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Friday • December 13, 2019  
 Vol. 24, Issue 34 • No. 1230

# Marengo Interchange Opens December 23



by *Charles Herbst*

Tollway, Illinois, McHenry County, and Marengo officials gathered in Marengo Tuesday morning to celebrate the imminent opening of the new interchange at Interstate 90 and Illinois 23. Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez announced that the ramps would open on December 23, and “be ready for Santa Claus.”

Alvarez called the project “a great template for local infrastructure improvement,” praising the cooperation of Tollway, state, county and local officials. Fifty percent of the project cost was paid by the Tollway, with 25 percent coming from state and the remainder from county and local sources. The City of Marengo funded the cost of preliminary design and engineering studies.

Also on Tuesday, the Illinois Tollway opened a greatly-improved interchange at Interstate 88 and Illinois 47 in Sugar Grove. Previously that junction only had access to the west. New ramps and a redesigned interchange now provide easterly access as well.

Initially, about 4800 vehicles are expected to use the Route 23 interchange each day. Marengo Chief of Police Paul Fritz expressed hope that much of the rush-hour traffic on US 20 bound for the Tollway would now be diverted to Route 23. Fritz estimated that it can sometimes take as much as thirty minutes to drive from Marengo to the Interstate 90 interchange in Hampshire.

As the area develops, Marengo Mayor John Koziol expressed optimism that the number of vehicles using the Route 23 interchange would grow as the area developed. “This is an opportunity for Marengo to grow responsibly,” he said. “Growth takes time, especially responsible growth.” Koziol acknowledged and praised former Marengo Mayor Donald Lockhart for his vision and hard work in moving the project forward.

Former Mayor Lockhart was in attendance and said there was “great cooperation and that’s how this project came to be.”

Current Marengo City Manager Josh Blakemore and former Marengo City Manager Gary Boden were also very instrumental in making the project happen.

Marengo has annexed much territory between



*Continued on Page 2*

**Marengo** *Continued from page 1*

the historic city and the Tollway interchange and is eager to develop the area. A major boost to that effort was the \$26 million appropriation in the Capital Improvement Bill for Marengo's sewers. Marengo's sewer system has been troubled for many years and the funding will allow the city to remediate many problems and expand its sewer system to the interchange neighborhood.

The city has also hired Teresa Nortillo as a economic development consultant to the city and, along with Koziol and Blakemore, has been active in pursuing commercial and industrial opportunities for the interchange area and the city at large. They are working together with Jim McConoughey, President of the McHenry County Economic Development Commission, who was also at the celebration.

One of the advantages that Marengo has been stressing to the business community is its accessibility to both O'Hare International Airport and the large freight operations at the Rockford Airport.

Marengo's dream of a better connection to Interstate 90 is at least 20 years old. The \$33 million interchange features all-electronic toll collection and relies on two roundabouts on Illinois 23 to eliminate the need for traffic signals. Immediately to the north of Interstate 90, a third roundabout has been constructed at Illinois 23 and Harmony Road.

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County support the construction of more local roundabouts, noting that they are safer, conserve fuel, and has a lower lifecycle cost than a signalized intersection. A number of other roundabouts are under construction in McHenry County, with more proposed.

Further north, Wisconsin's \$1.2 billion, 45-mile rebuild and widening of Interstate 90 between Beloit and Madison is moving along quickly. The project is about 50-60 percent complete, and will be finished in 2021. All eleven interchanges are being rebuilt, and, with the completion of that project, Interstate 90 will be at least six lanes wide between Chicago and Madison.

# THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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--In Our Opinion--

## Marengo: A New Pearl in the Interstate 90 String City

These are happy times in Marengo. The dream of a Route 23 interchange is finally a reality. Even better, there's money to extend Marengo's infrastructure to Interstate 90. A new, \$33 million interchange and \$26 million from the state to fix the sewers is no small change in a city of 7,600 people.

Marengo gets it, and realizes the great jobs are in points east. This interchange makes it easier to get to those opportunities. But Marengo's leaders have also taken a look and said, "What can we do to bring those jobs and opportunities to Marengo?"

The Illinois 23 interchange is about midway between O'Hare and Rockford Airport. You can be at either in less than an hour. Rockford boasts the 17th busiest freight airport in the world and O'Hare boasts nonstop flights to six continents.

This interchange will doubtlessly benefit Marengo. But it will also have a profound effect on Riley Township, Genoa and Eastern Boone County. Getting from Garden Prairie to O'Hare--or Capron to Hoffman Estates--just became a whole-lot more commutable.

When Marengo creates jobs, folks in Huntley

and Belvidere win, too.

Marengo has its problems, and they are well-known. But as Walt Disney Productions has said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." Former Marengo Mayor Lockhart dreamed of attracting jobs--good jobs--to his city. He said it was the best and most important thing he could do for Marengo. Lockhart and current Mayor John Koziol have worked hard to bring that dream to reality.

Not only was getting the interchange built hard work, getting money for sewers was, too. The city worked tirelessly, meeting with many state administrators and legislative officials to tell their story. They even hired a lobbyist. And now the hard work has paid off.

We suppose we could dryly make the comparison to a certain other city and county and their much more laid back approach to progress. And there will certainly come a time for that. But this is Marengo's day and we are going to celebrate it.

Marengo is the latest pearl in the string city that has formed from Madison to Chicago. Welcome. We are delighted to have you!

## Syverson Presents Donation to Belvidere Park District

*Press Release*

Rockford, IL—The Belvidere Park District runs a special summer recreation camping program for special needs teens, giving them the opportunity to experience the outdoors while learning and enjoying the basics of camping, fishing and boating.

In Illinois, there is a bipartisan legislative Sportsman's Caucus that raises money to help fund outdoor sportsman's programs.

"After hearing about this program at the Belvidere Park District, I knew this was a perfect fit and a well deserving program for this grant," said State Senator Dave Syverson (R-Rockford).

Syverson, who is a member of the Sportsman Caucus, submitted the grant request on behalf of the Belvidere Park District. In turn, the District was approved to receive a \$500 grant.

In addition to the \$500 grant from the Sportsman Caucus, Senator Syverson personally matched the grant and donated \$500 himself to the program.

"This is just one of many great programs run at the Belvidere Park District," said Syverson. "So this is an easy program to get behind and personally support."

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## Obituaries

Lamont, Robert, 78, Belvidere, December 3



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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.  
**Letters.** Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.  
**Guest columns.** Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.  
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# Pritzker Signs Bill Promoting Diverse Workforce on Capital Projects

*'Illinois Works' offers incentives for minority apprenticeships*

*By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed legislation Tuesday aimed at ensuring minority workers have access to jobs created through the state's new \$45 billion capital improvements plan, as well as access to training for careers in construction and building trades.

Senate Bill 177 establishes the Illinois Works Jobs Program, which makes \$25 million available to community-based organizations — including public colleges and universities — to recruit new apprentices to work on construction projects. It also provides that apprentices will make up 10 percent of the labor force on all projects costing \$500,000 or more. The money will come from the \$45 billion in capital plan funding.

The program will be overseen by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. It is also authorized to award "bid credits" — virtual dollars that can be used when bidding on future contracts — to encourage contractors to employ "historically underrepresented populations in the construction industry," including minorities, women and veterans.

"Rebuild Illinois is the largest, most robust capital plan in state history," Pritzker said at a bill signing ceremony in Chicago. "We're working with our partners to make sure every community in the state benefits from these good jobs, especially those who've been left out and left behind for far too long."

Language of the program was inserted into a Senate-passed bill in the House during the fall veto session.

Rep. Will Davis, a Democrat from the south Chicago suburb of Homewood, was the leading sponsor of the amendment in the House.

"Several of those communities are in the 30th District and the south suburbs," he said. "So I'm pleased to have the opportunity to do something in Springfield that is going to directly benefit the people that I serve and that I represent out in the south suburbs."

Sen. Napoleon Harris III, a Democrat from the south suburb of Harvey and the lead sponsor in

the Senate, said he believes the program will pay dividends for years to families that traditionally have not had access to skilled construction jobs.

"These careers are going to be not only paychecks but health insurance, pensions, sustainable living opportunity to raise your family," he said. "This is why this measure is so important, because now we have more people involved in this process, who were historically underrepresented."

The final version of the bill passed the House on Nov. 13 by a vote of 82-32. The Senate concurred with the changes the following day, 36-6. The law takes effect Jan. 1.

## Chanukah Menorah Added to Rotunda's Holiday Display

*Rabbi: Message of Chanukah is 'universal'*

*By REBECCA ANZEL Capitol News Illinois*

A Chanukah menorah was added to the holiday display in the Statehouse rotunda Friday, joining a holiday tree, nativity scene, satanic sculpture and Winter Solstice sign installed days earlier.

Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois, a group that aims to further the worldwide Hasidic Jewish movement, placed the symbol of "spreading light and increasing light," Rabbi Meir Moscowitz said.

"The Menorah is the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith, a seven-branch candelabra of the nation of Israel in order to be a 'light unto the nations,'" Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, a Democrat from Chicago and a member of the Jewish Caucus, said in an email. "I am delighted that it is displayed every year in the Capitol rotunda in celebration of the holiday."

The office of Democratic Sen. Ram Villivalam, from Chicago, applied Dec. 4 with the secretary of state's office to install the holiday display addition.

"I have the largest concentration of Jewish constituents out of any district in the state, ... and so I see firsthand the different religions, cultures and languages throughout my district," he said. "I also see how important it is to celebrate each one and also recognize the commonalities that each one has with the other. Displaying the menorah is an opportunity that we have to bring people together."

The religious group has displayed this menorah for "many, many years," Moscowitz said, and

will be adding a new accompanying sign "in the coming days."

To celebrate Chanukah, which begins the night of Dec. 22, a staff member will light each bulb on the corresponding day, he added.

"Chanukah is unique in that the message of Chanukah is spreading light and increasing light. Every day we add one more," Moscowitz said. "It's a universal message, ... especially nowadays when there is so much negative news — it's important to metaphorically and practically make positive news and light and goodness. Where is more appropriate than the Capitol of this special state?"

The Lubavitch Chabad of Illinois also displays menorahs in Chicago at the Thompson Center and Daley Plaza, the site of the largest menorah in the state at 20 feet tall.

## Correction Boone County Township Assessor's 2019 Annual Meeting

The Boone County Township Assessor's Annual Meeting will be held, Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 3:00 P. M. in the Boone County Board Room, 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. This meeting is being held in accordance with the Illinois Property Tax Code, Article 9, Div 1, Section 9-15.

The purpose of the Assessor's Annual Meeting is for instruction on the updates in the Illinois Property Tax Code, methods of mass appraisal, functions, and practices of the assessment process and plans for the 2020 Assessment Year. This meeting is open to the public.

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# The Illinois Tax Man Cometh; How Should We Greet Him?

By Jim Nowlan

A number of readers (actually two) have requested a column about Gov. J.B. Pritzker's tax initiatives. I have rattled on about this in the past, yet the topic is important to the future of Illinois, so here goes again, at least for the benefit of the two readers with interest.

There are two elements to this. Less than a year from now, we will be asked to vote for or against a constitutional amendment to authorize a progressive income tax (higher rates for higher incomes). If that passes muster, a statute enacted this past spring will automatically go into effect, increasing tax rates on incomes above \$250,000 and even much higher for incomes above \$5 million. The new tax revenue is expected to raise more than \$3 billion per year.

Unfortunately, the State needs the money. There simply is not enough waste and corruption to be excised to fill the gap between present spending and revenue. Most of our state budget goes for state pensions, which the Illinois high court has said can't be touched; Medicaid (health care for more than 3 million low-income and most nursing home residents), which nobody has figured out how to constrain, and education, which few want to cut. The remaining state agencies are puny by comparison (go to jimnowlan.com for in-depth budget columns).

Indeed, the Pritzker tax increases alone won't be enough to close the budget gap and pay off old bills.

Illinois state and local taxes (property a local levy) are already, overall, significantly higher than the national average. Each Illinoisan has his own gripe about taxes. For some, it's the property taxes, which are among the highest in the nation. For others, it's high sales taxes in some jurisdictions on big ticket purchases like new autos. For employers, it's our high workers' compensation costs (a tax in the eyes of business).

Rich (some would say successful) people in our state are already chafing under the state's hefty inheritance tax, which most states abolished a few years ago. Further, Congress recently limited deductions from our federal income tax liability for state and local taxes paid. This increases federal income taxes for many high-income Illinoisans.

So, should the Pritzker tax increases be approved? Proponents say, since the money is needed, it is fair to impose the increases on the rich and not on the rest. Opponents say the increases, on top of other burdens noted above, would cause successful people to think about living six months a year in Florida to avoid all these burdens. They say it would also drive our perceived business climate even further toward the bottom among the states.

By the way, at present, though not opposed to the concept of a progressive rate structure, I am opposed to the specific tax increase — already enacted — and so plan therefore to vote against the amendment.

Will the increases be enacted in November 2020? Putting on my political analyst hat, I say it will be close (how's that for hedging my bets?). Democrats will tend to favor, as a way of reducing income inequality. "Main Street" and Rotary Club Republicans will generally oppose, asking why should we punish success, which many of them aspire to achieve?

Many Trump Republicans, a somewhat different breed from the Rotarian type, feel "the system" and the elites have screwed them over, so they may support the increases as a way of sticking it to the rich.

The constitutional amendment will require a vote of 60 percent of those voting on the issue for it to be adopted. A recent poll I saw reports

68 percent favor the tax increases on high-income earners.

However, based on election history, many voters, especially those I think might favor the proposal, will fail to go way down the long ballot to vote on constitutional amendments. Thus, they would not be a part of those "voting on the issue" of the amendment. On the other hand, those motivated to vote against the issue in their self-interest are more likely to vote against the amendment. So, it'll be close, I aver.

What happens if the constitutional amendment fails? Fiscal chaos. Since there won't be enough revenue to pay basic bills, bond houses will declare Illinois state and local debt to be "junk." This will make the state and its 7,000 governments, which often need debt to fund long-term projects, a pariah among the states.

That is why "No" voters like me have a responsibility to be ready with Plan B. In our book "Fixing Illinois" (U. of I. Press, 2014), co-author Tom Johnson and I call instead for broadening the sales tax to remove scores of exemptions (semen for artificial insemination of livestock, for example, is among many) and extend the tax to services, as Iowa does. And also tax some retirement income, as most states that have an income tax do.

Pundits say the political barriers to Nowlan-Johnson are insuperable, because taxes would increase on all of us, not just the rich, and voters wouldn't stand for it. So, as I say, chaos.

It's called a conundrum, that is, a really difficult and intricate problem.

*For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three unindicted governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.*

## Report: Several county courthouses lack state-mandated breastfeeding areas ACLU report finds several court buildings not in compliance with 2018 law

By REBECCA ANZEL Capitol News Illinois

Illinois county courthouse compliance with a law requiring them to provide nursing mothers access to a private room has so far been "decidedly mixed," an analysis found.

The state's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union called 77 facilities to assess their implementation of a 2018 statute which mandates circuit courthouses to offer a lactation room. It was to be fully enforced by June of this year.

At a minimum, those spaces should have a chair, table and electrical outlet, according to the law. A sink with running water should be provided "where possible."

Almost 20 facilities across the state lack a designated space, the report found. In 11 courthouses, parents are told to pump breast milk in a restroom, the sanitary condition of which could contaminate the milk. And another 14 buildings had an area that did not meet the statute's requirements.

At the time lawmakers were considering the initiative, they heard stories about the spaces new mothers were offered when courthouses did not have a lactation room. One lawyer who was participating in a trial in the Jackson County Courthouse said she had to express breast milk in her car during breaks. Another said she was told the only option at the McHenry County Government Center, aside from a bathroom, was the building's cafeteria facing the wall.

"When this law was passed it was done with the understanding that this reasonable step recognized the realities working mothers faced in struggling to balance their civic responsibilities and duties as parents," Democratic Sen. Elgie Sims, from Chicago and one of the statute's chief

sponsors, said in an email. "It is critical that all county courthouses comply with this fair and cost negligible law."

Emily Werth, an ACLU staff attorney, said despite the "shockingly disappointing number" of courthouses out of compliance, the several courthouses "doing quite well" — those that had a private lactation room with the mandated amenities, as well as staff members educated about that space — prove the law's requirements can be met.

"They show it's very much doable. It's just about every county taking the time and putting the resources in to making it work," she said. "We expect and hope that some of [those courthouses not fully compliant] will respond in good faith to this moment of public education, and finally invest in designating, and making sure personnel know about, that lactation space."

The report ranked county court buildings by granting them one point each for every yes-or-no question asked.

Courthouses in five counties scored almost perfectly in the analysis — one each in Clinton, Macon, Monroe and Rock Island Counties, and nine in Will County. Facilities in another 22 counties had the next highest scores.

Werth said it is not clear who bears responsibility for the 23 counties that failed to meet the law's basic requirements.

The Supreme Court oversees general rulemaking for courthouses across the state, but a spokesperson said individual counties are culpable in this case because they are charged with funding those facilities.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a Democrat from Chicago and one of the law's sponsors, said while "there's nothing explicit in the law saying, 'if you don't do this, this agency has the power,'" the Illinois Department of Human Rights can get involved.

The ACLU did not include Cook County courthouses in its analysis due to ongoing litigation. The group is "pursuing claims under the Illinois Human Rights Act based on the denial of access to lactation accommodations," according to the report.

A spokesperson for the Civil Liberties Union said its goal in compiling the report was to "give

*Continued on Page 5*

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

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In The Interest of: Cristian Campero, Minor No. 19-JA-21

To Ashlee Johnson/ To whom it may concern Respondent ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on September 25, 2019, 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 Cristian Campero, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central Daylight time on 12-5-19 & 1-16-20; 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 THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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

Dated November 18, 2019

Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk

By: Heather Austin Deputy Clerk

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 11/29, 12/06,13-c.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In re the Marriage of Maria Villegas Casas and Martin Pinedo Belmontes Case No: 2019 D 102

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

YOU, Martin Pinedo Belmontes, ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that this case has been commenced in this Court and is pending against you asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief. Unless you file your Answer or Appearance in this case in the office of the Clerk of the 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois located at 601 North Main Street in Belvidere, Illinois before January 22, 2019 or otherwise appear at the status hearing in this matter on January 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 4 of the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 North Main Street in Belvidere, Illinois, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THIS COMPLAINT. Prepared by: Alexis Simmons, The Law Offices of Alexis M.K. Simmons, LLC, 124 N Water St, Ste 204, Rockford, IL 61107, (815) 570-9662, alexis@simmonsllaw.org.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 6, 13, 20, 2019

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP & ROAD DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2019

TOWNSHIP - REVENUE SUMMARY:

Property Taxes - \$95,846.69; Replacement Tax - \$648.04; Interest Income - \$653.75; TOIRMA Dividends - \$319.00; IDES Refund - \$555.84; Bank Adjustment - \$0.66  
TOTAL REVENUES: \$98,023.98

TOWNSHIP - EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

Boone County Council on Ageing - \$10,000.00; U.S. Treasury - \$6,266.70

All other disbursements less than (\$2,500) - \$6,259.39

TOTAL VENDORS: \$22,526.09

TOWNSHIP - COMPENSATION SUMMARY:

Range: Under \$5,000: Theresa Balk, Gordon Gotsch, JoClaire Malpier, Dennis Luckey, R.P. Warrington. Don Ward

Range: Under \$5,500: Valerie Alt

Range: Under \$12,000: Norm Pierce

TOTAL COMPENSATION: \$22,585.33

ROAD DISTRICT - REVENUE SUMMARY:

Property Taxes - \$312,643.86; Replacement Tax - \$2,681.20; Interest Income - \$1,171.29; Snow Plowing - \$1,045.00; Traffic Fines - \$2,680.47; TOIRMA Dividends - \$619.00; IDES Refund - \$270.33; Com Ed Damage Reimbursement - \$6,678.00; Culvert Reimbursement - \$2,051.60; Battery Core Exchange - \$40.00  
TOTAL REVENUES: \$329,880.75

ROAD DISTRICT - EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

Boone County Highway Department - \$6,651.82; Boone County Motor Fuel Tax - \$10,842.06; Business Card - \$5,165.28; Conserv FS - \$8,142.15; Geske & Sons, Inc. - \$8,070.60; Greg's Garage - \$3,706.42; IL Department of Revenue - \$2,575.00; Metal Culverts - \$4,103.20; Norther Illinois Service - \$8,058.94; Rock Roads - \$216,186.73; TOIRMA - \$4,201.00; US Treasury - \$14,447.06

All other disbursements less than (\$2,500) - \$21,910.12

TOTAL VENDORS: \$314,060.38

ROAD DISTRICT - COMPENSATION SUMMARY:

Range: Under \$15,000: Norm Pierce, Gary Brunner, William Brunner  
TOTAL COMPENSATION: \$38,368.71

Subscribed and sworn to this 10th day of July 2019 - Valerie Alt - Treasurer

I, Theresa Balk, Clerk of Caledonia Township, Boone County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 12-13-2019

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of: Shaun Thomas Clausen, deceased. CASE NO. 2019 P 75

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION -HEIRS AND CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Shaun Thomas Clausen of Belvidere, Illinois, Letters of Office as Administrator with Will Annexed were issued on November 12, 2019, to Jared A. Clausen, 2174 Derby Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008, whose attorney is Theodore Liebovich, 415 South Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61108.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before June 8, 2020, that being the date at least six (6) months from the date of the first publication, or within three(3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 5/18-3of the Illinois Probate Act, as amended whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County Courthouse, Probate Division, 601 North Main Street, Suite 303, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 or with the estate legal representative or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered

to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

JARED A. CLAUSEN Administrator

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 6, 13, 20, 2019

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY

Carrie Belvedere, Plaintiff

Vs Case No. 2019-D-104

John Belvedere, Defendant

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, John Belvedere, Defendant that this cause has

been commenced against you in this Court asking for Divorce and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 on or before the 22nd day of January, 2020, a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.

Dated: 12/11/19

Linda J. Anderson

Clerk of the Circuit Court

17th Judicial Circuit

Boone County, Illinois

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 12/13,20,27-c.

# BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

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## Community News & Events

**Boone County Plant-A-Row-** Throughout this year's growing season, the Boone County Extension Master Gardeners worked with local food pantries to get more fresh produce into the hands of our county residents. As we embrace winter and long for warmer days, now is the time to start thinking about and making plans for the next year's garden and what you would like to grow or donate. If you are interested in learning more about or getting involved with our local Plant-A-Row, or how to start your own community garden, please contact Judy Hodge, Program Coordinator with Boone County Extension at 815-544-3710 or [hodge@illinois.edu](mailto:hodge@illinois.edu).

**Christmas in Kirkland 2019-** Christmas in Kirkland will be held on December 14, 2019, 3P.M. to 6 P.M. Events in downtown area include visits from Santa, tree decorating, Library craft and story time, face painting, raffles, wagon rides, free refreshments. The Hiawatha High School Band and Chorus will provide music. A craft sale will be held at Hiawatha High School from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M.

**Christmas Model Train Show-** Saturday, December 14, 2019. 10 A.M to 4 P.M. Located at the Capron Lions Community Building at Capron Lions Park. Santa visits from 11 A.M to 1 P.M. Chili, Hot Dogs and Concessions available. Free Admission and open to the public.

**Meet Hometown Holiday Cast-** Meet and mingle with the cast of J.R. Sullivan's Hometown Holiday at a reception following the Saturday, December 14 performance at the Nordlof Center, 118 N. Main Street. Tickets for the performance and reception are \$35 and available at [jrsullivanhometownholiday.com](http://jrsullivanhometownholiday.com) or at local outlets, Rockford Area Arts Council, J.R. Kortman Design and both locations of Village Green Home and Garden.

**Community Building Complex Committee Regular Board Meeting-** Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. in the Community Building Board Room

## Attorney General Warns Of Recalled Children's Products

*Safe shopping guide offers list of unsafe holiday buys*

By **REBECCA ANZEL** Capitol News Illinois

The office of Illinois' top lawyer has released its annual safe shopping guide ahead of the holiday season to alert families about recalled children's toys, clothing and furniture.

The report includes information about goods that are a safety hazard and have been linked to infant deaths. Some of the items featured include choking hazards, articles of clothing that do not meet the government's flammability standard and furniture that can injure children if not assembled correctly.

There are more than 30 products on the list, including certain bath toys, handmade knit dolls, power wheels toys, boots, socks, pajamas and more.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul said the guide, which also features photos of the hazardous products, is meant to help Illinoisans more easily spot the goods, so shoppers do not purchase them or can remove them from homes.

"The Safe Shopping Guide is a tool that all gift-givers should consult this holiday season before shopping for the children on their lists," he said in a press release.

The attorney general's office has published the guide for about 10 years, a spokesperson said, but it is Raoul's first time distributing it since he took office in January. The office also publishes consumer alerts for all recalled products throughout the year on its website, [illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov).

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group also

released its annual Trouble in Toyland report, which has additional information about potentially hazardous toys. It features goods that pose a choking hazard, and information about toxins found in products and which toys present a privacy risk.

It also cautions consumers that online stores do not always remove recalled items from their sites.

A complete list of product warnings and recall information can be found on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website, [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov). Raoul's office also has a recall hotline, 1-888-414-7678, for Illinoisans seeking more information.

The safe shopping guide can be found at [illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/safe\\_shopping.html](http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/safe_shopping.html). The Trouble in Toyland report can be found at [usp.org/feature/usp/trouble-in-toyland-2019](http://usp.org/feature/usp/trouble-in-toyland-2019).

## First Motions for Marijuana Expungements Filed in Cook County

*State's Attorney Foxx files motions with Pritzker, lawmakers looking on*

By **PETER HANCOCK** Capitol News Illinois

Cook County State's Attorney Kimberly Foxx filed motions in court Wednesday to vacate more than 1,000 low-level marijuana convictions, following through on a recently-passed state law legalizing adult recreational use of the drug.

"We are undoing the harm prosecutors have caused," Foxx posted on Twitter Wednesday. "Prosecuting these cases was not in the public interest, or in the interest of public safety."

They were the first of what are expected to be many filings across the state to expunge potentially hundreds of thousands of criminal arrest and conviction records for marijuana-related offenses.

"A criminal record carries with it more than stigma. It prevents people from being considered for job opportunities, from getting a loan or a mortgage, from renting an apartment, from applying for financial aid for college, from getting a professional license and more," Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker said during a news conference following the court hearing. "In sum, it can crush a person's ability to live a full and dignified life."

On June 25, Pritzker signed House Bill 1438, making Illinois the 11th state to fully legalize recreational marijuana, and the first to do so through a legislative process. Supporters have dubbed it "the most equity-centric" legalization law in the country because it specifically sets aside a portion of the tax revenue generated by legalization to reinvest in low-income and minority communities and other areas that experienced "high rates of arrest, conviction, and incarceration" for marijuana-related crimes.

Although recreational use of marijuana doesn't become legal until Jan. 1, the new law also provides for automatic expungement of criminal records for possessing less than 30 grams, or roughly one ounce, of marijuana. In addition to wiping out records of court records, the law also calls on law enforcement agencies to delete records of arrests, even if those arrests did not result in charges.

That turned out to be one of the more controversial elements of the bill, and it was the subject of intense negotiations with Republicans who supported the concept of legalization but were wary of wholesale record expungements.

Supporters of expungement often pointed to statistics showing that marijuana usage rates are relatively even across racial and ethnic lines, although people of color are far more likely to be arrested and convicted for it.

Others, however, argued that low-level charges are frequently the result of plea bargaining with defendants suspected of being involved in higher-level offenses — plea deals that likely would not have occurred if low-level possession had been legal at the time.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, is one who still has reservations about the new law.

"I think that we moved too quick with recreational marijuana. I don't support it," he said in an interview Tuesday. "Some people in my caucus did, but we're moving way too quick. There are a lot of questions, a lot of uncertainty on how it's going to be implemented, how it's going to be regulated."

## Time for a Change at Capitol Complex?

*Capitol architect: 'No excuse' not to add changing tables to restrooms; lawmakers discuss looping Statehouse, other buildings into law*

by **Rebecca Anzel** Capitol News Illinois

A law mandating baby changing tables be installed in both men's and women's restrooms beginning Jan. 1 does not apply to the Illinois State Capitol Complex, but the buildings' architect plans to add them to some facilities anyway. She said "there is no excuse" not to.

Chicago Democrats Rep. Delia Ramirez and Sen. Ram Villivalam sponsored the initiative. With some exceptions — including spaces that ban those under 18 years of age and some health facilities — it applies to public restrooms in buildings constructed or significantly remodeled after the early 1990s.

That criteria does not pertain to the Illinois Statehouse, Michael J. Howlett Building and William G. Stratton Building, or the other five structures included in the Capitol Complex, according to spokespeople for Ramirez and Villivalam.

But because they are "highly public buildings," Architect of the Capitol Andrea Aggertt said, "adequate facilities" for state employees and members of the public must be provided.

"Historical preservation is at the forefront of every decision that we make, but we have to be realistic in what the needs are," she said. "My thought would be to make sure we have (changing tables) in any restroom that will have a high population of public, so groups coming to voice their opinion on a potential law can have those accommodations."

Aggertt added each possible location will be "carefully considered."

During an environmental lobbying day in early November, Sierra Club Deputy Director Kady McFadden tweeted that it took "at least 15 minutes" to find a changing table in the Statehouse for a volunteer. She checked the first-floor restroom, medical office and asked information desk staff before finding one in the lactation room behind a stairwell off the rotunda.

"It's such a basic democracy thing," McFadden said. "Here we had a woman — an activist in her community — who took the day off work, brought her child to the Capitol to lobby on an issue important to her family — advocating for clean air for her child to breathe — and democracy sort of failed her in that way."

The law applies to new or mostly remodeled constructions, not existing buildings, due to parameters in the Equitable Restrooms Act. Ramirez said the Capitol Complex would have been included in the initial measure "ideally," but there is an effort to loop the structures in through a companion bill.

"This legislation specifically ensures that all new state buildings are brought into the 21st century and universal access to baby changing stations," Villivalam said in an email. "There are ongoing conversations with (Illinois Department of Central Management Services) to include existing state buildings after the fiscal impact is thoroughly assessed."

Adding the changing tables to unisex and men's restrooms will prevent constituent stories of changing a baby's diapers in sinks, on floors or balanced on a lap, both lawmakers said.

Aggertt, a mother of two children, said she has been "left scrambling" in the past — once, she had to use the trunk of her car as a makeshift changing table, which is "no fun for yourself or the baby."

"I believe if we're making (changing tables) available for women, we also need to make them available for men," Aggertt said. "We want to make sure we're giving all families equal rights — that is most important. And I as a mom like to tell my husband he needs to take his turn also."

There is no timeline for additions, but she said enhancements will be made "mindfully."

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the law, approved by members of both parties in the General Assembly, on Aug. 9 along with 144 others. Jordan Abudayyeh, his spokesperson, did not respond to a request for a statement.

"... If we really believe families are a priority in Illinois, there are things we can do that don't require extensive debate to accomplish," Ramirez said. "Civic engagement is not for people who are old enough to vote — it's about encouraging democracy and having our children come tour the Capitol and visit lawmakers. Something so basic as adequate access to spaces to change children is something so simple and affordable and can mean so much to families."