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# Nor-Bar Brought Dignity and Recreation to Life in Belvidere

By David Larson

Wednesday, April 1st, 1936, sometimes known as April Fools Day, the doors opened for an establishment that flourished for 40 years. The Nor-Bar was one of the better restaurants in Belvidere. It was Belvidere’s downtown “nice” restaurant. It, like the Casa Mia and the Huddle, were so much a part of the unique experience of living in Belvidere that their loss is still regularly lamented.

How often have you heard someone say that they wish there was a nicer restaurant in Belvidere? A restaurant can be taken as a measurement of the community, but only if it is locally owned.

What is not shown here is the bowling alley on the second floor. The bowling alley was a dimension that made the Nor-Bar stand-out. At a time when bowling was very popular, the Nor-Bar thrived. When the Nor-Bar owners took over the building, they also refurbished the bowling alley on the second floor. The alley hosted youth and adult leagues into the 1970s.

Two local men, Barney Walters and Norm Kleber, created the attractive setting seen in these pictures, taken about 21 years after opening night in 1957. 1936 was a mere six years since the start of the Great Depression, and it was only three or four years after its bottom. While it was a time of recovery, it was a long way until war production for World War II pulled the economy out of the fire.

Walters was an active businessman in Belvidere and invested in several business. He is known to have been a partner in the Hollembeak Electric Company. He was also an excellent bowler.

It is noteworthy to recall a lawsuit Walters and his wife filed against a local dentist and neighbor. On May 2, 1942 Dr. Gadde, the neighbor who shared a driveway with Walters, which previous owners had formally established 51 years prior, Gadde put up a fence that blocked Walters’ automobile from exiting his garage. The case was argued in the court of Judge Pierce in Boone County. Upon losing the case, Gadde appealed it to the Illinois Supreme Court, which extended the case to October 4, 1945. The court upheld the lower court’s decision. It was a major case, and the community followed its progress all during World War II.

Kleber was also an excellent bowler as well being the first person to bowl a perfect, 300 game in Belvidere. Kleber was also a partner in the Huddle restaurant. He was an IOU Club member and, during the war, was a part of the IOU war bond drives in Boone County. Upon retirement, Kleber moved to Burbank, California.

In 1957, just after these photographs were taken, the Canodes became the owners of the Nor-Bar and operated it until the early 1970s, when it was sold and operated under the name Tommy’s Nor-Bar.



Vern Canode at the Nor-Bar Lounge 412 S. State St. May 15th 1957. Photo taken by Fritz Meinheit



Great food severed in back half of the Nor-Bar Lounge! Owners Vern and his wife, Marge (right), Cliff (center), and Rose Carpenter (left) serviced that favorite place to eat.

(right) The first advertisement March 31, 1936 in the Belvidere Daily Republican. The ad was placed by contractors involved in the opening to the Nor-Bar,

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and installed the  
Electrical Fixtures  
in the beautiful new  
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and we offer our best wishes  
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# Aqua Illinois Customers to See Bill Increase in the New Year

*Low-income customers eligible for  
lower rates; more affordability changes  
due by 2027*

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Following almost a year of legal battles and fierce public opposition from many customers, water utility Aqua Illinois is set to raise its rates in 2025.

The privately owned water utility has not released an estimate of the exact impact the increase will have on customer bills in 14 northern Illinois counties. But the approved increase represents a 43% reduction from the utility’s original request, which would have raised bills by an estimated \$30 per month, according to the Citizens Utility Board consumer advocacy group.

State regulators at the Illinois Commerce Commission approved the rate increase on Thursday – but not before the drastic reduction. In its initial requested rate hike from January, Aqua wanted to collect an additional \$19.2 million from customers to pay for infrastructure upgrades, costs associated with taking over existing water systems and paying out a 10.8% return to investors.

But regulators cut the overall request, allowing the company to collect \$11.6 million from customers while paying out a 9.6% return to investors.



Gerald “Jerry” Groskinsky, 71, Harvard, No. 17  
Kenneth Johnson, 69, Poplar Grove, Nov 18  
Bradley Lofgren, 72, Cherry Valley, Nov 22  
Michael Preston, 60, Belvidere, Nov 22  
Dennis Rye, 73, Harvard, Nov 14  
Sharon Turner, 66, Harvard, Nov 17

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

The company argued throughout the case that the increase was necessary to recover costs from upgrading water systems to ensure safe water delivery.

“In the six years since our last rate increase, we made significant upgrades to water and wastewater facilities and infrastructure across Illinois,” Aqua said in a statement to Capitol News Illinois. “This rate decision highlights Aqua’s commitment to aggressively invest in infrastructure to improve service and reliability for our customers.”

ICC Commissioner Stacey Paradis said after the decision Thursday that the five-member panel “did not come to this decision lightly.”

“The commission regulates large water utilities and ensures they provide safe and adequate service,” Paradis said. “Transparent infrastructure investments and long-term planning are essential to ensure water and wastewater service meets regulatory requirements, environmental goals and customer needs.”

ICC commissioners also approved a new scheme for Aqua’s low-income customers. Starting in July, eligible customers with household incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level – about \$48,000 for a family of four – will be able to receive a 70% discount on the portion of their bill that’s based on water usage.

Paradis noted that this move “is just a first step.” In explaining the ICC’s decision, ICC Chair Doug Scott said that, despite approving Aqua’s proposed formula for calculating rates, the commissioners worried that the company “may be unnecessarily shifting costs to residential ratepayers.”

To that end, the ICC is requiring Aqua to begin the process of creating a discount program for the entire bill with multiple tiers based on income. Those changes must be proposed by Jan. 1, 2027, or as part of Aqua’s next rate case, whichever is sooner.

This mirrors similar requirements recently placed on gas utilities by the ICC. Those discount programs, which went into effect last month, offer low-income households up to between 75% and 83% off their entire bill, depending on their income and which company they buy gas from.

“Illinoisans shouldn’t have to choose between groceries or running water when funds are tight,” Scott said in a Thursday statement. “Aqua’s new low-income discount rate will help keep water flowing for customers who are struggling to pay their utility bills.”

A similar bill discount program is expected to be announced for electric utilities in 2025, according to a statement from the ICC last month.

The ICC sent shockwaves last year when it unexpectedly sided with consumer advocates in several high-profile cases. Those included starting an investigation into a gas infrastructure program in Chicago and rejecting electric utilities’ plans for how to manage the grid as the state transitions away from relying on fossil fuels.

Consumer advocates had called on the state to cut the increase even more but reacted to the Aqua decision with cautious approval. The head of the Citizens Utility Board, which advocates for consumers in rate cases like this, said the Aqua decision is a “step in the right direction.”

“We believe that a 9.6 percent profit rate for shareholders is still too high, but we are pleased that regulators rejected the company’s outrageous 10.8 percent proposal,” CUB Executive Director Sarah Moskowitz said in a statement.

Moskowitz also noted she and CUB were “encouraged” by the move to lower rates for low-income customers.

The head of AARP Illinois, a group that advocates for the interests of those age 50 and over, also reacted positively to the news. AARP

Illinois State Director Philippe Largent said he was “heartened” by Scott’s focus on consumers in his public statement.

“I think the biggest takeaway is this notion that we as Illinois should not have to choose between basics: food, water, medicine vs. rent,” Largent said.

Largent also noted that he would have liked to see the low-income discount go into effect in January alongside the rate increase.

Many of the most vocal – and most adversely impacted – Aqua Illinois customers formally lodged comments in this case, asking the ICC to cut the rate increase entirely, citing concerns over already high bills and water quality.

In 2019, water in University Park had lead levels that exceeded state regulations due to Aqua changing water sources, inadvertently stripping a protective coating from old lead pipes. The state quickly sued the company to force compliance. The lawsuit ended in July with a consent order requiring free lead testing and the company to distribute grants to remedy home lead contamination.

At a public hearing in August, the issue was an animating factor in residents’ desire to see the rate increase cut. The University Park mayor, village manager, current and former village trustees, and several residents uniformly spoke in opposition to the rate increase.

Residents of Crystal Lake, Buffalo Grove and other suburban communities also requested aggressive cuts to, or outright rejection of, the rate increase at a separate public hearing in McHenry County, citing discolored water in a few local systems. Representatives of the company say that issue will be addressed, although the timeline for those remedies is not finalized.

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## Hemp Growers Push Back Against Proposed New Regulations

*State says it is implementing rules  
consistent with federal law; growers fear  
‘second War on Drugs’*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A legislative committee and the Illinois Department of Agriculture agreed recently to delay finalizing new regulations governing hemp production amid an outcry of protests from small, independent producers.

Those proposed rules have been in development for at least two years. But the most recent draft, submitted in September, contained significant changes from earlier versions that caught many in the industry by surprise. That included provisions allowing unannounced inspections and testing of hemp crops, restrictions on who could obtain a license to produce the crop, and the possibility of criminal sanctions for violations of certain rules.

Norma Fuentes, a lobbyist for the Illinois Hemp Business Association, which represents small, independent and minority-owned hemp businesses, said the rules threatened to put many of them out of business.

“It kind of fueled a second War on Drugs, disenfranchised social equity licenses and also

*Continued on page 3*

**Hemp** from page 2  
financially burdened local businesses through some of the testing that they require,” she said of the latest proposed rules.

Industrial hemp was once a significant crop in the United States in the 19th century when it was used for making common products like rope and textiles. But it came under strict government control in the 20th century because of its close biological relationship to marijuana, first with passage of the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, and later with a complete ban with passage of the 1970 Controlled Substances Act.

Nearly half a century later, with the rise in popularity of certain hemp-derived products like CBD oil that are thought to provide health benefits, federal control over hemp finally began to loosen.

First, the 2014 federal Farm Bill allowed colleges, universities and state departments of agriculture to engage in pilot programs producing hemp for research purposes. Then in 2018, both the state and federal governments passed laws legalizing large-scale commercial hemp production, subject to regulation.

The 2018 federal Farm Bill reclassified hemp – defined as cannabis with less than 0.3% of the intoxicating chemical THC – by removing it from the list of controlled substances and making it eligible for traditional farm programs like crop insurance and farm loans.

And the Illinois General Assembly that year passed the Industrial Hemp Act, giving the state Department of Agriculture authority to regulate the industry, including the licensing of growers and processors, in accordance with federal laws and regulations.

Since then, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has worked to promulgate rules consistent with both the state and federal hemp laws.

According to a timeline provided by IDOA, the agency implemented its first set of rules in 2019, shortly after passage of the Industrial Hemp Act, and those have been used as the basis for regulating the industry in Illinois so far.

Later that year, however, USDA published “interim” federal rules that spelled out details for how states were to carry out the law and requiring states to submit their own individual “hemp plans” to the federal agency for approval.

Since Illinois already had rules in place, IDOA merely drafted amendments to those rules and submitted those to USDA as the state’s plan. USDA approved that plan in October 2020.

Then in January 2021, USDA published “final” rules for hemp production that contained significant changes from the interim rules of 2019, which required the state to make major changes to its rules.

In December 2021, IDOA submitted a revised hemp plan to USDA for approval and, after that plan was approved at the federal level in April 2022, the agency began the process of submitting that plan through the state rulemaking process.

That process has now taken more than two years, during which time the proposed rules

have undergone even more changes. But David Lakeman, IDOA’S division manager for cannabis and hemp, told the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules at a Nov. 12 meeting that the agency’s intent has never changed.

“To be clear, the department’s intent here is solely to align and implement the United States Department of Agriculture’s rules on hemp as implementing the 2018 Farm Bill,” he said.

Speaking in a separate interview, however, Fuentes said the latest draft of the proposed rules contains significant changes from earlier drafts that have alarmed many in the hemp industry.

For example, she pointed to one provision that would prohibit individuals from obtaining a hemp license, or even holding a management position within a licensed hemp company, if they have been convicted of a drug-related felony within the previous 10 years.

She noted that under the state’s Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act – the 2019 law that legalized recreational marijuana – Illinois gives preference to license applicants who were previously harmed by the war on drugs.

Lakeman, however, told JCAR the proposed licensing restriction is needed to comply with federal law.

“The federal government and USDA has been extremely rigid on that section, for us and for every other state that is running its own hemp program,” he said.

Fuentes also pointed to new provisions authorizing IDOA to conduct random, unannounced inspections and testing of hemp facilities, whereas earlier versions of the rule required the agency to give at least five days’ notice.

“It opens the gate for overpolicing and criminalization of some of this industry, which is what we believe starts and fuels a second War on Drugs,” she said.

The proposed rules also contain a provision allowing administrative penalties or, in some cases, criminal referrals to law enforcement agencies for violations of the rules.

Although the proposed rules were scheduled for final approval Nov. 12, IDOA agreed to delay final action for 45 days to allow time for the agency to hold additional meetings and answer questions from industry representatives and other stakeholders.

The rules will come up for consideration at JCAR’s next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Chicago.

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# State-Funded Electric Vehicle Chargers Open In Joliet, Thousands More To Come

*Growth of chargers lags rate of EV adoption; overall EV registrations slow in 2024*

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

With nearly half a million dollars of state funding, a new electric vehicle charging station opened in Joliet on Monday. It is the first of hundreds of charging stations set to be installed over the next 18 months as part of a state-funded grant program.

That growth in chargers is important as Illinois aims to rapidly transition toward having more electric vehicle drivers. As of last week, there were about 120,000 EVs on Illinois roads, while the state’s goal is to have 1 million on the road by 2030.

So far, over \$25 million in state infrastructure funding has been awarded to gas stations, hotels, governments and other organizations to fund new EV charging. Another funding round of up to \$44 million is in the process of being awarded now, with more grants expected in the future.

This round of funding would add about 2,000 new ports – the electric equivalent of gas pumps. That would represent a roughly 47% increase in the number of charging ports around the state, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy. Gov. JB Pritzker said Monday that there will be a charging station “along every highway, every 50 miles.”

The Joliet chargers, built by Veterans Energy Team in partnership with the Joliet Park District, are the first chargers to open after being funded by as part of the state’s Rebuild Illinois capital funding and authorized by the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

“Reducing air pollution from transportation is vital to a healthy future for our children and our planet,” Pritzker said in a Monday news release. “Today, you see the product of that vision in the first deployment of a CEJA-funded electric vehicle charging port, thanks to support from our federal partners and utility companies.”

Veterans Energy Team received a \$480,000 grant to install 12 charging ports across two

*Continued on page 5*

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**EV** from page 3  
locations in the city, with four more added using other funding.

Proponents of the EV charging grant program say it is not only a way to meet clean energy policy goals but also a route to create more jobs and opportunities.

“Illinois is full of what? Great union workers, great private sector workers who can install these things,” CEJA chief sponsor Rep. Marcus Evans, D-Chicago, said at a Monday news conference announcing the charging station. “We’re going to install these chargers all over, in every community, so that when you’re driving your electric car, you ain’t gotta get it towed.”

CEJA codified the state’s goal of transitioning away from fossil fuels entirely by 2050 and to boost the growth of the electric vehicle market, leading to a need to rapidly expand charging infrastructure.

“To achieve those goals, we know we will need to accelerate the build out of a widespread network of public chargers,” Gil Quiniones, CEO of electric utility Commonwealth Edison, said at the Monday news conference.

ComEd provides electric service for most of northern Illinois, a region that is home to about 90% of EVs in the state.

The company also provided funds for the Joliet project through its rebate program for EV chargers. That program is part of the company’s “beneficial electrification plan” – a CEJA-mandated outline of how the utility will support the state’s clean energy goals.

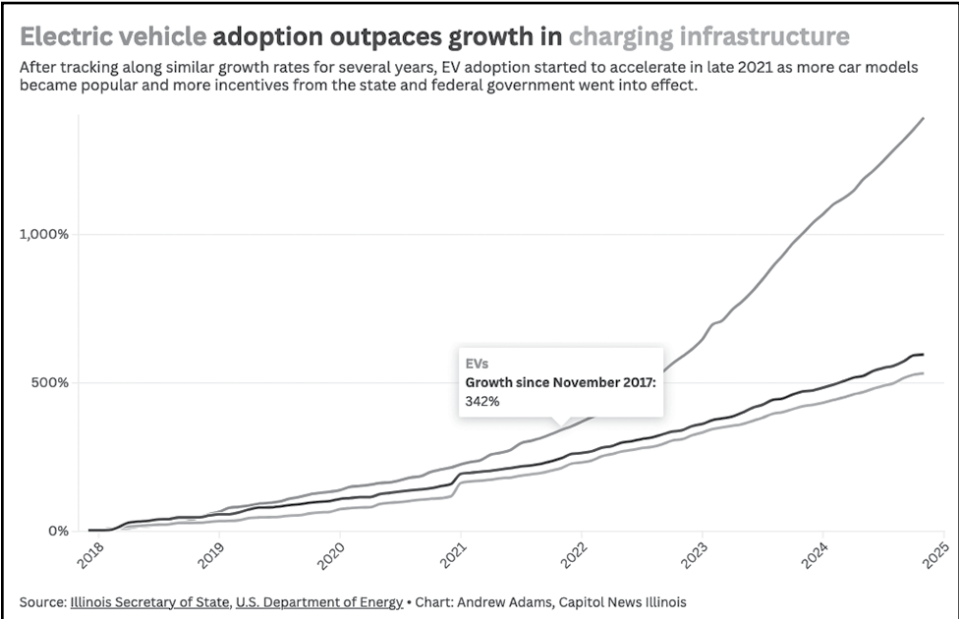
While ComEd did not say how large the Joliet project’s rebate was, EV charging projects are eligible for up to \$500,000 in rebates. Earlier this year, ComEd announced \$90 million in available rebates related to electric vehicles through its beneficial electrification programs, according to ComEd spokesperson Lauren Huffman.

In addition to CEJA funding, there are other sources of grant money for charging stations that the state distributes, such as money from a legal settlement with Volkswagen over emission standards and federal grant programs.

**EVs by the numbers**

While the state’s grants for chargers are only now yielding completed projects, tax rebates for individuals buying EVs have been on the books for several years. Those credits, alongside federal incentives dating back more than a decade and broader consumer trends, have resulted in a rapid

growth of EV registrations in Illinois.  
Since November 2017, the number of EVs registered in Illinois has grown by about 1,400%, according to data from the secretary of state. Over that same time, however, the number of EV charging ports only grew by about 600%, according to U.S. Department of Energy data.  
Globally, the average number of light-duty electric vehicles for every charging port is about 11, with the U.S. having a higher 26 cars-per-port ratio, mostly due to home charging being more popular in the country, according to a 2024 report from the International Energy Agency.  
In Illinois, a Capitol News Illinois analysis of federal and state data found that there are about 31 EVs per charging port, including both light duty and larger vehicles like buses. That’s higher than 2017, when there were 15 vehicles per port. This means that more vehicles are competing for charging spots, even as more stations have opened.



The number of charging stations has grown slightly slower than the number of ports as stations increasingly offer multiple ports, but both lag overall EV adoption.

While the state hurriedly works to keep up the pace of charging port installations, another trend has emerged in Illinois: The number of new EV registrations has slowed, mirroring a broader slowdown of the EV market across the country.

The net increase in EV registrations over the past 12 months fell about 9.1%. While that may seem small, prior to this year, the state was just barely on track to meet its million EV goal by 2030. If the current year-over-year pace continues, the state would fall short by almost 200,000 vehicle registrations.

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**Conservative Group Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Review Mike Bost’s Challenge to How Mail-In Votes Are Counted in Illinois**

*Lower court rulings have upheld Illinois’ law allowing mail-in ballots to be counted after Election Day*

*By Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois*

The conservative group Judicial Watch is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review a case filed by U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, challenging Illinois’ law allowing mail-in ballots to be counted 14 days after the election.

Under Illinois law, ballots postmarked by Election Day can be counted as late as 14 days after the election as they arrive at local election authorities. Bost’s case argued that Illinois’ law violates the federal law establishing Election Day by allowing votes to arrive and be counted for two weeks after the polls close. Two Illinois delegates at the Republican National Convention for President-elect Donald Trump, Laura Pollastrini and Susan Sweeney, are also part of Bost’s lawsuit.

Two lower courts have already ruled against Bost’s 2022 case against the Illinois State Board of Elections. The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled in August Bost lacked standing to sue in the case.

But the legal fight is not over for Judicial Watch, which filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 19 asking the court to take up the case in hopes justices might strike down Illinois’ law.

“Specific holdings in this case will tend to make the next electoral cycle as fraught as 2020,” the group argues.

The filing cited numerous cases from 2020 challenging election laws and outcomes, some of which Judicial Watch was a part of, in efforts to block the counting of mail-in ballots.

Many other states also allow late-arriving mail-in ballots to be counted in the days after the election. Federal law regulates counting military ballots.

Judicial Watch’s central argument to the U.S. Supreme Court is that the court of appeals in Chicago erred in its ruling that Bost lacked standing. The court ruled it was Bost’s “choice” to spend campaign resources to monitor post-election counting while on his way to a large victory. Bost argued he suffered damages by extending his campaign’s operation for two weeks beyond the

*Continued on Page 8*

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LEGAL NOTICES

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BOONE COUNTY - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
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PLAINTIFF  
VS. Case No.: 2024FC64  
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UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD  
CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS  
Property Address:  
432 Pembroke Rd SW  
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The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to: Erik Nilsson and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled action, that a Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, by said Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of certain mortgages conveying the premises legally described as follows:  
LOT TWO HUNDRED FIVE (205) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 4, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PORTIONS OF SECTIONS 27 AND 28 TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-415 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.  
P.I.N.: 03-27-376-003  
COMMON ADDRESS: 432 Pembroke Rd SW, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
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The owner's ; Ronald W. Andersen and Helen Andersen, 3240 Hale Lane, Island Lake, IL 60042, and financed by Kia Motors Finance, PO Box 105299, Atlanta, GA 303485299  
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This notice is for a Mechanic's Lien being placed on the above subject vehicle per Chapter 770 ILCS 45/1 or 90/1 unless payment is received by 12/28/2024.  
Mechanic's Lien holder is Sierra's Garage, 4760 IL Route 173, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
Published in The Boone County Journal: 11/14, 11/21, 11/28/2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:  
The applicant, Tobi Cushman, is seeking a variance to construct a home addition within the side yard setback of forty feet (40) down to twenty-eight feet (28), a variation of twelve feet (12), in the A-1, Agriculture Preservation Zoning District, pursuant to 2.8 (Variations) and Section 3.5.4 (Lot Development Standards) of Section 3.2 (A-1 Preservation Area District) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance. Located at 5022 Shattuck Road, PIN 08-03-400-033, in unincorporated Spring Township, Boone County, Illinois.  
The applicant, Prairie North Solar LLLC, is seeking a special use permit in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District for a solar energy facility pursuant to section 2.7 Special Use and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) and Chapter 4 Design Criteria for Specific Uses 4.22 Solar Energy Systems Siting 4.2 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance, in unincorporated Boone County, PIN 03-02-300-002, in unincorporated Poplar Grove Township.  
All persons interested may appear at the hearing and be heard at the stated time and place.  
Craig Hale, Vice-Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals  
Published in the Boone County Journal on Thursday November 28, 2024.  
Published in the Boone County Journal Nov 28, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE  
BOONE COUNTY TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR'S  
2024-2025 ANNUAL MEETING  
The Boone County Township Assessor's Annual Meeting will be held, Thursday December 12, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Boone County Assessor's Office, 1208 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. This meeting is being held in accordance with the Illinois Property Tax Code, Article 9, Div. 1, and 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 2025 Assessment Year. This meeting is open to the Public.  
Published in the Boone County Journal Nov 28, 2024



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Service

815-282-4002

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
-BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING,  
Plaintiff,  
vs. CASE NO. 2024FC46  
MICHAEL BRENNAN; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES  
OF PATRICIA BRENNAN; LAURA VANGORKUM  
AKA LAURI VANGORKUM; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND  
LEGATEES OF JENNIFER AANERUD; RYAN STRAW AS  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR PATRICIA BRENNAN;  
MICHAEL BRENNAN; KRISTEN AANERUD; WEST GROVE  
CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND  
NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).  
Property Address: 5000 Trillium Trail Unit 5B Poplar Grove, IL 61065

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION  
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA BRENNAN; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JENNIFER AANERUD; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; , defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:  
UNIT 5B OF WEST GROVE CONDOMINIUMS AS DELINEATED ON A SURVEY OF CERTAIN LOTS OR PART THEREOF IN THE PLAT OF WEST GROVE SUBDIVISION PLAT NO. 1, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4), PART OF THE NORTH HALF (1/2) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) AND PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) ALL IN SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2004R10950 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; WHICH SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "B" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 05R05475 IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS, APPURTENANT TO SAID UNIT, AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION, AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.  
P.I.N.: 03-23-457-038 (new); 03-23-455-001 (old)  
Said property is commonly known as 5000 Trillium Trail Unit 5B, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 and which said mortgage(s) was/were made and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 2006R10666, and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.  
NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County on or before DECEMBER 30, 2024, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).  
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME – DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by contacting the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below.  
This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Telephone: (630) 453-6960  
Facsimile: (630) 428-4620  
Attorney No. Cook 64727, DuPage 293191  
Service E-mail: [midwestpleadings@dallegal.com](mailto:midwestpleadings@dallegal.com)  
6088-948196  
Published in The Boone County Journal Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 2024 SW

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
BOONE COUNTY  
DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT):  
Case No.2024-MR-28  
OISIN SEAMUS SCHOFIELD  
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: OISIN SEAMUS SCHOFIELD to the new name of JAMES RONALD STANIS. The court date will be held on 01/14/2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3  
Published in the Boone County Journal – 11/27, 12/05,12 (P)

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY  
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
No. DBA4212 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a DWELLING RENTAL business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of COUNTRYSIDE COTTAGE that its location is or will be 1492 Bloods Point Road, in Cherry Valley, 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: 815-289-0901  
Mark Hayes, 1415 Bloods Point Road, Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016  
I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: November 12, 2024  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 11/14, 21, 28 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY  
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
No. DBA4211 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a MUSICAL BAND business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of UNENCUMBERED that its location is or will be 1415 Bloods Point Road, in Cherry Valley, 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: 815-289-0901  
Mark Hayes, 1415 Bloods Point Road, Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016  
I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: November 12, 2024  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 11/14, 21, 28 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY  
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
No. DBA4214 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LAWN CARE FERTILIZATION SERVICES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of GREEN BLADE LAWN CARE that its location is or will be 2512 E. 6th 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: 224-762-8110  
Vincent E. Pacello, 2512 E. 6th St., Belvidere, IL 61008  
Cheryl L Pacello 2512 E. 6th St., Belvidere, IL 61008  
I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: November 25, 2024  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 11/27, 12/05,12 - P

Supreme Court  
Dismisses Jussie  
Smollett Convictions,  
Allows Trump Tower  
Defamation Suit

High court says Cook County's initial agreement with actor is binding; former state official can sue Sun-Times  
By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Criminal convictions of actor Jussie Smollett will be dismissed, and a defamation lawsuit against the Chicago Sun-Times will be allowed to continue, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled in a slate of opinions Thursday.  
The high court ruled disorderly conduct charges against Smollett should be dismissed because if they were allowed to stand, he would have been charged for the same crime twice, in violation of his due process rights.  
Smollett's case dates to 2019, when he made what turned out to be a false police report alleging that he'd been violently attacked by two men in downtown Chicago. Smollett, an actor at the time in the Fox TV drama "Empire," claimed the men punched him and yelled homophobic slurs, put a noose around his neck and told Smollett, "This is MAGA country," a reference to then-President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.  
A month later, prosecutors charged Smollett with 16 counts of disorderly conduct for putting on the hoax with a pair of brothers he'd paid to perpetrate the attack. But Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx drew sharp criticism when her office suddenly dropped the charges. As part of what the court ruled was a binding agreement with Foxx's office, Smollett voluntarily forfeited his \$10,000 bond and performed community service.

The state's attorney's office said in court the deal constituted a "just disposition" of the case and it was accepted by a judge.

Smollett's lawyers argued that deal constituted a non-prosecution agreement and punishment, marking what should have been an end for the case.  
But under public scrutiny, Cook County enlisted a special prosecutor who filed six new disorderly conduct charges against Smollett  
continued on page 8



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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually. Individuals wanting to review this form should contact: North Boone CUSD 200 6248 N Boone School Rd Poplar Grove, IL 61065 8548 815-765-3322 Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm  
Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website at www.isbe.net.  
SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

	Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/ Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources 1000 Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District 2000	8,601,405	1,619,804	2,628,421	1,119,680	792,746	1,616,489	60,790	251,472	2,570
State Sources 3000	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	0
Federal Sources4000	9,213,019	600,000	0	1,195,030	227,500	1,113,833	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/ Revenues	2,320,779	0	0	0	1,108	2,780,322	60,790	251,472	2,570
Total Direct Disbursements/ Expenditures	20,135,203	2,219,804	2,628,421	2,314,710	1,021,354	1,918,350	0	300,027	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds	19,823,860	2,090,627	4,419,444	1,470,003	1,023,544	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023	0	0	0	0	0	1,288,299	1,116,326	237,617	63,436
Other Changes in Fund Balances	11,858,653	2,932,117	7,815,926	3,080,322	483,027	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024	0	0	0	0	0	2,150,271	1,177,116	189,062	66,006
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024	12,169,996	3,061,294	6,024,903	3,925,029	480,837	2,150,271	1,177,116	189,062	66,006
	12,371,349	3,061,294	6,024,903	3,925,029	480,837	2,150,271	1,177,116	189,062	66,006

Salary Schedule Of Gross Payments For Certificated Personnel And Non-Certificated Personnel

Gross Payment For Certified Personnel

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Alvarez, Jenna  
Anderson, Julie A  
Berringer, Karen K  
Blackmer, Elizabeth L  
Cahill, Shauna  
Doetch, Ashley  
Falk-Kopala, Lisa M  
Fleeger, Reid  
Gregory, Cathryn A  
Hanaman, Mark E  
Hohenzy, Keven P  
Hoiness, Kimberly A  
Lee, Logan  
Manning, Anne J  
Miller, Michael C  
Nichols, Jennifer L  
Pienta, Joseph  
Ritter, Danielle L  
Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999  
Behrends, Tylor  
Lott, Jordyn  
Mooney, Brandon  
Piererson, Nicholas  
Weinmann, Brianna M

Hayden, Kristin M  
Hilton, Ashlee N  
Houselog, Antoinette C  
Jeffers, Jacqueline A  
Johnson, Allison  
Jole, Krystal  
Kastning, Cynthia J  
Katz, Katelyn M  
Kelley, Ryan J  
Keppel, Lindsey M  
Kuhn, Kayla V  
Laing, Megan  
Lammersfeld, Johnny  
Lange, Judy D  
Lerch, Linnea  
Lilja, Martha L  
Mcfadden, Zena K  
Mclee, Jason D  
Meyer, Brandon J  
Miller, Kristen  
Moon, Sandra J  
Moran, Eileen K  
Nilson, Megan L  
North, Carol A  
Oetting, Aaron P  
O’toole, Tammy  
Peterson, Jarrod M  
Pfligler, Katie L  
Podraza, Kathleen L  
Protz, Matthew V  
Ribovich, Jessica L  
Roberts, Lloyd M  
Rogers, Jodie L  
Schabacker, Tracy M  
Schultz, Lisa M  
Seipts, Dawn  
Shank, Chris J  
Siggelkov, David C  
Smart, Sean M  
Solomon, Kyle R  
Stachowiak, Kendra L  
Surratt, Heidi A  
Swanson, Britta E  
Swenson, Sandra  
Timpe, Wesley R  
Tinberg, Karise J  
Troha, Jeanette M  
Ullrich, Robert  
Vlase, Diana G  
Wesbecher, Michael R  
Wessel, Robert K  
Williams, Richard E  
Wilson, Marcy R  
Winebaugh, Julie N  
Wykes, Emily D

Salary Range: \$90,000 And Over

Brody, Lynn C  
Difford, Nicole C  
Doetch, Tami  
Eckmann, Marc J  
Geiger, Jason M  
Greenlee, Michael J  
Hanaman, Kelly M  
Kamholz, Brenda K  
Louis, Allison J  
Maten, Cindy  
Maville, Kimberly A  
Neri, Kari L  
Peterson, Cheryl L  
Rentsch, Verna C  
Saveley, Elizabeth A  
Squires, Stephanie L  
Sullivan, Aaron D  
Townsend, Kellie A  
Walsh, Heather  
Winebrenner, Michael D  
Zimber, Lisa M

Gross Payment For Non-Certified Personnel

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Antonsen, Julie  
Arata, Jill A  
Berg, Jeremy  
Burke, Frank M  
Gregory-Elms, Emily R  
Guthrie, Amy  
Hahn, Amanda S  
Harkness, Shannon L

Cekus, Kerrie M  
Christensen, Taryn  
Chudoba, Laurie L  
Cichon, Pasquina  
Cooke, Connie D  
Corson, Tina  
Cosio, Ruby  
Dennin, Megan A  
Dobratz, Leah  
Ekberg, Amy  
Emanuel, Natalie R  
Estes, Kaela S  
Ferguson, Nadine K  
Forsell, Kristi  
Frick, Thomas G  
Funk, Laura K  
Gamino, Daniel  
Garbacz, Alexis  
Gillespie, Jessica J  
Greenstreet, Nicole  
Hall, Karly C  
Hanaman, Erik  
Harris, Amanda M  
Haselhorst, Jessica L  
Henning, Susan M  
Hollingsworth, Christina  
Hollis, Laurie  
Houk, Holly  
Hribik, Thomas  
Istad, Sara  
Jestafie Ii, Andrej N  
Johnson, Christina  
Joyce, Daniel P  
Koch, Angela T  
Krumsee, Ronald A  
Lagro, Margaret  
Larsen, Nicholas  
Lavariega, Marco  
Leake, Anne M  
Levchenko, Olena  
Lewandowski, Laura  
Livdahl, Amber L  
Luna, Jessica  
Martinez, Jessica A  
Mayborne, Christine L  
Morales, Linda  
Nelson, Vicki L  
Nino, Christina  
Pearce, Jennifer M  
Pieper, Kathleen  
Pohlman, John W  
Rabe, Candy E  
Rabe, Shantel N  
Richardson, Amanda L  
Ries, Jayne M  
Riley, Jennifer L  
Rivera, Evelyn  
Roberts, Erica M  
Rodriguez, Vanessa  
Ruiz-Hernandez, Nayely  
Saran, Zachary  
Scherrer, Courtney  
Schuster, Jeri L  
Secor, Julie  
Seipts, Isabelle  
Shrontz, Jessica  
Smith, Amanda L  
Sorensen, Brittany L  
Sunden, Janel C  
Swanson, Margarette C  
Synove, Christina  
Venegas, Justine D  
Ventura, Cynthia  
Vermett, Vince  
Von Bosse, Carol  
Wagner, Cynthia  
Wagner, Sandra M  
Webb, Melissa  
Weiland, Amy L  
Weinmann, Brianna M  
Wells, Nickole R  
York, Eve  
Yurs, Christine  
Znoy, Laura

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999

Atayde, Sarah  
Bartlett, Jodi  
Burmeister, Janice  
Cunningham, Jamie S  
Davis, Kayla  
Dhamer, Lauren K

Falk-Kopala, Lisa M  
Ferguson, Kara  
Hansen, Michele L  
Havlovic, Michele L  
Izzo, Shawn J  
Johnson, Craig  
Jones, Julie K  
Kammerer, Jeff D  
Krause, Jennifer C  
Lee, Jodi L  
Lee, Ofelia L  
Lee, Rita E  
Metzger, Mike T  
Mitchell, Tammy  
Mulholland, Linda  
Nachampassack, Melissa  
Nolen, Traci R  
Osterberg, Kelly  
Petersen, Nancy F  
Radke, Marilyn S  
Richards, Laura  
Shook, Bridgette M  
Spence, Wendy  
St. Germain, Rita  
Steffen, Susann M  
Timm, Sherry M  
Walters, Bruce  
Weberpal, Bethany L  
Welzen, Nancy L  
Wieczorek, Amanda N  
Williams, Matthew  
Winkler, Matthew  
Wolski, Maria  
Zarndt, Susan

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999

Christensen, Lisa M  
Embry, Jodie L  
Gooding, Elizabeth D  
Hill, Sandra L  
Jeffers, Dennis F  
Jenson, Laura L  
Johnson, Michele M  
Jones, Hobert  
Krup, Kerri L  
Mamer-Cox, Jason L  
Mckibben, Christine  
Meier, Russell  
Moore, Patricia A  
Ortgiesen, John D  
Piskie, Mary  
Riley, Jonathan  
Schultz, Dean W  
Sowers, Andrea  
Timmerman, Ronald S  
Ulrich, David R  
Whitt, James P  
Williams, Randall E

Salary Range: \$60,000 And Over

Aaby, Vienna  
Barkon, Alla  
Corder, Stacey N  
Nolen, James P  
Porter, Randall L  
Prince, Kathy  
Rudolph, Gerald Iii  
Straw, Bradley  
Taylor, Letitia

Payments To Person, Firm, Or Corporation Over \$2,500 Excluding Wages And Salaries

Jakes Electric Llc+Bb10:C45  
City Cruises  
M-F Athletic Company  
Twin Towers  
Abraxas Alliance, Inc  
Compsych Corporation  
Lechtenberg & Associates Llc  
Best Western - Vision Hospitality Inc  
Od Sports Acquisition, Inc  
Bsn Sports Llc  
Ebsco Industries, Inc  
Parkland Preparatory Academy, Inc  
Boone County Treasurer  
Hands On Tasks  
Newsela, Inc.  
Unity School Bus Parts  
Airbnb  
Ei Us, Llc  
Il Ascd Schimmer  
Lrp Publications  
Walmart Inc.  
Varsity Brands Holding Co., Inc  
Scholastic Inc  
Soliant Health  
Intrado Interactive Services Corp  
Quadient Finance Usa, Inc, Inc  
Mobymax, Llc  
School Specialty Llc  
A-Fire Extinguisher Sales  
Firm Systems  
Edpuzzle, Inc.  
Central Products Llc  
Institute For Multi-Sensory Education  
Timeout Services Llc.  
Automatic Fire Systems  
Kahoot!  
Xello Inc.  
Team Fitz Graphics, Llc  
Notable Incorporated  
Fleetpride, Inc.  
Pro Com Systems  
Wevideo, Inc  
3p Learning Inc.  
Swank Movie Licensing Usa  
Learning Technology Center  
Woodstock Cusd 200  
Pace Analytical Services, Llc  
Port-A-John Stateline Svc Co  
Demco  
Physicians Immediate Care  
Seal Of Illinois  
Gregs Garage Inc  
Village Of Capron  
Jason’s Deli  
Math Teachers Press, Inc  
Tools For Schools  
Ecra Group Inc  
Sterling Commercial Roofing, Inc  
Lightspeed Solutions, Llc  
Collins Sanitary  
Stalker Sports Floors  
Screencastify, Llc  
Advance Professional  
Edmentum, Inc  
Aed Essentials  
Family Zone, Inc  
Vestis (Aramark)  
Lawncare By Walter, Inc  
Village Of Poplar Grove  
Johnson Tractor, Inc.  
Jamie Dornink  
Ncs Pearson  
Dax Kirchhoff Decorating  
Allison R Bradt  
Optrics Inc.  
Lakeside International Llc  
Ehc Industries, Inc  
Jenny L. Seitz  
Normal Lodging Llc  
B & K Concrete  
College Entrance Examination Board  
Brucker Company  
Shi International Corp  
Bandt Communication Inc  
M Reyes Landscaping  
Batteries Plus  
Pitney Bowes Purchase Power  
Abby Pest Elimination Llc  
Belvidere School District #100

Deere Credit, Inc	7,800.00	Sunbelt Staffing	14,700.00	Stefanie Mcwilliams	40,500.00
Dell Marketing L.p.	7,857.30	Noredink	14,828.00	Odp Business Solutions, Llc	41,294.55
Scholastic Inc	8,017.65	Learning A-Z	15,088.98	Constellation New Energy, Inc	41,444.89
United Laboratories	8,071.05	Ks Statebank	15,168.00	Norwest Construction Inc	42,096.90
Sherwin-Williams Belvidere Store 32	8,615.81	Alpha Baking Company	15,446.23	Hamblock Ford Lincoln	43,672.20
Agile Sports Technologies DbA Hudl	8,700.00	Franczek P.c.	16,023.15	Pro-Source Dist Inc	44,859.20
Kully Supply Inc	8,708.65	Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc	16,092.66	Voya	48,918.77
Dearborn Life	8,733.82	Benchmark Flooring Inc	16,340.00	Schuring & Schuring Inc	50,347.40
Marcia Brenner Associates	8,762.50	Faciliserv, Inc.	16,582.00	Roe 4+	50,550.00
Hilton	9,065.25	Johnson Controls Fire Protection Lp	17,192.26	Computer Dynamics	54,449.00
Johnson Controls Inc	9,089.00	Teachercentric Inc.	17,600.00	Cashman Stahler Group Inc	55,432.49
Canon Solutions America, Inc.	9,518.47	Primetime Audio/Video	17,917.99	Catalyst For Educational Change	55,815.45
Global Archery Products, Inc	9,772.80	Heinemann	18,999.19	Howard Industries, Inc	59,870.00
Bluum Of Minnesota, Llc	9,799.00	Wayside Family Farms, Llc	19,140.00	Ruby Lalanía Lawson - Love Your Classro	67,984.03
T-Mobile Usa Inc.	9,823.90	Ceanci	19,664.00	Powerschool Group, Llc	68,092.86
Best Buy Stores, L.p.	9,903.13	Cdw Government	19,891.35	Technology Plus, Llc	71,476.25
Gallagher Bassett Serv., Inc.	10,000.00	Educere Llc	20,242.06	Amazon Capital Services	83,142.89
Mullmentum Consulting	10,000.00	Mcgraw-Hill School Education, Llc	20,640.67	Constellation Newenergy - Gas	89,742.63
Houghton Mifflin Company	10,110.05	Expertpay.com	20,914.92	Precision Sports Training, Llc	90,000.04
Rock Valley Culligan	10,160.20	lasb	20,943.95	Maxim Healthcare Services Holdings, Inc	90,392.51
Lakeshore Learning Materials	10,370.35	Mnw Telecom	21,244.15	Special Education Services	93,371.96
Gopher Sports	10,578.01	Wisconsin Dept. Of Revenue	21,388.97	Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago	94,842.09
Nearpod Inc	10,600.00	Mdc Environmental Services	22,378.33	North Boone Education Association	97,021.00
Arbiter Sports Llc	10,880.00	Follett Content Solutions, Llc	23,640.68	Northwestern Illinois Association	104,297.50
Sheraton Grand Chicago	10,918.80	Solution Tree, Inc	23,961.11	Delta Dental Of Il - Risk	129,979.48
Regional Access & Mobilization Proj	10,926.00	Aramark Uniform Services	24,427.07	Teachers Retirment System	136,719.42
Pr Etc, Inc.	11,500.00	Ixl Learning, Inc.	24,517.00	Rock Valley College	143,376.75
Discovery Education, Inc	11,655.00	Klein Thorpe And Jenkins, Ltd	25,216.02	Itsavvy	145,380.25
Sound Incorporated	11,727.00	Gorenz And Associates, Ltd.	25,405.00	Heartland Business Systems, Llc	153,642.29
Pomp's Tire Service	12,075.58	Schoolbells Ltd	25,880.00	Allendale Association	165,826.11
Nevco Inc.	12,089.11	Jesus M Mota	26,730.00	Omni & Tsacg	181,181.14
Diversified Benefit Services, Inc	12,562.64	Ahw Llc - Harvard	27,357.88	Camelot Therapeutic Schools, Llc	200,938.58
Bound To Stay Bound Books, Inc	12,646.12	Frontline Technologies Group Llc	27,511.82	Conserv Fs	221,104.07
Adtec Administrative Consulting Inc	12,925.00	Rush Truck Center	28,397.25	Center For Collaborative Classroom	258,865.00
Explore Learning Llc	12,946.50	Roe #4	28,410.00	Gordon Food Service, Inc	265,900.62
Brainpop Llc	13,115.78	Allstate Benefits	29,594.54	Nextera Energy Services	287,466.81
Center For Collaborative Classroom	13,119.60	Menards - Machesney Park	31,620.94	Prairie State Insurance Cooperative	295,507.30
Nwea	13,162.50	Nbess	31,850.59	Rockford Public Schools, Dist 205	339,142.68
Grainger	13,310.00	North Boone Cusd Flexible Spending	32,118.44	Ceroni Piping Company	413,762.37
Brenda Haynes	13,660.00	Carmax	33,396.00	Imrf	532,578.76
N2y Inc	14,074.88	Tyler Technologies, Inc	33,642.19	Illinois Dept. Of Revenue	635,614.19
Bw Team Gear & Athletic Equip, Inc	14,165.32	Decision Systems Co	34,409.22	Action Cleaners, Inc	637,222.75
Imagine Learning, Llc	14,235.00	Carmax	36,343.00	Hartwig Mechanical	955,848.09
American Building Services	14,273.19	Frontier	36,980.98	Teachers Retirement System	1,110,906.38
Riddell/All American Sports Corp	14,354.83	Paper Education Company Inc.	39,322.50	Eftps.com	2,097,705.71
				Blue Cross/Blue Shield	2,218,203.59

Mail-In

election to monitor counting.

The appeals court made a “major error by treating candidates’ likely electoral prospects as relevant to the standing analysis, where a challenged statute inflicted real costs on their campaigns,” Judicial Watch argued.

“Apparently, judges in pre-election cases must now try to predict electoral outcomes,” the group said.

A State Board of Elections spokesperson declined to comment on pending litigation.

Bost, who has represented the 12th Congressional District in southern Illinois since 2015, was reelected this month with nearly 75% of the vote, according to preliminary results. Judicial Watch said it worried “illegal votes could diminish his margin of victory” and make it appear that he is growing more unpopular with his constituents. Bost himself argued his races have seen more mail-in ballots in recent campaigns.

Judicial Watch also argued Bost filed this case to preemptively correct perceived issues with the vote by mail law, which they believe gives him standing in federal court cases and is something the nation’s high court should be interested in addressing.

The group called Bost’s challenge “an ideal vehicle” for the court to rule on vote by mail. “The need to have that issue resolved, and outside of emergency litigation, is great,” the group said.

Judicial Watch also pointed to largely unfounded concerns about the reliability of elections because of late counting of mail in ballots as another reason the U.S. Supreme Court needs to get involved.

“It is important that courts hear and resolve well-pleaded challenges by federal candidates to state time, place and manner regulations affecting their elections,” the group said. “Aside from the interests of the litigants, it is important that the public conclude that elections are run in an orderly, not arbitrary, fashion.”

Republicans in Illinois and at the national level embraced mail-in voting in the 2024 election cycle after pushing back against it in recent years. The Illinois Republican Party joined the Republican National Committee’s “bank your vote” initiative, which encouraged reliable Republican voters to vote early or by mail so campaign resources could be focused on turning out people on the fence about voting or who were undecided.

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Supreme Court

in 2020. He was convicted in 2021 and given a 150-day jail sentence, which has been put on hold as Smollett goes through the appeals process. Now, he’ll never serve it.

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that Foxx’s initial decision to drop the charges was, in fact, a non-prosecution agreement.

“We are aware that this case has generated significant public interest and that many people were dissatisfied with the resolution of the original case and believed it to be unjust,” Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford wrote in a Thursday opinion. “Nevertheless, what would be more unjust than the resolution of any one criminal case would be a holding from this court that the State was not bound to honor agreements upon which people have detrimentally relied.”

In a 5-0 ruling with justices Mary Jane Theis and Joy V. Cunningham abstaining, the justices overruled the appellate court and circuit court decisions, directing the lower court to dismiss the convictions.

Sun-Times defamation case

The justices also unanimously ruled that a former chair of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board can continue to sue the Chicago Sun-Times for its reporting on his handling of a property tax appeal at Trump Tower.

Mauro Glorioso, a former chair of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board who later became its executive director, sued the newspaper in 2021, alleging he was defamed by coverage of the board’s handling of a property tax appeal for Trump Tower in downtown Chicago.

The reporting centered on an anonymous November 2019 complaint to the state’s Office of Executive Inspector General that named Glorioso and others. The paper obtained a copy of the complaint, which outlined alleged misconduct that occurred when Glorioso was PTAB’s chairman, but not yet its executive director.

The complaint, which has since been ruled unfounded by the OEIG, claimed that Glorioso, a Republican, told staff “he wanted a large reduction in the assessment of Trump Tower because the owner of the property was the president of the United States.”

Staff had not initially recommended reducing

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property taxes, but ultimately altered their decision to recommend a \$1 million reduction. A chief administrative law judge later said that decision was made to rectify an overassessment that occurred in 2011, and the recommendation to reduce the assessment was upheld by an appellate court last year.

Glorioso’s lawsuit contends the paper mischaracterized the OEIG investigation, misstated Glorioso’s motivation as political and overstated his involvement in the decision.

The court wasn’t asked to decide whether the paper engaged in defamation, but rather whether the suit should be dismissed as a “strategic lawsuit against public participation” under the state’s Citizen Participation Act. That state law is designed to protect against litigation that “chills and diminishes citizen participation in government.”

To have the lawsuit thrown out as a SLAPP, the Sun-Times had to show its reporting was “in furtherance of government participation” and that the lawsuit was both meritless and retaliatory.

The opinion noted that the Sun-Times argued its news articles furthered government participation because they addressed a matter of “public concern” and were “‘investigative reports’ about the activities of a public official within a government agency.”

Glorioso’s team argued such protections are not specifically conferred in the law, and the justices agreed, stating the law does not protect all news reporting.

“The Act’s plain language encompasses acts of ‘participation in government’ and does not contain language extending such protection to speech regarding matters of public concern that do not amount to ‘government’ participation,” Justice David K. Overstreet wrote in his opinion, which was supported unanimously with Rochford abstaining.

Overstreet further wrote that the Sun-Times reporting wasn’t investigative in nature but was rather detailing a separate government investigation.

“The articles did not constitute a firsthand account of an investigation conducted by defendants into government activities, and an objective reader would consider the purpose of the articles was to report the news, rather than to elicit a particular action on the part of government or the electorate,” Overstreet wrote.

The decision upheld rulings at the circuit court and appellate level, allowing the defamation suit to move forward at the lower level.