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Friday • August 28, 2020  
Vol. 25, Issue 18 • No. 1266



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## Mayor Supports City Subsidies for Townhouse Development

by David Larson

At Monday's City of Belvidere Committee of the Whole meeting Howlett Company, a real estate developer, asked Belvidere to abate property taxes and forgive impact fees, totaling over \$115,000 arguing that there is a great need for rental townhouses in Belvidere. Since acquiring the land, the company has had to hold it because of the economy. Mayor Mike Chamberlain vigorously rebuffed aldermen and alderwomen who asked questions that he viewed as skeptical of the proposal. Supporting Howlett's presentation, Chamberlain stated that real estate people and bankers say, "stay out of Belvidere." He went on to say the price of lumber has gone up, and in order to get this project going, the city needs to do this to get the banks to back the project.

Alderman Snow stated that if the need for this development is real, why would revenue need to be forgiven, particularly because the majority of it is school district resources. Snow went on to say that if we do this for one, we should or would have to do it for every development. He questioned the fairness to those who have already paid impact fees and pay property taxes. Snow questioned the mayor's and City Finance Manager Becky Tobin's claim that future property taxes from the project would exceed the cost of services provided by the community.

City attorney Mike Drella supported the Mayor's argument, stating that when building was booming, tax collection lagged by a year, and that impact fees have nothing to do with infrastructure. Their purpose is to help cash flow through the first year. And, after 4 years, property taxes will be collected and taxes always will increase and that will make the difference and be sound economics for this project, said Drella.

Alderman Stevens said that he thought impact fees are held in a separate account and their use limited to infrastructure expansion. Drella's response was that is correct.

Alderwoman Frank asked, "...since we have added all of these taxes in the past few years, is this something else the taxpayers are going to have to absorb?" The Mayor responded, "So, let's just back up there just a moment. What are all these taxes, OK?" Frank responded the half-cent sales tax and the two-cent gasoline tax. The Mayor then deflected Frank's rephrasing the question by calling upon Tobin. Tobin's response was, new revenue, which Snow was skeptical of earlier, would be adequate to cover community-operating costs.

A motion to table for further discussion was passed to end the half-hour conversation.

## A Furlough from the War of 2020

By Charles Herbst

Twenty Twenty has been a miserable year. Riots, the Covid 19 pandemic and its far-reaching implications have brought considerable mayhem. Fights over wearing masks, lost jobs, shuttered businesses, concern over whether to let children go back to school vs. the worry that electronic lessons aren't enough, missed traditions and visits, and fear of the long-term cardiac and other health aspects of contracting the virus have all created considerable stress.

As if that weren't enough, add widespread accusations of racism, misogyny, and homophobia. Concern over climate change, toxic politics, and a loss of credibility for the police both locally and nationally.

Whatever your views, it has been a strain on all of us.

It's time for a furlough from the madness. Time to briefly escape from our bunkers and the insanity of these past few months. With a constant, "always on" state of alertness, we lose our ability to stay resilient and meet these challenges head on.

So, before the weather grows cold, we suggest an old-fashioned family picnic in the park.

Social distancing has made it tough to go to public places. We asked the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a venue where one could have a good time and relax without having to worry about Covid 19 and our interactions with strangers.

Their suggestion was Shabbona Lake State Park, about an hour's drive south. The park is just south of the Village of Shabbona (pronounced SHAH-buh-na) and US Route 30. It is due south of Belvidere and is seven miles east of Interstate 39.



Photo Shabbona Lake State Park

While Shabbona Lake's campgrounds are busy, and its boat rentals have been selling out, the park has considerable space for day use, and it is not nearly as crowded as Rock Cut, Starved Rock, or several other popular facilities, all of which have been unusually busy this year. With festivals cancelled and visits to indoor museums somewhat dicey, the great outdoors is an increasingly popular option for recreation.

Particularly during the week, with the amount of space available, you should be able to visit Shabbona Lake for a picnic without social distancing being a problem. (Take your masks along, just in case plans change.)

Shabbona Lake State Park is 1,550 acres and surrounds 318-acre Shabbona Lake. Like other Illinois State Parks, no admission is charged. The park is named for an Ottawa Indian who was a Potawatomi Indian peace chief and spokesman.

Construction of the park began in the 1970s on what was formerly farmland and opened in 1978. A dam was built across Indian Creek creating the lake, which has depths up to 40 feet. The lake is known as a good fishing spot, and the park has several hatcheries to keep the lake stocked with large and smallmouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, bullhead, channel catfish, walleye, muskie and perch. Sailing is also popular, but swimming is prohibited.

On land, archery deer hunting, waterfowl and dove hunting are available in season. Parts of the park are nicely forested, but it has open areas as well, including fields of cultivated sunflowers. The campground accepts reservations, but has been filling quickly, especially on weekends and for lakeshore sites. The park has a camp store, snack bar, and bait and tackle shop.

There are three different picnic groves, each with a reservable shelter, as well as picnic tables.

It may be years since you were on a picnic, and we have a few suggestions.

First and foremost, your picnic need not be fussy, (unless, of course, you want it to be). After all, you are having this picnic to de-stress, and keeping things easy will go a long way. If it's just for one or a couple, you might consider a sack lunch with premade sandwiches wrapped in waxed paper, pieces of fresh fruit, chips and a few cookies. A thermos of coffee, a glass of sangria, or canned soda will finish your meal.

*Continued on page 2*

# OP ED

## Expert at What?

Gov. JB Pritzker hired a lot of expert talent to guide his new \$5 million “It Only Works if You Wear It” campaign to encourage Illinoisans to wear a mask.

But the campaign apparently isn’t spending a dime on print advertising in newspapers.

Instead, it’s using various forms of broadcast, billboards and social media to spread the word.

The governor hired an ad agency to place the advertising, a world class photographer, talent, an agency to provide creative direction, and another agency that specializes in

understanding and simplifying. Then, there’s a firm that provides that data insights. And let’s not forget the COVID-19 modeling team, whatever that is!

But here’s one thing all of these media experts missed that the governor and his team do know, and it’s been in front of them every day — the newspapers of Illinois.

They missed the newspapers that covered his daily news conferences to update Illinoisans about COVID-19.

More importantly, they missed the local newspapers statewide that kept every community informed about the pandemic. Newspapers provided a fact-based lifeline of much needed information, which we all know is critical in times of crisis.

We’ve finally been told by the governor’s office that the goal is to reach a younger demographic and that’s why print advertising in newspapers wasn’t part of the mix. Ironically, a study conducted by Civis that was used to guide the campaign showed that with the exception of adults 65 and over there is little difference in mask wearing. According to the study “Mask wearing rates generally increase with age but remain high for all age groups.”

Analytics and metrics are great, but how do you measure what’s staring you in the face every single day? Maybe the analysts involved in this campaign should find a way to measure the impact that newspapers have had in communicating critical information to the governor’s communities across the state. That would be a very substantial metric!

We understand the value of broadcast to the governor’s campaign. Just like newspapers, broadcast media have been there every step of the way to get the message out about COVID-19 and the state’s response. But there were no reporters from Facebook or any other social media platform at any of the governor’s news conferences. If we missed them, we apologize. In fact, it seems the only fact-based reporting on social media is from credible news outlets like newspapers and broadcast outlets, and it didn’t cost the state anything! So, Mark Zuckerberg profits while Illinois newspapers continue to struggle with economic hardships exacerbated by the pandemic.

Newspapers have carried the message, but when it’s time to get the benefit of a paid campaign they weren’t included.

Of the more than 400 newspapers in Illinois, 307 have accounted for the nearly 3,000 times COVID-19 coverage from Capitol News Illinois - an initiative supported by Illinois newspapers - has been published. The CNI team has reported on every one of the governor’s news conferences.

This is just the latest of a series of snubs of newspapers from state government. They include the secretary of state’s recent campaign to reopen facilities, and the Department of Aging’s effort to report elder abuse.

The newspapers in Illinois deserve much better treatment from the governor and his staff, who have relied on print journalists to deliver the much-needed and timely fact-based information during these trying times.

**Illinois Press Association**

## Shabbona Lake

*Continued page 1*

If you have a traditional picnic basket, blanket or tablecloth, by all means, bring them out and put them to good use! But a canvas or paper bag will serve just as well. A cooler or thermos for beverages works well. If you want to bring your own table and chairs, feel free. Instead of using a picnic table, a traditional ground picnic on a blanket is always an option. (Consider a ground cover with a waterproof backing.) A cutting board makes a good, flat surface to set drinks on.

Don’t forget plates, utensils, cups, napkins, a bottle opener and a sharp knife. A can opener, if necessary. Be sure to bring any condiments, salt and pepper that you’ll need. Paper towels and a couple of dishtowels are always handy, as are a trash bag and plastic containers for any soiled utensils or leftovers. Hats, sunscreen and insect repellent will make your picnic more enjoyable.

You’ll probably want to do something after you eat (other than stare into a cellphone). There are plenty of trails for a pleasant hike. Perhaps bring a board game or two that everyone likes. A book of trivia could provide an impromptu contest. A Frisbee or lawn darts might be fun. Consider taking some pictures.

Try to make this a fun time for everyone in your party. These are the kind of activities that are long remembered after unpleasant news headlines are forgotten. Creating fond, happy memories is a big part of the good life. During 2020, we have been walking through life as though we’re on hold. Instead of wasting our lives, put them to good use.

## Calendar for 2021 Elections

*Primary February 23, 2021*

*Consolidated April 6, 2021*

**Mayor - City Clerk - Treasurer  
One Alderman from each of Five Wards**

### Primary

- First day to circulate nominating petitions (party) August 25, 2020
- Filing of petitions - City Clerks Office - November 16-23, 2020

### Consolidated

- First day to circulate nominating petitions (Independents) September 22, 2020
- Filing of petitions - City Clerks Office - December 14-21, 2020


Additional information may be obtained from the State Board of Elections, [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) or the Boone County Clerk at 815-544-3103

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675 billion is allocated by Census 2020 - the fewer people who fill it out the smaller share of the 675 billion is distributed locally

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## Obituaries

- Gahlbeck, Edward, 73, Belvidere, August 22  
 Glatt, Donna, 91, Formerly of Bel., Aug 17  
 Poffenberger, Dianne, 79, Poplar Grove, Aug. 19  
 Schilling, Frederick, 83, Belvidere, Aug. 13  
 Whippler, William, 96, Cherry Valley, August 22



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Publisher/Editor Senior Writer/Editorial Advertising Photography Office	David C. Larson Charles Herbst Bethany Staniec Susan Moran Amanda Nelson
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David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000  
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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 Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330  
[www.boonecountyjournal.com](http://www.boonecountyjournal.com)  
[news@boonecountyjournal.com](mailto: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.

*Floyd & Ray (Mosher) Ollmann*

*Celebrate their 60th*

*Wedding Anniversary with family*

*September 3rd 1960 in Dekalb, IL*

*Children*

*Karen (Mike) Wendt*  
*Gary (Joan) Ollmann*  
*Paul (Lori) Ollmann*  
*Nancy (Tom) Michow*



*Great Grandchildren*

*Collin Wendt*  
*Bree Wendt*

*Grandchildren*

*Eric (Liz) Wendt*  
*Jenny (Mike) Carew*  
*Mike (Liz) Ollmann*  
*John Ollmann*

*Grandchildren*

*Matt (Stephanie) Ollmann*  
*Emily Ollmann (Rohail Kidwai)*  
*Katie Ollmann*  
*Sara & Scott Michow*

# State Making Final Push to Increase Census Participation

*Illinois has strong response rate compared to national average, plenty of room to improve*

by **Raymon Troncoso Capitol News Illinois**

The Illinois Department of Human Services said the state is poised to have one of the top census response rates in the country despite two tumultuous months of changing deadlines as determined by the Trump Administration.

Illinois sits at a 69.1 percent self-response rate as of Thursday, up two points from its 67 percent self-response rate on July 19. The national response rate was 64.2 percent.

The state's 2010 census response rate was 70.5 percent, giving organizers hope of passing that mark by the Sept. 30 deadline – a date recently moved forward one month by the Trump administration.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Community News

**Alcoholics Anonymous 12-step groups have moved their meetings to Zoom** - Although there are in-person meetings that continue in the area and they are following the guidelines provided by the Winnebago County Department of Public Health, many of the members of A.A. are choosing to practice safe social distancing by attending meetings online.

A list of Zoom meetings can be found on our websites and members of the community who are struggling with a substance abuse or drinking problem can find help 24/7 by visiting: [www.rockfordaa.org](http://www.rockfordaa.org) and [www.district70aa.org](http://www.district70aa.org) or by calling 815-968-0333. Sober members of AA are available to take calls and provide guidance around the clock.

**State's Blood Supply "Critically Low"; Blood Centers In Dire Need For Organizations To Host Blood Drives**- Following the national trend, Illinois Blood Centers are currently running on 2 day or less supply of blood, putting them at a "critically low" level. To donate blood, please go to [www.americasblood.org](http://www.americasblood.org) to find a donor center near you to schedule a donation time. Donor requirements include being at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), in good health and weigh at least 110 lbs. The donation process takes about an hour, consisting of a health screening, donating time and snack. Individuals can donate whole blood once every 56 days.

**Community Building Complex Finance, Rules & Regulations and Building & Grounds Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. at The Steam Plant Restaurant.

**Community Building Complex Committee Regular Board Meeting:** Thursday September 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Building Board Room.

**Non-profit Rummage Sale:** There will be a church rummage sale at 201 - 7th Street in Rockford which will benefit Rockford Urban Ministries. This will take place Friday, August

28, and Saturday, August 29, 2019, 9am until 4pm and will be housed in the former nonprofit, JustGoods Fair Trade Store at 201 7th Street in Rockford. This pop-up "church rummage sale" will help Rockford Urban Ministries entice a new mission outreach on 7th Street. High-end rummage sale items as well as some of the store left-overs will be for sale along with religious artifacts, statuary, and pictures and posters. Call 815-621-9417 for more info.

**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois to Host 16th Annual Thin Mint Sprint** as First-Ever Virtual Race: Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) will host the organization's 16th Annual Thin Mint Sprint virtually from September 1-30! Adults and school-age children can choose from a 2-Mile Walk, 2-Mile Competitive Race, or 8K Race. Participants will choose their ideal course and complete their race or walk anytime in September 2020. A virtual leader board will track runner time through the end of the race! Online registration is open at [www.runsignup.com/gsnitms](http://www.runsignup.com/gsnitms).

## Boone County Clerk Announces New Election Tracking System

*Press Release*

The Boone County Clerk's office has a new election tracking system that will inform the voters of their registration status, polling information, status of their application to receive a vote by mail ballot, as well as the status of their ballot they have returned to the County Clerk's office. Voters can access this information at:

<https://boonecountyilclerk.com/>

Voters can also access the online voter registration system and sign up to be an election judge via the new web portal. Clerk Stapler is encouraging any person who has not registered to vote do so as soon as possible. If you have moved or changed your name, you must notify the Clerk's office to change your voter registration.

Due to COVID-19, all 2020 General Election voters are encouraged to cast a ballot prior to Election Day, either by mail or during early voting. Voting by mail is an easy and secure option for voters and you can request a vote by mail ballot online, through the mail, or in person. If you decide to early vote in the Boone County Clerk's office, please be prepared with a mask and a possible wait in line.

Please email the Boone County Clerk's office with questions at [elections@boonecountyil.org](mailto:elections@boonecountyil.org) or call the office at (815) 544-3103.

## Voting by Mail Encouraged to Protect against Virus

*(press release-Boone County Clerk)*

With coronavirus a continuing concern as the 2020 General Election approaches, County Clerk Julie A. Stapler encourages voters to consider voting by mail as a safe, secure and convenient option to in-person voting.

The Illinois General Assembly this year passed an election bill that provides many safeguards against the spread of coronavirus in the voting process for the Nov. 3 General Election. Chief among them are provisions to increase voting by mail throughout the state.

Among the special vote-by-mail provisions for the 2020 General Election are:

- All voters who voted in either the March 2020 General Primary, April 2019 Consolidated Election or November 2018 General Election will receive by mail an application for a vote-by-mail ballot. This will be mailed by August 1, 2020.

- Those who registered to vote or updated their registration between March 18 and July 31 will be mailed an application for vote-by-mail ballot. This will be mailed by August 1, 2020.

- The state's online voter registration site now allows users to request a mail ballot when they register.

- Request a vote-by-mail ballot electronically at <https://il-boone.ballotrequest.net/>.

You will need to complete the application and return it to the Boone County Clerk's office before a vote-by-mail ballot may be mailed. Ballots will be mailed beginning September 24, 2020. If you prefer to early vote or vote at your polling location on Election Day, please disregard the application for a vote-by-mail ballot.

Clerk Stapler urges voters to make sure your voter registration is up-to-date. You may register online at <https://ova.elections.il.gov>. You may also contact the Boone County Clerk's office at (815) 544-3103 or <https://www.boonecountyil.org/department/clerk>.

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### 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
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**Census**

*Continued from page 3*

Illinois currently has the seventh-highest self-response rate of any state in the U.S. and is the only state in the top 10 that has a population exceeding 10 million. Chicago also has the highest response rate for any city with a population over 2 million, according to the Illinois 2020 Census Office.

Maximizing the census count is important, because the population count helps determine federal funding and the number of representatives the state sends to the U.S. House.

The positive trend comes despite challenges posed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and changing federal deadlines.

The Illinois 2020 Census Advisory Panel discussed obstacles to self-reporting and shifting standards from the federal government at a regularly scheduled meeting Friday.

“This past month, as you all know, has been a month of many surprises for us at the census office,” Oswaldo Alvarez, co-director of the Illinois Census Office at the IDHS, said.

There were several contributing factors that led the office to reorder its timeline, including delays in in-person door-knocking and the Trump Administration’s Aug. 13 announcement that the census portal would close Sept. 30 instead of Oct. 31.

“So at this point we are operating at the census office as if (Sept. 30) is the official deadline and that’s it, until we are informed otherwise,” Alvarez said. “Because of that, there has been a lot of shifting that we have been doing at the census office.”

Additionally, a July 21 presidential memorandum seeking to exclude illegal immigrants from being counted as it pertains to Congressional apportionment also created confusion at IDHS. That memorandum has since been challenged in court, but, if implemented, would cost Illinois up to two seats in the House.

For the 2020 fiscal year, IDHS was funding more than 360 non-profits and municipal governments for the purpose of increasing census self-response rates. But that number has dwindled to a little more than 250 for fiscal year 2021 due to the pandemic, shifting deadlines and other circumstances.

Funds to those nonprofits are disbursed through 30 other non-profit organizations that serve as regional intermediaries, or RIs, which oversee 12 regions of the state and lead hyperlocal outreach efforts.

Intermediaries include health-based agencies such as the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, community outreach groups such as Teens Against Killing Everywhere, and other organizations such as the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

IDHS was allocated \$29 million for the 2020 fiscal year to be used for census outreach, including nearly \$26 million set aside for regional intermediaries.

State agencies assisting in census outreach were allocated \$2.3 million, while approximately \$900,000 went to the University of Illinois at Chicago for technical assistance and data analysis.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, not all the funds were spent before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, so they were reappropriated for the current fiscal year. As of Friday, a little over \$4.4 million remains unspent.

“We were nervous that it would be a lot more remaining than 4.4 (million),” Marishonta Wilkerson, also co-director of the Illinois Census Office, said at the meeting. “We thought it would be like 10 (million). But the RI’s were creative, and they found different ways to engage their communities virtually and we are happy about that.”

Still, some areas of the state remain below their self-response target rates. As part of its August report, IDHS said many counties had self-response rates below 50 percent. As of July 29, Hardin, Calhoun, Henderson and Alexander Counties had the lowest response rates, with Hardin County in particular sitting at 31.9 percent, 10 percentage points fewer than the next lowest county.

“The governor’s office has asked us to do a final and bigger push in certain areas of population, so we are having our RI’s gear up and do a big push,” Wilkerson said. “Additional canvassing, door-knocking in rural areas and in particularly the African American, Latinx and Asian areas.”

*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.*

**Expiration of Driver’s Licenses Extended One Year for Illinois Seniors**

*White warns residents not to visit facilities for matters that can be handled online*

*by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois*

Driver’s licenses for Illinoisans 75 or older are valid one extra year beyond the currently listed 2020 expiration date, Secretary of State Jesse White announced Tuesday.

Those roughly 147,000 seniors do not need to visit a motor vehicle facility until just prior to their birthday in 2021, the office said in a news release, noting it will inform qualifying residents in a letter.

The secretary of state’s records were updated to reflect this change, and officials notified national and state law enforcement as well.

“I am mindful of the heightened risks associated with seniors contracting COVID-19, and that is why I have authorized this important change during this challenging and unique time,” White said in a written statement.

His office has the statutory authority to extend these deadlines by up to one year.

The expiration date for all other Illinoisans’ driver’s licenses and plate stickers was pushed to Nov. 1. The office is encouraging residents not to visit a driver services facility for matters that can be handled online.

“Especially during hot weather,” residents “do not need to rush into” facilities where “heavy customer volume” is expected,” the office said in a news release.

Since White opened his offices a few weeks ago, numerous reports have documented long lines that stretch outside and around buildings. The facilities were previously closed due to the threat of COVID-19 spread.

**Department of Transportation Opens Applications for Local Transportation Funding**

*Over \$105 million available, 25 percent set aside for disadvantaged communities*

*by Raymon Troncoso Capitol News Illinois*

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced Tuesday that local governments and planning commissions may begin applying for up to \$2 million in grant funding to improve transportation in their communities.

The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, or ITEP, is in its 14th cycle of funding. There is \$105.6 million available through the program this year as part of the \$33.2 billion in transportation construction funded in the Rebuild Illinois capital plan.

Local governments, regional transportation authorities, natural resource agencies, school districts, tribal governments and nonprofit entities responsible for transport oversight are all eligible for ITEP funds. Private entities and nonprofit entities without oversight powers can still apply if sponsored by an organization that is eligible.

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The program aims to fund projects that enhance transportation and encourage safe travel for communities, such as those that involve bike and pedestrian facilities.

IDOT began accepting applications for ITEP on Friday, Aug. 21, and the deadline for applications to be received is Nov. 2. Applications must be submitted online, along with other hardcopy requirements, at [idot.illinois.gov](http://idot.illinois.gov).

For the first time this year, ITEP has set aside funds specifically for underserved communities, according to an IDOT news release distributed Tuesday.

About \$26.4 million, or 25 percent of ITEP's available funds, has been earmarked for projects in "high-need communities," communities identified as disadvantaged or economically distressed. Factor used to identify "high-need" areas include community median income and total property tax base.

"Part of our core mission at IDOT is empowering disadvantaged communities and working with local decision makers to improve transportation options and quality of life," Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman said in a news release. "Under Gov. (JB) Pritzker, we have made major improvements to the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program that will mean greater participation and more resources where they are needed most."

Eligible projects for ITEP funding must fall under one of nine categories: Pedestrian and bicycle facilities; beautification of streetscapes; converting abandoned railroads into trails; preserving and rehabilitating historic transportation buildings; vegetation management on roads; archaeological activity impacted by other transport projects; storm water and pollution management; reducing roadkill and connecting animal habitats near roads; and constructing turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas for residents.

IDOT will score the applications based on the merits of the proposed project, including factors such as public benefit, relevance to the program's requirements, local commitment to the project and others.

To assist applicants, IDOT set up a series of webinars for interested parties to learn how to apply for ITEP funds. The first webinar was July 1. Parts two and three, focusing on how applications will be scored and an ITEP Q and A for projects, take place on Aug. 26 and October 21, respectively.

## Kindergarten Readiness Improves for Second Year

*Latest KIDS report shows significant racial, economic disparities*

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The number of Illinois children entering kindergarten who are fully prepared to start school grew for the second consecutive year in 2019, a possible indication that the state's increased spending on early childhood education is paying off.

But the latest kindergarten readiness report, released Monday by the Illinois State Board of Education, also showed that more than one-third of all pupils who entered kindergarten last year were unprepared across all three developmental areas that the state tries to measure.

"As a former kindergarten teacher, I believe that it is important to do everything possible to support Illinois children in those critical early years," State Superintendent of Education Carmen Ayala said in a news release. "I want every child in the state to enter kindergarten with the cognitive skills to read, remember, pay attention, and solve problems, and the social-emotional skills to communicate, connect

with others, display kindness, and cope with challenges."

The numbers come from the third annual Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, a tool the state developed to allow school districts to use a uniform system of measuring a child's development across three key areas — social and emotional, language and literacy, and math.

Under the program, kindergarten teachers are supposed to observe their pupils during the first 40 days of school using 14 different measurements to determine their readiness for school.

The latest report showed that 29 percent of the pupils entering kindergarten demonstrated readiness across all three developmental areas. That was up from 26 percent in 2018 and 24 percent in 2017, the first year of the program.

The report also showed there has been steady growth within each of the three development areas. The percentage of kindergartners demonstrating social and emotional readiness grew to 56 percent, up from 49 percent in 2017; 47 percent demonstrated readiness in language and literacy development, up from 44 percent in 2017; and 35 percent demonstrated readiness in math, up from only 30 percent in 2017.

That same report also showed that 37 percent of last year's kindergartners failed to show readiness across any of the three developmental areas. Still, that number was down from 39 percent in 2018 and 42 percent in 2017.

There were significant disparities between various racial and socio-economic groups, although some progress has been made.

For example, among pupils who qualify for free or reduced-price meals, only 20 percent demonstrated readiness across all three categories, although that was up from 18 percent in 2018 and 16 percent in 2017.

Meanwhile, only 14 percent of students from non-English speaking households demonstrated readiness across all three development areas, although that was up from 11 percent in 2018 and 10 percent in 2017.

And while 29 percent of students overall demonstrated readiness across all three categories, only 23 percent of Black students and 17 percent of Hispanics met that benchmark, compared to 35 percent of white and Asian students.

In its news release, ISBE attributed at least some of the growth to increased state spending on early childhood education. The budget that Gov. JB Pritzker proposed and lawmakers approved last year included an additional \$50 million in the state's Early Childhood Block Grant program to improve the quality and expand access to preschool programs.

That money enabled 10,000 more students to attend early childhood programs last year before entering kindergarten, ISBE said. It also helped 655 programs increase the quality of their services.

Another \$50 million was added in the current fiscal year's budget, but due to revenue shortfalls that have resulted from the recession brought

on by the COVID-19 pandemic, state budget officials have said it remains uncertain whether the entire budget will be funded.

ISBE did note, however, that Pritzker has set aside \$270 million for a Child Care Recovery Grant program, the largest such program in the nation. He has also dedicated \$10 million of the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund to support early learning programs in areas hardest hit by the pandemic.

## Application Period Opens for Illinois' COVID-19 Mortgage Assistance Program

*Grants worth up to \$15,000 each do not need to be repaid*

by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois

Approximately 10,000 Illinois households whose members have struggled to pay their mortgage during the novel coronavirus pandemic can receive grants worth up to \$15,000 each from the state Housing Development Authority.

A U.S. Census Bureau survey found that more than one in 10 residents have "little-to-no confidence" they can afford their loans in September due to economic repercussions caused by COVID-19 economic restrictions.

And helping those homeowners is beneficial to families, financial institutions and local governments, Kristin Faust, the authority's executive director, said in a news release. According to IHDA, "a single foreclosure costs the homeowner, servicer and local government nearly \$80,000."

"Everyone suffers when a friend, family member or neighbor goes into foreclosure, and the pandemic has left too many families at risk of losing their homes," Faust said.

The Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program will distribute funds directly to the financial institution through which a household's mortgage is serviced. That money can go toward past-due payments as well as future ones. No repayment is required.

Qualifying Illinoisans include those whose household had at least one adult who experienced lower or no wages due to COVID-19 and whose mortgage was being paid on time before March 2020.

Grants cover the homeowner's past due balance and regular mortgage payments through the end of 2020 or until funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.

Applications opened Aug. 24 and can be found at [ema.ihda.org](http://ema.ihda.org). They will be accepted through Sept. 4, but the application window may close early due to anticipated high volume, according to a news release.

The program is designed to "provide critical

*Continued on Page 7*

# 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

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT  
BOONE COUNTY  
PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (MINOR CHILDREN)  
Case No.2020-MR-91  
REQUEST OF: ALONDY CHRISTINA O'HOWELL to change name of minor child: Current Name of Minor Child MATTHEW JASON GEIGER; Proposed New Name of Minor Child MATTHEW JASON O'HOWELL. Court Date information: on September 22, 2020, at 9:15am, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 Courtroom #4  
Published in the Boone County Journal 08/14, 21, 28 c

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF BOONE  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TIMOTHY WAYNE GUMPRECHT, DECEASED  
No. 2020P48  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NOTICE is given of the death of TIMOTHY WAYNE GUMPRECHT, of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois.  
Letters of office were issued on August 10, 2020 to JAMES W. GUMPRECHT, 28629 Bay Meadow Drive, Waterford, WI 53185, whose attorney is Hamer, Schuh & Cuda, 101 Van Buren Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.  
Claims against the estate may be filed within six (6) months from the date of this notice. Any claim not filed within said time period, shall be barred.  
Claims may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Boone County Courthouse, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the representative, or both.  
Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
Dated: August 11, 2020.  
Steven J. Cuda  
Hamer, Schuh & Cuda  
Attorney for Administrator  
101 Van Buren Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815-338-1334  
ARDC #3121643  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Aug 14, 21, 28

**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

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

**ADOPTION NOTICE  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF BOONE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF BOONE ) SS.  
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  
Fax: 815-399-9440  
eew@zimwalsh.com  
Published in the *Boone County Journal* Aug 28, Sept 4, 11-2020

**ADOPTION NOTICE  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF BOONE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF BOONE ) SS.  
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  
Fax: 815-399-9440  
eew@zimwalsh.com  
Published in the *Boone County Journal* Aug 28, Sept 4, 11-2020

**Legal Notice**  
of meeting cancellation, rescheduling and setting additional meetings for the North Boone Fire District # 3  
All meetings are set for 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station at 305 West Grove St. Poplar Grove. The scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees set for September 8th is cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Instead the regular meeting will be held on September 16, 2020 at 7 p.m. and others as follows:  
Oct. 5, 2020,  
Nov. 2 cancelled and reset to Nov. 4th,  
Dec. 7, 2020. Additional meetings for the conduct of District business will be held on Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16, 2020 all at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station, Poplar Grove.  
See northboonefire.com for changes and agendas.  
David R. Wiltse  
President  
North Boone Fire Protection District Number 3.  
P.O. Box 114  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Published in the Boone County Journal Aug 28, 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

**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

**BID NOTICE**  
Belvidere Community Unity School District #100 is seeking bids for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel.  
All bids are due by 1:00 P.M.; Monday, September 14, 2020 at the Business Office, Administration Building, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008.  
Bids are to be F.O.B., 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids are to be submitted on the form provided and signed on the first page by an authorized representative of the company.  
Specifications may be obtained at the Administration Building, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008, or by phoning 815/544-0301.  
The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.  
Holly Houk  
Secretary  
Board of Education  
Published in the Boone County Journal 8/28

**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

# Assumed Names

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE**  
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a diamond art (craft) store in said County and State under the name of Julie's Diamond Art at the following post office address: 615 S. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Julie Ohlsen, 1209 Garfield Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-914-9082.  
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 12th of August A.D. 2020  
Julie Stapler, County Clerk  
Published in Boone County Journal August 14, 21, 28

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE**  
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a tree service and stump removal business in said County and State under the name of Might's Tree Service at the following post office address: 710 East 2nd Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Ken Meudt, 710 E 2nd Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-721-6585  
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 27th of July, A.D. 2020  
Julie Stapler, County Clerk  
Published in Boone County Journal August 14, 21, 28

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE**  
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of Mujica Landscaping at the following post office address: 809 Union Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Clemente Mujica, 609 Union Avenue, Belvidere IL 61008; phone #224-423-7801.  
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 7th of July, A.D. 2020  
Julie Stapler, County Clerk  
Published in Boone County Journal August 14, 21, 28

## Assistance *Continued from page 5*

support for our homeowners, giving them the time they need to regain their financial footing," Gov. JB Pritzker said in a news release.

"At a time when the connection between housing and health is clearer than ever, it is critically important that we keep families stably housed for individual well-being, public health and the recovery of our state's economy," he said. "My administration remains committed to doing everything we can to provide much-needed support for Illinois residents who have been hit hardest by the pandemic..."

The funds for the program came from the federal CARES Act — or, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security. Illinois received \$3.5 billion in total. The General Assembly, when its members were in an abridged session in May, allocated \$396 million of that for the House Development Authority to assist homeowners and renters.



## Rep. Keicher Appointed to Commission on Poverty Elimination & Economic Security

Press Release

To better inform policymakers on the root causes of poverty and economic insecurity, State Representative Jeff Keicher (R-Sycamore) has been appointed to the Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security. Keicher's appointment was made August 21 by House Minority Leader Jim Durkin (R-Western Springs).

The commission consists of four members of the General Assembly, a member of the judicial branch and 20 members of the public, including people who have experienced deep poverty and advocates for youth, veterans, mental health, education equity, those experiencing homelessness, those differently abled and others. Jennifer Groce, Northern Illinois University's Director of Community Promotions, is one of the other community leaders who has been appointed to the commission.



Representative Jeff Keicher

"I am eager to get started on the important work we'll be doing through this commission, partnering with communities in need to engage in a collaborative effort with stakeholders throughout Illinois," Representative Keicher said. "Our work to develop solutions that can create generational change, eliminate poverty and reduce economic disparities across our state are perhaps some of the most impactful work we can be focused on. Being raised by a single mother waiting tables, I know firsthand that a helping hand up can make all the difference in our collective futures."

NIU's Jennifer Groce offered her perspective on being appointed to serve alongside Keicher on the Commission: "I take the opportunity to contribute to our state's efforts to eliminate poverty and ensure economic security to heart. I look forward to engaging campus and community stakeholders to help connect lived experiences and valuable expertise to this critical statewide effort," Groce said

The commission is tasked with educating policymakers on the impact poverty has on other measures of economic stability and economic outcomes, including educational attainment, rates of incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to health care, health care outcomes, and access to housing. The Department of Human Services will provide support for the commission to complete its work to produce a strategic plan that addresses poverty and economic insecurity in Illinois by November 30, 2021.

The Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security was signed into law by Governor Pritzker in June as part of Public Act 101-636.

## New COVID-19 Restrictions to Take Effect in Will, Kankakee Counties Wednesday

*The rules do not apply to schools*

by *Rebecca Anzel & Jerry Nowicki*  
*Capitol News Illinois*

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and the state Department of Public Health on Monday announced increased restrictions for residents of Will and Kankakee Counties as the COVID-19 positivity rate there remained at or above 8 percent for three consecutive days.

Bars, restaurants and gatherings in those counties, demarcated as Region 7 in the Restore Illinois Plan, are facing similar rules to those implemented over the past five months by state officials trying to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The new restrictions, which will take effect Wednesday, are stricter than ones being enforced in Region 4, or the Metro East area of Illinois along the Missouri border. They do not apply to schools.

Establishments serving food and alcohol cannot serve customers indoors, and all outdoor consumption must end at 11 p.m. Patrons must be served at tables placed six feet apart, in observation of social distancing guidelines. Reservations will be required.

Employees cannot allow customers to assemble inside or outside while waiting for a table, alcoholic beverages or to leave. Bars must remove stools to discourage patrons from congregating.

Other rules include limiting social events to 25 people, or one quarter of a space's capacity. Party buses will be banned and casinos and other gaming establishments must close at 11 p.m.

According to a news release, the Department of Public Health "continues to monitor each region in the state for several key indicators to identify early, but significant increases of COVID-19 transmission in Illinois, potentially signifying resurgence." Those include an increasing COVID-19 case count while hospital capacity concurrently drops.

If, over a two-week period, the virus positivity rate drops to 6.5 percent or below, both regions 4 and 7 can reopen to the degree allowed under the Restore Illinois Plan.

A full list of restrictions and efforts to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus can be found at [www.dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois](http://www.dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois).

In Region 4 last week, the governor announced mitigation efforts requiring bars and restaurants to close at 11 p.m. and limiting seating in those establishments to six people per table. Bars are being instructed to seat people only at tables and to remove bar stools to prevent gathering around

the bar.

While some of the restrictions were the same in both regions, indoor service for patrons was not yet prohibited under the rules in Region 4.

In a news release, the governor's office said Region 4 "will have until Sept. 2 at their current mitigation level before the state must move to impose further mitigation in the region."

As of Aug. 21, the positivity rate in the Metro East remained at 9.4 percent, while Southern Illinois dipped to 6.9 percent. East-central Illinois remained the lowest with a 1.6 percent positivity rate.

The other regions ranged from 4.9 percent in northwest Illinois to 6.7 percent in suburban Cook County. Chicago's positivity rate was 5.2 percent.

Statewide, the seven-day rolling positivity rate fell to 4.2 percent as of Monday, a decrease of two-tenths of a percentage point since Thursday. From Saturday through Monday, there was an average of 49,090 test results reported per day, yielding 1,953 positive results. The positivity rate for the three-day period was 4 percent and Monday's positivity rate was 4.5 percent.

There were 31 COVID-19-related deaths over the three-day period, bringing the total casualty count since the pandemic began to 7,888.

At the end of Sunday, there were 1,529 persons hospitalized with COVID-19, including 334 in intensive care beds and 141 on ventilators.

## Pritzker Orders Stricter Mask Mandate for All Bars, Restaurants

*New mitigations to take effect Wednesday in Will, Kankakee counties*

by *Peter Hancock* *Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker has ordered a stricter statewide mask mandate covering bars and restaurants in Illinois as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise.

Effective Wednesday, Aug. 26, all bar and restaurant patrons will be required to wear face coverings when interacting with wait staff or other employees. Masks will also be required when food or beverages are being brought to the patron's table, when placing orders and when picking up carry-out orders.

"Illinois has had a mask mandate since May 1 this year, and in most establishments people are adhering to it," Pritzker said during a COVID-19 briefing in Joliet Tuesday. "But it's important that we treat hospitality employees just as you would in any retail store or establishment. This new requirement asks a little bit more of our residents dining out in order to protect their health and safety and that of our front-line hospitality workers."

*Continued on Page 8*

# 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



## COVID

*continued from page 7*

Pritzker was in Joliet Tuesday to discuss new restrictions being put in place in Will and Kankakee counties, which make up Region 7 in the state's COVID-19 response plan. As of Saturday, Aug. 22, that region had seen the positivity rate rise for seven of the past 10 days and four consecutive days of positivity rates at or above 8 percent.

Region 7 is the second of the state's 11 regions to have mitigation measures put back in place since the state entered Phase 4 of its reopening plan. Last week saw restrictions being reimposed in Region 4, which includes the Metro East area on the Illinois side of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

But the new restrictions in Region 7, which take effect Wednesday, are stricter than those imposed in Region 4, where bars and restaurants are still allowed to stay open for indoor dining until 11 p.m. In Region 7, bars and restaurants are being ordered closed to all indoor dining for at least the next two weeks.

Other restrictions in Region 7 that are similar to those in Region 4 include the removal of bar stools from bars to prevent close gatherings. Outdoor dining and bar service will be allowed but limited to table seating. Other mitigation requirements must also be met, such as mandates that patrons remain seated and groups of any size have reservations.

In addition, all bars, restaurants, gaming facilities and casinos must close by 11 p.m. Party buses will be closed and indoor gatherings will be limited to 25 individuals or 25 percent of a room's capacity, whichever is less.

"None of these rules are intended to punish or irritate anyone," Pritzker said. "They are imposed with a sincere desire to keep the people of Will and Kankakee counties safe and healthy."

Those rules will remain in place for at least two weeks, at which point they may be lifted if the region's positivity rate falls to 6.5 percent or less over a 14-day period. If the positivity rate hovers between 6.5 and 8 percent, the Department of Health will review the situation to determine whether more stringent restrictions should be imposed. If the positivity rate remains at 8 percent or higher, more restrictions will be imposed.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, as of Saturday, the seven-day rolling average positivity rate in Region 7 was 8.4 percent. In Region 4, it was 9.8 percent.

But the new Region 7 rules infuriated Republican state Sens. Sue Rezin and John Curran, whose districts include portions of Will and Kankakee counties. They accused the governor of caving to pressure from Democrats by allowing looser restrictions in Metro East.

"Why the double standard? Because Democrat elected officials from that region pressured the Governor to change this stance," the two senators said in a joint statement. "Backroom political deals should not be how public health decisions are made. The same rules should apply to all regions, and they should be based on science, not politics."

During his briefing Tuesday, Pritzker conceded that it was "a mistake" not to impose stricter measures in the Metro East region, saying, "I will readily admit that that was not a good idea, and it appears now that we want to put those mitigations in place exactly as we had originally intended."

Pritzker said that the Metro East area is on a trajectory to have stricter mitigation measures put in place when the initial 14-day period expires on Sept. 2. According to a report in the Belleville News-Democrat, however, the administration had initially sought to impose those restrictions immediately, but backed off of that idea amid pressure from Democratic lawmakers and local officials from that area.

IDPH reported Tuesday that 1,680 new cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed over the previous 24 hours out of 40,859 tests performed.

That made for a single-day positivity rate of 4.1 percent statewide. It also reported 29 additional deaths. The rolling seven-day statewide average positivity rate also stood at 4.1 percent, decrease of one-tenth of a percent from the day prior.

Those new cases and fatalities bring the statewide totals to 223,470 cases, including 7,917 deaths since the pandemic first struck Illinois.

As of Monday night, 1,549 Illinoisans were hospitalized with COVID-19, including 345 in intensive care units and 135 of those patients on ventilators.

## Whither the Illinois GOP in a Post-Jim Thompson World

*by Jim Nowlan*

The recent passing of Illinois Republican Governor Jim Thompson (1977-1990) begs the question: Can the Illinois Republican Party ever again capture the governor's office?

The only answer I can come up with is, unfortunately: Not likely, but not impossible. Here's why.

Jim Thompson served four terms, twice as many as any governor in Illinois history. He probably could have been elected to a fifth, though he was running out of money to do things for people. I was in and out of his administrations, from volunteer policy research in his first campaign, to several trouble-shooting agency directorships (never fixed a one of them), to drafting his fourth inaugural address.

Jim liked people, all people — from the little guy to the big shots, from country folk to urban minorities. As with many politicians, he also wanted to be liked, and he was. He was smart, enjoyed negotiating, coming to a deal. His style was collaborative rather than combative. Jim attracted good people to run his agencies, and he let them do the managing.

Jim believed in his Illinois. He wanted to build out our state, from Chicago skyscrapers and sports stadiums to downstate highways. Jim loved selling Illinois. He set up state marketing offices in big cities all over the world, and enjoyed immensely taking delegations across the ponds to try to bring business back to Illinois. And he was successful, as with bringing Mitsubishi Motors to Normal (now Rivian Motors).

Jim was moderate, even liberal. He was pro-choice, pro-union, pro-spending; he added lots of pension benefits for public employees (including doubling his own), yet put off paying for them.

Conservative Republicans grumbled under their breath about Big Jim, but he was tough on crime with his determinate, Class X long sentences, which they applauded.

The Illinois GOP of 2020 would not be comfortable with Big Jim. The Party is opposed to lots of things Jim was for — women's choice, unions, welfare, Chicago, spending and taxes.

The Illinois GOP of the present seems to me most comfortable exhorting voters to return to traditional small-town, conservative values. And that is the problem for Republicans.

The largely small-town downstate that lies outside metro-Chicago has but one-third of the state's votes and only leans Republican. Thus, the GOP cannot win statewide without strong support in the suburbs, and by making at least some inroads into heavily Democratic Cook County and its Chicago.

Cook County accounts for almost two-fifths of the statewide vote, and in 2018 gave Democratic statewide candidates almost 3-to-1 majorities! Even more startling for old-time political observers, the Democratic candidates actually carried the once rock-ribbed GOP suburban "collar counties."

So, it looks bleak for statewide wins for the Illinois GOP, though not impossible. After all,

starting with Jim Thompson in 1977, Republicans held the governor's office for 26 straight years.

To win, I think the following must be understood:

Most political party organizations, including that of the Illinois GOP, have atrophied to near helplessness. Candidates must build their own volunteer organizations, and they must also find ways to reach the voters. In statewide races across a state 400 miles deep and with almost 13 million people, that requires big money, the commodity that has replaced parties.

Second, a successful statewide Republican candidate will have to be either moderate on social issues like abortion and guns — or at least come across as a conservative whom voters can relate to, feel comfortable with, such as Ronald Reagan.

In my central Illinois, I identify three GOP comers who might just put together what is needed for statewide success: State Sen. Jason Barickman of Bloomington; U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Manteno and state Sen. Sue Rezin of Morris, the latter two on the edge of the suburbs. All are smart, reasonable politicians who know how to work across the partisan aisle. True conservatives might want to get behind attractive U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood of Peoria. There are, I'm sure, other "comers" elsewhere in the state.

Downstate candidates have added challenges. First, they are outside the critical Chicago media lens. For example, Jim Thompson became almost a household word throughout the metro-Chicago area via the nightly news, as a crusading, corruption-busting U.S. attorney.

Second, downstaters are generally not privy to the company of the Chicago-area Daddy Warbucks donors, that is, the tight-knit, near-billionaire community who have become the primary funders of big political campaigns.

The overwhelming Democratic dominance of Illinois that has developed since 2000 is not healthy. A Jim Thompson-type of Republican might have a chance statewide. Other than that, it's going to be real tough.

## Statewide Positivity Rate Decreases as Stricter Mitigations Take Effect

*by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

The statewide COVID-19 test positivity rate decreased again Wednesday, the same day added restrictions took effect in two regions of the state that are considered hotspots for the virus.

The seven-day rolling average positivity rate for tests completed decreased to 4 percent after rising as high as 4.4 percent on Thursday, Aug. 20.

Region 4 in the Metro East area on the Missouri border had a 9.7 positivity rate as of Aug. 23, while Region 7's positivity rate was 8.3 percent in Kankakee and Will Counties. Those were the only two regions topping the 8 percent threshold leading to further state-imposed economic restrictions.

Southern Illinois' Region 5 has a positivity rate of 7.1 percent, followed by suburban Cook County's Region 10 at 6.8 percent, and Region 2 in north-central Illinois at 6.5 percent. Region 6 in east-central Illinois had the lowest rate a 1.6 percent, while the other regions, including Chicago at 5.3 percent, ranged from 5 to 5.8 percent.

The Illinois Department of Public Health also announced another 37 deaths related to the virus and 2,157 confirmed cases among 50,362 tests completed over the previous 24 hours. That made for a one-day positivity rate of 4.3 percent. The deaths ranged from a female younger than 20 to multiple residents in their 90s.