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## Bears Pitch \$3.2Billion Stadium Plan, Pritzker Still 'Skeptical' Despite Team's \$2Billion Pledge

*Bears executives, city leaders make appeal for \$900Million in public funding, \$1.5Billion for infrastructure*

By Dilpreet Raju & Jerry Nowicki  
Capitol News Illinois

The Chicago Bears laid out a \$3.2 billion plan for a new domed stadium on Chicago's lakefront last week, painting pictures of future Super Bowls and other major public events while pinning their hopes on yet-to-be-had conversations with the governor and lawmakers.

The Bears – accompanied by Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson at a Wednesday news conference – proposed a public-private partnership through which the Bears lease the stadium from the Chicago Park District. While the team would put up over \$2 billion of the \$3.2 billion needed to build the stadium, it's also seeking \$1.5 billion in infrastructure support over several years to realize its vision for a multi-use public park space on Chicago's lakefront Museum Campus.

Chicago Bears president and CEO Kevin Warren said the \$2 billion committed by the Bears would be the largest private investment in Chicago history. He also said a new stadium would provide thousands of temporary and long-term jobs for Chicagoans. Warren joined the Bears in early 2023 after previously brokering a deal to bring the Minnesota Vikings a new stadium with a public-private partnership in Minneapolis.

"Look around Chicago, I know the mayor is doing all that he can with his leadership to lean in to get economic development going," Warren said. "We want to be that catalyst."

Despite that major commitment, Bears executives sought to fill an estimated \$900 million "gap" through state funding via a bond from the Illinois Sports Facility Authority, a state agency created in the 1980s to finance new sports stadiums. The team also proposed using the city's

*Continued on page 2*



An artist rendering of the Chicago Bears' stadium proposal. (Photo provided by the Chicago Bears)



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Chicago Bears Chairman George McCaskey pose together after announcing the Bears are seeking to build a new stadium. Johnson said he supports the plan as Gov. JB Pritzker and others raised concern over use of public dollars. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Dilpreet Raju)

## Kentucky Derby 150

Saturday, May 4, 2024—Post time, 5:57PM, Belvidere Time

These are the horses in the 150th Kentucky Derby as of press time, with their position, trainer, jockey, and morning line odds.

***It's impossible to handicap this race, but have fun trying!***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Dornoch, Danny Gargan, Luis Saez, 20-1                 | 12. West Saratoga, Larry Demeritte, Jesus Castanon, 50-1            |
| 2. Sierra Leone, Chad Brown, Tyler Gaffalione, 3-1        | 13. Endlessly, Michael McCarthy, Umberto Rispoli, 30-1              |
| 3. Mystik Dan, Kenny McPeek, Brian Hernandez Jr., 20-1    | 14. Domestic Product, Chad Brown, Irad Ortiz Jr., 30-1              |
| 4. Catching Freedom, Brad Cox, Flavien Prat, 8-1          | 15. Grand Mo the First, Victor Barboza Jr., Emisael Jaramillo, 50-1 |
| 5. Catalytic, Saffie Joseph Jr., Jose Ortiz, 30-1         | 16. Fierceness, Todd Pletcher, John Velazquez, 5-2                  |
| 6. Just Steel, D. Wayne Lukas, Keith Asmussen, 20-1       | 17. Stronghold, Phil D'Amato, Antonio Fresu, 20-1                   |
| 7. Honor Marie, Whit Beckman, Ben Curtis, 20-1            | 18. Resilience, Bill Mott, Junior Alvarado, 20-1                    |
| 8. Just a Touch, Brad Cox, Florent Geroux, 10-1           | 19. Society Man, Danny Gargan, Frankie Dettori, 50-1                |
| 9. T O Password, Daisuke Takayanagi, Kazushi Kimura, 30-1 | 20. Epic Ride, John Ennis, Adam Beschizza, 30-1                     |
| 10. Forever Young, Yoshito Yahagi, Ryusei Sakai, 10-1     |   |
| 11. Track Phantom, Steve Asmussen, Joel Rosario, 20-1     |   |

*Remember, live horse racing returns to Belvidere on August 6th, 2024.  
Post time 12 Noon, Boone County Fairgrounds.*

**Bears****from page 1**

existing hotel tax and restructuring ISFA's current debt over a 40-year period.

While the proposal represents the largest private commitment of any of the recent pushes by professional sports teams for a new stadium yet, it was quickly met with skepticism by Gov. JB Pritzker, who was at a concurrent news conference at Loyola University Chicago.

"I'm highly skeptical of the proposal that's been made and I believe strongly that this is not a high priority for legislators, and certainly not for me when I compare it to all the other things," Pritzker said.

The governor downplayed the competing news conferences. He'd scheduled his in advance to highlight health insurance reforms that recently cleared the House with his support. The Bears' announcement was scheduled within the past two days.

Part of the proposal includes developing about 15 acres of recreational park space for public use and more stadium vendor businesses owned by women and people of color. Johnson hailed the project for upholding his "criteria for any new development project."

"We require real private investment, real public use and real economic participation for the entire city," he said.

He noted no new taxes would be imposed on Chicago residents and the city can expect "increased tax revenue from this investment, expanded public recreation, stronger economic growth for the entire city of Chicago for generations to come."

Team leaders claimed in their presentation that the stadium would create over 40,000 construction jobs and over 4,000 permanent jobs.

The Bears' presentation noted the organization was seeking about \$1.5 billion in three phases of infrastructure investment that could come "at the state level, at the potentially federal level, potentially at the city level," according to Warren, who gave no specifics.

Karen Murphy, the team's executive vice president of stadium development and chief operating officer, said that includes \$325 million in transportation, roadway and utility improvements that would be needed to open the stadium.

The remaining funding – at least \$1.1 billion – would come over a period of at least five years. That could include \$510 million in a second phase of construction for things such as parking upgrades and building surrounding parks and ballfields, followed by \$665 million for further attractions and transportation improvements in a third phase. Bears representatives said those estimates are subject to change.

Pritzker mentioned "higher priorities for the state" than building a football stadium, including his \$4.4 million proposed investment in birth equity centers to create a statewide plan and distribute building grants. And he noted Missouri voters rejected a stadium funding plan for the reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs and for the Kansas City Royals baseball team.

"The problem is that the offer that they've made just isn't one that I think the taxpayers are interested in getting engaged in," Pritzker said of the proposal, later adding, "We've seen this fail over and over across the United States."

House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, who attended the governor's news conference at Loyola, said he gave Warren a blunt assessment when they recently met privately.

"If we were to put this issue on the board for a vote right now, it would fail and it would fail miserably. There is no environment for something like this today," he said.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, also expressed skepticism in a statement.

"At first glance, more than \$2 billion in private funding is better than zero and a more credible opening offer," he said. "But there's an obvious, substantial gap remaining, and I echo the governor's skepticism."

As for the bonding authority sought by the Bears, Pritzker noted three pro sports teams are seeking money through the ISFA for a new stadium – the Bears, the Chicago White Sox baseball team and the Chicago Red Stars women's soccer team.

"And this is one team that is offering to take all of the tax revenue for their stadium and

there apparently is nothing left over for the other two teams," Pritzker said.

While Pritzker had not been briefed on the proposal prior to Wednesday's news conference, Warren said team representatives "look forward to having some detailed conversations with the state here in the near future."

"Today was the first day that we have been able to publicly roll out our plan," he said. "It's very difficult for someone to say they're against this and we just presented it, so we look forward to having more conversations with individuals in Springfield."

When pressed by media at the Loyola event as to whether there was a "path" for him to support a subsidy plan, Pritzker responded "sure," but with a caveat.

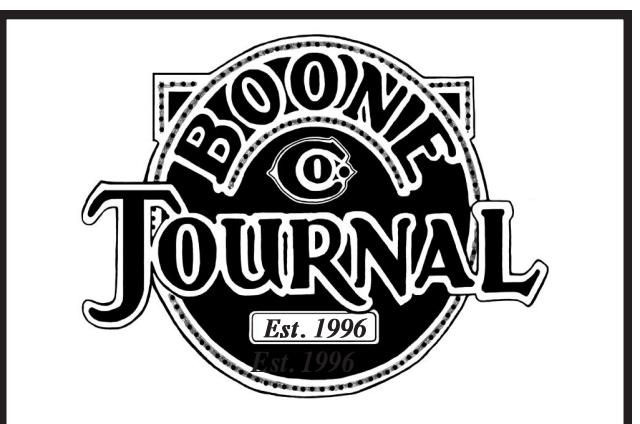
"This has got to be a lot better for taxpayers than what they put forward. That's all I'm saying," he added.

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## OBITUARIES

Edward "Arnie" Dotzler, 77, Belvidere, April 26  
 Robert Fisher, 75, Belvidere, April 22  
 James Geaschel, 79, Cherry Valley, April 21  
 Cleon Gens, 69, Harvard, April 22  
 Mary "Janet" Lacke, 85, Belvidere, April 27  
 Nancy Mohns, 86, Formerly of Belvidere, April 19  
 Linda Sherwood, 75, Belvidere, March 29  
 Edward "Eddie" Smith Jr., 65, Belvidere, April 25  
 Lisa Vance, 60, Garden Prairie, April 22  
 Robert Whitney, 96, Formerly of Belvidere, Feb. 6



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 Charles Herbst  
 Susan Moran

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## Flora Township Road Commissioner Sought

Flora Township is seeking qualified people to finish out Flora Township Road Commissioner term beginning September 1, 2024 through May 18, 2025 at which time a newly elected Road Commissioner will take over. All applicants must reside in Flora Township for one year prior and reside in township for the entire term. Applicants must also be a registered voter in Flora Township. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Kenneth Freeman, 929 Irene Rd. Cherry Valley, IL 61016. Deadline for applicants is close of business July 1, 2024.

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# Belvidere is Looking for Firefighters

## Press Release

The City of Belvidere and the Belvidere Fire Department announce the opening of their application period for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic. The application period will run from May 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2024.

The Belvidere Fire Department has been serving the City of Belvidere since 1886. It protects the city's population of 25,585 covering an area of 12.5 square miles. In 2023 the Belvidere Fire Department responded to 3,322 calls for service. The Department maintains a full-time staff of 42 members and operates from two Fire Stations and an Ambulance Station to provide effective coverage throughout the city. We are seeking highly self motivated individuals that are passionate about serving others and providing for our community. Belvidere Fire prides itself on strong teamwork, leadership skills, smart but aggressive tactics, safety and an "All In" attitude. Experience is not necessary to apply, but the courage and willingness to serve others in their greatest time of need is. We will equip and train the perfect candidate to be at the level we need them to be. When you become a member of the Belvidere Fire Department you become a member of our family from day one.

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# THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

real journalism for a real democracy  
--In Our Opinion--

## Da Bare Facts

Last week, the Chicago Bears released fancy renderings of the stadium they would like to build on Chicago's Lakefront to replace Soldier Field. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson was there cheering them on. (Right now, Mayor Johnson needs to post a win even more than the Chicago White Sox!)

Like so many big Chicago proposals, the name "Daniel Burnham" was invoked along with Burnham's admonition to "make no little plans." A celebrated architect, Daniel Burnham created the master plan for the City of Chicago in 1909. Missing from the presentation was Burnham's equally famous exhortation to keep the lakefront space open, as it belongs to the people.

Open lakefront considerations aside, this project would allegedly be paid for by the McCaskey family, owners of the Chicago Bears, who would generously spend \$2.3 billion of their money to build this football palace. It would all be wonderful, with a weather-controlled stadium and great public spaces indoors and out.

Of course, there was the little matter of asking the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority to also borrow \$900 million for the project, for which the taxpayers of Illinois ultimately would be liable. (So, yes, it is of concern to Boone County.) The Authority would also refinance the \$430 million spent on previous projects, including the flying-saucer renovation of Soldier Field and \$160 million on top of that to create a "liquidity cushion."

Naturally, the City of Chicago would commit an additional \$1.5 billion in infrastructure improvements to support this great edifice.

Not to worry, though. The Bears organization reassured everyone that none of this will cost taxpayers a dime.

**The last we heard, the Bears were moving to Arlington Heights.**

That apparently didn't work out so well. It seems the McCaskeys were offended that the local school district expected the Bears to pay their fair share of property taxes for the local schools. (Why, the local school trustees must be Packers fans or something!) Immediately, a parade of suburbs from Naperville to Joliet to Waukegan suddenly were courting the Bears to build a new stadium in their fair cities. We're surprised Belvidere didn't put in a bid!

Governor J.B. Pritzker would have to approve the Sports Facilities Authority's loans. Pritzker (after reassuring everyone that he was, indeed,

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Bears fan and, indeed, wanted a domed stadium in Chicago) said he believed that the team's owners, the McCaskeys, should pay for the "vast majority" of the project. And that the taxpayers, if they put up anything, "should be getting return on the investment that they're making."

We agree with Governor Pritzker.

Study after study based on the empirical evidence of publicly supported or subsidized sports stadiums has shown that they are a bad investment for taxpayers. Chicago is already saddled with a mountain of debt and a large backlog of urgently needed projects. Much of that is from the latest Soldier Field renovations. And if Chicago has trouble paying all of those bills, rest assured that they will be at the General Assembly in Springfield, crying for help.

Effective schools, efficient transit, and affordable housing need to come before professional sports facilities.

Of course, this "naysaying" does not play well with the rah-rah crowd, both city and suburban, who wants a shiny new stadium. They are much like those in Belvidere who chant "we want a choo-choo" and refuse to acknowledge the reality that their train fantasy is not financially feasible.

Great public works are what make a city thrive, and we support building them. Silly projects like a new stadium for the Chicago Bears do not. Nor do ill-conceived "political projects" like Chicago's proposed multi-billion-dollar CTA Red Line elevated train extension to 130th Street. There are parallel Metra trains, both to the east and west of the proposed route, just a mile away. Multiple CTA bus routes crisscross the area. We are told that the "Roseland community" is a transit desert. Belvidere, with no bus service to the east—and virtually nothing to Rockford—must be the Sahara by those standards!

Another silly state political project is to spend over \$100 million building a four-lane replacement for Business Route 20 between Rockford and Belvidere. The new road would have three additional traffic signals and a 45-mph speed limit, replacing the current 55-mph limit. Of course, the current speed of traffic on that road is usually something over 60. When we noted that, despite numerous road "improvements," the travel time between Rockford and Belvidere is already slower than it was at the end of World War II. The proffered justification for an even slower road was that it will be "safer." (We were not aware that the present road was particularly dangerous.) Obviously, the sponsoring politicians and Illinois Department of Transportation couldn't care less about the inconvenience this will visit on Belviderians and others making the journey.

We note that Illinois has almost universally higher tax rates than Wisconsin or Indiana. If we are going to pay more, we should get more. We want constructive, well-conceptualized projects, not boondoggles.

Maybe the Bears should move back to Decatur. Perhaps their local taxpayers will pay to plant a couple of goal posts in a local park!

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# Tollway Ramp to Close

*Staff Report*

The Illinois Tollway has announced that, beginning next week, the Genoa Road exit ramp from Westbound Interstate 90 (from Chicago) at Genoa Road will be closed overnight from 9PM to 6AM for road repairs. The Westbound entrance ramp (toward Rockford) will also be closed. Traffic will be detoured to the Irene Road exit and entrance.

Also, sometime during the week of May 13, the Eastbound (from Rockford) exit ramp at Genoa Road will be closed for one night from 9PM to 6AM. A detour will be posted advising Belvidere-bound traffic to exit at Genoa Road. During that week, the shoulders on the Eastbound entrance ramp (toward Chicago) will also be closed, but the ramp itself will remain open.

Ramp repairs will be made at Genoa Road later this year.



## Election Officials To Weigh Whether Darren Bailey and GOP Operative Dan Proft Illegally Coordinated

*Complaint brought by Democratic official likely to be decided this summer*

*By Andrew Adams & Hannah Meisel*

*Capitol News Illinois*

A year and a half after Republican Darren Bailey lost his campaign to challenge Gov. JB Pritzker, state election officials are weighing whether he illegally colluded with conservative radio show host and political operative Dan Proft in the 2022 campaign.

The State Board of Elections on Monday convened a hearing on the matter, launched in a complaint by a top official with the state's Democratic party in the waning days of the 2022 campaign cycle. The complaint alleges Proft's independent expenditure committee – the "People Who Play By The Rules PAC" – coordinated with Bailey, violating both state and federal law.

If the board finds that the two organizations did illegally coordinate, Proft's organization and Bailey's campaign could be on the hook for millions of dollars in fines.

During Monday's hearing, David Fox, an attorney for Democratic Party of Illinois Executive Director Ben Hardin, who lodged the complaint, painted a picture of illegal campaign coordination via a secret meeting, use of campaign footage in advertisements and Bailey's appearances on Proft's AM radio show.

"Mr. Bailey directly told Mr. Proft what message he wanted to get out. And Mr. Proft's

PAC then released multiple ads on that message," Fox said. "A straightforward request and response. It happened in public but that makes no difference."

Proft, who still co-hosts his "Chicago's Morning Answer" morning drive-time radio show despite his relocation to Naples, Florida, made the trip back to Chicago for the hearing. During Monday morning's show, Proft confirmed to co-host Amy Jacobson that the hearing happened to fall on his birthday, and that he'd be celebrating "in Illinois State Board of Elections prison."

"I don't care. You know, you just have to deal with this specious lawfare from fraudsters like Marc Elias representing fraudsters like Jelly Belly Pritzker," Proft said, referring to Democratic attorney Marc Elias, whose firm employs the DPI attorneys handling the case, and using a derogatory nickname for Pritzker.

During the hearing, Hardin's lawyers described a meeting between Proft and Bailey that took place the day after Bailey won the Illinois Republican primary in June 2022. On that day, Bailey traveled to a Chicago-area country club where he, his campaign manager Jose Durbin, and Proft met in a backroom to discuss the campaign.

At that meeting, Proft told Bailey that Republican megadonor Richard Uihlein had agreed to provide \$20 million to Bailey's campaign – and allegedly slid an envelope over to Bailey containing a check to that effect – if Proft was given control over it.

Questioned about the meeting on Monday, Bailey confirmed that it became heated as Proft made clear his disagreements with Durbin's managing of Bailey's campaign up to that point.

"Mr. Proft, in your own words, called Mr. Durbin an 'effing moron' – is that right?" DPI attorney Marilyn Robb asked Bailey, who confirmed with a "yes."

Proft said Monday he disagreed with the "general messaging and message discipline with respect to the primary campaign."

If Proft wasn't given control, Uihlein would instead direct those millions to Proft's PAC, according to testimony in Monday's hearing. According to state campaign finance records, Uihlein gave \$42 million to the PAC, which in turn spent nearly \$36 million during the second half of 2022.

In addition to that meeting, Hardin's lawyers argued that Bailey's appearances on Proft's talk show were a way to coordinate messaging.

"We're denying people the truth. This is why your streets aren't safe..." Bailey said in a June 29, 2022 interview on Proft's show, hours before that backroom meeting. "We've got the message – it's true. We've just got to get it out."

Proft denied the radio appearance counted as coordination, pointing to the fact that crime was a hot topic throughout the 2022 election cycle and that he had other candidates for office and public officials on his show.

Democrats' passage of the SAFE-T Act, which included certain police reforms and made Illinois the first state to fully abandon its cash bail system,

became a unifying theme for Republicans to knock Democrats after its passage in early 2021 and through its full implementation last year.

Proft's PAC also used footage taken from the Bailey campaign's YouTube channel, something that Hardin's lawyers also argued was only done to coordinate giving material to friendly PACs.

"That is explainable for no purpose other than a desire to help independent groups make ads," Fox said.

Under Illinois election law, "independent expenditure committees" like Proft's PAC are barred from making expenditures "in connection, consultation, or concert with or at the request or suggestion of" public officials or candidates for office.

But Bailey's lawyer said that the actual meaning of this prohibition is not clear.

"This would have been far more appropriate for the board to take up as a rule-making process and make a pronouncement so that PACs and candidates can govern their affairs more clearly based on a clearly delineated set of rules going forward rather than adjudicating somebody for violating rules before we determine what they are," Jeffrey Meyer said Monday.

In January, a previous hearing officer from the state board of elections noted that it was "rather difficult to determine" what constitutes coordination under the law, given that neither state law nor administrative rules provide further guidance on the subject.

There is also a lack of case law, according to Illinois State Board of Elections spokesperson Matt Dietrich, who said that this is the first complaint in Illinois to allege coordination between an independent expenditure committee and a candidate.

Lawyers for Hardin as well as Proft and Bailey are expected to file additional legal briefs in the coming weeks. The Illinois State Board of Elections will decide the case this summer.

Proft has also faced criticisms and a 2016 Federal Election Commission complaint over his publishing and use of a network of free "newspapers" and corresponding websites to support conservative political candidates.

In 2018, Proft sued the Board of Elections and then-Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan in federal court in an unsuccessful attempt to ease restrictions on what activities could be coordinated between political groups and candidates.

In 2020, Proft shuttered his first independent expenditure PAC – called Liberty Principles PAC – with \$39,000 unaccounted for, according to state finance records. Uihlein had also donated heavily to that PAC, which Proft founded in 2012, to support conservative candidates.

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# After 3 Years, State Poised to Enforce Law Aiming to End Lending Discrimination

*State-level Community Reinvestment Act finally was mired in rulemaking process*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

In 1977, then-President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Community Reinvestment Act, a federal law that sought to wipe away the last vestiges of racial discrimination and redlining in America's home mortgage industry.

The idea was simple. By requiring lenders – primarily banks – to make credit available in all parts of the communities they served, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, the government could redirect the flow of private capital back into areas that had suffered from decades of systemic disinvestment.

Nearly half a century later, many people in Illinois argue the federal CRA has failed to live up to its promise. Whether that's because the law was too narrow in scope, or because the lending business itself has changed dramatically over the decades, urban metropolitan areas like Chicago are still plagued with crumbling neighborhoods where few lenders are willing to invest.

"My area is the southeast side of Chicago, so if you want to talk about Woodlawn, Hyde Park, South Chicago, I mean, these are places where you have a significant amount of folks who are not white and upper-middle class. So yeah, there's been a problem," Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago, said during a recent interview.

Tarver was among the sponsors of a 2021 bill that enacted a new state-level Community Reinvestment Act. Passed during a special lame duck session in January that year, it was part of the Legislative Black Caucus' "four pillars" of social and economic reform measures that grew out of unrest that began sweeping across minority communities throughout the United States the previous summer.

"There were a few things that happened in 2020," recalled Jane Doyle of the Chicago-based Woodstock Institute, one of the main backers of the bill. "Of course, the pandemic, the ways that the pandemic exposed racial disparities in our economy and our health care system, pretty much all parts of society. There was the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests that ensued after that."

But more specific to Chicago and the lending industry, Doyle said, was an investigative news story entitled "Where Banks Don't Lend," by public radio station WBEZ and the nonprofit news organization City Bureau. It was released June 3, 2020, less than two weeks after Floyd's death.

"The sort of big summary data point that came out of that is that there was more mortgage capital invested in one majority-white community in Chicago than all majority-Black communities combined," Doyle said.

It was against that backdrop that the Legislative Black Caucus pushed through the Illinois Community Reinvestment Act, a part of its "Economic Access, Equity, and Opportunity" pillar.

Unlike the federal law, which applies primarily to nationally chartered banks, the state law applies to state-chartered banks and savings banks, credit unions and non-bank mortgage lenders.

It provides that every institution covered by the law has a "continuing and affirmative obligation to meet the financial services needs of the communities in which its offices, branches, and

other facilities are maintained." It also empowers the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to conduct examinations to measure each institution's compliance with the law.

Much like the federal law, the state law does not impose specific mandates or establish any type of lending quotas on financial institutions. It does, however, require them to report on a periodic basis such things as the number and amount of mortgage loans and small business loans they make, the extent of their marketing activities to make community members aware of their services, and their participation in community development and redevelopment programs.

It also gives IDFPR authority to review those reports and assign rating scores to each institution, classifying their compliance record as either "outstanding," "satisfactory," "needs to improve," or "substantial noncompliance."

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the bill into law March 23, 2021, and the law was supposed to be in full effect by Jan. 1, 2022.

That, however, proved to be more difficult than originally thought. The process of writing administrative rules to implement the law dragged on for nearly three years while regulators and industry officials negotiated the details of what information would have to be reported and how that information would be handled by the agency.

Those negotiations finally came to an end in April when the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR, gave its blessing to the final rules, which now await publication in the Illinois Register before they are considered official.

"I knew it was hotly discussed and debated," Sen. Chris Belt, D-Swansea, the bill's chief Senate sponsor, said in an interview. "I'm not on JCAR so I don't know why it took so long. I know it was a lot of issues and nuances that they were discussing. I'm just glad that is over now."

Belt is also the lead sponsor of a follow-up bill this year, Senate Bill 3235. It calls on the state's Commission on Equity and Inclusion to conduct studies that will provide baseline information to identify geographies in Illinois where significant disparities exist in access to financial products and services, along with a listing of existing policies and practices that may have disparate impacts or discriminatory effects.

That bill passed out of the Senate April 18 and now awaits action in the House.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.*

# Advocates Renew Push To Tighten Firearm Laws Aimed At Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

*Groups also call for changes to state's homicide reporting, cold case investigations*

By Cole Longcor Capitol News Illinois

Advocates for stricter gun laws rallied at the state Capitol Tuesday for a measure aimed at protecting domestic violence victims and two other criminal justice reforms.

The bills are backed by organizations such as Moms Demand Action and One Aim Illinois among others.

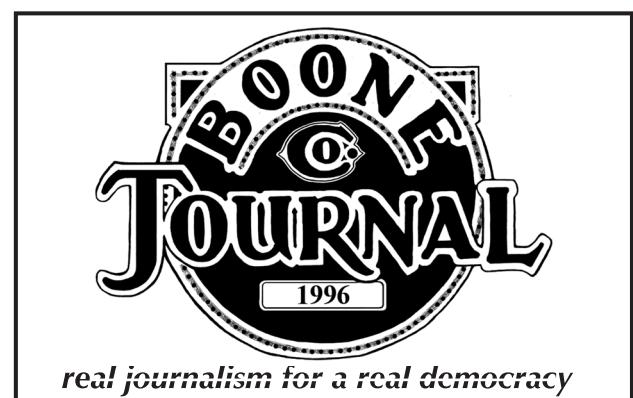
"These policies support those communities most impacted by the gun violence crisis," Yolanda Androzzo, One Aim Illinois program director, said at a rally Tuesday. "It's an opportunity to ensure protection and justice for survivors of gun violence."

A proposal dubbed Karina's Bill, contained in House Bill 4469 and Senate Bill 2633, is a response to the 2023 shooting death of Karina Gonzalez and her daughter in Chicago. Gonzalez's husband, Jose Alvarez, had an order of protection against him when he was alleged to have committed the murder last year.

The measure would clarify the process for victims who seek specific orders of protection under the state's firearm remedy – one of 18 specific remedies that can accompany an order of protection. Individuals can petition the court for such a remedy, and the bill would amend the process for what happens when it is granted.

Karina's Bill would require law enforcement to confiscate firearms when an emergency order of protection is granted with a firearm remedy. It would also require a judge to issue a search warrant in cases where the remedy is granted, provided the judge finds there is probable cause that the individual possesses a firearm and is a

*Continued on Page 7*



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# LEGAL NOTICES

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

### Village of Poplar Grove Boone County, Illinois

**OWNER** - The Village of Poplar Grove acting through its Board of Trustees, hereby gives notice that sealed bids will be received in the Village of Poplar Grove Village Hall for the following described project.

**PROJECT** The work shall consist of resurfacing various streets, bituminous surface removal, HMA patching, HMA leveling binder, manhole adjustments, curb repairs, sidewalk ramps, aggregate shoulderings, miscellaneous drainage improvements, restoration and traffic control.

Bids will be received on the following contract(s):

Contract: 24-00000-00-GM Poplar Grove 2024 Pavement Maintenance Program

**TIME** Sealed bids will be received until **10:00 AM**, local time, as indicated on the website <https://www.time.gov> local time on **May 13, 2024** in the Village of Poplar Grove Village Hall, 200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

**BIDS** All bids shall be addressed to Ms. Karri Anderberg, Village Clerk, Village of Poplar Grove, 200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065. Bids shall be sealed and shall have the name and address of the bidder and the contract for which the bid is being submitted on the outside of the envelope. All bidders shall bid in accordance with and upon the Bid Forms included in the contract documents.

**EXAMINATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS** The bidding documents are on file for inspection at the offices of McMahon, 1700 Hutchins Road, Machesney Park, IL 61115.

**PROCUREMENT OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS** In order to be a 'Plan Holder' or 'Bidder', each firm or organization shall download Bidding Documents from the McMAHON website ([www.mcmgrp.com](http://www.mcmgrp.com)) utilizing QuestCDN eBidDoc™. Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at [www.mcmgrp.com](http://www.mcmgrp.com) or [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com). Digital Bidding Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable **\$35.00** by inputting **Quest Project No. 9084437** on the website's Project Search page. Contractors must be pre-qualified and have a current certificate of Eligibility with the Illinois Department of Transportation to be eligible for this project. Contact [QuestCDN.com](http://QuestCDN.com) at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

**BID SECURITY** No bid shall be received unless accompanied by a certified check or satisfactory bid bond payable to the Village of Poplar Grove in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the maximum bid as a guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the contract, performance/payment bonds and insurance certification, as required by the contract documents.

**BID REJECTION** The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in bidding or to accept the bid or bids which best serves the interests of the Village of Poplar Grove.

**WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS** No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the scheduled opening without the consent of the OWNER.

## STATE OF ILLINOIS GOVERNING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### Contract Letting

1. The contract letting shall be subject to Illinois Statutes and Motor Fuel Tax procedures and guidelines.

### Equal Employment Opportunity

1. Contractor shall comply with the Equal Employment opportunity requirements in the contract documents and certify that the Contractor is not barred from contracting with a local unit of government as a result of a violation of either Section 33E-3 or 33E-4 of the Illinois Criminal Code.

2. The CONTRACTOR and subcontractors must comply with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Human Rights, and Orders of the Illinois Human Rights Commission, provisions of the Public Works Employment Discrimination Act, 775 Illinois Compiled Statutes, 10/0.01, and the requirements of the Illinois Equal Employment Opportunity clause.

### Minimum Wage

1. The CONTRACTOR shall be required to pay not less than the minimum wage rates established by the OWNER, as stated in the Advertisement For Bids.

2. Copies of the applicable wage rates are on file with the OWNER and/or incorporated in the contract documents.

3. The CONTRACTOR shall pay prevailing wages in accordance with, "An act regulating wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works by the state county city or any public body or any political subdivision or by anyone under contract for public works" (820 ILCS 130 et Seq.). The minimum hourly rate of wages, as determined by the Wage Determination Decision of the Department of Labor referred to in these standards is included in the bid packet.

Published by the authority of the Village of Poplar Grove acting through its Board of Trustees.

Karri Anderberg  
Village Clerk  
Village of Poplar Grove

Run: Boone County Journal  
Date: May 2, 2024

IN THE COURT OF Boone COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT – CHANCERY DIVISION  
**PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff,**  
v.-  
**23 FC 82**  
**NANCY A LOVE; NANCY A. LOVE, AS TRUSTEE UTA DATED 08/21/2008 KNOWN AS THE NANCY A. LOVE DECLARATION OF TRUST; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE NANCY A. LOVE, AS TRUSTEE UTA DATED 08/21/2008 KNOWN AS THE NANCY A. LOVE DECLARATION OF TRUST; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.**  
**6370 Broadview Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008**

### NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 2/21/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 6/6/2024 located at 601 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

**LOT EIGHT (8) OF AL-GER SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**

Commonly known as 6370 Broadview Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

Property Index No. 06-31-351-011

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

The judgment amount was \$82,260.36

Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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.**

For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 22-10118IL.

Auction.com LLC

100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 – 872-225-4985

You can also visit [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com).

Attorney File No. 22-10118IL

Case Number: 23 FC 82

**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.**

6088-940214

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, May 2, 9, 2024 SW

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

#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RICHARD L. WILLIAMS, Decedent 2024-PR-9**

##### **NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS**

NOTICE is given of the death of Richard L. Williams on August 13, 2022. Letters of Office were issued on February 23, 2024, to Anne M. Williams, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before November 1, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

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

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, May 2, 9, 2024

### STATE OF ILLINOIS

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY

#### **Dave & Carol Stumpf, Plaintiff**

**VS Case No. 24-GR-9**

#### **Sarah J. Hermann, Defendant**

##### **NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Notice is given you, Sarah J. Hermann, Defendant, that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for Guardianship of Evelyn Hawkins Blan and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Courthouse, 601 N. Main St, Belvidere, Illinois, on or before the 25th day of June, 2024, a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff.

Pamela Coduto, Circuit Clerk

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, May 2, 09, 2024

### STATE OF ILLINOIS

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY

#### **Dave & Carol Stumpf, Plaintiff**

**VS Case No. 24-GR-8**

#### **Sarah J. Hermann, Defendant**

##### **NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Notice is given you, Sarah J. Hermann, Defendant, that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for Guardianship of Christopher Hawkins Blan and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Courthouse, 601 N. Main St, Belvidere, Illinois, on or before the 25th day of June, 2024, a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff.

Pamela Coduto, Circuit Clerk

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, May 2, 09, 2024

### STATE OF ILLINOIS

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY

#### **Dave & Carol Stumpf, Plaintiff**

**VS Case No. 24-GR-10**

#### **Sarah J. Hermann, Defendant**

##### **NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Notice is given you, Sarah J. Hermann, Defendant, that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for Guardianship of Jesse David Woodard and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in

this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Courthouse, 601 N. Main St, Belvidere, Illinois, on or before the 25th day of June, 2024, a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff.

Pamela Coduto, Circuit Clerk

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, May 2, 09, 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, May 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:

The applicant, EJR Technologies, Inc., is seeking a special use permit in the B-2, General Business Zoning District for Outdoor Storage/Self-service Storage of boats, trailers, RV's and other outdoor power sport vehicles pursuant to Section 2.7 (Special Uses) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance at 1410 Fairgrounds Road, PIN's:05-23-326-018, 05-23-326-019, and 05-23-326-056, unincorporated Boone County, Belvidere Township.

The applicant, Chad Morelock, is seeking a special use permit in the A-1, Agriculture Zoning District for a second dwelling in exchange for a lot of record pursuant to Section 2.7 (Special Uses) and Section 4.15 – Second Dwelling Unit for a Lot of Record Exchange, of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance at 203xx Harnish Road, PIN:01-19-300-018, unincorporated Boone County, Manchester Township.

The applicants, Nicholas and Corinne DeBruyne, are seeking a special use permit in the A-1, Agriculture Zoning District for a seasonal tourist attraction to grow and sell farm vegetables/flowers/and other farmed flora seasonally, pursuant to Section 2.7 (Special Uses), of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance at 7797 Marengo Road, PIN:06-20-400-004, unincorporated Boone County, Bonus Township.

All persons interested may appear at the hearing and be heard at the stated time and place.

Craig Hale, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, 2024

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

North Boone CUSD 200 will be accepting sealed bids for: Passenger Van until 11:00 a.m., May 13, 2024.

Request for Proposal documents and specifications can be obtained from:

Stacey Corder, Executive Director of Business  
6248 North Boone School Rd.  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
(815)765-9437  
scorder@nbcusd.org

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, 2024

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

North Boone CUSD 200 will be accepting sealed bids for: Tractor with Loader until 1:00 p.m. May 13, 2024.

Request for Proposal documents and specifications can be obtained from:

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 MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250, Chicago, IL, 60601 (312) 651-6700. Please refer to file number 23-007321.

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.

MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC  
ONE EAST WACKER, SUITE 1250  
Chicago IL, 60601  
312-651-6700  
E-Mail: [AMPS@manleydeas.com](mailto:AMPS@manleydeas.com)  
Attorney File No. 23-007321  
Case Number: 2023 FC 64  
TJSC#: 44-517

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 # 2023 FC 64  
6088-941339

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 11, 18, 25, 2024

IN THE COURT OF Boone COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT – CHANCERY DIVISION  
PENNIMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff,  
v.-  
23 FC 82  
NANCY A LOVE; NANCY A. LOVE, AS TRUSTEE UTA DATED  
08/21/2008 KNOWN AS THE NANCY A. LOVE DECLARATION OF  
TRUST; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE NANCY A. LOVE,  
AS TRUSTEE UTA DATED 08/21/2008 KNOWN AS THE NANCY  
A. LOVE DECLARATION OF TRUST; UNKNOWN OWNERS  
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.  
6370 Broadview Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 2/21/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 6/6/2024 located at 601 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Commonly known as 6370 Broadview Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008  
Property Index No. 06-31-351-011

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

The judgment amount was \$82,260.36

Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC, No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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.

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For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 22-10118IL.  
Auction.com LLC  
100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 – 872-225-4985  
You can also visit [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com).

Attorney File No. 22-10118IL  
Case Number: 23 FC 82  
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.

6088-940214  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 25, May 2, 9, 2024 SW

## Firearms

from page 5

threat to the victim.

The proposal would also prohibit gun owners from transferring the firearms to another individual instead of surrendering them to law enforcement along with their Firearm Owner's Identification, or FOID, card.

The bill also adds an "intimate partner" — such as present and past spouses, dating or engaged relationships — to the list of those who can petition for a firearm restraining order. Previously, only family members and law enforcement officers could petition for such a remedy.

Both versions of the bill are still in committee.

"Gun violence is occurring way too often in our communities, in our schools, in our malls, everywhere," bill sponsor Sen. Celina Villanueva, D-Chicago, said at Tuesday's rally. "The reason why I'm championing Karina's law is because I want to make sure that Karina and Daniela's names never be forgotten. That what they went through never be forgotten."

House Bill 4753, known as the Homicide Victims' Families' Rights Act, would allow people to petition law enforcement to review murder cases that have been unsolved for at least three years. Officers who worked on the case previously would not be allowed to participate in the review. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Kam Buckner, D-Chicago, passed out of a committee on a 13-2 vote on April 4 and is awaiting action in the House.

"These bills, these actions, these pieces of policies have come directly from you," Buckner told rallygoers Tuesday. "And unfortunately, they've come from the pain that many of you have endured."

Buckner is also the sponsor of House Bill 4754, which would amend the Uniform Crime Reporting Act. The bill would require law enforcement agencies to digitally publish statistics of homicides and nonfatal shootings including if the cases are cleared or closed, if an arrest was made, and if the case was submitted to their local state's attorney's office.

"Without accurate homicide statistics we can't create evidence-based solutions to our county's gun violence problem," Alicia Schemel, a volunteer with Moms Demand Action, said.

The bill cleared committee on a 10-5 vote earlier this month and is awaiting action in the House.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.*

# BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

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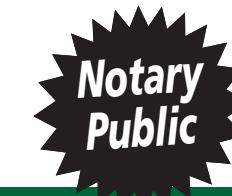
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**Congressman Bil Foster cutting ribbon to open office**

## Foster Opens Huntley Office

By Charles Herbst

Last Saturday, April 27, Congressman Bill Foster (D-11) held an open house celebrating his new constituent service office for the northern part of his district at 11187 East Dundee Road in

Huntley. The Eleventh Congressional District includes Belvidere.

A noisy protest in support of Palestine was held outside of the office. After protesters

entered the office and began disrupting the festivities, Congressman Foster left the celebration for his next appointment.

Huntley Police were on hand and were able to maintain security.

Although Congressman Foster has voted yes on appropriations bills for Israel and Ukraine, Foster made it clear in a press release that he "urges Pres-

### Protestors at the event

ident Biden to continue using America's leverage to urge the Israeli government to pursue a long-term peace founded upon a sustainable two-state solution."

Foster continued, "The mounting and unnecessary civilian death toll and worsening humanitarian crisis are unacceptable. They are not in accord with American principles or interests; nor do

they make Israel safer. Maintaining the current strategy also jeopardizes efforts to permanently dismantle Hamas and secure the release of all hostages."



## Education Leaders Seek Added State Funding to Help Districts Accommodate Influx of Migrants

*Some advocates now put cost at upwards of \$180 million as state education board seeks \$35 million*

By Peter Hancock *Capitol News Illinois*

The recent surge of international migrants arriving in Illinois has brought with it a host of new challenges for state and local officials. Those range from filling their most basic needs like emergency food, clothing, and shelter, to more complex issues like lining them up with basic health care, financial assistance, and other social services.

But there is another challenge stemming from the influx of migrants that some advocates say the state has not done enough to address – educating the children of those coming across the border.

Jeannie Stachowiak, superintendent of North Palos School District 117, a district of about 3,500 students in Chicago's southwest suburbs, told a legislative committee this week how the crisis has affected her schools.

"Over 40 percent of our students qualify for English learner services, and the numbers are continuing to grow," she said. "Just this year, we have enrolled 83 newcomer students who come from 16 different countries, from the Middle East, Eastern Europe, South America, and Mexico. Many of these students have suffered trauma in their countries of origin and have experienced interrupted schooling. Several who are enrolled also need additional services beyond that of (English learner), which may include special education as they were not properly identified and supported before they came to the United States."

Kimako Patterson, chief of staff at the Illinois State Board of Education, said that in the last two years, a total of 62,644 "newcomers" have arrived

in the state's schools. Those are people age 3 to 21 who were born outside of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico and have been attending school in the U.S. for less than three years.

Most of those students are enrolled in Chicago Public Schools, she said, but an estimated 12,771 are enrolled in other districts. She said those students come from 147 different countries, led by Mexico, Colombia, Ukraine, India, and Venezuela.

In January, the ISBE submitted a funding request for the upcoming fiscal year totaling just over \$11 billion, or roughly one-fifth of the state's entire General Revenue Fund budget. That included \$35 million in new funding to support migrant students.

Although Gov. JB Pritzker did not include that money in the budget proposal he sent to the General Assembly, the ISBE still hopes to have it included in the final budget that lawmakers pass this session.

State Rep. Fred Crespo, D, Hoffman Estates, is the lead sponsor of two bills – House Bills 2822 and 3991 – that would authorize the ISBE to distribute \$35 million in New Arrival Student Grants to local districts that apply for a share of the funding.

But some advocates now say the \$35 million that was included in the ISBE's budget request was based on old information, and they now estimate a much higher cost of \$188 million, just for districts in the Chicago metropolitan area.

"Yes, \$188 million to fund the Supporting Newcomer Students program," Bridget Peach, executive director of the advocacy group ED-RED, told the House K-12 education budget committee Tuesday. "This amount represents the needs of (Chicago Public Schools), Cook County, Lake County, and DuPage County school districts."

That figure came as a shock to some committee members, particularly Republicans who view the influx of migrants as a direct consequence of state and local policies that welcome immigrants, regardless of their legal status.

"Do we think that it's a good idea to stop, or at least put a moratorium, on the sanctuary state policy until we could get to a level where we could actually afford this," asked Rep. Blaine Wilhour, R-Beecher City. "I mean, we have every district

in the state coming in here saying that we can't adequately fund education as it is. And then we've got a policy that we're inviting the folks here, most of them illegally, and we simply can't afford it."

"It's a legitimate question," Crespo replied. "I think when we adopted the sanctuary city (policy), we (did so with) good intentions. That's who we are, especially for a state that's pretty much controlled by Democrats. And I firmly believe in that."

Later, when Rep. Brad Halbrook, R-Shelbyville, asked when, if ever, the influx of new migrants into Illinois will subside, Crespo responded that it was a question better directed to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. The Republican governor has organized the shipment of migrants crossing the southern U.S.-Mexico border to Chicago and other Democratically controlled cities.

As of April 16, the city of Chicago reported it had welcomed more than 39,000 individuals that had been bused or flown from Texas. Of those, more than 16,000 had been resettled, according to the city.

"I was hoping we didn't have to start talking about Texas," said committee Chair Will Davis, D-Homewood. "So I think we acknowledge the role that Texas is playing. And we'll just move on from there."

In a separate interview, Crespo said he does not actually expect his colleagues to approve \$188 million for migrant education. But he said he felt it was important for lawmakers to start talking about the actual cost of educating the migrant population.

"My main goal was to create awareness that when we talk about the newcomers, we talk about housing, we talk about health care, feeding these people, but we never really talk about education," he said. "Some school districts have seen their population go up by 10 percent. And that's a lot for one year to the next."

Pritzker did propose a \$450 million increase in overall funding for PreK-12 education next year, including a \$350 million increase in the Evidence-Based Funding formula, the primary formula used for allocating state money to local school districts.

But Peach said funding for the migrant population should be treated differently because that formula does not take into account the special circumstances surrounding the migrant population.

"The calculation of each school district's enrollment for EBF is taken at the beginning of the school year on one day," she said. "So that snapshot fails to adequately capture the number of enrolled newcomer students based on the high mobility of the population we're serving. And that's really creating a funding gap for individual

