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Safety net snaps

More than 400,000 Illinoisians lose SNAP benefits since July 2026 as federal changes take effect

SNAP | Molly Wallace

Kayla Brown said her family of four has been getting by on about \$200 a month in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits since the sweeping changes made to the program's eligibility and benefit calculations went into effect earlier this year. Before the change, she said her family received nearly \$900 each month.

"We've been getting by thanks to my husband," Brown said. He works as an associate at Walmart. "We reach out to food pantries... to help on the side and then just budget as much as we can to save every penny."

Brown is a stay-at-home mother to a 4-year-old and 7-year-old, one of whom is special needs and requires full-time care. That exempts her from the new federal work requirements, but many other Illinoisans are not exempt.

An Illinois Department of Human Services spokesperson told *Illinois Times* that "just under" 104,000 Illinoisans lost benefits in the last few months specifically due to the expanded work requirements. That number does not include families like Brown's who still receive benefits, albeit greatly reduced.

Brown's family and others who still receive modest benefits are not eligible for the one-time \$400 payment through the Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger (FRESH) Program announced July 30 by Gov. JB Pritzker for people who were booted off SNAP by the changed eligibility requirements.

Illinois SNAP enrollment is at the lowest levels since the IDHS began publishing monthly data in 2011. The Office of the Governor estimated that 150,000 Illinoisans would lose benefits due to the federal changes.

Previously, adults between age 18 and 54 without dependents under 18 had to work, volunteer or train for at least 80 hours a month. The new legislation, H.R. 1, expanded those requirements to adults between 18 and 64 without dependents under 14. It also eliminated exemptions for the work requirements for veterans, people experiencing homelessness and people between 18 and 24 who were in foster care when they turned 18.

Work requirements are a common feature of social safety net programs like SNAP, although research has consistently found such requirements do not meaningfully increase employment in most cases. A 2022 study by



The County Market at Second and Carpenter streets in Springfield. PHOTO BY MOLLY WALLACE

the Congressional Budget Office found that SNAP work requirements "have reduced benefits more than they have increased people's earnings." And a 2023 article in the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* discovered no impact on employment from social safety net work requirements.

The Illinois numbers parallel the study's strong disenrollment effect. The new work requirements kicked in Feb. 1, although people rendered ineligible by the changes were given three months of benefits. The first group of people who no longer qualify for SNAP lost their benefits in May.

And in May, IDHS data shows that another 88,000 people lost SNAP benefits in that month alone, which is nearly double the next-highest drop in month-to-month SNAP enrollment in 2026.

The work requirements are only the most recent of the changes to SNAP made by the July 2025 budget reconciliation bill. H.R. 1 also made what the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities called the "largest cut to the

program in history."

Beginning in 2028, the current funding model – in which states and the federal government split the operating costs while the federal government pays the full costs of benefits – will be replaced by varying funding structures depending on states' rates of over- or underpaying benefits, called the error rate. Although often mistaken for fraud, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website points out that these errors are "largely unintentional."

Illinois' error rate increased by 3% in fiscal year 2025, but Pritzker told reporters that Illinois has successfully taken steps to reduce the rate, although he did not cite a specific number.

According to the USDA figure of 14.67%, Illinois falls into the highest category of error rates, meaning the state will have to pay 15% of the cost of benefits beginning in fiscal year 2029. A report by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget estimates that the state will owe \$705 million in fiscal year 2028

unless the error rate is reduced for fiscal year 2026.

Notably, the error rate does not include rates of wrongly denying benefits altogether, which researchers at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said "may incentivize states to take drastic measures to reduce their payment error rates quickly and cut program costs, even if it means delaying or improperly denying benefits to eligible people."

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that 2.4 million people will lose SNAP benefits every month. In the 22 states with available demographic data, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said 1.1 million children have lost access to SNAP, although many Republican lawmakers claimed that H.R. 1 would not impact SNAP enrollment for children and other vulnerable groups.

When Springfield resident Carey Smith went to the local IDHS office after her benefits were suddenly cut off in June, she said it was standing room only. She was told it would be a three- or four-hour wait, so she decided to try calling instead. After holding for around 30 minutes, too many people were waiting to get a spot in the queue, and she was disconnected.

Smith's visit happened not long after thousands of Illinoisans lost their benefits.

"Every single person, I kid you not, that came to the counter was like, 'I didn't get my food stamps. Something is wrong. I got kicked off,'" she said.

Smith said her benefits were reinstated Aug. 14, but she had to go to the office four to six more times before that happened. She said she did not get back pay for the time she went without benefits.

Still, Smith said she is most concerned about the community members who are directly impacted by H.R. 1's changes.

"They're expecting unhoused people who may not have access to basic hygiene, clean clothes and things like that to go out and get a 20-hour-a-week job or a 20-hour-a-week volunteer position," she said. "Anyone who wasn't born with a silver spoon in their mouth recognizes that. It's just kicking people when they're down." □

Molly A. Wallace is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications.



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NEWS

Another downtown project

Chris Stone acquires former PNC building following foreclosure

DOWNTOWN | Angela Mueller



State agencies now occupy the largest share of the former PNC Bank building on the Old State Capitol Plaza. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Local real estate investor Chris Stone has acquired the former PNC Bank building on the Old State Capitol Plaza downtown.

“I think it’s probably the best building on the square,” Stone said. “I’ve been working on projects in downtown Springfield for more than 10 years, and I thought this was an opportunity to take a possibly distressed asset and redo it so it has the proper character for its location right there on the square.”

Stone purchased the building from First Bankers Trust Co. for \$1.65 million through the Springfield Partners VII LLC, according to Sangamon County tax records. The deal closed on July 31.

The building is 98% occupied, Stone said Aug. 19. State agencies – the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and Illinois Board of Higher Education – rent the largest share of the 161,000-square-foot building. Other tenants include the Sorling Northrup law firm and the Laborers’ International Union of North America.

Improvements that Stone plans to make at the building include updating the HVAC system, upgrading the landscaping and, in the long term, replacing the roof and updating the building’s common areas. He said eventually he would like to develop the drive-

through area into “something that has a retail component.”

The building’s drive-thru previously was used by PNC Bank, which formerly occupied the first floor of the building. PNC closed the downtown location in 2021, combining its operations into its branch at 2007 S. MacArthur Blvd. Prior to PNC’s departure, a bank had anchored the property for decades.

Stone has several other downtown investments. He owns the property at 525-535 W. Jefferson St., which houses the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Iles Park Place building along South Sixth Street, which houses offices for the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Stone also owns the long-vacant former AT&T building at 529 S. Seventh St. He received Springfield City Council approval in May 2025 to receive \$2.6 million from the city’s Central Area tax-increment financing district in downtown Springfield. He told city officials he wanted to use the money to renovate the 128,000-square-foot structure so it could be rented as office space for more than 300 government employees.

Stone said Springfield Partners IV LLC, for which he is a part-owner and managing member, has begun to access the TIF funding

for renovations. The \$2.6 million will be used over a five-year period, and this is the second year of renovations, he said.

A tenant for the building hasn’t been secured yet, Stone said. He said negotiation on that issue are “still in flux.” He wouldn’t elaborate.

The former AT&T building is actually two connected buildings – one three stories and one four stories. Originally constructed in the 1960s, the buildings were used as a regional call center and administrative facility for Illinois Bell, which later became a part of Ameritech, SBC Communications and then AT&T.

In addition to real estate investing, Stone is an entrepreneur in the cannabis industry. He was the founder of Springfield’s first medical-marijuana dispensary, HCI Alternatives, and also founded Lucy’s Place, Illinois’ first chain of video gaming cafes. □

Angela Mueller is a Springfield resident who previously worked as a reporter for the St. Louis Business Journal.

Dean Olsen assisted with the reporting of this story.

Supporting students

New state law expands ability of school districts to assist homeless students

EDUCATION | Scott Reeder

Illinois school districts can now help pay for extended motel stays for homeless students and their families under a new state law that supporters say could provide stability for children in crisis – but state Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, warns it lacks adequate safeguards.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed House Bill 4137 into law July 24. The measure, which took effect immediately, amends the state's Education for Homeless Children Act to allow school districts to provide extended motel stays for students who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

State Sen. Karina Villa, D-West Chicago, who sponsored the measure in the Senate, said housing instability can directly interfere with a child's education.

"Providing children and their families a safe place to stay when the resources are available to do so is non-negotiable," Villa said. "Eliminating barriers to learning, including housing insecurity, is essential to ensuring education remains accessible."

Springfield Public Schools Superintendent Terrance Jordan agrees.

"It's a great idea actually, because, you know, if a person is homeless and districts have the resources to help, then that's always great because we don't want any of our kids or families to be without shelter and the things that they need to be successful at school," Jordan said.

A stable place to sleep, he added, can make a difference in whether a student arrives at school prepared to learn.

The new law expands assistance school districts were already authorized to provide. Previously, districts could help families with rent or mortgage payments and certain unpaid bills, loans or other debts when those financial problems threatened a child's housing. HB 4137 adds extended motel stays to the list of permissible assistance.

Villa said the goal is to give families temporary stability while they obtain or maintain permanent housing.

"No matter their family's situation, children deserve the opportunity to learn – without disruptions to their education," Villa said. "This



State Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, listens to debate in the Illinois Senate on May 30, 2025. He says a new state law that allows school districts to pay for extended motel stays for homeless students and their families lacks adequate safeguards. CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO BY JERRY NOWICKI

law will help keep students in school and families in their community."

Before providing housing assistance, a district must first attempt to obtain help through a homeless-assistance agency participating in the federal McKinney-Vento continuum of care. If that effort is unsuccessful, certain school transportation funds may be used. The law also requires a written housing plan approved by both the district and the child's parent, guardian or the person who enrolled the child.

A child considered at risk of homelessness must have documentation showing his or her current living arrangement is expected to become inadequate within eight weeks. That documentation can include eviction or foreclosure notices, utility shutoff notices or financial documentation accompanying a written statement from the family.

Jordan said the legislation does not provide a new state appropriation for districts that choose to provide motel assistance.

"In the legislation it says a school may, so I'm assuming it's if they have the resources," he said.

But Jordan said the concept isn't new to Springfield District 186.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when federal relief money was available, the district set aside resources to help families facing housing problems. Jordan, then the district's director of

family and community engagement, said the district worked with hotels, stores and furniture businesses to help families.

Jordan said the district also benefits from Springfield's network of nonprofit organizations, businesses and other community partners.

"What I've learned from working in this community is that it's rich in resources, and we have a lot of partners that just come in and help," he said.

Pritzker's office said the legislation gives districts another way to intervene before housing instability disrupts a child's education.

"HB 4137 gives school districts another practical tool to prevent their students from experiencing homelessness, before it impacts them and uproots their lives," spokeswoman Jillian Kaehler said in a statement.

She said allowing extended motel stays can help families remain near their children's schools while searching for permanent housing.

But McClure, who voted against the measure, said he worries districts could end up financing living arrangements without the safety checks that would accompany involvement by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

"If there's a student who's homeless, they need to call DCFS," McClure said. "School staff, teachers, they're mandatory reporters, so they have to call DCFS."

McClure said DCFS can investigate a child's living situation and determine whether a proposed apartment, house or other placement is safe. He fears that under the new law, a district could help pay for a motel room where a child is staying with an adult who has not been adequately vetted.

"There's all kinds of scenarios that could be very bad that take place when you just give somebody a blank check with no safeguards in place, without any DCFS involvement," McClure said.

McClure also questioned whether a school district could face civil or even criminal liability if a child were harmed or money provided by the district were used for illegal purposes.

"There's some real legal issues here, but more importantly, there's some real safety issues for the students, and that is not good," he said.

Villa responded that the law is not directed at children who are abused or neglected but at those who are unhoused, so it wouldn't fall under DCFS purview. She noted that federal law already mandates schools do everything possible to eliminate barriers for students who are homeless. This is not adding a new requirement but offering an additional opportunity to help, she said.

And the law does impose conditions on the assistance. Districts must first seek help through the area's homeless-assistance network and must establish a written housing plan approved by the district and the adult responsible for enrolling the student. McClure also criticized lawmakers for authorizing the program without providing districts with additional state money.

For Jordan, the legislation recognizes something District 186 has already encountered: A school's ability to educate a child can be affected by circumstances well beyond the school building.

"I'm glad that the governor realizes that it's important for the district to play a part in providing resources and supporting and helping those families that are experiencing homelessness," Jordan said. "And I support that." □

Scott Reeder can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

State Journal-Register partners with Palantir

USA Today papers to provide subscriber data to tech giant used by ICE, militaries

BUSINESS | Dilpreet Raju

The nation's largest newspaper chain turned heads Aug. 6 – in what would otherwise be a traditional, jargon-filled earnings call that garners few headlines – when USA Today executives announced its papers would be using Palantir to “collect, connect and activate audience data to drive more effective and faster monetization.”

Executives said the move is necessary as website traffic from Google and other intermediaries continues to sink. Mike Reed, CEO of USA Today Company, said the parent business will be using “Palantir’s AI-powered platform” to convert “the sheer scale of our audience into known, orchestrated, first-party relationships.”

“We have really a tremendous amount of data on consumers on our platform today and this work with Palantir is really going to allow us to connect that audience behavior, content engagement and first-party data in a way that allows us to monetize each consumer on the platform at a much higher rate,” Reed said during the earnings call.

The publicly traded USA Today Company is currently valued at more than \$1 billion and owns more than 200 local newspapers across the country, 11 of which are in Illinois, including *The State Journal-Register* in Springfield. Larger, more national publications such as Politico, Thomson Reuters and Fox News have all worked with Palantir previously, but USA Today’s community papers appear to represent different subscriber bases from those national outlets.

Kristin Roberts, president of USA Today Media, said Palantir will help provide targeted advertising directly to subscribers, rather than sell advertising space like traditional marketing, in order to expand “the ways we generate revenue from those relationships.”

“Commerce is one of the clearest examples, and we believe our work with Palantir has the potential to accelerate that opportunity. Historically, much of our commerce business has relied on manual processes to connect affiliate opportunities with our content. Our work with Palantir changes that by matching affiliate products and offers to relevant content at scale,” Roberts said.

Palantir, which is currently valued near \$400 billion and supported by more than \$5 billion in federal grants to date, has been criticized for retaining the services of



The State Journal-Register Aug. 17 print edition. PHOTO BY DILPREET RAJU

government officials after they exit office. The company has also made controversial decisions to provide software services for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and Israel’s military, which has been accused of genocide and war crimes by the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and numerous other groups of interest.

Theresa Josephine Seipp, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam studying the intersection of AI, media and governance, told *Illinois Times* there’s a danger the move harms trust in USA Today papers.

“This can have quite severe consequences from a sustainability perspective because one of the main promises of local journalism, at least, is that you can trust it, that it is still local,” Seipp said. “In the U.S., data protection laws are a little bit different, but from a European perspective this would create quite a few issues.”

She emphasized that Palantir’s political influence could also cause readers to turn to other sources of news, or potentially abandon local news consumption altogether, which could snowball into other issues.

“If there is this belief that (personal data) is accessible by a company like Palantir, (that)

might affect reading behavior. Then because a lot of the editorial decisions are also made based on readers’ behaviors, it can also perhaps lead to the belief that there is no interest in certain issues,” she said.

Tom Davis, a retired environmental lawyer in Springfield who has been a *SJ-R* subscriber for more than 40 years, said he has “a whole cesspool of concerns” about USA Today Company’s decision but doesn’t have immediate plans to cancel his subscription.

“I am planning to continue because there is occasionally useful information, but I’m very disappointed – my big concern is mass surveillance and indefinite retention of data. I’m concerned about everything from Flock cameras to data centers,” Davis said. “I have always worked for the government as a lawyer, but I’ve always been concerned about the police state. It used to be state and local; now we have federal police, and it’s paramilitary.”

Still, he lamented the diminished size of the *SJ-R* masthead.

“There have been so many good people leave that, sooner or later, the straw’s going to break the camel’s back. I can’t take AI-generated information, and in a way it’s kind of interesting but I don’t really need news

from Rockford; we’re the capital city,” he said.

Tomás Dodds, director of the Public Tech Media Lab and assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, told *Illinois Times* that publications need to be wary of whether a relationship with a tech giant after years of declining clicks via Google or Meta websites, for example, is the best long-term strategy.

“Palantir has a track record of collaborating with ICE and has a hand in military interventions, for example, in Iran. You cannot build brand loyalty by making your readers feel like they are entering a surveillance environment or they’re embedded with a surveillance company,” said Dodds, who recently co-authored *Journalism in the Age of AI*.

“There’s a lot of narratives about how it’s going to help personalize content, how it’s going to create new metrics for the audience, but truly there’s no explanation or rationale being presented to the audience of how journalism is going to be better because you now have created this dependency with Palantir,” he said. “The gap that exists between management in this company and the journalists who feel like (they) have a social responsibility and are going to be crucified because now they have lost some degree of independence, because they are embedded with a company that has such a terrible reputation.”

But USA Today executives like Reed, the CEO, seem less concerned about potential tradeoffs.

The software “will work to position us to turn up large amounts of first-party data that we have more actionable intelligence on. None of that is in our forecast for the year, so we think there’s upside from the work we’re doing from Palantir, both this year and in years to come,” he said.

Unionized reporters across the USA Today network, including the *SJ-R* Newspaper Guild, signed a letter Aug. 10 calling for USA Today Company to “immediately end its partnership with Palantir.”

Ryan Mahan, president of the *SJ-R* Newspaper Guild, declined an interview with *Illinois Times*. Andy Carrigan, the *SJ-R*’s interim editor, did not respond to multiple emails from *IT*. □

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Grandparents: The greatest influencers

GUESTWORK | Donna A. Brown

I work hard at limiting the amount of time I spend watching reels and videos online. But I can't control myself when I see videos of grandkids reaching and sobbing for their grandparents. You know the ones. It's hard to know who is having the hardest time with the separation – the grandchildren or the grandparents. If I'm tired, achy or both, watching these videos is the elixir I need.

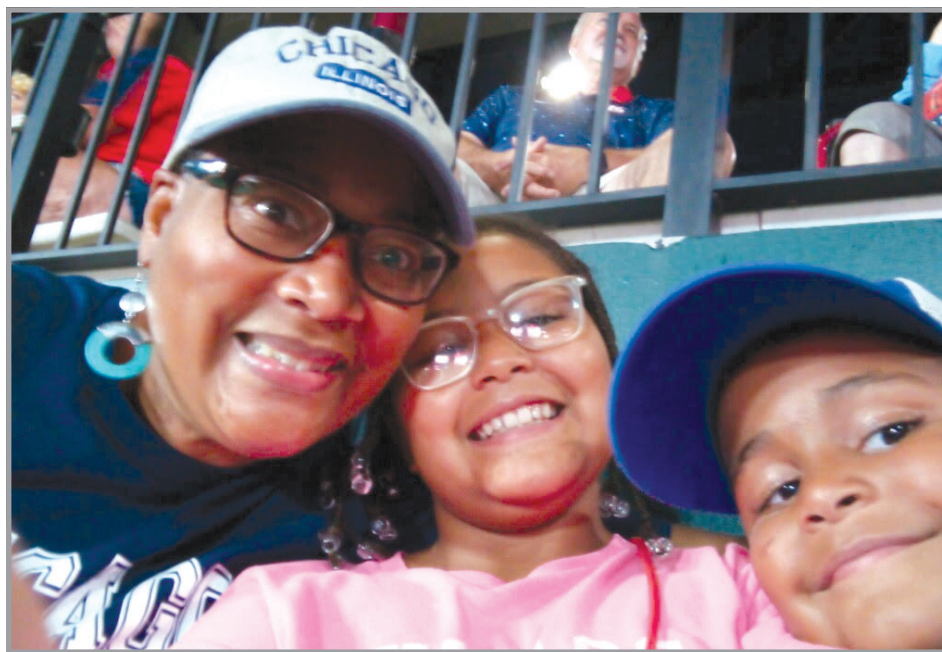
While my daughter, Arielle, has never videochatted with me and my grandkids (Aria, 12; and Jax, 6) it would be pretty much the same. They stayed with me on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this summer. Every morning Arielle reminded them to be ready when she came to get them after work. Well, they never were because as soon as they heard her car, they velcroed themselves to me. Too big to lift or carry, there was nothing my daughter could do but wait. Threatening to leave them wouldn't have helped because that's what they wanted anyway.

I never imagined such a wonderful life. One day I was a regular person and the next day, the magic happened. I became a grandmother. Being the analytical person I am, I've tried to figure out what makes our grandchildren so crazy about us and us so crazy about them. I wonder how they attach to us, intuitively knowing we're their people.

Then it occurred to me -- they have our DNA. We are connected at the cellular level.

I love watching nature documentaries and am most fascinated by orcas. The grandmother orcas are the OGs. They pass their knowledge of the ocean, their survival skills and hunting techniques to their offspring.

The relationship among the grandmothers, mothers and grandchildren in these ocean-dwelling families validates our importance as grandparents. We have lived 50, 60 and 70-plus years. Within us



Donna Brown with her grandchildren Aria, 12, and Jax, 6. PHOTO COURTESY DONNA BROWN

is the wisdom and knowledge our grandchildren need.

I find myself thinking about social media and its enormous impact: good, bad and indifferent. As I was thinking about the role of grandparents, it occurred to me that many children (and adults) are being influenced by people they don't know and will never meet. My grandmothers (I had three) and great-grandmother were my "influencers."

I think about them constantly. My maternal grandmother and great-grandmother had the greatest impact on me. Like thousands of children whose parents moved to the North during the Great Migration, I went down South and stayed with them every summer once school was out.

During the day, my cousins and I piddled around the house with our great-grandmother, Momma Maggie. We were by her side when she hung the laundry out and helped her fold it when it dried. Every morning, we watched "The Price is Right" and the "stories" with her. After "All My Children," we spent the afternoon on the front porch playing jacks, blackjack and other card games until supper.

Today when I'm folding sheets and towels, I think about Momma Maggie. I know some people hate doing laundry. However, I have always found it relaxing. One day it hit me that the reason I enjoy doing laundry is because I associate it with Momma Maggie.

Realizing Momma Maggie's impact on me has me thinking about my relationship with Aria and Jax. I am conscious of the time we spend together because I know we are creating memories they will carry with them the rest of their lives.

Jax and I play an animal matching game on days when I don't mind getting beat. Aria and I love watching nature documentaries. She's already decided she wants to be a marine biologist. I believe my fascination with the ocean and the hours we've spent watching National Geographic influenced her career choice.

Reading books before bed is our all-time favorite activity. Aria always picks *Frog and Toad*. One day I asked why she keeps picking the same "baby book." Her answer surprised me: "Because you always read it to me when I was younger." When she has kids and grandkids, she will read *Frog and Toad* to them and the memories of our time together will come flooding back.

In November I will be 65. With the time I have left, I'm determined to make every moment with Aria and Jax memorable – from our signature breakfast (grits, eggs and sausage patties) to our listening and dancing to my favorite Motown artists to Sunday mornings in church.

I know smartphones, tablets, Ai and Roblox are all the rage today and into the foreseeable future. I also know these things pale in comparison to the role I play as Aria and Jax's grandmother. I am determined to be their greatest influence(r). □

Donna Brown writes about her relationship with her great-grandmother in her children's picture book: My Momma Maggie. The book will be released in November to coincide with her 65th birthday. Brown is the founder of iMagicNation, a local literacy organization and 501(c)(3).

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OPINION

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POORLY MANAGED

I have been a certified arborist since the first year the certification law was passed decades ago. I have been actively volunteering since 1970 identifying and evaluating unique and old trees in Oak Ridge Cemetery and elsewhere in Illinois, starting with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. I have put plaques and QR codes on many trees at Oak Ridge, led tree walks and responded to questions from state elected officials about trees on behalf of the IDNR staff.

To my dismay – and disgust – the largest rare runcinata oak tree in Illinois (a hybrid of red and shingle oaks named *Quercus x runcinata*) suddenly has been destroyed needlessly. This tree, officially listed as a state champion tree more than 20 years ago, has stood as the focal point of the Vietnam War Memorial in Oak Ridge. What is the current IDNR, in charge of maintaining the War Memorial area as well as the Lincoln Tomb grounds, doing?

Early this summer, I noticed hundreds of tiny seedlings under the tree, each about 3-4 inches tall. I thought it would be amazing if the veterans could be allowed to pot up the tiny seedlings this fall and sell them as a fundraiser or give them to widows of the soldiers honored there. But, not only were the seedlings killed recently (which could have been done with a light surface treatment) but apparently a toxic compound was applied, penetrating the root system and killing this entire famous tree.

I have sadly watched the destruction of other amazing trees there over the years. One tree, brought here around 1934 from Lincoln's birthplace at the same time others were planted at New Salem during village reconstruction, was removed because it was thought to be a little too close to the sidewalk. That followed the removal of the Lincoln Vault Oak, the great white oak that had been the last living witness to Lincoln's funeral.

Most of the plaques donated and installed at the special trees in the Lincoln Tomb area by volunteers have been removed. Two of the largest rare flowering cotinus smoke trees in Springfield, along the west side of the Lincoln Tomb, were in perfect condition. But they were typically slow to leaf out and apparently assumed by some tree novice to be dead, so they were removed one spring without asking for any free advice.

Oak Ridge Cemetery, the second most-visited cemetery in the entire country, was designated as the Illinois Living Memorial following 9/11, with good cause. Having this series of tragedies affect the state-controlled land within this famous sacred place is sacrilege.

None of these wrongdoings can be blamed on Oak Ridge or the city of Springfield. The Lincoln Tomb area and the War Memorials, built



The largest rare runcinata oak tree in Illinois, next to the Vietnam War Memorial in Oak Ridge Cemetery, has died. PHOTO BY GUY STERNBERG

via donations from veterans, were given to the state for, assumedly, careful long-term care as it probably was thought the city might be unable to do so consistently over time.

That apparently turned out to be an unexpected mistake, and I wish Oak Ridge Cemetery had been left in charge. They are great people and always asked for advice about the cemetery's rare trees when needed. I've helped them for half a century, for free, and so have other arborists from across the U.S. and a couple of my other friends from around the world.

It is long past time that those now in charge at IDNR review their policies and make sure they consult and comply with experts before more negligence and inappropriate treatments are applied to the beautiful trees that have graced our amazing Oak Ridge Cemetery. Or maybe Oak Ridge should take over the maintenance to stop this mutilation of the historic trees of our state.

Guy Sternberg
Petersburg

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The city missed a chance again to be proactive and work on amending an ordinance to help an individual who is trying to help himself ("City wins first round of tiny house battle," July 30). Colton Lexus purchased a vacant lot – of which there are many – pays taxes and creatively found a safe way to survive. His tiny home is a way for others to get off the streets or out of the missions.

It must be easier for the city to push its bureaucratic boot on the neck of a person than put some thoughtful work into looking at the current homeless crisis and come up with a solution.

Paul Moore
Springfield

CORREX

After the Aug. 13 issue was sent to press, *Illinois Times* received additional information regarding Wolfgang Arterberry's communication with the city of Springfield ("Prairie problems"). The article referenced Arterberry not receiving any response from Public Works following his inquiries after getting a violation notice stating he needed to mow his yard. In fact, Arterberry and the city inspector had exchanged several emails and Arterberry had proposed relocating some of the larger prairie plants to the back of his property, although the final resolution did not occur until after the print deadline.

Love Poem by My Mother

As one who viewed the world by candlelight
Seeing all objects dimly wrapped in shade,
Their changing with a feeble flickering made
By unexpected gusts of winds at night
As if a veil were lifted from his sight
Sees suddenly the mighty sun arrayed
In blinding beauty; awed yet unafraid
Goes forth to claim the glory as his right,
So vividly my life begins to glow
Since in my world your love for me appears.
Deep warmth and color ever flow
That blot out any grayness of the years.
All days move swiftly, vitally apace,
Each night brings back the dearthness
Of your face.

By Vera Wardner Dougan, from
"Poetry Out of Wisconsin"



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10 years at the top not guaranteed

POLITICS | Rich Miller

After Michael J. Madigan's 36 years as Illinois House speaker, a 10-year term limit on current and future speakers doesn't seem like a lot of time in the big chair.

Except it is.

Nobody prior to Madigan had ever served 10 years as speaker in this state going back to when Illinois became a state in 1818. The only person who came close was Republican Warren Wood, who held the position for eight years in the 1950s.

Most of the rest served single terms or two terms. Democrat Paul Powell served six years, including two years before Wood and four years after. Powell became infamous for stashing cash in shoe boxes at his Springfield hotel residence and died with an estimated fortune of \$4.6 million. But I digress.

Another Democrat, Bill Redmond, also held the gavel for six years, although the future Speaker Madigan held quite a bit of sway over him in the late 1970s. Two Republicans served as speaker for six years each in the early 1900s.

But that's about it. Republican George Ryan was speaker for two years before he was tapped to be Gov. Jim Thompson's running mate. In the 1930s, four different members (three Democrats and one Republican) held the gavel for just two years each. Forty-seven out of 70 House speakers served two years or less (four days in the case of Ryan's Majority Leader Art Telcser).

What I'm getting at is 10 years is actually a long time.

More importantly, though, the 10-year ceiling has also somehow become a floor — an expected decadelong entitlement.

House Speaker Chris Welch has obviously fully intended to serve the full decade since he was first elected to the chamber's top job for a

two-year term in 2021. You may have noticed that a couple of his members who spoke out early about his mishandling of the Harry Benton sexual harassment matter suddenly went silent. That was no coincidence. Pressure is being exerted on the rank and file. His team wants those 10 years.

But a decade with the gavel is not only historically unique, it's also longer than the average service time for House Democratic members, which is currently 8.4 years. That's up a bit from a six-year average in 2020, according to the Statehouse's unofficial honorary historian (a title I just made up) John Amdor. But it's still below the 10-year House speaker term limit.

Starting in the final two decades of the previous century, the Senate has a history of electing Senate presidents to multiple terms. Democrat Phil Rock held the Senate's gavel for 14 years. Then, Republican Pate Philip served 10 years before the Democrats won the right to draw the new district map in 2001. Democrat Emil Jones was the chamber's top person for six years and was replaced by Democrat John Cullerton for 11 years. Current Senate President Don Harmon was first elevated in 2020, but he's eligible to serve until 2031 because that first year after Cullerton resigned mid-term doesn't count toward the chamber's 10-year term limit.

Before Rock, most Senate presidents served just two to six years, except for the 10 years that Republican Sen. Art Bidwell held the gavel from 1955 to 1965.

One of the reasons that House speakers and Senate presidents served such short stints was that party dominance wasn't assured like it has been for the past several decades. Partisan majorities flipped back and forth much more before the advent of computer-driven

redistricting. Republicans and downstate Democrats would also occasionally scheme to prevent Chicago from holding power in their chambers (which is how Powell was first elected speaker).

I'm not advocating here for reducing the term limits to six years or whatever. But what I am saying is that Illinois government will not crash and burn if Welch and Harmon don't serve their full five two-year General Assemblies as their chambers' leaders.

They should both have to earn each and every one of their two-year terms. A 10-year stint should not be considered the minimum length of service. If their members want both of them to stick around that's their decision as long as they recognize that nobody is automatically entitled to a decade at the top. □

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



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Unamended consequences

What state planning does not plan for

KROHE | James Krohe Jr.

With luck, the \$350 million renovation of the Illinois State Capitol north wing will open by the time the snow flies and Springfield will get a glimpse of the new main entrance to the Statehouse. Visitor screening, conference rooms and parking are now bunkered beneath the lawn on the Monroe Street side. Readers old enough to recall when the people's government did not fear the people will struggle to see these changes as improvements. I find it cheerier to think of the new works as public art, a kinetic monument to 9/11.

The north entrance is just the most recent phase of the larger Statehouse redo that began in 2011. That's long enough ago that I had to look up the Illinois State Capitol Master Plan 2050, released in 2021, to remind myself what other changes are in the works. Still to come is a dead building (the Armory) brought back to life, a living one (the Stratton) made to disappear and the Statehouse given a backyard like your house or my house. On the new Great Lawn protesters can be safely contained by people with guns without impeding traffic flow (as happens when they gather on the building's front yard on Second Street), thus simultaneously satisfying two of the essential purposes of good government.

I'll bet they don't have anything like that in Lexington or Jefferson City.

As a citizen of Illinois government's host city, I am less interested in the plan's effect on the future Statehouse campus than the effect the new Statehouse campus will have on Springfield. The authors make nice noises about their neighbors across the street. They intend, for example, to "leverage the planning effort for revitalization of downtown Springfield and surrounding neighborhoods through partnerships with City/County and tourism."

I don't know what that means, exactly, but whatever it means it will not be easy to do. For one thing, the city has no planning effort for revitalization of downtown, only marketing plans. For another, revitalization takes people, which downtown ain't got enough of.

The 2050 planners explain that only about 10% of Springfield's population and housing units are found within a mile of the downtown core. Most of Springfield's peer small rural capital cities, such as Des Moines or Madison, in contrast, sustain larger shares of their populations downtown "and are growing those concentrations at a faster annual rate" than Springfield.

The 2050 plan does not explain that one of

the reasons there are not more people living in downtown Springfield is that the state incited (and the city permitted) the destruction of hundreds of dwellings around the Statehouse beginning in the 1970s, when that neighborhood was mostly residential. For example, when the Department of Revenue building was being built, the workforce was expected to bring as many as 2,000 cars into that neighborhood each day but the state agency provided space for only 600 of them. Most of those dead houses and apartments were killed to provide cheap parking for the rest. (I know; the three houses I lived in in that part of town in the 1960s are now parking lots.) Thus did the state solve its parking problem at the expense of making Springfield's housing problem worse.

The 2050 plan deals with the facilities and infrastructure needs of the Capitol complex but what is needed is a plan that addresses the larger possibilities of a more benign state presence in the capital city. The state wields its economic power clumsily and, to my knowledge, has never officially acknowledged a responsibility to anticipate, much less to remedy, the bad effects that state operations have on the city.

Those effects are many. One is the 2001 plan backed by the General Assembly to demolish buildings north of the Old State Capitol to create an unobstructed "vista" view of Abe World and the restored Union Station visitor center. Or our



IMAGE COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

prairie Pennsylvania Avenue, a gift in 2009 of \$17 million worth of faux brick from then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich to turn Capitol Avenue into a grand gateway to the Statehouse complex even though few tourists use that street. Then there is the Y block, which is the sort of thing that happens when an over-enthusiastic DIY-er tears out his old kitchen before he gets a loan to pay for a new one.

Worse, the state is an opportunistic tenant unafraid to impoverish landlords at the expense of the city's commercial building stock. Its recent tendency to relocate smaller ancillary

agencies, bureaus, commissions and the like on the urban periphery – another solution to its parking problem – contributes to sprawl. A more far-sighted state establishment would explore whether to group such quarters on one or two satellite campuses whose collective working population would be large enough to make garages economical and support the convenience shops, cafes and parklets that the 2050 plan hopes to laud.

Imagining your own private Springfield is fun. Somebody has to plan a better city. State planners won't. □

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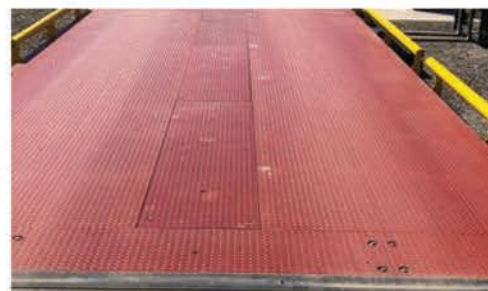
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The secret to staying young

Retired business owner is still active in his 90s

SENIORS | Adrian Dater

A banana every morning, along with a glass of milk, and some pickleball in the afternoon. For Donald Taft, at least, this is his recommended elixir to older people who want to keep drinking from the fountain of youth.

At 93, the longtime Springfield restaurateur is believed to be the oldest active pickleball player in a city teeming with them. At the Springfield Racquet and Fitness Center on Chatham Road, where he plays three days a week, Taft sometimes plays against opponents close to a half century younger.

Opponents may marvel at his proficiency at the game for such an age. Asked to describe the current state of his game, however, Taft is a bit more self-deprecatory.

“Do you know what a snail is?” Taft asks. “How ‘bout a fire hydrant? When I started playing about eight years ago, I was decent. I was moving pretty good. Not so much now. But, you know, every now and then I have one

of those days where I’m feeling pretty good and hitting the ball pretty good and I’ll throw my arms up and say, ‘Oh my God, I feel like I’m 80 years old again.’”

Likened by some as a combination of ping-pong and tennis, pickleball has been the rage for several years now for older Americans wanting a brisk, low-impact form of exercise that brings out the competitive juices, too. The Racquet and Fitness Center has nine indoor pickleball courts, with open play morning and night. Pickleball courts can be found elsewhere in the area at the Springfield Park District’s Iles and Duncan parks, at the Chatham Community Park, the privately owned Premier Pickleball Center on Constitution Drive and at the Salvation Army and YMCA.

Springfield Pickleball League president Tony Stang says there are more than 600 registered players, in all age ranges. It was once

seen as a sport mainly for older people, but Stang said more and more younger players are taking it up.

A regulation pickleball court measures 20 feet wide by 44 feet long, not counting out-of-bounds space, while a regulation tennis court is 27 by 78 for singles and 36 by 78 for doubles.

“You obviously don’t have as much ground to cover, which can be an attractive thing to an older person, let’s say,” says Jack Handy, 73, a local pickleball player and teacher. “People get really addicted to it very fast. The rules are pretty simple and it’s easy to play.”

An estimated 5 million people play pickleball in the U.S. The sport has even gone professional, with 20 teams from around the country currently competing in Major League Pickleball, including one in Illinois, the Chicago Slice.

Taft first fell in love with handball, which

he said he played for about 20 years, then graduated to playing regular racquetball, which became all the rage in the 1970s and ‘80s. Then, he played regular tennis for years until, about eight years ago, he switched to pickleball. His other activity, three days a week, is a round of golf with his two sons.

Taft also enjoys riding “Boss Hoss,” his 445 horsepower, three-wheeled motorcycle with a Corvette engine. He said he used to ride Harleys, but after seeing a similar trike at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, he decided to get one of his own.

“I went to Sturgis in 2013 and said, ‘Boy, I gotta have one of these,’ Taft said. “I put about 2,000 miles a year on it. I’ve been to place where there are a lot of Harleys, but people go right past those and start asking me questions about it.” The Rochester native, who grew up on a dairy farm, is a distant relative of former U.S. President William Howard Taft. To longtime Springfield residents, he is better known for being the owner of the Heritage House, an all-you-can eat smorgasbord that opened on South Sixth Street in 1964 before closing in 2004.

“We had an all-you-can eat lunch buffet for \$1.19 when we first opened. Dinner was \$1.85, and a drink cost a quarter more,” Taft said. “We did very well for a long time, but then all-you-can eat places started popping up everywhere, and the business dropped off some. At one point, though, I think I had 12 stores in the Midwest area.”

In 2010, Taft got back into the restaurant business, opening a Le Peep franchise store on the west side of town. He sold his interest in the store several years ago. He divides his time between Rochester and a home in Florida and is now fully retired.

But not from pickleball.

“I urge everyone, especially those a little older who maybe are bored with just walking or whatnot, to pick up a racquet and give it a whirl,” said Taft, a former licensed pilot who flew missions for the U.S. in the Korean War. “A lot of people like to play doubles, and so it’s also a great way to socialize, maybe meet some new friends. Most of us all just laugh and have a good time together. But, I like to win sometimes, too!” □



Don Taft, 93, stays busy with regular pickleball games, golfing three times a week and riding “Boss Hoss,” his 445 horsepower, three-wheeled motorcycle with a Corvette engine. PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

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LEARN MORE



Pickleball for all



Dale Diamond shows off a medal he won this year in a pickleball tournament for a victory in his age group. PHOTO COURTESY DALE DIAMOND

Washington state fathers improvised a game for their bored children that combined ping-pong paddles, a lowered badminton net and some used whiffleballs.

The sport barely gained any notice, however, until the COVID-19 pandemic. That's when more pent-up people – especially older people who needed the exercise – discovered pickleball as a safe activity that got them out of the house. You didn't need to be Serena Williams or Roger Federer to get good at the game, and it wasn't as exhaustive as tennis. Thus, the pickleball boom was born.

"That's when I really started playing, during COVID," Diamond said. "I'd heard about it from a friend I played racquetball with for a long time. He kept telling me how much fun it was, but I thought it was an old man's game. I wasn't so old yet, but then COVID happened and my knees got a little worse and then I gave it a try. And the first thing I remember thinking was how much good exercise I was getting. I didn't think you moved around as much as you really do."

The stereotype that pickleball is a sport for old, retired people is shattered on a daily basis, Handy says. He regularly teaches the game to kids under 18, and more people in their 20s and 30s are active in the league.

In Chatham, there are now 16 outside courts for pickleball players. At Iles Park in Springfield, a similar number of courts are available, and more are in the works, Handy said. Sherman Village Park has eight outdoor courts under construction.

"It's not rocket science, it's just a fun game that older people can play and more and more younger people are coming to realize is a game that doesn't require all the rigors of tennis," Handy said. "Anybody who plays a game of pickleball, despite any preconceived notions they might have had, comes away feeling that it was a fun experience. That's been my experience, anyway."

So says Jan Gardner, the secretary of the SPL. At 83, she plays most every day and says she spends a good portion of her days signing up new players.

"Come out and play," she tells a reporter. "It's good exercise and you'll make some new friends." □

—Adrian Dater

Dale Diamond doesn't need pickleball to stay busy. At 84, he still works five days a week as a parts and service driver at Isringhausen Imports and remains an accomplished bowler. Weekends, however, are reserved for the game he fell in love with several years ago. "Most of my contemporaries play pickleball every morning, but I'm at work," said Diamond, an Iowa native who owned and operated the last Shakey's Pizza franchise in Springfield. "I'm a weekend warrior now, but I'll probably play more at some point. I love it."

Diamond is one of 600-plus dues-paying members of the Springfield Pickleball Club, which was founded in 2012 by Jack Handy, 73.

"When I started the club, we had 28 members," Handy said. "It's just grown so much."

There are an estimated 5 million Americans who play pickleball, a sport that combines the aesthetics of tennis on a much smaller court, with a lightweight ball that requires a paddle to swat, not a fully strung racquet.

Pickleball dates to 1965, when three



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Exploring Southern Illinois

Fall travel opportunity with the Illinois State Historical Society

SENIORS | Cinda Ackerman Klickna

Join the Illinois State Historical Society's southern Illinois tour Oct. 14-16 to visit historic sites, natural areas and the beautiful Shawnee National Forest with its bluffs, canyons, boulders and towering trees that will be alive with fall color. Board the bus in Springfield and travel to Shawneetown, Elizabethtown, Golconda and more. Experience the Ohio River, walk trails, visit a pioneer village, see the former site of a Black school, enjoy popular restaurants and stay in a riverside hotel.

David Joens, interim director of ISHS says, "Southeast Illinois is one of the hidden gems of this state. This area has a rich and diverse history and amazing geography and scenery. One of the highlights of this trip is that it will also focus on the archaeological past of the region, something often ignored when discussing the history of Illinois."

Mark Motsinger, president of the Saline County Historical Society, will serve as the tour guide.

With Chicago the largest city in Illinois, it is hard to believe that it once was only a blip on the

map. Shawneetown was the largest city as well as the financial capital of the state. Today, it is nearly a ghost town.

It was here, in 1816, that John Marshall opened the first bank in his home. By 1830 riverboats and barges brought needed supplies to residents. Businesses sprang up, business owners built fancy homes and the town prospered. It was so prosperous and so well-known for its banking that it is said that in 1830 Chicago city planners requested a \$10,000 loan from the Shawneetown bankers to get Chicago started – although some historians doubt the story. According to the legend, the bankers refused to grant a loan, saying the chances of making Chicago into a lucrative city were slim.

Two of the original banks still exist and will be open for the tour group.

Floods often threatened Shawneetown. Two – in 1813 and 1815 – destroyed part of the settlement. The worst flood came in 1937, forcing residents to move further inland to form New Shawneetown.

"The Shawneetown Flood," a ballad from 1937, says, "On it came with mighty force, spoiling all within the course...where once was a happy city, wreck appeared."

Readers of Mark Twain may never have met wily Tom Sawyer if it hadn't been for Shawneetown. While working on a riverboat, Twain often stopped at the town and on one visit met Thomas Sawyer Spivey; Twain later shortened Spivey's name to create his well-known character.

Another stop will be in Equality, Illinois, where equality never existed. Salt mine owner John Hart Crenshaw caged slaves in his mansion Hickory Hill, known as the Old Slave House. Crenshaw's mines produced 500 bushels of salt a day from 1840-1875. Because it was difficult to hire laborers, the government allowed mine owners to lease slaves from slave territory and to bring them to Illinois. Crenshaw, it is believed, may have kidnapped freed slaves, used them in his mines, and sold them back to owners. In 1842, Crenshaw was tried but acquitted of illegal slave traffic charges.

The top floor of the house shows disturbing evidence of the conditions that must have existed. A center hallway is flanked by rooms with no light or ventilation; there is a whipping post and visible outlines of locks on each room.

The group will visit Golconda's historic museum and nearby path of the Trail of Tears, and Elizabethtown, site of the famous Rose Hotel. When riverboats and steamboats, named *Wonderland*, *Cottonblossom* or *New Sensation*, tied up at the dock, the whistle of the steam calliope announced their arrival, and a band marched through Elizabethtown. A circus boat, called *The Floating Palace*, filled with lions, tigers, elephants and circus performers, was a common sight on the river. In Elizabethtown, participants will dine at the floating Fish Dock River Restaurant.

The route through the area sometimes hugs the river or winds through lush vegetation. Several natural areas will be on the tour. Participants can choose to walk trails to see ancient indigenous fort walls – a short walk to Rim Rock, or a more adventurous walk to Mill Stone Bluff.

Another stop will be Cave-in-Rock, once home to

pirates and outlaws. In 1797 Samuel Mason Wilson brought his band of robbers and counterfeiters here. Between 1798 and 1799 the Harpe Brothers hid out after escaping from Kentucky, where they were wanted for murder. Their brutal killings were well-known in the area; travelers feared meeting up with the deadly Harpes who allegedly cut open a victim's body, filled it with stones and then dumped it into the river. Counterfeiters ran their operations here in 1831, and during the 1830s river pirates brought victims into the cave to kill them.

The tour will include the Pine Creek Pioneer Village in Harrisburg, which depicts life from 1800 to 1840 with a blockhouse, Quaker church, post office, school, jail and barn with threshing floor. A stop in Eldorado will share the story of the Tuskegee model school for African American youth, built by Jefferson Douglas Alston. The school was later burned.

Poet Edgar Lee Masters called southern Illinois "peaceful and primitive like an etching study." His poem *Illinois Ozarks* describes the area as "ridges of woodland toward the horizon space, the pastoral silence where the West commences; dotted by log cabins, lined with rail fences, which change and passing years do not displace; the past still lingers here..."

You, too, can linger here and discover Illinois' varied past. □

The cost is \$576 for ISHS members or \$656 for non-members. The fee includes motorcoach transportation, two nights at San Damiano Lodge, admission and speaker fees, gratuities, two breakfasts, three lunches and one dinner (one dinner on your own).

Reservations and payment are due by Sept 4. Contact Judy Wagenblast at jwagenblastp@gmail.com, 217-725-3075.



Shawneetown was once the largest city in Illinois as well as the financial capital of the state. Two of its original banks still exist and will be open for the tour group.

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AgeLinc helps support seniors

NONPROFITS | Janet Seitz

Illinois' and the nation's aging population is rapidly increasing, with the proportion of individuals aged 65 and older rising significantly due to the aging of Baby Boomers. This shift presents both challenges and opportunities for various sectors, including healthcare and the economy, as well as for the population itself.

Fortunately, service agencies provide much needed support. The nonprofit AgeLinc (Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland) is dedicated to helping older adults maintain dignity, health, and independent living.

Carolyn Austin started with the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland in January of 2018 as the fiscal manager and took on the role of executive director in May of that same year. In 2020, the board of directors changed her title to chief executive officer, and they also re-branded the organization as AgeLinc in order to make the name easier for people to remember.

Austin explained the organization was started in May of 1974 under the Older Americans Act in order to receive funding to create and fund programming for older adults. It is one of 13 Area Agencies on Aging in Illinois with more than 600 in the U.S.

"As a result," Austin said, "we have been able to fund senior nutrition, transportation, evidence-based health programs, respite, caregiver support programs, information and assistance, and options counseling programs for older adults in our 12-county service area for more than 50 years. We partner with organizations like Senior Services of Central Illinois to offer these services. Our office provides information and assistance, benefit access assistance, the Veteran Directed Care program, Medicare enrollment assistance, navigating senior living options, our award-winning PrideLinc senior program and caregiver support services."

PrideLinc, launched in March, is the only weekly lunch program in Sangamon County designed for LGBTQ+ older adults and allies. A lunch and learn format creates a welcoming space for social connection, shared meals and informational opportunities. It aims to reduce social isolation, support improved nutrition, help reduce food insecurity, encourage cognitive engagement and foster a greater sense of safety and belonging.

AgeLinc's service area includes Cass, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan,

Sangamon and Scott counties. AgeLinc's services are free but have eligibility requirements.

In general, Area Agencies on Aging are responsible for planning and funding services to help meet the needs of older adults, caregivers and their families; coordinating resources to facilitate a comprehensive service delivery system; and acting as advocates for older adults residing in the area. AgeLinc also functions as an area-wide focal point for aging issues, creating awareness of aging and caregiving issues, providing resources and encouraging the development of services to address identified needs.

Austin said the organization gets the word out about its services by attending health fairs, community events, holding annual fundraisers and promotion on local television and radio stations and publications.

"We also offer presentations in the community," she said, "so if someone would like us to come and speak to their group, we are happy to do that."

Providing enough services on a limited budget is AgeLinc's great challenge, said Austin.

"We are currently advocating statewide for

additional funding for home-delivered meals and caregiver services to meet the needs of our older adults in Illinois. For us, it has been rewarding to create new programs to better serve our community, increase access for those most in need of services, and to reach more people."

In addition, AgeLinc started an annual Mardi Gras fundraiser in 2022 to raise funds to help seniors with emergency needs. Previously, there was no fund available to provide assistance for this type of situation, but since its inception, this event has raised more than \$106,000 to help seniors with a variety of emergencies, Austin said.

Earlier this month, the organization held a murder mystery dinner with a State Fair theme and posts a calendar on its website of upcoming events and fundraisers. AgeLinc also posts dozens of resources ranging from housing to utility assistance and other support elements such as Farmers Market Coupons.

"Although we cannot help with every single need," said Austin, "we often have resources that we can make referrals to, so we encourage people to give us a call at 217-787-9234 or visit our website at agelinc.org." □

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More than a meal

Delivery volunteers help seniors stay at home

NONPROFITS | Tamara Browning

A hot meal delivery program for seniors is fulfilling volunteer Diane Bergeron's passion for sharing with others because she's had a blessed life.

Senior Services of Central Illinois – which has non-medical, quality-of-life services for seniors age 50 and older in Sangamon, Logan, Mason and Menard counties – has two nutrition programs.

The Daily Bread offers midday meals for home delivery and congregate sites in Sangamon and Menard counties. Springfield Specialty Meals on Wheels offers home delivery in Springfield of physician-prescribed and specialty dietary midday meals.

Bergeron volunteers to deliver Daily Bread meals through the nonprofit volunteer organization King's Daughters Organization, which has been serving seniors since 1893. Daily Bread home-delivered meals help seniors who are 60 years or older and are nondriving, homebound or bedbound.

The Progress Circle that Bergeron belongs to in King's Daughters Organization delivers Daily Bread meals on Wednesdays for Route 5, which includes an apartments area and "straight down Chatham Road south."

"To my delight, one of the people on Route 5 was my mentor when I was in college, and she was my boss, the Division of Services for Crippled Children," Bergeron said. "I had a part-time job going through college, and I worked for her, and to my surprise, I knocked on her door, and it's her."

"I get to see her a lot and catch up, and I have since found out that pretty much everybody in town knows her. That was really, really fun."

Senior Services of Central Illinois recently recognized Bergeron in a "Volunteer Spotlight" for her dedicated volunteerism in "bringing kindness and compassion to every route."

"She's a great volunteer," said Kristie Reynolds, Daily Bread volunteer coordinator. "I've been here about two years now, and she's been volunteering ever since I've been here."

Getting started

A Springfield native, Bergeron is a graduate of Springfield Southeast High School and Lincoln Land Community College.

Bergeron has two children and is married to Rod.

One of the loves of her life is an 8-year-old dog named Mr. Pickles. Rescuing dogs was her entry into volunteerism.

"I kind of got started back when my kids were little, and I just would rescue a lot of dogs," Bergeron said. "Every time my then-husband would go for National Guard duty weekend, I'd pack the kids up and go adopt a dog."

But volunteerism "didn't take off from there" because Bergeron was busy with her two kids and job.

Bergeron worked for the state of Illinois for 17 years, the last few years for the Senate. She worked



Diane Bergeron delivers meals to seniors through the Daily Bread program run by Senior Services of Central Illinois. PHOTO COURTESY SENIOR SERVICES

for Springfield School District 186 as the deputy superintendent's secretary, fully retiring in 2019 from the Illinois Education Association.

She said when she was preparing to retire, she thought about getting involved in a meal delivery program. Bergeron retired in 2019 to care for her mom and stepdad, who both passed away.

"This was during COVID," Bergeron said. "I kind of reached out to the schools to see if there was anything I could do, and they had a program delivering meals to all the children who would otherwise not have lunch or breakfast."

"For about a year, I'd get up at 6:30 in the morning and deliver meals, and then that quit."

Bread for seniors

Around the time the coronavirus pandemic subsided, Bergeron joined King's Daughters Organization. Its mission is to help seniors.

The circle Bergeron joined within King's Daughters was involved in the specialized meals delivery program. Bergeron switched to Progress Circle two years ago, which is involved in the Daily Bread program at Senior Services of Central Illinois.

"I kind of got into that in a big way," said Bergeron, who many times also signs up to deliver for Route 10 "because it's kind of my neighborhood – Southern View, Laketown, Ash Street, some of the churches."

"I just love it. You get to know the people you're delivering to. You care about them. You know their names."

Although volunteers aren't allowed to have

phone numbers of the people to whom they deliver, there is personal connection in which they are greeted and asked about their well-being.

"Our volunteers are like the eyes and ears of our community," Reynolds said. "That way, especially with our homebound seniors, they have somebody checking in on them every day."

A few weeks ago, when Bergeron went to one of her regular's homes at 9:30 a.m., his newspaper was still out.

"His light was still on, and so I made notes on our sheets that it was unusual for this, and he was never back, so I don't know if he went to a nursing home or if he passed or what," Bergeron said.

Another time recently, Bergeron delivered to a man with instructions that if he didn't answer the door, she should call immediately a provided phone number.

"Well, he answered the door. He's a big biker dude, and he looked completely healthy, but he had a very bad scare the week before," Bergeron said.

"I'm hoping that the people on my route have other people they can turn to for their needs, but ... We can pass information on if they need help."

More volunteers needed

Meals delivered through Daily Bread help the homebound, some of whom still live by themselves, stay "home in their safe place," said Kyrie Williams, Daily Bread assessor.

"Instead of being put into assisted living or long-term cares, nursing homes," Williams said. "They lose that connection from the world when they go in those places, and we're keeping that connection through our volunteers."

"It's giving back where there's a name and a face and a smile connected to something you do on a volunteer basis. The reward comes back 100 times," Bergeron said.

Daily Bread and Springfield Specialty Meals on Wheels welcome more volunteers.

Daily Bread volunteers deliver meals from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Mondays through Fridays. Springfield Specialty Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals for restrictive diets from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Volunteers have flexibility on how often they deliver.

For more information on volunteering, contact Reynolds at dailybread@ssoci.org or 217-528-4035, ext. 1123.

Tamara "Tammie" Browning is a freelance writer and reporter from Petersburg. She has a weekly newsletter, "Mother Road Moves," on Substack (motherroadmoves.substack.com) that chronicles the people, places, things and happenings on Route 66 – from Illinois to California.



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No lettuce, no problem

Treat yourself to Greece's greatest salad this summer

FOOD | Peter Glatz

If you are finding yourself casting a wary eye toward bagged lettuce after the latest cyclospora health alert, consider looking to Greece for a lettuce-free salad alternative. The horiatiki salata, commonly known in America as a Greek salad, is a summer salad that requires no leafy greens whatsoever. It is a fresh, rustic salad made with chunky cuts of tomatoes, cucumbers, red onion, green peppers, Kalamata olives and a block of feta cheese, dressed simply with olive oil and dried oregano.

The horiatiki – meaning “village salad” – stands as a tribute to the elegance of simple cooking. Well before securing its position as a staple across traditional Greek tavernas and Greek-American diners, this rustic creation was believed to have grown out of the practical dining traditions of rural laborers throughout sunny Greece.

Imagine an olive grove during the midday heat. Seasoned field laborers, their hands hardened by hours under the intense sun, seek comfort beneath the branches of an old tree. They retrieve a dense block of tangy, brined feta carried from home in a cloth sack. Using pocket knives, they slice ripe tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and onions into a shared wooden bowl, letting the juices mingle with local olive oil, briny feta, and dried oregano. This story captures the true essence of the classic “village salad” – a simple midday tradition where fresh, local produce provided simple nourishment.

While this is a romantic origin story, its true history unfolds quite differently. Rather than emerging from the bucolic countryside, the modern horiatiki was actually created in the Plaka, Athens' oldest and most historic neighborhood, situated at the foothills of the Acropolis, to cater to visitors during the nation's initial tourism boom in the 1960s. At the time, tavern owners faced stringent government price controls on standard summer salad menu items consisting of basic vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and peppers. To circumvent these restrictive regulations as tourism swelled, an innovative solution emerged: placing a slab of feta cheese on top. This clever modification legally transformed the dish's classification into a luxury item, exempting it from fixed-pricing laws and empowering tavern owners to set their own rates as they pleased. Consequently,



“Horiatiki,” commonly known in America as a Greek salad. PHOTO BY ANN SHAFFER GLATZ

both the classic “village” name and the iconic block of feta were entirely fabricated marketing inventions designed to boost profitability.

Additionally, tomatoes – now an essential ingredient in the salad – were a relatively recent addition to Greek cuisine. Introduced to the Plaka district in 1818 by a Capuchin monk who imported them as ornamental plants, tomatoes were not embraced as a food source in Greece until the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Traditionally prepared during the summer months with seasonal vegetables, the classic horiatiki doesn't contain any lettuce because lettuce primarily grows during the winter in Greece. Instead of using a lemon juice or vinegar dressing, it relies purely on a combination of olive oil and

rich tomato juices. The feta remains whole rather than crumbled, and the olives are left unpitted. Wild dried oregano serves as an essential finishing element in traditional Greek cooking. Gathered by hand along rocky hillside slopes, it contains a rich concentration of natural essential oils. Unlike tender herbs such as basil or parsley, which lose their volatile aromatic compounds once dried, oregano retains its essential oils. Crushed between palms just before serving, it instantly elevates simple ingredients, blending local olive oil and tomato juices into a fragrant whole. Typically, horiatiki salata is accompanied by good crusty bread, which is perfect for soaking up the papara – the delicious pool of olive oil and tomato juices left at the bottom of the salad bowl. □

Horiatiki salata (Greek salad)

You should be able to easily source all the ingredients for this salad at Springfield's Old Capitol Farmers Market, including Greek olive oil and Kalamata olives from the Spartan Valley Olive Oil stand and Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery's award-winning feta at Salt Fork Food Works Food Hub. Serves 2

Ingredients:

- 2 large or 3 medium tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon salt-divided
- 1 medium cucumber, sliced into half-moons
- ½ medium green bell pepper, sliced into thin rings or strips
- ¼ medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 10-12 whole unpitted Kalamata olives
- 1 thick slab feta cheese, not pre-crumbled
- 3-4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, best quality
- 1 teaspoon dried Greek oregano

Preparation:

Chop the ripe tomatoes into rustic, bite-sized pieces directly over the salad bowl to catch all of their fresh juices. Sprinkle with ½ teaspoon of salt and set aside for 10 to 30 minutes; this draws out the juices, forming a rich tomato broth at the base of the bowl. Meanwhile, soak the sliced red onion in a bowl of ice water to preserve its crispness and soften its bite.

Combine the cucumber slices, red onion, green bell pepper and whole Kalamata olives in the bowl along with the chopped tomatoes.

Pour half of the extra virgin olive oil over the fresh vegetables. Gently toss everything with your hands or two wooden spoons so the tomato juices blend into the oil.

Place the slab of feta right on top of the salad mound. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the block of feta and the salad.

Rub the dried oregano between your hands directly over the dish to shower it with flavor, then finish with a final tiny pinch of salt.

Serve with crusty sourdough or pita bread to soak up the juices remaining at the bottom of the bowl.

Usually about four-five minutes until al dente.

The circle of life at the Muni

THEATER | Mary Young

The Muni closes out its summer season with its first junior production – an enchanting popular story that’s sure to inspire as well as entertain. With music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice, *The Lion King, Jr.* is packed with memorable tunes, carefully crafted and colorful costumes, and a talented cast of kids.

Based on the Disney movie of the same name, *Lion King, Jr.* hits all the same plot points, merging aspects of the famous film and the Broadway show all bundled into an approximately 75-minute one-act production.

The musical tells the story of Simba, a strong-willed lion cub and heir to the throne of the African Pride Lands who just can’t wait to be king. He learns about the responsibilities of leadership and how all living things are connected from his noble father Mufasa, while the shaman of the Pride Lands, a wise mandrill named Rafiki, guides him through important traditions and life lessons.

We also meet Mufasa’s brother, Scar, ever envious and conniving, who has set his own sights on the throne. When Simba’s world is tragically turned upside down, he’s forced out into the world on his own and has to grow up fast. Along the way, he befriends Timon and Pumbaa, a carefree meerkat and kindhearted warthog, respectively. They decide to live a life free from responsibility, instead embracing the mantra “hakuna matata” (“no worries” in Swahili). Time passes and eventually, Simba reconnects with his childhood friend, Nala, who reminds him of his obligations and helps him face his destiny.

For director Tiffany Williams, the

experience of bringing *Lion King, Jr.* to the stage touches on many of the things that make theater great.

“The show has been a wonderful opportunity to foster a love of theater with young people,” she said. “There’s a lot of mentoring and collaboration with these kids who come from all over the area.”

Having previously directed junior shows, she appreciates a young actor’s curiosity and impressive work ethic. There’s also great joy in witnessing when they experience things for the first time, like harmonies coming together or trying on costumes.

Williams credits a lot of the show’s success to the many connections made throughout the process.

“There’s an expression of unity and diversity that’s very unique. Everyone experiences it – from the cast, the staff and parents. Audiences will, too. They will be able to see it, hear it and feel it.”

It’s also an expression of the progress made towards achieving a long-term goal.

“For many years, maybe a dozen or so kids were part of one show in a season,” Williams said. “Here, they make up the entire cast. It’s worthwhile to celebrate that and the sense of community it creates.”

Speaking with three of the cast members, all current or recent high school grads, it’s easy to pick up on the connections that have been forged and the genuine dedication to the story.

For Jonathan Alamu, who plays grown Simba, he relates to his character’s journey to find himself. “I remember watching the



Olivia Garren and Jonathan Alamu in *The Lion King, Jr.* CE NOEL PHOTOGRAPHY

animated film and loving the music. It’s such a powerful story,” he said.

For Sydney Williams, who plays Rafiki, the royal adviser, the importance of “believing in yourself” is a major theme. She said the show tells us, “We all have the power to overcome our fears and do whatever we put our minds to.”

For Olivia Garren, who portrays Simba’s childhood friend and future queen, Nala, getting to know the other performers and forming bonds with the cast was “amazing.” She thinks audiences will be inspired by the show and sees it as a way to “bring light into the community.”

Garren said, “I saw the Broadway production and was blown away. I want to bring that to local audiences and inspire them in the same way.”

All three talked about how the final

touches of costumes and makeup bring their characters to life. The sculpted masks and headdresses by Rani Gosnell Ashlee and Kyle Bollinger, colorful costuming by Devin Walter, and detailed makeup by Kylie Stout are indeed impressive. Sets were still in the works but coming to colorful life. Audiences are in for a real treat.

If you’re looking for a family-friendly theatrical journey, *Lion King, Jr.*, with its themes of identity and connection to culture, will resonate across generations. For young audience members, though, the show is sure to serve as a vibrant introduction to the magic of live theater.

The shows run three nights only, Aug. 20-22. Gates open at 7 p.m. Tickets for reserved seats can be purchased at themuni.org/disneylionkingjr □

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MUSIC

Live music within 40 miles of Springfield. Dates, times and locations are subject to change, so we suggest calling before attending an event.

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

Thurs. Aug 20

Randy Erwin
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm

Dan Hubbard
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 12pm

Tom and Geoff
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 2pm

Tracy Inman Band
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4pm

Hearts & Boots
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 6pm and Aug. 21, 12pm

Soul Experience
Busch Light Tent, 5pm

Grand Theft Audio
Busch Light Tent, 9pm

Jeff Lee Isac
Chandlerville Burgoo, Chandlerville, 7pm

Keith Dunlap
Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 5:30-8:30pm

River City Eagles
Coors Light Tent, 5pm

Capt. Quirk
Coors Light Tent, 9pm

Open mic with Bob the Brewer
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 7:30-10pm

Time Bomb, Lockdown, Held Hostage, Contraband
Dumb Records, 7pm

Devin Clemons
East Side Inc., Virginia, 7-10pm

Brother Jefferson
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 2pm

Rumours
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 7:30pm

Noah Hutton
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 12-2:30pm

Lew Jetton
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 3pm

Micah Walk
Illinois State Fairgrounds

Exposition Building, 6pm

The Tangents
The Lincoln Stage, 12-2pm

Micah Walk
The Lincoln Stage, 3pm

Pity Thy Neighbors
The Lincoln Stage, 5pm

Sushi Roll
Miller Tent, 4:30pm

Dance Monkey
Miller Tent, 8:30pm

Antone DeRocchi and Jaigh Lowder
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 6-9pm

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

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

Good Times Karaoke
VFW Lafore Lock Post 755, 7-11pm

Friday Aug 21

Randy Erwin
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 10am-4pm

Hearts & Boots
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 12pm

Paul Niehaus IV
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 2pm

Sam Morgan
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4pm

Avery Kern
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 6pm

Ben Bedford
Artisans Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4-7pm

Daisy Ann
Busch Light Tent, 1pm

Kenna Elpers
Busch Light Tent, 4pm

Sterling Elza
Busch Light Tent, 6:45pm

Mark Perkins
Busch Light Tent, 9pm

Cooper Ledford
Busch Light Tent, 9pm

Mark Hummel featuring Billy Flynn
Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364, 7-11pm

The Longmeyer Band
Coors Light Tent, 5pm

Lick Creek
Coors Light Tent, 9pm and Aug. 22, 9pm

Dance Monkey
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 7:30pm

Sweetmelk
Decatur Brew Works, Decatur, 6:30pm

Colt Ball
Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 6-9pm

Eric Case Band
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 2pm

Kobanova
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 7:30pm

John Jarrett
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 12pm

Brandon Maddox
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 4pm

Jason Michael Launer
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 6pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo plus One
Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm and Aug. 22, 7-10:30pm

Double Identity
The Lincoln Stage, 12pm

Matt Carter Band
The Lincoln Stage, 5pm

Kortney Leatherwood
Legendary Small Town Trading Co., Taylorville, 6:30-9:30pm

Brandy Kristin Band
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 6-10pm

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters
Miller Lite Tent, 5pm and Aug. 22, 5pm

PINK'D
Miller Tent, 9-11pm

Thomas J Beverly
The Railyard, 6-9pm

Jeff Young and the Bad Grandpas
Simpson's Harley-Davidson, 6-9pm

Stone Cold Cowboys
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30-10:30pm

Sat. Aug 22

Michael Blakey
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4pm

Sinead Angele
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 6pm

Square of the Roots, The Lovelorn
Arlington's, 6-10pm

Dan Hubbard
Artisans Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4pm

Larry Watson
Boone's, 6-9pm

John Drake
Brentford Distillers, Decatur, 7-10pm

Them Smokin' Crowdaddys
Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 7-10pm

JackAsh
Busch Light Tent, 1-4pm

Brandy Kristin Band
Busch Light Tent, 5pm

Sunshine Daydream
Busch Light Tent, 9-11:45pm

No One Special
Camouflage Bar, VFW Post 99, Decatur, 7:30-10:30pm

Geezer
Chandlerville Burgoo, Chandlerville, 12pm

The 66 Ramblers
Chandlerville Burgoo, Chandlerville, 6pm

Brushville
Coors Light Tent, 5pm

Lick Creek
Coors Light Tent, 9pm

Rod Grant
Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 1-4pm

Deep Lunar Blue
Duke & Joannie's Saloon, Chandlerville, 8pm-12am

Scarlet's Darling, UNCHAINED, Crash Planet, West Nevada
Dumb Records, 7pm

Harlem Hayfield
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 6-9pm

Drew Cagle & The Reputation
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 3pm

Vertical Horizon
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 7:30pm

Rae
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 12pm

Anna Scott
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 2:30pm

Briley
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 5:30pm

Angel Brown's Smooth N' Blue Duo plus One

Lime Street Cafe, 7-10:30pm

Radiant Church Youth Band, Ighescent Band, Sean Rodriguez, Jordan Feliz
The Lincoln Stage, 2pm

Peaches and Bacon
The Lincoln Stage, 4pm

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters
Miller Lite Tent, 5pm

Joel Honey
Miller Tent, 1pm

Decade of Decadence
Miller Tent, 8:30pm and Aug. 23, 5pm

Kortney and Eric
Northern Lights Lounge, 2-5pm

Afternoon Delight
The Railyard, 6-9pm

Debbie Ross Band
Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, Southern View, 6-9pm

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

Big Daddy Jasper
The Blue Grouch, 7pm

Sunday Aug 23

Jaxon Wayne
48 Inn Sports Bar & Grill, Decatur, 3-6pm

Michael Blakey
The Apex Stage, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4pm

OAT
Artisans Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 4pm

Hippies of the Heartland
Buckhart Tavern, Rochester, 3-6pm

Damned Torpedoes
Busch Light Tent, 2-5pm

Blue Sky Revival
Busch Light Tent, 6-9pm

X-Krush
Coors Light Tent, 4:30pm

Kortney Leatherwood
Curveside Bar & Grill, Athens, 2-5pm

Jason Milligan
Dockside Grill at Lake Springfield Marina, 1-4pm

Kapital Sound
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 3pm

Slater Nalley
Grand Central Stage, Illinois State Fair, 7:30pm

The Guilty Boys
Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford, 2-5pm

Liam Sheridan
Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 3:30pm

Jim Ackerman
It's All About Wine, 3-6pm

Logan Allen
The Library Pizza and Sports Bar, 3-6pm

Avery Kern
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 2-5pm

Elvis Himselvis
Miller Tent, 1pm

Decade of Decadence
Miller Tent, 5pm

Allan Harris with special guest Aley Alvey
Mother Road Diner, Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, 5-8pm

The Blues Deacons
Pop's Place, Decatur, 3-6pm

John Jarrett
Springfield Elks Lodge #158, 4-7pm

Al and Kathy Kitchen
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 12pm

Monday Aug 24

Gerome Durham
The Alamo, 7pm

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

Music Mondays Open Mic Night
The Bird Tavern, 6:30-9pm.

Tuesday Aug 25

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

Open jam with Smokestacks
George Rank's, 8-11pm

Open Mic Night with Billy Malone
Golden Fox Brewing, Decatur, 6-9pm.

Wed. Aug 26

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

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

Open jam with Kristi White
Goodfellas Pub, 7pm

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

Dave Littrell
Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery, 6-8pm

MUSIC

Square of the Roots hosts an album release party for their new recording *Springfield Slide* with special guests The Lovelorn at Arlington's this Saturday night.



Music at the fair and elsewhere

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Here we go into the last weekend of the Illinois State Fair for 2026 with plenty left to experience, especially in our appointed subject of live music. There's so much being played on the grounds, no one can actually take it all in, which is a pretty darn good thing. Add in several in-town goings on, and as usual, there are choices to make as we embark on our weekly musical adventures.

Thursday looks like a good day to visit the fair for a fair representation of several known entities. Singer-songwriter Dan Hubbard from Bloomington-Normal hits the Apex Stage at noon followed by your friends and mine, Tom and Geoff, then Hearts & Boots. At the same time, The Tangents take the Lincoln Stage at noon with Micah Walk on next, then come Pity Thy Neighbors. Brother Jefferson, an excellent blues group from Southern Illinois and regular Alamo performers, arrive at Grand Central Station at 2 p.m. followed by Rumours, a popular Fleetwood Mac tribute. At 5 p.m. we've got Soul Experience in the Busch Light Tent, Celtic Whistle at Village of Cultures and River City Eagles in the Coors Light Tent, while Crane Alley Cats wander into the Surfside Social Club near the Route 66 Experience area with the Mama Said String Band up next. Add the Grandstand show of the Avett Brothers with Drive-By Truckers and Hunter Flynn, plus several other acts around, and that's a heckuva schedule for a Thursday. Expect more of the same all the way through Sunday as music sounds make the Illinois State Fair go 'round.

In news outside the fair way of the world, on Friday, the good folks at the Columbian Grand Hall Knights of Columbus 364 (that's the official name of the K of C on Meadowbrook) host an extraordinary blues show when Mark Hummel, a Grammy-nominated harmonica master, joins forces with

renowned Chicago blues guitarist Billy Flynn for a night to not miss.

Now let's drift back to the fair when Paul Niehaus IV rolls up from St. Louis for cool blues on the Apex Stage at 2 p.m. and Ben Bedford plays a rare local show for the Illinois Wine Experience in the Artisans Building from 4 to 7 p.m. Then Kobanova (featuring our very own Jimmy Riemer) from Athens, Georgia, come right on time at 7:30 p.m. to the Grand Central Station stage, while Hunter Peebles and the Moonlighters take on the Surfside Social Club at 8 p.m. just as the amazing Ella Langley welcomes a monster crowd at the Grandstand.

We always appreciate local, original music so here's a heads up as Square of the Roots, the longtime musical brainchild of Brian Steinhauer, hosts an album release party for his latest work, *Springfield Slide*, Saturday night at Arlington's with special guests The Lovelorn. Brian recorded the record (available on lovely marbled yellow vinyl) with Quincy Watson at FreQuincy Recording in Springfield and features several local musicians. Congratulations to Brian on the huge accomplishment of writing songs and recording them with the daunting task of promotion ahead, but most importantly on documenting a time in space of creativity and talent. Well done, my friend.

Other Saturday events of note include the third annual Land of Lincoln House Music Festival at Lincoln Park from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., featuring over 15 DJs from Chicago, St. Louis, Peoria, Detroit and Springfield while Big Daddy Jasper is back at the Blue Grouch and Scarlet's Darling, UNCHAiNED, Crash Planet and West Nevada play Dumb Records.

Please check our listings for many more music happenings. Until next time, fair thee well. □

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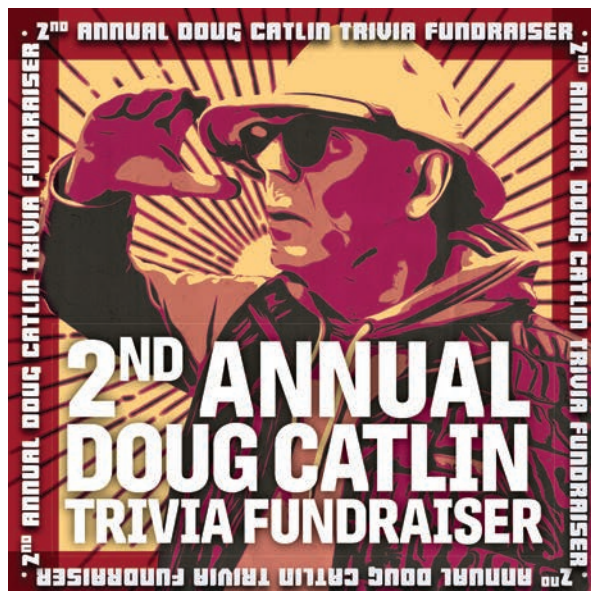


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Springfield Comic Convention | Sun., Aug. 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center

CONVENTIONS | Comic book collectors gather this Sunday

it This long-running convention will return to Springfield on Sunday. A huge variety of new and old comic books will be for sale at the show as well as toys and related collectibles. Do you have comic books sitting around that are no longer wanted? This might be your chance to unload them. Dealers at this show are interested in buying old comic books, organizers say. Admission is free. For more info, call 309-657-1599 or visit epguides.com/comics.

■ Special Music Events The Avett Brothers

Thu., Aug. 20, 8pm. The Avett Brothers, a folk rock band from North Carolina, are four-time Grammy nominees. Tickets go on sale on Ticketmaster at 10am May 16. \$58-\$123. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

The Chicks with Calder Allen
Sat., Aug. 22, 7pm. \$88-\$128. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Community Summer Band
Sun., Aug. 23, 6pm. Part of the Concerts in the Park series hosted by the Pilot Club of Jacksonville. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to the Big Bandstand. Free. Jacksonville Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201 S. Main, 217-243-5678.

Ella Langley
Fri., Aug. 21, 8pm. Ella Langley is a multi-platinum, chart-topping and award-winning country artist whose unmistakable voice and fearless songwriting have made her one of the genre's most defining stars. statefair.illinois.gov. \$59-\$134. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Land of Lincoln House Music

Festival

Sat., Aug. 22, 9am-10pm. This is Year 3 of this festival and it will be bigger and better. Bring tents, dancing shoes, grills and friends. Includes more than 15 DJs from such places as Chicago, St. Louis, Peoria, Detroit and Springfield. Free. Lincoln Park, Fifth Street and Sangamon Avenue, 217-720-2057.

Powerlight Fest

Sun., Aug. 23, 2-9pm. Dove Award winner Jordan Feliz will headline the event along with Sean Rodriguez and Ignescient. BYO Church will lead the praise and worship to start the festival at 2pm. Free with admission to fair. The Lincoln Stage, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-553-5271.

Shinedown with From Ashes to New

Sun., Aug. 23, 8pm. Multi-platinum rock band Shinedown have cemented its status as one of the most vital and forward-thinking powerhouses in music. The band has 24 No. 1 rock hits. \$60-\$140. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Sips & Sounds

Wed., Aug. 26, 6-7pm. Enjoy the Illinois Symphony Orchestra's Woodwind Quintet at this ISO's happy hour concert series event.

Free. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-522-2838.

■ Books & Authors

A Company of Women - Ursuline Sisters in Springfield, Illinois Tue., Aug. 25, 12-1pm. Janice Stukenberg Petterchak, author of *A Company of Women: The Ursuline Sisters in Springfield, Illinois*, will launch Preservation Inc.'s monthly Brown Bag Lunch Series with a review of her book and the history of Springfield's Ursuline Sisters. Books will be available for purchase and Petterchak will autograph copies. Free. Historic Ursuline Campus, 1400 North Fifth St., 217-741-2489.

Black Authors Book Club

Tue., Aug. 25, 5:30-7pm. The August book is *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* by Deesha Philyaw. Free. DeFrates Room, Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th St., 217-753-4900.

If We Survive the Night Book Tour

Tue., Aug. 25, 6:30-8:30pm. Q&A with the author of *If We Survive the Night*, Jo Salazar, with book signings and photo ops. Presented by Our Town Books. The Vault, Jacksonville, 73 East Central Park Plaza, 217-

245-2665.

■ Theater & Comedy

Hairspray!

Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30pm, Sat., Aug. 22, 7:30pm and Sun., Aug. 23, 2pm. It's 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has only one desire – to dance on the popular “Corny Collins Show.” When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob, Link Larkin, and integrate a TV network... all without denting her ‘do! hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Comedy on the Mezz

Mon., Aug. 24, 7-8:30pm. Clean comedy with some of the best local and regional standup comedians. Located in the store mezzanine. Accessible by elevator. goharvestmarket.com. Free. Harvest Market - Springfield II, 3001 S. Veterans Pkwy., 217-793-3601.

The Lion King Jr.

Aug. 20-Feb. 22, 8:30pm. In this special youth production of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*, join Simba, Nala and friends on a journey of love, responsibility and the circle of life in this timeless family favorite. Directed by Tiffany Williams. themuni.org. \$12-\$30. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

■ Dance

La Esquina del Movimiento

Saturdays, 5-8pm. Through Aug. 29. La Esquina del Movimiento is a free pop-up Latin dance party featuring salsa, merengue, bachata and free beginner-friendly lessons. Wild Rose/ Abe's Old Hat, 115 N. Sixth St., 217-572-1884.

■ Art & Architecture

“Interludes and Transitions”

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11am-5pm. Through Sep. 23. The exhibit highlights a journey for ceramicist Scott Day and pastelist Tracey Maras. Free. SAA Collective Gallery, 105 N. Fifth St., 217-544-2787.

Dana-Thomas House New Volunteer Open House

Thu., Aug. 20, 2-4pm. Explore volunteer opportunities at one of the oldest and largest Frank Lloyd Wright-designed houses in the United States. Availability limited. Reservations required. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Evening Tours of the Dana-Thomas House

Fri., Aug. 21, 5:30-6:30, 6:30-7:30pm. Tour this historic house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Free. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-782-6776.

Paint Your Pup Workshop

Tue., Aug. 25, 6-8:30pm. Participants will be guided through a step-by-step process to paint a whimsical masterpiece of their furry best friend. No art experience required. Supplies provided. Bring a quality photo. \$40. The Brinkerhoff Mansion, 1500 N. 5th St., 217/361-5555.

■ Film & Television

Anywhere, A River of Blues

Sat., Aug. 22, 2pm. Advanced screenings of *Anywhere*, a short film, and *A River of Blues*, a feature documentary. Both produced locally by Garcia Productions. An after-party will follow at Spirited Republic. \$5. Arlee Theater, Mason City, 139 S. Main St., 217-482-9999.

■ Food & Drink

The LMH Market

Saturdays, 8am-12pm. Through Sep. 19. This farmers market in the Expo Building features fruits, vegetables, eggs, poultry, baked goods and more vendor grown or produced by local operations. Includes children's activities and free health screenings on second and fourth Saturdays of month. Free parking and admission. Logan County Fairgrounds, Lincoln, 1408 Short 11th St., 447-784-3211.

■ History

250 Years of Fashion

Sat., Aug. 22, 1pm. This fashion show spans over two centuries of fashion in America. Models will display these fashions in the parlors of Edwards Place, hearkening back to the early days of fashion shows, which took place in the homes of wealthy Parisians. \$15 non-members. \$10 members. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Illinois 250 History Talks & Trivia, Day 1

Fri., Aug. 21, 12-5 p.m. Schedule: Illinois 250 History Talks & Trivia: 1 p.m. La Salle's Hegeler-Carus Mansion; 2:15 p.m. Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area; and 3:15 p.m. Movie Music Illinois - a 90 minute programs of movie clips featuring actors, choreographers and directors from Illinois. Inside Illinois Building. Trivia rounds between speakers. Presented by Illinois State Historical Society. Free with admission to fair. Illinois Building, Gate 1 (Main Gate), Illinois State Fairgrounds, 1101 Sangamon Ave., 217-525-

2781.

Illinois 250 History Talks and Trivia, Day 2

Sat., Aug. 22, 12:15-5 p.m. Second day of program, a variety of new historical talk subjects are offered. Presented by Illinois State Historical Society. Freed with admission to fair. Illinois Building, Gate 1 (Main Gate), Illinois State Fairgrounds, 1101 Sangamon Ave. 217-725-3075.

■ Fairs & Festivals

Chandlerville Burgoo

Thu., Aug. 20, 5pm, Fri., Aug. 21, 5pm and Sat., Aug. 22, 6am. This 71st annual event features live music, games, children's activities, contests, bags and volleyball tournaments, Saturday parade and of course, burgoo. J.P. Flywheel Memorial Park, Chandlerville, South Main Street.

Illinois State Fair

Thu., Aug. 20, 7-12am, Fri., Aug. 21, 7-12am and Sat., Aug. 22, 7-12am. Massive annual fair features every kind of food imaginable, the sounds of music and concertgoers' cheers at the Grandstand shows, a midway, harness-racing events and tons of agricultural shows and more. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 12 and younger free. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

■ Community Organizing Free Produce

Sat., Aug. 22, 4-6pm. Food Not Bombs Springfield, IL is sharing free produce with the community. Bring reusable bags or feel free to use the provided bags. No documentation required. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-528-4311.

Good Trouble Alliance Meeting

Every fourth Saturday, 12-1pm. The Good Trouble Alliance strategizes bold, creative, nonviolent initiatives to challenge local institutions that weaken democracy. Bring ideas. Snacks provided. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-801-0209.

■ Local Government Sangamon County Mental Health Board

Fourth Wednesday of every month, 3pm. Through Dec. 31. Meets in Room 233. Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., 217-753-6650.

Springfield City Council Committee of the Whole

Tue., Aug. 25, 5:30-9pm. The Committee of the Whole meets twice a month on Tuesdays. Municipal Center West, 300 S. Seventh St., 217-789-2151.

■ Nature, Science & Environment

Prairie Hikes

Last Wednesday of every month, 8-9am. Through Oct. 28. Jamie Arntzen of the Illinois Audubon Society will share her expertise about the plants and species communities during guided monthly walks along the trails of the AWS prairie as it transitions through the seasons. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-899-6150.

Sanctuary Explorations with Artist in Residence Kevin Veara

Tuesdays, 8-9am. Through Sep. 29. Join acclaimed artist and naturalist Kevin Veara as he explores the sanctuary in search of species and inspiration for his next art piece. Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-303-1996.

■ Lectures & Meetings

CAPture Your Potential: Growth and Development Workshop Series

Fri., Aug. 21, 9:30-11am. An introduction to the essential concept of being trauma-informed. This training will help participants understand what trauma is and how it affects individuals, explore secondary trauma and learn about adverse childhood experiences. 1908 Innovation & Coworking Center, 1100 South Grand Ave. East, 217-753-3551.

Senior Citizen Awareness Training – Part 2

Mon., Aug. 24, 9am. This workshop is designed to help seniors recognize scams, protect their personal information and use today's technology with greater confidence. Presented by the Better Business Bureau and the Mu Delta Lambda Charitable Foundation. Free. Sphinx Center, 2525 S. 12th St., 217-741-7072.

■ Bulletin Board

Food and Clothing Distribution

Fourth Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm. Through Dec. 26. Need free clothing or food? Bring an ID and plan to fill out a little paperwork. Free. The Frank and Linda Vala Dream Center of Sangamon County, 1480 N. Fifth St., 217-685-9375.

The Grove Summer Car Show and Hot Rod Showcase

Thu., Aug. 20, 1-3pm. See amazing hot rods and classic cars. The Grove Health and Rehab Center, Jacksonville, 873 Grove St., 217 479-3400.

Illinois State Fair Battery Take-Back Event

Fri., Aug. 21, 10am-6pm. Woodsy Owl is headed to the Illinois State Fair. Stop by for a family-friendly battery safety experience with Woodsy's Airstream, kids' activities, giveaways and simple tips to help keep our communities safe from battery fires. Free with fair admission. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Lincoln Land Woodturners

Third Thursday of every month, 6-8pm. Interested in woodturning? Watch or sign up for a class by contacting the Dream Center. No cost. The Frank and Linda Vala Dream Center of Sangamon County, 1480 N. Fifth St., 217-685-9375.

Makers Market Vendor Fair

Sat., Aug. 22, 12-4:30pm. Discover local talent and unique treasures and support small businesses and creators. Free admission. Richland Community College, Decatur, 1 College Park, 217-853-6086, 217-520-1468.

Region 9 Iris Society Plant Sale

Sat., Aug. 22, 9am-12pm. Pick up stunning iris varieties and get expert tips and advice straight from the growers themselves. It's the perfect time to get your iris questions answered. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

Rochester Farmers Market

Fourth Sunday of every month, 12-3pm. Through Sep. 27. Local produce and products. Rochester Public Library District, Rochester, 1 Community Dr., 217-498-8454.

Summer Cruise-In

Thu., Aug. 20, 5pm. Features classic cars of all kinds, live music and much more. Docs Just Off 66, Girard, 133 S. Second St., 217-627-3491.

■ Health & Fitness

Free Farmers Market

Saturdays, 10-11am. Through Aug. 28. Find free, fresh organic produce at the market tent at the garden. Arrive early for best selection. No ID or income requirements. Do not pick from garden. Free. Enos Park Neighborhood Garden, 1022 N. Fifth St., 217-610-0720.

Warm Meal Wednesday

Wednesdays, 12pm. Through Dec. 31. Free meal every Wednesday at noon. Provided by community members. Intricate Minds, 619 North Grand Ave. East, 217-670-3520.

■ Sports

Abe's Amble 2025

Sun., Aug. 23, 7:30am. On the last day of the Illinois State Fair in August each year, hundreds of runners from Illinois and surrounding states take to the streets covering the fairgrounds, Lincoln Park, Oak Ridge Cemetery and back. srrc.net. TBA. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Boston Hunters vs. Los Angeles Queens

Wed., Aug. 26, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Extreme Dwarffanators Wrestling

Tue., Aug. 25, 7pm. See little people battle it out in the ring in Illiopolis. \$30-\$50. Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 220 Old Route 36, 217-486-5100.

Los Angeles Queens vs. Boston Hunters

Sun., Aug. 23, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

New York Heights vs. Boston Hunters

Thu., Aug. 20, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

New York Heights vs. Los Angeles Queens

Sat., Aug. 22, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Pro Wrestling

Fri., Aug. 21, 7pm. Best Buds event. Action begins at 7pm. \$10-\$20. Sophia's Event Center, Jacksonville, 1852 S. Main St., 217-361-5758.

San Francisco Firebells vs. Los Angeles Queens

Fri., Aug. 21, 6:30pm. Women's Pro Baseball League action. \$20-\$37. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

For a complete listing of local events visit us online at illinoistimes.com

Prairieland Chautauqua

Jacksonville, Il.

Friday Sept. 4

6 pm Joel Baker-American Giants

7 pm Chris Vallillo

Saturday Sept. 5

12 am Lunch

1 pm Karen Sibert-History of Route 66

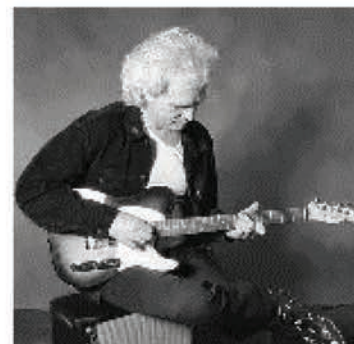
2 pm Lamoine River Ramblers

3 pm Leslie Gooddard-Food Route 66

4 pm Cindy Boehlke, They Left the light On.

5 pm Dinner Break: Play background music.

6 pm Bucky Halker



Remembering
Route 66



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Entertainers Table
Water/Soda Sales**

Jacksonville's Nichols Park Pavilion

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Garden tilling and grass seeding, gutter cleaning, shrub and tree trimming, lawn mowing, brush removal and landscaping. Black dirt delivered. Clearing of overgrown lots.

Serving Springfield and surrounding areas.

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Springfield

153 E. Jackson St.
Virden



25-103522
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
MIDFIRST BANK PLAINTIFF,
-vs-
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF ARTHUR E. WILSON A/K/A ARTHUR EUGENE WILSON; ADAIR WILSON, AS INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR E. WILSON, DECEASED; ADAIR WILSON; AMBER WILSON; JOSHUA WILSON; ARZELLUS WILSON; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS DEFENDANTS
NO. 25 FC 122
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on May 6, 2026; Jack L. Campbell, Sheriff, #1 Sheriff's Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, will on September 15, 2026 at 9:00 AM, at Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street 2nd Floor, Springfield, IL 62701, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.
Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court.
Commonly known as 2316 Eastview Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
Permanent Index No.: 14-23.0-203-005

Improvements: Single Family Residential
The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.
The judgment amount was \$147,357.78. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. 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 Bid Amount contact:
Sale Clerk
LOGS Legal Group LLP
2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207
Bannockburn, IL 60015
ILNOTICES@logs.com
(847) 291-1717
MidFirst Bank
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys
LOGS Legal Group LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207
Bannockburn, IL 60015
(847) 291-1717
ILNOTICES@logs.com Randal S. Berg (6277119)
Michael N. Burke (6291435)
Christopher A. Cieniawa (6187452)
Laura J. Anderson (6224385)
Thomas Belczak (6193705)
Debra Miller (6205477)
Amy Aronson (6206512)
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.
8051-967956

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, Plaintiff, vs.
LORETTA A. GRIFFARD AKA LORETTA GRIFFARD; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).
CASE NO. 2025FC000193
Property Address: 825 N. Ohio Ave. 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 March 11, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on September 15, 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: 825 N. Ohio Ave., Springfield, IL 62702
P.I.N.: 14-26.0-180-023

First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$81,672.56
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
midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
8051-967809

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff, v.
ASHLEY R. PRICE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ILLINOIS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Case No. 2025FC000246
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court on the Complaint for Foreclosure in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.
(A) The name, address and telephone

number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: United Community Bank, Attn: Loss Mitigation, 1311 West Jefferson Street, Auburn, IL 62615; Telephone: (217) 438-5467
(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is:
33 Windsor Road, Springfield, Illinois 62702
(C) A description of the improvements on the real estate is:
Single family residence.
(D) The real estate may be inspected prior to sale at the following times:
Not applicable.
(E) The time and place of the sale are: 9:00 a.m. on September 8, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701
(F) The terms of the sale are:
10% cash or certified funds at the time of sale; balance within twenty-four (24) hours of sale. Plaintiff may credit bid at the sale. The successful bidder will receive a Certificate of Purchase following the sale and a Sheriff's Deed upon confirmation of the sale by the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois.
(G) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois. Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser.
BROWN, HAY + STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield, Reg. No. 6180505
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhsllaw.com
8051-967714

Sangamon County, IL Request for Proposal Annual Financial Audit Services

Sangamon County, Illinois is accepting proposals for professional financial audit services for fiscal years 2026 - 2028. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for annual financial audit services will be available beginning July 27th, 2026. Copies of the RFP may be picked up at the address listed below or may be requested by calling the Sangamon County Auditor's Office at 217-753-6630.

Sangamon County Auditor's Office
200 South Ninth Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62701

Proposals for this RFP must be received by the County Auditor's Office by September 11th, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. local time at the above address. Proposals must be sealed, in writing, and in compliance with the specifications detailed in the RFP. Questions can be directed to the County Auditor's Office, 217-753-6630 or eric.black@sangamonil.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal DBA
Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of August, 2026 a Certificate of Ownership of Business was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Sangamon County, stating that:
Yanqiu Wu
intend to transact, or are transacting business in Sangamon County, State of Illinois, under the fictitious name to wit:
Everlasting Spa
and that they are the sole owner(s) and proprietor(s) of said business, and the principal place of said business is located at:
509 Dawson Street; Springfield, IL 62702

Death Claim
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC, Plaintiff, Vs.
STEPHEN WILLISIE, et. al., Defendants.
Re: Estate of KELLY L. MCKEAN, Deceased.
2026-FC-133
NOTICE
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF KELLY L. MCKEAN:
Notice is given of the death of Kelly L. McKean. The Court has appointed Dan E. Way as Special Representative for Kelly L. McKean, deceased, in the above-entitled cause seeking a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale on property located at 6 West Grand Court, Springfield, IL 62704 a/k/a 6 West Grand Court, Jerome, IL 62704.
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 e-file.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.
/s/ Dan E. Way
Special Representative for Kelly L. McKean, deceased.
Dan E. Way #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Tel. 217-525-7003
dan@danwaylaw.com

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF SANGAMON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN M. BRANDT, DECEASED.
NO. 2026PR000288
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of JOHN M. BRANDT, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on August 12, 2026, to SCOTT J. BRANDT, 503 Ridgeview Drive, Sherman, IL 62684; TODD F. BRANDT, 1018 Bankfield Court, Naperville, IL 60540; and MARK W. BRANDT, 1270 Monmouth Drive, Lemont, IL 60439, whose attorney is Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C., 232 West State Street, P.O. Box 550, Jacksonville, Illinois 62651.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 20th day August 2026, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk of the court.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated this 12th day of August 2026.
SCOTT J. BRANDT, TODD F. BRANDT, and MARK W. BRANDT, Executors of the Estate of JOHN M. BRANDT, Deceased
BY: RAMMELKAMP BRADNEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Estate:
Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C.
Richard R. Freeman #6198969
232 West State Street
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Telephone: (217) 245-6177
Fax: (217) 243-7322
Email: rffreeman@rblawyers.net

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: GERALD L. KUHN, SR., Deceased.
Case No. 2026-PR-304
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of GERALD L. KUHN, SR., of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on May 24, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 12th day of August, A.D., 2026, to KATHLEEN J. KUHN, of 4101 West Iles Avenue, Apt. 2321, Springfield, Illinois, 62711, as Executor, whose attorney of record is R. Stephen Scott, Scott & Scott, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.
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, Illinois, 62701, or with the Executor, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Co-Executors and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 12th day of August, A.D., 2026.
Estate of GERALD L. KUHN, SR., Deceased,
By: KATHLEEN J. KUHN, Executor,
PREPARED BY:
R. Stephen Scott (02533391)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
By: /s/ R. Stephen Scott
Attorneys at Law
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-8200
Facsimile: (217) 753-8206
rss@scottscottlaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE THE ESTATE OF: WALTER FRANKLIN GOODMAN JR.,

No. 2026-PR-302
Deceased.
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Walter Franklin Goodman Jr. Letters Testamentary were issued on August 11, 2026, to Jane H. Hayden of 108 Cedar Dr., Clinton, IL 61727, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Dan E. Way, WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC, 1100 S. Fifth St., Springfield, IL 62703.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth St., Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before February 22, 2027, which is not less than six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, 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.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or contact your local Circuit Clerk's office.
Dated this 11th day of August 2026
Dan E. Way #6204735
WAY LAW OFFICES, LLC
1100 S. Fifth St.
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 525-7003

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Shari Dipasquale, Deceased
Case No. 2026PR000297
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Shari Dipasquale. Letters of Administration were issued on Aug. 10, 2026 to Kathryn Gillum as Administrator, 3152 Elmhurst Dr, Springfield IL 62704. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or with the Executor, on or before Feb. 20, 2027. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Administrator within 10 days after it has been filed.
Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY ANN NEWSAM, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-294
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARY ANN NEWSAM. Letters of Office have been issued to ELIZABETH BRUNK, 2413 E. Oaks Road, Urbana, IL 61802, as Independent Executor, 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 Executor, or both, on or before February 23, 2027, 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 Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2026.
William P. 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
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLENE L. WILKIN, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-295
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of CHARLENE L. WILKIN. Letters of Office have been issued to SANDRA BETTIS, 2207 Berrywood Lane, Bloomington, IL 61704, as Independent Executor, 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 Executor, or both, on or before February 23, 2027, 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 Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 6th day of August, 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
IN RE THE ESTATE OF DONALD GENE JONES
DECEASED
Case No. 2026-PR-282
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is hereby given of the death of DONALD GENE JONES. Letters of Administration were issued on July 30, 2026, appointing KIM L. VOGEL, 1012 Fountainwood Drive, Georgetown, TX 78633, as Administrator, whose attorney is Matthew R. Trapp 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, Sangamon County Courthouse, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, 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 Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated: August 5, 2026
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sangamon County Complex
200 S. Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
8051-967989

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of LINDA M. MERCER, Deceased.
IN PROBATE
No. 2026-PR-292
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Linda M. Mercer, deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on August 5, 2026, to Jeff A. Corder, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Brandon R. Clark, Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, 205 South Fifth Street, Suite 1000, Springfield,

IL 62701. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 27th day of February, 2027, 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 6th day of August, 2026.
Prepared By:
BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP
Brandon R. Clark
Registration No. 6329553
205 S. Fifth Street, Suite 1000
Springfield, IL 62705-2459
Telephone: (217) 544-8491
Facsimile: (217) 241-3111
bclark@bhslaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
FRED J. ECKHARDT, JR., DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-284
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of FRED J. ECKHARDT, JR., of Springfield, Illinois. Letters Testamentary were issued on to CHRISTOPHER J. ECKHARDT of 1601 Brenda Ct, Springfield, IL 62702 whose attorney is DelGiorno Law Office, LLC; 2160 South Sixth Street, Suite D-1, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S 9th St., Room 405, Springfield, IL 62701 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the 13th day of August, 2026, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Dated this 5th day of August, 2026.
CHRISTOPHER J. ECKHARDT, Executor of the Estate of FRED J. ECKHARDT, JR., Deceased By: DELGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
By: /s/ Anthony J DelGiorno, Attorney
Attorneys for Estate:
Anthony J DelGiorno (ARDC 6277358)
DELGIORNO LAW OFFICE, LLC
2160 South Sixth Street, Suite D-1
Springfield, IL 62703
Tel: (217) 773-5337
Service: service@delgiornolawoffice.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY NYDEGGER, DECEASED
Case #2026-PR-290
DEATH & CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of TERRY NYDEGGER. Letters of Office have been issued to JACQUELINE MARIE RUSSELL, 454 Firehouse Court, Longboat Key, FL 34228, as Independent Executor, 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,

ORDINANCE LEVYING THE ANNUAL TAXES FOR THE SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027	
BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:	
Section 1: That whereas it was passed by the Board of Trustees of the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with the statute.	
THEREFORE, there is hereby levied on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, subject to taxation as the same is assessed or equalized for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, in the sum of\$224,501.32 for the following purposes:	
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	
1. Administrative Expense	
Trustees' Salaries	3,000.00
Attorney's Fees	4,000.00
Publication Costs	1,200.00
2. Payment to City of Springfield for fire protection for district, per contract	\$8,200.00
3. Provision for contingencies	
TOTAL OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	\$221,910.78
ESTIMATED CASH ON HAND AT END OF FISCAL YEAR	\$ 8,000.00
Section 2: The Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT upon its passage and approval of this Ordinance, shall file a duly certified copy thereof or file a Certificate of Levy for the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT with the County Clerk of Sangamon County as provided by the statutes of the State of Illinois, in such case made and provided.	
Section 3: The Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.	
PASSED: 8/11/2026	
ADOPTED: 8/11/2026	
/s/ Miles Ralph	
Miles Ralph	
President, Board of Trustees	
South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District	
ATTEST:	
/s/ Rex Bangert	
Rex Bangert	
Secretary, Board of Trustees	
South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District	
STATE OF ILLINOIS	
I, Rex Bangert, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District in Sangamon County and do further certify that, as such, I am the keeper of the seal, records, including records of the ordinances of said South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District, and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance of South Oak Knolls Fire Protection entitled, "An Ordinance Levying the Annual Taxes for South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2026 and Ending June 30, 2027," passed by the Board of Trustees of said South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District at a meeting held on the 11th day of August, 2026, the same appears by and from the records in my office as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District.	
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as Secretary of the Board of Trustees.	
DATED this 11th day of August, 2026.	
/s/ Rex Bangert	
Rex Bangert	
Secretary, Board of Trustees	
South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District	
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027	
WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT has prepared a Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, and through the President of said Board, has made the same conveniently available to public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and	
WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held as to such Budget and Appropriation Ordinance prior to final action thereon which said Public Hearing was held on the 11th day of August, 2026, Notice of such Public Hearing having been given publication at least thirty (30) days prior to said hearing and Certificate of Publication having been presented and filed, all as required by statute in such case made and provided, and all legal requirements having been complied with:	
BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:	
Section 1: That the following Budget containing an estimate of revenue and expenditures be, and the same is hereby adopted as, the Budget for said SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.	
ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	
1. Cash balance beginning of year	\$ 8,000.00
2. Taxes for 2025 to be received during this fiscal year and available for appropriation	213,810.78
3. Interest	100.00
4. Taxes to be received from 2026 levy:	
Amount of 2026 levy	\$224,501.32
Less estimated amount not available before end of fiscal year	\$224,501.32
Estimated amount to be available in this fiscal year on 2026 levy	\$0.00
TOTAL OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$221,910.78
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	
1. Administrative Expense	
Trustees' Salaries	3,000.00

Attorney's Fees	4,000.00	
Publication Costs	1,200.00	
		\$8,200.00
2. Payment to City of Springfield for fire protection for district, per contract		\$205,710.78
3. Provision for contingencies		8,000.00-
TOTAL OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		\$221,910.78
ESTIMATED CASH ON HAND AT END OF FISCAL YEAR		\$8,000.00
Section 2: That the following sums of money or so much thereof as may be authorized by law are hereby appropriated for the objects and purposes herein specified to defray all necessary expenses and liabilities of the SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.		
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		
1. Administrative Expense		
Trustees' Salaries	3,000.00	
Attorney's Fees	4,000.00	
Publication Costs	1,200.00	
		\$8,200.00
2. Payment to City of Springfield for fire protection for district, per contract		\$205,710.78
3. Provision for contingencies		8,000.00
TOTAL OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		\$221,910.78
Section 3: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval and publication as provided by law.		
PASSED: 8/11/2026		
APPROVED: 8/11/2026		
/s/ Miles Ralph		
Miles Ralph		
President, Board of Trustees		
SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT		
ATTEST:		
/s/ Rex Bangert		
Rex Bangert		
Secretary, Board of Trustees		
South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District		
ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS SOUTH OAK KNOLLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026		
Beginning Balance, July 1, 2025		\$8,000.00
RECEIPTS		
7/10/2025	Comptroller	260.76
7/18/2025	Sangamon County	5,792.87
7/31/2025	Interest	40.37
8/11/2025	Comptroller	44.80
8/15/2025	Sangamon County	5,387.18
8/29/2025	Interest	26.27
9/12/2025	Sangamon County	76,724.92
9/30/2025	Interest	17.78
10/1/2025	Illinois Municipal League	5,448.05
10/9/2025	Comptroller	269.97
10/17/2025	Sangamon County	3,612.36
10/31/2025	Interest	28.59
11/24/2025	Sangamon County	3,005.51
11/28/2025	Interest	25.56
12/9/2025	Comptroller	213.87
12/31/2025	Interest	4.39
1/12/2026	Comptroller	258.95
1/30/2026	Interest	4.36
2/27/2026	Interest	3.09
3/9/2026	Comptroller	81.81
3/31/2026	Interest	3.55
4/10/2026	Comptroller	135.09
4/30/2026	Interest	3.36
5/12/2026	Comptroller	332.35
5/22/2026	Sangamon County	31,962.52
5/29/2026	Interest	5.77
6/12/2026	Sangamon County	81,751.13
6/30/2026	Interest	28.41
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$215,473.64
DISBURSEMENTS		
8/11/2025	Illinois Times - Publication	168.75
8/11/2025	Miles Ralph - Trustee's Fee	1,000.00
8/11/2025	Rex Bangert - Trustee's Fee	1,000.00
8/11/2025	Kent Gray - Trustee's Fee	1,000.00
8/11/2025	Sorling Northrup - Attorney's Fee	4,000.00
9/15/2025	Illinois Times - Publication	612.00
11/14/2025	City of Springfield - Contract	89,873.17
6/30/2026	City of Springfield - Contract	117,819.72
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		215,473.64
/s/ Rex Bangert		
Rex Bangert		
Treasurer, South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District		
STATE OF ILLINOIS		
) ss		
COUNTY OF SANGAMON		
I, Rex Bangert, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says that he is the duly electe, and acting Treasurer of the South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District; that he has caused the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District to be prepared; and that the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District for its fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, is true and correct.		
/s/ Rex Bangert		
Rex Bangert		
Treasurer, South Oak Knolls Fire Protection District		
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of August, 2026.		
/s/ Tarmela M. McKee		
Notary Public		
My Commission expires 6/1/2030		

A PART OF LOTS 103 AND 104 IN FRED W WANLESS' EAST VIEW ADDITION, THIRD PLAT, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE EASTERLY LINE OF LOT 103 A DISTANCE OF 79.40 FEET NORTHEAST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 103, THENCE NORTHEAST 69. 62 FEET ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOTS 103 AND 104, THENCE NORTHWEST-ERLY RADIALY TO THE CURVE OF EAST VIEW DRIVE 123. 23 FEET, THENCE SOUTHWEST-ERLY ON THE SOUTHEAST STREET LINE OF EAST VIEW DRIVE A CHORD DISTANCE OF 49.15 FEET, THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY 118.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEY-ANCES, AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY. Commonly known as 2316 Eastview Drive, Springfield, IL 62702
Permanent Index No.: 14-23.0-203-005
Improvements: Single Family Residential
The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.
The judgment amount was \$147,357.78. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-SESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Bid Amount contact:
Sale Clerk
LOGS Legal Group LLP
2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207
Bannockburn, IL 60015
ILNOTICES@logs.com
(847) 291-1717
MidFirst Bank
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys
LOGS Legal Group LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
2801 Lakeside Drive, Suite 207
Bannockburn, IL 60015
(847) 291-1717
ILNOTICES@logs.com Randal S. Berg
(6277119)
Michael N. Burke (6291435)
Christopher A. Cieniawa (6187452)
Laura J. Anderson (6224385)
Thomas Belczak (6193705)
Debra Miller (6205477)
Amy Aronson (6206512)
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.
8051-967956

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
LORETTA A. GRIFFARD AKA LORETTA GRIFFARD; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).
CASE NO. 2025FC000193
Property Address: 825 N. Ohio Ave. Spring-

field, 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 March 11, 2026, I, Sheriff Paula Crouch of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on Sep-tember 15, 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:
LOT ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE (173) OF HAY AND TRACY'S MELROSE SUBDIVI-SION.
EXCEPT ANY INTEREST IN THE COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN HERETOFORE CONVEYED OR RESERVED IN PRIOR CONVEY-ANCES, AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS, IF ANY.
SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 825 N. Ohio Ave., Springfield, IL 62702
P.I.N.: 14-26.0-180-023
First Lien Position; Single Family Residence; Judgment Amount \$81,672.56
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 PUR-CHASER OF THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSEC-TIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g-1) OF SEC-TION 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 regard-ing this property is:
Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associ-ates, 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
midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
8051-967809

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, an Illinois banking corporation,
Plaintiff,
v.
ASHLEY R. PRICE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
STATE OF ILLINOIS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 2025FC000246
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court on the Complaint for Foreclosure in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.
(A) The name, address and telephone num-ber of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is:
United Community Bank, Attn: Loss Mitiga-tion, 1311 West Jefferson Street, Auburn, IL

62615; Telephone: (217) 438-5467
(B) The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 33 Windsor Road, Springfield, Illinois 62702
(C) The legal description of the real estate is: Lot 20 in Morningside Place. Except all Coal and Minerals Underlying said Lot. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
(D) A description of the improvements on the real estate is:
Single family residence.
(E) The real estate may be inspected prior to sale at the following times:
Not applicable.
(F) The time and place of the sale are:
9:00 a.m. on September 8, 2026; Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 223, Springfield, Illinois 62701
(G) The terms of the sale are:
10% cash or certified funds at the time of sale; balance within twenty-four (24) hours of sale. Plaintiff may credit bid at the sale.
The successful bidder will receive a Certificate of Purchase following the sale and a Sheriff's Deed upon confirmation of the sale by the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois.
(H) Title will be conveyed subject to real estate taxes for 2025 and subsequent years and special assessments, if any; to building restrictions and restrictive covenants of record; to easements of record or in place; to rights of way for roads, streets, and highways; to rights of tenants in possession, if any. Sale is subject to approval of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois.
Any real estate transfer tax which may be due as a result of the sale shall be paid by the purchaser.
BROWN, HAY + STEPHENS, LLP
Emmet A. Fairfield, Reg. No. 6180505
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491
efairfield@bhsllaw.com
8051-967714

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
Planet Home Lending, LLC
PLAINTIFF
Vs.
Stephen Willsie; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Kelly L. McKean; Kelsie Bruning; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Dan Way, as Special Representative for Kelly L. McKean (deceased)
DEFENDANTS
No. 2026FC000133
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Kelly L. McKean
McKean
Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
6 W Grand Ct
Springfield AKA Jerome, IL 62704
and which said Mortgage was made by:
Kelly L. McKean
the mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Low VA Rates, LLC, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon County, Illi-nois, as Document No. 2020R33409; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,

Joseph B. Roesch
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sangamon County Courthouse
200 South Ninth Street, Room 405
Springfield, IL 62701
on or before September 8, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.
CODILUS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 794-5300
DuPage # 15170
Winnebago # 531
Our File No. 14-26-03851
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
I3291731

Notice by Publication
The Springfield Planning and Zoning Com-mission will meet on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.
A petition for variation of Section 155.069 (a) (2), Fences, of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Subject property was granted relief by zoning docket 2010-016 pertaining to the location/setbacks for the existing garage and privacy fence along the north rear yard property line. Petitioner desires to enclose the side and rear portion of the yard to have privacy and a fenced area for her dog and grandchildren to play safely. Petitioner desires construction of a semi-private vinyl fencing less than 50% open in a required 12 feet six inch side yard. To be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, petitioner respectfully requests a variance of 155.069 (a) (2) to allow said desired fencing (semi-private vinyl fencing less than 50% open in a required 12 feet six inch side yard setback) starting at the northeast corner of the existing privacy fence along the rear property line and running directly south to the northeast corner of the existing garage (6ft in height with gate). And including fencing from the southeast corner of the existing garage out approximately 34 inches (east) and then heading south connecting to the northeast corner of the house a 5 ft in height fence with gate. In addition, not included in the variance request petitioner will add a 7-foot section, 6ft in height semi-private vinyl portion of fence along the west side of the house between the west corner of the house and existing west fence. The Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission decision will be a final determination on this matter.
Improvements (or Structures) located on said property are a frame building consisting of one dwelling and a frame two car garage located on the rear portion of the property, and an existing fence along the north and west property line.. The subject real estate is currently classified in the R-2, Single-Family & Duplex Residence District, Section 155.017.
Legally described as: CHAS S WANLESS LAWRENCE HILLS ADON Lot 11, Parcel #14-32.0-255-009, situated in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois; commonly known as 1 McLean Lane, Springfield, Il-linois.
The subject property is commonly known as 1 McLean Lane Springfield, Illinois.
The petitioner is Trudy Ingalls
Docket No. 2026-031
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Com-mission will meet on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.

A petition for a Conditional Permitted Use for a Restaurant with Service of Alcohol pursuant to Sections: 155.031(c)(7), Condi-tional Permitted Uses in the S-2 Community Shopping and Office District: Restaurants and banquet halls with service of alcoholic beverages, exclusive of drive-in or drive-up windows for the sale of alcohol, located on zoning lots adjoining the R-1, R-2 or R-3 zoning districts or equivalent planned unit development designation, or otherwise adjoining those districts but for an alley, and 155.211, Restaurant with Service of Alco-holic Beverages, of the City of Springfield Zoning Ordinance. Petitioners are Contract for Deed Buyers of subject property and desire to remodel tenant space, suite 102 to operate a restaurant that serves alcoholic beverages at the premises. Petitioners are the owners of a restaurant, Village Tea Room, Inc, which currently holds a Class E liquor license from the City of Springfield, and desires to operate at the property. In order to be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, petitioners respectfully request a Conditional Permitted Use for a Restaurant with Service of Alcohol pursuant to Sections: 155.031(c) (7) – Conditional Permitted Uses in the S-2, Community Shopping and Office District, and 155.211 – Restaurants with Service of Alcohol, to operate a restaurant with the service of alcoholic beverages at the prop-erty commonly known as 315 Chatham Rd, specifically 315 Chatham Rd, Suite 102. Improvements (or structures) located on Subject Property is a brick building of approximately 15,050 square feet, in good condition, and is being used for multiple tenant spaces. Subject property is currently classified in the S-2, Community Shopping and Office District, Section 155.031.
Legally described as: Part of the West half of the northwest quarter of section 32, town-ship 16 north, range 5 west of third principal meridian, bounded as follows:
Beginning at a point in the east line of said half quarter section 1335.39 feet north of the southeast corner of said half quarter section; thence north with said line 334 feet more or less to the south line of the right of way of Springfield Southwestern railroad, formerly C. P. and St. L. Railroad; thence South 61 degrees 36 minutes west 751.52 feet to a stake; thence in an easterly direction 661 feet more or less, to the place of beginning. EXCEPT that part of the west half of the northwest quarter of section 32, township 16 north, range 5 west of the third principal meridian, being further described as follows: Commencing at an axle of the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of said section 32; thence north 0 degrees 01 minutes 16 seconds east, 1335.07 feet along the east line of the west half of the northwest quarter of said section 32; thence south 87 degrees 55 minutes 43 seconds west, 432.64 feet; thence north 28 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds west, 48.87 feet to the point of beginning; thence south 61 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds east, 64.00 feet; thence north 28 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds west, 55.00 feet; thence north 61 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds east, 209.53 feet; thence south 28 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds west, 20.05 feet; thence south 21 degrees 09 minutes 02 seconds west, 51.18 feet; thence south 61 degrees 53 minutes 45 seconds west, 106.77 feet: then south 28 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds east, 1.49 feet to the point of beginning. Except the coal and other minerals underlying the surface of said land and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal and minerals. Stated in Sangamon County, Illinois. Subject to ease-ments, covenants and restrictions of record. Subject to a lien for taxes for calendar year 2026 and thereafter. Common address: 315 Chatham Rd, Springfield, Illinois 62704. Tax ID Numbers: 14-32.0-155-041.
The subject property is commonly known as 315 Chatham Road, Suite 102, Springfield,

Illinois.
The petitioners are Wayne A. Friday and Jennifer Friday.
Docket No. 2026-030
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

The Springfield Planning and Zoning Com-mission will meet on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Center West to hear the following petition.
A petition to vary Appendix A, Section 3 (Setbacks) of the Land Use Plan for Lake Springfield and its Marginal Properties. Petitioner desires to install a new inground swimming pool and surrounding concrete patio to within 45 feet of the lake. The in-tended use of the structure is for residential recreation. Petitioner respectfully petitions to vary the Lake Land Use Plan, Appendix A, Section 3 (Setbacks) related to the 75 feet setback requirement from the lake shoreline to allow the new pool and concrete patio structure to be approximately 45 feet from the lake shoreline, the swimming pools water edge is to be approximately 57 feet from the lake shoreline.
Improvements (or structures) located on said property is a frame building consisting of one dwelling unit. Subject Real Estate is currently classified in the R-1, Single family residence district, Section 155.016.
Legally described as: Hickory Point TR 152 SEC 35 situated in the County of Sangamon and State of Illinois; commonly known as 36 Hickory Pt. Lane, Springfield, Illinois, and further identified as Index #22-35.0-226-014. The property is located at 36 Hickory Point, Springfield, Illinois
The petitioner is Alissa Boatman, as lake lease holder.
Docket No. 2026-029
John Harris
Zoning Administrator

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF
Kemani Leon Vasey, Minor Child
No. 2026-GR-000145
To: Desi Woods Jr. and All Persons Having A Right To Notice:
Please be notified that Melissa Hendricker has filed a Petition for the Guardianship of the Estate and Person of Kemani Leon Vasey a minor child.
You are required to answer said Petition before Sept. 13, 2026 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.
Dated: Aug. 13, 2026

Notice of Solicitation of Proposals for Sale of Certain Real Property
Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2
Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code, the Village of Grandview Board of Trustees duly enacted Ordinance 26-10 at a regular board meeting of the Village Board on September 1, 2026. The Ordinance authorizes the sale of a vacant and unimproved parcel owned by the Village, commonly known as 2515 E Keys Avenue, Grandview, IL 62702 (the "Property"). As such, the Village hereby gives public notice that it is soliciting proposals relating to said Property.
The brief legal description of said Property is: Wanless 2nd N Grand PL, W 70' E 190' L 49. The Parcel Number is 14-24.0-302-014. The property is located in the Village's residential zoning district and must conform to the residential zoning district standards of the Village.
The Property is being sold "as-is" for a sum determined to be appropriate by open bid, with a starting minimum bid of \$8,000. The Village makes no representation as to the condition of the Property. The winning bid

will be responsible for all costs associated with closing, any costs from a title company associated with securing the conveyance of good, marketable title, any costs of survey, and any and all other usual and customary costs associated with the sale of real property.

Any person may submit a written sealed bid for the purchase of the Property. The Village will consider all bids to purchase the Property received no later than 5:00 PM CST on September 1, 2026. There is a starting minimum bid of \$8,000. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. These decisions will be final and not subject to recourse. This request for proposals does not obligate the Village to pay any costs incurred by any bidder in the submittal of a bid or in making necessary studies or designs for the preparation of that bid.

Bids for the Property shall be submitted in hard copy, in a sealed envelope marked "SEALED PROPERTY BID" and must be received by the Village Clerk no later than 5 PM CST on September 1, 2026. Any bids received after 5 PM CST on September 1, 2026 shall not be considered. Sealed bids should be delivered to the Village Clerk Heather Becker, Grandview Village Offices, 2377 E. Reservoir, Springfield, IL 62702. Submission of a sealed bid shall be considered indication of the bidder's commitment to maintain the property in accordance with the Village Ordinances.

Sealed bids shall be opened at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM CST at 2377 E. Reservoir, Springfield, IL 62702. The Board may accept the high bid or any other bid determined to be in the best interest of the Village by a vote of 3/4 of the Board, or may reject any and all bids by a majority vote.

SPRINGFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY
2027 PHA PLAN SUBMISSION
2027 MTW Supplement
Close out of 2022, 2023 & 2024 Capital Fund Programs
IL06P004501-22
IL06P004501-23
IL06P004501-24
Revisions to Admissions & Continued Occupancy Plan & Public Housing Lease, Administrative Plan and Family Self-Sufficiency Action Plan
PUBLIC NOTICE
As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, there will be a 45-day public comment period starting Monday, August 3, 2026, through Friday, September 18, 2026. Copies of the plan for public review can be obtained at the following locations:

SHA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
200 North Eleventh Street
Springfield, IL 62703
Public Hearings will be held during the 45-day public comment period to gather public input at the following times and locations:
Tuesday, September 1, 2026, @ 11:00 AM
Hildebrandt Hi-Rise
Tuesday, September 1, 2026, @ 3:00 PM
Villas at Vinegar Hill
Tuesday, September 1, 2026, @ 5:00 PM
Brandon Office
Wednesday, September 2, 2026, @ 5:00 PM
- 200 North Eleventh Street
Thursday, September 3, 2026, @ 11:00 AM
Bonansinga Hi-Rise
Thursday, September 3, 2026, @5:00PM
Johnson Park Office
Comments may be mailed or e-mailed to: SPRINGFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY
ATTN: Chief Executive Officer's Office
200 North Eleventh Street
Springfield, IL 62703
melissah@sha1.org
Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act (QHWRA) of 1998 created the public housing agency five (5) year and

annual plan requirement. The five-year plan describes the mission of the agency and the agency's long-range goals and objectives for achieving its mission over a five-year period, and their approach to managing programs and providing services for the upcoming year. THE PHA Plan also serves as the annual application for grants to support improvements to public housing buildings (Capital Fund Program) and safety in public housing (Public Housing Drug Elimination Program).

Notice of Public Hearing
RE: State of Illinois Paratransit Vehicle Grant for the Springfield, IL Area
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by Springfield Mass Transit District d.b.a. Sangamon Mass Transit District on September 3, 2026 at 12:00 PM at 928 S 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.
For the purpose of considering a project for which financial assistance is being sought from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), pursuant to IDOT's general authority to make such grants, and which is generally described as follows:
A. Description of project: Replacement of 16 paratransit vehicles and 6 expansion vehicles.
B. This project will be included in a Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) Program undertaken by the State of Illinois on behalf of Sangamon Mass Transit District, with federal funds.
C. Relocation – Relocation Assistance will not be required.
D. Environment – This project is being implemented to minimize environmental impact.
E. Comprehensive Planning – This project is in conformance with comprehensive transportation planning in the area.
F. Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities – All new equipment included in this project will meet ADA-accessibility requirements for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
At the hearing, Sangamon Mass Transit District will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with respect to the social, economic, and environmental aspects of the project. Interested persons may submit verbally or in writing, evidence and recommendations with respect to said project.
A copy of the application for a state grant for the proposed project for the intended service area will be made available for public inspection at Sangamon Mass Transit District.
Contact Person: Hadley Markiewicz Phone: 217-747-1270 Email: hmarkiewicz@smt.d.org

Juvenile Division
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Jensen Nelson, Petitioner and
Sela Cronin, Respondent
Case No. 2025-FA-000049
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Sela Cronin, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced and you are summoned to a child custody case and for other relief. Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, 200 South Ninth Street, Room 405, Springfield, Illinois on or before the 13th day of September, 2026, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Joseph B. Roesch
Circuit Clerk

Sounds the same

Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 959

- Across
1. Almond
5. Taj Mahal's city
9. The Kennedys, e.g.
13. Engine sounds
15. What nomads do
16. Experience
17. Home run requirement
20. Decide to leave, with "out"
21. Lacking slack
22. Short-straw drawers
23. Stop on the way
25. An end to sex?
26. Parenthesis, essentially
27. "Gee whiz!"
28. "The Black Cat" writer
31. Disparage
34. Stratified snack
37. Agenda entries
39. Half a quartet
42. Bind
43. Liberals, with "the"
44. Top-rated
45. Banned pesticide
46. Hot spot
48. Balloon filler
50. Afflict
51. British (1964ish)
56. Chinese temple
59. Appear
60. Car accessory
61. Often
64. "Don't bet ___!"
65. ___-friendly
66. Cold shower?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15				16			
17					18					19			
20					21				22				
23				24					25				
			26					27			28	29	30
31	32	33			34	35	36		37	38			
39				40					41				
42						43				44			
45				46	47				48	49			
			50				51	52			53	54	55
56	57	58					59					60	
61						62					63		
64													
67					68					69			

67. Pro ___
68. Beanery sign
69. No Clue
- Down
1. Overthrow, e.g.
2. Two-door
3. Carries on
4. Ashes holder
5. Bicker
6. "___ go!"
7. "Go!"
8. ___ Island, Fla.
9. Gorge
10. Beam intensely
11. Allege
12. 1987 Costner role
14. Ravi Shankar's instrument
18. Bust officers
19. 1990's war site
24. Divination deck
27. Fashion
28. 100 centavos
29. Black cat, maybe
30. Sum, ___, fui
31. Fastener
32. Advance
33. Newton, e.g.
35. Big Indian
36. Hydrocarbon ending
38. Autocrats
40. Live
41. More daring

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week

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

Crossword answers from #958

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

Sudoku answers from #958

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

JoshJosh answers from #958

Sudoku No. 959

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

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

Difficulty medium

2-			19+			3-		
7+	1-					2÷		3÷
			3÷	6+				
48x						90x		
3-								2-
			2-		4			

Difficulty hard

Ride to the

SHADED TIMES = WEEKDAYS ONLY
UNSHADED TIMES = WEEKDAYS + SATURDAYS

ILLINOIS
STATE FAIR
AUGUST 13 - 23, 2026

1 North 5th

Transfer Center Stop B	State Fair Main Gate (outbound)	Peoria Rd Qik-N-Ez (outbound)	State Fair Gate 4 @ 8th & Sangamon (inbound)	Transfer Center Stop B
Stop ID 2315	Stop ID 2015	Stop ID 2020	Stop ID 23	Stop ID 2315
6:00 AM	6:11 AM	6:12 AM	6:39 AM	7:00 AM
6:30 AM	6:41 AM	6:42 AM	7:09 AM	7:30 AM
7:00 AM	7:11 AM	7:12 AM	7:39 AM	8:00 AM
7:30 AM	7:41 AM	7:42 AM	8:09 AM	8:30 AM
8:00 AM	8:11 AM	8:12 AM	8:39 AM	9:00 AM
8:30 AM	8:41 AM	8:42 AM	9:09 AM	9:30 AM
9:00 AM	9:11 AM	9:12 AM	9:39 AM	10:00 AM
9:30 AM	9:41 AM	9:42 AM	10:09 AM	10:30 AM
10:00 AM	10:11 AM	10:12 AM	10:39 AM	11:00 AM
10:30 AM	10:41 AM	10:42 AM	11:09 AM	11:30 AM
11:00 AM	11:11 AM	11:12 AM	11:39 AM	12:00 PM
11:30 AM	11:41 AM	11:42 AM	12:09 PM	12:30 PM
12:00 PM	12:11 PM	12:12 PM	12:39 PM	1:00 PM
12:30 PM	12:41 PM	12:42 PM	1:09 PM	1:30 PM
1:00 PM	1:11 PM	1:12 PM	1:39 PM	2:00 PM
1:30 PM	1:41 PM	1:42 PM	2:09 PM	2:30 PM
2:00 PM	2:11 PM	2:12 PM	2:39 PM	3:00 PM
2:30 PM	2:41 PM	2:42 PM	3:09 PM	3:30 PM
3:00 PM	3:11 PM	3:12 PM	3:39 PM	4:00 PM
3:30 PM	3:41 PM	3:42 PM	4:09 PM	4:30 PM
4:00 PM	4:11 PM	4:12 PM	4:39 PM	5:00 PM
4:30 PM	4:41 PM	4:42 PM	5:09 PM	5:30 PM
5:00 PM	5:11 PM	5:12 PM	5:39 PM	6:00 PM
5:30 PM	5:41 PM	5:42 PM	6:09 PM	6:30 PM

2 North 9th

Transfer Center Stop B	11th & Sangamon (outbound)	Peoria & Joles (inbound)	Transfer Center Stop B
Stop ID 2315	Stop ID 70	Stop ID 1333	Stop ID 2315
		6:11 AM	6:30 AM
6:00 AM	6:08 AM	6:41 AM	7:00 AM
6:30 AM	6:38 AM	7:11 AM	7:30 AM
7:00 AM	7:08 AM	7:41 AM	8:00 AM
7:30 AM	7:38 AM	8:11 AM	8:30 AM
8:00 AM	8:08 AM	8:41 AM	9:00 AM
8:30 AM	8:38 AM	9:11 AM	9:30 AM
9:00 AM	9:08 AM	9:41 AM	10:00 AM
9:30 AM	9:38 AM	10:11 AM	10:30 AM
10:00 AM	10:08 AM	10:41 AM	11:00 AM
10:30 AM	10:38 AM	11:11 AM	11:30 AM
11:00 AM	11:08 AM	11:41 AM	12:00 PM
11:30 AM	11:38 AM	12:11 PM	12:30 PM
12:00 PM	12:08 PM	12:41 PM	1:00 PM
12:30 PM	12:38 PM	1:11 PM	1:30 PM
1:00 PM	1:08 PM	1:41 PM	2:00 PM
1:30 PM	1:38 PM	2:11 PM	2:30 PM
2:00 PM	2:08 PM	2:41 PM	3:00 PM
2:30 PM	2:38 PM	3:11 PM	3:30 PM
3:00 PM	3:08 PM	3:41 PM	4:00 PM
3:30 PM	3:38 PM	4:11 PM	4:30 PM
4:00 PM	4:08 PM	4:41 PM	5:00 PM
4:30 PM	4:38 PM	5:11 PM	5:30 PM
5:00 PM	5:08 PM	5:41 PM	6:00 PM
5:30 PM	5:38 PM	6:11 PM	6:30 PM
6:00 PM	6:08 PM	6:41 PM	7:00 PM
7:00 PM	7:08 PM	7:41 PM	8:00 PM
8:00 PM	8:08 PM	8:41 PM	9:00 PM
9:00 PM	9:08 PM	9:41 PM	10:00 PM
10:00 PM	10:08 PM	10:41 PM	11:00 PM

FARES

Ages 5 & over: \$1.25
Ages 65 & over: \$0.60

801 State Fair Shuttle

August 14th, 17th-21st

Transfer Center Stop C	State Fair Main Gate	Peoria & Joles	Transfer Center Stop C
Stop ID 2316	Stop ID 70	Stop ID 1333	Stop ID 2316
6:30 PM	6:45 PM	6:50 PM	7:00 PM
7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:20 PM	7:30 PM
7:30 PM	7:45 PM	7:50 PM	8:00 PM
8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:20 PM	8:30 PM
8:30 PM	8:45 PM	8:50 PM	9:00 PM
9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:20 PM	9:30 PM
9:30 PM	9:45 PM	9:50 PM	10:00 PM

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WITH YOUR PHONE!



ride.smttd.org
Fixed Route - 217-522-5531
Paratransit - 217-522-8594