mission's essential
baskets are filled with Charmin
toilet paper and Bounty paper
towels. Recipients must show
proof of need I.D. Fifty baskets
will be given away. Freedom in
Holiness Mission, 1430 Loveland
Ave. (Springfield Metro Area:
Springfield Area). 217-522-2527.

MARKETPLACE

BOOKS ON THE SQUARE

New, Used and Rare

Two Locations
Call 965-5443

427 E. Washington St.
Springfield

153 E. Jackson St.
Virden



Ron & Paula's BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES

(IN SPRINGFIELD)
Located at
1401 E. Cottonwood Street
(Corner of 14th & Cottonwood)
Tuesdays,
January 6 – February 10, 2026

Basic Ballroom
6:00 – 7:00 pm

Basic Salsa
7:15 – 8:15 pm

Basic Hustle
8:30 – 9:30 pm

**Ron & Paula's
Ballroom Dancing**
217-553-0446

www.RonAndPaulaDance.com

Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SENECA MORTGAGE SERVICING LLC
Plaintiff,
-v.-
VICTORIA S ZIGAS, UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
2025 FC 000091
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
and Sale entered in the above cause
on October 15, 2025, an agent for The
Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00
PM on January 21, 2026, at the Do Realty
Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD,
IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to
the highest bidder, as set forth below, the
following described real estate:
Commonly known as 2690 SUNNY VIEW
DRIVE, ILLIOPOLIS, IL 62539
Property Index No. 17-13.0-277-012
The real estate is improved with a single
family residence.
The judgment amount was \$164,282.63.
Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than
the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid
by certified funds at the close of the sale

PLAINTIFF,
VS.
ALEXANDRIA MILNER A/K/A ALEXANDRIA
D MILNER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-
RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2025FC000042
1035 NORTH 6TH STREET SPRINGFIELD,
IL 62702
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDG-
MENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLO-
SURE 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 December 3, 2025, will
on January 27, 2026, in Sangamon County
Building, 200 S. 9th St., Second floor,
Room 223, Springfield, IL 62701, at 9:00
AM, sell at public auction and sale to the
highest bidder for cash, all and singular,
the following described real estate men-
tioned in said Judgment, situated in the
County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or
so much thereof as shall be sufficient to
satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 14-27.0-130-025
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1035 North 6th
Street
Springfield, IL 62702
Description of Improvements: White alumi-
num siding, 1.5 story single family home,
detached 2 car garage
The Judgment amount was \$160,033.85.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for
"CASH". The successful bidder must
deposit 10% down by certified funds; bal-
ance, by certified funds, within 24 hours.
NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general
real estate taxes, special assessments
or special taxes levied against said real
estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for
sale without any representation as to qual-
ity or quantity of title and without recourse
to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to
confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount,
the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of
Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a
Deed to the real estate after confirmation
of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspec-
tion. Prospective bidders are admon-
ished to check the court file to verify all
information.

The successful purchaser has the sole
responsibility/expense of evicting any
tenants or other individuals presently in
possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the
purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure
sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the
assessments and the legal fees required
by The Condominium Property Act, 765
ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-
OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN
IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER
ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLO-
SURE LAW.
For Information: Visit our website at <http://ifforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla
Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's At-
torneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820,
Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312)
346-9088. Please refer to file# 25-20466IL
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLEC-
TION 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 set forth in this notice of sale.
I3277894

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE SPRINGFIELD MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT, dba
SANGAMON MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS –
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

RECEIPTS:

Passenger Fares \$1,108,738; Advertising \$155,000; Rental Income \$1,200; Investment & Other Income \$498,376; Property Tax \$3,402,818; Operating Assistance IDOT \$15,393,173;
Operating Assistance FTA \$4,339,903; Federal Capital Grants \$1,344,910; State Capital Grants \$428,416; Other contributed capital \$959,826; Other revenue \$32,137
STATEMENT OF ALL REVENUE RECEIVED \$27,664,497

DISBURSEMENTS:

STATEMENT OF ALL MONEYS PAID OUT > \$2,500.00 IN THE AGGREGATE = \$18,438,181
(EXCLUSIVE OF COMPENSATION FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES)

1ST AYD CORPORATION \$30,010, A-1 LOCK INC. \$29,341, ABC COMPANIES - MUNCIE RECLAMATION \$45,878, AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES INC \$146,733, AFLAC \$26,730, ALPHA CONTROLS & SERVICES \$12,848, AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION \$60,172, AMAZON \$29,573, AMCO FENCE COMPANY INC \$7,780, AMEREN ILLINOIS \$315,816, AMERICAN EXPRESS \$99,826, ANDERSON ANALYTICAL INC. \$3,541, ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT \$609,966, AUTO GLASS SYSTEMS \$2,617, AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT \$11,835, AVAIL TECHNOLOGIES \$76,871, BANK OF SPRINGFIELD \$5,700, BOB RIDINGS FLEET SALES \$177,792, BONACO INC \$5,264, BRAHLER TIRE MART INC \$3,517, BRINK’S INCORPORATED \$3,496, CAPITAL CITY BASEBALL \$7,190, CAPITOL BLUEPRINT, INC. \$14,703, CAPITOL RADIO GROUP \$12,279, CDW GOVERNMENT \$94,578, CENTRAL IL TRUCK, INC. \$59,161, CENTURY TOOL & EQUIPMENT \$6,631, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE \$2,595, CHEMSEARCH \$11,344, CINTAS \$69,724, CITY WATER LIGHT & POWER \$228,527, CLAUDELL HOOD \$5,000, CLEVER DEVICES LTD \$129,444, COMCAST \$28,378, CONNOR CO \$6,248, CONTINENTAL RESEARCH CORP \$9,874, CRASH RESPONSE LLC \$2,500, CROOKCO HOLDINGS, INC. \$4,900, CUMMINS Inc. \$25,900, D H PACE COMPANY INC \$55,495, DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY \$22,388, DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD HERITAGE \$3,500, E-BOLT CONSTRUCTION & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY \$14,963, ECOLANE USA INC \$19,888, EFFECTV \$21,478, ENERGY PETROLEUM CO \$314,050, EQSOS ENTERPRISES INC \$4,763, EVENTIVE SPORTS PROPERTIES \$3,000, FIRST ELECTRIC MOTOR \$2,625, FOSTER & FOSTER CONSULTING ACTUARIES INC \$7,500, GENERAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES \$8,167, GENERAL STEEL PRODUCTS COMPANY INC. \$111,200, GENUINE PARTS COMPANY \$14,967, GEORGE ALARM CO INC \$9,805, GILLIG LLC \$69,915, GLOBE LIFE \$39,916, GOODMAN FENCE INC. \$16,286, GOODYEAR COMMERCIAL TIRE & SERVICE \$4,729, GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER \$183,184, GRAINGER \$11,313, GREEN DODGE KIA \$2,567, HANSON PROFESSIONAL SVCS. \$4,300, HAWKINS BAILEY WAREHOUSE INC \$16,285, HEALTH ALLIANCE MEDICAL PLANS \$300,425, HEALTH CARE SERVICE CORPORATION \$2,292,400, HEART TECHNOLOGIES, INC. \$40,149, HEARTLAND CREDIT UNION \$14,040, HENSON ROBINSON \$25,632, HILLIER STORAGE & MOVING CO. \$3,831, HINSHAW & CULBERTSON LLP \$41,930, HOUCK ADVERTISING \$3,000, HURST-ROCHE, INC \$2,591, IDEASTAGE PROMOTIONS LLC \$5,224, IL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOC \$17,000, ILLINI SUPPLY INC \$48,422, ILLINOIS NATIONAL BANK \$668,240, ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND \$590,036, ILLINOIS TIMES \$17,130, ILMO PRODUCTS CO \$13,234, INTERNATIONAL FILTER MFG \$4,450, JAMES W HARMONY \$76,665, JAYCEE BRITZ \$4,100, JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROTECTION LP \$44,836, KEYSTONE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES \$33,250, KIRK’S AUTOMOTIVE INC \$43,420, KOHN LAW FIRM S.C. \$3,642, LANDMARK FORD TRUCKS INC \$81,675, LANDSCAPE FORMS, INC. \$3,440, LAWSON PRODUCTS INC \$2,501, LIMBAUGH CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. \$806,289, MARINER FINANCE LLC \$4,194, MARMIC FIRE & SAFETY CO \$31,386, MASCO PACKAGING & SUPPLY \$43,376, MENARDS \$5,563, MICROCHIP COMPUTER SOLUTIONS INC \$5,870, MID WEST FAMILY SPRINGFIELD \$13,665, MIDWEST BUS CORP. \$6,230, MIDWEST TRANSIT EQUIPMENT \$50,722, MOHAWK MFG & SUPPLY CO \$14,011, MOTION INDUSTRIES \$7,867, NAPA AUTOPARTS \$5,772, NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS \$23,460, NATSCO TRANSIT SOLUTIONS INC \$2,777, NCPERS GROUP LIFE-GP#9001 \$3,969, NEUHOFF MEDIA SPRINGFIELD \$13,525, O'REILLY AUTO PARTS \$26,939, P H BROUGHTON & SONS \$2,973, PIASA MOTOR FUELS, LLC \$64,756, PINNACLE ACTUARIAL RESOURCES, INC. \$3,500, PMA COMPANIES INC \$100,163, PPT HOLDINGS I LLC \$10,975, PRAIRIELAND FS \$111,938, QUEST DIAGNOSTICS \$3,926, QUILL CORPORATION \$6,445, RD LAWRENCE \$2,904, RED WING BRANDS OF AMERICA \$4,208, REPUBLIC SERVICES \$17,122, REXX BATTERY CO. \$3,538, ROC INC \$21,336, ROSS & WHITE CO \$26,683, RUSH TRUCK CENTERS - SPRINGFIELD \$92,481, SAFETY-KLEEN SYSTEMS INC \$11,184, SANGAMON COUNTY \$985,352, SANGAMON COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK \$8,208, SECURE SUPPLY INC. \$19,350, SENTINEL INSECT CONTROL \$4,901, SIKICH CPA LLP \$36,992, SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP \$18,050, SJR Media Group \$5,167, SMTD \$3,250, SMTD HRA - FLEX MEDICAL \$31,241, SPRINGFIELD CLINIC LLP \$24,968, SPRINGFIELD REPROGRAPHICS \$2,649, SPRINGFIELD SANGAMON GROWTH ALLIANCE \$25,000, SPX CORPORATION \$249,137, SSCRPC PLANNING COMM. \$3,782, STANDARD INSURANCE CO. \$25,597, SUNBELT RENTALS INC \$2,756, TECH ELECTRONICS \$272,441, THE AFTERMARKET PARTS COMPANY LLC \$145,220, THE BRAUN CORP \$12,029, THE CINCINNATI LIFE INS CO \$30,910, THE CONVENTION STORE INC \$297,688, TIFCO INDUSTRIES INC \$6,677, TRANSIT SOLUTIONS LLC \$528,270, TRUCK CENTERS, INC \$280,295, TUXHORN TOWING INC. \$17,832, ULINE \$7,602, UNIFIRST FIRST AID CORP \$2,875, VALCO AWARDS & MORE, INC. \$3,803, VERIZON \$8,056, VERIZON WIRELESS \$39,143, VIA TRANSPORTATION INC \$22,700, W J SCOTT COMPANY \$4,291, WATTS COPY SYSTEMS INC \$9,180, WELLS TECHNOLOGY \$22,507, WERTZ ALIGNMENT, INC \$3,146, WEX BANK \$362,458, WIESE USA \$15,670, WOODWARD COMMUNICATIONS INC \$19,744, WSIU PUBLIC BRADCASTING \$5,155, BANK FEES \$10,689, IDES (UNEMPLOYMENT) \$79,314, IL DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (PAYROLL TAX) \$571,845; IMRF (RETIREMENT) \$1,407,630; STATE DISBURSEMENT UNIT (CHILD SUPPORT) \$159,582; OPEB TRANSFER \$125,638; US TREASURY (PAYROLL TAX) \$3,081,403; HRA PAYMENTS \$112,000

DISBURSEMENTS:

STATEMENT OF ALL MONEYS PAID OUT < \$2,500.00 IN THE AGGREGATE = \$91,505
(EXCLUSIVE OF COMPENSATION FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES)

DISBURSEMENTS:

STATEMENT OF ALL MONEYS PAID OUT AS COMPENSATION
DISTRICT PERSONNEL TOTAL = GROSS \$13,023,210

Gross Compensation paid out for Personnel Services by Salary Range: UNDER \$25,000.00 (P BERRY, B BREWER, D BUTLER, J CAMPBELL, D CAWLEY, D CLEMONS, E COLEMAN, M COLLINS, V CORNELLIUS, K CRAIG, D CURTIS, S DAVSKO, I DICKERSON, J DOSS, S DOUGLAS, J GARFIELD, K GREER, K GREER, A HARDEN, D HARRIS, K HASARA, A JOHNSON JR, B JUDD, J KIRKWOOD, D LOGAN, L MCCARTHY, Q MCNAIR, G MILLER, L MOSLEY, A MULDROW, D POUGH, E SAMPSON, E SANDERS, W SCHADEWALD, D SCHMEDEKE, H SEALS III, S SMITH, W SMITH, W SMITH, D SMITH-GREENE, K SPEARMAN, C STRATTON, K TAYLOR, M THOMPSON, C TOWNSEND, D TOWNSEND, R TYSON, C WALKER, S WAPNIARSKI, A WELLS, C WELLS) \$25,000.01-\$49,999.99 (D ASHFORD, K BENBROOK, R BRISTOL, J BRISTOW, O BURNES, M BURNETT, R CURRY, S DENT, S FREEMAN, N GOLTERMANN, S JOHNSON, D JOINER, F LOGAN, A MACON, A MONIGAN, J MOSLEHI, S NEWMAN, M OXFORD, O ROBERSON, C SHANNON, G SWINBURNE, G THOMAS, J THOMAS, A WASHINGTON, L WHITE, D WILLIAMS) \$50,000-\$74,999.99 (D ADAMS, J ALDRIDGE, V ALEXANDER, J BARTELHEIM, B BEARDEN, K BLACK JR, N BRANTLEY, A CATHEY, L CHILDROUS, J COGGINS, B COLE, M CRONISTER, T DENLER, B DEVER, C ERVIN, M EWING, B FULK, D FULTON, J GERBER, B GRANDERSON, T HARDEN, C HARRIS, C HARRIS, F HARRIS, M HARRIS, I HOUSTON III, A HUNTER, B KERR, L KEYS, T KINKADE, D MADDEN-PENOYER, A MARES, H MARKIEWICZ, P MCALLISTER, J MEYERS, M MILLER, R MILLER, J MULVEY, D NAPIER, H NORFLEET, C PARKER, F PIERCE, D POWELL, T POWERS, J PUYEAR, E RICHARDS, S RIDDLEY, A ROBINSON, J SADICK-RAJI, S SAMPSON, Z SCHAFER, T SCHUSTER, A SHALLENBERGER, J SLATER, M SLATER, D SNEED, K STRATTON, R TAYLOR, A THOMPSON, I TODD, J TOMLIN, M WADE, C WEAVER, C WESTBROOK, G WHITE, M WIGGINS, M WILLIAMS), A WILSON, V YOUNG) \$75,000-\$99,999.99 (C ALEXANDER, S ALEXANDER, R BAILEY, L BANKHEAD, K BARTON, C BLAKEY, S BYNUM, J CASTRO, S CLAYTON, J COULTER, J CROWDER, J CURTIS, C DAVIS, A DEAN, M DYER, M ESSOP, D FARLEY JR, J GIETL, D GOERINGER, W GRADY, T GREEN, Z GREENWALD, F GROTH III, D HARDEN, J IHEN, M JACKSON, T JACKSON, A JEFFERSON, D JOHNSON, D JOINER, F JOINER, S JONES, W JONES, C KANE, F KELSO, M LONON, R MARSHALL, R MASSEY JR, R MCKINNEY, G MCMILLAN, D MEYER, K OLIVER, T ORTON, T PARKER, A PEARL, R PERKINS, D ROBINSON, M RYFFEL, P SAWYER, A SCHULTZ, M SIDOLI, S SIDWELL, G SIMMONS, E SMITH, T SQUIRES JR, C STINNETT, J TRUAX, M VIOLA, L WALTON, G WEBSTER, T WENTHE, J WHITE, O WHITESIDE) \$100,000+ (M ALEXANDER, M ASHFORD, M BREIDENBAUGH, B BROOMFIELD, B CRISS, P DAVIS, A DAWODU, R JACKSON, H MOORE, M NEWMAN, P RICE, G ROBERSON, S SCHOEFFEL, N THOMAS, S WEBSTER, L YOUNG)

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF SPRINGFIELD MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT, dba SANGAMON MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT (“THE DISTRICT”) HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN CONFORMITY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AS APPLIED TO ENTERPRISE FUNDS OF GOVERNMENT UNITS. THE GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (GASB) IS THE ACCEPTED STANDARD –SETTING BODY FOR ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING PRINCIPLES.

ACCOUNTS OF THE DISTRICT ARE REGULARLY EXAMINED BY AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM. THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, IS ON FILE AT THE OFFICE OF THE SPRINGFIELD MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT, dba SANGAMON MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT, 928 SOUTH NINTH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703.

SMTD REPORT

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT OF SANGAMON MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

Sangamon Mass Transit District hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 has been made, and that a report of such audit dated December 16, 2025 performed by Sikich LLP has been or will be filed with the County Clerk of Sangamon in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 928 S. 9th St. Springfield, Illinois during regular business hours 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday except for holidays.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

CAROLE J. FICKE,
Deceased.

Case No. 2025 PR 502
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Carole J. Ficke. Letters of Office were issued to David D. Ficke, as Independent Executor, whose address is 1500 Wiggins Ave., Springfield, IL 62704. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 25, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: December 19, 2025
Attorneys for Independent Executor:
Sorling Northrup
Aaron D. Evans, Attorney (6305883)
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131
Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: 217-544-1144; Fax: 217-522-3173
E-Mail: adevans@sorlinglaw.com

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

EVELYN KAY WEST,
Deceased.

Case No. 2025 PR 000491
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Evelyn Kay West. Letters of Office were issued to Rhonda Mitro, as Independent Executor, whose address is 20 Jamestown Cir., Riverton, IL 62561. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 25, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representa-

tive mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: December 19, 2025
Attorneys for Independent Executor:
Sorling Northrup
Aaron D. Evans (6305883)
1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131
Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: 217-544-1144
E-Mail: adevans@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of

INGRID DUFF, Deceased.

IN PROBATE

No. 2025-PR-496

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of INGRID DUFF, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 17, 2025, to RONALD W. DUFF, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Hugh F. Drake, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of June, 2026, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2025.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Hugh F. Drake
(Registration No. 6269666)
205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
(217) 544-8491

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
LETITIA MAE SHARP
Deceased

NO. 2025-PR-486

CLAIM NOTICE AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Notice is given to creditors of the death of LETITIA MAE SHARP. Letters of Office were issued to MATTHEW J. SHARP, whose address is 6209 Pec Road, Springfield, IL 62711, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Roger L. Rutherford, Sorling Northrup, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200, P.O. Box 5131,

Springfield, IL 62705. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Room 405, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 25, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, the date stated in that notice.

Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Notice is further given to Unknown Heirs, who are heirs of LETITIA MAE SHARP in the above proceeding.

Dated December 16, 2025.

ESTATE OF LETITIA MAE SHARP,
Deceased

MATTHEW J. SHARP, Independent
Executor

By: /s/ Roger L. Rutherford

Roger L. Rutherford, His Attorney

Roger L. Rutherford

SORLING NORTHRUP

Attorney for Independent Executor

1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131

Springfield, IL 62705

Telephone: 217-544-1144

E-Mail: rirutherford@sorlinglaw.com

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

VIRGINIA LEE McDONALD, DECEASED

Case #2025-PR-487

DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE/ NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Notice is given of the death of VIRGINIA LEE McDONALD. Letters of Office have been issued to KIMBERLY L. STOUT, 207 Reed St., P. O. Box 12, Murrayville, IL 62668 and CONNIE BAILEY, 2508 Silver Lake Court, Springfield, IL 62711, as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Co-Executors, or both, on or before June 26, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Co-Executors and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Notice is given to THE UNKNOWN DESCENDANTS OF JAMES GREENLEAF, DECEASED, including any unknown descendant who may be a minor or a disabled person, that a Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary was filed in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois, on December 8, 2025, which named The Unknown Descendants of James Greenleaf as heirs of Virginia Lee McDonald.

Within 42 days after December 11, 2025, any such unknown descendant may file a Petition with the court to require proof

of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or by other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 755, Act 5, Section 6-21), or successor provision.

Heirs also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 755, Act 5, Section 8-1), or successor provision, to contest the validity of the Will by filing a Petition with the Court within 6 months after December 11, 2025. Filings are to be made with the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk to your local Circuit Clerk's office.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2025.

Patrick J. Sheehan

SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.

1215 South 4th Street

Springfield, IL 62703

(217)544-0701

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

MARKUS PHILLIP LOCKMAN,

Deceased.

Case No. 2025 PR 492

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Markus Phillip Lockman. Letters of Office were issued to Sabrina Kirchgerner Lockman, as Independent Executor, whose address is 821 N. Stephens Ave., Springfield, IL 62702.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 25, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: December 12, 2025

Attorneys for Administrator:

Sorling Northrup

Jerry S. Bauer, Attorney (6308557)

1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131

Springfield, IL 62705

Telephone: 217-544-1144

Fax: 217-522-3173

E-Mail: jsbauer@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the Matter of the Estate of
MELINDA VASCONCELLES, Deceased.

IN PROBATE

No. 2025-PR-485

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of MELINDA VASCONCELLES, deceased. Letters of Office were issued on December 10, 2025, to MARK T. VASCONCELLES and ANNE E. KUPER, as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney is Hugh F. Drake, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 24th day of June, 2026, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2025.

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP

Hugh F. Drake

(Registration No. 6269666)

205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000

P.O. Box 2459

Springfield, IL 62705-2459

(217) 544-8491

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

ESTATE OF

RACHEL LEE OLSON,

Deceased.

Case No. 2025 PR 489

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Rachel Lee Olson of Cantrall, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Administration were issued on December 11, 2025 to Attorney Frederick J. Schlosser as Executor, GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL, 1231 South Eighth Street, Springfield, IL, 62703.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DATED December 11, 2025.

Frederick J. Schlosser (#6209954)

GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL

Attorneys at Law

1231 South Eighth Street

Springfield, IL 62703

Telephone: (217) 522.9010

Facsimile: (217) 522.9020

Email: fred@gwspc.com

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

ESTATE OF

PAULINE J. MURRAY,

Deceased.

Case No. 2025 PR 483

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of PAULINE

J. MURRAY. Letters of Office were issued on December 11, 2025, to KELLY J. MURRAY 108 N. 1st Street Sherman, Illinois 62684 as Executor and whose attorney is JAMES R. ENLOW of GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL, 1231 South Eighth Street, Springfield, IL, 62703.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, IL, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice.

Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DATED this 11th day of December 2025.

James R. Enlow (#6199891)

GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL

1231 South Eighth Street

Springfield, IL 62703

Telephone: (217) 522-9010

Facsimile: (217) 522-9020

Email: jim@gwspc.com

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

In the Matter of the Estate of

CHARLES E. BURRUS, Deceased.

IN PROBATE

No. 2025-PR-477

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Charles E. Burrus, deceased.

Letters of Office were issued on December 8, 2025, to KEVIN SCHAFER, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield, IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 2nd day of July, 2026, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2025.
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Brandon R. Clark

Registration No. 6329553

205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000

P.O. Box 2459

Springfield, IL 62705-2459

(217) 544-8491

bclark@bhslaw.com

In The Circuit Court For The Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois
Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois
Daniel Schumacher, plaintiff/petitioner,
In the matter of the estate of Carrie Michelle Eichen, for letters of administration.

2025-PR-000479

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO:

Terry Nelson Watson, Rebecca Cole, Lori Dillon and Jolene Mansfield.

Concerning the matter of Carrie Michelle Eichen.

On Jan. 6, 2026, at 8:30am or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, I shall appear before the Honorable Judge Robin Schmidt, or any Judge sitting in his/her stead, in the courtroom usually occupied by his/her at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

Daniel Schumacher

259 Wisteria Drive
Springfield, IL 62711
217-210-2316

ADOPTION NOTICE – STATE OF ILLINOIS, County of Sangamon, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court of Sangamon County. In the matter of the Petition for the Adoption of Novalee Annora Vogel, a female child and Wylan Arlo Vogel, a male child. Adoption No. 2025-AD-141. To Unknown Fathers and All Whom It May Concern: Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois, for the adoption of children named Novalee Annora Vogel and Wylan Arlo Vogel. Now, therefore, unless you Unknown Fathers and All Whom It May Concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Room 405, in the City of Springfield, Illinois, on or before the 15th day of January, 2026, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp/s/JosephRoesch>, Sangamon County Circuit Clerk
Dan E. Way, Attorney for Petitioner
1100 S. Fifth St., Springfield, IL 62703

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: SUZANNE M. MEYER, Deceased.
Case No 2025-PR-478
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of SUZANNE M. MEYER, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on November 6, 2025. Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 4th day of December, A.D., 2025, to RICHARD DEWILDE, 908 Sunset Drive, Perryville, Missouri 63775, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED This 4th day of December, A.D., 2025.
ESTATE OF SUZANNE M. MEYER, Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of his Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200
peh@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LORI LYNN CUNDIFF, DECEASED
Case #2025-PR-475
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of LORI LYNN CUNDIFF. Letters of Office have been issued to JAMES E. CUNDIFF, 363 S. Durkin Drive, Springfield, IL 62704, and BRADLEY J. CUNDIFF, 1914 Jeanette Lane, Unit 8, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Co-Administrators, whose attorney is Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C., 1215 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Room 405, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Independent Co-Administrators, or both, on or before June 18, 2026, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Co-Administrators and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Dated this 4th day of December, 2025.
Patrick J. Sheehan, III
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.
1215 South 4th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF DONNA L. SCHUCHARDT, Deceased.
2025-PR-476
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Donna L. Schuchardt. Letters of Office were issued to Brenda K. Rogers as Independent Executor, whose address is 160 E. Camp Sangamo Rd., Springfield, IL 62707. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 11, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered such notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated December 11, 2025.
Attorneys for Independent Executor:
Sorling Northrup
Michelle L. Blackburn, Attorney
(6273760)
Jeremy E. McAfee, Attorney (6349611)

1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 5131
Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: 217-544-1144
E-Mail: mblackburn@sorlinglaw.com
jemcafee@sorlinglaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Brandon J. Cannon-Thomas, Petitioner
And
Keyaira Cannon-Thomas, Respondent
Case No. 2024-DC-000220
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Keyaira Cannon-Thomas, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 11th day of January, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Floyd Stapleton, Petitioner
And
Gemayne Thorpe, Respondent
Case No. 2025-DN-000301
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, Gemayne Thorpe, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the 11th day of January, 2026, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF STEPHANIE MAUPIN and KIEARA CHANTE LOCKHART PETZ, TO ADOPT
LINKIN JAMES PETZ and
LEIGHTON INEZLYN PETZ, related minors, v.
CORY JAMES PETZ, Respondent.
Case No.: 2025-AD-135
ADOPTION NOTICE- STATE OF ILLINOIS County of Sangamon, ss.- Seventh Circuit Court of Sangamon County
In the matter of the Petition for the Adoption of Linkin James Petz, a related male child, and Leighton Inezlyn Petz, a related female child. Adoption Case No. 2025-AD-135. Corey James Petz and To All To Whom it May Concern take notice that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois for the adoption of children named Linkin James Petz and Leighton Inezlyn Petz. Now, therefore, unless you and all of whom it may concern, file your Answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in said Circuit Court of Sangamon County in the City of Springfield, Illinois, on or before the 28th day of January, 2026, a default may be

entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.
Dated: 2nd day of December, 2025
Springfield, Illinois, Sangamon County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Davin Maurice Whiteside
For change of name to
Davin Maurice Downey
Case No. 2025-MR-000481
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Jan. 27, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Davin Maurice Whiteside to Davin Maurice Downey pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Jan. 1, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of Chase William Christopher Ferree
For change of name to
Chase William Christopher Watts
Case No. 2025-MR-000571
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Jan. 27, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Chase William Christopher Ferree to Chase William Christopher Watts pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Dec. 11, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DELMAR FINANCIAL COMPANY PLAINTIFF,
v.
AQUA FINANCE, INC; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WANDA L. BURGESS, DECEASED; JERALD BRUCE SR.; LORENZO BRUCE; AMIR MOHABBAT AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WANDA L. BURGESS, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; DEFENDANTS.
CASE NO.: 2024FC000155
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1819 S RENFRO STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you:
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WANDA L. BURGESS, DECEASED
JERALD BRUCE SR.
LORENZO BRUCE
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
that Plaintiff commenced this case in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County against you and other defendants, for foreclosure of a certain mortgage lien recorded against the real estate described as follows:
LOTS TWENTY-FIVE (25) AND TWENTY-SIX (26) IN BLOCK ONE (1) OF SPAULDING'S SOUTH PARK ADDITION. EXCEPT ALL COAL AND MINERALS UNDERLYING SAID LAND, WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE THE SAME BY EXTENDING ENTRIES THEREUNDER. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Common Address: 1819 S RENFRO STREET SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
PIN: 22-03.0-276-020, 22-03.0-276-021
Said mortgage was executed by WANDA L. BURGESS, as mortgagor(s) and DELMAR FINANCIAL COMPANY, as mortgagee, on 5/30/2003 and recorded

in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois as Document Number 2003R41089.
You have been sued. Read all documents attached to this Summons. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Summons called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case.
After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail.
You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees.
It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this.
Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Summons can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website.
¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411-1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.
Unless you file your Appearance and Answer/Response in this case in the office of the clerk of this court by 1/26/2026 A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.
Megan Anderson
6351401
Robertson Anschutz Schneid Crane & Partners, PLLC
6400 Shafer Court Suite 325
Rosemont, IL 60018
Phone: (561) 241-6901
E-mail: ILmail@raslg.com
File: 24-246273
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. Service may be made via e-mail at ILmail@raslg.com.
8051-960763

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE
WHEREAS, on 04/05/2012, a certain Mortgage was executed by FRANK E. PERKINS as Mortgagor, in favor of TOP FLITE FINANCIAL as Mortgagee, and was recorded on 04/12/2012, as Document Number 2012R13839, in the Office the Recorder of Deeds, Sangamon County, Illinois and
WHEREAS, the Mortgage was insured by the UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (the SECRETARY) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and
WHEREAS, the Mortgage is now owned by the SECRETARY, pursuant to an As-

signment of Mortgage dated 06/17/2019, and recorded on 06/24/2019, as Document Number 2019R12390, in the Office of the Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Illinois and a default exists; and WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage in that the payment due on 06/20/2025 was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and
WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the SECRETARY has declared the entire amount of this indebtedness secured by the Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR Part 27, subpart B, and by the SECRETARY'S designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, dated September 15, 2016, notice is hereby given that on 01/14/2026 at 10:30 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises located at ("Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder.
P.I.N.: 14-35-0-233-029
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 208 WHITE CITY BLVD., SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOTS 73, 74 AND 75 OF SPAULDING'S EAST MONROE HEIGHTS IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD EXCEPT ALL COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING SAID LANDS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE SAME. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
The sale will be conducted online on Zoom at: Meeting ID: 648 483 3997; Password: 743891. There is a Zoom call-in option at 312-626-6799. THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT will bid \$27,650.00 plus per diem interest, advances, fees and costs. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before sale, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. The Special Commissioner shall accept advance, sealed written bids at Pleadings@Nevellaw.com.
The successful bidder, except the SECRETARY, must submit a deposit totaling at least 10% of the bid in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the SECRETARY OF HUD at the close of bidding sent to the Special Commissioner at the address below by express mail next-day delivery. The deposit is non-refundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within thirty (30) days of the Sale or at such other time as the SECRETARY may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to the SECRETARY OF HUD. If the SECRETARY is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate taxes and other taxes that are due on or after the date of sale and all other transfer taxes and State, County and Municipal costs associated with the transfer of title. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein.

HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.
IRA T. NEVEL
Foreclosure Commissioner for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
175 North Franklin, Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125
8051-960743

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SENECA MORTGAGE SERVICING LLC
Plaintiff,
-v.-
VICTORIA S ZIGAS, UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
2025 FC 000091
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 15, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 21, 2026, at the Do Realty Services, 600 S 6th Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62701, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS LOT EIGHT S (8S) ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF THE STAFF HOUSE AREA, SOUTH, SANGAMON ORDINANCE WORKS, ILLIOPOLIS, ILLINOIS. PREPARED IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1949 BY WILLIAM E. DAWSON, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR OF ILLINOIS (NO. 578), SAID TRACT BEING SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE QUARTER CORNER ON THE EAST SIDE OF SECTION THIRTEEN (13), TOWNSHIP SIXTEEN (16) NORTH, RANGE TWO (2) WEST OF THE 3RD P. M.; THENCE NORTH 0° 42' 00" WEST 987.63 FEET TO A POINT IN THE SECTION LINE, THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE 30 FEET WEST TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE WEST 465.8 FEET TO A RAILROAD SPIKE; THENCE NORTH 0° 25' 00" WEST 99 FEET TO A RAILROAD SPIKE; THENCE EAST 464.9 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE EAST 30 FEET TO A POINT IN THE SECTION LINE; AND THENCE SOUTH 0° 42' 00" EAST 99 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE EAST 200 FEET OF SAID TRACT MEASURING WEST FROM THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE COUNTY HIGHWAY AS NOW LOCATED ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF SAID PROPERTY. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as 2690 SUNNY VIEW DRIVE, ILLIOPOLIS, IL 62539
Property Index No. 17-13.0-277-012
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$164,282.63. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact Chris Iaria, QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 141 WEST JACKSON BLVD, SUITE 1575, Chicago, IL, 60604 (312) 566-0040. Please refer to file number IL-009616.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
Chris Iaria
QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A.
141 WEST JACKSON BLVD, SUITE 1575
Chicago IL, 60604
312-566-0040
E-Mail: il.foreclosure@qpwblaw.com
Attorney File No. IL-009616
Attorney ARDC No. 6301746
Case Number: 2025 FC 000091
TJSC#: 45-3094
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2025 FC 000091
8051-960658

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
~SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION AS TRUSTEE FOR FREDDIE MAC SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2023-1, Plaintiff,
vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF HARRY K. BAUEREISS; CHRISTINA TREMAIN; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendant(s).
CASE NO. 2025FC000213
Property Address: 202 E Mcmanus St
Buffalo, IL 62515
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF HARRY K. BAUEREISS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; , defendants in the above entitled cause,

that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
ALL THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF SANGAMON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS: LOTS 1 AND 2 IN BLOCK 31 OF THE VILLAGE OF BUFFALO.
EXCEPT ALL COAL, MINERLAS AND MINING RIGHTS HERETOFOR CONVEYED OR RECORD.
P.I.N.: 16-10.0-479-001; 16-10.0-479-002
Said property is commonly known as 202 E Mcmanus St , Buffalo, IL 62515 and which said mortgage(s) was/were made and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 1999R31090 and Assumption of Mortgage 2021R33073, and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.
NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Sangamon County on or before JANUARY 26, 2026, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://effile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.
This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120
Naperville, IL 60563
Telephone: (630) 453-6960
Facsimile: (630) 428-4620
Attorney No. Cook 64727, DuPage 293191
Service E-mail: midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
8051-960598

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF SANGAMON, STATE OF ILLINOIS
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff(s),
vs.
ANGELA GOOCH, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendant(s).
Case No. 25 FC 209
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: ANGELA GOOCH, NONRECORD CLAIMANTS and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Chancery Division, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for foreclosure of a certain Real Estate Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
LOTS THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) IN BLOCK SIX (6) IN SAUNDER'S SUBDIVISION OF PART OF SECTION TWENTY-THREE (23) TOWNSHIP SIXTEEN (16) NORTH RANGE FIVE (5) WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL

MERIDIAN. EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SAME WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE THE SAME. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Tax Number: 14-23.0-108-003 AND 14-23.0-108-004
commonly known as 2037 N 19TH ST SPRINGFIELD IL 62702; and which said Real Estate Mortgage was made by ANGELA GOOCH and recorded in the Office of the Sangamon County Recorder as Document Number 2022R11788; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.
Now, therefore, unless you, the said named Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, located at 200 SOUTH NINTH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701, on or before January 17, 2026, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.
LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808
Timothy R. Yuell - ARDC #6192172
Greg Elnic - ARDC #6242847
Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724
Andrew Chu - ARDC #6285924
175 North Franklin St. Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125
Pleadings@nevellaw.com
25-02490
I3278123

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, PLAINTIFF;
VS.
ALEXANDRIA MILNER A/K/A ALEXANDRIA D MILNER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.
NO. 2025FC000042
1035 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 December 3, 2025, will on January 27, 2026, in Sangamon County Building, 200 S. 9th St., Second floor, Room 223, Springfield, IL 62701, at 9:00 AM, 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:
THE NORTH HALF OF LOT 4 IN BLOCK 4 OF ROBERT ALLEN'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD.
EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEYANCES, AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY.
SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
TAX NO. 14-27.0-130-025
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1035 North 6th Street

Springfield, IL 62702
Description of Improvements: White aluminum siding, 1.5 story single family home, detached 2 car garage
The Judgment amount was \$160,033.85.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpilc.com>.
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 25-204661L
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 set forth in this notice of sale.
I3277894

Notice by Publication
The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.
A petition for Reclassification of property from R-5 (b), General Residence and Office District, Section 155.021, to S-2, Community Shopping and Office District, Section 155.031; and a Variance of Section 155. 101 (b), Required Accessory Off-Street Parking Spaces: Amusement Facilities: Gymnasiums, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioners are under contract to purchase subject real estate and seek relief which will allow the use of the property for a martial arts studio/gymnasium. Petitioners desire to redevelop the subject real estate to be utilized by the Gracie Humaita Jujitsu Academy for use as a martial arts studio and gymnasium where one can take self-defense classes, private lessons, and will occasionally host law enforcement and military personal self-defense trainings.

Petitioners intend to utilize other space in the building for offices, as a waiting/ observation room, and for storage of gym equipment and merchandise. To be in compliance with the zoning ordinance petitioner respectfully requests reclassification of property from R-5 (b) to S-2, and a Variance of Section 155.101 (b) related to the required accessory off-street parking spaces for the area of approximate 2,657 square feet of floor area, to allow zero (0) off-street parking spaces instead of the approximate 21 spaces required. Additionally, petitioners request consideration for in the alternative to granting the zoning reclassification, grant of a use variance of the subject real estate to allow the uses as specified in the petition.
Improvements (or Structures) located on said property is a free-standing building consisting of approximately 10,114 square feet and is currently the location of the First Church of Christ Scientist. The subject real estate is currently classified in the R-5 (b), General Residence and Office District, Section 155.021.
Legally described as: Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Block One (1) in Lamme and Hickman's Addition to the City of Springfield. Lot Forty (42) of the Assessor's Subdivision of the Northeast Quarter of Section Thirty-three (33), and part of the West half of the Northwest Quarter of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Sixteen (16), North Range Five (5), West of the Third Principal Meridian situated in the City of Springfield, County of Sangamon, in the State of Illinois. Parcel Identification #14-33.0-284-005 and Parcel Identification #14-33-0-284-006
The subject property is commonly known as 116 E. Edwards Street, (A/K/A 601 S. 2nd Street), Springfield, Illinois.
The petitioners are Mark Commean & Crystal Commean, By their Attorneys Sheehan & Sheehan Lawyers, P.C., By William P. Sheehan, of Counsel.
Docket No. 2026-003
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:30p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.
A petition to vary Section 9 (Docks) of Appendix A of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties. Petitioners desire to allow the recently installed and current dock which is 35 feet from the shoreline on Lake Springfield to allow an 8-foot extension. Petitioners respectfully request to vary the Lake Land Use Plan, Appendix A, Section 9 (Docks) to allow extension said dock to a maximum of 43 feet from the shoreline from the point known as the normal full-pool elevation instead of the maximum 35 feet into Lake Springfield as allowed in Section 9 (Docks) of Appendix A of the Lake Springfield Land Use Plan. The variance would allow Petitioners to access their dock safely, as the ramp to access the dock is steep and does not allow safe, convenient, access.
Improvements (or structures) located on said property are one dwelling unit, an attached garage, an unattached garage, and a boathouse, and the dock which is the subject of this petition. Subject Real Estate is currently classified in the R-1, Single family residence district, Section 155.016.
Legally described as: Tract Q and the North Part of Tract R, Section 32 of Idlewild Area, consisting of approximately 1.17 acres (50965 square feet) in Springfield, Sangamon County Illinois. Real

Estate Tax I.D. No.: 22-32.0-301-014
The property is located at 1 Lucien Point, Springfield, Illinois.
The Petitioners are William and Susan Cattani, By their Attorneys, Craven & Craven, P.C., Donald M. Craven, of Counsel. Docket No. 2026-002
Ben Ferris
Assistant Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition. A petition for variation of the provisions of Section 3 (Setbacks) of Appendix A of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties; and Section 155.061, Basic Yard Requirements, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioners desire to demolish the existing detached garage and build a new attached garage addition located in replacement thereof which is to be constructed on that portion of the property located to the east of the existing residential structure. The proposed addition, as measured from the garage overhang, will have a 24 feet front yard setback. To be in compliance with the Land Use Plan, and Zoning Ordinance, petitioners respectfully request a variance of: Appendix A, Section 3 (setbacks), of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties; and Section 155.061, Basic Yard Requirements, of the Zoning Ordinance, to allow the addition, as measured from the garage overhang, to have a front yard setback of 24 feet as to the South property line, instead of the required 30 feet. Improvements (or structures) located on said property is a wood framed, single story, single-family residence with a detached garage. Subject Real Estate is currently classified in the R-1, Single-Family Residence District, Section 155.016.

Legally described as: EXHIBIT A: Leasehold Estate created by lease dated July 20, 1998 and recorded July 29, 1998 as Document Number 98-38711 from the City of Springfield, Illinois to Edward P. Ollech and Imogen Ollech and Hugh E. Ollech, as joint tenants with the right of survivorship and assigned to Hugh E. Ollech and John A. Ollech, as tenants in common by Assignment of Lakeshore Lease recorded May 21, 2010 as Document Number 2010R16534 for a term of 99 years beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 2097, demising the property more particularly described as: Tract Seventy-One (71), Fox Mill Area of Lake Lands in Section Twenty-Five (25) in Woodside Township. Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which may have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated In Sangamon County, Illinois. PIN: 22-25.0-251-013 Common Address: 46 North Fox Mill Lane, Springfield, IL 62712 The property is located at 46 North Fox Mill Lane, Springfield, Illinois.
The petitioners are Kirk Carls and Laura Carls, By Attorneys Delano Law Offices, LLC, Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr. of Counsel. Docket No. 2026-001
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS Plaintiff,
Vs.
2015 Chevrolet Camaro
Vin #2G1FB1E34F9281966
Devin Willis
No. 25-MX-860
25-AF-82
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the People of the State of Illinois, ex rel. John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney for Sangamon County, filed the above-captioned matter on August 27, 2025. UNLESS YOU file a verified Claim with the State's Attorney of Sangamon County, Illinois at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Room 402, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, within 45 days of this publication, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR DECREE MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR FORFEITURE OF THE ABOVE ASSETS PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS FORFEITURE LAW.
Joe Roesch
Clerk of Court
J.W. Pierceall
Assistant State's Attorney
200 S. 9th Street, Room 402
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-6690
Sangamoncounty.SAO.civil@sangamonil.gov

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF Almatay Cooper
No. 2025-GR-198
To: Johnathan Hart at address unknown: Please be notified that Yaismin Cooper has filed a Petition for Guardianship of Almatay Cooper , minor child. You are required to answer said Petition By January 26, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.

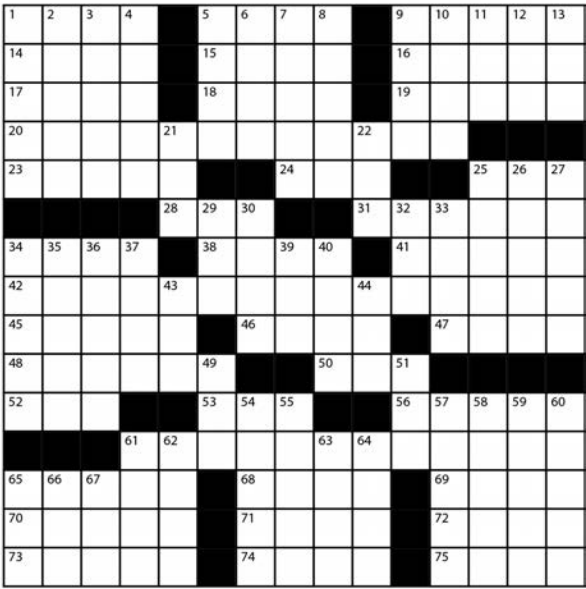
CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF Corbin Hutzler-Hughes
No. 2025-GR-258
To: Chad Hutzler at address unknown: Please be notified that Debbie Kelly has filed a Petition for Guardianship of Corbin Hutzler-Hughes, minor child. You are required to answer said Petition By February 9, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF Karlylle Cason
No. 2025-GR-255
To: Unknown fathers and Alexandria Cason at address unknown: Please be notified that Mary Ushman has filed a Petition for Guardianship of Karlylle Cason, minor child. You are required to answer said Petition By February 9, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.

Rays of sunshine?

Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 925

- Across**
1. Eyes, poetically
5. 18-wheeler
9. Tops
14. Stack
15. "Once ____ a time..."
16. "Farewell, mon ami"
17. "Holy cow!"
18. Rock's Jagger
19. Come to terms
20. Parmesan alternative
23. "Gladiator" setting
24. Recipe instruction
25. Geologic time period
28. Greyhound, e.g.
31. Part of a Hemingway title
34. Leave in, to an editor
38. Divan
41. Ain't right?
42. 1980's Scott Baio sitcom
45. Bicker
46. Creme-filled cookie
47. Tournament passes
48. Take out
50. Misery
52. "Get the picture?"
53. Kind of trip
56. Colleague of Byron and Shelley
61. Number one pick of the 1996 NBA draft
65. Luau greeting



68. Trig figure
69. "Beetle Bailey" dog
70. Idiots
71. Rug rats
72. Bucks and does
73. Doesn't ignore
74. Kleenex content
75. Limerick language
Down
1. "La Bohème," e.g.
2. Severity
3. Hold responsible
4. Four-door
5. Kind of wrestling
6. Big story
7. Coffee shop order
8. Signed
9. Sheep cries
10. Slight advantage
11. Balloon filler
12. Golf bag item
13. Seek damages
21. Catch red-handed
22. Tokyo, formerly
25. Manicurist's board
26. Where the buffalo roam
27. Starts a pot
29. "What's the ____?"
30. Mediocre
32. "Well, ____-di-dah!"
33. Dull brown
34. Oodles
35. Midafternoon
36. Top scout
37. Loyal
39. Douglas ____
40. From scratch
43. Rent
44. Dove's sound
49. Aquatic shocker
51. Barely make, with "out"
54. Exploits
55. Gibson garnish
57. Eat away at
58. Daisylike bloom
59. Hauls around
60. Snoozer's sound
61. Sailor's hail
62. Laddie's love
63. Captivated by
64. Sleeveless garment
65. "Much ____ About Nothing"
66. High pitch
67. Tribute, of sorts

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 925

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.

10+			11+		
3+	108x	16x	3-		
			1-	5+	
16+		7+			
	2+	6+			24x
		2-		1	

Difficulty medium

Sudoku No. 925

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

		5			3			2
4				2		1		8
	2						3	
					8			1
9	7						2	
			7	1		3	9	
		2		6	1			
					7		4	3
		8				5		

Difficulty hard

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week

W	E	L	T	S		N	A	D	E	R		A	P	P
A	T	A	R	I		P	H	O	T	O		B	E	A
I	T	S	A	L	L	R	I	G	H	T		R	A	G
F	U	T	I	L	E		T	I	O		S	A	T	E
						L	I	Y	E	S		E	S	S
C	A	S				A	M	S		P	L	A	N	E
A	R	I		J	A	G	O		S	E	A	S	O	N
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R		T	O	W	R	I	T
L	I	B	R	A	S		A	I	D	S		D	E	R
S	N	A	R	L		E	L		E	D		A	E	R
						E	L	A	L		E	D		
B	A	R	D		W	E	D		E	S	T	A	T	E
A	N	O		D	A	V	I	D		W	R	I	G	H
L	T	S		I	R	E	N	E		D	O	R	A	N
M	E	S		G	E	N	E	S		A	N	I	T	A

Crossword answers from #924

1	8	9	3	4	5	2	7	6
3	6	2	1	7	9	5	8	4
7	4	5	8	2	6	3	1	9
4	1	6	7	5	2	8	9	3
5	9	7	6	8	3	1	4	2
8	2	3	4	9	1	7	6	5
6	7	8	5	3	4	9	2	1
2	3	1	9	6	8	4	5	7
9	5	4	2	1	7	6	3	8

Sudoku answers from #924

5	4	2	1	6	3
2	1	3	4	5	6
4	3	1	6	2	5
3	6	5	2	4	1
1	2	6	5	3	4
6	5	4	3	1	2

JoshJosh answers from #924

Submit a recipe and be included in the



Lincoln Library

COMMUNITY COOKBOOK



Let's bring in 2026 with a collection of new recipes to try – all from our neighbors' kitchens. **Lincoln Library is compiling a community cookbook in hopes of building connection through recipe sharing.** Community can be built through food, and recipes can be windows to more deeply understanding one another and our history.

Recipes will be collected through January 31, 2026.

To submit your recipe and for more information visit **<https://www.lincolnlibrary.info/attend/community-cookbook>** or scan the QR code.



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