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# Springfield slated to lose ambulance provider

Springfield Memorial Hospital dropping LifeStar Ambulance from EMS system

MEDICAL | Dean Olsen

LifeStar Ambulance Service Inc., one of three ambulance providers responding to 911 calls in Springfield and transporting patients to local hospitals, is slated to be barred from operating in Sangamon County after May 25 because of health care deficiencies cited by Springfield Memorial Hospital.

“We’re working with our attorneys to try and come up with a solution where we can continue to stay with Springfield,” John Wright, chief executive officer of Centralia-based LifeStar, told *Illinois Times* on April 14.

Springfield has been served by three privately operated ambulance services for at least 30 years. It’s unclear whether a reduction to two ambulance services would result in slower ambulance response times in emergencies.

Springfield Fire Department Chief Nicholas Zummo said he was verbally informed by LifeStar about the company’s situation. But he said he hasn’t received any formal notice that Springfield Memorial Hospital plans to remove LifeStar from its emergency medical services (EMS) network, and so he declined further comment.

Wright said LifeStar responded to 859 emergency calls in the Springfield area in March and transported 696 patients to the hospital. Removing LifeStar from service in Springfield and Sangamon County “would definitely create a backlog for the city” and potentially increase wait times for ambulances, he said.

“You may have a chest pain that may sit for 20-30 minutes while you wait for an ambulance,” Wright said.

However, Greg Chance, regional chief executive officer of Medics First, one of the two other ambulance services, said that if LifeStar ambulances were removed from Memorial’s EMS system, he is confident Medics First and America Ambulance, the third provider, would be able to supply enough fully staffed ambulances to comply with the city ordinance and avoid any increases in wait times or lapses in service.

America Ambulance officials didn’t respond to a request for comment.

LifeStar’s reputation took a hit in the wake of the December 2022 death of Springfield resident Earl Moore Jr., but Wright said Springfield Memorial officials didn’t mention the Moore case in its critique of LifeStar.

Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon ruled Moore’s death a homicide from “compressional and positional asphyxia” when he was placed on his stomach, rather than on



LifeStar Ambulance Service, 404 N. Second St., will be barred from operating in Sangamon County after May 25.

PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

his back, on an ambulance stretcher and then strapped in.

The death of Moore, 35, a McDonald’s shift supervisor, allegedly at the hands of two white EMS workers, put a nationwide spotlight on Springfield in terms of racial disparities and EMS care.

The tragedy resulted in first-degree murder charges against LifeStar paramedic Peggy Finley, 47, and emergency medical technician Peter Cadigan, 53, and made police-worn camera videos of the incident go viral.

Finley and Cadigan pleaded not guilty and were released from custody while they await trial. They were suspended from their EMS jobs by Springfield Memorial.

Cadigan is expected to go on trial first. The next hearing in Sangamon County Circuit Court in his case is scheduled April 24.

Moore’s family filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against LifeStar. The case was settled out of court, and details of the settlement haven’t been made public.

A Springfield city ordinance requires each of the three current providers – for-profit LifeStar, for-profit America Ambulance and nonprofit Medics First – to provide three ambulances for 911 calls at all times. If the number drops to two providers, the ordinance says each of those two providers must provide at least five ambulances. The city ordinance, similar to a Sangamon County government requirement for ambulances in other parts of the county, requires ambulances to be part of an EMS network.

LifeStar was cited by the city of Springfield in 2023 for providing an inadequate number of ambulances for emergency calls. The city’s final administrative penalty against the company in

May 2024 included a fine of \$38,950.

The company paid 10% of the total in May 2024 and is making payments of \$380 per month, Springfield Corporation Counsel Gregory Moredock said. The company still owes the city about \$27,000, Moredock said.

EMS networks train and supervise paramedics and emergency medical technicians and sets the rules under which those professionals provide care for patients outside hospitals.

Nonprofit Springfield Memorial Hospital, which also supervises America and MedicsFirst through the hospital’s EMS network, first took action in December 2025 to remove LifeStar from the network, Wright said.

According to Wright, Springfield Memorial faulted LifeStar for maintaining supplies of expired medicines in 2025 and for errors in documenting patient conditions.

Both situations were remedied, he said, adding that patients never received any expired medicines. A software glitch that caused documentation errors has been fixed, and patient care wasn’t affected, he said.

Wright said LifeStar approached HSHS St. John’s Hospital, which supervises an EMS network covering other ambulance providers, but was told by St. John’s officials that the hospital doesn’t have the capacity to consider adding LifeStar.

St. John’s spokesperson Mary Massingale said the hospital’s EMS system oversees 54 ambulance and fire agencies across 11 counties in central Illinois, including 10 in Sangamon County.

“We are also the medical direction for the Lincoln Land Community College Paramedic Program and Sangamon County 911,”

Massingale said. “We have oversight of 734 EMS providers within these 54 agencies.”

LifeStar appealed Springfield Memorial’s decision to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Wright said. IDPH opted not to overturn Springfield Memorial’s ruling but gave LifeStar additional time before the network removal took effect, he said. That’s how the May 25 date for LifeStar’s potential removal was set.

IDPH spokesperson Jim Leach said the state-level decision referred to by Wright was made by the state’s EMS Disciplinary Review Board, not IDPH. The board is a separate entity, with members appointed by the governor, Leach said. A spokesperson for that board didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Springfield Memorial officials declined to comment specifically on the situation.

Memorial spokesperson Anne Davis emailed the following response to *Illinois Times*’ request for an interview:

“Springfield Memorial Hospital, the designated Resource Hospital for the region, has a statutory responsibility for the coordination and oversight of the emergency medical services system in accordance with applicable state law and statutory requirements. Participation in the EMS system is conditioned on meeting established standards on an ongoing basis. When issues are identified, they are addressed through a formal review and appeal process prescribed by the Illinois EMS Act and overseen by the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

Davis added: “This matter has proceeded through that established process. Consistent with longstanding policy, Springfield Memorial Hospital does not comment on matters involving individual EMS providers.”

LifeStar, which operates in Springfield out of a building at 404 N. Second St., employs 65 people – 25 of them in Springfield, Wright said. The company has served Springfield since 1988.

LifeStar also serves the Jacksonville and Centralia areas, but the Springfield area is the busiest of the three in terms of 911 calls for service, and Springfield accounts for the biggest share of the company’s business, he said.

“We definitely want to continue providing care to the community,” Wright said. □

*Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer with Illinois Times. He can be reached at [dolsen@illinoistimes.com](mailto:dolsen@illinoistimes.com), 217-679-7810 or [www.x.DeanOlsenIT.com](http://www.x.DeanOlsenIT.com).*



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After former Springfield police chief Michael Walton spoke during the public comments at the April 7 City Council meeting and returned to his seat, some members of the audience said they heard him refer to a female audience member as a “cunt” and use the N-word toward Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory. SCREENSHOT FROM CITY OF SPRINGFIELD VIDEO

# A heated city council meeting

Former police chief denies making derogatory remarks, won't be banned from future meetings

CITY COUNCIL | Dean Olsen

What former Springfield police chief Michael Walton said after speaking to the City Council on April 7 remains in dispute, but Walton won't be banned from future council meetings, Mayor Misty Buscher says.

Walton's statement during the public comment section of the meeting, in which Walton defended the actions of a white Springfield police officer in the March 27 arrest of a 19-year-old Black woman, sparked a verbal confrontation with Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory.

Gregory, who is Black, stood up and began yelling at Walton, who is white, after Walton had finished his comments, sat down in the audience and comments were exchanged in the crowd.

Walton began yelling back at Gregory, who appeared to be physically restrained by another member of the audience and by Ward 4 Ald. Larry Rockford from walking closer to the audience.

Buscher, after banging her gavel and trying to restore order, abruptly adjourned the meeting with other members of the public waiting their turn to speak.

Facing public criticism for cutting off public comment, Buscher later told *Illinois Times* that she adjourned the meeting to avoid having “a fistfight in the council chambers.”

The incident was the latest in a string of heated debates involving police use of force and public reactions to related police-worn camera video and videos on social media of interactions between the public and police.

Buscher said an investigation into the April 7 confrontation showed that Walton didn't violate any council rules for public comment, so her administration won't take any action to prohibit Walton from addressing the council in the future.

Gregory didn't respond to *Illinois Times'* requests for an interview to get his view of what happened. He said at the beginning of the council's April 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting that he apologized for “interrupting” the previous week's meeting.

He said he and the two other members of the council's Aldermanic Black Caucus “have shown that we do support the police” but have the right to question police behavior.

“At times, the picture is painted that everything is fine, but it's not fine,” Gregory said. “We really have a lot of work to do with racial tensions in this city. We really, really do.”

Springfield resident Teresa Haley, former president of the Springfield branch of the NAACP, was in the audience at the April 7 meeting. She told *Illinois Times* that after Walton sat down, she heard Walton call Gregory a racial epithet and a woman seated near him a “cunt.”

After Walton made those comments, Gregory stood up and began yelling at Walton, according to Haley.

Walton told the newspaper that he never called Gregory the N-word and called the woman near him a “runt” and not the obscenity that Haley alleged he said.

“No racial slurs were uttered by me, as I do not use those horrible words,” Walton said. “If someone said I did, they are a liar.”

Buscher told the newspaper that video footage of the council meeting wasn't clear enough to discern what was said in the audience after Walton's comments to the council.

Buscher said Springfield Police Chief Joe Behl asked Gregory whether Gregory heard Walton call him the N-word. The mayor said that according to Behl, Gregory told the chief twice that Gregory didn't hear the N-word.

Gregory told Behl that Gregory stood up and yelled at Walton because Gregory was “tired of hearing him talk,” she said. Behl wouldn't comment to the newspaper about his conversations with Gregory.

Walton, 77, who lives in Springfield, was suspended as police chief in 1990 when he became “embroiled in a sex-blackmail scandal,” then removed as chief a few months later and demoted to day-shift sergeant, according to an article in *The State Journal-Register*.

Now retired, Walton said during the April 7 council meeting that it was wrong for council members to question the actions of police officer Jacob Walter in Walter's March 27 arrest of Springfield resident Promyss Davis, 19, after a traffic stop near 15th Street and Cornell Avenue.

Behl has defended Walter's actions, part of which were not captured on bodycam video because police said Davis' elbow pressed

against Walter's bodycam, causing it to turn off.

A video captured by a citizen and posted on social media showed Walter punching Davis' head during the arrest.

A news release issued by the police department said Walter “followed his training and established policy in effecting this arrest.” The release also stated that Davis “fled on foot and began actively resisting arrest after Officer Walter attempted to secure her hands ... Officer Walter used the lowest level of force necessary to effect this arrest.”

Walton told the council that it's “disgusting” for some council members “to say it's OK to resist a lawful arrest.”

Walton said “three or four council members are constantly playing politics” and frequently try to derail initiatives of the mayor. “A couple of you are outstanding actors who need to be in Hollywood,” he said.

Ward 6 Ald. Jennifer Notariano said during the April 7 meeting and after Walton's comments that his remarks demonstrate why “we're having problems right now between community relations and the Springfield Police Department.”

She said some police “feel like you don't have to answer to anyone on the City Council. ... It's our job to question every person who works for the city.” □

*Watch highlight reels from the Springfield City Council meetings (and other governing bodies) at [illinoistimes.com/watch-public-meetings](http://illinoistimes.com/watch-public-meetings).*




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# “A good step forward”

Apartment complex with 22 permanent supportive housing units opens

HOUSING | Dilpreet Raju

A three-building apartment complex with 22 affordable housing units for people exiting homelessness is opening where the Sportsman's Lounge once stood. The longtime tavern, which had operated under various names for more than a century, closed in September 2023, around the same time the Springfield City Council approved the rezoning necessary for the redevelopment project in the 200 block of West Mason Street to proceed.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority's permanent supportive housing program funded the redevelopment that was built by Windsor Development and is owned by nonprofit Deerfield Reserve; both of those businesses are based in Springfield. A ribbon cutting was held April 13 and the units are expected to be occupied within the next two to three weeks.

Josh Sabo, executive director of Heartland Housed, said the effort was a “beautiful” collaboration of various nonprofits and levels of government.

“All of these different pieces coming together have made a project that's going to change the lives of 22 individuals,” Sabo said.

The Springfield Housing Authority provided project-based vouchers for each of the apartment complex's residential units. SHA executive director Jackie Newman said that her agency has had to make do with fewer resources but still chose to support this project.

“If you've been watching the news, you know that the funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development is consistently being reduced,” Newman said. “So, you have to be a good steward of the limited resources that HUD allows you to have and we are happy that, locally, we were able to commit 22 vouchers to



A ribbon cutting was held April 13 for Mason Street Apartments, which will provide 22 units of permanent supportive housing. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

this most worthy initiative.”

The Springfield Housing Authority's 2026 pot of federal money is projected to be the lowest amount of annual federal obligations the housing agency has seen since 2010.

While the complex has three buildings that are each comprised of eight apartments, one unit is set aside for a case manager's office and another will be for property management. Case management and 24/7 access to support will be available through Helping Hands of Springfield and Fifth Street Renaissance, which the city is funding through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development dollars it's received.

Amy Rasing, the city's director of the Office of Planning and Economic Development, said

that while building new, affordable housing is already an achievement, the ability to offer onsite services stands out.

“We're proud to be a part of all of this,” Rasing said. “You can build it and they will come, but we want to offer those additional resources to those folks that make this their home and have a place to call home because of this development.”

Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, highlighted the need for multiple entities to ensure property and tenant success.

“Everywhere I go, no matter where it is in the (48th) District, the main thing that people talk about is housing,” Turner said. “Right here in Springfield, we have the perfect storm. We have a collaboration between Heartland

Housed, Fifth Street Renaissance, Helping Hands and the Springfield Housing Authority that kind of brings it all together... 22 people will be housed.”

Turner reiterated her support for IHDA, reminding attendees “these things don't happen without funding. It doesn't just — snap your fingers and it occurs.”

Ward 5 Ald. Lakeisha Purchase acknowledged that she had gotten pushback from some of the nearby neighbors who “didn't believe in the project” and took a “NIMBY — not in my backyard” stance, but stood by her decision to promote it. She said her concerns were addressed well by Windsor Development and the nonprofits that will be providing services.

“Sometimes these conversations aren't always pretty and easy to have, and I went against my surrounding neighborhood to make this happen,” Purchase said. “I would like to continue to have more of this happening in my ward as I surround the hospital district... I need everybody to continue to work together so that we can improve and use this as the model that we're doing throughout the city.”

Rob Weiss, president of the Fifth Street Renaissance board, relayed a message of gratitude that remained focused on the future from Penny Powell, the nonprofit's executive director.

“We look forward to providing case management and services to this property,” Weiss read from her statement. “We need more of this. More units, more support, more people willing to step in and be a part of the solution because no one should be sleeping outside, and no one should be trying to survive without a home. We're not done, but this is a good step forward.” □



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# A welcoming place

Gay rabbi and his family relocate to Springfield

RELIGION | Adrian Dater

By 2024, Greg Kanter had been out as a gay, ordained rabbi for nearly three decades, a pioneer of sorts, who had been leading a congregation in Charleston, South Carolina, for about eight years. Life had been good there for him, his husband, and two adopted daughters.

Then came a new presidential administration, and the warm breezes of Charleston turned politically chilly when it came to LGBTQ rights.

"Southern politicians, it seemed like, were trying to outdo each other to curry favor with the president, at the expense of me and my family," Kanter said. "And so, we wanted to come to a part of the country where we didn't have to worry about that stuff."

Springfield became that place. For about 18 months now, Rabbi Kanter has led Temple B'rith Sholom on Fourth Street, a Reform Jewish congregation since 1858. Kanter said Springfield has made him and his family feel welcome, although he still does a lot of explaining to people who meet him for the first time.

"People in Springfield, they ask about my wife and kids all the time," Kanter says with a laugh. "Mostly they will go, 'Oh, oh, OK.' But they're good with it around here."

Kanter, 60, was born in Cincinnati and lived in Minnesota and St. Louis for many years, so as a self-proclaimed "Midwest guy" he had a feeling a place such as Springfield would be a good place to relocate. While his congregation is about a quarter the size of his roughly 800-member former one in Charleston, Kanter said it has grown since he

got here.

"We don't knock on doors to try and recruit people," Kanter said. "But if there are Jewish people looking for a place to worship, we welcome them. If people are interested in learning more about Judaism, we help them do that, too. We are just not like the evangelical churches that do knock on doors and try and recruit people. That's never been a Jewish thing."

Not that Kanter doesn't reach out to people of all faiths. As part of a joint venture between *Illinois Times* and Central Baptist Church, Kanter spoke to Pastor Tony Stang on *The Mosaic Project* podcast of the common ground their denominations share and shared his story about coming out as gay in 1993, when he was a rabbi in Minneapolis. At the time, there were only a few openly gay working rabbis in the world.

Kanter originally came out to a senior rabbi at Temple Israel in Minneapolis, telling him he couldn't keep a secret any longer about "who I was." A year or so later, a panel of other rabbis there voted to accept Kanter as a working rabbi. On March 11, 1994, Kanter fully came out to the congregation.

In that sermon, Kanter said, "You know that I am a rabbi and now you know that I am gay. Because I am this congregation's rabbi, your rabbi, and because I now choose to share this news with you, our lives may change. Together, we will determine what course they take."

That made national news at the time, and from there Kanter worked as a rabbi in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, area and then



CREDIT: PHOTO COURTESY GREG KANTER

in Charleston. He met his husband, Mike Merrill, in Florida, and they soon adopted two daughters, one of whom is transgender.

Those were good times, Kanter says, but he says he and his family began to feel unwelcome – to the point of feeling threatened – and decided to move in

2024. According to a 2022 State LGBTQ+ Business Climate Index from the global LGBTQ business advisory Out Leadership, South Carolina ranked the lowest of any state with regard to a business-friendly environment for LGBTQ people.

A proposed bill in the 2023-24 South Carolina legislative session that would restrict transgender people from attaining health care was a deciding factor, Kanter said.

In his 2024 farewell address to his congregation at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim in Charleston, Kanter wrote, "A confluence of factors have gone into this decision, including the barrage of legal challenges in the state of South Carolina that target me and my family. While last year's legislative session was not a complete disaster, the attacks aimed at LGBT people continue to concern us. And so, we find it necessary to take steps to move to a place that will not target us and our human rights."

Kanter said he plans to stay at Temple B'rith Sholom for the "foreseeable future," even though he and his husband could soon be empty-nesters. Both his daughters will graduate from high school this year.

"It feels like home here," he said. □

*Greg Kanter was recently interviewed on Tony Stang's podcast, *The Mosaic Project*. Stang is the pastor of Central Baptist Church, located in downtown Springfield, and created the podcast as a means of "archiving moments of humanity." Find podcast episodes on [illinoistimes.com](http://illinoistimes.com) under "Arts and Culture."*

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## OPINION



### LETTERS

We welcome letters. Please include your full name, address and telephone number. We edit all letters. Send them to [editor@illinoistimes.com](mailto:editor@illinoistimes.com).

### PROGRESS

I'm glad to see that Springfield Green is being revived ("Pick of the litter, March 19). Progress rarely comes packaged as perfection, so I am hopeful that this initiative sparks more attention and effort on cleanliness and beautification in Springfield.

*Jay Shanle, executive director of Downtown Springfield, Inc.*

*Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes*

### Treacle Well

I lived near Oxford for a year  
And once bicycled the nearby  
countryside with a neighbor.  
We cycled past a country church  
yard and Maggie said, "The Treacle  
Well is in there" so we parked  
our bikes and went through the  
lychgate to find it. The well  
was unobtrusive. Maggie stood  
by the rim and I took  
her picture. You can't very well  
photograph a well. So, when the  
door mouse tells a story that three  
little girls lived in a Treacle Well,  
Alice says there is no such well.  
But finally admits "Well there  
might be just one." That is the one  
that I took a picture of. I don't think  
the three little girls are living in it now.

*2026 Jacqueline Jackson*

### NOT THE SAME

I moved to Springfield in the early 1980s, and downtown was a lot of fun. The mall and Town & Country Shopping Center took away shopping from downtown. The chain restaurants eroded the homegrown restaurants with a few such as Augie's, Robbie's and Maldaner's hanging on. Cafe Brio was always really awesome and the Feed Store was a great place for a quick lunch, not to mention a couple pizza places to round it out. Now, it's all but dead.

Downtown was much more vibrant in the years before the presidential library. Lincoln's home, the Illinois State Museum and a few other sites historically sustained tourism because people could dine downtown and stay in a nearby hotel, such as the Mansion View. Now, the city has learned the lesson that tourism is not enough to bring people downtown. Even with enhanced tourism, downtown rolls up at 5 p.m. and tourists are left without a place to have dinner other than Maldaner's.

There are some really great walkable downtowns throughout the U.S. but Springfield isn't one of them. You risk life and limb crossing Sixth Street where people fly by at 50 miles an hour.

It's time to bring brick-and-mortar businesses back to downtown – shopping online is a drag for trying on clothing and looking at merchandise. Have more street festivals and family-friendly venues for the tourists and residents alike. With Springfield's rich history, we could do so much.

*Denise Johnson*

*Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes*

### SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Thanks for the article on the necessity of at-home preparation of children for their

formal education ("Learning begins at home," March 5). In the decades when I was a pastor, I liked to often remind our congregation that all children are home-schooled. Some of the lessons may be positive and some negative, but our children are learning continually, from what their parents are saying or not saying and how family members are interacting with one another, relatives, friends and strangers. They learn from how attendant we are to things happening around us and the values we place on relationships, knowledge, honesty, kindness, compassion, bullying and all the other things they live with.

Thanks to the teachers who gather a couple dozen kids of all kinds into a room and try to meet the needs of this very diverse group of learners.

*Rev. Ken McGarvey  
Pleasant Plains*

### SHARING GOOD NEWS

Thank you for the article "Ancient roots, modern future" (March 26). I would challenge Fr. George Pyle's quote that Orthodoxy doesn't evangelize. Historically we have always shared the good news: See Saints Cyril and Methodius, Saint Herman of Alaska, other Orthodox missionary saints and, more recently, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania.

As Orthodox, we are reticent to try and convert other practicing Christians to Orthodoxy because that has often been done callously to us. But that is not evangelism. Evangelism is sharing the good news and Orthodoxy certainly, and historically, has engaged in this.

*Daniel Christopulos, senior development officer,  
Orthodox Christian Mission Center  
St. Augustine, Florida*

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**OPINION**



Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams, pictured at the March 31 Springfield City Council meeting, expressed concerns that the city would only have one seat on a proposed Capital Area Tourism Authority board. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

# Collaboration needed

**GUESTWORK | Sheila Stocks-Smith**

*Illinois Times* published an article April 2 entitled “A collaborative effort for downtown,” referring to the push to create a new taxing body to expand the BOS Center and construct a new hotel. I only wish a “collaborative effort” was indeed the case.

While I am not an elected official, I am a longtime advocate of revitalizing the inner core of our city, and I pay pretty close attention to policy and political actions affecting this priority. I served on the Mid-Illinois Medical District board and currently serve on the city’s Economic and Community Development Commission. I spoke forcefully about controlling sprawl, developing a plan for downtown and promoting the medical district as an economic engine for the city when I ran for mayor in 2011.

Expanding the BOS Center has long been a priority of Sangamon County leadership, as Sangamon County Board chair Andy Van Meter affirmed in the article. I and others have been aware of this priority for years. However, creating a new five-person taxing body with only one representative from the city of Springfield, building a hotel with taxpayer dollars and completely sidelining the Springfield City Council and the two council members who represent the proposed new district is gross overreach at best.

I doubt most people and businesses are opposed to the expansion of the BOS Center. I support it, too. But the BOS Center is already governed by its own taxing body, so I’m unclear why creating another taxing body for our residents is necessary – despite the oft-repeated, nauseating argument by county leadership that it won’t raise taxes for local

people. Let’s be real – these are all taxpayer dollars, regardless of the direct source.

And using taxpayer dollars to build a hotel? I know it’s been done in other cities, but I’d like to know a bit more about how that would work and who would operate it. And if new, unmet demand exists after expansion, why wouldn’t the private sector step in? Also, let’s not lose sight of the fact that a towering, vacant and decaying hotel sits right across the street and another one across from that with a sordid history of abusing taxpayer loans.

We have 10 alderpeople in the city of Springfield who we elect to represent us and protect the city – not the county. This proposal, however, seems designed to completely usurp the authority and influence of city of Springfield elected officials as a whole and, in particular, of the council members who represent the area this new taxing body will cover: Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory and Ward 5 Ald. Lakeisha Purchase. Gregory and Ward 3 Ald. Roy Williams have publicly expressed opposition to parts of this proposal.

At this point, the proposal is far from “collaborative,” as the title of *IT*’s article states. But it still can be. Let’s slow this down and include our city representatives in meaningful ways so we can work together to revitalize downtown – a goal I believe we all share. □

*Sheila Stocks-Smith serves on the city of Springfield’s Economic and Community Development Commission and is a longtime community activist.*

# State revenues rise but still volatile

POLITICS | Rich Miller

State government revenues were up \$1.571 billion at the end of the third quarter, according to the most recent report from the legislature's bipartisan, bicameral Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

The almost \$1.6 billion in new revenues is an increase of 4.2 percent. The state budget was crafted last year with an expectation that revenues would rise just 2.3 percent for the full fiscal year, so that's pretty darned good news.

The commission revised its projected revenue estimates upward last month by \$684 million, or 1.2 percent, above the original budget forecast last May. The continued revenue increases in March "further reinforced" last month's upward revision, the commission claimed in its latest revenue report issued at the beginning of April.

So why is the newly revised annual revenue estimate less than half of the increase so far this fiscal year?

Well, as COGFA notes, April can be a volatile month. It's tough to accurately predict what will happen when people make their tax payments.

Also, the state has a history of not accurately estimating how personal and corporate income taxes as well as the Personal Property Replacement Tax will break out during the tax year. A "true-up" has to be done, and this year's state budget expected that state coffers would take the short end of the stick and local governments would benefit via the PPRT, but that hasn't yet happened. So, COGFA is wary.

Also, without further changes to state corporate tax laws to decouple from last summer's massive federal tax cuts, the huge slide in corporate tax receipts will continue. Many of our state corporate taxes are tied to federal laws.

As of now, those corporate receipts are down 6.2 percent for the year, but they were projected to increase by 10.8 percent when the state budget was passed before Congress slashed so many corporate taxes.

Only mentioned briefly in the latest monthly report is the potential economic fallout from the attack on Iran and the subsequent closure of a key petroleum shipping lane. It's such a volatile situation that nobody really knows what to expect in the fiscal year's final three months.

And that brings us to President Donald

Trump's recently proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which starts Oct. 1.

The proposal would slash funds for infrastructure projects by \$15.2 billion, reduce public school funding by \$8.5 billion, eliminate the program to help low-income households with utility bills, cut higher education funding by \$2.7 billion, reduce law enforcement and public safety programs by \$1.7 billion, cut homelessness grants by \$393 million, eliminate the school meals program, etc.

That's on top of the gargantuan cuts to Medicaid and nutrition assistance programs included in last summer's reconciliation budget.

Some or even most of this proposed budget appears to be performative. The president tried to get rid of LIHEAP last year, for example. But Trump is convinced that social programs are riddled with corruption, and he said before unveiling his budget proposal that child care, Medicaid and even the federal Medicare program should all be state funded.

"The United States can't take care of day care," the president said at a private event.

"That has to be up to a state. We can't take care of day care. We're a big country. We have 50 states. We have all these other people we're fighting wars with. We can't take care of day care. You've got to let a state take care of day care. And they should pay for it, too. They should pay. They have to raise their taxes, but they should pay for it. ... Medicaid, Medicare, all these individual things. They can do it on a state basis. You can't do it on a federal. We have to take care of one thing, military protection. We have to guard the country. But all these little things, all these little scams that have taken place, you have to let states take care of them."

Trump also mentioned that education funding should be a state funding issue. □

Rich Miller also publishes *Capitol Fax*, a daily political newsletter, and *CapitolFax.com*.



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# Something for nothin’

Do convention center economics add up?

KROHE | James Krohe Jr.

Anyone versed in the basics of economics knows that there is no such thing as a free lunch – unless you are shopping for a hotel to host your association’s next convention and you are plied with free tastings of dinner menus for your approval. The rest of us have to pay one way or another.

Nonetheless a free lunch is also what a quartet of Springfield area officials – state Sen. Doris Turner, state Rep. Mike Coffey, Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher and Sangamon County Board Chair Andy Van Meter – are offering the taxpayers of Springfield. They hope to set up a new tourism authority that will collect money from local hotel and sales taxes and use it to back bonds to finance doubling – double! – the size of the renamed Prairie Capital Convention Center and (ideally) build a 200-300-room modern – modern! – full-service hotel next door.

That will put Springfield in the same league, square-footage-wise, as Peoria, the big name in downstate events hosting. By moving up from a small to a medium convention destination, Springfield will attract more and/or bigger conventions, more overnight stays and fatter sales and hotel taxes. Oh, it will be like the old days when the VFW or the insurance adjusters were in town and the joint was jumping seven days a week.

OK, maybe not seven days a week. Or even seven days a month. But the people of Springfield won’t have to pay for it, that’s the important thing. “Without a doubt, this is true economic development,” Turner has explained, “that will bring jobs and tourism dollars to downtown without Springfield residents having to pay any new taxes.”

Turner et. al. know this because they hired



State Rep. Mike Coffey speaks at a March 31 press conference to announce support for state legislation that would help expand the BOS Center and construct a new hotel in downtown Springfield. PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

a consultant who told them so. The firm of Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL) predicted that doubling the size of the BOS Center could mean doubling the number of conventions coming to town. Could – but will? Let us not say that this rhetoric is “delusional” or even “extravagant;” that would be rude. We will call it “hopeful.” The consultants are not lying, exactly. They’re hope merchants, and no one ever went broke in this country telling people in power what they want to hear. And every elected official wants to hear that she can pay for public improvements without having to ask her particular voting public to pay for it.

The consultants estimate that the Springfield project would have a \$77 million annual economic impact and create 557

temporary construction jobs. Making such estimates is more art than science – a lot more. (Are they certain it’s not 556?) The cost of some elements of the plan can be calculated with more certainty. If both the new hall and the hotel are built, the bill would come to \$180-\$200 million. With luck, the increased traffic will bring in maybe \$3-\$6 million in tax revenue. That should be enough to pay off the money borrowed to build it, although it will take at least 30 and maybe even 50 years. During that time, paying off the debt is likely to consume every penny the project will earn for the new tourism authority. Visitors will be paying for the downtown improvements but visitors also are likely to be the only ones getting the benefit of them. And the risks of failure will be borne by taxpayers.

As noted, making Adams Street great again will probably pay back enough to cover its construction costs, but the consultants’ larger promises to revitalize a moribund downtown are of the sort that make sense only to a lover who yearns to be seduced again. Project backers point out that Springfield earns about \$20 million annually from “tourism,” a catch-all term that includes all kinds of visitors. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Springfield metropolitan area’s GDP in 2023 was \$12.071 billion. Tourism thus generates roughly \$1 for every \$600 in gross output hereabouts and conventions are only a smallish part of that. That’s why the BOS Center brings in only about \$2.8 million a year, which is about \$2 million a year less than it costs to run it.

To borrow a phrase, central Illinois can’t get rich by stealing each other’s laundry. Having a bigger hall is necessary for success as a convention town but it is not sufficient. Springfield offers visitors a dead president for their off-hours diversion; in Peoria they can take a virtual ride in a two-and-a-half story Cat 797F Mining Truck. A bulked-up BOS Center will steal a show from Peoria now and then but only by giving event planners deals on rates, free days and other money-losing concessions. The only thing Springfield is likely to achieve by taking on Peoria in a constrained market is to ensure that neither city fares well.

That’s the problem with free lunches. They usually aren’t worth what you pay for them, no matter how hungry you are. □

*Mr. Krohe has lived off and on in downtown Springfield since 1970 and has watched its revival with interest several times.*



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# Year-round container gardening

GARDEN | DiAnne Crown

Container gardening offers a practical and beautiful solution for growing flowers, vegetables and herbs in central Illinois where weather extremes and limited space often challenge traditional gardening.

For leafy edibles, start with herbs and salad greens, which tolerate a wide range of light conditions from windowsill to kitchen garden and actually favor a little shade relief from the Illinois summer heat. For brilliant statement arrangements, experts like the three-species approach of “thriller, filler, spiller,” or, as one social media influencer says, “tall, thick and trailing.” For vining and root vegetables, plant as early as possible in large, deep containers. The Illinois growing season can be fickle – and short.

Whether on a patio in July or under grow lights in January, here’s how to make it work.

## Don’t lose it, move it

One of the greatest advantages of container gardening is mobility. Plants can be moved to follow sunlight, avoid storms and escape early frosts. In fact, one of the most encouraging hallmarks of glad gardening is knowing that nothing has to be permanent. If your first try isn’t thriving, it’s easy to make adjustments. In addition, although the start-up cost of purchasing the growing medium can be expensive, the ability to overwinter container perennials indoors offers a significant and satisfying savings.

Local gardener Veronica Fesser gardens all winter in a compact, sunny greenhouse full of colorful showstoppers, succulents, trees and ferns. It’s also where she starts some of her seedlings for the next growing season. On an unseasonably warm day in a cold weather month, Fesser can move some of her plants out for a breath of fresh air.

“This is one of the reasons I love gardening,” she says. “I can do it year-round.”

## Designing for small spaces

Space efficiency is where container gardening truly shines. Vertical gardening with fences, trellises, railings or stacked systems allow vining cucumbers, beans and even some squash varieties to grow upward instead of outward. This saves space and improves airflow and sunlight exposure.

However, vertical multi-compartment towers come with trade-offs. They maximize production per square foot but complicate watering and soil consistency. Fesser’s vertical tower planted with herbs and small flowering plants made efficient watering impossible.



Large stand-up gardens two to three feet off the ground are helpful both for those with physical limitations and avoiding rabbits and other wildlife. PHOTO BY DIANNE CROWN

Water falls through rather than spreading out, she explains. And, even outdoors, rain showers typically only watered one side at a time. Instead, select single planters and water selectively.

Large stand-up gardens 2 to 3 feet off the ground may offer the best option for those with physical limitations, munching rabbits and a love of trying new things on a small scale. In large wooden bins, use a potting soil mix, occasionally provide a tent cover to protect from harsh weather and enjoy a longer growing season, and properly space plants to ensure good sun and air flow.

Also, whether buying ready-made or constructing your own, consider the building material. Untreated lumber used for tomatoes, herbs and other edibles will likely rot sooner than treated lumber that you may not want for your edibles. An inside lining barrier for the treated lumber could be one way to solve the problem.

## A good start

Apart from an animal eating your newly planted bulbs or a surprise hail storm, few decisions in gardening are ever final. But a proper growing medium, placement and container will help from the start.

Garden soil, even commercially bagged, should not be used in containers. It compacts easily and restricts oxygen to the roots. Fesser uses two parts peat moss, one part perlite and one part vermiculite to start her plants.

Consider wearing a mask to prevent dust exposure while handling the growing medium before it is damp. She also uses two high-quality potting mixes that contains “a lot of nutrients and natural fertilizers.” One of her favorites includes earthworm castings and bat guano.

Thoroughly water the medium before planting, she says, and then “finger test” once or twice daily to optimize plant growth. That is, push your finger into the soil up to the first joint. If damp, don’t water. Overwatering is one of the container gardening pitfalls. But, if the soil is dry an inch or so down, water slowly not only to avoid too much water for that species, but because very dry soil can actually repel water, causing it to run out of the bottom without benefiting the plant.

A fun aspect of container gardening is choosing the container. Just about anything can work, although size and weather-worthiness do matter. For example, clay pots are breathable but dry out more quickly, and glazed clay pots will often crack if left outside in the winter. Plastic pots in full summer sun can overheat tender root systems. Small herbs can thrive in small pots, but larger plants need deeper, larger pots. And they all need good drainage to avoid root rot. The University of Illinois Extension offers excellent information on its website to address these questions.

## Indoor gardening

With sufficiently bright lighting, often from full-spectrum LED lights, warmth, proper

water, and, for seed starting, a gentle fan breeze, plants can start and stay indoors, or start outdoors and come inside for the winter. This is especially fun when starting seeds for next year’s vegetables, for growing herbs year-round or for keeping flowering plants blooming. One successful Mechanicsburg farmer-gardener moved a long-lived, large hibiscus with brilliant red blossoms from the outdoor patio into his Victorian-styled living room every year for a spectacular Christmastime showpiece.

Always check for bugs before bringing container plants indoors, and spray undersides of leaves with insecticidal soap if necessary, Fesser advises.

## The joys of container gardening

Need an accent by the door or in the yard? Maybe you have just enough room on your balcony to grow culinary herbs. Or perhaps poor soil, limited budget, no time or senior knees make a fully landscaped yard impractical. Use containers for versatility, drama, scale and ease.

Social media reels will provide all the incentive, ideas and encouragement you need. And container gardening truly provides instant gratification. □

*Longtime contributor and small spaces gardener DiAnne Crown peacefully coexists with host-nibbling rabbits, tomato-pecking cardinals and whoever digs up and chews her spring blooming bulbs.*



PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

## New community garden available at Hobbs Park

GARDEN | Karen Ackerman Witter

The Springfield Park District is transforming former baseball fields into a community garden at Hobbs Park, located south of Bunn Park near the intersection of Fox Bridge Road and Culver Avenue. Building on the success of the Jefferson Park Community Garden, this new initiative will provide a community garden serving the east side of Springfield. The ball fields at Hobbs Park were no longer being used, and there was community interest in having more spaces available for community gardens.

Initially there will be 20 spots available. Individuals may request a 10-foot x 20-foot community garden space to grow whatever they wish. Some rules apply, such as a requirement to be an organic garden. Marty Stricker, superintendent of programming and events for the Springfield Park District, says the plan is to be smart, do everything correctly and grow as needed in response to community interest.

Also under consideration is creation of a pollinator garden at Hobbs Park. This is a win-win for the community and taxpayers. Replacing the unused ball fields with grass would have increased costs for mowing. Having a pollinator meadow adjacent to community gardens creates multiple benefits.

Stricker says the Growing Grounds project focuses on inclusive participation, sustainability, shared stewardship and long-term community impact. For more information and to request a community garden spot, contact Scott Marlow, athletic manager for the Park District at 217-843-0012 or smarlow@springfieldparks.org. □



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# Illinois launches paint recycling program

Local hardware and paint stores now accept leftover paint for recycling

HOME | Karen Ackerman Witter

If you have old cans of paint stashed in your basement or garage that you don't know how to get rid of, there's good news for you. Illinois residents can now recycle latex and oil-based architectural paint products at numerous retail hardware and paint stores, including in Springfield and surrounding communities. This is due to the Paint Stewardship Act, passed with bipartisan support and signed into law by Gov. JB Pritzker in 2023. The program launched in Illinois on Dec. 1, 2025. There are currently 345 drop-off sites statewide, and this continues to grow.

The recycling program is operated by PaintCare, a nonprofit organization created by the American Coatings Association, which is a trade association of the paint manufacturing industry. Ace Hardware, RP Lumber and Sherwin-Williams stores, along with PPG Paint Store on South Sixth Street, are examples of area participating businesses. The retailers accept interior and exterior paints, primers, stains, sealers and varnishes from households and businesses. Products must be in original, non-leaking containers with the original manufacturer's label visible. There is no cost to drop off paint.

Previously, the only option to appropriately dispose of oil-based paint was at special household hazardous waste collections, held periodically in communities and typically managed by government agencies. Latex paint is generally not hazardous and not accepted at these waste collection drives. The recommended solution is to dry out the paint using kitty litter or paint hardener and put cans in the trash. This new program provides a far better alternative.

The recycling program is funded through a small fee on the sale of new paint, which pays for paint collection, transportation, processing and public education. Fees vary by state. In Illinois, the fees on new paint are 45 cents for a half-pint up to a gallon, 95 cents for one to two gallons and \$1.95 for two gallons up to five gallons.

A press conference was held at the Capitol on Feb. 24 to share initial results in Illinois. During the first two months, an estimated 60,000 gallons of leftover paint were collected. PaintCare estimates nearly 1 million gallons will be collected in the first year of operation.

"The success is the direct result of focused leadership and unprecedented collaboration across policy, environmental advocacy, retailers and local communities," said Michael W. Johnson, president and CEO of the American Coatings Association.



Left to right: Illinois program manager Ross Dudzik; PaintCare president and CEO Michael Johnson; state Sen. Linda Holmes; Walter Willis, executive director of Solid Waste Agency of Lake County and Illinois EPA director James Jennings. PHOTO COURTESY PAINTCARE

The Illinois Paint Stewardship Act is modeled after similar legislation passed in other states. Illinois Sen. Linda Holmes, D-Aurora, was the lead sponsor. Holmes described the program as a "win-win for everyone" with no downside. Homeowners and businesses have a place to get rid of unwanted paint. Paint gets reused and recycled in a responsible manner. Businesses benefit by bringing people into retail stores where they are likely to make another purchase.

It took many years for the legislation to be enacted in Illinois but the bill eventually passed with no dissenting votes.

"Though there were numerous negotiations, ultimately the IEPA, solid waste agencies, environmental groups and the paint industry all came together in support of the legislation," Mark Biel, CEO of the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois, told *Illinois Times*. Biel mentioned the Illinois Environmental Council, Sierra Club, Environmental Law & Policy Center and GBD International – the largest paint recycler in the U.S. with its largest facility in Nashville, Illinois – as working together on the details of the legislation.

"The key drivers of the legislation were Brad Babcock of the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois and Kyle Rominger, chief of the Bureau of Land at the IEPA. Kyle navigated the IEPA's challenges of setting up a PaintCare program while complying with the current state statutes and regulations," Biel said.

PaintCare operates the paint recycling program in states that have enacted paint stewardship laws. The first program in the country was established in Oregon in 2010. Currently there are 11 states and the District of Columbia participating. To date, approximately 85 million gallons of paint, stain and varnish have been managed by PaintCare. Most of the drop-off sites are paint and hardware retail stores, but also include facilities owned by local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

PaintCare estimates 10% of the 800 million gallons of architectural paint sold annually in the U.S. goes unused. PaintCare manages the collected paint to make good quality material available for immediate use and only landfilling the small amount that can't be reused or recycled. Most latex paint is sent to recycling processors and made into

new paint, and most oil-based paint is used as fuel. PaintCare also provides information on how to paint smarter, by estimating how much paint to buy for a project and knowing how best to store and reuse paint and then recycle what's left (Info at <https://www.paintcare.org/paint-smarter/>).

"The Paint Stewardship Act was negotiated over a number of years and we're excited to see it working," Jen Walling, CEO of the Illinois Environmental Council, told *Illinois Times*. "It's a common-sense solution that keeps hazardous waste out of our landfills and waterways while making it easier for Illinois residents and businesses to responsibly recycle leftover paint. We're proud of the work happening across the state including expanded collection sites, public education and partnership with local governments." □

*Karen Ackerman Witter is a longtime recycler. As a policy adviser to Gov. Jim Thompson and director of the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources, she was involved in passage and implementation of the state's first comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act signed into law by Thompson in 1986.*

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## HOME & GARDEN

# Easy refreshes for spring

Projects for an hour, a day or a weekend

HOME | Pamela Savage

According to the daffodils and tulips popping up outdoors, we made it through another Midwest winter! Now that we are surrounded by more green plants and sunshine, many people start to feel the urge to shake off those winter blues and let the bright light in. And while the impulse to do a full-blown spring deep clean may be appealing to some, for the rest of us, maybe some quicker springy projects will suffice. Read on for 10 easy refreshes that you can complete in an hour, a day or a weekend, depending on the time you'd like to commit.

### 1. Change your lightbulbs

You can upgrade the vibe of your whole home by replacing old or burnt-out lightbulbs with energy-efficient bulbs or even new fixtures. If you are working at the fixture level, be sure to shut off your power at the breaker, but I bet you could find a burnt-out lightbulb in an existing fixture to replace to give your home a little more light.

### 2. Wash your windows

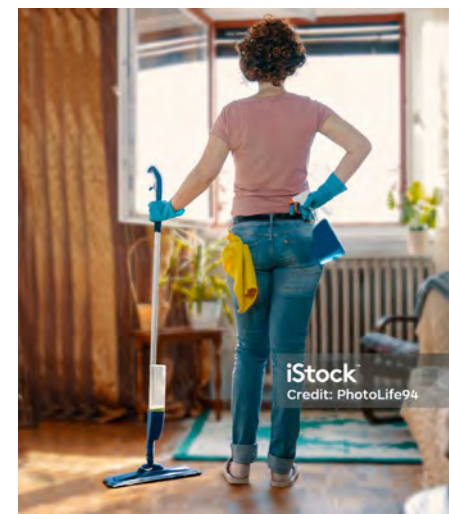
Speaking of light, your windows probably accumulated some grime during the winter. Clean as little or as much as you like – the inside pane of your windows, the outside pane or go all-in and deep clean your window tracks. In order to clean window tracks, use a hose or brush attachment to vacuum loose debris, then wipe down the remainder of the track's grime with a little vinegar, water and dish soap (or whatever cleaner you prefer). For stubborn grime, mold, or mildew, you could consider a bleach-based cleaner and a stiff brush. Sit back and let the sunshine stream in.

### 3. Clean your drains

This one sort of makes me want to gag, but if you have minor clogs in slow-moving sinks, tubs or showers, cleaning these out would go a long way toward keeping your house flowing and glowing. To do this at home, you'll need either a small drain snake or a small sink plunger. Be wary of your skills and follow directions, as you certainly don't want to make any clogs worse than they are, so use your own DIY discretion.

### 4. Deep clean your appliances

Refrigerators, dishwashers, microwaves, washers and dryers – all of these appliances could use a wipe down or a clean out.



You can often find and purchase deep-cleaning products for washing machines and dishwashers, and for the others, use what you have on hand. Don't forget your smaller appliances. Shake the crumbs out of your toasters or run some water through your coffee maker. Spend a little time to get rid of a little grime, and your future self will thank you.

### 5. Buy some spring scents

Depending on your scent sensitivity, spring is a fun time to invest in scented hand soaps, counter sprays, a new laundry detergent, or even a new personal care item such as shampoo or deodorant. We can all get a little tired of the same old thing, so why not try something new?

### 6. Put away winter items

Spend a day or two laundering winter coats, gloves and hats and shake the crusty mud off of your winter boots. Washing these items before you store them for the summer ensures you get rid of any stains and you don't hold on to any odors (and who knows, maybe you'll find some cash in your coat pocket). Either way, you can finally put all your winter things away. Thank goodness!

### 7. Refresh rugs and upholstery

The start of spring is as good a time as any to bust out an upright carpet cleaner or a portable upholstery cleaner and wash away the winter. If you've got slipcovers on sofas or other upholstery, spend a few hours laundering them. If all of this sounds like too much for

one day, you can simply sprinkle some carpet powder or baking soda on your rugs, let it sit for 10 or 15 minutes, and vacuum it up in order to neutralize any stagnant odors.

#### 8. Burp your house

Probably the easiest of all the spring refreshes, burping your house simply involves opening some windows or doors on opposite sides of your house or space for 10 or 15 and letting fresh air move through your home. Burping your house helps reduce moisture, mold and stagnant CO2 while increasing your indoor air quality.

#### 9. Clean up weeds

Whether they are in your yard, garden beds or sidewalk cracks, you probably don't have to look far to find some weeds in spring. Weeding

can be as big or as small a chore as you'd like, meaning you get to create your own definition of done for the day. While weeding can be a full-time job throughout the warmer months, doing small bits here and there will always help. If you'd like a weekend project, lay down some mulch as well.

#### 10. Get some houseplants

Now that you've got all these clean, fresh, sunny vibes pulsing through your home, go see about a houseplant or two. Easy, low-maintenance houseplants that thrive in spring and tolerate low light include the snake plants and ZZ plants, while pothos, spider plants and monstera love bright, indirect light. □

*Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield. She is thrilled that spring has sprung.*

## Recycle your household batteries

HOME | Karen Ackerman Witter

Illinois residents can now conveniently recycle household batteries. As a result of legislation that took effect Jan. 1, Illinois has a battery stewardship program. Lowe's in Springfield and Home Depot in Jacksonville are examples of places where people can take household batteries to be recycled at no charge.

The Portable and Medium Format Battery Stewardship Act requires battery producers to fund and manage the collection, transportation and recycling of portable primary (single use) and rechargeable batteries and other medium format batteries weighing between 4.4 and 25 pounds. The Battery Network is the state-approved stewardship program that allows consumers to recycle all household batteries through a convenient network of drop-off locations. To find a drop off site, go to <https://batterynetwork.org/state-recycling-laws/illinois/>.

Household batteries are single use and rechargeable batteries found in everyday home devices and battery-containing products such as remotes, toys, flashlights, cordless tools and portable chargers. Medium-format batteries are larger rechargeable batteries up to 25 pounds that are commonly found in snowblowers, e-bikes and electric, cordless lawn mowers.

Illinois became the 16<sup>th</sup> state to enact a comprehensive battery recycling law, which is overseen by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



Drop-off bin to recycle batteries, as well as compact fluorescent light bulbs and plastic bags, at Lowe's on Wabash Avenue in Springfield. Lowe's accepts both single use and rechargeable batteries. PHOTO BY KAREN WITTER

(IEPA). The Battery Network is an organization whose mission is to connect every part of the battery lifecycle to enable safe recycling, efficient logistics and the recovery of critical materials that strengthen America's energy independence while protecting people and the planet. Find more info at <https://batterynetwork.org/>.

As stated on the IEPA web site, "Ensuring the proper management, handling, recycling and end of life management of used portable and medium-format batteries will prevent the release of toxic materials into the environment and will aid in removing materials from the waste stream that, if mishandled, may present safety concerns to workers, such as fires at solid waste handling facilities." □



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# Home & Garden Events

GARDEN | Daron Walker

## ONGOING

### Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Tuesdays, 8-9 a.m., through May 12. Matt Hales of the Illinois Audubon Society will lead hikes looking for migratory species as well as resident species. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 Clear Lake Ave., 217-544-2473.

### April Nature Walks

Saturdays in April, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Nature lovers can enjoy guided wildflower and bird walks on historic Elkhart Hill, enjoying the beauty of blooming flowers and the songs of returning birds. Lunch options available. Walks leave from The Country Bumpkin. Participants will be guided by wildflower guide Gilette Ransom and ornithologists Lara Borgerson, Joe Funk and Rhetta Jack. To reserve a spot, call or visit [elkharthistoricalsociety.org](http://elkharthistoricalsociety.org). Adults \$15, children \$10. The Country Bumpkin, 103 Gov. Oglesby St., 217-947-2238.

### Bird Hikes

Saturdays through May 16, 8 a.m. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111. Local birder Kevin Veara will lead the group in search of migrating birds. Hikes start at the Nature Center and are open to the public. All levels of birders welcome.

## APRIL

### “Hummingbirds and Orioles: Spring’s Most Sought-After Visitors”

Thu., April 16, 6-7 p.m. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-303-1996. Discover the migration timing, favorite habitats, feeding tips and fun facts about hummingbirds and orioles. Presented by Wade Kammin, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop.

### The Art of Photographing Trees Botanical Class

Sat., April 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Pick up expert tips, hear fascinating stories from the field and get inspired by the vibrant beauty of trees from renowned arborist, author and photographer Guy Sternberg. No registration required. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

### Arbor Day Tree Giveaways

Fri., April 24, 1-3 p.m. and Sun., April 26, 1-3 p.m. Old State Capitol, Dan-Thomas House, Kidzeum. 217-785-5030. Seedlings as well as small wildflower seed packets will come with planting instructions. Staff will help guests

select the best tree. Trees will be available at these these locations while supplies last: Old State Capitol - Red oak, red osier dogwood and bald cypress (limit 2 trees/family), Sumac Shop (Dana-Thomas House Foundation) - Fragrant sumac (limit 1 tree/family); and Kidzeum - Red maple (limit 1 tree/family). Presented by State Historic Sites and the City of Springfield.

### Earth Day Presentation Celebrating the Emiquon Preserve

Fri., April 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The Nature Conservancy’s Randy Smith will tell the ongoing story of the Emiquon Preserve, a 6,700-acre wetland restoration along the Illinois River. Social hour at 5:30pm. Presentation at 7pm. Registration not required. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St. 217-481-0432.

### Orchid Basics and Repotting Workshop

Sat., April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116. The Garden welcomes back Tom Gephart and Kent Weil for a morning all about orchids. Stop by and have a plant repotted at a nominal cost (based on the size of the plant) and learn how to care for an orchid, diseases and pests common with orchids and helpful orchid growing tips.

## 2026 Earth Fair

Sat., April 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Annual event featuring children’s activities, food trucks and more designed to showcase and encourage Earth stewardship. Presented by the city of Springfield and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Free. Union Square Park, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-789-2255

## MAY

### Spring Into Science at LLCC

Fri., May 1, 5:30-8 p.m. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200. In this family-friendly event, participants can celebrate science by exploring stations focused on flowers and plants, including flower dissections, and get the opportunity to plant a flower to take home. Students can “learn to be a bander” at a bird banding demonstration. Marine biology activities will include a touch tank and a saltwater scavenger hunt. Additional attractions will feature chemistry demonstrations, interactive science activities and explorations connected to spring and science. On the second floor of Sangamon Hall.

### Planting Days

Sat., May 2 and Sat., May 9. Details TBA. Guests

welcome as seedlings are planted for this year’s crop. Enos Park Neighborhood Garden, 1022 N. Fifth St., 217-610-0720.

### Milkweed Giveaways

Sat., May 2, 9, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Sun., May 3, 9-11am. Various locations. Learn all about planting milkweed and the importance of pollinator gardens. Then take home your free milkweed. Participants can learn how they can help with your neighborhood park pollinator garden. Meet neighborhood pollinator garden, University of Illinois Extension, Springfield Jaycees and parks foundation volunteers. May 2 schedule: 9-11am, Jaycee Park shelter; 11am-1pm, Erin’s Pavilion building entrance; 1-3pm, Washington Park shelter.; May 3: 9-11am, Lincoln Park, shelter in parking lot.

### Junior Naturalists

Sat., May 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This hands-on nature exploration program is for children ages 5 to 8. At this session, participants will learn about a nature topic, make a craft and enjoy a snack. Costs cover class materials. Naturalists can also register for individual sessions at a cost of \$12 each for members and \$15 for nonmembers. [lincolnmemorygarden.org](http://lincolnmemorygarden.org). Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

### Senior Naturalists

Sat., May 2, 1-3 p.m. This hands on-nature exploration program is for children ages 8-12. At this session, participants will learn about a different insects. Costs cover class materials. Naturalists can register for individual sessions at a cost of \$12 each for members and \$15 for nonmembers. [lincolnmemorygarden.org](http://lincolnmemorygarden.org). Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

### Springfield Civic Garden Club

Mon., May 4, 9:30 a.m. Monthly meeting. Open to all. Doors open at 9 a.m. for refreshments. For more info, visit the club’s website, Facebook site or call. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 533 S. Walnut St., 217-899-3283.

### Tiny Adventurers

Wed., May 6, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. This hands-on nature exploration program is for children ages 3 to 5 with an adult chaperone. At this session, participants will learn about a nature topic, make a craft and enjoy a story. Younger siblings are welcome but the program is geared toward the 3-5 age range. Morning and afternoon sessions available. Registration is preferred. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.



**2026 Earth Fair**

The City of Springfield & the ALPLM Present the Annual Earth Fair at Union Square Park, 500 E. Madison St., Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 11-3pm. Free event! Kids Activities, ASL friendly, food trucks and more!

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# Ooey gooey goodness

How to make St. Louis gooey butter cake

FOOD | Peter Glatz

Now in my third year at Champaign's Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery, I stay busy working at Caprae, our farm-to-table restaurant, and teaching culinary classes in our new education facility. Recently, I have also begun spending my Saturday mornings assisting at the Salt Fork Food Works Food Hub back home in Springfield.

A few weeks ago, the Central Illinois Bakehouse's gooey butter cake made its debut at our shop, and I quickly found myself fielding a barrage of questions from curious customers. As a retired dentist who avoids sweets and has spent decades lecturing on the dangers of sugar, I realized I couldn't honestly describe its flavor or ingredients without a taste. May the Lord forgive my transgression! I didn't just take a bite; I polished off the entire piece and even grabbed another to take home. It marked my highest sugar intake in more than half a century, but it was absolutely worth it.

While I usually recoil when people label a dish "addictive," this particular pastry genuinely earns the title. My fascination with culinary history often leads me to explore how dishes come to be, and the story behind gooey butter cake is particularly captivating because it was born out of a happy accident.

The legend dates back to the 1930s and the Great Depression, when thriftiness was a necessity and wasting ingredients was simply not an option. A German-American baker in St. Louis was attempting to prepare a standard yeasted coffee cake when he inadvertently transposed the measurements for butter and flour. Rather than discarding the thin, buttery mess, the entrepreneur decided to bake the mistake. What emerged from the oven was a custard-centered, crisp-edged creation that defied traditional cake textures. He sold the resulting squares as "gooey butter cake," and it quickly evolved from a baker's blunder into a St. Louis institution.

Today, gooey butter cake remains the city's most beloved dessert, typically served straight from the baking pan and adorned only with a dusting of powdered sugar. It is an addictive confection that contains more than two sticks of butter and nearly two cups of sugar. While it may be neither pretty nor healthy, it possesses a unique, fudge-like appeal that is hard to deny.

The cake offers a variety of textures: some enthusiasts prefer a creamy piece cut from the center, while others seek out the crusty corners



According to legend, gooey butter cake originated in St. Louis in the 1930s. PHOTO BY ANN SHAFFER GLATZ

and edges. It is a dangerous temptation to leave it out on a kitchen counter, as you may find yourself taking small bites every time you walk by until the entire pan has disappeared. Mistake or not, this St. Louis staple has earned its fame for a very delicious reason.

## St. Louis gooey butter cake

Put on your reading glasses. Do not sip wine while you're making this. If you accidentally switch the amounts of flour and butter, you'll probably end up with a yeasted coffee cake.

### Ingredients for the base:

2 teaspoons active dry yeast  
3 tablespoons milk, at room temperature  
2 tablespoons lukewarm water  
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature  
3 tablespoons granulated sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon table salt  
1 large egg, at room temperature  
1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour

### Ingredients for the topping:

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup light corn syrup

2 tablespoons warm water  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons vanilla extract  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cups (1  $\frac{1}{2}$  sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups granulated sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon table salt  
1 large egg  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour  
Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

### Preparation

Combine the yeast with one tablespoon of sugar in a small bowl. Gently warm the milk and stir it, along with the water, into the yeast mixture. Let it sit for about five minutes to see if it bubbles. If no bubbles appear, your yeast is inactive. (Sorry, but you likely missed the expiration date! You'll need to head to the store for a fresh supply of yeast before continuing.)

Using a large bowl, cream together the salt, remaining sugar and butter. After scraping the sides, incorporate the egg. Gradually add the yeast mixture and flour, mixing thoroughly. Scrape the bowl again and continue mixing at medium speed for another four to five minutes.

Prepare a 9-by-13 baking pan by lightly greasing it, then transfer the dough to the pan and press it firmly to cover every corner of the bottom. Cover the pan and let the dough rise in a warm spot for one to three hours, or until it has nearly doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

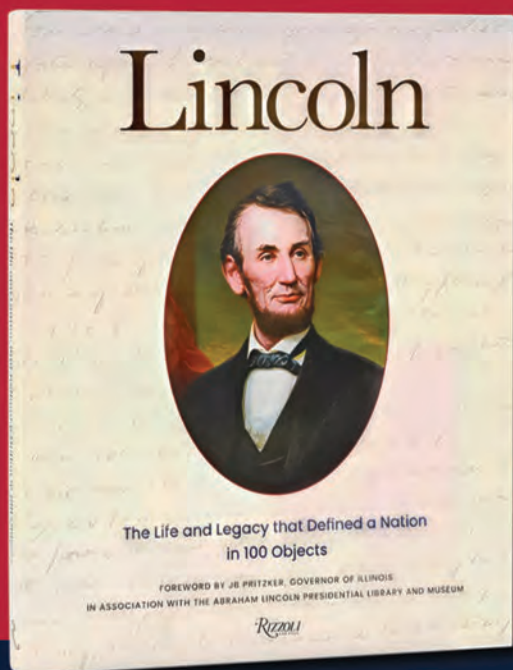
While you wait for the dough to rise, you can start on the topping. Use a small bowl to whisk together the corn syrup, water and vanilla. In a separate large mixing bowl, cream the sugar, salt and butter until light and fluffy. After scraping down the sides, beat in the egg. Set the mixer to low speed and gradually incorporate the corn syrup mixture, followed by the flour.

Gently spoon the topping over the risen dough. Using an offset spatula, smooth evenly. Bake for 30-45 minutes. The cake will rise and fall in waves. Start checking doneness toward the end of the baking time by shaking the pan. The outer edges should be firm but the center should jiggle.

Remove the cake from the oven and cool completely in the pan. Dust with confectioners' sugar before serving. □



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# Lincoln as historian? A different perspective.

BOOK REVIEW | Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein

Central Illinois is Abraham Lincoln country. Springfield has his law office, the home he owned as an adult, his tomb and the Old State Capitol, where he legislated and spoke. Surrounding regions focus on courthouses where Lincoln prosecuted or defended numerous cases, as well as the reconstructed village of New Salem, where Lincoln lived as a young man. Not to be omitted is the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum with its collections of Lincoln treasures and Illinois history.

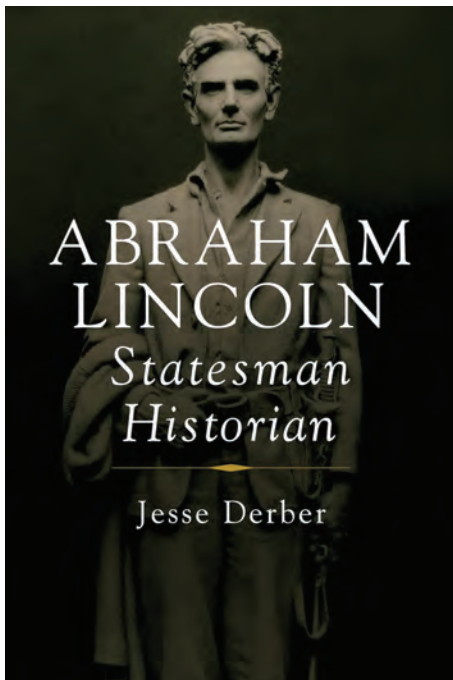
So, it is natural that at least some residents and visitors have an affection for the man and an interest in new publications about aspects of his life and career.

Jesse Derber's *Abraham Lincoln, Statesman Historian* is not another cradle-to-grave biography, nor a study of Lincoln's presidency. There are already many volumes in both of those categories. Rather, Derber's book is for the reader who is ready to go beyond these basics to examine an interesting aspect of Lincoln's thought process.

Lincoln is not usually considered to be a historian, although many previous authors have quoted from some of his speeches, correspondence and other documents to show his interest in and use of material about the past. Lincoln certainly was not a *trained* historian like his highly educated and famous countryman George Bancroft, to whom Derber compares and contrasts with Lincoln on occasion. In this, as in so many other respects, Lincoln was thoroughly self-educated.

Early in his adult career, Lincoln began to believe that an accurate knowledge of historical events would be useful to determine precedents, and to provide wisdom and guidance for dealing with current and future issues, particularly political issues. He put the research skills he developed as a lawyer to good use, thoroughly examining government documents and other materials held at the (Old) State Capitol and other libraries, eventually including those in Washington, D.C.

Derber tracks the development of four stages in Lincoln's perspective on the past: 1) emotional appeals to the importance of the past; 2) the use of research skills to prepare logical arguments (beginning about 1839); 3)



Jesse Derber, *Abraham Lincoln, Statesman Historian*, University of Illinois Press, 2024; 265 pp., notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95

reminders that the present will someday be someone else's past, and current actions will be their precedents and memories (starting in 1854); and 4) a sense that history also has a religious importance (during his presidency). As Lincoln matured, he did not discard any of his earlier historical strategies but merely added the new perspectives to them.

During the pre-Civil War period, Lincoln was especially concerned with the issue of slavery and the founding fathers' attitude toward it. He accumulated evidence to show that the founders saw slavery as a necessary evil that they hoped was on the road to extinction, but that could not be eliminated suddenly in the 1780s. They took action to prevent slavery from spreading to the Northwest Territory (that included Illinois) by passing an ordinance to that effect in 1787.

Lincoln particularly used historical arguments to combat Illinois U.S. Sen. Stephen A. Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854). This act repealed the Missouri Compromise (1820), restricting the spread of slavery to the western territories, and replaced

it with the doctrine of "popular sovereignty," permitting settlers to determine for themselves whether a territory should have slavery or not. Even before 1854, Southern slaveholders and their supporters had come to see slavery as a positive good and opposed any attempts to restrict its spread anywhere.

The Republican Party, founded in 1854, connected Kansas-Nebraska opponents, who generally were willing to leave slavery alone where it already was, but vigorously opposed its spread into the territories that did not have slavery.

Derber proceeds chronologically, analyzing several of Lincoln's speeches and other writings. He sometimes elaborates on the role of some other person besides Lincoln, or the circumstances surrounding a speech. But his overall purpose is to clarify why or how Lincoln used references to the past in particular instances. As a result, some familiar aspects of Lincoln's career may be barely mentioned or omitted. In addition, many parts of Lincoln's speeches are ignored when they have nothing to do with Lincoln's perspective on the past.

During the Civil War, Lincoln also remarked that past precedents should not stifle the choices that had to be made to combat the unprecedented nature of the rebellion. One needed to "think anew and act anew," particularly regarding the controversial suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

In our current period of political turmoil, it can be instructive to see how Lincoln used aspects of the past, such as the statement in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal." Lincoln interpreted this to mean that "all" meant all, not merely white men.

Lincoln's interpretation of the past has not always sat well with his contemporaries or with modern historians. Derber includes various opinions from these groups as well.

While not an appropriate book for those with no background on Lincoln, Derber's study is worthwhile for those who are seeking a different perspective. □

*Springfield historian Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein is the author of Lincoln and Medicine, among other books and articles. She is an occasional book reviewer for Illinois Times.*

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## MUSIC



Adam Larison on guitar and Rent Roman on saxophone during the April 10 Get Free Music Series concert at the UIS Field Station. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NAGHMEH FARZANEH

# Get Free Music Series: The art of the squirrel call

MUSIC | Scott Faingold

Now beginning its third year, the Get Free Music Series is a local showcase for free jazz and other fully-improvised music. Presented by the University of Illinois Springfield's music program, it provides one of the only local platforms for an exciting, though intrinsically non-commercial, form of music. Performers in the series have ranged from local musicians – often members of the UIS faculty, from within and without the music department – to musicians from as far away as New York City and the Netherlands. Get Free concerts have generally been held at the UIS Field Station, a small building a little south of campus overlooking Lake Springfield.

On Friday, April 10, California-based multi-instrumentalist and music producer Rent Romus was originally scheduled to perform as part of a trio with guitarist Adam Larison, an instructor in the UIS music program, and drummer Richard Gilman-Opalsky, a professor of political theory and philosophy in the UIS School of Politics and International Affairs. Both faculty members have extensive credits performing improvised music in addition to their teaching careers, but only one ended up participating in Friday's concert.

"Dr. Gilman-Opalsky is not able to perform tonight due to the ongoing labor issue at UIS," Larison said at the start of the

concert. Because of the current strike by the tenured and tenure track faculty, performing at a UIS event would entail the drummer/professor crossing the picket line (Larison is a non-tenure track UIS instructor, with membership in a separate union which is not currently on strike).

One of the strengths of fully-improvised music is adaptability, and Romus and Larison performed a free-wheeling and spirited set of spontaneous music as a duo to an audience about the size of a typical UIS class.

Musician Steve Lacey once said that "in composition you have all the time you want to decide what to say in 15 seconds, while in improvisation you have 15 seconds." Larison and Romus seemed to fully embrace this ethos, with short bursts of intertwined sound at different points evoking everything from be-bop rhythms to what sounded at one point like punk-infused surf music ("I considered quoting [surf guitar hero Dick Dale's] 'Miserlou' but it seemed too on the nose," Larison laughingly admitted after the concert).

Whimsy and profundity sat side-by-side in the performance, with Romus accenting Larison's stately guitar figures with a Chinese gong at one moment, then blowing into a small, rubberized contraption, later identified as a squirrel call, to create unexpected swathes of swooping and chattering sounds to the

mix – and incidentally attracting the curious attention of an actual squirrel which appeared on a branch for a few pensive moments in the field house's large picture windows.

Not to be outdone in the non-traditional equipment department, Larison at one point pummeled his guitar strings with a small horsehair bow manufactured specifically for guitars, creating a sustained attack normally unattainable by mere human hands. As is often the case with free players of this caliber, the communication between the two musicians was quick, almost telepathic.

Luckily, UIS does not operate the St. Louis venue Dissonant Works, so Gilman-Opalsky was able to participate in a scheduled concert there with Romus and Larison on Saturday, April 11, without violating his union obligations. He described the show afterward as "probably the best trio I ever played."

The next Get Free concert is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Dumb Records in downtown Springfield and will feature acclaimed free jazz band ECHO Party from Memphis, Tennessee. □

*Scott Faingold was the founding editor of Activator magazine and has been a staff reporter for Illinois Times and co-host of Old School Bleep, a music-centered podcast. He can be reached at scottfaingold@gmail.com.*

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**Russian and Chinese Influence in the Caribbean**  
Speaker: Ambassador Linda Tagliatela  
Thursday, May 7, 2026 \* Illini Country Club  
Reception: 5:30pm • Dinner 6:15pm • **FREE** Program 7:00pm



Join us for a fascinating evening focused on the Eastern Caribbean, a vibrant and diverse region grappling with a unique set of challenges. Ambassador Linda Tagliatela will discuss her experience as she served as the U. S. Ambassador to seven Caribbean nations (Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) from 2016 to 2023. She will discuss Russian and Chinese influence in the region, the impact of climate change, economic uncertainties after the pandemic and counter-narcotics efforts. The Ambassador will share her insights on efforts to address security challenges and to improve disaster preparedness.

Caribbean Buffet cost: \$45 members of WACCI/ \$55 non-members. Reservations are due by April 27 by sending to WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, Illinois 62705 or online (preferred) at [www.mywacci.org](http://www.mywacci.org)

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# MUSIC

## Music blooms in April

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

With this warmer than usual weather, we're seeing early bloomers of outdoor shows ever so slightly. It won't be long before all the patios, gardens and decks are full of live music at the appropriate venues around town. Let's see what's in store for this upcoming warm and maybe wet weekend.

Thursdays open our scheduled listings and here we have Mr. Micah Walk covering the grand opening of Vine & Rind's patio season in grand style. The west-side establishment features a large variety of self-serve wines, plus drinks and cheeses galore, hence the interesting and descriptive moniker along with charcuterie (I can spell it, but not pronounce it) boards, desserts and other goodies. Also, fortunately for us, they'll feature live music Thursdays on the patio (weather permitting of course) with first-come, first-served seating.

Other Thursday action includes Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo with Rick Gasparin at Mother Road Diner (also catch these two at Lime Street Cafe this weekend) and Kortney Leatherwood hosting the long-running and multiple BoS winning open mic/jam at Blue Grouch.

Here we go searching for a good time on a Friday night and if the weather stays warm and not wet, there are a few outdoor options. JackAsh (that's Jack Stege and Ashley Staley in possibly the best group name around) hit at Jamie's Route 66 doing all the hits, DreamCatchers make your dreams come true (if you want them to) at Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, Doug Brant could be sitting by the deck near the bay at Bar Bella, John Drake drifts through the plains into Boone's, Alex Pearce drops into Trail's End in Curran via Nashville and Joel Honey rolls into the station at The Railyard. Fridays continue with the Salty Bros. (that's Brandon Santini and Joel Gragg together again) at Harvest Market, Downstate getting into it at Buckhart Tavern, David Leatherwood docking at Pier 55 and Cool2Duel at Firefighters-Postal Lake Club as the entertainment part of the Light the Way ticketed event for Girls on the Run.

Racing off to Saturday, the big show can only be the third annual Holiday Concert at the Blue Grouch, featuring Sunshine Daydream, Menace to Sobriety and Pimpin' Henry as the musical acts plus food trucks and door prizes running all day from 2 to 9 p.m. in the large and lovely outdoor stage space. What holiday are we celebrating, one may wonder? Well if you have to ask, as they say..., but my uneducated guess puts



JackAsh plays Jamie's Route 66 this Friday evening.

us on the nearest Saturday to April 20 or "4-20" in the vernacular, slang and hipster talk. You must be 21 to attend and tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Party on, Garth.

I'm not even going to mess with the other 40 shows on Saturday night or the 15 some happening on Sunday, but please, please, please look for all the wonderful music on those days and nights, and even afternoons and evenings.

Let's move to Monday while remembering to get back to The Alamo and the decades long, Illinois Central Blues Club weekly bookings. Last week we had a world-traveling U.K. blues-rocker named Bex and this week there's a fantastic keyboardist, singer and songwriter named Bruce Katz who is phenomenal, to say the least. Do us all a favor and drop in on Bruce whose credentials include working with Gregg Allman, Butch Trucks, John Hammond and Delbert McClinton, as well as receiving several Blues Music Awards and other accolades for his years of working as a playing musician.

That's all folks... see you next week for an April wrap. □

# 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](http://www.illinoistimes.com) or by email [calendar@illinoistimes.com](mailto:calendar@illinoistimes.com).

## Thursday Apr 16

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

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

**Karaoke Night**  
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

**JCB Entertainment Karaoke**  
La Fiesta Chatham, Chatham, 6-10pm

**Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

**Karaoke at The Cidery**  
Obed & Isaac's The Cidery, 6-8pm.

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

**Kortney and friends open mic**  
The Blue Grouch, 7-11pm

**Karaoke**  
The Topsy Toad, 8pm-12am

**Micah Walk**  
Vine & Rind, 6-8pm

## Friday Apr 17

**TULO + EADS**  
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 8-11pm

**Grab the Mic Sing-A-Long**  
American Legion Post 809, 7-11pm

**Doug Brant**  
Bar Bella, 5-8pm

**John Drake**  
Boone's, 5:30-8:30pm

**Downstate**  
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 8-11pm

**Karaoke Night with Party Time DJ**  
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8-11:30pm

**The Piano Men**  
Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 8pm

**Cool2Duel**  
Firefighters-Postal Lake Club, 7-9pm

**Karaoke with Jeremy from Starlight Jams Karaoke**  
The Grainery, Pleasant Plains, 7-11pm.

**Salty Bros.**  
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

**JackAsh**  
Jamie's Route 66, Southern View, 6-9pm

**Karaoke Night**  
JB's Hideout, Blue Mound, 8pm

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

**Karaoke**  
The Lumpia House, 5-11pm

**DreamCatchers**  
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 6-8pm

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

**David Leatherwood**  
Pier 55 Lounge, 8-11pm

**Joel Honey**  
The Railyard, 6-9pm

**Not Petty**  
Rocco's, Decatur, 7-10pm

**Alex Pearce**  
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 7pm

**Hippies of the Heartland**  
The Winery, Decatur, 8-11pm

## Saturday Apr 18

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

**Glen Templeton**  
The Backroom Lounge, Riverton, 7pm

**BüK**  
The Bird Tavern, 7pm

**Sunshine Daydream, Menace to Sobriety, Pimpin' Henry**  
The Blue Grouch Pub, 2-9pm

**Frank Powell**  
Boone's, 6-9pm

**Billy Strums**  
Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 6-9pm

**Jonny Vodka**  
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7pm



Scarlet's Darling plays The Railyard Saturday.

**Mace Hathaway**  
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

**Bad Medicine**  
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30-10:30pm

**Hippies of the Heartland**  
Crazy Dog Saloon, Cantrall, 2pm

**99 Proof**  
Da Burg Bar & Grill, Warrensburg, 8-11pm

**Kortney Leatherwood**  
The Filling Station, Rochester, 8-11pm

**SERA MONSTERA**  
George Rank's, 8-11pm

**Jim Hollis**  
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 7-10pm

**Sushi Roll**  
Goodfellas Pub, 8pm

**Living Bratz**  
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

**Brandon Boston**  
Knob Hill Landscape Company (West Location), IL, 11am-2pm

**Toxic Johnny**  
Kuhl Tyme Korner, Jacksonville, 8pm-12am

**Karaoke Night**  
LargeCar Lounge, Lincoln, 8pm-12am

**Broken Stone**  
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 6-10pm

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

**Dyllan Martin**  
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 8-11pm

**Harris Trio**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

**Blue Country Revue with Not Petty**  
Mowie's Cue, 7:30-10:30pm

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

**Derrick Streibig**  
Oak Hills Country Club and Winery, Girard, 6-8pm

**Mandy Rose**  
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 3pm

**Greg Bickers Band**  
Pop's Place, Decatur, 2-5pm

**Scarlet's Darling**  
The Railyard, 6-9pm

**Karaoke by JCB Entertainment**  
The Range Bourbon & Brew, Chatham, 8pm-12am

**Wreckless Whiskey**  
Rocco's, Decatur, 7-10pm

**How2Go**  
Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 6pm

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

**Hat Trick**  
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 7-10pm

**Peaches & Bacon**  
Stella Coffee & Tea, 10am-12:30pm

**Mississippi Leghound**  
Town Hall Pub, Loami, 7-10pm

**Joe Stamm Band with Myron Elkins**  
Twisted Tree Music & Event Hall, Jacksonville, 7pm

## Sunday Apr 19

**Gary Williams**  
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

**PARK, Spitalfield, Danny Stevens**  
Dumb Records, 7pm

**Afternoon Delight**  
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

**Matt Combs**  
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

**Twitty and Lynn**  
Lincoln Square Theater, Decatur, 1pm

**White Lightnin'**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

**Debbie Hutson**  
Pease's at BUNN Gourmet, 12-2pm

**Jack Whittle Trio**  
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

**Open blues jam featuring B Douglas and The Travelers for Peace**  
Sky Lounge, 5-8pm

**Partners in Rhyme with Jen and Justin**  
The Topsy Toad, 2-5pm

**Al and Kathy Kitchen**  
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 3-6pm

## Monday Apr 20

**Mike Anderson - the Dulcimer Guy**  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-1pm

**Bruce Katz**  
The Alamo, 7pm

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

**Rockin' Robin Karaoke**  
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

## Tuesday Apr 21

**Mike Anderson - the Dulcimer Guy**  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-1pm

**Karaoke Night hosted by Alan Livengood**  
Fluid Lounge, 7pm

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

**Open jam**  
George Rank's, 8pm

**Karaoke**  
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 7-10pm.

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

## Wednesday Apr 22

**Mike Anderson - the Dulcimer Guy**  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-1pm

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

**Butter Jam Wednesday**  
Butternut Hut, 7-10pm

**Karaoke**  
Clique, 9pm-1am

**Midweek Music Meetup open mic with Tom Irwin**  
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

**The Fairweather Friends**  
Obed & Isaac's The Cidery, 6-8pm




**Midwest Toy and Comic Fest**  
 April 18-19,  
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 Orr Building, Illinois  
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**SPECIAL EVENTS | Springfield Comic-Con returns**

it Comic-Con is back and this year's event features Joey Fatone from NSync, Tara Reid from the *American Pie* trilogy and other films, Austin St. John from *Power Rangers*, Amanda Bearse from *Married With Children* and many other celebrities. See the Facebook page for the complete list of celebrities who will be on hand. Event includes a video game contest, costume contest, tribute cars, cosplay groups and more than 130 vendors. Family Day is Sunday and children 12 and younger are free accompanied by an adult. Free on-site parking. \$10 admission. For info on celebrity autograph prices and photos visit [midwesttoycomicfest.com](http://midwesttoycomicfest.com).

■ **Special Music Events**

**Capital Area Concert Band**  
 Tue., April 21, 7-8pm. For this concert only, the band will feature a song by a singing tuba player. Yes, that's correct – a singing tuba player. Don't miss this one-of-a kind feature. Use the east canopy entrance. Concert will be in the sanctuary. Other pieces to be presented include hymns, patriotic tunes, jazzy swing tunes and concert pieces. Free. Springfield First United Methodist Church, 2941 S. Koke Mill Road, 217-498-8072.

**The Holiday Concert**  
 Sat., April 18, 2-9pm. It's the third annual celebration of the unofficial holiday concert and it has grown to a full festival. This year will have three musical acts (Sunshine Daydream, Menace to Sobriety, Pimpin' Henry) across seven hours of entertainment, food trucks, door prizes and more. Attendees must be 21 or older. \$10 in advance/\$15 day of show. The Blue Grouch Pub, 510 W. Maple Ave. S., 217-527-8395.

**UIS Orchestra Concert**  
 Sun., April 19, 7pm. Features the UIS Orchestra, Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra and UIS String Academy. [uis.edu/music/](http://uis.edu/music/). Springfield Southeast High School, 2350 E. Ash St., 217-206-6240.

**ISYO & UIS Spring Showcase**  
 Sun., April 19, 4pm. Come

celebrate the blossoming of Spring with the Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra. Featuring all five levels of the ISYO, from the Starter Strings all the way up to the Symphony Orchestra, this musical extravaganza will see nearly 400 musicians take the stage. \$15, students 24 and younger \$5. Calvary Church Hazel Dell Campus, 501 W. Hazel Dell Road, 217-522-2838.

■ **Books & Authors**

**1913 Literary Lounge**  
 Sat., April 18, 2-4pm. Author Ashounta' Perkins-Reese will discuss her book, *Weak, in the Flesh: Sophia's Story* in the Carnegie Room. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-652-9489.

**Lincoln: The Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation in 100 Objects**  
 Wed., April 22, 7-8pm. ALPLM Executive director Christina Shutt and chief of acquisitions Dr. Ian Hunt discuss the book *Lincoln: The Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation in 100 Objects*. The book is the inspiration for the latest ALPLM Illinois Gallery exhibit and provides an insightful approach to interpreting the 16th president and highlighting many of the museum's most treasured artifacts. [presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](http://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov). Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

**Book Discussion**

Sat., April 18, 10am-12pm. Sean B. Carroll's book, *A Series of Fortunate Events*, will be discussed. Free. DeFrates Room, Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th St., 217-753-4900.

**Nina Ayers**

Sat., April 18, 10am-4pm. Author Nina Ayers will talk about her latest book, *Carol's Revenge*. at Midwest Toy and Comic Fest: Springfield Comic-Con 2. Ayers has penned three horror novels. \$10. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

■ **Theater & Comedy**

**The Wizard of Oz Ballet**  
 Sat., April 18, 2, 6pm and Sun., April 19, 2pm. Presented by the Springfield Youth Performance Group. SYPG's production of *The Wizard of Oz* will emphasize one of the novel's main points: that everyone has somewhere they truly belong, and good always triumphs over evil. Check website for ticket information in spring. [syppfoundation.org](http://syppfoundation.org). Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, 1200 W. Washington, 787-1595.

**Comedy open mic**

Thu., April 16, 7pm. Signups at 7pm with show at 7:30pm. Richard Bailey is the headliner with hosts Colton Lane and Wesley Riley. Presented by Cryptid Comix in association with Colton Lane Comedy and

Suite 704. Door 4 Brewing Co., Decatur, 1214 W. Cerro Gordo St., 217-330-2008.

#### **Make Me a Song**

Sun., April 19, 3pm. Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn is a celebration showcasing the work of one of the most acclaimed composer-lyricists in musical theater, a two-time Tony Award winner. Presented by Lyric Theatre -Illinois School of Music and/or College of Fine and Applied Arts. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

#### **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

Fri., April 17, 7:30pm, Sat., April 18, 7:30pm and Sun., April 19, 2pm. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Presented by the Springfield Theatre Centre. \$20-22. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

#### **Dance**

##### **Sock Hop Dance**

Sat., April 18, 7-10pm. Dance or just socialize. Event sponsored by Knights of Columbus #4175 Ladies Auxiliary. Includes music by a DJ, snacks and cash bar. \$5. Knights of Columbus Hall Council 4175, 2801 West St., 217-801-2882.

#### **Art & Architecture**

##### **“Back To Nature” Watercolor Exhibition opening reception**

Sat., April 18, 1-3pm. See master watercolor work by Donald Landry at this reception. The exhibit runs from April 14 through May 23. chatlib.org. Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

##### **Art History Happy Hour: John Kearney**

Thu., April 16, 5:30-7:30pm. Barbie LaFrance will talk about American artist John Kearney, who commissioned and installed the Bison sculpture in the courtyard of the Springfield Art Association in 1975. Made from recycled chrome car bumpers, this sculpture has become an iconic representation of our organization and the Enos Park neighborhood. springfieldart.org. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

##### **Capitol Creations**

Saturdays, 1-3pm. Through April 25. This series is about turning

everyday items into art. Choose a surface - concrete pavers, garden poles, coir rugs or wearable pieces like denim jackets, jeans, and bibs—and bring it to life with guided, step-by-step instruction. All supplies included. \$35-160. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-220-5334.

##### **Color, Craft and Create Night**

Mondays, 5:30-7:30pm. Through April 27. Spend some time working on a creative project in the inspiring atmosphere of the Dana-Thomas House. Artists must bring their own materials. Space will be provided to work and engage in conversation with other community members. Individuals, families and small groups welcome. Open to all ages. eventbrite.com. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

##### **Evening Tours of the Dana-Thomas House**

Fri., April 17, 5:30, 6:30pm and Tue., April 21, 5:30, 6:30pm. See and experience the Dana-Thomas House on this guided tour. This home is one of the best-preserved examples of Wright’s “organic architecture,” containing more than 100 pieces of custom furniture and over 250 works of original art glass. Each guided tour lasts approximately one hour. eventbrite.com. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

##### **Friday Night Studio Sessions**

Fridays, 6-8:30pm. Through April 24. This is a relaxed acrylic painting class designed for all skill levels. Each class features a new design with guided, step-by-step instruction, making it easy for beginners while still engaging for returning painters. Supplies are included. No experience necessary. Wear paint clothes. Snacks and covered drinks allowed. \$35-\$125. Studio on 6th, 215 S. Sixth St., 217-220-5334.

##### **“Meridian”**

Saturdays, 10am-3pm and Mondays-Fridays, 9am-5pm. Through April 24. In this exhibit, installation artists Amy Wolfe and Doug Dewitt reflect on the everyday objects and observations of the Midwest landscape. Interacting closely with what others might disregard, their work plays with the tension between natural and man-made materials in the process of decay. springfieldart.org. Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

**Paint the Town Saturday Night**  
Saturdays, 6-8:30pm. Through

May 4. A fun, feel-good night out - paint, laugh, snack, sip, repeat. No experience needed. Participants are guided step-by-step so they can relax and enjoy the night and leave with something they love. Snacks and covered drinks allowed. Wear paint clothes. \$35-\$120. Studio on 6th, 215 S. Sixth St., 2172205334.

##### **Thursday Makers at The Dana Thomas House**

Thu., April 16, 5:30-7:30pm. Step inside this Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece and spend the evening creating something unique. Each session features a different hands-on project - painted hats, storybook stacks, glowing lanterns, resin art, doormats and more. No experience needed, all supplies included. \$35-\$180. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-220-5334.

#### **Film & Television**

##### **History in Film for Kids: The Muppet Movie**

Thu., April 16, 1-3pm. This 1979 film stars an iconic frog who journeys to Hollywood seeking success in show business. Rated G. Also learn some history of Springfield. Presented by the library, Sangamon Valley Collection and the state historic sites. lincolnlbrary.info. Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-785-5030.

#### **Food & Drink**

##### **Table Setting Luncheon**

Fri., April 17, 11am-2pm and Sat., April 18, 11am-2pm. Celebrate the 250th birthday of the great nation and artistry, community and giving back. The annual Table Setting Luncheon & Craft Exhibit, hosted by the Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club, brings together local talent and supporters of the arts. Food service 11am to 1pm. \$15 at door or available from club members. Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club, 2626 S. Pasfield St., 217-891-3206.

#### **History**

##### **ABCs of the DAR**

Sat., April 18, 1-3pm. Do you think a Revolutionary War Patriot might be hiding somewhere in your family tree? Not sure where to begin your search? Join members of the Captain William Penny Chapter, NSDAR, for an informative and inspiring presentation on how to start tracing your



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## THE CALENDAR

lineage back to the American Revolution. Bring along what you know - your grandparents' or great-grandparents' names, approximate birth years and places of birth - and get ready to dive into your family history. [chathamlib.org](http://chathamlib.org). Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce St., 217-483-2713.

**Civil War living history**  
Sat., April 18, 10am-4pm. Speak to historians and re-enactors of the Civil War. Then check out the museum. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

**Growing Up in a Frank Lloyd Wright House**  
Fri., April 17, 6pm. Dinner and meeting will feature a multimedia presentation by Kim Bixler about living in her family's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in Rochester, New York, from 1977 to 1994. Bixler will recount the pitfalls of owning and living in a Wright-designed home. Tickets include appetizers, wine, four-course dinner and cash bar. [dana-thomas.org](http://dana-thomas.org). Members \$90, non-members \$100. The Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel, 835 S. Second St., 217-788-9452.

**Sangamon County Historical Society Program**  
Tue., April 21, 5:30-7pm. Mary Alice Davis will discuss growing up on Route 66. She and her family lived at the A Lincoln Tourist Court in 1945 as gas rationing ended. She and her brother, Robert, grew up at the motel, which never closed except for an hour on Christmas Day to have Christmas dinner. [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-525-1961.

### ■ Holiday Happenings

**Chatham Police Easter Egg Hunt**  
Sat., April 18, 9am. Chatham Police Department's Annual Search and Seizure Easter Egg Hunt with a Candy Land theme. Veterans Memorial Square, Chatham, 101 N. Main St., 217-483-2453.

### ■ Fundraisers and Galas

**105th Annual NAACP Lincoln-Douglass Freedom Fund Celebration**  
Fri., April 17, 6-10pm. Honor the past and strengthen the future at this event with the theme of Protect Black History! Protect Black Futures! Secure a seat [paypal.com/ncp/payment/PDJLRFBTW8HQJ](https://paypal.com/ncp/payment/PDJLRFBTW8HQJ). Raffle tickets

also available for \$20. See the Facebook site for more info. \$65. Pole Barn Chic, 4491 Old Chatham Road, 217-789-2721.

**Diners, Drive-ins and Duels**  
Sat., April 18, 6pm. A fundraiser for Kemmerer Village, a home for children in Assumption. VIP dinner and show by Howl2Go at 6pm. Dinner is a horseshoe bar. 1950s attire encouraged. General admission at 7:30pm. VIP dinner and show \$45, general admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-226-2130.

**Hippy Run**  
Sat., April 18, 11am. Poker Run for the Vietnam Veterans Vigil. Signup at 11am. Kick stands up at 12:30pm. Ends at Northenders VFW Post 10302 with after party, live music, food and auction. VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Road, 217-416-9680, 217-415-8877, 217-638-2013.

**Light the Way**  
Fri., April 17, 7-9pm. Help "light the way" for the next generation of strong women at this Girls on the Run event. Includes hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, raffle and a world-class interactive piano show by Cool2Duel. Sponsored by Levi, Ray & Shoup Inc. and Deb and Barry Shultz. \$40. Firefighters-Postal Lake Club, 940 W. Lake Shore Dr., 217-726-9808.

**Pennies for the Park 3: Happy Hour**  
Thu., April 16, 5-7pm. A fundraiser for The Friends of Robin Roberts Stadium. Bring some pennies or other financial contributions to donate. In the maintenance building. Lanphier Ball Park, 1415 N. Grand Ave E.

**Relay for Life of Springfield**  
Sun., April 19, 12-3pm. There is still time to sign up for this event which supports and recognize those affected by cancer whether it be survivors, their caretakers, those in the midst of their battle or the loved ones we have lost. Includes track walking, speeches from survivors, food trucks, luminaria ceremony, bags tournament, spike ball, face painting and more. Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, 1200 W. Washington, 800-227-2345.

### ■ Local Government

**District 186 Board of Education**  
Mon., April 20, 6:30pm. Regular bimonthly meeting of the board.

Open to the public. District 186 School Administrative Office, 3063 Fiat Ave., 217-525-4206.

**Lincoln Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Wed., April 22, 4:45pm. In the Lincoln Library Bicentennial Room. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

**Springfield City Council**  
Tue., April 21, 5:30-9pm. Regular meeting in City Council chamber. Municipal Center West, 300 S. Seventh St., 217-789-2151.

**Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority**  
Mon., April 20, 12pm. Regular monthly meeting of the board of directors in the Administrative Office Boardroom at the Bank of Springfield Center. [theboscenter.com](http://theboscenter.com). BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Seventh and Adams streets, 217-788-8800.

### ■ Children's Corner

**Funshop Kids Club**  
Fridays, 3:30-6pm. Through April 24. This is a fun and welcoming drop-off program where children ages 6 to 12 explore themes through crafts, STEM projects and interactive play. It includes group games, hands-on stations and active play. Pack a snack or light meal for your child. Kid's Club encourages creativity, teamwork, and a love of learning—all while having a great time! Register at [bit.ly/Funshop\\_KidsClub1](http://bit.ly/Funshop_KidsClub1). Activity #140910. \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents for 1 day only. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

**Funshop: Little Chefs**  
Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm. Through April 30. In this four-week, hands-on program, our littlest chefs will explore the world of cooking through simple, safe and tasty recipes. All classes blended ages 3 to 5. Activity #150968. Register at [bit.ly/Funshop\\_LittleChefs1](http://bit.ly/Funshop_LittleChefs1). Residents \$60, non-residents \$70. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

**Funshop: Little Creators**  
Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm. Through April 28. Get a little messy in this four-week, hands-on art program designed to spark creativity and self-expression. Caregivers can join in. All classes blended ages 3 to 5 years. Activity #150971. Register at [bit.ly/SPD\\_Art-Explore-1](http://bit.ly/SPD_Art-Explore-1). Residents \$60, non-residents \$70. Lincoln

Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

#### Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales: Night

Tue., April 21, 9-11:30am. Look, a shooting star! Join the ALPLM's Education Team as it shares stories and activities exploring the night. Early-learning program for children up to 5 years old and their caregivers. Registration required. Two sessions are offered. presidentlincoln.illinois.gov. Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

#### Weekend Play & Stay

Sat., April 18, 9:30-11:30am. Little ones can dive into two hours of playful discovery. From building block towers to creative play and interactive storytime, every week brings new ways to spark imagination and connect with other families. For children ages 16 months to 5 years with caregiver. \$10 per child when registered online, \$10 per child day-of when bringing a friend, or \$20 per child for drop-ins. Lincoln Park Funshop, 1601 N. Fifth St., 217-753-6234.

#### Lectures & Meetings

##### 6th Annual Women's Business Showcase

Thu., April 16, 4:30-7pm. Participants can sip, shop and socialize with nearly 70-plus vendors. wecispringfield.org. Free. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-816-5415.

##### Photography Workshop

Sat., April 18, 9-11am, 1-3pm. Learn how to capture great images on a camera or cell phone using proven professional methods. Members \$20, nonmembers \$25. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

#### Bulletin Board

##### First-Time Homebuyer Education Workshops: Part I and Part II

Sat., April 18, 10am-2pm. Bridget Finn will lead two four-hour education sessions for first-time homebuyers. Participants must attend both sessions to earn a certificate that many mortgage lenders require for down payment and closing cost assistance programs. RSVP by April 16 to BridgetF@sha1.org or call. Free. Springfield Housing Authority, 200 North 11th St., 217.753.5757 x209.

#### Game Night at the Dana-Thomas House

Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm. Through April 29. Bring a favorite board game, family and friends for an evening of fun at the Dana-Thomas House. A table will be provided in one of the historic rooms. Non-alcoholic drinks and/or light snacks are allowed. Open to all ages. Reservations required due to limited space. eventbrite.com. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

#### Healthy Food Distribution

Mon., April 20, 1-3pm. This is a drive-up distribution. Clear a spot in the trunk or back seat. Line starts at intersection of McCreery Avenue and Edwards Street. No registration or ID required. Start time subject to change pending length of line. Central Illinois Foodbank, 1937 E. Cook St., 217-522-4022.

#### Meet and Greet with Dr. Terrance Jordan

Thu., April 16, 5:30-7pm. Meet and hear from Dr. Terrance Jordan, the new superintendent of Springfield School District 186. Open house hosted by the district and Old State Capitol. Free. Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-5030.

#### Shred and Food Drive

Sat., April 18, 9-11am. Limit paper items to three bags and place paper items and food donations in the trunk. A volunteer will remove them. Free. Anthology Financial Partners - Ameriprise Financial, 2621 Montega Dr., 217-787-2435.

#### Special Recreation Cooking Class

Wed., April 22, 5:30-6:30pm. This inclusive cooking class is a fun, hands-on experience designed for individuals of all abilities. Participants will build confidence, independence and creativity in the kitchen. Each week, the class will make a simple, tasty recipe with guidance from instructors and volunteers. Register at bit.ly/SPD\_SpecRec\_CookingClass. Activity #170205. ahawkins@springfieldparks.org. Residents \$5, non-residents \$7.50 per session. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

#### Rob O'Neill

Sat., May 2, 6:30 p.m. Rob O'Neill, the former Navy SEAL known for firing the shots that killed Osama bin Laden, will be the keynote speaker for the first event in the "Heroes at

Home Plate" speaker series. \$40-\$55, VIP meet and greet \$150. Shoesbaseball.com. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511,

#### Russian and Chinese Influence in the Caribbean

Thu., May 7, 5:30 p.m. Former U.S. Ambassador Linda Tagliatela will discuss her experiences as she served as ambassador to seven Caribbean nations from 2016 to 2023. She will discuss Russian and Chinese influence in the region, the impact of climate change, economic uncertainties after the pandemic and counter-narcotics efforts. Reception at 5:30pm, dinner 6:15pm and program 7pm. \$45 for members of WACCI/ \$55 for non-members. Reservations due by April 27 by sending to WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, Illinois 62705 or online at www.mywacci. Illini Country Club, 1601 S. Illini Road.

#### Health & Fitness

##### Health and Wellness Fair

Tue., April 21, 1-3pm. This UIS event brings together campus and local businesses to promote physical, mental and overall well-being. Includes free health screenings, chair massages, interactive demos and activities, a chance to learn about local health, fitness, mental health and wellness resources, giveaways and wellness tips. No registration required. uis.edu. Free. University of Illinois at Springfield, 1 University Plaza, 217-206-6658.

#### Sports

##### Run for the Rose 5K

Sat., April 18, 10am. This scenic 5K run/walk takes place at the historic New Salem State Park, starting and finishing at West of Wise Winery. Registration includes chip-timed 5K run/walk, wine tasting tickets and wine glass. westofwise.com. \$35. West of Wise Winery, Petersburg, 14096 State Highway 97, 217-632-6003.

##### UIS Baseball

Fri., April 17, 6pm. The Prairie Stars host Maryville University in the first game of a four-game homestand. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-753-0700.

##### UIS Baseball

Sat., April 18, 1, 4pm and Sun., April 19, 12pm. The Prairie Stars face Maryville University. UIS Baseball Field, 2171 University Dr., 217-206-6600.



# UPSCALE Collectible Sale

Not your average garage sale! Quality items including furniture, antiques, jewelry, home décor, children's clothes, toys and more! Shoppers will pay \$10 admission fee on Friday. Saturday admission fee and merchandise are 50% off! Sunday - no admission fee and bring your own bag or cart and fill it up for a donation!

Donate your good-quality items to APL! We cannot accept adult shoes or clothes unless new with tags, computers, monitors, books, magazines, mattresses, large appliances or TVs.

Drop off your items at 3329 S. Veterans Pkwy during the days and times below: Saturday, April 18 through Tuesday, April 21 from Noon to 7 p.m.

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Friday, April 24 - Noon to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, April 25 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday, April 26 - 9 a.m. to Noon

3329 S. Veterans Pkwy (Old Party City next to Hobby Lobby)

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## JOIN US FOR AN AUTHOR TALK!

### MEET TONY WRIGHT



Author of the True Crime Book *Things Aren't Right: The Disappearance of the Yuba County Five*

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | TIME: 3:00-4:30PM

Join us for an intriguing conversation with Tony Wright as he discusses his book and explores the mysterious disappearance of the Yuba County Five.




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# MARKETPLACE



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**Basic Rhumba** -  
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**East Coast Swing/Jitterbug I** -  
7:15 – 8:15 pm

**Basic Tango** -  
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## Springfield Flea Market

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Illinois State Fairgrounds

Illinois Building

8:00-3:00

\$2.00 Admission

www.springfieldfleamarket.net

## I saw you in Lowes by the carpet.

You were blocking the aisles. You looked up and apologized to me. I replied, "I would have watched all day." I asked you if you had a good man in your life. You replied, "he died 2 years ago." You are blonde and beautiful... and I find myself wishing I had said more in the moment.  
**217-488-6520**

Nudo Products, Inc. seeks a Quality Manager to work in Springfield, IL to be responsible for compliance with all company policies and procedures including safety regulations, ISO 9001, and other product/company certification requirements (UKCA, UL, NAMI, etc.). Salary range of \$79,352.00 - \$94,500.00 annually. Comprehensive benefits package includes Health, dental, and vision insurance; 401(k) with company match; Paid holidays and PTO; Annual bonus potential; Company-paid life insurance; Flexible spending accounts (FSA); Disability insurance (STD/LTD); and Voluntary Benefits (Accident, Critical Illness, Hospital Indemnity, Permanent Life). Submit resume to Donna Hinkle, HR Manager at donna.hinkle@nudo.com. Must put Requisition ID No. QMgr-62703 on resume.

### Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
RAYMOND C. MORRIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).  
CASE NO. 2025FC000183  
Property Address: 908 N. 4th St. Springfield, IL 62702  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE  
Public notice is hereby given that in pursu-

ance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on February 11, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on May 19, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:  
Commonly known as: 908 N. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62702  
P.I.N.: 14-27.0-155-024  
First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$58,264.48  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.  
Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is:  
Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale.  
This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC  
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120  
Naperville, IL 60563  
(630) 453-6960  
midwestleadings@dallegal.com  
8051-963731

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS  
New American Funding, LLC Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Mark G. Maddox, III; Carol E. Herren; City of Springfield; Illinois Department of Revenue Defendants.  
Case No. 2025FC000146  
625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702  
Judge Adam Giganti  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 14, 2026, Paula Crouch will on May 12, 2026, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, in person only at 200 S. 9th St, 2nd Floor Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
Commonly known as 625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702  
Parcel Number(s): 14-22.0-180-041  
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.  
Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection.  
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the 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 call Plaintiff's Attorney, MDK

Legal, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 25-016531.  
Edward R. Peterka  
MDK LEGAL  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
One East Wacker, Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Telephone: 312-651-6700  
Fax: 614-220-5613  
Attorney No.: 6220416  
Email: statee-file@mdklegal.com  
8051-963597

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Sangamon - Springfield, ILLINOIS  
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST Plaintiff  
vs.  
PATRICK G. O'DONNELL; VERA M. O'DONNELL; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant  
25 FC 188  
CALENDAR  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on May 6, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Harvatin Law Office, 1100 South 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62703, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-23.0-201-016.  
Commonly known as 2029 NORTH 23RD STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702.  
The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgement of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.  
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-333594  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com  
I3284137

NOTICE OF SALE  
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
CHRISTY STUBBS, MORTON COMMUNITY BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO MARINE BANK, SPRINGFIELD AND HICKORY POINT BANK AND TRUST, Defendants.  
CASE NO. 25-FC-199  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1515 S 7TH ST. SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on December 17, 2025, the following described real estate, to-wit:  
Permanent Index Number: 22-03.0-105-010

Commonly known as: 1515 S 7th St., Springfield, IL 62703  
will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on May 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois. The Judgment amount is \$76,233.21.  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. 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 the 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 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. For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719  
The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. 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 the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.  
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.  
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,  
Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931), Its Attorney Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihar, LLC  
Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931)  
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC  
Attorneys at Law  
601 East William Street  
Decatur, IL 62523  
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com  
Telephone: (217) 422-1719  
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754  
8051-961040

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Death Claim**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
Estate of BETTY RUTH HART, Deceased.  
NO. 2026-PR-115  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the death of Betty Ruth Hart of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 26, 2026, to Michael Haii, 2432 S. Holmes Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62704, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Schuyler E. Frashier, Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.  
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative or both, on or before September 26, 2026, and 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 10 days after it has been filed.  
Dated this 8th day of April, 2026.  
Schuyler E. Frashier - 06342113  
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79  
Springfield, IL 62705-0079 217/544-4868  
sfrashier@barberlaw.com  
367473

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
ESTATE OF ROSA A. STANLEY, Deceased.  
Case No. 2026 PR 000126  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of ROSA A. STANLEY. Letters of Office were issued to Timothy A. Stanley, as Independent Executor, whose address is 7899 S. Timber Cliff Lane, Trafalgar, IN 46181. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 75 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 October 16, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 75 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 April 8, 2026  
Attorneys for Independent Executor:  
Sorling Northrup  
Ross D. Stone (6349880)  
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: rdstone@sorlinglaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In Re the Estate of:  
PAULA L. BUSSMANN, A/K/A PAULA L.  
BALAKAS,  
Deceased.  
Case No.: 2026PR000006  
CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Paula L. Bussmann, A/K/A Paula L. Balakas, of Rocky Mount, Missouri. Letters of Office were issued on February 2, 2026, to Kristin Bussmann, as Independent Executor, whose address is c/o her attorney of record, Barry O. Hines, 1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

The Estate will be administered without Court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (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 Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 16, 2026, and 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.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2026.  
Kristin Bussmann  
Independent Executor  
Barry O. Hines - 01220918  
Attorney at Law  
1224 Centre West Drive, Suite 200A  
Springfield, IL 62704  
Telephone: (217) 698-8444  
Email: Barry@HinesLaw.net

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
Estate of:  
SHERRY JO POWERS,  
Deceased.  
NO. 2026-PR-124  
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Sherry Jo Powers of Glenarm, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 2, 2026, to Derek Powers, 1410 E. Knox, Springfield, Illinois 62703, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Bernard G. Segatto, III, Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP, P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the representative or both, on or before October 12, 2026, and 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 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2026.  
Bernard G. Segatto, III - 06190753  
Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP  
P.O. Box 79  
Springfield, IL 62705-0079  
(217) 544-4868  
bsegatto@barberlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
PROBATE DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
CARL A. SCHMITT, DECEASED  
Case #2026-PR-78  
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of CARL A. SCHMITT. Letters of Office have been issued to MARY LYNN HOFFER, 23019 Joyce Lane, Naperville, IL 60564, as Independent Administrator, 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 Administrator, or both, on or before October 15, 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 Administrator and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2026.  
Patrick J. Sheehan  
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.  
1215 South 4th Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217)544-0701

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS  
ESTATE OF:  
DONNA COLLINS,  
Deceased.  
Case No. 2026-PR-118  
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the death of DONNA COLLINS. Letters Testamentary were issued on March 31, 2026, appointing GREGORY A. BRIDGWATER, 1675 Grace Ridge Road, New Berlin, IL 62670, as Executor, whose attorney is Matthew A. Cook of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., 900 Community Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703, Phone: (217) 525-1571.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois or with the representative, or both, within 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 Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed with the Circuit Court Clerk.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, 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. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your Circuit Clerk for more information or visit [www.illinoislegalaid.org](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org).

Dated: March 31, 2026

Attorneys for Estate:  
Creighton R. Castle, ARDC No. 6215856  
crcastle@gwcbllaw.com  
Matthew A. Cook, ARDC No. 6347528  
mcook@gwcbllaw.com  
GIFFIN, WINNING, COHEN & BODEWES, P.C.  
efile@GiffinWinning.com  
900 Community Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 525-1571  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Sangamon County, Illinois  
8051-963624

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JOHN D. SGRO, Deceased  
NO. 2026PR000119  
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of John D. Sgro, Deceased.

Letters of Office were issued on March 31, 2026, to Michael T. Sgro, 2458 Arrowhead Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 13th day of October, 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 31st day of March, 2026.  
Gregory P. Sgro  
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP  
1119 S. Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 789-1200

Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit  
Sangamon County, Illinois  
Estate of Elizabeth Marie Maher, Deceased  
No. 2026-PR-000120  
Claim Notice

Notice is given of the death of Elizabeth Marie Maher. Notice is given to all creditors of Elizabeth Marie Maher that Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Elizabeth Marie Maher Deceased were issued on March 30, 2026, to Mary Coker, 190 Craven Rd. Springfield IL and Judith Maher, 7025 Pet Haven Lane Boise ID 83716 as Co-Executors. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth, Springfield IL 62701 or with the Co-executors or both within 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 Co-Executors within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 30th day of March, 2026  
Daniel Maher, Attorney, 412 East  
Lawrence, Springfield IL 62702, 217-  
522-4575  
dan.maher@sbcglobal.net

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

NEWREZ LLC,  
Plaintiff,  
Vs.  
DENNIS L. GERMANN, et. al.,  
Defendants.  
Re: Estate of JERI L. GERMANN, )  
Deceased.  
2026-FC-36  
NOTICE  
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF  
JERI L. GERMANN (a/k/a JERI L. LoPINTO):  
Notice is given of the death of Jeri L.  
Germann (a/k/a Jeri L. LoPinto). The Court  
has appointed Dan E. Way as Special  
Representative for Jeri L. Germann,  
deceased, in the above-entitled cause  
seeking a Judgment of Foreclosure and  
Sale on property located at 3140 S. Allis  
St., Springfield, IL 62703

The address of the Special Representative is Way Law Offices, LLC, 1100 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. You may direct any questions you have to him, or you may retain counsel of your own choosing, or represent yourself, or do nothing. 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 [efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm](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 [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).

/s/ Dan E. Way  
Special Representative for  
Jeri L. Germann, deceased  
Dan E. Way #6204735  
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC  
1100 S. Fifth Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Ph.: 217-525-7003  
dan@danwaylaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
PROBATE DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
DONALD W. HOAGLAND, DECEASED  
Case #2026-PR-113  
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DONALD W. HOAGLAND. Letters of Office have been issued to JENNIFER FERNANDES, 8 Pine Cone Dr., Jacksonville, IL 62650, and RACHEL HOAGLAND, 969 E. College Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650, 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 October 9, 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 26th day of March, 2026.  
William P. 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 ELIZABETH ZALAR,  
Deceased.  
Case No. 2026 PR 000111

CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given to creditors of the estate of the death of Elizabeth Zalar. Letters of Office were issued to Amy Heaton, as Independent Executor, whose address is 1025 Red Clover Drive, Aurora, IL 60504. 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 October 2, 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: March 24, 2026  
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 OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
RITA A. ISRAEL, Deceased  
NO. 2024PR000189  
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Rita A. Israel, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on May 2, 2024, to Ryan David Israel, 2001 15th Street N, Apt 719, Arlington, VA 22201, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 5th day of October, 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 24th day of March, 2026.

Gregory P. Sgro  
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP  
1119 S. Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 789-1200

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
DEBORAH BELLE POHL, Deceased  
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE  
NO. 2026PR000109

Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Deborah Belle Pohl, Deceased. Letters of Office were issued on March 23, 2026, to Ashley M. Harris, 19 Skyview Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP, 1119 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703. 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 5th day of October, 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 23rd day of March, 2026.  
Gregory P. Sgro  
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP  
1119 S. 6th Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 789-1200

## Name Change

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In the matter of the Petition of  
Cameron Michael Romero  
For change of name to  
Cameron Lee Schleyhahn  
Case No. 2026-MR-000121  
PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 2, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Cameron Michael Romero to Cameron Lee Schleyhahn pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.  
Dated: April 16, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In the matter of the Petition of  
Fred Jaydin Lee Simpson V  
For change of name to  
Jaydin Lee Simpson  
Case No. 2026-MR-000041  
PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on May 19, 2026 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Fred Jaydin Lee Simpson V to Jaydin Lee Simpson pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.  
Dated: April 2, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In the matter of the Petition of  
Liam Jacari Wade  
For change of name to  
Liam Luka Lewis  
and

Grayson Reese Wade  
For change of name to  
Grayson Reese Lewis  
Case No. 2026-MR-000089  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
Public Notice is hereby given that on June

2, 2026 we will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Liam Jacari Wade to Liam Luka Lewis and from Grayson Reese Wade to Grayson Reese Lewis pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.  
Dated: April 2, 2026

## Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RAYMOND C. MORRIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).

CASE NO. 2025FC000183

Property Address: 908 N. 4th St. Springfield, IL 62702

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on February 11, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on May 19, 2026, commencing at 9:00AM, Sangamon County Building, Sangamon South Auditorium, 1 Copley Plaza (Old SJR Building) 1st Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:

THE SOUTH 24 FEET OF LOT 9 AND THE NORTH 8 FEET OF LOT 8 IN BLOCK 1 OF B.S. EDWARD'S SECOND NORTH ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly known as: 908 N. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62702

P.I.N.: 14-27.0-155-024

First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$58,264.48 IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), AND 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g)-1 OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.

Terms of Sale: CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County. The person to contact for information regarding this property is: Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-6960. For bidding instructions, visit [www.dallegal.com](http://www.dallegal.com) 24 hours prior to sale. This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC  
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120  
Naperville, IL 60563  
(630) 453-6960  
[midwestpleadings@dallegal.com](mailto:midwestpleadings@dallegal.com)  
8051-963731

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS  
New American Funding, LLC  
Plaintiff,

vs.

Mark G. Maddox, III; Carol E. Herren; City of Springfield; Illinois Department of Revenue

Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC000146

625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702

Judge Adam Giganti

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 14, 2026, Paula Crouch will on May 12, 2026, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, in person only at 200 S. 9th St, 2nd Floor Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: Lot Four (4) in Block Four (4) of Samuel Carpenter's Subdivision.

Except all coal and other minerals underlying said lands, together with the right to mine and remove same.

Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Commonly known as 625 East Wood Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702

Parcel Number(s): 14-22.0-180-041

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount.

The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds.

The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the 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 (HOMEOWNER), 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 call Plaintiff's Attorney, MDK Legal, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 25-016531.

Edward R. Peterka

MDK LEGAL

Attorneys for Plaintiff

One East Wacker, Suite 1250

Chicago, IL 60601

Telephone: 312-651-6700

Fax: 614-220-5613

Attorney. No.: 6220416

Email: [statee-file@mdklegal.com](mailto:statee-file@mdklegal.com)

8051-963597

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF Sangamon - Springfield,

ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Plaintiff

vs.

PATRICK G. O'DONNELL; VERA M.

O'DONNELL; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS  
Defendant

25 FC 188

CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on May 6, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Harvatin Law Office, 1100 South 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62703, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

THE SOUTH 33 FEET OF LOT 151 AND THE NORTH 22 FEET OF LOT 152 IN FRED W. WANLESS' EAST VIEW ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECOND PLAT; EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS SAID COAL AND MINERALS. P.I.N. 14-23.0-201-016.

Commonly known as 2029 NORTH 23RD STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702.

The real estate is: single family residence.

If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgement of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-333594

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
[intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com)  
I3284137

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF SANGAMON SPRINGFIELD,

SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

CHRISTY STUBBS, MORTON COMMUNITY

BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO MARINE BANK, SPRINGFIELD AND HICKORY

POINT BANK AND TRUST,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 25-FC-199

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

1515 S 7TH ST.

SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above Court entered in the above entitled cause on December 17, 2025, the following described real estate, to-wit:

Lot 4 in Block 4 in Elijah Iles' Subdivision of Lands Number 3 in the City of Springfield, as platted by the plat recorded in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Illinois, in Book 71 of Deeds at Page 546.

Also, part of Lot 3 in Block 4 of said Elijah Iles' Subdivision of Lands Number 3 to the City of Springfield; commencing at the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, thence running East along the South line of said Lot 3 a distance of 33.75 feet to a point in said line marked by a drill hole in concrete driveway and designated Point "C" on plat hereinafter described thence North parallel with the West line of said Lot 3 a distance of 3.51 feet to a spike in concrete driveway designated Point "B" on said plat, thence West 33.75 feet to a point in the West line of said Lot 3 marked by a drill hole in concrete pavement and which is 4.25 feet North of the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, thence South along the West line of said Lot 3, 4.25 feet to the place of beginning; the plat of survey referred to above being one made by Morgan P. O'Brien during the Month during the Month of April 1950 and filed for record in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illinois on April 11, 1950, Document Number 236534.

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.

Permanent Index Number: 22-03.0-105-010

Commonly known as: 1515 S 7th St., Springfield, IL 62703

will be offered for sale and sold at public vendue on May 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the Sangamon County Complex, County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois. The Judgment amount is \$76,233.21.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Sheriff of Sangamon County. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the mortgaged real estate arose prior to the sale. 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 the 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 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. For information contact Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 601 East William Street, Decatur, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719

The purchaser of a condominium unit at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, who takes possession of a condominium unit pursuant to a court order or a purchaser who acquires title

from a mortgagee shall have the duty to pay the proportionate share, if any, of the common expenses for the unit which would have become due in the absence of any assessment acceleration during the 6 months immediately preceding institution of an action to enforce the collection of assessments, and which remain unpaid by the owner during whose possession the assessments accrued. If the outstanding assessments are paid at any time during any action to enforce the collection of assessments, the purchaser shall have no obligation to pay any assessments which accrued before he or she acquired title. 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 the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), 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.

Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931), Its Attorney Of Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC

Kristin J. Conwell (#6294931)

HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC

Attorneys at Law

601 East William Street

Decatur, IL 62523

Email: [Non-CookPleadings@hsbatys.com](mailto:Non-CookPleadings@hsbatys.com)

Telephone: (217) 422-1719

Facsimile: (217) 422-1754

8051-961040

## Notice by Publication

SECTION 001113

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for the construction of the Curran Loop Watermain Extension for Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District, will be received by the OWNER until 10AM on April 30, 2026, at the office of Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District, CGTPWD, 3382 Hazlett Road, Springfield, Illinois 62707-2522, and will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after such date and time shall be returned unopened.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Payment Bond and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following:

CGTPWD, 3382 Hazlett Road, Springfield, Illinois 62707-2522  
MECO Engineering Company, Inc., 1301 E. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363  
Copies may be obtained at the office of MECO Engineering Co., 1301 E. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363.

Electronic copies may be obtained for no cost by contacting: MECO Engineering Co., Inc., 1301 E. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363, Phone No. 217-285-2550; or MECO Engineering Co., Inc. 3120 Palmyra Road, Hannibal, MO 63401, Phone No.

573-221-4048. Also, paper copies of the Contract Documents, including Plans and Specifications may be obtained at MECO Engineering Co., Inc. Corporate Office at 3120 Palmyra Road, Hannibal, MO 63401, Phone No. 573-221-4048 for a non-refundable fee of \$250.00.

The Proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check drawn on a solvent Illinois bank or trust company made payable to the CGTPWD, or a Bid Bond issued by a surety licensed to conduct business in the state of Illinois and appearing on the U.S. Treasury Department's most current list (Circular 570, as amended), in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid. The Bid Bond may be retained by the Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District, as a guaranty that if the Proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the Contract and file an acceptable Performance Bond and Payment Bond within fifteen (15) days after the award of the Contract.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

The award of Contracts on this project shall be predicated upon competitive bidding, with award being made to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Said lowest Bidders shall be determined for each Contract by summarizing the applicable low base bids.

Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all informalities in the bids. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the specified time for receipt of bids.

Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District

Sangamon County, Illinois

Date April 6, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE

Wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, the below storage facility gives notice of the sale under said act; Monday the 27th day of April, 2026 at 10:00 AM, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com), and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces 10 Federal Storage, 2225 J David Jones Pkwy, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 600-2778 Greg Davis 498. Thomas Harris Jr 736. Marci Schneider 568. Louis Day 625/588. Breona Gaiter 232. Rachel Welch 609. Lynda Michelle Grant 509. Shane Wilkins P48/P49/P50/P51. Jasmine Campbell 709. Donte Hester 115. Chad Bergquist 283. Gregory Gordon P43. Corina Coffin 189. Hell Jackson 131. Jeremy Word 445/446. June Word 5. Janice Rutledge 532; 10 Federal Storage, 3500 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 387-3951 Lakeisha Price A59. Candace Armstrong B192/B193/ B194. Rhonda Wright A25/A26/A27. Erick Anderson A105; 10 Federal Storage, 900 E Straight St, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 286-1550 Gynelah Coleman 150. Ulises Leon F387. John DeGroot 147. Dexter Sisson 161. Carolyn Cummings 6. Austin Gutierrez 235. Annetta Robinson 2. Van Converse 157. Van Converse 159; 10 Federal Storage, 500 W Browning Rd, Springfield, IL, 62703 (217) 339-3865 Jacob Ray 19A. Allie Holmes 216D/217D

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT

MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,  
v.  
ESTATE OF BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased;  
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS; GREGORY HULLUM; ADRIAN HULLUM; CLYDE BROWN, JR.; ROBERT BROWN; CHARLENE ALEXANDER; KAREN EUBANKS; CARLA COOK; MARCUS BATES; KAPRICE BATES; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased; UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.  
Case No. 2025-FC-83  
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
To: The Unknown Heirs and Legatees of BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased  
TAKE NOTICE that, on January 14, 2026, the Honorable Adam Giganti appointed William P. Sheehan as Special Representative of BARBARA JO BROWN, Deceased, pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/13-209. An amended mortgage foreclosure complaint was filed in Sangamon County Circuit Court on January 27, 2026 as Case #2025-FC-83. IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE A VALID DEFENSE TO THE FORECLOSURE, YOU MUST ASSERT SUCH DEFENSE AND CONTACT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY. Please govern yourself accordingly.  
William P. Sheehan (#6327880)  
Special Representative  
SHEEHAN & SHEEHAN, LAWYERS, P.C.  
1215 South 4th Street  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 544-0701 | wps@sheehanlaw.net

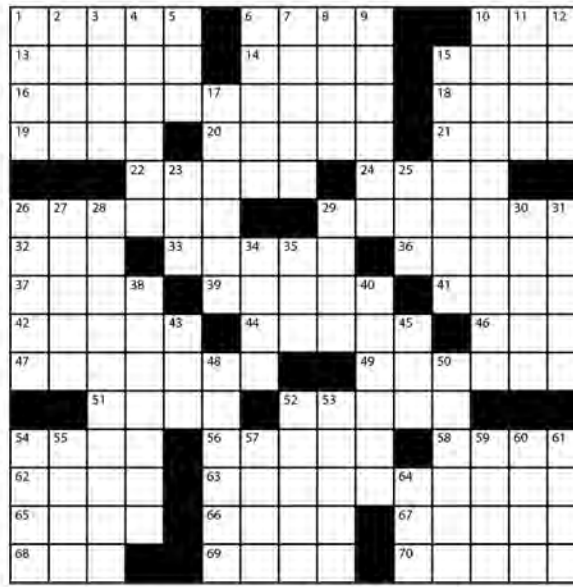
SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION  
United States District Court  
Central District of Illinois  
Springfield Division  
Case No. 3:26-cv-03061  
Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP v. Shaw Family Holdings, LLC, et al.  
NOTICE OF SUIT  
To: Unknown Owners having any interest in the following parcel in Sangamon County, Illinois  
A Complaint for condemnation of real estate by eminent domain has been filed and is pending against you. You claim or may claim an interest in the following property located in Sangamon County, IL, which is the subject of this suit:  
Beginning at a point on the West right-of-way line of a public road 1953.9 feet South and 14 feet West of the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 5 West, Sangamon County, Illinois; thence South along said right-of-way line a distance of 150 feet; thence West a distance of 150 feet; thence North a distance of 150 feet; thence East a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.52 acres, more or less ("Property").  
Said Property being entirely located within parcel 29-24.0-400-003, Sangamon County, Illinois.  
The nature of the action filed against you is an action to condemn an easement interest in the Property (See Complaint). The authority for the taking is 15 U.S.C. § 717(h). The use for which the property is to be taken is the continued operation and maintenance of a measurement and regulation station on the Property. You may serve an answer to the Complaint in writing within twenty-one (21) days after being served with this notice; failure to do so constitutes consent to the taking and to the Court's authority to proceed with the action and to fix the compensation, if any, to be

paid to you for the taking. A defendant who does not serve an answer may file a Notice of Appearance.  
Plaintiff's attorney may be served at the following address:  
Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company, LP,  
Attn: Frank Ierulli, Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C., 300 Hamilton Blvd., 2nd Floor, Peoria, IL 61602.  
/s/ Frank Ierulli

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
In the Matter of the Estate of MECHELLE MEYER, Deceased.  
2024PR386  
NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS AND UNKNOWN HEIRS / LEGATEES. Notice is given of the death of MECHELLE MEYER, from 1135 North Ninth Street, Springfield, in Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Independent Administration were issued on December 4, 2024 to Jamie Howie, from 313 South Bogardus Street, Elkhart, Illinois 62634 and Justin Meyer, from 506 E. Wesley St., Springfield, IL 62702 as Co-Independent Administrators whose attorneys are the Noll Law Office, 930 E. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62701. Claimants' claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 60701, or with the representative or both, on or before November 1, 2026 or three months after date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and 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 representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. A copy of an order granting executorship and probating of will can be obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless an interested person asks the court to become involved. Notice is given to unknown heirs / legatees, who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose name or address is not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you 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 other evidence, as provided in section 6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under section 8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/81) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate. 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://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 this 10th day of April 2026  
Sarah Noll  
Noll Law Office, LLC  
930 E. Monroe St.  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone: (217) 544-8441  
noll@noll-law.com

## Smiles, etc. Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 941

- Across**  
1. Tara's Scarlett  
6. Biblical brother  
10. Dashboard abbr.  
13. "\_\_\_ Without a Cause"  
14. Knee/ankle connector  
15. Dried up  
16. Coliseum combatants  
18. LBJ or RMN, e.g.  
19. Faults  
20. \_\_\_ good example  
21. Pound sounds  
22. Lets up  
24. Wrath  
26. \_\_\_ party: sleepover  
29. Extended, in a way  
32. Actor Tognazzi  
33. Yes or no follower  
36. \_\_\_ acid  
37. \_\_\_-mell  
39. Large-eyed lemur  
41. 2007 Steve Carell title role  
42. Dock site  
44. Kidney-related  
46. Pilot's announcement, briefly  
47. Purchasing option  
49. Rents  
51. Some TV's  
52. Put up with  
54. "Here comes trouble!"  
56. Not our



58. Nutritional info  
62. Leaf unit  
63. McDonald's treats  
65. Mining finds  
66. Dr.'s orders  
67. Whistle-blower  
68. "Fresh Air" aier  
69. "An apple \_\_\_"  
70. Forebodings  
**Down**  
1. Assns.  
2. Prefix with pad  
3. Impose \_\_\_ on  
4. Exodus locale  
5. "Aladdin" prince  
6. Perfumer Lauder  
7. Immunizations  
8. Broadcasts  
9. Risky  
10. The \_\_\_ of Windsor  
11. Foreward: Abbr.  
12. Big name in oil  
15. "Oh, please!"  
17. Lay siege to  
23. Morning hrs.  
25. Spanish article  
26. Trainee  
27. Rocket stage  
28. Hook's flag  
29. Bridle part  
30. Related maternally  
31. Ladies of Spain  
34. Actor Calhoun  
35. Before, in poetry  
38. Percolates, as water  
40. Pay  
43. Airport inits.  
45. Spy novelist Deighton  
48. Allergy problem  
50. In reverie  
52. Old photo color  
53. Midway between sober and drunk  
54. "Once \_\_\_ a time..."  
55. Angel's instrument  
57. Difficult  
59. Note  
60. Architect William Van \_\_\_  
61. Cold war grp.  
64. 6 on a phone

## Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week



Crossword answers from #940

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

Sudoku answers from #940

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

JoshJosh answers from #940

## JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 941

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.

1-		12+		1-	3÷
30x			3x		
3+				9+	
2÷	1-	1-	15+		
			16+	7+	
2-				2+	

Difficulty medium

## Sudoku No. 941

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

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

Difficulty medium

# OPEN HOUSE

FOOD ▪ DRINKS ▪ LIVE MUSIC



A BETTER WAY TO  
MAINTAIN YOUR  
LANDSCAPE.


Our All-Inclusive  
program now includes  
mowing & turf care for  
complete, year-round  
property care.

**APRIL 18, 2026 ▪ 10AM-2PM**

**4001 OLD JACKSONVILLE ROAD,  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711**

- Meet our National Award-winning design and installation teams
- Get a Behind-the Scenes and experience the Knob Hill Way!
- Enjoy exclusive same-day discounts: 25% off design services • 10% off maintenance contracts

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