

# McHenry County News

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THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 2021

## Conservation district honored for budget presentation

McHenry County Conservation District announced that the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has again honored the conservation district with its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the district's presentation of its budget to the public. This award is the highest form of recognition given for governmental budgeting.

To receive the award, a public entity must publish a budget document that satisfies nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. That includes how well the published budget meets program criteria as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

Budget documents must be rated at least "proficient" in all four categories and fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to be recognized.

"We congratulate Director of Administration & Finance Andy Dylak and the

District finance department for receiving for the first time, the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award! This is the first type we applied for the award, and were extremely pleased having received it on our first submission, testament to our focus on increased transparency and efficiency in government," stated Executive Director Elizabeth Kessler.

There are over 1,600 participants in the GFOA's Budget Awards Program, established in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the highest quality. Just 2% of the thousands of eligible public entities throughout North America are awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award annually.

*GFOA is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 19,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners.*

## GOP lawmakers introduce 'fair maps' legislation

*Bill similar to failed 2016 constitutional amendment*

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Republicans in the Illinois House said Jan. 5 that they hope to use legislation, instead of a constitutional amendment, to change the way state legislative and congressional district lines are redrawn every 10 years.

The so-called "fair maps" proposal would authorize the General Assembly to set up an independent, nonpartisan commission to redraw the lines, taking that highly political process out of the hands of legislators who currently are able to use that process to protect themselves politically, a process known as "gerrymandering."

Redistricting is a process that all states go through following each decennial federal census and one that Illinois must complete in the upcoming session so that districts can be established in time for candidates to file for office in time for the 2022 elections.

Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, said the measure is similar to the proposed constitutional amendment that supporters tried to put on the ballot in 2016 before being blocked by a sharply divided Illinois Supreme Court. The main difference is that it would put the process into statute instead of the constitution.

"This is a great way to do it through statute to make sure that we have an independent commission that draws our

maps this year, gets it out of the hands of the leadership of the General Assembly and puts it in the hands of a commission of citizens to draw fair and equitable maps across the state of Illinois," Butler said during a virtual news conference.

In 2016, supporters of such a change circulated petitions to put a constitutional amendment on that year's general election ballot. That's one of three ways the current Illinois Constitution allows amendments to be considered. The others are by a constitutional convention or by a resolution approved by a three-fifths majority in both the House and Senate.

However, the constitution also limits the scope of citizen-initiated amendments "to structural and procedural subjects contained in Article IV," which pertains to the General Assembly.

In a 4-3 ruling, the Supreme Court blocked the proposal from going onto the ballot because the proposed amendment contained elements that also dealt with the attorney general and the auditor general.

The legal challenge to the amendment was brought by several individuals led by John Hooker, a former Commonwealth Edison lobbyist who is now under indictment for allegedly taking part in a bribery scheme aimed



COURTESY PHOTO McHenry County News

Crystal Lake Public Works Department employees will be ready to remove snow on the city's streets, but can also assist with other areas of resident concern.

## Spotlight on public works

The Crystal Lake Public Works Department is located in the City's Municipal Complex at 100 W. Woodstock St. Staff can be reached, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday at 815-356-3614.

The City of Crystal Lake Public Works Department currently employs over 55 full-time and seasonal staff members in the Engineering, Fleets and Facilities, Streets, Water & Sewer, and Wastewater divisions.

Public works staff can help with questions or concerns in many areas, including:

- Sidewalks and public construction projects

- Water quality and pressure
- Potholes
- Tree trimming, removal and planting
- Surplus equipment auctions
- Snow removal
- Mosquito abatement
- Reporting street light outages
- Scheduling water shut offs
- B-Box locations and more

Online requests can also be made directly to Public Works by accessing the Citizen Support Center on the City's website, or at [bit.ly/3mTdbRH](http://bit.ly/3mTdbRH).

## Crossing state lines for illicit sexual misconduct indictment

A man from Lake in the Hills was indicted Jan. 12 by a federal grand jury on charges of traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor. Kevin R. Duffy, 35, was charged with four counts of traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor who was 15 years old and at least four years younger than Duffy.

According to the indictment, Duffy traveled from Illinois to Kentucky on June 25, 2020, July 3, 2020, Aug. 5, 2020, and Oct. 1, 2020, with the in-

tent to engage in sexual conduct with the minor. Duffy has been in custody since his arrest on a criminal complaint on Nov. 18, 2020.

Each count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor carries a maximum potential penalty of up to 30 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$250,000. If convicted, the court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal sentencing statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant

is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The indictment was announced by John R. Lausch, Jr., United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and Emmerson Buie, Jr., special agent-in-charge of the Chicago 2 Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Lake in the Hills Police Department assisted in the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica S. Maveus.

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# Red Cross teams with NFL during National Blood Donor Month

*Give blood now and earn a chance to win a trip to Super Bowl LVI*

The American Red Cross and the National Football League are teaming up this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals – especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 – to give blood and to help tackle the national convalescent plasma shortage. Right now, more donors are needed to help hospital patients.

During this critical time, the Red Cross and NFL are thrilled to offer all those who come to donate an opportunity to receive a special thank you this month. Those who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win two tickets to next year's Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood today with the American Red Cross by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

"Blood and plasma donors who have recovered from COVID-19 may have the power to help critically ill patients currently battling the virus," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, Red Cross medical director of clinical services. "With hospital distributions for convalescent

plasma increasing about 250 percent since October, these generous donations are vital in helping to save lives throughout the winter – a time that is often challenging to collect enough blood products for those in need."

As COVID-19 cases have risen across the U.S., so has the need for convalescent plasma – leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood product. Like "special teams" units on the field, COVID-19 survivors have a unique ability to make a game-changing difference in the lives of COVID-19 patients. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may have antibodies in their plasma that could provide a patient's immune system the boost it needs to beat the virus.

### How those recovered from COVID-19 can help

There are two ways COVID-19 survivors can help – through a convalescent plasma donation or by simply giving whole blood. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients. Health emergencies don't pause for holidays, game days or a pandemic – blood is needed every two seconds in the U.S. to help patients battling injury

and illness.

### Blood donation safety precautions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest stan-

dards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive,

in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

In Boone County, you can visit the Rock Valley Blood Donation Center, 1740 S. State St. Belvidere to make your donation. You make an appointment by calling 815-965-8751 or online at [www.rvbc.org](http://www.rvbc.org). Center hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

District Name	County	FY21 Title I Final	FY21 Estimated Allocation
Belvidere CUSD 100	BOONE	\$1,273,681	\$4,208,118
North Boone CUSD 200	BOONE	\$254,929	\$842,261
Harlem UD 122	WINNEBAGO	\$1,985,995	\$6,561,535
Kinnikinnick CCSD 131	WINNEBAGO	\$218,854	\$723,072
Prairie Hill CCSD 133	WINNEBAGO	\$66,136	\$218,507
Shirland CCSD 134	WINNEBAGO	\$73,892	\$244,132
Rockton SD 140	WINNEBAGO	\$182,826	\$604,039
Rockford SD 205	WINNEBAGO	\$19,439,989	\$64,227,838
Hononegah CHD 207	WINNEBAGO	\$142,435	\$470,591
County of Winnebago SD 320	WINNEBAGO	\$336,696	\$1,112,411
Pecatonica CUSD 321	WINNEBAGO	\$98,603	\$325,775
Durand CUSD 322	WINNEBAGO	\$75,757	\$250,294
Winnebago CUSD 323	WINNEBAGO	\$415,329	\$1,372,207

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Allocations to be distributed in Winnebago and Boone Counties.

## Local school districts to receive second round of CARES Act funding

State Rep. Joe Sosnowski (R-Rockford) shared news from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that Illinois is set to receive more than \$2.25 Billion in federal CARES Act funding for local schools; more than four times the amount received in the initial disbursement of COVID-19 relief last year. There will also be a set-aside for nonpublic schools in the forthcoming second round of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund.

ISBE Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala is urging schools and districts to utilize a significant portion of their share of funds to mitigate learning loss by considering a longer school year, before/after-school programs and summer learning opportunities; in addition to taking steps to close the digital divide and address the mental health needs of students.

"This funding will help our local educators and school administrators navigate these challenging times as we continue to emphasize the importance of returning to safe, full-time, in-person classroom instruction for students of all ages throughout the Stateline and across Illinois," Representative Sosnowski said. "I would like to recognize all our local teachers for their dedication and perseverance as we pursue these shared goals."

ISBE's Preliminary Estimated Allocations for local school districts in Boone and Winnebago Counties in this second round of CARES Act funding are as follows: ISBE Second Round of CARES Act funding. DAR

Sosnowski serves the 69th District which includes portions of Winnebago and Boone Counties.

## Death notices

**Jan. 4**  
Myrtle Tackes, 93; Terrance Goodall, 59

**Jan. 5**  
Bonnie Jeffers 92; MaryLou Russell, 76

**Jan. 6**  
James Margis, 95; Ignac Acosta-Aviles, 89; Norman Heaton, 82

**Jan. 8**  
Julie Quinney, 61; Dorothy Molander, 92; Robert Coleman, 56

**Jan. 9**  
Scott Neale, 59

**Jan. 10**  
Sandra Walters, 51



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## LETTER POLICY

We encourage readers to submit letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, all letters MUST be signed with the writer's full name. *An address and telephone number (which will not be printed) must be provided for verification purposes.* Letters exceeding 250 words may be edited for length. No potentially libelous letters or letters containing personal attacks will be printed. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays. Send letters for the Belvidere Daily Republican to: Letters to the Editor, 130 South State Street, Suite 101, Belvidere, IL 61008, or fax to 815-547-3045.

## Back in the saddle

# Why you should be a Farm Bureau member

By Ann Marie Cain, FBCM  
WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU

### Farm Bureau Member Benefits

Why be a member of the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau? There are many reasons. A Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau membership strengthens the voice of agriculture; provides youth with educational materials on food, fiber, and fuel from farm to fork; provides educational and networking opportunities for farmers; saves you money when you use the various home, farm, wellness, and travel discounts; and more.

Are you a farmer, agribusiness professional, or someone that just loves to eat? If you answered yes, then you are part of agriculture. We have three classes of memberships. A regular membership is for farm owners and/or operators with \$2,500 gross farm income or a full-time farm employee that would like to be classified as a regular member. An agribusiness professional membership is for individuals that are employed in an ag-related occupation and want to be classified as a professional member as well as an Associate membership for individuals that do not own or operate a farm. Not a member, not a problem. Visit [www.myifb.org](http://www.myifb.org) and click the "Join IFB Now".

Already a member? Take advantage of these great educational opportunities to improve your

agricultural operation.

### Alternative Farm Revenue

Join Raghela Scavuzzo, IFB associate director of Food Systems Development and executive director of the IL Specialty Growers Association, on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. will discuss "Alternative Farm Revenues: Crop Diversifications & Niche Market Opportunities". To register, email Alternative Farm Revenue, your name and address to [wfbmanager@live.com](mailto:wfbmanager@live.com) by noon on Thursday, Jan. 21. A link to the virtual session will be emailed out once your registration has been approved. This session is sponsored by the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Young Leaders. All Farm Bureau members are welcome.

### COUNTRY Winter Seminars

Farmers, COUNTRY Financial is offering the following virtual programs for Farm Bureau members.

The pre-recorded sessions on in-depth Farm Bill Updates, Private Product update (AVE Product), Crop Claims, Precision planting & drone technology, Market are now available.

COUNTRY Financial is offering live 90-minute seminars on Crop/Farm Bill and Farm Legacy Planning Jan. 27 (11 a.m.), Feb. 9 (4 p.m.) and Feb. 25 (12 p.m.). Visit [www.countryfinancial.com/agwebinars](http://www.countryfinancial.com/agwebinars) to watch the pre-

recorded sessions or to register for one of the live seminars.

### IFB Consumer Engagement Virtual Training

Illinois Farm Bureau will be hosting a consumer engagement training event on Tuesday, Jan. 26 (6-8 p.m.) and Wednesday, Jan. 27 (6-8p.m.). This two-day training is open to Farm Bureau members.

**Day 1:** Tuesday, Jan. 26, 6-8 p.m.

Food culture and consumer trends: Understanding consumer perspectives on food and agriculture featuring keynote speaker, Eve Turow-Paul

**Day 2:** Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m.

Engagement in action: Strategies to succeed with online engagement and content creation in a virtual world

Register here to attend the training. Attendees will have the option to choose to attend one or both sessions and are encouraged to register for both. Information on how to join will be sent to the email address provided after registration is approved. Additional information is available at [ilfb.org/ConsumerEngagement](http://ilfb.org/ConsumerEngagement).

### Register for VIRTUAL 2021 Conservation Cropping Seminars

Don't miss information about ways farmers can improve soil

**See BACK IN THE SADDLE, Page 6**



# Poplar Grove President Owen Costanza on Impact and Developer Fees

By Anne Eickstadt  
EDITOR

"I think the big misunderstanding right now is about developer fees and impact fees and what they do," said President Owen Costanza. "An impact

fee is when we have a huge influx of homes and businesses that impact our resources. Those fees were put into place at a time when Boone County was the fastest growing county in the country with 200 homes a month. The

schools were overwhelmed. It was great back then.

"Today, it is even hard to get the building permit fees into the appraisal for the house so someone is paying for those up front. As for the impact on the schools – school attendance is down around 800 students, in Poplar Grove attendance is down 25 percent total attendance.

"How can the fees be used? They can only be used to build new buildings, new brick-and-mortar, new sticks-and-bricks. The impact fees that have been collected by the schools have to be put into an escrow account to be used for future development. They cannot be used for any general funds, any current bonding - nothing. So the money just sits there.

"In Boone County the school district, the conservation district, and the Belvidere Park District are the ones that benefit from impact fees. I sent you the letter they all signed. (See sidebar)

"Developer fees, on the other hand, are when they actually develop a subdivision, there are costs associated with developing that subdivision - the plot, the engineering studies, the infrastructure. So the things that we waive the impact fees on are all of these existing subdivisions that already have this infrastructure in the ground, they are already plotted and have roads or the first layer of roads already on them so there is no 'development.'

"In the Village of Poplar Grove, this isn't true everywhere but it is in Poplar Grove, all of the piping in the ground, all the water towers, and water sewage plants were all paid for by the developers. We have a water tower and a well on Poplar Grove Road that has been

paid for by a developer. Things were going so well and we thought we were going to need it. And it is not being used. It cost \$300,000 and it's not being used.

"In my first year as mayor this stuff was already starting to get old. The developments are sitting and the water is not being used, the pipes aren't being used. Between oxidation and electrolysis in the ground, pipes were bursting and we were chasing water leaks everywhere. This stuff was basically rotting. There's this huge investment in development and the water pipes are rotting

"Then we had some developments that didn't have the final layer... Olson Woods is a good example. We don't own the roads - we didn't back then. I went to the developer, and we waived building permit fees, in lieu of finishing the roads first and we took them over this year. They still had to pay for the inspection fees because that's the real pass-thru cost for the village is paying for the licensed inspections to be done. They still have to pay those but we discounted building permit fees on those

See FEES, Page 6



ANNE EICKSTADT PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Poplar Grove President Owen Costanza by the village's subdivision map.

## Boone County Taxing bodies willing to waive impact fees

Jan. 4, 2021

To: Boone County Government and City of Belvidere

Thank you for the continuing opportunity to discuss the Impact Fee Ordinances that currently exist. We have come together as a larger group to work on proposed changes to the Impact Fee Ordinances. Rather than a complete elimination of these ordinances, we are proposing a structure that would allow time to study the actual impact the Impact Fee Ordinances may or may not be having on residential construction in our region. The salient points of our discussion have included the following:

1. Abeyance on payment of fees versus outright elimination
2. Willingness to work jointly with the Realtors and Home Builders to present information and secure approvals from Boone County and the City of Belvidere for this plan
3. Abeyance Period of two years starting as soon as the County and City can take whatever steps are needed to not require collection of the fees
4. Collection of fees will resume at the end of the two-year abeyance period
5. Revisit data in the fall of 2022 to discuss any possible extensions of the abeyance period – extension discussions will be data driven as the request being presented to the respective governmental bodies is data based – gives all parties the opportunity to see if anything has measurably changed since the abeyance of the fees
6. The abeyance on fee collections applies only to existing platted lots – goal is to see if existing inventory of lots can be put on the tax rolls, any new proposed subdivisions will be subject to the Impact Fee Ordinances
7. If builders pull permits and do not actually complete the units for sale beyond the two-year abeyance period, the builders would have to pay the impact fee at the time of the extension – this eliminates the chance that builders will stock pile permits but not build homes
8. Land contributions for existing platted lots, e.g. contributions that have not been completed to the Park District and/or Conservation District, will be effectuated during the two-year abeyance – there are at least three (3) projects where the Conservation District has not received the required land contributions
9. Our collective group will work with the respective City and County officials to update the existing ordinances for current market values – we believe there is an existing requirement in the current ordinances to complete this task and it does not appear updates have been done in many years.

The points listed above have been agreed to by all signatories of this letter and we are ready to work together to put these changes in place for the upcoming building season. We believe this is a good starting point for testing the theory that impact fees have been holding back new construction and also gives all parties an opportunity to assess the existing ordinances. One major point in these discussions is the land contribution in lieu of the cash contribution.

The land contribution component is a critical piece of the existing ordinances. The Conservation District alone has received just under 300 acres of land, many of which are environmentally sensitive parcels. The Conservation District's stewardship of these resources helps to insure that these areas remain resilient and sustain key ecosystems and environmental processes. Their holding of these parcels also increases the quality of life in our community and increases the desirability of our community. Quality of life issues are a key economic development consideration for companies looking to locate in our region and also helps sell homes.

Our group has diligently worked together to review the significance of impact fees. We ask that the County and City consider our request for a moratorium of impact fees for two years. During that time, we ask that local governments review their current impact fee ordinances to ensure that our region is promoting pro-growth housing affordability and equity in real estate. We are simply asking for adequate time to collect data and truly study the impact of these ordinances.

Thank you for considering this request and we look forward to working with the County and City on this important task.

From: Neeley Erickson – Illinois Realtors Association

Conor Brown – Rockford Area Realtors

Christi Steines – Belvidere Board of Realtors

Dan Kane – Boone County Conservation District

Mark Pentecost – Belvidere Park District

Mike Greenlee – North Boone Community Unit School District

Dan Woestman – Belvidere Community Unit School District

Greg Brown – Belvidere Community Unit School District

## Belvidere transfers abandoned properties to regional land bank

By Bob Balgemann  
REPORTER

Looking to 2021

The Northern Illinois Land Bank Authority, a creation of the City of Belvidere in March 2019, now has title to eight abandoned properties, three of them from Belvidere.

City council has voted 8-1, with Alderman Ric Brereton dissenting, to approve the transfers of properties at 407 Allen St., 1000 Nettie St. and 1031 Garfield Ave. to the Land Bank. Staff of the organization, supplied by the Region 1 Planning Commission in Rockford, now will sell those properties. Income from the sales will be used to acquire other non-productive lands and houses in the region, with a goal of getting them back on the tax rolls.

Members of the Land Bank include Boone and Winnebago Counties, the Cities of Belvidere, Loves Park and Rockford, and the Villages of Machesney Park, Loves Park, Roscoe, Rockton and South Beloit. Belvidere businessman John Wolf represents the city of Belvidere on the Land Bank board; county board Vice Chairperson Sherry Giesecke represents the county. She often gives reports at monthly county board meetings on how the organization is doing.

What became Ordinance 517H first appeared before the Committee of the Whole, for Building, Planning and Zoning, and Public Works, in December. There, the committee voted 9-0, with one absent, to recommend its approval.

Before city council's second and final vote of approval, on Jan. 4, City Attorney Mike Drella was asked to

explain for those at home what the Land Bank was and what it did.

He explained that it was an inter-governmental agency created by the City of Belvidere and other municipalities, who contracted with the Region 1 Planning Commission to administer it. "The concept is you take properties that are abandoned and an eyesore in the communities that are tax delinquent" (for two years), he said. "You use court action to clear up the back taxes, get title to the properties, and turn around and sell them. That money is used to acquire other properties. Illinois has been using Land Banks for quite a while."

Referring to the three properties in question, he said the Land Bank paid for attorney fees. He added that properties being acquired can be residential and commercial.

"When will we get more?" Alderman Wendy Frank asked. "Next year?"

Drella replied that the city actually had four properties, but the Land Bank chose not to accept the one at 407 W. Madison St. That was because improvements would have cost more than 50 percent of the house's value. Council later authorized demolition of that property, using grant funds.

"I don't know if there are any waiting in the wings," he told Frank. "I don't think so."

Also at that committee meeting, Alderman Tom Porter asked how the city would benefit from this program, other than getting rid of blighted property?

One way is having the property returned to the tax rolls, Drella answered. The second benefit is hav-

ing the property maintained, and the third benefit is having someone living there.

### No decision

The fate of the Madison Street property, which the city acquired title to July 10, 2020, was discussed at the Jan. 11 Committee of the Whole meeting. But no recommendation was made.

Madison Street originally contained a dilapidated house and garage, but the city ultimately paid \$11,000 in grant money to have them demolished.

Among the options being talked about now are:

- Transferring the property to a non-profit, such as Habitat for Humanity, which has built numerous homes on donated land around town.
- Transferring the property to the Land Bank, which wasn't interested when it still housed the dilapidated garage and home on it. Now that it's vacant, the organization may be interested in taking title to it and selling it.

- List the property for sale through a local real estate agent.
- Sell the property at auction, or use its Home Rule power to sell it.

Drella said the city recently did use its Home Rule power to sell real estate in a more streamlined manner.

"Often, we obtain an appraisal, anyway," he told Mayor Mike Chamberlain and aldermen. "In this case, the city decided to either transfer the property to Habitat for Humanity or the Land Bank or decides to utilize a real estate agent. I recommend utilizing Home Rule authority for the transfer and not utilize an appraiser."

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# Conservation district invites virtual visitors

It's a beautiful day for hiking and learning about the plants and wildlife of McHenry County. Go on a "virtual" Lost Valley Nature Detective adventure by visiting the website [MCCD.me/E-Learning](http://MCCD.me/E-Learning) to download this month's activity filled with things you can do at home as well as highlights what you might see the next time you search the

wild spaces of Glacial Park.

January: Owls. Most species of owls don't mind the cold weather and stick around McHenry County all year. Learn about some of the different species of owls that live here through fun activities and make an owl craft so you can have your very own owl friend at home!

Topics change monthly:

February: Whose Scat is That?! While it may seem that most animals are not around in the winter, we can still see several signs that they are in McHenry County. One main sign is their scat. Learn some fun facts about scat and how to make your own gross scat treat too.

March: Creek Life. There are many animals that call a creek home. Learn about what makes a creek healthy and what animals live in them through activities and a craft! Visit Glacial Park and go to Nippersink Creek on your own scavenger hunt. What will you find?

*Note: Due to Covid-19, public hours at the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park vary and access is limited until further notice. Check the website for updates. Site and trails are open. For more information, call Prairieview Education Center at 815-479-5779.*

# NIPHC shares Pritzker's vaccination goal

The Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), whose local public health agencies serve over nine million residents, or more than two-thirds of the State of Illinois' population, acknowledge and support the effort by Gov. Pritzker to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

With large numbers of individuals who serve as the 1a priority group to be vaccinated living in the NIPHC area of responsibility, healthcare workers continue to be a focus of the consortium's efforts. This will result in the transition to the 1b priority population being vaccinated at different times across the state.

NIPHC is committed to and shares

the governor's goal, along with that of our residents, in getting the vaccine distributed as quickly as possible. We are partnering with many private and public entities to make this happen. We will be successful in this massive effort, but only through cooperation, partnership, and patience.

The member agencies of the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC) consist of local public health departments that serve the municipalities of Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park and Skokie, Stickney Township and the Counties of Boone, Cook, DeKalb, Kankakee, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will and Winnebago.

## • Legislation

(Continued from front page)

at buying the favor of House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Former Justice Thomas Kilbride, who lost his bid for retention in November, wrote the majority opinion in that case, and that was a factor in the GOP-led campaign to remove him from the court.

"And that decision really still burns me to this day," said Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, who was among the nearly 600,000 people who signed a petition to put that amendment on the ballot.

"So something has to change," Spain added. "And since the Supreme Court decision many years ago, I have repeatedly supported and been either the sponsor or the chief cosponsor of a number of different initiatives to change the way we approach redistricting in the

state of Illinois."

Rep. Jackie Haas, R-Bourbonnais, said her district is an example of how gerrymandering can be unfair to certain communities. She said her 79th House District excludes three-quarters of the small town of Momence, whose 2010 population was 3,171, and includes only three streets in the village of Beecher, which has about 4,500 residents.

"These moves were not based on township, village, or meaningful divisions, but on pure partisan maneuvers to advantage (House Speaker Michael) Madigan, to keep his majority in his power," Haas said.

Butler filed the bill, House Bill 5873, Jan. 5. That made it eligible for consideration in the lame duck session, which began Jan. 8.

## 'Drive Sober' campaign yields citations

The Huntley Police Department on Jan. 8 announced it arrested 1 offender for impaired driving during the winter holiday enforcement campaign.

Additional citations included:

- 3 speeding
- 8 various traffic citations
- 3 child endangerment

The Huntley Police Department partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation and law enforcement throughout the state for the enforcement campaign. From Dec. 18 to Jan. 4, the Huntley Police Department ramped up its usual enforcement efforts, adding additional units during the campaign.

The Illinois Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign is administered by IDOT with federal highway safety funds.

# McHenry County News

130 South State Street, Suite 101, Belvidere, IL 61008

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### DEADLINES

News ..... Friday noon  
 Display Advertising ..... Friday noon  
 Legal Notices ..... Friday 4:30 p.m.  
 Classifieds ..... Monday noon

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americold.

388686

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# • Back in the saddle (Continued from page 2)

health, learn about cover crops, remain profitable and even more marketable by using sustainable techniques that build up natural resilience to weather extremes, pests, and weeds. Learn from educators, researchers, experts, and local Illinois farmers. There will be Question & Answer sessions as well.

The two-hour online virtual conference series will be held on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m., and Thursday, Feb. 4, at 9 a.m. For speaker information and registration visit [www.ccswd.com](http://www.ccswd.com).

The Conservation Cropping Seminars are organized and made possible with the involvement and support of Illinois Department of Agriculture, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Farmland Trust, the Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, University of Illinois Extension, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

## 2021 Illinois Dairy Summit Connecting Producers virtually on Feb. 3

Illinois Milk Producers Association (IMPA) and University of Illinois Dairy Extension have joined forces for the 11th annual Illinois Dairy Summit. Dr. Mike Hutjens, Dr. Phil Cardoso and Dr. Derek Nolan will again team up with IMPA to coordinate and virtually present this year's Summit.

The 2021 Illinois Dairy Summit will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, and will be hosted virtually from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme for the Summit is Protecting Your Milk Check During COVID & Beyond and will share the latest in dairy management information with dairy producers and industry personnel.

New this year, John Newton, chief economist of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will lead a discussion on Milk Check Pricing and Protecting Your Milk Check followed by a live Q&A session.

There is no fee to attend this year's Virtual Summit and online

pre-registration is required. Please note a LIVE Zoom link will be provided for virtual attendees and each event will be recorded and shared online afterward.

Additional information and pre-registration are available online at [www.illinoismilk.org/dairy-summit](http://www.illinoismilk.org/dairy-summit). Contact the IMPA by calling 309-557-3703 or emailing [contact@ilfb.org](mailto:contact@ilfb.org). **Two-part First Aid/CPR/AED Training for Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Members**

The American Red Cross First Aid training will teach Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau members to identify and respond to common sudden illnesses such as fainting, seizures, strokes, allergic reactions, poisoning, bleeding, fractures, diabetes, and more. The CPR/AED training will include how to respond to cardiac and breathing emergencies. Those who complete the course will receive a two-year certificate.

Farm Bureau members and family members (12 years and up) are eligible for the class.

(Children 12-17-years-old must be accompanied by an adult.) Cost is \$50 per person (\$50 Savings). Information on how to access the online course (approximately two hours) will be emailed to participants once registration is received. Registration deadline is Feb. 12.

Participants will need to bring proof of completion of the online course to the classroom portion on Saturday, Feb. 27 to participate. Classroom size is limited to 10 people per hour (minimum of eight people required). The first class will begin at 9 a.m. on Feb. 27. Additional classes will follow as needed.

The project is made possible in part by funding from the Farm Safety Grant provided by the Illinois Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial. Contact the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau office at 815-962-0653 if you have any questions. **Online Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Training Available**

Illinois Department of

Agriculture's online certified grower training is now live on IDOA's website at: [www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Plants/Fertilizer/Pages/Anhydrous-Ammonia.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Plants/Fertilizer/Pages/Anhydrous-Ammonia.aspx).

All Illinois growers and grower farm operators (employees and family members) who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, are now required by state regulation (8 IAC 215) to complete certified grower training. The full text of the current regulations is available at: [www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/008/00800215sections.html](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/008/00800215sections.html)

Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022, to become certified. Their certification will be good for three years from the date they complete the training, after which time they will need to participate in a refresher course. The certified grower training may be delivered through both online and in-person opportunities at no cost to the grower or grower farm operator. The in-person classes have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but IFB will be working in the coming weeks and months to make those opportunities available for members.

## • Fees

(Continued from page 3)

60 homes. There are five basements dug there right now.

In our books, it says there that there is a \$5000 water connection fee and a \$5000 sewer connection fee. Those have all been paid on the houses that are plotted already. The clerk and I spent my first year as village president tracking down every penny. In some cases we have a re-capture where we owe back a developer for running that sewer line. When a house is built, we have to pay them back.

"This empty lot was only generating \$160 for the schools. Now that it is developed, it is generating \$6300 per year forever. Instead than crying, 'I want my \$4000 impact fee,' and not building the house we now get \$6300 each year forever. Even if they are foreclosed on, the bank still pays has to pay the property taxes.

"At a County Board meeting, developers were asked why two years? It takes a year to get traction. The property taxes pay a year behind so next year's tax bill, you build a new home and you pay property taxes a year behind. The first year you will pay for an empty lot. It takes another year, that's where the impact comes in. So now we have a house that we are supplying all these government resources and we're still only collecting money for an empty lot. We want to collect that.

"In Poplar Grove, the school has already built its building and now the fees are just stifling growth. The homes that were built in 2018 have now been assessed. These houses that we built here are generating \$3 million worth of real assessed property value, the real equalized value assessment, and are now generating \$58,000 for the schools and a total of \$121,000 to the county taxing bodies. We now have 24 households buying water and sewer, paying utility taxes, property taxes, income taxes, and groceries.

"2019 houses have not been assessed yet. Here are 15 houses where the basements have been dug. Schools won't get this money until next year. From non-assessed to assessed, look at what money we are now generating. 16 undeveloped lots generate only \$3229 while 15 similar lots that have been developed are generating \$121,634.

"I spoke to the schools and told them when they began to reach capacity again we would talk. It makes sense to do this. Belvidere is in a similar situation. They have infrastructure in the ground that is not being used.

"Board members that vote 'no' to eliminating fees and say we have to make sure the schools are on board with this didn't read their packet. They didn't read the letter signed by the school district, the conservation district, and the Belvidere Park District."

## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2018SC490 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE VEHICLE SERVICES, ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL AND BOONE COUNTY TREASURER, BOONE COUNTY CLERK, BOONE COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY, GREEN TREE FINANCIAL SERVICING CORPORATION CHARLES H CREMENS, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

Parcel Number	Owners/Parties Interested	Cert Number	Street Or Common Address
90-26-300-281	HERRERA, CLAUDIO	2017-90007	4530 HARRIS DR

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID MOBILE HOMES WERE SOLD ON OCTOBER 25, 2018, FOR DELINQUENT MOBILE HOME LOCAL SERVICES TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES JUNE 21, 2021. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX CERTIFICATES OF TITLE HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE SAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED MOBILE HOMES BY BOONE COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON JULY 20, 2021 AT 9:00 AM [VIA ZOOM.COM USING MEETING ID: 940 6691 6168], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID MOBILE HOME NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 21, 2021. /S/ BOONE COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 1212 LOGAN AVE STE, SUITE 103, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

(Published in the Belvidere Republican  
Jan. 7, 14 & 21, 2021)

388027

## ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS ss.  
County of Boone

This is to certify that the undersigned intend...to conduct and transact a stump grinding and yard care service business in said County and State under the name of BROSKI STUMP GRINDING at the following post office addresses: 427 Caswell St., Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each are as follows:

Todd Scharringhausen, 427 Caswell St., Belvidere, IL 61008

SIGNED:  
**TODD SCHARRINGHAUSEN**  
Dated 1/6/21

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 6th day of January, A.D. 2021.

**JULIE A. BLISS**  
COUNTY CLERK  
By **ERICA L. BLUEGE**  
DEPUTY  
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

(Published in the  
Belvidere Republican  
Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2021)

388297

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2018-TX-1 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND BOONE COUNTY CLERK, BOONE COUNTY TREASURER, BOONE COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY AND CITY OF BELVIDERE, CITY OF LOVES PARK, VILLAGE OF CAPRON, VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

Parcel Number	Owners/Parties Interested	Cert Number	Street Or Common Address
03-22-252-007	HARALANOV, EVGENI E.	2017-00013	411 STAFFORDSHIRE DR. NE
03-22-252-007	IVANOV, SVETOSLAV	2017-00013	411 STAFFORDSHIRE DR. NE
03-22-252-007	LAKE LAND INVESTMENTS, LLC	2017-00013	411 STAFFORDSHIRE DR. NE
03-22-406-008	TAURINA, GEROLAMO TR	2017-00022	517 ATLANTIC DR NE
03-22-406-008	TAURINA MARIA TR	2017-00022	517 ATLANTIC DR NE
03-22-406-008	CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC	2017-00022	517 ATLANTIC DR NE
03-22-406-008	CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.	2017-00022	517 ATLANTIC DR NE
05-26-434-006	MARTINEZ, ROSA	2017-00169	N. STATE ST.
05-26-434-006	LIZETTE VEGA	2017-00169	N. STATE ST.
05-26-434-015	MARTINEZ, ROSA	2017-00170	OFF N. STATE ST.
05-26-434-015	LIZETTE VEGA	2017-00170	OFF N. STATE ST.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON OCTOBER 25, 2018, FOR GENERAL TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2017 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES JUNE 21, 2021. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE SAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PARCELS BY BOONE COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON JULY 20, 2021 AT 9:00 AM [VIA ZOOM.COM USING MEETING ID: 940 6691 6168.], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 21, 2021. /S/ BOONE COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 1212 LOGAN AVE STE, SUITE 103, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

(Published in the Belvidere Republican  
Jan. 7, 14 & 21, 2021)

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## real estate

### Other Real Estate

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Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising  
Email: [vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com](mailto:vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com)  
Fax: (262) 725-6844

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For immediate consideration send resume /job history to:

Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising  
Email: [vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com](mailto:vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com)  
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