

Construction Begins on Marengo's Route 23 Interchange

by Charles Herbst

Construction has begun this spring on the long-awaited interchange at Illinois 23 and the Interstate 90 Tollway just south of Marengo. Completion is scheduled for this autumn.

The stretch of Interstate 90 between Hampshire and Belvidere has been compared to the former autobahn between West Germany and West Berlin. There were no exits on the 120-mile stretch of the autobahn through East Germany. Similarly, until this fall, the 17-mile stretch of Interstate 90 had no exits, which is a long stretch by local standards. It has been difficult for those living in that area to gain access to Interstate 90.

The new interchange will have four ramps, in what is known as a partial cloverleaf design. The ramps are being built on the east side of Illinois 23. There will be full access for traffic in every direction. The construction of two roundabouts on Illinois 23 will eliminate the need for traffic lights or cross traffic for entering or exiting vehicles. A third roundabout is being constructed just north of the interchange at Illinois 23 and Harmony Road.

This project has been a dream for both the current and former city administrations in Marengo. Marengo Mayor John Koziol has stated that the new interchange "will bring significant development opportunities to the City of Marengo."

Marengo has aggressively annexed land between the new interchange and the existing city. The city hopes to attract industrial and commercial development to the area. The annexed area is in the shape of an abstract, backwards figure-7, stretching between the former city limits and the new interchange. Emergency services in the area are provided by Marengo.

The completion of the interchange will introduce a number of growing pains in the area. Currently, there are limited commercial utility services available at the interchange. There are many small, relatively isolated stretches of road controlled by either the City of Marengo or Riley Township. Devising a sensible maintenance agreement between the two parties has so far been elusive.

Peculiar toll collection. The Interstate 90 Tollway has a rather peculiar pattern of when tolls are collected. This new interchange is no exception. Toll will be collected from motorists on three of the four new ramps, the exception being Chicago-bound traffic, where a mainline toll plaza one mile away collects \$3 toll from each car (\$1.50 for those with an E-Z Pass). The amount of the tolls for the other three ramps has not been announced.

Interestingly, Belvidere-bound traffic will pay a toll to get on at Illinois 23, even though there is no exit where vehicles entering at Illinois 23 can leave the Tollway without paying a second toll. Yet, traffic entering the westbound Tollway at US 20 in Hampshire can drive a longer distance (and over the same stretch of road toward Belvidere) without being charged a second toll!

There are other, long-standing examples of these peculiarities on the Tollway, such as the toll charged to enter westbound at

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Construction along Illinois 23



State Lawmakers could Consider Digital Privacy Measures When They Return

By Greg Bishop | Illinois News Network

Is that smart device listening to your children? A measure advancing through the Illinois legislature would require companies to let consumers know.

Public Interest Research Group Director Abe Scarr said the Keep Internet Devices Safe Act that passed the Senate is simple: Parents and consumers need to know when their smart devices are listening.

"We know some level of this activity is happening and we think that families and parents deserve to know if they're being listened to and that's all that the bill does," Scarr said.

Senate sponsor state Sen. Cristina Castro, D-Elgin, said there are a few things to hammer out with the tech companies opposed to the measure.

"We're trying to kind of meet and trying to accomplish in making sure that

consumers are aware in how their information is going to be used, but also make sure that the business community and the internet providers understand and it's very clear," Castro said.

Both Scarr and Castro shared a story about a professional basketball team using a smartphone application that turned individual cell phone microphones on to let the app know where at the stadium the user was.

"They may not even be listening to your conversation per se, they're listening for signals in the department store or in the arena to know where you are so they can send you push notifications," Scarr said. "There's been some documented apps that are listening to what you are watching on your television so they can have a sense of where you are, your consumer demographic so they can better sell advertisements to you."

Earlier this month, Bloomberg reported Amazon employees listened to what users asked Alexa in an effort to help the voice-activated assistant respond to commands.

"It's a privacy concern for the consumer in

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Staff photo

Privacy

from page 1

knowing how their information is being used," Castro said.

Senate Bill 1719 passed 39-14 and could soon be taken up by the House when lawmakers from both chambers return from spring break next week.

Another measure requiring certain businesses to notify consumers about what digital information is being sold and to whom could be considered in the Senate.

State Rep. Art Turner, D-Chicago, said House Bill 3358, which passed earlier this month, would require certain companies to notify what user information is being collected by websites, who that's being shared with, and allow users to opt out.

State Rep. Keith Wheeler, R-Oswego, listed exemptions.

"There's a HIPAA exemption, there's a bank exemption, a state contractor exemption, a public utility exemption, hospital exemption, retailer exemption, clarified HIPAA exemption, Medicaid provider exemption and a telecom exemption," Wheeler said.

Wheeler said he worried the measure would sweep up certain small businesses who never even intended to collect user information to share or sell with third parties.

State Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, said carving out exemption after exemption is not the best way to craft legislation.

"When an interest group has expressed a concern with us, we said, 'OK, we realize there are concerns here, we're not going to change the underlying language. Instead, we're going to just issue an exemption from this,'" Demmer said.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker spoke Monday to a group of information technology professionals hosted by the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology in Chicago. While he didn't address the pending legislation, he said Illinois has potential to attract technology startups. He said there's potential for

the private technology sectors to help the public sector better serve taxpayers, and startups are more likely to stay in the state where they start.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce warned that overreaching regulations could stifle such expansion.

"The Illinois Chamber opposes both HB 3358 and SB 1719, as both bills attempt to regulate internet commerce and the worldwide web from Springfield," Innovation and Technology Executive Director Tyler Diers said in a statement. "This kind of legislation threatens the expansion of the growing digital economy that is so critical to the success of Illinois businesses, both global leaders and locally owned and operated, that are using the internet to expand."

"Illinois lawmakers should consider this when voting for broad regulatory overreach that stifles innovation and stops positive advancements in their tracks," Diers said. "Instead, Congress should adopt a federal data privacy framework to provide certainty and consistency on the regulation and enforcement of privacy protections. Consumers and businesses benefit from certainty and consistency and lose when they have to navigate a confusing and inconsistent patchwork of state laws."

A separate House bill the Senate could take up would require school districts to protect student information accessed by websites, but the Illinois School Management Alliance has opposed the measure.

House Bill 3606 passed earlier this month 71-40 and is called the Student Online Protection Act.

It "contains a myriad of unfunded and/or unworkable mandates on school districts that would place enormous and expensive burdens on districts, including requiring each district to try and re-negotiate potentially hundreds of agreements, adding new posting requirements on websites, and allowing parents to opt out of classes they do not wish their children to participate in," the alliance wrote in a post on its website.

Lawmakers return to the capitol next week after a two-week spring break. They have until May 31 to pass legislation onto the governor with simple majorities.

Illinois Unemployment 4.4 percent in March

By PETER HANCOCK Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The unemployment rate in Illinois climbed one-tenth of a point to 4.4 percent in March as the state recorded a net loss of 2,300 jobs, the Illinois Department of Employment Security said Thursday.

According to preliminary, seasonally-adjusted

numbers, the biggest job losses occurred in the professional and business services sector, which lost 4,200 jobs, transportation and utilities, which shed 3,000 jobs, and the construction industry, where employment was down by 1,600 jobs.

Those losses were partially offset by job gains in manufacturing, financial activities, leisure and hospitality, and other services.

Meanwhile, the number of people counted as unemployed in March grew 1.1 percent from February, to 284,400. That was 1.3 percent higher than in March 2018.

Nationally, the U.S. economy added 196,000 jobs in March, while the nation's unemployment rate held steady at 3.8 percent.

Despite the overall loss of jobs in Illinois, IDES said the state still saw a net gain in employment for the three-month period from January through March. And the total job count for Illinois in March was up by 47,400 compared to a year ago.

"This administration has begun the hard work of restoring fiscal sanity to our state so that we can build a thriving economy for all Illinoisans," Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes said about the numbers in a news release.

Erin Guthrie, acting director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, said Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration is working to turn the state's job market around.

"Governor Pritzker has made training and preparing the workforce for the jobs of tomorrow a priority, and I am excited to work with him on achieving that goal," she said in a statement.

Illinois Personal Income Grows 4.5 Percent in 2018

Higher than surrounding states

By PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois
phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – Personal income in Illinois grew 4.5 percent in 2018, which was more than any surrounding state but on par with the national average, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis announced Tuesday.

That was good news for workers in the state, but it was also good news for state government, which relies on individual income taxes for nearly half of the \$45 billion in revenue it takes in each year.

Overall, Illinois ranked 16th in the nation for personal income growth over the year. The state of Washington came in first with a 6.8 percent growth rate. Hawaii finished 50th, with a 2.9 percent growth rate.

State budget officials said the 2018 growth rate was slightly higher than expected, but it was not enough to cause them to change their revenue forecast.

Most of the growth in Illinois was attributed to growth in "net earnings" – the amount of money workers take home after Social Security and Medicare taxes are deducted. That accounted for 2.5 percentage points in the 4.5 percent growth rate.

Illinois also recorded growth in certain kinds of "property income," which includes dividends, interest and rental income. There was also growth in "transfer receipts," which include

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Obituaries

Anderson, Charlotte "Char", 71, Cherry V, Mar 18
Carlson, Charles, 77, Belvidere, April 22
Crocker, Barbara, 73, Belvidere, April 18
Hanson, Elizabeth "Betty", 87, Bel., Apr. 20
Holsker, Thomas, 57, Formerly of Bel., Apr. 16
McCormick, Michael, 59, Belvidere, April 19
Myer, Robin, 46, Belvidere, April 18
Sanders, Raven, 24, Cherry Valley, April 20



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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices. **Letters.** Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.

Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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Rt 23 *from page 1*

Meacham Road west of Woodfield, but no charge to enter westbound at Illinois 53, east of Woodfield. Similarly, traffic entering eastbound at Route 25 in Elgin is charged a toll, yet that traffic cannot exit the Tollway without paying an second toll. And, until recently, it was possible to drive from Rockford to Belvidere, but not Belvidere to Rockford, without paying toll.

It may be time for a revised, more equitable, pay-by-distance-traveled tolling strategy.

This toll collection strategy may well impact who uses this interchange. For example, someone south of the new interchange, headed for Chicago, might well decide to enter the Tollway at US 20 and save \$3. It may be equally convenient for Marengoites to use US 20 and enter the Tollway at Hampshire. The new exit may not save enough time to justify the toll premium. At the Tollway, Route 23 is about a half mile west of its alignment through Marengo; an out-of-the-way direction for Chicago-bound traffic. For westbound traffic, the northwesterly direction of Interstate 90 makes it even less desirable for Marengoites to drive seven miles south to enter the Tollway at Route 23.

The new interchange will make it faster for those in Eastern Boone County (and particularly Garden Prairie) to get to the Northwest Suburbs, O'Hare and Chicago. This may mean a wave of development and higher property values, as commuters will find the area more attractive.

Drivers can be expected to seek shortcuts to the new interchange, particularly to avoid congestion, lower speed limits, and the out-of-the-way jog in Marengo. In particular, the use of the angling Pleasant Grove Road and Johnson Road provides an attractive Marengo bypass. This route is a country lane and is not suitable for heavy traffic. In Boone County, we also expect to see more commuter traffic along County Line Road north of US 20. Harmony Road and Garden Prairie Road may suddenly become more popular as well.

Local access. Immediately south of Interstate 90 is Grossen Road, a half-mile long road between Illinois 23 and Carls Road to the west. The road is owned by Riley Township, who does not want to abandon it. The Tollway has proposed gating Grossen Road at Illinois 23, allowing its use for emergency vehicles only. Maintenance of the gate would be an unwelcome responsibility for Riley Township.

In February 2018, Riley Township passed a resolution to reject the closure of Grossen Road. A letter from the Marengo Fire and Rescue districts stated that a closure of Grossen Road would lead to increased emergency response times. Local residents have also opposed the closure plan. The resolution notes that a partial reconstruction of Grossen Road was part of the \$9 million replacement of the Illinois 23 bridge over Interstate 90 in 2017. Instead of gating the intersection, Riley Township favors creating a right-in-right-out-only intersection.

Through traffic in the area could easily use Harmony Road as an alternative to using Grossen Road to reach Route 23, but this would lead to inconvenience for the residents living there. The Grossen Road area has not been annexed by the City of Marengo, although lands to the south of Grossen Road have. Without access, how will this area develop?

South of Interstate 90, Illinois 23 curves 1-1/2 miles to the west, after which it crosses into DeKalb County. (Extending that Northern DeKalb County alignment north and south might make an interesting path for a bypass of both Marengo and Genoa.)

At the point where Illinois 23 curves west, Coon Creek Road continues southward, providing access to the south and southeast. (The immediate area of the Illinois 23 and Coon Creek Road intersection has been annexed by Marengo, although about one thousand feet to the south, Coon Creek Road becomes a Riley Township road.) The plan is to make the Coon Creek Road intersection a right-in-right-out-only intersection. This will cause a considerable south and westerly detour via Carls



Grossen Rd. at Illinois 23, south of Interstate 90

Staff photo

and Harrelson Roads for local residents and emergency services.

Apparently, the original plan was for a fourth roundabout at Coon Creek Road, although that was cancelled to reduce costs.

This autumn, the opening of the Illinois 23 interchange will lead to profound changes in a once-rural and out-of-the-way area. How those changes will affect the area remains a question to be resolved after this October. It will be interesting to watch how Marengo's dream compares to the results achieved in the coming decade and beyond.

Community News & Events

Boone County Volunteer Board Vacancy's- Boone County Sanitary District

<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
May 1, 2021	(3) Year Term
May 1, 2019	Remainder of Term
<u>Conservation Easement & Farmland Protection</u>	
June 1, 2019	(3) Year Term
<u>Boone County Board of Review</u>	
June 1, 2019	(2) Year Term
<u>Building Board of Appeals</u>	
June 1, 2019	(5) Year Term
<u>Fire Protection District #1</u>	
1 st Monday, May, 2019	(3) Year Term
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u>	
June 1, 2019	(5) Year Term
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u>	
June 1, 2021	Remainder of Term
<u>Board of Health</u>	
July 1, 2021	Remainder of Term
July 1, 2019	(3) Year Term
<u>Boone County Conservation District</u>	
June 30, 2019	(5) Year Term
<u>Ethics Commission</u>	
June 30, 2019	(1) Year Term
<u>Historical Museum District</u>	
June 30, 2019	(5) Year Term
June 30, 2021	Remainder of Term
<u>Community Building</u>	
June 30, 2019	(3) Year Term
<u>911 Board</u>	
December 30, 2021	Remainder of Term
<u>Capron Rescue Squad</u>	
2 nd Monday December, 2021	Remainder of Term

Interested parties are asked to send a letter and/or resume expressing your interest and qualifications along with your contact information to Boone County Board Chairman Karl Jonson, Administration Campus, 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 102, Belvidere, IL 61008. Please respond by May 24, 2019 to assure being considered.

Letter to The Editor

Banking on Common Sense

Banks are a critical component to any business. Without banks, or credit unions, business would not be able to write or cash checks, invest profits, or secure a loan.

Financial institutions, however, are hesitant to serve the legal cannabis community because outdated federal rules discourage such interactions. Commonsense updates are overdue because laws written decades ago to squeeze illegal drug cartels do not reflect today's reality that 33 states and the District of Columbia have now legalized cannabis in some form.

Changes to banking laws must move forward regardless of the medical cannabis vs. recreational cannabis conversation.

I am working with Democrats and Republicans at the state and federal level to bring clarity and predictability to our banking regulations. Proposed changes at the state level already are having positive effects in Washington D.C. A House committee discharged legislation that prohibits federal banking regulators from punishing financial institutions because they work with legal marijuana businesses.

This is why you should care: A cash-only business is ripe for theft, fraud, and tax evasion, all of which could touch your pocketbook. In 2018, there was an estimated \$136.5 million in legal cannabis sales in Illinois.

There also is a public safety component. A cash-only business moving large sums of money throughout the state defies common sense. That is why the Illinois State's Attorney Association supports the banking changes.

This logical solution enjoys bipartisan support. Duane Davidson is the Republican Treasurer for the state of Washington. He told me, "I believe that access to banking services for legalized cannabis businesses will minimize illegal activities, increase safety and security for workers, and will bring tax compliance to legal cannabis industries in our state and to states around the country."

Today, we have a banking crisis because rules built decades ago have not kept up with changes in acceptable behavior and law. Working together, we can use common sense to bring safety and security to this legal industry and everyone who lives in Illinois.

Sincerely,
Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

Personal Income *from page 2*

retirement and medical benefits, mainly through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Broken down by industries, the professional, scientific and technical services sector contributed the most to Illinois' overall growth rate, accounting for 0.57 percentage points. Other sources of growth included health care, transportation and warehousing, durable goods manufacturing and state and local government services.

There were slight declines in personal income derived from farming and business management.

Illinois also saw a more rapid growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2018, when personal income grew at an annualized rate of 4.9 percent. That, however, was not as robust as the national average of 5.2 percent. It also lagged behind all neighboring states except Kentucky.

Audit Finds Gaps in Underfunded Police, Fire Pensions

by Cole Lauterbach | Illinois News Network

An audit shows that more than half of Illinois' 656 local pension funds for police and firefighters haven't been examined as frequently as state law requires even as some lawmakers want to allow for less frequent pension audits.

The Illinois Department of Insurance is required by state law to audit the state's local police and firefighter pension funds once every three years. The Auditor General's office released a report that shows officials didn't perform required examinations of the 656 police and firefighters pension funds once every three years. More than half of them had only been audited once since 2004.

"We recommended the department perform the pension fund examinations every three years as required by the Code or continue to seek a legislative change," the audit concluded.

Truth in Accounting Research Director Bill Bergman said in this situation the state's financial troubles and lack of resources are begetting more trouble.

"Maybe the main bottom line is the way the laws don't matter in Illinois," he said, adding that lawmakers will often say "let's just change the law, we can't live up to it."

The pension funds are looked into by audits of their local municipalities, but it's the state's job to look into the pensions, Bergman said.

Many local police and fire pensions are underfunded, meaning they have much less money than what actuaries say they'll need in the future to pay retired workers.

The audit said the problem has been recurring since 2012. Lawmakers are debating legislation that would allow the Department of Insurance to go five years without auditing the same pension fund twice.

The Illinois Municipal League has proposed plans to consolidate the state's police and fire pensions in an effort to save money on administrative costs. Illinois Municipal League President Brad Cole said the report "shows the overall need for reform and consolidation of the current downstate public safety pension fund system."

The Department of Insurance didn't respond to requests for comment on the audit findings, but the department did "accept" the results of the audit, saying it's pushing legislation that would relax that requirement.

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Pritzker Lists Accomplishments in First 100 Days

By Greg Bishop | Illinois News Network

From selecting a diverse cabinet, to passing a statewide minimum wage increase, signing laws regulating gun stores, and signing executive orders on equal pay and on immigration, and more, Gov. J.B. Pritzker is celebrating his first 100 days in office.

This week marks Gov. J.B. Pritzker's first 100 days in office. Last week, marked the first 100 days for the new Democratic supermajorities in Illinois' General Assembly.

Pritzker's office released a list of accomplishments Tuesday.

"Pritzker promised to think big for Illinois, and he's living up to that commitment," the statement said.

Democrats have veto-proof supermajorities in both chambers, which helped Pritzker make good on several of his campaign promises, including the statewide minimum wage increase.

"Top accomplishments have to be the spirit of cooperation that now extends to all regions of the state and the effort to raise wages for Illinois families who has been overlooked or opposed by Republicans for nearly a decade," said Steve Brown, spokesman for House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Senate President John Cullerton, D-Chicago, cited the minimum wage increase and Pritzker's signature on a law raising the minimum age to buy tobacco products to 21 as key accomplishments that could influence the rest of the country.

"This week you saw Walgreens announce it would no longer sell tobacco products to anyone younger than 21," Cullerton said. "Target and other major retailers are racing ahead and raising their starting wages to \$15 an hour. It shows the influence Illinois can have when we think big and aren't afraid to act. And that by far has been the most substantial accomplishment of Gov. Pritzker's first 100 days."

Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois President Carol Portman said it's been busier than normal up to the spring break, which wraps up this week. She anticipates it will get busier when lawmakers come back to finish out Spring Session before the May 31 deadline to pass legislation with simple majorities.

"What revenue raisers are they going to stick into the budget process to be able to balance the budget" are not yet clear, Portman said. Lawmakers have proposed a bag tax, increased tobacco and vape taxes. And revenue from recreational cannabis and sports betting licenses and other revenue streams have yet to materialize. Pritzker's budget proposal counts on that money to balance the state's spending in the coming fiscal year.

Not everyone is pleased with the direction the state is headed.

Ken Cooley, who employs up to 20 people with his small business in Ogden, said the state's supermajority is taking the state in the wrong direction. He said lawmakers need to find ways to reduce spending.

"It's tax and spend," Cooley said. "It's tax and spend. All they want to do is raise taxes to try to fix the problems, to fix the holes, and we will be in the same position five and ten years from now."

Pritzker joked while touring CSL Behring in Bradley on Tuesday that he'll take credit for working on traffic congestion around CSL.

"I'll take at least the credit for a 100 days in office for looking to make sure we're delivering what CSL needs," Pritzker said.

He also said he's out to be the state's best chief marketing officer.

"People want to move to Illinois, they're growing their business here in Illinois and that we're a partner, we're a partner in that endeavor," Pritzker said.

Colley said he doesn't see it that way. He said he and other business owners are frustrated with the state.

"The first 100 days have been catastrophic for business owners in the state, unless you're on the

government dole, unless you're somehow getting benefits from government funding, which I'm not," Cooley said.

Cooley said he knows other business owners who say "Indiana looks very good to us and it doesn't take much for us to sell and move across the line." Colley said he's even had some of his employees say they want to move to Indiana and would be willing to commute to their job at his business in Illinois.

His frustrations also include Pritzker's stance on abortion and Second Amendment issues. He also said Democrats have failed to address the state's troubled finances and more than \$134 billion in unfunded pension liabilities. Pritzker has said his proposed graduated tax plan would fix the state's structural budget imbalance.

"It's fully laid at their feet," Cooley said. "It's fully laid at Democratic party and this governor is heading us in a more progressive and more liberal, socialist manner; heading us further down the path of destruction. It's not going to get better when you look at people leaving the state."

Cullerton said while the state's challenges remain, he sees a renewed sense of optimism.

"Make no mistake, our challenges remain daunting, but what stands out is the revitalized spirit and newfound bipartisanship in working on solutions," he said.

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Regulation Of Personal Robots In Illinois' Future

by GRANT MORGAN Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD -- Futuristic technology could give Illinoisans their own personal robots that follow wherever they go, and carry supplies like groceries.

In anticipation of a summer rollout of this technology, the Illinois Legislature is moving a bill to regulate it.

But many aspects remain unclear, including how strong demand will be and what the technology will look like in its final form.

Chicago Democratic Rep. Jaime Andrade is sponsoring House Bill 123, which seeks to regulate the use of "mobile carrying devices." It is headed to the Senate after being passed unanimously by the House last week.

"When the state's vehicle code was written, people didn't think of this being a vehicle," Andrade said of the personal robots. "It's not a vehicle, but we still need a description and definition for it."

His bill is primarily in response to a particular product, the personal robot gita, in development at Massachusetts-based Piaggio Fast Forward, an affiliate of the Italian company that makes Vespa scooters.

Gita is a 50-pound spherical robot Piaggio is designing to carry things to make it easier for a pedestrian to walk, ride a bike, or get around by other means.

It tracks and follows the movements of a belt worn by an owner, and uses cameras to survey the surrounding environment, according to the company's website.

Neither Andrade nor the only organization to initially oppose the bill knows when the technology might show up on sidewalks, as it is still a prototype.

Aaron Winters, an Illinois lobbyist who represents Piaggio, said it's expected to be available by this summer, which is "why it is important for the legislation to pass."

But the product's potential raises concerns about pedestrian safety and home rule powers, among other things.

Kyle Whitehead is the spokesman for the Chicago-based Active Transportation Alliance, a nonprofit group that advocates for better biking, walking and public transit in the Chicago area.

He said ATA was originally opposed to Andrade's legislation because of pedestrian comfort and safety.

"We were concerned with the potential that these devices would result in safety issues, especially for older adults and people with disabilities, or people who are generally not as mobile and able to get out of the way as easily," Whitehead said.

One concern resulted in an amendment changing from 25 feet to 10 feet the maximum distance between a personal robot and its owner.

Another amendment prohibited people from using the device to transport another person.

"You'd think you wouldn't have to legislate this," Andrade said. "But someone might put their baby in there and god forbid they forget them, you know."

Whitehead said the third of the large concerns – also eased by the amendment – was making sure home-rule municipalities can regulate the devices when they start showing up on city sidewalks.

"There's so much uncertainty around this device – what the speed would be, what the weight would be, how quickly it would be adopted and how prevalent it would be," Whitehead said. "We want to make sure municipalities have the ability to go back and regulate these devices."

Winters, the lobbyist for the creator of gita, said the company was happy to see the legislation pass the House last week.

"Mobile carriers such as the gita are positioned to help Illinoisans walk more, get out of their cars and live a more active lifestyle," he said.

Piaggio employees could not be reached for this story to provide a specific launch date or updates to the product prototype.

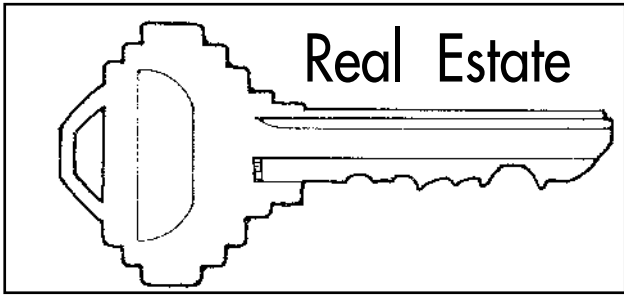
While Andrade's legislation received few witness slips in support or opposition to the measure, one stood out.

Matthew Slade, a village of Durand trustee who frequently files witness slips supporting legislation he's passionate about or thinks will help small towns, said he likes the technology.

"I think it is really cool and sci-fi like," Slade said by email.



A prototype of the gita mobile carrying device is shown in this photo from Piaggio Fast Forward, the company developing the personal robot. A bill passed the Illinois House last week that would regulate such devices.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC; Plaintiff, vs. 18 CH 99 GREGORY A. SENNETT AKA GREGORY SENNETT AKA SENNETT GREGORY AKA GREG A. SENNETT; FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CHICAGO; ACRI COMPANY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT 95 AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NUMBER TWO (2) OF SHADOWBROOK, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 4, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE 153-B AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 95-3731 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 270 Cloud Mist Drive. Capron, Illinois 61012. P.I.N. 04-11-204-012.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Anselmo Lindberg & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563-1890. (630) 453-6960. F18080254 F2 13119091 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 26; May 3, 10, 2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC; Plaintiff, vs. 18 CH 99 GREGORY A. SENNETT AKA GREGORY SENNETT AKA SENNETT GREGORY AKA GREG A. SENNETT; FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CHICAGO; ACRI COMPANY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE

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LOT 95 AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NUMBER TWO (2) OF SHADOWBROOK, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 4, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE 153-B AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 95-3731 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 270 Cloud Mist Drive. Capron, Illinois 61012. P.I.N. 04-11-204-012.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Anselmo Lindberg & Associates, LLC, 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563-1890. (630) 453-6960. F18080254 F2 13119091 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 26; May 3, 10, 2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:
Application of property owner Bel Rock Services, LLC, 130 South State Street, Suite 205, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a map amendment and a special use at 2054/2136 Graham Road. The requests are for a map amendment (rezoning) from RH, Rural Holding District (pending annexation) to GI, General Industrial District and for a special use to permit outdoor storage in the GI, General Industrial District (pending rezoning) on approximately six acres pursuant to Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(8)(B)(2) Outdoor Storage, 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures and 150.903 Amendment to Official Zoning Map. The subject property is legally described as:

Part of the Southwest Quarter (1/4) of Section (4), Township Forty-three (43), Range Three (3) East of the Third (3rd) Principal Meridian, bounded and described as follows to-wit: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Quarter (1/4) Section thence North 00 degrees 13'12" West along the West line of said Quarter (1/4) Section a distance of 364.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 15'50" East parallel with the South line of said Quarter (1/4) Section a distance of 692.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 13'12" East parallel with the West line of said Quarter (1/4) Section a distance of 364.00 feet to the South line of said Quarter (1/4) Section; thence south 89 degrees 15'50" West along the South line of said Quarter (1/4) Section a distance of 692.00 feet to the place of beginning, situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois. PIM: 07-04-300-010.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.
Daniel Arevalo, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 26, 2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY—BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS Specialized Loan Servicing LLC Plaintiff, vs. CASE NO. 19 CH 20

Kerry M. Barber aka Kerry Barber; Margaret A. Barber aka Margaret Barber; First of America - Illinois, N. A; Personal Finance Company; Atlantic Credit & Finance Special Finance Unit, LLC; Discover Bank; Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendants. 416 Talladega Drive South West Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, First of America - Illinois, N. A ,and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT 44 IN UNIT NO. 4 OF CANDLEWICK LAKE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-415 IN THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE, SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. P.I.N.: 03-27-451-025

Said property is commonly known as 416 Talladega Drive South West, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065, and which said mortgage(s) was/were made by Kerry M. Barber And Margaret A. Barber and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 932177 and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County on or before May 28, 2019, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME – DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by contacting the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Steven C. Lindberg
ANSELMO LINDBERG & ASSOCIATES LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 120
Naperville, IL 60563-4947
630-453-6960 | 866-402-8661 | 630-428-4620 (fax)
Attorney No. Cook 58852, DuPage 293191, Kane 031-26104, Peoria 1794, Winnebago 3802, IL 03126232
ilpleadings@AnselmoLindberg.com
THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 26; May 3, 10, 2019

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF RONALD H. SCHICKEL, DECEASED NO. 2019 P 23

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent, Letters of Office were issued to Linda Stavropoulos, 11012 Lucas Road, Woodstock, Illinois 60098, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is James F. Young, (ARDC#3093034) 101 Van Buren, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, at the Boone County Courthouse at 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 16, 2019, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 26; May 3, 10, 2019

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA TERESA SALAS, Petitioner, and Case No. 2019-D-54 FRANCISCO X GUERRA, Respondent.

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN YOU, Francisco X Guerra, that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed in the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois, by the said

Petitioner against you requesting a Petition for Dissolution. NOW, THEREFORE, unless you the said Respondent, Francisco X Guerra, file your Answer to the Petition in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois, on or before

the 14th day of May, 2019, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and an Order entered granting the relief requested in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

Linda Anderson Circuit Court C.K. Miller Deputy
Boone County, Illinois Charles T. Sewell, L.L.C. Attorney at Law
215 South State Street Belvidere, Illinois 61008
Phone: 815-544-3118
E-Mail: charlestsl@aol.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 19, 26, May 3, 2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS PUBLICATION NOTICE

In The Interest of: Giana Zerillo No. 19-JA-4 To (Minor) Claudio Zerillo/To whom it may concern/All Unknown Fathers (Respondent) ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: March 18, 2019

Take notice that on a petition was filed under the Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main

JUVENILE COURT ACT (Name of Petitioner) (Residence Address) Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 Giana Zerillo, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "Inthe Interest of Giana Zerillo, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 PM .M. central Daylight time on 5-2-19 & 6-20-19; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION . YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

April 8, 2019
Linda J Anderson, Circuit Clerk
by Heather Austin Deputy Clerk
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 12, 19, 26, 2019-c

State of Illinois, Boone County Circuit Court
Request for Name Change 19-MR-38
Cory Alan Dahlenburg to Clara Ann Dahlenburg Court date on May 28th, 2019 at 10 am at 610 N Main St, Belvidere, IL courtroom 3.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 12, 19, 26, 2019 -p

LEGAL NOTICES Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY—BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS

Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper Plaintiff, vs. CASE NO. 18 CH 114 Maribel Sanchez Olivia; Ezequiel Ferral Lopez aka Ezequiel Lopez; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendants. 325 Goodrich Street Belvidere, Illinois 61008

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Maribel Sanchez Olivia, Ezequiel Ferral Lopez aka Ezequiel Lopez, and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

PART OF LOTS TWELVE (12) AND THIRTEEN (13) OF ASSESSOR'S 2ND ADDITION TO BELVIDERE, BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 26, AND PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 35, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED DECEMBER 2,

1870 IN BOOK 33 OF DEEDS ON PAGE 630, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF MADISON STREET IN THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, WITH THE EASTERLY SIDE OF GOODRICH STREET, AND RUNNING THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF GOODRICH STREET, 8 1/4 RODS; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF MADISON STREET, 60 FEET; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY LINE OF GOODRICH STREET, 8 1/4 RODS TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF MADISON STREET; THENCE WESTERLY ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF MADISON STREET, 60 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; (EXCEPTING THE NORTHERLY 70 FEET); SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N.: 05-26-406-002

Said property is commonly known as 325 Goodrich Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, and which said mortgage(s) was/were made by Maribel Sanchez Olivia and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 2017R04438 and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County on or before May 13, 2019, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME – DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by contacting the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Steven C. Lindberg
ANSELMO LINDBERG & ASSOCIATES LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 120
Naperville, IL 60563-4947
630-453-6960 | 866-402-8661 | 630-428-4620 (fax)
Attorney No. Cook 58852, DuPage 293191, Kane 031-26104, Peoria 1794, Winnebago 3802, IL 03126232
ilpleadings@AnselmoLindberg.com
THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 12, 19, 26, 2019



Assumed Names

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of R Lopez Landscaping at the following post office addresses: 1621 E Perry St Belvidere, IL 61008 and 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:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Raul Gutierrez 5094 Sherwood Forest Rd Rockford, IL 61109 Signed: Raul Gutierrez 4/10/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 10th day of April, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Geslle B Lenover, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/12, 19, 26/2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a General Contracting business in said County and State under the name of Integrated Konstruction at the following post office addresses: 305 Candlewick Blvd Poplar Grove, IL 61065 and 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:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Richard Kolec 305 Candlewick Blvd Poplar Grove, IL 61065 Signed: Richard Kolec 4/2/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 2nd day of April, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Geslle B Lenover, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/12, 19, 26/2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a framing carpentry business in said County and State under the name of Pedros Framing and Capentry at the following post office addresses: 1530 Ruby St Belvidere, IL 61008 and 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:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Pedro Tanorio 1530 Ruby St Belvidere, IL 61008 Signed: Pedro Tanorio 4/4/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 4th day of April, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Geslle B Lenover, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/12, 19, 26/2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a Remodeling Residencial buisness in said County and State under the name of Boone County Renovators at the following post office addresses: 15724 Capron Rd Capron, IL 61012 and 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:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Stuart and Jo Ann Arnold 15724 Capron Rd Capron, IL 61012 Signed: Stuart and Jo Ann Arnold 4/16/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 16th day of April, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine Gardener, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/19, 26/and May 3, 2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a Auction buisness in said County and State under the name of Lee Auction Service at the following post office addresses: 11067 Beloit Rd Belvidere, IL 61008 and 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:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Lyle E Lee and Patricia E Lee 11067 Beloit Rd Belvidere, IL 61008 Signed: Stuart and Jo Ann Arnold 4/15/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 15th day of April, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine Gardener, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/19, 26/and May 3, 2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a Landscaping buisness in said County and State under the name of dsc Landscaping Services, Inc. at the following post office addresses: 1123 East Ave. Belvidere, IL 61008 and 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:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: DSC Landscaping Service Inc. 1123 East Ave. Belvidere, IL 61008.
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/19, 26/and May 3, 2019

Change in Certifcate of Ownership

Public Notice is hereby given that on January 10, 2019 a certificate was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as Castillo Landscaping, located at 1123 East Ave. Belvidere, IL 61008 which sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: Dissolution of buisness on December 31, 2018 Dated January 10th, 2019
 Julie A. Stapler, Boone County Clerk
 by Erica L Bluge, Deputy Clerk
 Published in the Boone County Journal 4/19, 26/and May 3, 2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a Songwriting and Publishing Business in said County and State under the name of American Hithouse at the following post office addresses: 6790 Irene Road, Belvidere IL, 61008 and 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 followed: NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Patrick M. Andres. 6790 Irene Road, Belvidere, IL 61008. Signed: Patrick M. Andres, 04/23/19
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 23rd day of April, 2019,
 Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Giselle R. Lenover, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 05/03,10,17

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 5, 2019, a certificate was filed on the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as Red Thirteen, located at 1223 Piel Grocery, Belvidere, IL 61008, which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: Removal of owner-The following owner will be removed from the business: Forrest M. Viita, 597 Rose Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103
 Dated this 5th day of April, 2019.
 Julie A. Stapler Boone County Clerk
 By Giselle R. Lenover, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 04/26, 05/03,10

McHenry County to be Testing Ground Eliminating Townships

Bill's sponsor eyes statewide push to get rid of 'unnecessary' governmental units, says money will be saved

By REBECCA ANZEL Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — McHenry County is a 610-square-mile area on the Wisconsin border, about 90 minutes from downtown Chicago. Its 300,000 residents live in urban centers — such as Crystal Lake and Woodstock, the seat of government — and rural communities.

Like most of Illinois, the county has a system of government comprised of overlapping layers of townships and districts, each of which can levy taxes. They are responsible for everything from the daily operations of towns, to plowing roads in the winter or killing mosquitoes in the summer.

McHenry County is the sole subject of legislation giving its voters an option to dissolve township government. It is an effort by a state lawmaker to cut residents' property taxes by eliminating what he calls "unnecessary" levels of government.

If the experiment goes well there, in the sixth most populous county in the state, Rep. David McSweeney said the next step would be to give the rest of Illinois the ability to get rid of township governments.

"That's what I'm hoping," the Barrington Hills Republican said. "I want to show that consolidating government works in McHenry County. I want this go to statewide — to allow consolidation to be considered by voters across Illinois."

But the measure is contentious even in McHenry county, where some officials expressed frustration McSweeney did not ask if such a provision was needed. Others said they worry what the impacts would be if McSweeney's bill becomes law — there has not been a recent study providing a clear analysis.

There are some supporters, who said residents should be able to decide what form their government takes. And Jack Franks, the County Board chairman and a former state representative, said townships are an outdated form of representation. It is time for something different, he said.

The House approved McSweeney's bill earlier this month. It needs the Senate's approval and governor's signature before taking effect. But if successful, members of the McHenry County Board will probably have to learn how to do more, with less.

What's in the Proposed Legislation

House Bill 348 gives residents the option to dissolve their township, transferring the governmental operations, employees and property to McHenry County.

Illinoisans already have this ability, but the threshold for a grassroots petition to get the choice on a ballot would be cut in half under McSweeney's bill. A township board could also submit a proposition to voters.

And, McSweeney added to the bill a promise that property taxes to cover services currently handled by the township would drop by at least 10 percent. It includes a mandate that all funds associated with an eliminated level of government must be applied by McHenry County toward only the geographical area of that dissolved township.

According to the state comptroller's website, there are more than 8,500 local government units in Illinois — townships comprise 1,428 of those. Seventeen of them are in McHenry County.

Townships are essentially the closest level of government to citizens and are required by law to provide three services: general assistance to the poor or destitute, property assessment and road maintenance. Typically, they provide more than this.

About 80 of the state's 102 counties have townships, and consolidating them is a perennial issue in the General Assembly.

"My goal is to reduce the number of governmental bodies — it's one of the reasons our property taxes are so high," McSweeney said. "Consolidation, I think, is the key to reducing property taxes and administrative fees."

The legislation passed the House with bipartisan support, and bipartisan opposition.

"There are hypocrites on the Republican side who support lower property taxes but not consolidation of unnecessary units of government. It's a real eye-opener," McSweeney said. "I'm glad to have bipartisan support, though."

His Republican colleague, Rep. Steven Reick, disagreed with that assessment. From Woodstock, Reick is the only representative whose district falls completely within the boundaries of McHenry County. He voted against the legislation.

"If I'm a hypocrite, I don't know where that's coming from," Reick said. "I believe in cutting property taxes, but the fact is, this bill does not do that."

County Perspective

Whether McSweeney's legislation will lower property taxes in McHenry County, what will happen to the services townships provide, and how to pose the potential option to voters are sources of debate between some members of the County Board.

There has not been a comprehensive analysis to study the effect of eliminating townships, said Kurt Thurmaier, chair of the Department of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University.

That leaves board members with more questions than answers.

One, Carolyn Schofield, said the board is not prepared for this bill becoming law because of the lack of comprehensive data.

"We're not opposed to the concept of consolidation, but we haven't seen any tax savings. There hasn't been a study," she said. "It's almost as if the Legislature is forcing this without knowing what it would do, without thinking it through."

Townships often have part-time, nonunion employees, for example, so labor costs are less than what a county would pay, Schofield said.

But board member Michael Vijuk said he thinks there would be property tax savings for McHenry County residents.

"Townships don't tax at very high rates, but any savings that a constituent can have is more money in their pocket to spend on things like education or food or utilities, and I think that's really important for the community as a whole, he said."

Savings could be realized by the county choosing to sell construction or snow plowing equipment it does not need. Employers would also likely be let go, McSweeney said,

especially administrators whose salaries are usually among the highest in a township.

The most recent study in McHenry County occurred in 1994, when there was a ballot initiative to eliminate all townships. At the time, the county commissioned an impacts analysis.

"We have stated that hypothetically, the cost of McHenry County Government could rise by at least some \$9 million annually, with additional first year start-up costs in excess of \$6 million," that report read.

But much has changed since 1994, and McSweeney's bill differs from the ballot initiative of 25 years ago.

County officials are also unclear how services provided by townships would be changed, if at all.

Schofield said dissolving townships, a first level of government that's closest to the people — has not been closely studied.

"People are a little wary of what their services are going to look like and how much their voices are going to be heard," she said.

One benefit townships provide that McHenry County does not is general assistance. Schofield said she is unaware of any department in the county that can take on that role should a township dissolve.

Townships are also required by law to assess property value, which determines a homeowner's property tax bill. The county supervisor acts as a

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Township

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check on an assessor's work — if someone disagrees with a rate an assessor's office sets, they can appeal it to the county office.

Mary Mahady is the assessor for McHenry Township, the second largest in the county. She said she has a staff of seven full-time employees to manage daily duties — updating property values, doing on-site inspections of properties, handling permits and checking on sales, to name a few.

"My fear of this is that, especially the way the bill is written, assessments are just like an afterthought," Mahady said. "They're the heartbeat of the property tax system, and if they're not done correctly and fairly, the tax burden is not distributed fairly."

Even if the county makes adjustments to add an assessor's office, she said, she is unsure how effective it will be. Mahady's office is in the township and easily accessible to residents.

"The people who would suffer the most are the people who are least able to afford to have more property taxes levied on them," she said.

The piece of McSweeney's legislation automatically giving voters at least a 10 percent property tax cut is a red flag for Thurmaier, too. Because McSweeney's bill passes a dissolved township's responsibilities to McHenry County, the property tax break translates to less money for the county to provide the same services as the township.

"I've never heard a county say, 'Yes, we can take on all those responsibilities at a lesser cost,'" Thurmaier said.

Many on the County Board said ultimately, the voters should decide.

"If the bill goes through, it's a good idea for constituents to say how they want to have their government developed and modified," Vijuk said. "It's more important than just having five or six people on a township board, or 24 people on a county board, or even legislators deciding the issue. There's a collective intelligence in so many people in a community voting on the issue."

But Mahady said before the question is posed to McHenry County residents, officials must clearly explain what "consolidation" means.

"I think politicians like to say 'consolidate' because voters would think their taxes will be reduced, but there is no cost study to say that and nothing from the county to say that," she said. "Consolidation means something different to everyone you ask, and the bill isn't well-written, well-thought or well-explained."

Franks said he finds offensive suggestions residents wouldn't understand the effects of a ballot question.

"I'm so tired of hearing insults slung at our voters. I trust the voters," he said. "They know what they're doing. To insinuate that somehow they don't have enough

information to make a decision is really insulting."

Either way, Schofield said, she does not think citizens will vote to dissolve townships once given all information.

"If you explain all the details and the reality of the situation, I don't see anyone asking for the option to consolidate," she said. "It doesn't necessarily save them money. Townships are such a small portion of their tax bill — they might save maybe \$40."

What's Next

The McHenry County Board recently unanimously approved a resolution objecting to McSweeney's bill because it would not be applied statewide.

"If it's such a good idea, why not apply it to the whole state? Why should McHenry County be treated as special? I think it's a special place, but it should not be used as a guinea pig," Mahady said.

Franks did not vote on the resolution. He said McSweeney's approach — using McHenry County as a "laboratory" — is correct because "someone has to be first — it ought to be us."

He served in the General Assembly for almost two decades and was instrumental in writing the current law allowing for units of government to consolidate.

"I've written most of the consolidation laws in Illinois. If anyone is going to do this, I think I know how," Franks said.

Townships, he said, are "a vestige of the past." Dissolving them might not solve the problem of high property taxes in Illinois, but it can be a start.

"And if it doesn't work, we'll try something else," Franks said.

The bill's Senate sponsor is Democrat Terry Link, from Vernon Hills. He did not respond to multiple requests for comment, but McSweeney said he is confident Link will be successful in gaining Senate passage.


Reick said if that is the case — if McSweeney's legislation successfully passes the Senate and the governor signs it into law — McSweeney should be prepared to speak to the residents of McHenry County.

"I don't know what David McSweeney's agenda is, and I don't care, but I hope he has the strength of character to stand in front of the same people he's telling now their property taxes are going to go down, and explain why that hasn't happened and in fact, why they've probably gone up," Reick said.

The *Northwest Herald* in Crystal Lake contributed to this story.

House Fire on W. Madison St.

Wednesday Belvidere Fire Department was called to the 300 block of W. Madison St. in Belvidere, with a report of smoke coming from the roof of a single family house. Upon arrival there was a working fire in the second story. The fire was quickly brought under control. Five fire departments responded as well as Boone County EMA, and Red Cross. No one was home at the time of the fire. Damage is estimated to be \$45,000. There were no injuries reported. The cause is under investigation at this time.



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