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## *Daytripping* **In Case You Have Forgotten What the Color Green Looks Like**

*Charles Herbst*

The Joys of January. Snow Skiing, Hockey, Ice Skating, Curling.

But if your idea of January is long dark nights, dead batteries, slush, and getting stuck in a snow-drift, maybe you're ready for a little reprieve. If a trip to Florida, Buenos Aires, or Tahiti isn't possible, may we suggest a local option:

Visit a conservatory. There are several of them in the area. Nichols in Rockford, Olbrich in Madison, the Mitchell Domes in Milwaukee, and Garfield and Lincoln Parks in Chicago all come to mind.

Today we are visiting a small conservatory located in Oak Park, just off the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway. If you are enroute to Chicago or your travels take you to the vicinity of Oak Park, it is a small, yet delightful place to stop and take a break.

While not as large as its aforementioned peers, the Oak Park Conservatory is the third largest conservatory in the Chicago Area, with over 8000 square feet containing over 3000 plants, some of which date back to the conservatory's founding in 1914.

The conservatory has three rooms consisting of tropical, desert, and Mediterranean display gardens. There are also working greenhouses reserved for the staff.

Outdoors, the conservatory has two more gardens: The Rubenstein Memorial Garden and the Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden. The Rubenstein Garden is designed to be a place to relax and refresh. The Jacobsen Garden is designed to draw from the four essential elements: light, water, air, and earth. This garden features species native to Illinois. Musical instruments and a bee skep clubhouse offer young visitors a place to explore.

The Conservatory has two parrots, Sara and Skipper, who live in the tropical room. Sara speaks and might well say "hello" to you.

The Oak Park Conservatory started out as a community effort to house the exotic plants that Oak Parkers collected while on vacation and brought back to the village. The existing glass structure was built in 1929.



*The conservatory has both tropical and desert environments*



*A pond with a bridge features tropical fish*



*Parrots Skipper and Sara in the tropical room*

Over the years, the conservatory sadly fell into disrepair. In 1970, plans were made to demolish it. It was described as a place that would make "a perfect parking lot." Oak Park—a community known for its civic pride and activism—rallied, and the Citizens Committee for the Conservatory saved the day. There is a plaque in the conservatory in their honor.

*continued on page 3*



# Medicaid Program Faces Looming Funding Crisis

*New federal law will restrict a key revenue stream used to pay state's share of Medicaid costs*

Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A multibillion-dollar budget crisis will hit the state's Medicaid program in the next few years unless state lawmakers and Gov. JB Pritzker act to prevent it, budget analysts both inside and outside state government warn.

The crisis comes from changes in federal Medicaid policy that were enacted last year as part of President Donald Trump's sweeping domestic policy agenda, known officially as H.R. 1, or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which, among many other things, slashes one of the main funding tools many states have used for four decades to fund

their share of the cost of Medicaid.

"By the time you're a few years in, you're looking at a \$4 - \$5 - \$6 billion a year hit, and that's material," Paula Worthington, a researcher with the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs, said during a recent interview.

Worthington is a coauthor of a recent IGPA report that describes the upcoming changes in Medicaid funding as one of the most serious long-term fiscal challenges facing Illinois.

The funding tools at issue are known as provider taxes. Those are special taxes that states levy on hospitals, nursing homes, private insurance plans known as "managed care organizations," or MCOs, and other kinds of health care providers.

States levy those taxes — usually on a per-patient or per-bed basis — and put the money into a fund that is used to draw down federal matching funds. The combination of state and federal funds is then used either to enhance Medicaid reimbursement rates or make direct payments to hospitals and nursing homes that serve large numbers of Medicaid patients to help sustain those facilities financially.

## Capping provider taxes

When Medicaid was first established in 1965, it was a relatively modest program that provided health care benefits to people who already qualified for other kinds of public assistance, with costs split between the federal government and the states.

As both the size and cost of the program grew, however, states began looking for new ways to pay for their share of the cost outside of their general revenues. Provider taxes emerged in the mid-1980s as one such mechanism.

By the mid-1990s, Congress began putting controls on state-levied provider taxes. Those included rules that they be broad-based and uniform, meaning they had to apply evenly across an entire class of health care providers and not just those that served Medicaid patients.

The idea was that states were prohibited from holding providers harmless by assuring them they would get all their money back, and then some, once the federal matching funds were drawn down.

But the federal rules also included a "safe harbor" provision. States could avoid having to comply with the hold-harmless prohibition as long as their taxes amounted to no more than 6% of net patient revenue.

That rule has effectively served as a cap on what states can levy in the form of a provider tax. But that cap is about to be cut nearly in half.

Under a provision of H.R. 1 — a provision that only applies to states like Illinois that expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act — that 6% cap will gradually be cut starting in FY 2028 until it reaches 3.5% in FY 2032.

## Impact in Illinois

In FY 2025, according to the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Illinois spent a total of \$33.7 billion through its Medicaid program, making it one of the single largest categories of expenditures in state government.

Of that total, \$20.9 billion, or 62%, was federal

money while the remaining \$12.8 billion came from state funds, including both general revenue and provider taxes.

IGPA reported that provider taxes in FY 2025 amounted to \$4.7 billion, or about 37% of all the state funds that were spent on Medicaid. The bulk of that money, according to DHFS, came from two provider taxes, those on hospitals and MCOs.

A recent report by the nonpartisan health policy research organization KFF points out that Illinois stands to lose more than any other state when the reductions take effect because it is the only state whose hospital and MCO assessments are both above the 3.5% threshold.

The report by IGPA estimates that when the first reduction takes effect in FY 2028, revenues from those two assessments alone will fall \$239 million. And depending on how much health care prices and Medicaid usage grows over the next five years, total reductions from those two sources could range from \$1.25 billion to \$2 billion by FY 2033.

"But remember, that's just the state money," Worthington said. "That is not taking into account the matching funds."

Assuming the state continues to receive an average 62% federal match rate, the total impact to Illinois by FY 2033 would be between \$3.3 and \$5.3 billion a year.

That estimate aligns with a separate estimate from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, which reported in October that if the state does not make up for the reduced provider taxes through some other appropriation, "the gross amount of lost funding to the state and its Medicaid program will total over \$4.5 billion annually by fiscal year 2031 when factoring the lost federal match."

## Issue for lawmakers

The impending limits on Medicaid provider taxes will pose a significant challenge for lawmakers who will either have to find some other way to pay the state's share of the cost or adjust the program to fit within the new fiscal constraints.

But because the federal changes do not take effect for another year, it is possible lawmakers will not feel pressure to take immediate action in the upcoming legislative session.

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## Foster Statement on 2026 Homeland Security Funding Legislation

House is taking up the 2026 Homeland Security funding bill. After reviewing the text of the legislation, I will be voting NO.

"Last year, Republicans' 'Big Beautiful Bill' increased ICE's funding to exceed some countries' military budgets. Since then, ICE operations have terrorized U.S. citizens and immigrants in our communities in Illinois, Minnesota, and across the country. ICE must be held accountable for its rampant abuses of power, not rewarded with more funding.

"Should this vote fail, I hope Republicans will return to the table to engage in good-faith negotiations about raising the level of honor and professionalism in immigration enforcement in the United States."

## Illinois to Withhold Nearly \$500M in Spending, Citing Federal Uncertainty

*Fall executive order required most state agencies to identify ways to reserve funds*

**Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois**

Gov. JB Pritzker's office plans to hold back nearly \$500 million in spending for the current fiscal year as the state faces constant uncertainty over the economy and federal funding.

The reserves make up less than 1% of the state's budget and largely focus on cost savings

such as forgoing hiring in certain agencies for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Pritzker had directed agencies to "identify immediate spending reductions, including efficiencies that will result in reduced spending" in a September executive order.

Alexis Sturm, Pritzker's budget director, said in a memo to the state's agency directors that the reserves aim to provide cushion for challenging budget years ahead.

"We expect that most agencies will not see their funding requests fulfilled – and continued fiscal management in Fiscal Year 2026 will help ensure the ability of the State Agencies to face the challenges expected over the next few years," Sturm said in the letter. "Prioritizing and limiting hiring and other operational expenditures will be key."

In total, the reserves target \$482 million in fiscal year 2026.

While Pritzker's September order directed the agencies to identify ways to reserve 4% of fiscal year 2026 General Fund appropriations, those announced Thursday amounted to less than 1% of the \$55.1 billion budget.

A senior administration official told Capitol News Illinois the 4% goal was designed to be a target for agencies, rather than a mandate. The official stressed that the agencies cannot cut spending as the funds are appropriated by the legislature, but agencies can keep funds in reserve.

The executive order was specifically in response to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, officially known as H.R. 1, that President Donald Trump signed last July. The law made significant changes to tax policies, health care coverage and how much funding states will receive from the federal government for social service programs. Pritzker's budget office estimated in October the law will ultimately cost Illinois billions in the coming years.

### What's changing

Most of the reserves were earmarked for health care and human services. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services will forgo

*continued on page 5*

## Oak Park

from page 1

Today, as part of the Park District of Oak Park, beyond its educational and cultural mission, the conservatory supplies plants for other parks in the village. The conservatory is well-maintained and has a professional staff. The Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory actively support and fundraise for the garden. The conservatory was expanded in 2000 to include staff areas and a meeting room. In 2005, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2025, the Park District of Oak Park was awarded the gold medal by the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration.

The Oak Park Conservatory is very conveniently located at 615 Garfield Street near East Avenue. It is equidistant (3/4 mile) from both Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard, both of which have exits from the Eisenhower Expressway. The CTA Blue Line Oak Park Station is in the expressway trench in front of the conservatory. Generally, you can find street parking nearby.

Allow 30 minutes. Admission is free and the conservatory is open daily, 10 to 4. It is closed on Monday and holidays. Donations are appreciated, with \$5 suggested. Reservations are requested for groups of 10 or more. Website: oakparkconservatory.org.

Wouldn't a place like this be a great use for the Belvidere Oasis? Imagine breaking up a long interstate drive with a cappuccino, banh mi, or empanada while relaxing in a tropical forest!

## Charles Herbst

Tax Attorney

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# Pritzker Signs Major Energy Reform Bill Amid Projected Shortages

*Environmental, labor and consumer rights activists celebrate passage*

**Maggie Dougherty Capitol News Illinois**

Amid warnings of impending energy shortages, Gov. JB Pritzker on has signed a wide-ranging energy reform package into law aimed at bolstering the state's power grids after years of negotiations.

Senate Bill 25 — also known as the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, or CRGA — will fund battery storage, grant greater authority to state utility regulators, create new options for “virtual power plants” and lift a longtime ban on new large-scale nuclear power plants.

“We’re making it easier to develop renewable energy,” bill sponsor Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, said at the signing ceremony in Joliet. “We’re going to deploy battery storage; we’re lifting the nuclear moratorium. That’s all going to bring more supply onto the grid, and that will help hold the line on our electrical bills.”

The Illinois Power Agency, an independent body responsible for planning and procuring cost-effective energy for Illinoisians, found that the law will save utility customers in the state \$13.4 billion over the next two decades. But opponents question those projections, pointing to increased subsidies for battery storage that will eventually be reflected via a new charge on consumers’ bills beginning in 2030.

The bill signing took place less than a month after state regulators projected energy shortfalls would likely drive up costs in the next three to five years and force Illinois to import more power from out of state absent action from lawmakers and grid operators.

Shortfalls, Pritzker said, would be exacerbated by actions at the national level, including the Trump administration’s passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which phased out renewable energy tax credits and froze federal funding for energy projects. He also criticized a Trump executive order that stripped funding for the Inflation Reduction Act, a major renewable energy law passed by Congress in 2022.

“All of that raises prices in the short term, while threatening our long-term ability to meet growing electricity demand,” Pritzker said.

CRGA, he said, will allow Illinois to forge its own path.

## What’s in the law?

At the core of the law is a new structure to incentivize energy storage, or battery, projects. It will result in new charges to ratepayers, though supporters of the bill say that those costs would be offset by cost savings from greater energy efficiency, storage and planning.

The law grants new authority to the Illinois Commerce Commission, the state body responsible for regulating utilities. The ICC will now have the power to set long-term plans for managing energy supply and demand in the state through approval of an integrated resource plan.

It additionally adds new requirements for energy efficiency programs at electric and natural gas utilities and places new air regulations on backup generators used by data centers.

It also secures new labor protections by closing a loophole for community solar projects that has allowed some developers to avoid hiring union labor, a major priority for organized labor groups involved in negotiating the bill.

CRGA also lifts a longstanding ban on constructing new large-scale nuclear power plants, while at the same time increasing fees for nuclear plant operators. It outlines new programs for geothermal and thermal energy network projects, using naturally occurring heat from underground and transferring it via water-filled pipes to offset the need for electric or fossil fuel heating.

The law also creates new “virtual power plant,” or VPP, programs. That’s not virtual as in occurring via the internet or virtual reality, but rather as a program that allows homes and businesses with solar panels or wind turbines to pool energy together, acting “virtually” like a power plant despite not physically existing as one.

The idea is that the energy stored in residential and business batteries can be contributed to the electrical grid when the state’s primary electric delivery companies, like ComEd and Ameren Illinois, face high supply prices during peak hours of use, especially during the summer.

Homes and businesses who contribute energy to the grid via VPPs will be paid for their energy. The law also mandates that electric utilities offer optional “time-of-use” pricing, allowing customers to save money by using less energy during periods of high demand.

ComEd already offers time-of-use pricing, as approved in an ICC ruling in January 2025, but CRGA enshrines the requirement for both Ameren and ComEd into law.

## Path to passage

The legislation passed during the legislature’s veto session in late October with support from

the ICC.

“Senate Bill 25 is a guaranteed rate increase that does nothing to increase energy production,” Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Murrayville, said in a statement released after the signing, calling battery storage an “unproven” strategy.

Rep. Norine Hammond, R-Macomb, also denounced energy sources like wind and solar as unreliable in a statement, saying that the state “should focus on preserving reliable energy sources like coal, natural gas, and nuclear power that actually work when the wind isn’t blowing and the sun isn’t shining.”

Supporters, though, say that ratepayer charges will be offset with savings from increased energy supply and grid reliability. They argue the investment in battery systems allows the state to store extra energy generated on bright sunny days or windy days and deploy it at night and when other energy supply is low.

Sarah Moskowitz, executive director of Citizens Utility Board and champion of the bill, said CRJA was the state’s response to market signals sent by regional grid operators.

“To me, CRGA is really about us here in Illinois, together as a state, deploying the tools we have here at our disposal to defend the promise of clean and affordable power for Illinois,” Moskowitz said.

Organized labor advocates also supported the bill, which is expected to generate up to 100,000 jobs according to statements from multiple House Democrats. AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Pat Devaney and LiveWire Construction CEO Shon Harris joined Pritzker on stage at the signing ceremony.

“By expanding access to pre-apprentice programs, lowering thresholds for project labor agreements, ensuring that wind, solar and thermal energy projects are built by skilled Illinois workers, this bill clearly says the future of clean energy in Illinois will be union built,” Devaney said.

The bill prioritizes grants to historically underserved contractors and projects in communities that would most benefit from investments to combat discrimination. Harris said that legislation keeps the doors open for businesses like his.

“CRGA ensures equity remains a part of Illinois’ clean energy future,” Harris said. “That means that companies like mine can keep building projects, training workers and creating good-paying jobs all across Illinois.”

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

environmental, labor and utility oversight advocates. Business groups and Republicans criticized the bill for its reliance on a new ratepayer charge to fund new battery storage and for yielding what they said was too much power to



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## Spending

from page 3

transferring \$200 million to the Healthcare Provider Relief Fund because the fund will have enough to make it through the fiscal year without the additional money, the official said.

Pritzker's administration also does not plan to release \$29.5 million in funding for higher education that was already reserved in the budget. The budget called for increasing spending for higher education by 1%, while giving the governor authority to release an additional 2% should the state's financial picture become less cloudy.

Advocates have called on the governor to release that funding, citing financial issues some state universities are facing.

Sturm's memo noted another \$10.3 million in reserves through grant reductions and other measures at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, as well as environment and culture agencies like the Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Arts Council.

The state will also reduce operational expenses by limiting overtime and travel expenses and leaving vacancies unfilled at certain agencies. Another \$50 million would come from group health insurance savings.

Major spending areas such as K-12 education and pensions were not subject to the September executive order or the recently announced reserves.

### State of finances

Pritzker is set to deliver his budget address on Feb. 18, and the senior administration official said lawmakers should not be surprised to hear a conservative approach to budgeting and an emphasis on tough choices.

In October, Pritzker's budget office projected a \$2.2 billion deficit for the upcoming fiscal year 2027. Sturm said the financial outlook "has not changed significantly since last fall."

A report published in early January by the legislature's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability found state revenue is up nearly 5%, or \$1.2 billion, through the first six months of FY26 compared to the same

period in FY25.

Sales tax revenue was up 1%, an indicator of consumer confidence in the economy.

The official told Capitol News Illinois people should not read COGFA's report as a sign the state is out of the woods, because the budget was crafted with a conservative revenue estimate.

The official said Pritzker's administration expects the financial situation could worsen, particularly as parts H.R. 1 take effect and the economy remains volatile.

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## ComEd Files \$15.3 Billion Grid Plan Proposal Addressing Rising Demand

*Utility watchdogs expressed disappointment, calling the plan 'bloated'*

**Maggie Dougherty** *Capitol News Illinois*

Electric utility Commonwealth Edison has asked regulators to review a \$15.3 billion, four-year grid plan that it says will help meet growing energy demand and protect infrastructure from severe weather events.

The filing is part of the state's grid planning process laid out in the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, a landmark decarbonization bill that passed in

2021. It details the technology and infrastructure investments ComEd hopes to make from 2028 to 2031 to promote grid reliability.

But the plan will not be without a cost to ratepayers, and the consumer advocates who successfully championed a reduction to ComEd's initial plan in 2023 are already pushing back against this year's filing. It will undergo an 11-month review by the state's utility regulator, the Illinois Commerce Commission.

If the investments proposed are approved in full by the ICC, ComEd expects residential customers to see an increased average cost of between \$2.50 to \$3 per month starting in 2028.

This would be separate from delivery rate increases, including a \$243 million rate increase approved by the ICC in December that raised bills for its customers by a little over \$3 per month. ComEd delivers electricity to over 4 million customers in northern Illinois.

The company says the plan is intended to account for increased energy demand from electric vehicles, data centers and more people choosing to heat their homes with electric heat rather than natural gas. The plan is also meant to accommodate new interconnections for renewable energy sources as consumer demand for solar increases.

"I've been in this industry about 22, 23 years, and I've never seen the amount of change that we are experiencing right now," said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of customer operations at ComEd. "Most of the pace of change that we're seeing has come about in the last three years and it's continued to grow."

The plan also doesn't prevent ComEd from filing a standard rate request in future years. Company officials say they expect to file a new rate request in January 2027 that, if approved, would go into effect in January 2028 — the same year as the grid plan investments are expected to start.

### Regulatory framework

CEJA's 2021 passage required the state's major electric utilities to prepare grid plans that outline how they will integrate new renewable energy resources and meet decarbonization requirements while prioritizing affordability, especially for

*continued on page 7*

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

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This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 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 mobile home 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 certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

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 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.  
ADDRESS:  
1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103  
Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/2/2026  
6088-961063  
Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

To: Unknown Heirs and/or Devises at Law of CRAIG WOOSLEY, Unknown Heirs and/or Devises at Law of JACQUELINE WOOSLEY, David Woosley, Joshua Woosley, Thema Woosley, Tommy Woosley, Holly Woosley, John Woosley, AMOS A. YODER as RA for Four Seasons Dream Homes, LLC, Four Seasons Dream Homes, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Service, Unknown Occupants of 371 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 371 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008  
**TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX22 FILED: 12/22/2025**  
**TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone  
Date Premises Sold:10/26/2023  
Certificate No. 2022-90026

Sold for General Taxes of: 2023  
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) :N/A  
And Special Assessment Number: N/A  
Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A  
**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**  
Property located at: 371 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008  
Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description) : 70-02-200-371

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 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 mobile home 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 certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

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 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.  
ADDRESS:  
1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103  
Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee  
Dated: 1/2/2026  
6088-961061  
Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

To: NANCY PATERSON , Oak Lawn Estates, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Services, Unknown Occupants of 13111 Oak Lawn Ln., Poplar Grove, IL 61065, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 13111 Oak Lawn Ln., Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
**TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX23 FILED: 12/22/2025**  
**TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone  
Date Premises Sold:10/26/2023  
Certificate No. 2022-90034  
Sold for General Taxes of: 2023  
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A  
And Special Assessment Number: N/A  
Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A  
**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**  
Property located at: 13111 Oak Lawn Ln., Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description) : 90-26-300-210

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 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 mobile home 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 certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

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 5/20/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.  
ADDRESS:  
1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103  
Auction Z-2, Inc.Purchaser or Assignee  
Dated: 1/2/2026  
6088-961059  
Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27 SW

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

**Rock Valley Credit Union, Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**in case no.: 2025FC90**  
**Guadalupe Cazares, Tenants and Persons in Possession, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants,**  
**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IS GIVEN TO YOU:**

Guadalupe Cazares, Tenants and Persons in Possession, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants,

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

Lot Twenty-one (21) in Block Two (2) as designated upon the Plat of Biester’s Fourth Subdivision of a part of Lot Four (4) of Prospect Hill Subdivision as platted and recorded in the Recorder’s Office of Boone County, Illinois in Book 4 of Plats on Pages 38 and 39; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, commonly known as 172 Beacon Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, PIN 05-25-429-017, and which said Mortgage was made by Guadalupe Cazares, as mortgagor, to Rock Valley Credit Union, as mortgagee, and recorded July 31, 2014 in the Recorder’s Office of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2014R03772; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 on or before February 13, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND

A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. ELISA J. WHITMAN, REILLY LAW OFFICES, Attorney for Plaintiff, 6801 Spring Creek Rd. Suite 2D, Rockford, IL 61114 (815) 316-8540. NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Published in The Boone County Journal 1/13, 20, 27

Notice of Lien Sale of Stored Vehicle  
Notice is hereby given by Boxed Up Self Storage, or affiliates, intends to hold a public sale to satisfy a lien, pursuant to 770 ILCS 95/1 et seq., by selling a vehicle belonging to those individuals listed below on March 4, 2026, at approximately 11:00 a.m. (CST) at www.storage treasures.com.

**BOXED UP SELF STORAGE**  
4431 IL Route 173, Caledonia IL, 61011-9754  
Parking Space: V114  
Owner(s): Regina Czajkowski and Cade A. Wilson  
Lienholder: Santander Consumer USA Inc.  
Make: Ford  
Model: 2018 Focus  
VIN: 1FADP3H21HL264428  
Amount due and owing: \$749.89

Parking Space: VO4  
Owner(s): Jo Sprawl  
Lienholder: One Main Financial Group LLC  
Make: Saturn  
Model: 2007 Ion  
VIN: 1G8AJ55F37Z152186  
Amount due and owing: \$2,910.00

Unit Number: 450  
Owner(s): Timothy Wasinger  
Lienholder: N/A  
Make: Geo  
Model: 1991 Metro  
VIN: JG1MR336MK608722  
Amount due and owing: \$4,862.00

For more information, please contact Boxed Up Self Storage by phone at (815) 399-9226 or by email at info@boxedupselfstorage.com.

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage treasures.com. See website and conditions. Purchases must be made with cash only and must be paid at the Boxed Up Operations Center located at 1511 E. Riverside Boulevard, Loves Park, Illinois 61111, in order to complete the transaction. Boxed Up Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase until winning bidder takes possession of the property. All sales are final. Following sale, buyer must cooperate with completion of all documentation required by the Illinois Secretary of State to transfer ownership of the vehicle and take possession.  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 20, 27, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**MORTGAGE CENTER L.L.C., Plaintiff,**  
**-v.-**  
**2024 FC 21**  
**EDWIN H. RANDALL JR, KRISTINE L. RANDALL, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 11, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 27, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE SOUTH 17 ACRES OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, IN TOWNSHIP 46 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 18143 CAPRON ROAD, CAPRON, IL 61012  
Property Index No. 02-35-300-002  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
The judgment amount was \$262,156.98.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-001179.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA  
180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400

CHICAGO IL, 60601  
312-782-9676  
Fax #: 312-782-4201  
E-Mail: ChicagoREDG@weltman.com  
Attorney File No. WWR 23-001179  
Case Number: 2024 FC 21  
TJSC#: 46-99

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 2024 FC 21 6088-961469  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 SW

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Boone County Board will receive proposals marked BCG-2026-02 for the purpose of seeking a consulting firm to provide professional services to the County to submit Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) and a rate schedule to complete a community-wide assessment and create a Generic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and anticipates performing ten (10) Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), five (5) Phase II ESAs (including Site-specific Sampling and Analysis Plans), three (3) Analysis for Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) and/or cleanup plans, one (1) Brownfields Revitalization Plan, two (2) Vision Sessions/Charrettes, one (1) Site Reuse Assessment, one (1) Resilient Brownfields Planning Document, and one (1) Equitable Development Plan. The work will be completed in cooperation with Boone County. The work will also include quarterly progress reports, annual reporting, and ACRES database reporting in conjunction with the County.

RFQ (Request for Qualifications) documents will be available on or after January 27, 2026. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at [www.boonecountylil.gov](http://www.boonecountylil.gov) for more information. Copies of the RFQ Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Proposals will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. Proposals will be opened immediately after the deadline in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all proposals.  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 27

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

**In The Interest of CHAROLETTE BORN, minor No. 24-JA-16**  
**To: Nicholas Born, All Unknown Fathers, All Whom It May Concern**  
**ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Take notice that on July 19th, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Attorney Tricia Smith, Boone County States Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Charolette Born, a minor. At the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on 03/26/24 at 1:30 PM CDT, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a 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. 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: January 20, 2026  
Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal: 1/27, 2/3, 2/10/26- C

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

**In The Interest of VIOLET BORN, minor No. 24-JA-15**  
**To: Nicholas Born, All Unknown Fathers, All Whom It May Concern**  
**ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Take notice that on July 19th, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Attorney Tricia Smith, Boone County States Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of VIOLET BORN, a minor. At the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on 03/26/24 at 1:30 PM CDT, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a 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. 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: January 20, 2026  
Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal: 1/27, 2/3, 2/10/26- C

#### Official Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) is requesting proposals for Architectural Services to expand the Roger D Gustafson Administration/Nature Center

The full RFP document may be viewed and obtained during regular business hours at:

Boone County Conservation District Administrative Office  
603 N. Appleton Road  
Belvidere, IL 61008

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00 PM-4:30 PM

The RFP and any added addenda are also available online at:

[www.bccdil.org](http://www.bccdil.org)

All submittals must be received by 2:00 pm February 27, 2026. Submittals received after this time will not be considered.

The BCCD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submittals and to waive any technicalities or irregularities deemed to be in the best interest of the BCCD.

Published in The Boone county Journal Jan 27, 2026



#### STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA 4259 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESTAURANT business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SAFFRON GARDEN that its location is or will be 116 BUCHANAN ST in BELVIDERE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 630-276-9564

SHARAREH VASSAJI

495 PRAIRIE KNOLL DR

POPLARGROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: January 6, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 01/13,20,27 - P

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA 4260 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BEAUTY COSMETIC SALES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of KENYADOIT BEAUTY SHOP that its location is or will be 878 IVY OAKS DR in CALEDONIA, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 224-401-7930

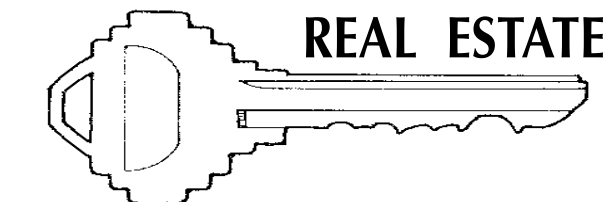
KENIA LIZULY SIFUENTES 878 IVY OAKS DR CALEDONIA,

ILLINOIS 61011

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: January 13, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 01/20,27 02/03 P.



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

**MORTGAGE CENTER L.L.C., Plaintiff,**  
**-v-**  
**2024 FC 21**  
**EDWIN H. RANDALL JR, KRISTINE L. RANDALL, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 11, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 27, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 18143 CAPRON ROAD, CAPRON, IL 61012

Property Index No. 02-35-300-002

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$262,156.98.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and

the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-001179.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA

180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400

CHICAGO IL, 60601

312-782-9676

Fax #: 312-782-4201

E-Mail: ChicagoREDG@weltman.com

Attorney File No. WWR 23-001179

Case Number: 2024 FC 21

TJSC#: 46-99

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2024 FC 21 6088-961469

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 SW

## ComEd from page 5

low-income communities.

ComEd filed its first four-year grid plan request in 2023, but the ICC sent it back after deciding the company had failed to meet the standards set under CEJA. The company refiled a slimmed down spending plan the following year, and the commission ultimately approved a version that reduced spending on system improvements by about 25%, according to the commission.

ComEd President and Chief Executive Officer Gil Quiniones said the company learned a lot from the process of filing and refiled its first grid plan.

"We've applied all of the learnings from those experiences to this one, and we are confident that we're putting a plan that is in alignment with the statute but also in alignment with the expectations of the commission," Quiniones said.

Utility watchdog and consumer advocacy groups, however, expect to fight for similar reductions to this proposed plan. While most agree that some investment is needed, they argue it is not necessary now and could be implemented over coming years instead.

The Citizens Utility Board, an independent utility watchdog created by the Illinois legislature, said its lawyers are reviewing the filing to identify and push back on any "wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary spending." The latest filing is over 800 pages.

"CUB is disappointed to see ComEd come in with another bloated, expensive grid plan," CUB Executive Director Sarah Moskowitz wrote in a statement. "Everyone supports a strong distribution system, but ComEd has a responsibility to maintain its grid in a way that benefits customers and doesn't bankrupt them."

CUB will have the opportunity to submit testimony to the ICC opposing the grid plan, as will the attorney general's office, environmental advocates and other stakeholders.

### Increased energy demand

ComEd says the planned investments will allow the company to respond to increased consumer demand for electricity caused by factors ranging from electrification of homes to data centers and artificial intelligence. Energy demand also grew in part due to increased electric vehicle demand

*continued on page 8*



## ComEd

from page 7

as the state tries to reach its goal of one million registered electric vehicles by 2030.

Over a third of the planned spending would support system reliability, including preventative maintenance and replacement of aging equipment, according to the filing. The plan also outlines investments in grid management, customer operations, new business and facility relocation and information technology architecture.

The plan proposes installation of three new substations across Chicago and two elsewhere in northern Illinois, while also adding new capacity at more than 70 of its substations. Substations are a part of the electricity transmission and distribution system that are key to lowering voltage to safe and usable levels before it enters homes and businesses.

In its filing, ComEd said it experienced higher demand primarily concentrated around 55 of its substations. Data center energy needs accounted for over 47% of that new substation demand, according to the filing.

The ICC and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are currently reviewing separate proceedings filed by ComEd last year that would require high energy-use applicants like data centers to make a financial commitment to meet certain transmission service thresholds. The company says this is designed to ensure that the cost of upgrades made to accommodate electricity use by those users is not passed on to other customers.

The attorney general's office filed objections to the FERC request, writing that the proposed agreements fail to adequately protect other customers.

Gov. JB Pritzker recently signed the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act into law, setting new requirements for battery storage and so-called "virtual power plants." Senior ComEd officials said the grid plan factored in some of those elements but acknowledged it might need adjustments as they learn more about the law.

### Affordability

Affordability and cost efficiency are key requirements under CEJA.

To be considered affordable, electricity costs must not account for more than 3% of average household income, or 6% for those who heat their homes with electricity.

Under the plan, average residential customers would devote 1.41% of their household income to electricity in 2028, up from 1.23% in 2026. By the third year of the plan, it would grow to 1.48%, which the company says is still lower than the national average of around 3%. ComEd said the average bill for its customers is currently around \$106 per month.

CEJA also requires that at least 40% of grid modernization and clean energy investments benefit communities that have historically faced exclusion from economic opportunities or have faced disproportionate environmental burdens from pollution. ComEd estimates that 1.7 million customers, or approximately 42% of its customer base, fall within that classification, according to the filing.

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