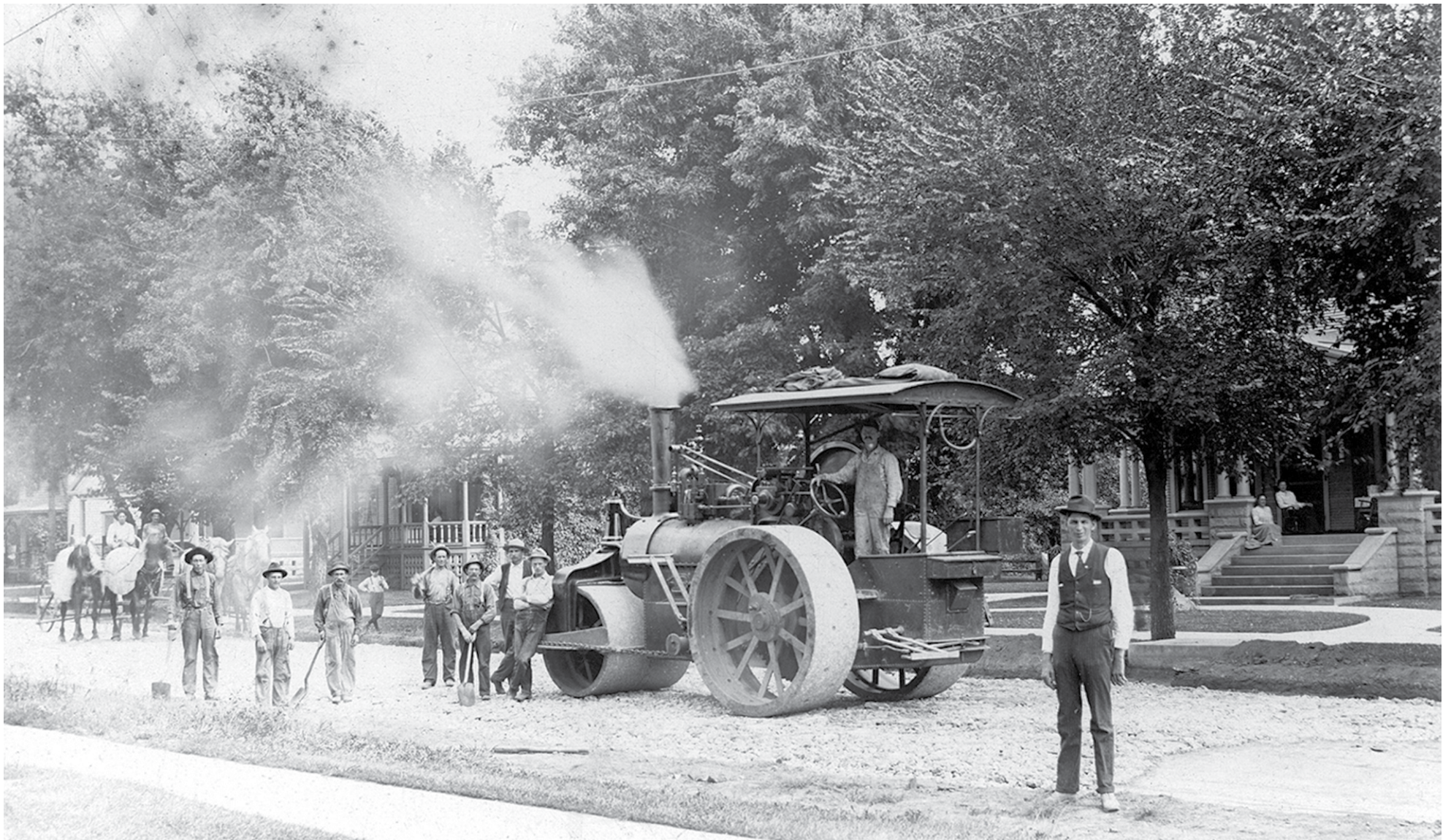


FREE

BOONE COUNTY
LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY
JOURNAL
Real Journalism for a Real Democracy


Subscribe Online
www.boonecountyjournal.com

Friday • September 4, 2020
Vol. 25, Issue 19 • No. 1267



Working on the Roads

A hot summer day road crew working on a Belvidere street, perhaps Logan Avenue and Whitney Boulevard.

by *David Larson*

The photograph tells us a lot about the time in which it was taken. Lets say this was from the 1920's or 1930's, maybe a hundred years ago at most. The newspapers of the day in Belvidere were filled with stories and information about "street work." Here is an excerpt from an August 18, 1925 article titled "Wheel Tax Nearly Meets Tarmac Costs." One can almost hear the same discussion today when city council makes plans for the annual street improvement projects that use motor fuel tax revenue.

"Handling of the street work for the current season was a topic of comment, with much satisfaction expressed by (Mayor Gable) at the results, not the least the favorable financial outcome on the tarmac treatment. The total expenditure by the city for road oil, tarmac and pea gravel had been \$5,480 (\$83,022 in 2020 dollars). While the income from the wheel tax used for that purpose had been \$4,400."

In 1927, Mayor Perkins, upon being reelected after losing a term, mused that he would like to see city works jobs become civil service jobs and permanent rather than subject to politics, where elections determined whether a city employee could keep his job. He also introduced the idea of investing in better quality road construction to lower long-term maintenance costs. With permanent streets being 80 percent cheaper to maintain year to year, he hoped to get a \$200,000

bond issue passed that would not raise taxation by transferring present maintenance costs to the payment of a bond.

Before asphalt and concrete, city streets, and not made of brick, were made of layers of gravel and tar. A base of gravel was overlaid with tar and pea gravel layers to create an asphalt-like surface. On a summer day, tar would melt onto tires making a sound of releasing tar from the tires as the vehicle passed by causing bits of tar to coat wheel wells.

In 1932, in the final days of the Hoover Administration, a bill was passed for road construction, "to give work to the idle." The Depression was at its deepest point and Hoover was about to lose his reelection to Roosevelt. The bill provided \$300 million to be available to loan to states, counties and cities.

The *Belvidere Daily Republican* reported in August of 1935 that the first WPA jobs in the state were scheduled to begin that week. 3000 workers were equally divided between Cook County and Downstate on a variety of infrastructure projects. These jobs paid between \$40 and \$55 a month, and for someone with a large family, it could be as high as \$100. The WPA was a part of Roosevelt's New Deal to restart a very depressed economy. The WPA began in May of 1935 with an initial appropriation of \$4.9 billion, which equaled 6.7 percent of GDP. And, it was not a loan. Its largest project was the Tennessee Valley Authority, which provided dams to rural Tennessee, generating electricity and controlling flooding. The WPA, which was active until World War II, built a million miles of city streets, 10,000 bridges, employed 8.5 million people, and constructed or funded many

public works projects like the Belvidere Park Swimming Pool and what is now the Community Building Complex of Boone County.

By November, 150 men were assigned to Belvidere projects. Cratty was mayor in Belvidere in 1935 when the city received a \$31,198 gift for two projects to rebuild sanitary and storm sewers and improve the streets of Belvidere. The sewer project ran from Warren Avenue to the west.

In 1895, Chicago Hydraulic and Sanitary Sewer engineer John M. Alvord made the earliest "mission ready" calculations for the installation of a sewer system for Belvidere.

Immediately the raw materials for the road and sewer construction became a bigger issue than the manpower and financing. It would take about a month to receive the shipment of the pipe needed for the water mains. Gravel and tools had to be acquired as well. The WPA allocation for Belvidere came as a complete surprise to local officials, as the newspaper reported it. Initial work involved 8.8 miles of city streets; perhaps this is what we see in this photo. In addition, dead-end water mains were to be eliminated. Streets received \$21,778 worth of benefit and water/sewer lines \$5,544. A press release from the State Administrator of the WPA stated that Washington had approved the action in Boone County. A requirement of the grant was that all workers were required to be residents of Boone County and be unemployed. Problems immediately emerged from this non-mission ready project. Poplar Grove, Capron and Caledonia men had to be called in, and finally, finding work for the men until the materials and tools arrived presented a problem also.

Special Committee Will Investigate Madigan's ComEd Ties

Madigan again denies fault, calls request a 'political stunt'

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

A special House committee will look into House Speaker Michael Madigan's ties to Commonwealth Edison and determine whether discipline is needed after House Republican leadership filed a petition to initiate the process.

The committee was formed Wednesday pursuant to Illinois House rules after House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, filed the nine-page petition Monday.

The committee, consisting of three Democrats and three Republicans appointed by each party's leadership, will investigate Madigan's identification as Public Official A in a deferred prosecution agreement filed by federal authorities against ComEd. In that court agreement, ComEd admitted to — from 2011 until 2019 — seeking to “influence and reward Public Official A” in return for favorable action on legislation.

“In addition to the deferred prosecution

agreement, the office of Speaker of the House received a subpoena from the U.S Attorney's office seeking records on twelve separate matters (including ComEd). With at least twelve separate matters being examined by the U.S. Attorney's Office, it indicates a pattern of concerning behavior in the Office of the Speaker, which is run by Speaker Madigan,” Durkin wrote in the petition signed by fellow Republican Reps. Ryan Spain, of Peoria, and Andrew Chesney, of Freeport.

Madigan said in a news release Wednesday morning that he immediately recused himself from action on the petition, putting Rep. Gregory Harris, a Chicago Democrat and House Majority Leader, in charge of the process and which members will serve on the committee. Harris said in a news release he appointed Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch, a Hillside Democrat, to chair the six-person committee.

“The Illinois Constitution gives members of the House the authority to review the actions of its members and determine whether discipline is necessary, including overturning the results of an election or expelling a member,” Harris said in a news release. “This is a power that should be judiciously exercised, and one that has rarely been used. In the past two decades, it has been invoked on two occasions, following the arrest and indictment of former Representatives Derrick Smith and Luis Arroyo.”

Durkin said the U.S. attorney's office was informed of the petition and it is not his intention to “interfere in any way” with the ongoing investigation.

“Given the facts admitted by ComEd for its nine-year-long scheme to bribe Speaker Madigan, the Illinois House of Representatives must do its job and conduct a thorough investigation,” Durkin said in a news release.

The committee has the task of determining “if reasonable grounds exist” to authorize charges against Madigan that may result in disciplinary action. Such action would require a majority vote from the committee that includes an equal number of Democrats and Republicans.

“I do believe that Speaker Madigan, like any other member of the House, is entitled to due process,” Welch said in a phone call Wednesday. “Fairness is extremely important to me, and that's what he's going to get here.”

Welch gave no timeline for the next action of the committee, which includes his fellow Democratic Reps. Natalie Manley, D-Joliet, and Elizabeth Hernandez, D-Cicero. Republican appointees include Deputy Minority Leader Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, and Reps. Deanne Mazzochi, R-Elmhurst, and Grant Wehrli, R-Naperville.

Per House rules, the committee has the authority to subpoena and administer oaths at the discretion of the chair, but Welch said Wednesday it is “too early” to tell what authority will be used.

“Like in the past, I'm sure we will approve rules of procedure,” he said. “So that's why I believe right now it's premature to say exactly what we're going to do.”

Welch said the process will be transparent and hearings will be public. The body will also

be required to file a report on alleged charges with the House clerk. If the panel approves charges, the matter would move to a 12-person discipline panel appointed through similar processes.

In response to Durkin's petition, Madigan issued a statement that was at times defensive, accusatory and a direct political attack on the Republican Party under President Donald Trump. It was distributed by his official state communications department.

He said bills favorable to Commonwealth Edison — which include measures providing hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies to a pair of nuclear power plants and making rate increases easier for utility companies — passed with broad bipartisan support and backing from environmentalists and other stakeholders.

He denied the assertion that the bills passed in exchange for “hiring and retention of a few individuals.”

“The bills could not have passed without such broad support, and they were the product of years of deliberation, negotiations, and consensus building,” Madigan said in the statement. “Rep. Durkin knows this because Republican members and staff were directly involved in the negotiations of these bills. They witnessed firsthand that House Democrats challenged representatives of ComEd and Exelon on critical portions of their proposed bills. Rep. Durkin knows it, and all those actually involved in the process know it.”

He called Durkin's petition a “political stunt only months away from one of the most consequential elections of our lifetimes” and questioned the Republican leader's own legislative dealings.

“The law does not prohibit members of the General Assembly from making job recommendations. If Rep. Durkin wants to question whether legislators should be allowed to make job recommendations, I encourage him to be transparent and disclose all of the jobs he has requested or lobbyists he has recommended over the years. He should also disclose the various actions he personally took to pass the energy bills, both in 2011 and 2016,” Madigan said.

Madigan also claimed he “can't identify one thing” Durkin and state Republicans have done to help Illinois residents amid a weakened economy and global pandemic. He said Republicans would rather focus on him than “a federal administration that has used the White House to prop up Donald Trump's wealthy campaign donors and friends at the expense of the American people.”

At an unrelated news conference in Chicago Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker said he is hopeful it is an attempt to get “real answers” from the speaker rather than a “political stunt” as characterized by Madigan.

“As I have said all along, there are questions that need to be answered by the speaker, and perhaps the creation of this legislative committee will actually get some of those answers,” he said.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Quidnunc



(Thinking)

Obituaries

Benner, Donna, 87, Poplar Grove, August 30
Osterberg, Arlene, 90, Belvidere, August 28
Whisenant, Cynthia, 72, Belvidere, August 26
Whitehead, Patricia, 97, Belvidere, August 29



real journalism for a real democracy

Publisher/Editor: David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial: Charles Herbst
Advertising: Bethany Staniec
Photography: Susan Moran
Office: Amanda Nelson

David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330
www.boonecountyjournal.com
news@boonecountyjournal.com

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.

Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

AGKERSON DOOR
ads
SALES
“We give your garage closure”
• Sales • Doors • Openers • Replacement Sections
• Service • Cables • Installations • Springs
Visit Our Showroom
C.H.I. PROFESSIONAL
LiftMaster PROFESSIONAL
2255 Rt. 173
Caledonia, IL 61011
815-623-2616
815-765-1551
Fax: 815-765-0333

M Milos Dental Care
Dr. Jamie Lynn Milos
129 S. Phelps Ave. Suite 307, Rockford, IL 61108
(815) 315-4200
Call now for an appointment!!
www.milosdentalcare.com

Exelon Says Planned Closure Of 2 Nuke Plants Unrelated To Pritzker Energy Guidelines

But company will 'continue our dialogue with policymakers on ways to prevent these closures'

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Exelon Corporation on Thursday announced plans to close two Illinois nuclear power plants next year in a decision the company claims is independent of legislative energy policy negotiations.

But, in a news release announcing the closures, Exelon's CEO said the company will "continue our dialogue with policymakers on ways to prevent these closures."

The announcement comes one week after the governor's office laid out guidelines for negotiation of energy legislation that include accountability measures for the state's utility companies.

"We agree with Gov. Pritzker that policy reform is urgently needed to address the climate crisis and advance Illinois' clean energy economy, and we support the objectives of the governor's recent energy principles," Christopher Crane, president and CEO of Exelon, said in a news release Thursday. "That's separate from today's announcement to retire these two zero-carbon nuclear plants, which was not a decision made lightly and is one that has been in the works for some time."

The plants tentatively slated for closure include Dresden Generating Station in the Grundy County city of Morris and Byron Generating Station just outside of the Ogle County city of Byron.

Exelon is the parent company of Commonwealth Edison, the largest utility in the state which serves approximately 3.8 million ratepayers in northern Illinois. In July, ComEd admitted in a court document to — from 2011 until 2019 — seeking to "influence and reward" a high-ranking public official identified as Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan in exchange for favorable action on legislation.

A spokesperson for Gov. JB Pritzker was critical of the company's news release in an email statement Thursday.

"First, let's remember that Exelon already receives a ratepayer-funded subsidy of \$235 million dollars per year to run nuclear plants in Illinois," Jordan Abudayyeh, Pritzker's press secretary, said in an email. "While they couch their messaging in their desire for a clean energy future, their primary purpose is to dramatically increase those subsidies on behalf of their shareholders."

Abudayyeh was referring to revenue generated through Zero Emission Credits, or ZECs, approved through the Future Energy Jobs Act, or FEJA, in 2016.

Prior to the passage of that legislation in 2016, Exelon issued a news release stating it would "move forward to shut down the Clinton and Quad Cities nuclear plants," which both remain open after receiving the ZECs made possible by FEJA beginning in 2017. The 2016 release said those plants "lost a combined \$800 million in the

In our 25th year publishing *The Boone County Journal* September 4, 2020 3 past seven years, despite being two of Exelon's best-performing plants."

Exelon's news release Thursday said the closure of the "uneconomic" Byron and Dresden plants is necessary because they "face revenue shortfalls in the hundreds of millions."

"We recognize this comes as many of our communities are still recovering from the economic and public health impacts of the pandemic, and we will continue our dialogue with policymakers on ways to prevent these closures," Crane said. "To that end, we have opened our books to policymakers and will continue to do so for any lawmaker who wishes to judge the plants' profitability."

The governor's office has said when it comes to subsidies such as ZECs, companies such as Exelon will have to "show their math and show the ratepayers of Illinois why they need a benefit."

"We have seen these threats before, and this time Exelon's threats will need to be backed up by a thorough and transparent review of their finances — including why the profits of the company as a whole cannot cover alleged operating losses at a few plants," Abudayyeh said. "The administration looks forward to working with lawmakers and stakeholders to pass legislation centered on consumers and the climate that creates and retains good paying, union jobs in communities across the state."

The Dresden plant is licensed to operate for another 10 years, while Byron is licensed for 20, according to Exelon. Together, the plants employ more than 1,500 full-time employees and 2,000 supplemental workers during refueling outages. They pay nearly \$63 million in taxes annually and supply 30 percent of Illinois' carbon-free energy, according to the news release.

While the company said the closure was separate from Pritzker's recently-announced energy guidelines, the news release specifically referenced a policy difference between Exelon and the administration. That difference pertains to a Fixed Resource Requirement, or FRR, proposal, which seeks to pull the state from the multi-state capacity auctions conducted by the federally-

regulated PJM regional transmission organization.

Capacity procurement is not the purchase of energy production, but the guarantee that a company will be able to produce a given amount of energy years into the future.

Proponents of an FRR say if the state is given authority to conduct capacity auctions, it can set fixed requirements for the purchase of renewable and zero-carbon energy sources.

The governor's office disagrees with the FRR proposal and prefers a "market-based program that incorporates the social cost of carbon."

"The proposed FRR has been the centerpiece of current energy discussions, but the first step in that FRR is to annually pay each of Exelon's nuclear plants an amount equal to three times the current taxpayer subsidy that two Exelon plants already receive without any strings attached and without Exelon showing us their math as to why this is necessary," according to the governor's energy guidelines.

In its news release, however, Exelon cited "declining energy prices" and "market rules that allow fossil fuel plants to underbid clean resources in the PJM capacity auction" as driving forces of closures.

Exelon said a recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision affecting the minimum offering price an energy generator can bid for PJM capacity auctions exacerbates the need for change. It also suggested it was considering further closures.

"As a result of these market rules, Exelon Generation's LaSalle and Braidwood nuclear stations in Illinois, each of which house two nuclear units and together employ more than 1,500 skilled workers, are also at high risk for premature closure," according to the news release.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, released a statement Thursday saying he would "explore options for keeping nuclear plants open"

"Independent market monitors believe these plants can be profitable," he said in a written statement. "I intend to look into legislative options including requiring these plants be put up for sale before they can be shuttered. We owe it to these workers and communities to see if someone else can successfully run these assets."

State Sen. Michael Hastings, a Frankfort Democrat, said the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee he chairs "has been committed to working on legislation and consumer assistance since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and we remain committed to working with the men and women of organized

Continued on Page 4

Pro Tree Care & Landscaping

Linda Johns owner

Over 30 years of service • 24 hr emergency service

General and Safety Pruning

Hedge and Shrub trimming • Tree and stump Removal
Spring and Fall cleanup • Firewood pickup and delivery



815-547-3345

jackoftrade81@mchsi.com

Charles Herbst

Attorney At Law

Practice Areas:

- Wills and Trusts
- Tax Strategy
- IRS Representation
- Real Estate
- Wealth Planning
- LLCs and Corporate



Education:

- LL.M. (Masters in Tax Law) New York University
- B.S. Business, J.D. Law (cum laude) Indiana University

Experience:

- International Tax Associates, Director of Federal Tax Research
- Ernst and Young LLP, Manager; Writer, Washington National Tax Writing Center
- Private Practice in the local area for over 13 years
- Former chairman of the written publications committee of the Indiana State Bar Association.

Over 25 years of experience

With a comprehensive approach to tax management.

Licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service nationally and in state courts in Illinois.

345 Bienterra Trail, Suite 3, Rockford, IL 61107

815 484 9482



• Digital Color & Black & White

• Multi Functional

* Copy * Print * Fax * Scan

* Service • Supplies • Toner

Sharp ~ Canon ~ Toshiba ~

Lexmark ~ HP ~ Xerox ~ Ricoh

Sales

Service

815-608-1173

815-282-4002

Nukes *Continued from page 3*

labor and all stakeholders to find solutions to secure the future of clean energy in Illinois.”

Rep. David Allen Welter, R-Morris, said “disappointment” in the closure announcement “does not even begin to scratch the surface of my frustration.”

“Exelon’s plan to retire Dresden Station is a direct result of Gov. Pritzker and Speaker Madigan’s failure to bring comprehensive energy legislation up for a vote at any point during the last two years,” he said in an email statement.

An Exelon spokesperson said there is “a short window during which these decisions could be reversed if a policy solution is implemented.”

“However, we must move forward with the required regulatory notifications and take other necessary steps to prepare the plants for early retirement. The further we get down that path, the more expensive and difficult it will be to reverse course,” the spokesperson added.

IDPH Voting Guidance Specifies Social Distancing, Recommends Masks

Illinois’ vote-by-mail requests shatter previous record set two years ago

by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health has released in-person voting guidelines for election authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19 this year.

Changes announced last week include moving polling locations from senior living facilities, maintaining social distancing for voters and workers, creating outdoor spaces for citizens to wait and swapping communal items for single-use ones.

Those rules also apply to early voting, which varies depending on local rules but generally begins Sept. 24 and runs through Nov. 2 — the day before Election Day.

“While the safest way to cast a ballot this year is by voting by mail, we are and will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that Illinoisans can exercise their right to vote in person, in the safest possible environments during this COVID-19 pandemic,” Dr. Ngozi Ezike, IDPH director, said in a written statement.

According to Illinois law, individual county clerks are obligated to comply with the department’s rules as well as produce their own plans to minimize potential COVID-19 infections. Officials should specify a disinfection procedure, configure booths and tables for social distancing and display signs specifying a face covering should be worn.

While masks will be provided at locations statewide, “election authorities are prohibited

from preventing a noncompliant voter from casting a ballot for refusal to wear a face covering outside or inside a polling place,” the health department’s guidance specifies.

Poll workers are also barred from screening citizens for COVID-19.

Those who refuse to wear a face covering “should” be separated from those who are complying with the recommendation, the department added.

Voters can expect to see polling locations more spread out than in years past, with barriers separating them from workers, designated entrance- and exit-only doorways and signs on the ground indicating a six-foot separation between those waiting in line.

Some busy polling locations might also have assigned workers to instruct citizens to wait in their vehicles. Officials that are not expecting large in-person voter turnout might have curbside voting infrastructure.

At all locations, writing utensils and ballot covers will either be single-use or disinfected between voters. The health department is also instructing local election authorities to “consider not offering” stickers this year.

The number of those opting to vote in person this year is likely to be lower than average, as officials continue to encourage citizens to vote

by mail.

“Voting by mail provides a safe, secure and convenient voting option for those concerned about COVID-19,” Steve Sandvoss, Illinois State Board of Elections executive director, said in a written statement. “It also will help ease congestion at in-person polling places during early voting and on Election Day.”

So far, more than 1.1 million Illinoisans have requested a mail ballot, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections, but that statistic is presumed to increase once the remaining 28 local election authorities disclose their data.

In 2018, approximately 430,000 citizens voted by mail and in 2016, that number was 370,000.

“We are encouraged by the strong response to the ongoing vote-by-mail effort,” Sandvoss said in a statement.

State Announces Further Mitigations In Metro East Area

Positivity rate has not declined after two weeks of previous restrictions

by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois

State officials Tuesday announced additional efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the Metro East area along the Missouri border as the first wave of restrictions yielded no effect on the region’s virus positivity rate.

The Illinois Department of Public Health reported a 7-day rolling test positivity average of 9.6 percent in Region 4, which includes the Metro East area, as of Saturday. Officials previously said mitigation strategies would be implemented in regions experiencing a positivity rate of at least 8 percent for three consecutive days.

Residents in the Metro East area, as of Wednesday, will be unable to consume food or alcohol inside a restaurant or bar. All such establishments must close at 11 p.m. daily and reopen after 6 a.m., and residents are prohibited from congregating indoors for any reason.

Social gatherings will be limited to the lesser of 25 guests or one quarter of a room’s capacity. Party buses will be banned from operating and visitation to long-term care facilities will continue to be forbidden.

The initial restrictions took effect two weeks ago, but the virus positivity has only increased since they were implemented. Gov. JB Pritzker has called it a “mistake” that he did not implement the stricter bar and restaurant restrictions earlier.

According to a news release, public health officials will monitor the region’s positivity rate. If that rate drops to 6.5 percent or lower over the next two weeks, residents can observe the state’s Phase 4 guidance. If the positivity rate increases or remains stagnant over the same time period, officials will consider “more stringent mitigations.”

“IDPH has been working closely with local health departments in the Metro East to provide education to the public and offer information to businesses and organizations on safer ways to reopen,” according to the announcement. “...The significance of face coverings, social distancing,

and hand washing have been continuously emphasized by the administration throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The new mitigations are on par with those imposed for Region 7 last week, which includes Will and Kankakee Counties.

Service Call Special \$19.95



Servicing all makes and models Over 30 years experience

815-332-7228

Cherry Valley LANDSCAPE CENTER

- Landscape Mulches • Natural Landscape Stone
- Unilock Pavers & Retaining Wall Systems
- Top Soil / Compost Blend • Propane Filling Station
- Lawn Mower & Outdoor Power Equipment, Repair & Service • Dealer for Scag, eXmark, Ferris & Hustler Lawn Mowers • Weather Guard Truck Tool Boxes

STIHL

7711 Newburg Road • Rockford, IL 61108
815-977-5268 www.cherryvalleylandscape.com

Advertising Sales Position

Boone County Journal
419 S State St. Bel.
815-544-4430
ask for David

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466



BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
Est. 1996
real journalism for a real democracy

Coronavirus	Flu	Allergies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Dry cough • Shortness of breath • Fatigue • Chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough • Muscle aches • Fatigue • Headache • Runny nose • Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneezing • Itchy eyes • Runny nose • Watery, red or swollen eyes

Tourism Decline Could Put State on Hook For McCormick Place Bonds

Chicago area sees 85% drop in tourism tax collections in August

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A drastic drop in tourism and convention revenues in the Chicago area brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic could put the state on the hook for making bond payments on behalf of the operators of the McCormick Place convention center, according to the bond rating agency Moody's Investor Services.

McCormick Place, which bills itself as the largest convention center in North America, is operated by a municipal corporation, the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, commonly known as Met Pier.

According to Moody's, Met Pier has about \$2.9 billion worth of outstanding bonds backed by various tourism-related taxes in Chicago and, as a backstop, Illinois state sales tax revenues, which are used whenever the local revenues are insufficient to make the bond payments. State sales tax revenue covers up to \$300 million in debt service in such a situation when Met Pier's pledged tax revenue falls short, according to Moody's.

Officials at Met Pier said they are working on a debt refinancing package that they hope will make it unnecessary to draw on state funds. According to the state comptroller's office, as of June 30, Met Pier had a total outstanding bonded indebtedness of just under \$4.2 billion.

In an email statement, Met Pier's chief financial officer Jason Bormann said the corporation has taken a number of steps to cut its operational costs this year. He also said Met Pier plans to refinance \$118.4 million in bonds that mature during the current fiscal year.

"These bonds financed McCormick Place's South and West Buildings, among other things," Bormann said. "These facilities help drive tourism, economic activity and tax revenues to the state of Illinois and city of Chicago."

The possibility that Met Pier might have to draw on state revenues this year was reported as early as April by the Civic Federation, a nonpartisan policy think tank in Chicago. It noted that Met Pier had to draw on state revenues during the recession that followed the financial crisis in 2008, although it was later able to repay that money.

But local revenues that support McCormick Place have been plummeting again since Gov. JB Pritzker first issued a statewide stay-at-home order in March. Although that order is no longer in effect, the convention center and state tourism have continued to suffer as allowable crowd size remains limited to 50 people. In August, the city reported revenues from those local taxes were down 85 percent compared to the same month a year ago.

"Met Pier's weak August tax revenue marks

another in a series of declines that began in April," the Moody's report stated. "Monthly collections for June through August were 78 percent below year-earlier levels on average. Met Pier's convention center, McCormick Place, has suffered from a wave of cancellations because of the pandemic."

Gina Speckman, executive director of the Chicago North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau, said in an interview Tuesday that the loss of convention business at McCormick Place is being felt throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

"In the Chicagoland area, a lot of our visitor traffic is business-related," she said. "McCormick Place has one of the largest convention centers in the country and it basically has been shut down since the end of March. I think there's been about 130 events that were taking place at McCormick Place that were canceled from March until next early next year. So that has had a tremendous impact on the city. And the suburban areas which are very heavily dependent on meetings and group business, you know, that is also not taking place."

Speckman said that even if the pandemic were to disappear immediately, industry officials estimate that it could take at least until 2023 for travel and tourism business to return to pre-pandemic levels.

"And, you know, I don't think that we're going to get back to everything the way it was before," she added. "Meetings are going to be more hybrid. People are going to want to have the Zoom options versus in-person options for meetings. And meetings are going to have to be able to accommodate that reality. The makeup of how meetings and conventions and conferences happen moving forward is going to look different."

Pandemic Shines 'Great Spotlight' on Digital Divide

State's broadband office director outlines connectivity efforts

by Raymon Troncoso Capitol News Illinois

Included in the \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure plan in 2019 was a \$400 million investment aimed at providing statewide broadband access to every residence, business and community institution across the state by 2024.

"It's an ambitious goal," Matt Schmit, director of the Office of Broadband in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, said in an interview with Capitol News Illinois. "We think if we make smart investments, we think we can meet this goal, that's why we put it in place and that's why we want to push ourselves."

The program, known as Connect Illinois, funds broadband expansion efforts through competitive grants that are matched with other nonstate dollars.

Advocates point out that the internet's ubiquity in American life make connectivity essential for health care, education, and even management of

finances.

But access to internet often has geographic or income boundaries, leaving swaths of land and its inhabitants cut off from the daily web necessities many take for granted.

The 'digital divide'

In a 2018 report, the Federal Communications Commission found that around 10 percent of rural Americans lacked access to both fixed and wireless basic broadband, and that 31 percent had access to one but not the other. That's not a measure of how many rural Americans have internet, but whether they even have the option to get it.

"That's what they call the digital divide," Lynden Schuyler, a director for census outreach at the Illinois Public Health Association, said.

Schuyler works as an intermediary for the Illinois Department of Human Services in the southern region of the state to encourage census participation. Despite Illinois having one of the highest self-response rates in the country at 69.5 percent as of Thursday, some rural counties in her region have struggled to break a 50-percent response rate. Two of the counties with the lowest rates – Alexander (44.7 percent) and Hardin (31.9 percent) – also struggle with internet access.

In an email to Capitol News Illinois in May, Schuyler wrote that 28 percent of approximately 1,400 households in Hardin County had no internet service and only 8 percent had a cellular data plan. In Alexander County, 51 percent of approximately 2,300 households lacked internet access, and just 17 percent had data plans.

Not having internet access creates problems as the U.S. Census Bureau emphasizes filing online this year. Nationally, more than half of census respondents have filled out their form on the internet, and the pandemic has limited and delayed door-to-door distribution of census forms.

Since census turnout is tied to federal funding, those challenges put millions of dollars in federal funding at risk across the state – the type of funding that could be used to improve insufficient broadband infrastructure and provide vital services in rural communities.

\$1,400 per person undercounted

In a place like Sesser, Illinois, a city in Franklin County with a population that's just under 2,000 people, each resident uncounted in the census can equal \$1,400 lost per year, according to Mayor Jason Ashmore.

"I mean just 20, 30 people and you're talking tens of thousands of dollars we'll lose each year," Ashmore said. "We have a flood mitigation program that's going on right now, we're spending probably about \$50,000. It wouldn't take very many people to take out that \$50,000."

When rural communities such as Sesser are undercounted, they are unlikely to get an equitable return on their federal tax dollars compared to more urban ones, Ashmore said.

"This is just to bring back money we've already paid, and having a correct, accurate census count will make sure that we bring our fair share back to

Continued on Page 7

Count on us for fair, friendly service!

Belvidere Auto Maintenance, Inc.

Full Service Auto Repairs

Don't Get Confused & Go To The Wrong Place!
Call First and Get EXACT Directions!

Next to the Ugly Radio Tower At

320 W. Locust, Belvidere, IL



\$19.95

OIL CHANGE

*up to 5 quarts of oil. Must present ad at time of service. Expires 10/31/20

(815) 547-8020

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075



LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notices

Legal Notice to Owners, occupants & interested parties: TAKE DEED NOTICE

CASE # 2017 TX 19 (P4)
County of BOONE, IL
Date Premises Sold 10/26/2017
Certificate No. 2016-00160
Sold for General Taxes of 2016

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property located at 209 West Perry St., Belvidere, IL 61008-3145
Legal Description or Property Index No. 05-26-263-005
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of extended redemption from the sale will expire on 11/30/2020.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at Six (6) month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 11/30/2020
This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in Belvidere, Illinois in Room number 4 at 9:00_am_ on Date 12/1/2020.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 11/30/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, IL at the Boone County Government Center, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008.

For further information contacts the County Clerk. Vimal Desai.

Purchaser or Assignee.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Aug. 21, 28, Sept 4, 2020

Legal Notice to Owners, occupants & interested parties: TAKE DEED NOTICE

CASE # 2017 TX 19 (P5)
County of BOONE, IL
Date Premises Sold 10/26/2017
Certificate No. 2016-00243
Sold for General Taxes of 2016

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property located at 1633 Chrysler Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008
Legal Description or Property Index No. 07-02-103-044
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of extended redemption from the sale will expire on 11/30/2020.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at Six (6) month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 11/30/2020
This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in Belvidere, Illinois in Room number 4 at 9:00_am_ on Date 12/1/2020.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 11/30/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, IL at the Boone County Government Center, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008.

For further information contacts the County Clerk. Manoj Amin D/B/A RKNK INC.

Purchaser or Assignee.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Aug. 21, 28, Sept 4, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

Case No.2020-MR-75
REQUEST OF: ALLISON ELIZABETH BONK to change name my name from: ALLISON ELIZABETH BONK; to the new name of: ALLIE ELIZABETH BONK. The court date will be held: on September 1, 2020, at 9:45am, at 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL Boone County in Courtroom #4
Published in the Boone County Journal 8/21, 27, 9/4

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:

The applicant, Jeff & Karen Hauser, 7849 Belmar Drive Belvidere, IL 61008, are requesting a variance pursuant to Section 3.5.4 (Lot Development Standards) of Section 3.5 (Single Family Residential) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance to allow an accessory structure within the rear setback approximately 3 feet, 12 foot decrease and within the side setback approximately 2 feet, a 13 foot reduction at 7849 Belmar Drive Belvidere, IL 61008, unincorporated Bonus Township, Boone County, IL. PIN: 06-32-426-013. Legally described:
REPLAT OF LOT 12 BEL-MAR ESTATES 2ND ADD LOT 12 E156.92, S179.96, W130, N180

The applicant, Rockrose Investment LLC, 2253 Anderson Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008, is requesting a Special Use Permit under Section 2.7 (Special Use) and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance to allow the use of outdoor display, outdoor storage, and indoor self-storage facility in the B-2, General Business District, in unincorporated Belvidere Township, Boone County Illinois on a total of 13.37 acres.
(PIN: 05-22-100-015, 05-22-100-016) PT SW NW-BEG 546.3'E SW COR, NE426.82' NE119.26', NE226.2', N310. E282.05', SE TO A PT 266.46' N S LN W TO A PT 328.75' W E LN S 266.46' W 439 TO POB(EX PT FOR RD AS IN 99-7014 & PT SW NW-BEG SE COR, W328.73' NE TO PT 351.94'S & 1075.5'E NW COR NW, N 351.94', E).

Tony Savino, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals
Published in the Boone County Journal on September 4, 2020

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: August 18, 2020
PROJECT: ROOF REPLACEMENT FOR THE
Boone County Historical Museum
location: 314 south state street
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008
OWNER: Boone County Historical Museum
314 south state street
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008
ARCHITECT: OLLMANN ERNEST MARTIN ARCHITECTS
200 SOUTH STATE STREET
BELVIDERE, Illinois 61008
Tel: 815/ 544-7790

SCOPE: Bids for single contract INCLUDING:
General WORK

DATE DUE: Sealed bids will be received UNTIL 2:00 PM CDT on tuesday, September 15, 2020 at the office of the owner and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

PRE-BID MEETING: ALL PROSPECTIVE Contractors are encouraged to ATTEND a pre-bid meeting held at 2:00 pM CDT, tuesday, september 1, 2020 AT the project site.

SITE INSPECTION: all PROSPECTIVE Contractors ARE required to INSPECT the existing conditions at the project site, prior to submitting a bid.

ACCESS TO BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Bidding Documents are on file for reference at the following locations:

Office of the Owner
Belvidere, Il
.....
Office of the Architect
Belvidere, Il
NIBCA Rockford, Il

Bidding Documents may be secured from THE OFFICES OF:
DG PRINTING of rockford, llc
728 N. prospect street, Suite 109
Rockford, Illinois 61107
PH: 815-961-0000
EMAIL: print@dgdprinting.com
WWW: dgdplanroom.com

BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Bidders may secure up to two (2) sets of bidding documents by submitting \$50.00 refundable deposit per set or age card, plus a non-refundable check for \$15.00 per set if documents are mailed. Bidders are encouraged to call the printer to arrange for desired copies prior to pick-up. bidders will also receive a PDF copy of the bidding documents, from dg printing, for the purpose of making reproductions pursuant to Specification Section 000111 "Ownership and Use of Instruments of Service".

Bidders may purchase additional copies of the bidding documents directly from the printer at the printer's standard charge FOR handling and printing.

FULL AMOUNT OF THE REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT WILL BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDERS WHO SUBMIT BIDS IF DOCUMENTS ARE RETURNED IN USEABLE CONDITION WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER THE OPENING OF BIDS. BID DOCUMENTS SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE OF OLLMANN ERNEST MARTIN ARCHITECTS.

BID FORM: Bids shall be submitted in duplicate on forms issued by Architect.

BID SECURITY: Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 5% of the total amount of the base bid and all additive alternate bids. This may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or bid bond, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that, should the bidder be awarded the Work, the bidder will enter into a contract with the Owner and will furnish the proper performance and payment bond within the time limit set by the Owner. Bid securities will be returned to all other bidders when the successful bidder files a proper performance and payment bond and the contract is executed by the Owner. If the successful bidder fails to file such contract and performance and payment bond, the amount of his bid security shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.

performance and performance and payment bonds will be required. payment bonds:

WAGE RULES: each craft, type of worker and mechanic needed to execute the contract shall be paid the prevailing wage rate for the locality in which the work is preformed, in accordance with all federal laws and laws of the state as well as local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder and having force of law.

TAXES: Boone County Historical Museum is a tax exempt entity.

RIGHTS RESERVED BY OWNER: THE OWNER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WAIVE any irregularities and/ OR REJECT ANY or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.

WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS No bid may be withdrawn for a PERIOD of 90 days after the OPENING OF BIDS WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE OWNER.

By REQUEST OF THE Boone County Historical Museum, Belvidere, Illinois
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Sept 4, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

Case No.2020-MR-75
REQUEST OF: Danny Patrick Flynn to change name my name from: Danny Patrick Flynn; to the new name of: Daniel Patrick Flynn. The court date will be held: on October 13, 2020, at 9:45am, at 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL Boone County in Courtroom #4
Published in the Boone County Journal 8/28, 9/4, 9/11

Change in Certificate of Ownership

Public Notice is hereby given that on September 1, 2020 a certificate was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as Riverwood Condominium Association located at 519 E. Lincoln Avenue Belvidere, Illinois 61008 which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: Withdrawal of owner Lori Ziehm and Addition of owners David J Schmidt & Kristi A. Schmidt
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) September 1, A.D. 2020
Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal September 4, 11, 18

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING POPLAR GROVE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Poplar Grove Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Village Board Room, 200 North Hill Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois, 61065 upon the following:

The applicant, Poplar Grove Solar, PO Box 310, Highland Park, IL 60035, on behalf of the property owner, DYN 173, LLC (First Midwest Group), 6801 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, IL 61114, is requesting a special use to install non-building mounted solar collectors (total of 18 acres, western phase) for export of energy for use by an electrical utility at 4324 Illinois Route 173 within L1, Light Industrial District (Poplar Grove Zoning Ordinance Sections 8-6-11-B-2 and 8-5-7 Special Use. The subject property is legally described as:

The South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14; also all that part of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, lying North of the right of way of the Chicago Northwestern Railway Company, excepting from the above one acre in said Northwest Quarter of Section 23, deeded to Wayne Wheeler, as appears of record in Book 94 of Deeds, Page 533, Boone County Records, and excepting 4.84 acres in the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14, deed to Floyd Newhouse, as appears of record in Book 103 of Deeds, on Page 444 also excepting "Tract A" containing .971 acres and "Tract B" containing 4.856 acres in South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14 deed to Floyd Newhouse and Wife, as appears of record in Book 111 of Deeds, Page 359 Boone County Records and also excepting that part of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 23 Deed to John Bullard and Wife, as appears of Record in Book 106 of Deeds, on Page 504 Boone County Records all of the above situated in Township 45 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Boone County, State of Illinois and more particularly described as follows to wit:

Part of the Southwest Quarter (1/4) of Section Fourteen (14), Township Forty-Five (45) North, Range Three (3) East of the Third Principal Meridian, bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 36 minutes 51 seconds East, along the West line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 1326.34 feet to the North Line of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 49 minutes 33 seconds East, along the North Line of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 2400.02 feet to the West Line of "Tract A" of premises conveyed Allan B. Wares to Floyd Newhouse and Shirley Newhouse by quit claim deed dated December 26, 1952 and recorded in Book 111 of Deeds on Page 359 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois; thence South 00 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West, along the West Line of "Tract A" of said premises so conveyed to Newhouse as aforesaid and the Southerly extension thereof, 1324.88 feet to the South Line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 38 seconds West, along the South Line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 2399.26 feet to the Point of Beginning, subject to the rights of the public and State of Illinois in and to those portions thereof taken, used or dedicated for public road purposes. Situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois. Part of PIN: 03-14-300-002.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Jessica Roberts, Chairperson,
Poplar Grove Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Sept 4, 2020

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of:
No. 20-JA-18 20-P-24
Nathaniel Astacio-Chambers, minor
Eric Astacio/ To whom it may concern/All unknown natural Fathers
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on June 5, 2020, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty, Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Nathaniel Astacio-Chambers, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 11/19/20; 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 THE 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 RIGHT 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 amend 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.

Dated: August 12, 2020
Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk
Published in *The Boone County Journal*; August 21, 28, September 4 - C

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF BOONE)
In the matter of the Petition for Adoption of JORJA CHRISTINE OLSEN, a female child, 2020-AD-1.

To Kevin S. Olsen and All Whom It May Concern:
TAKE NOTICE that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, for the adoption of a minor child named JORJA CHRISTINE OLSEN.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein in said Circuit Court of Boone County, in the City of Belvidere, Illinois on or before the 11th day of September, 2020, a default may be entered against you any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

Dated: August 26, 2020
Clerk of the Circuit Court
ZIMMERMAN & WALSH, LLP
Attorney Erin E. Walsh, #6279993
1707 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
Phone: 815-399-1400

ADOPTION NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF BOONE)

In the matter of the Petition for Adoption of MACKENZIE MARIE DURKEE, a female child, 2020-AD-2.

To Kevin S. Olsen and All Whom It May Concern:
TAKE NOTICE that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, for the adoption of a minor child named MACKENZIE MARIE DURKEE.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein in said Circuit Court of Boone County, in the City of Belvidere, Illinois on or before the 11th day of September, 2020, a default may be entered against you any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

Dated: August 26, 2020
Clerk of the Circuit Court
ZIMMERMAN & WALSH, LLP
Attorney Erin E. Walsh, #6279993
1707 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
Phone: 815-399-1400
Fax: 815-399-9440
eew@zimwalsh.com

Published in the *Boone County Journal* Aug 28, Sept 4, 11-2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
POPLAR GROVE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Notice is hereby given that the Village of Poplar Grove Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Village Board Room, 200 North Hill Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois, 61065 upon the following:

The applicant, Poplar Grove Solar, PO Box 310, Highland Park, IL 60035, on behalf of the property owner, DYN 173, LLC (First Midwest Group), 6801 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, IL 61114, is requesting a special use to install non-building mounted solar collectors (total of 18 acres, eastern phase) for export of energy for use by an electrical utility at 4324 Illinois Route 173 within LI, Light Industrial District (Poplar Grove Zoning Ordinance Sections 8-6-11-B-2 and 8-5-7 Special Use. The subject property is legally described as:

The South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14; also all that part of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, lying North of the right of way of the Chicago Northwestern Railway Company, excepting from the above one acre in said Northwest Quarter of Section 23, deeded to Wayne Wheeler, as appears of record in Book 94 of Deeds, Page 533, Boone County Records, and excepting 4.84 acres in the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14, deed to Floyd Newhouse, as appears of record in Book 103 of Deeds, on Page 444 also excepting "Tract A" containing .971 acres and "Tract B" containing 4.856 acres in South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14 deed to Floyd Newhouse and Wife, as appears of record in Book 111 of Deeds, Page 359 Boone County Records and also excepting that part of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 23 Deed to John Bullard and Wife, as appears of Record in Book 106 of Deeds, on Page 504 Boone County Records all of the above situated in Township 45 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Boone County, State of Illinois and more particularly described as follows to wit:

Part of the Southwest Quarter (1/4) of Section Fourteen (14), Township Forty-Five (45) North, Range Three (3) East of the Third Principal Meridian, bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 36 minutes 51 seconds East, along the West line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 1326.34 feet to the North Line of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 49 minutes 33 seconds East, along the North Line of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 2400.02 feet to the West Line of "Tract A" of premises conveyed Allan B. Wares to Floyd Newhouse and Shirley Newhouse by quit claim deed dated December 26, 1952 and recorded in Book 111 of Deeds on Page 359 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois; thence South 00 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West, along the West Line of "Tract A" of said premises so conveyed to Newhouse as aforesaid and the Southerly extension thereof, 1324.88 feet to the South Line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 38 seconds West, along the South Line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 2399.26 feet to the Point of Beginning, subject to the rights of the public and State of Illinois in and to those portions thereof taken, used or dedicated for public road purposes. Situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois. Part of PIN: 03-14-300-002.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Jessica Roberts, Chairperson,
Poplar Grove Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Sept 4, 2020

Interested in
Boone County?
Don't Miss the News
**The Boone County
Journal**
ONLINE \$12.99 A YEAR
Includes Searchable Archive
www.boonecountyjournal.com

our community," he said.

Ashmore said broadband connectivity is possible for everyone within the Sesser city limits, but rural residents within the same census bloc are probably closer to 50 percent lacking access entirely.

To combat situations where internet is not available either by cost or by access, the town provides a free Wi-Fi hotspot at the library, where residents can come in to fill out the census or park outside and do it from their vehicles.

Pandemic shines 'great spotlight'

According to Schuyler, the dual crises of changing census guidelines and the COVID-19 pandemic have shined a "great spotlight" on the impact that lack of access to broadband has in rural communities.

"Access to education, access to jobs, it's one of those areas where the whole partnership between business and government needs to happen, because it's not going to be cheap," she said.

The state awarded \$50 million in broadband expansion grants through the Connect Illinois program in June. Due to the requirements set for obtaining Connect Illinois grants, that first batch of funding was matched by \$65 million in nonstate funds for a total investment exceeding \$115 million. Another \$50 is slated for release later this year.

Barry Adair is CEO of the Wabash Telephone Co-op, based mainly in south-central Illinois. His company received about \$1.6 million from Connect Illinois, which was then matched with nonstate funds, to complete a \$3.2 million project bringing basic broadband to the small towns of Clay City and Sailor Springs.

Combined, the municipalities have a population of about 1,000. That means it costs about \$3,200 per person to set down fixed lines providing what the FCC has benchmarked as basic broadband speed: 25mbps, or megabits per second.

The focus of Connect Illinois has been on scalable, fiber optic cables to provide broadband, rather than wireless networks such as 5G, which is used for internet in some cities. That means while each household on Connect Illinois broadband can receive internet at speeds of at least 25 mbps, once the lines are down to provide internet, they can be affordably scaled up to provide a gigabit, or 1000mbps.

"With fiber optics, you can guarantee every

household is capable of getting a gig," Adair said in an interview. "In cell towers you need to have them about every half mile to serve gigabit speeds."

Discrepancies in Wi-Fi access were also noted in an Aug. 19 Illinois State Board of Education meeting regarding the choice between in-person and online learning.

Josh Quick, superintendent of the Robinson Community School District, said during that meeting that of the 1,600 students his district serves, 90 percent chose to return in-person to school, partly because of internet access.

Even if households had data plans, it didn't make up for not having a fixed line connection.

"We're here in southeast Illinois, and let's just say the phone signals are not always reliable in this area," he said.

Separate from the \$400 million allocated for Connect Illinois, the Office of Broadband has also committed \$20 million to the Illinois Century Network to repair and expand the state's broadband for all K-12 schools in the state, a fiber optic cable network around 2,100 miles long.

'One leg of the stool'

According to Schmit of DCEO's broadband office, before the coronavirus pandemic came to the U.S., Connect Illinois was already based on the premise that access to broadband was a pressing problem that needed to be addressed.

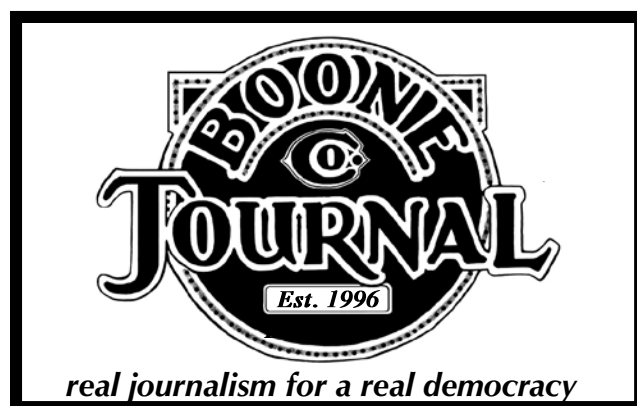
"Look at how the world has changed in the last several months, the urgency has only increased and we think we're well positioned to make these long-term strategic investments on a progressive timeline," he said.

Schmit said while some other states are using portions of federal revenues through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, to expand broadband, Illinois' existing investment in that area allows the state to use the federal funds for other areas of immediate need.

"Because in Illinois we've got the Connect Illinois investment already on the table, our stakeholders, whether it's at the State Board of Education or another state agency, are able to look at CARES Act funding and say 'these dollars can be devoted solely to immediate need,' and I think that speaks to the wisdom of our investment last year," Schmit said.

Still, Schmit said access to broadband is just "one leg of the stool" when it comes to ensuring digital equity. The two other pillars of equity are broadband adoption – making sure people are using the internet once the groundwork is there – and broadband utilization – ensuring underserved communities can use it at the same level as their urban or higher-income peers.

"In my mind, if you look at it the right way, those are the components of a holistic approach to digital equity – how are you able to target resources and programming in a way that levels the playing field and makes sure that everybody has an opportunity to engage in the 21st century digital economy."



Boone County License & Title
Stickers - Titles - Plates
We Are OPEN

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date



<p>815-765-2782 Schedule now for your fall external power treatment for fall insects</p> <p>ABBY BEST ELIMINATION Poplar Grove, IL</p>	<p>TRI COUNTY DAIRY SUPPLY, INC. 608-757-2697</p>
<p>PARK PLACE OF BELVIDERE A skilled nursing & rehabilitation facility Wound Care, E-stem, Occupation Therapy, Physical Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, Speech Therapy 1701 5th Avenue • 815-547-5451 www.parkplaceofbelvidere.com</p>	<p>Marengo Greenhouse & Florist, Inc. 505 W. Grant Hwy. Marengo, IL 60152 815-568-6561 www.marengoflorist.com</p>
<p>Global Green INSURANCE AGENCY More Choices, Better Service Se Habla Español BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS Jorge Valdez, Agent jvaldez@ggiausa.com 779-552-8421 www.ggiausa.com 6542 Joan Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 Travelers . The Hartford . MetLife . Safeco . GMAC . State Auto . Progressive Insurance . Kemper Insurance . AAA Chicago . Grange</p>	<p>LAW OFFICES of JOHN H. MAVILLE John H. Maville 815-544-3165 600 S. State Street, Suite 307, Belvidere jhmavillelaw@aol.com</p>
<p>Every senior CAN afford assisted living. Call to find out more! Heritage Woods of Belvidere Affordable Assistant Lifestyle Community 4730 Squaw Prairie Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008 815-544-9495 www.hw-belvidere-slf.com</p>	<p>BOBCAT OF ROCKFORD 5925 Wheeler Road Cherry Valley, IL 61016 (815) 332-8300 Bobcat. One Tough Animal. Kubota.</p>
<p>Hub Barber Shop 815-547-4969 Walk-ins Welcome! SHOP HOURS Tues. - Fri 6:30 am - 5:30 pm Saturday 6:30 am - 4 pm Closed: Sun. & Mon. 402 S. State St. At the corner of State & Pleasant Jim Emanuel (owner)</p>	<p>BELVIDERE CEMETERY 1121 N. Main St, Belvidere 815-547-7642</p>
<p>Logan Avenue Mobile 220 Logan Ave. Bel 815-547-5560</p>	<p>Sand, Gravel, Excavating, Ready Mix Concrete CORDRAY BROS., INC. 7200 Epworth Rd., Garden Prairie 544-6640</p>
<p>F&F Tire World 520 Logan Ave Bel. 815-668-8833</p>	<p>Schmidt Carpet Cleaning 815-544-6789 Call today to get your carpets ready for the Holidays! Residential Commercial Industrial</p>
<p>BMI BELVIDERE FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY 175 Cadillac Court, Suite 4 Belvidere IL 61008 CALL: 815/544-3861 A GRINNELL MUTUAL MEMBER</p>	<p>Ida Fuller Hovey Public Library 320 N. State St. Belvidere, IL 815-544-3838 www.idapubliclibrary.org</p>