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## Lewis Lemon Founded Rockford by Buying His Freedom

*Lewis Lemon the only slave to have lived in Rockford*

Lewis Lemon was born in 1812 in North Carolina as a slave. Lincoln was three and the United States was at war with England again. As a child slave in the South during the early 1800s, Lewis had little hope for his future, despite having been born in the United States.

At age 17 his master/owner, Orrin D. Lemon, had moved to Alabama. He sold Lewis in an 1829 Alabama slave market for \$450 to a businessman named Germanicus Kent. Kent, originally from Connecticut, was dry goods merchant and later a cotton merchant in Huntsville, Alabama. Kent had many slaves and before traveling north in the winter of 1832-33 to Galena sold all of them, except Lewis.

An agreement was made that Lewis could purchase his freedom for \$800. During this time, Lewis Lemon reached an agreement with Kent that if he worked off an equivalent of \$800 plus 10% interest, Kent would grant him his freedom. Determined and unwavering, Lewis worked

*Continued on page 4*



*Sculpture by Gene Horvath "Pulling Together" depicting Lemon, Blake and Kent.*

## Congressman Foster's State of the Union Guest from Belvidere

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) announced that Matt Frantzen, President of UAW Local 1268 in Belvidere, will be his guest for this year's State of the Union Address.

"I'm proud to have Matt Frantzen as my guest for President Biden's State of the Union Address," said Congressman Foster. "Matt's leadership of UAW Local 1268 over the past year was crucial to our efforts to save the Belvidere Assembly Plant, as was the solidarity of UAW members in Belvidere and across the Midwest. The Assembly Plant has been the beating heart of the Belvidere community for decades, providing good jobs and serving as an economic engine for the entire region. I'm proud that we were able to work together – all levels of government, the UAW, and Stellantis – to forge a deal that won't just allow workers to get back on the job at the Assembly Plant, but will also bring billions of dollars in new investments to Belvidere."

"I'm honored to join Congressman Foster at this year's State of the Union Address. After Stellantis idled the Assembly Plant last February, Bill was one of the first to call asking how he could help. From getting the White House involved to securing federal incentives, he played a vital role in ensuring the plant reopened and workers could return to Belvidere," said Matt Frantzen. "Thanks to the tenacity of UAW leadership and workers across the country, last year was a historic year for labor. I look forward to hearing President Biden's plan to build on

that momentum to strengthen unions and build an economy where workers get the pay, benefits, and job security they deserve.

Matt Frantzen joined President Biden on stage during his visit to Belvidere on November 9, 2024 – the first presidential visit to the area in decades.

The State of the Union Address is on March 7, 2024.

## Pritzker to Mull Tightening Fiscal Landscape in Budget Address This Week

*Governor's budget office projects major surplus to give way to deficit without action*

*By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker will give his sixth state budget address this week, laying out his plan for a fiscal year that government forecasters in November predicted is on pace for a near-\$900 million deficit unless corrective action is taken.

Those same fiscal forecasters in the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, however, predicted that the current fiscal year will end in a \$1.4 billion surplus. That could create some leeway for the annual budget negotiating process that begins in February and usually concludes at the end of May.

The stark difference between the expected balances between fiscal years will make this

year's budgeting process a unique – and likely challenging – one, especially after a few years of better-than-expected revenues as the country avoided a post-pandemic recession.

While fiscal forecasters might advise socking away most of the \$1.4 billion surplus as a cushion for the upcoming fiscal year, rank-and-file lawmakers nearly always view end-of-year balances as a potential funding source for their legislative priorities.

To top it all off, the November GOMB report identified another \$969 million in current year "spending pressures." Additional state assistance for thousands of newly arrived migrants in Chicago has been a headline pressure for months, but the state is also facing increased caseloads at the Department on Aging and the Department of Human Services, delays in certain federal reimbursements, increased group insurance costs, and outstanding technology bills.

That leaves about \$400 million for other initiatives or to push forward as a balance in fiscal year 2025.

### **The deficit plan**

While the GOMB report provides a lens for the state's current fiscal situation, it's already three months old. A lot can change in a fiscal quarter to affect the budget outlook.

Notably, Pritzker's GOMB has been a fairly cautious prognosticator. Its recent conservative estimates, combined with nationwide economic trends, have led to a string of surpluses.

In November, GOMB projected spending to climb to about \$52.3 billion in the upcoming fiscal year – a nearly \$1.9 billion increase from what lawmakers approved in 2023. The spending

*Continued on Page 4*

Capitol Brief:

# Lawyers Hope for Illinois Supreme Court Answer to Trump Ballot Question

Arguments hinge on election board authority while insurrection question hangs in the air

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Lawyers representing Donald Trump and five Illinois voters hoping to see the former president removed from next month's primary ballot sparred in a downtown Chicago courtroom on Friday.

The case, which began last month when the Illinois State Board of Elections declined to disqualify Trump from this spring's primary, could be decided late next week, according to Cook County Circuit Court Judge Tracie Porter.

But despite Porter's hope to file an opinion soon, that might not be the end of the case.

"We have been proceeding with the understanding that this case will probably require resolution by the Illinois Supreme Court," Carolyn Lederer, the lawyer who argued on behalf of the

objectors, told Porter Friday.

The central claim of the voters who objected to Trump being on the ballot is that he is ineligible for office because, they say, he engaged in insurrection through his involvement in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

But that claim, which is under review by the U.S. Supreme Court right now in an unrelated case, took a backseat in Friday's arguments. Instead, lawyers largely focused on the authority of state elections officials.

Lawyers for the group of voters who objected to Trump's statement of candidacy argued that the elections board erred by relying on untested legal standards. They specifically pointed to the board's ruling that the objectors failed to show Trump "knowingly lied" on his statement of candidacy when he said he was qualified to hold the office of president.

Lederer said the Board of Elections has never required a candidate to have "knowingly lied" to disqualify them. The board sometimes disqualifies candidates due to issues like residency, she pointed out.

"In addition to a complete lack of legal support, this new standard would be impossible to enforce," Lederer said.

That, in addition the ISBE's refusal to engage in "constitutional analysis," represents "profoundly problematic interpretations of Illinois law" according to Lederer.

Adam Merrill, one of Trump's lawyers, said that while the actions people took on Jan. 6, 2021, were "repugnant" and "deplorable," this case should focus more narrowly on the actions of the board of elections.

While the objectors claim the "knowingly lied" standard is new, Merrill argued that it stems from the fact that lying on a statement of candidacy – as Trump is alleged to have done – would be perjury, which has a clear burden of proof.

"This is not new, this is not different, this is not going to jeopardize candidates in the future," Merrill said.

Trump's lawyers also laid out a separate set of arguments based on federal law that echoed last week's oral arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court dealing with Colorado's ballot objection.

They argued federal law should end the case for any of several reasons: Trump's candidacy is a political question that isn't appropriate for the courts; the 14th Amendment's insurrection clause doesn't have the necessary legislation to implement it; it doesn't apply to former presidents; it doesn't bar someone from being president; and it doesn't bar someone from running for office, among other arguments.

"If the court or the board were to agree with the candidate on any one of these issues, it would end the case," Trump lawyer Nicholas Nelson said.

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# Customers Pay for Utilities' Lawyers, Corporate Donations Advocates Want to Change That

Tens of millions of dollars in cost recovery would be disallowed under legislative proposal

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Illinoisans pay tens of millions of dollars each year to utilities to cover costs they accrue for lawyers, belonging to trade groups, making charitable contributions and purchasing advertisements meant to boost utilities' public image.

Consumer advocates are pushing for a change to state law that would bar utilities from collecting money from customers for those expenditures, liability insurance covering executives and for the cost associated with filing rate cases. The bill also explicitly bans charging customers for political contributions, a practice already disallowed in Illinois.

The proposal, contained in Senate Bill 2885 and House Bill 5061, is backed by AARP Illinois and the Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit created by the General Assembly to represent customers in front of utility regulators.

The bill would also require public hearings, like two held last year, whenever a gas, electric, water or sewer utility requests a rate increase. Rate cases, which generally take a year to complete, are currently conducted primarily online through written testimony from utilities and advocates as well as written comments submitted by members of the public.

An analysis from CUB found that last year, companies spent about \$28 million for legal representation, expert testimony and other costs accrued in six Illinois Commerce Commission cases that resulted in electric and gas rates going up for most Illinoisans. The state's two largest water utilities, Aqua Illinois and Illinois American Water, are going through rate cases right now, which could cost the companies about \$3.2 million in expenses.

But since rate cases are required by state law, utilities argue such expenditures are necessary costs of doing business.

A representative of Commonwealth Edison, the electric utility for most of northern Illinois, argued that the state's current regulatory process ensures that "no unreasonable or imprudent costs" are passed to customers.

"As a regulated utility, ComEd must demonstrate to the Illinois Commerce Commission that the investments it recovers from its customers are prudent and reasonable," spokesperson Shannon Breymaier said in a statement. "In months-long processes in which consumer, public interest, environmental, and governmental groups participate actively, the ICC reviews our costs and rates."

In total, the proposed legislation would reduce the amount of "recoverable" costs – meaning costs chargeable to customers – for the six largest Illinois utilities by \$45 to \$63 million annually, according to a CUB analysis.

Representatives of several utilities that reviewed costs calculated by CUB said they are in the right ballpark. But some companies took issue with some of the group's methodology, noting that some costs, like insurance and some membership dues, seemed larger than their own calculations.

Reforming what costs utility customers pay for has been a consideration for Illinois policymakers for several years.


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## OBITUARIES

- Harold Behling, 87, Caledonia, February 10
- Betty Claude, 89, Formerly of Belvidere, Feb. 17
- Lee (Leona) Maney, 63, Belvidere, February 15
- Elizabeth "Betty" McFarlin, 81, Harvard, Feb. 18
- Donald Mc Feggan Jr., 83, Belvidere, Feb. 14
- Diego Gonzalez Mendoza, 19, Harvard, Feb. 12
- Carolyn Miller, 81, Caledonia, February 7
- Harvey "Harv" Schmidt, 78, Caledonia, Feb. 8
- Linda Walker, 74, Belvidere, February 12

- Toby Keith, 62, Clinton OK, Feb. 5
- Dexter Scott King, 62, Malibu CA, Jan 22



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Senior Writer/Editorial	Charles Herbst
Photography	Susan Moran

David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000  
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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**THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL**  
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## Utilities

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In 2020 – amid the early stages of a bribery scandal at ComEd that would eventually lead to its CEO's conviction on felony charges and bring down former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan – Gov. JB Pritzker laid out an eight-part outline for energy policy and ethics reform.

Parts of that plan would eventually inform the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and 2022 Reimagining Energy and Vehicles Act, both of which the Pritzker administration celebrates as major policy wins.

But one element of that plan has yet to come to fruition: a prohibition on utilities recovering costs for charitable contributions from ratepayers.

These charitable contributions, according to Pritzker's 2020 policy statement, were often used "to curry favor with elected officials."

"Utility company charitable donations should be exactly that – charitable," Pritzker's office said at the time. "They should come from the pockets of the corporation or their executives, not from the pockets of ratepayers."

The governor has not taken a position on the legislation pending in Springfield.

Analyses from WBEZ in 2021 and the Chicago Tribune in 2015 found that some charitable contributions from ComEd went to politically influential nonprofits and groups that advocated for the utility's interests, although the company denied exerting political pressure on its grantees.

ComEd's Breymaier told Capitol News Illinois the company is proud to support organizations that improve workforce training, protect the environment and provide social services. She also noted that regulators review all spending, including those contributions.

David Schwartz, a spokesperson for Chicago-area gas utilities Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas, noted that the ICC capped the amount of charitable spending the companies could charge to customers at about \$4.5 million.

The consumer advocates pushing for this legislation stressed that they are not seeking to end utilities' charitable contributions, but rather to require that shareholders bear the cost.

"We're not opposed to charity, it's a great thing," Jeff Scott, AARP's associate state director, said. "But it should be coming out of shareholders' pockets. Plain and simple."

Nationwide, Illinois is one of a few states that allow utilities to charge customers for charitable contributions, according to Matt Kasper, deputy director at the pro-renewable Energy and Policy Institute.

"Illinois really stands out for allowing this practice to continue to the level it's happening right now," Kasper said.

The number of states reexamining what costs utilities can recover is growing. Last year, Colorado, Connecticut and Maine all passed laws banning certain expenses from being charged back to ratepayers – including charitable giving.

This year, California, Virginia, Maryland, Arizona, Ohio and New York all introduced legislation similar to Illinois', according to Kasper.

Utilities can also exert

influence through membership in trade associations, such as the American Gas Association and Edison Electric Institute.

Each year, Illinois electric and gas utilities spend \$6.5 million in membership costs to trade associations, chambers of commerce and other civic groups, according to CUB.

Two years ago, EEI advocated for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to revisit its policy on granting utilities "right of first refusal" for transmission line construction and this year it filed comment with the Environmental Protection Agency over clean air rules.

The AGA also regularly supports policies favorable to the gas industry, such as last year when they offered comments to the Department of Energy and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Utilities also pay for "goodwill advertising," another category of spending that would be banned under the proposed legislation.

"The goodwill advertising is basically brand recognition and creating general warm and fuzzies about your company that also happens to be a regional monopoly with no competition, by statute," Eric DeBellis, CUB's general counsel said in an interview. "This is effectively a form of lobbying directed at the public, so you're paying for them to try and make you like them."

Peoples Gas' Schwartz and representatives of Ameren and Nicor echoed ComEd's spokesperson in their defense of the companies' spending.

"Regulators always closely examine all of our costs, including charitable contributions," Schwartz said in a statement. "We are committed to serving Chicago and the northern suburbs, including non-profit community organizations."

A representative of Ameren Illinois, which operates as both a gas and electric utility for much of central and southern Illinois, noted that the company makes investments in "organizations and causes that build stronger communities and support a better quality of life for our customers."

Nicor Gas spokesperson Jennifer Golz also added that the northern Illinois gas utility provides funding to charities, including to its own emergency assistance program administered by the Salvation Army, without seeking to recover the costs from ratepayers.

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## Judge Denies McCann's Request for Home Confinement, Orders Held in Custody

*Former state senator, third-party governor candidate to be sentenced in June after guilty plea*

*By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois*

After suddenly pleading guilty as his federal corruption trial was wrapping up this week, former state Sen. Sam McCann won't be released to await sentencing, U.S. District Judge Colleen Lawless ruled Friday.

McCann has been held at Macon County Jail since last Friday, when Lawless ordered him detained for disobeying her direct orders after being discharged from a sudden hospitalization. He's showed up to court every day since in a wheelchair, sporting a black and gray striped jail uniform and orange sandals.

That hospital stay delayed McCann's bench trial for more than a week before it finally kicked off Tuesday. It abruptly ended on Thursday when McCann's attorney announced the former senator had a change of heart and wanted to plea. During the plea process, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Bass estimated McCann had stolen "in excess of \$550,000" in campaign funds for personal use.

In a brief hearing Friday morning, Bass opposed McCann's motion to be released while awaiting his June sentencing date. Bass pointed out McCann's active participation in trial, including taking notes and conferring with his attorney, was in stark contrast to his claims on Monday that he wasn't coherent enough to go ahead with trial.

Additionally, Bass said, he'd been made aware of a video posted to McCann's long-dormant social media pages on Tuesday night. In the 13-minute video, which Bass alleged was filmed as McCann drove to court last Friday morning before his arrest, McCann claims FBI agents squeezed him for incriminating information on others and said the government was coming after him with "an ungodly pack of lies."

But McCann's attorney, Jason Vincent, said McCann had no knowledge of the video.

"It certainly does appear to be him speaking into the camera, but my client does not recall making that particular video," he said.

Lawless watched the video during the hearing, occasionally glancing at the defense table, chin rested on her hand as McCann made a series of accusations, including claiming the government

*Continued on Page 5*



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**Lemon**

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diligently for his freedom and became a free man in September 1839.

On September 6, 1839, Lemon received from Kent a deed of manumission. It was recorded March 1842 in the county clerk’s office in Rockford by William E. Dunbar. It read:

To all to whom these presents shall come, GREETING: That whereas the undersigned, Germanicus Kent, of Rockford, Illinois, did in the year A. D. 1829, being then a resident of the state of Alabama, purchase of Orrin D. Lemon, since deceased, a colored boy named Lewis, then about seventeen years of age, as a slave for life; and whereas, upon the removal of the undersigned, from said state of Alabama, to said state of Illinois; now this is to certify that said Lewis by my removing him to said state of Illinois, and his residence there ever since, did become free and emancipated from all services due to me as a slave, and that he is, and by right ought to be, free forever hereafter. And this is to further certify that said Lewis was born a slave of said Orrin D. Lemon, then residing in Wake county (N.C.) from whence he removed to Madison county, Alabama, where I purchased said Lewis of him. The said Lewis is aged about twenty-seven years; in person he is five feet, eight inches high, well built, rather stout, and weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds; his features are good, dark yellow complexion, open and frank countenance, mouth prominent and large lips. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Rockford, Illinois, this sixth day of September, A. D. 1839. GERMANICUS KENT

Lemon was the only man to have been enslaved in Winnebago County.

Kent followed his brother to Galena, Illinois to seek out business opportunities. After arriving in Galena, Kent and Lewis met a man by the name of Thatcher Blake.

Thatcher Blake, a schoolteacher and a farmer, embarked on a journey from his hometown of Oxford, Maine, seeking fortune and fame in the distant “far west.” With no fixed destination in mind, he traversed various locales, occasionally crossing paths with veterans of the Blackhawk War. Upon hearing their vivid tales, painted a picture of the Rock River country, extolling its beauty and the rapid accumulation of wealth in the Galena mines Blake was drawn to Northern Illinois.

Together they decided to travel the Rock River Valley looking for a location to start a lumber mill and a farm. The men traveled by canoe through the Pecatonica and Rock Rivers, Lewis doing much of the hard manual labor, and eventually found a location on the West Bank of the Rock River to settle. On August 24th, 1834, these men began what became the City of Rockford.

Blake chose a spot for his future farm, while Kent envisioned a location for a sawmill along the creek that would come to bear his name. Eventually Kent went bankrupt and moved to Virginia to live with his daughter while Lewis and Blake lived out their lives in Rockford. Little did they know that this seemingly modest decision would be the catalyst for the emergence of one of the greatest manufacturing centers in the western frontier.

After becoming a free man, Lewis stayed in Rockford and eventually established himself with a small shack and vegetable garden near what is now Kilburn Avenue. He continued to work as a vegetable farmer, growing for Rockford residents, until he passed away in 1877.

Thanks to the hard work of Lewis Lemon, Rockford was settled in 1834 and chartered as a city in 1852. He worked hard for Rockford, but more importantly, for himself to become a free man in the United States before the Civil War. Lewis Lemon’s story is one that tells us not only how Rockford was founded, but how much we can overcome and

accomplish in our lives. If he could be born a slave, found a great city, and die a free man – our obstacles can be overcome, and we can reach our goals.

“In 1877, Lewis Lemon breathed his last in Rockford. The Old Settler Society, moved by a sense of duty and respect, covered the expenses for his coffin, hearse, and final medical visit. Thatcher Blake and fellow society members were adamant about affording Lewis a burial befitting his worth.

The ceremony drew a gathering of esteemed individuals, including Judge Church, John Platt, Jesse Blain, John Brady, T.J.L. Remington, Hon. Ephraim Sumner, Charles Works, Thatcher Blake, and other early settlers. Their presence marked a collective expression of regard for a fellow pioneer, whose modest beginnings did not diminish the respect earned through unwavering dedication to the duties he undertook. In this solemn moment, the community paid tribute to Lewis Lemon, recognizing his enduring legacy in the fabric of Rockford’s history.”

Today, Lewis Lemon is officially recognized as one of Rockford’s three founders, and an elementary school bears his name. His story serves as a testament to the resilience and determination of an African American man who, once enslaved, forged a path to freedom and made enduring contributions to the city of Rockford.

Lewis passed away in 1877, but his story was resurrected in 1995 when an eighth-grade class from Wilson Middle School discovered his unmarked grave site in Greenwood Cemetery. In tribute, they placed a gravestone that poignantly read, “Born a Slave—Died Free.”

**Obituary**

The venerable negro man, Lewis Lemon, better known as Lewis Kent, died last Tuesday after a few days of a serious illness, aged about 67 years, and thus passed away one of the very oldest settlers of Rockford.

Mr. Lemon or “Uncle Lewey” as he was called, came here as a slave of Germanicus Kent in 1834, removing from Alabama where he was born in bondage. In the year 1839 Mr. Kent gave him an instrument in writing, declaring him free.

He continued in the service of his kind old master for many years with unchanged relations and lived to see all but one of the band of 1831 pioneers disappear in the course of nature, Mr. Blake Thatcher bring the sole present survivor.

Lewis lived in a small hut three miles north of the city and raised vegetables which he was wont to peddle about the city.

The funeral, held Wednesday was attended by Judge Church, John Platt, Jesse Blain, John Brady, T.J.L. Remington, Hon. Ephraim Sumner, Charles Works, Thatcher Blake, and others of the early settlers who took this method of expressing their regard for an associate pioneer whose humble station rendered him nonetheless worthy of that respect won by a faithful devotion to the duties that he found to do.

**Budget**

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expansion is driven by general across-the-board growth in most areas, led by K-12 education, human services, health care, pensions and government health insurance. Revenues were estimated at about \$51.5 billion.

That makes for an estimated deficit of about \$891 million for fiscal year 2025, which begins July 1. That figure falls to \$721 million when excluding a planned \$170 million infusion to the state’s “rainy day” long-term savings fund, which currently has a record-high balance over \$2 billion.

Pritzker, for his part, has urged a “careful” approach, while also acknowledging revenue projections can quickly change.

“I think it’s a signal that everybody, we need to be careful in Illinois, we have to balance our budget...” Pritzker told Capitol News Illinois in December. “And so, if that requires us to reduce the increases that may occur in certain programs, maybe that will be necessary.”

If the projections hold, it likely means Pritzker and lawmakers will have to agree to slower spending growth or cuts to existing programs, new revenue streams, or some combination of those options.

There’s been no talk at the Capitol of any new or increased taxes, and the governor has all but abandoned his major push for a graduated income tax constitutional amendment that failed before voters in 2020.

Absent any major movement in revenue and spending estimates, Capitol News Illinois will be watching to see where Pritzker would suggest making up the revenue shortfall.

**The reaction**

The state’s recent surpluses have generally eased budget negotiations in the past five years – at least compared to Illinois’ recent history that includes a two-year budget impasse between Pritzker’s Republican predecessor and Democrats in the General Assembly. An infusion of federal money helped every state plug budget holes during COVID’s early months in 2020 and had ripple

*continued on page 5*

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## Budget

from page 4

effects on state economies in the following years as well.

Democratic leaders have historically been supportive of Pritzker on budget day, while also being unafraid to make their own pushes for initiatives they'd like to see bolstered or reduced.

But nuances in their reactions to the governor's address can often be telling as to how negotiations will progress.

Last week, Pritzker announced plans to spend another \$182 million in state money to respond to an influx of migrants in Chicago and Cook County that have been bused or flown to Illinois, primarily from Texas. It's part of a joint \$250 million funding infusion with Cook County that will provide shelter, health care and other services to the new arrivals.

The state, county and city response to the influx of migrants has been particularly controversial since Texas began transporting people from the southern U.S. border to so-called "sanctuary states" in August 2022. While Republicans have frequently called for Illinois to make drastic changes to its immigrant-related policies, Democrats have been more receptive to Illinois' "welcoming" response – despite some consternation about spending hundreds of millions of dollars on programs for new arrivals rather than shoring up existing programs.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, praised the governor for "initiating this needed team approach" – but he also gave a glimpse into his chamber's budget priorities.

"I'm eager to hear more about the governor's proposed budget and look forward to continued discussions on pairing expenditures on this crisis with investments in longstanding issues facing our communities like homelessness, food insecurity and job opportunities," he said in a statement.

Pritzker's only bipartisan budget came during his first year in office – when a massive infrastructure package garnered dozens of GOP votes and helped create goodwill for some House Republicans to vote for the budget. Republicans have been opposed to every budget since, though every winter they've insisted they have renewed hope to pass a bipartisan budget.

That expressed desire seemed possible last year as both the House and Senate minority leaders were new to their posts. But the GOP soured on working with Democrats on the budget as the spring wore on, claiming they were shut out of negotiations completely. With their supermajorities at record numbers, Democrats don't need GOP votes to pass a budget.

House Republican Leader Tony McCombie told Capitol News Illinois last month that her budget team this year is sitting down with Pritzker's staff, saying it was a strategic move to bypass House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch's team.

"If we show our cards, everything will be excluded," she said. "(Democrats) talk about (the budget) being a moral document, but it is a political document."

### Noncitizen health care

While sailing has generally been smooth for the Democrats in power, one noticeable point of contention in last year's budget was the question of how much funding should be allocated to a pair of state-funded health care programs for noncitizens.

The Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors and Adults programs provide Medicaid-like benefits to individuals aged 42 and over who would otherwise be eligible for the joint federal-state low-income health care program if not for their immigration status.

Last year, the governor's office projected the state's costs to exceed \$1 billion if the programs were unchanged.

Ultimately, legislators decided to allocate \$550 million for the programs while giving the governor the authority to cap enrollment and put in place other cost-saving measures.

"The legislature said, 'we don't want to actually make any decisions about that. So here, governor, you figure it out,'" Pritzker said at a Feb. 9 news conference. "And that's part of my job is to take on big problems and big challenges and get things done. And so we did."

The program has been the biggest contention for Republican lawmakers, while some Democrats have been reluctant to support it. The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus and some immigrant and health care advocates, however, have pushed for its expansion and for it to be reopened for enrollment.

Whether or not it will be reduced, expanded or cut could prove to be a contentious point once again.

### Education

State spending on PreK-12 education and higher education currently totals about \$13 billion, or one-fourth of all general revenue fund budget, making it the state's largest area of discretionary spending. Yet despite the fiscal pressures Illinois faces in the coming year, both of those systems are seeking substantial funding increases.

In January, the Illinois State Board of Education approved a budget request of just over \$11 billion, an increase of \$653 million, or 6.3 percent over the current year.

The largest portion of that is a \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding. That's the minimum increase called for each year under a 2017 law that seeks to bring all 852 school districts in Illinois up to an adequate level of funding by earmarking new money for the districts that need it most.

The proposal also includes a \$75 million increase for early childhood education to fund the second year of Pritzker's Smart Start Illinois initiative, which seeks to expand access to preschool and child care services by 20,000 seats over four years and increase wages for early childhood workers.

Additionally, it calls for a \$10 million increase in career and technical education and \$35 million in new funding for educational support services for migrants arriving in Illinois.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, meanwhile, is seeking a \$179 million increase, or 6.8 percent, which would bring total state support for higher education, not including pension contributions, to \$2.6 billion.

That includes a 5 percent increase in operating funds for public universities and community colleges, as well as a \$50 million increase in Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants, the state's need-based financial aid program for college students.

## McCann

from page 3

garnished his wages to the point that he "literally could not feed my family."

In one part of the video, McCann claims the FBI wanted him to testify that he'd joined "an unholy alliance" with former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan to "rig an election." As punishment for not providing dirt on Madigan, McCann accused the feds of continuing to "dig and dig and dig" until they found something to charge him with.

Madigan faces his own unrelated federal corruption charges in the Northern District of Illinois with a trial scheduled for later this year.

McCann said in the video his case is proof the U.S. has become a "deep state, Orwellian society,

the darkness of which we will not come out of for thousands of years if we do not do something to take it back now."

After the video played, Bass told Lawless that during case discovery a couple of years ago, McCann had received recordings of federal agents meeting with McCann beyond the three hours of tapes played during trial this week.

"I can tell you, your honor, the name 'Madigan' doesn't appear anywhere in those recordings," Bass said.

After being shown a Macon County Jail photo of the clothes McCann was wearing in court prior to his arrest last Friday – which matched the blue button-down and red tie McCann was wearing in the video – Lawless was convinced that McCann had made the video while driving to court that day.

And, she said, the fact that he was coherently talking while driving didn't match with McCann's later claim that he "didn't even remember" making the roughly one-hour drive to Springfield last Friday.

"It appears as though he was sitting there telling me another story," Lawless said.

Read more: McCann trial delayed another day as he cancels plan to represent himself

*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.*

## State And Federal Funding to Add EV Chargers for a Million

**State EV coordinator says 30,000 more charging ports needed to reach energy goals**

By Cole Longcor Capitol News Illinois

Illinois' electric vehicle charging infrastructure is on pace to double this year, buoyed by an influx of state and federal dollars.

The investments are aimed at supporting both federal and state environmental goals. The Biden Administration set the goal of EVs making up half of all U.S. vehicle sales by 2030. Under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act – Gov. JB Pritzker's marquee climate law that passed in 2021 – Illinois aims to have one million EVs on the road by 2030.

These targets have spawned major infrastructure programs, which after years of planning and funding are seeing tangible results in Illinois.

State funding allocated in 2023 put Illinois on course to double the number of direct current, or DC, fast charging ports on state roads within a year, from 993 to 1,914. The increase brings the number of fast charging ports to over 25 percent of the 7,000 DC ports estimated to be needed to support the state's EV goals.

In Illinois, several agencies are part of the effort to ensure EV charging infrastructure gets where it is needed, but the drive is coordinated by Megha Lakhchaura, the state electric vehicle coordinator at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"We expect that we will need 36,000 public charging ports to support one million EVs. Most

Continued on page 8

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT #17
BOONE COUNTY
SAWCHUK, MEGAN ELIZABETH, Plaintiff
-VS- CASE # 2023-DN-000037
DENT, ADAM JAKE, Defendant
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Notice is given to you, MEGAN ELIZABETH SAWCHUK, Plaintiff that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE and other relief.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS )
TRUSTEE FOR BKPL-EG HOLDING TRUST; Plaintiff, )
vs. ) 23 FC 52
MICHAEL SHERE; OAKBROOK WOODS CONDOMINIUM )
HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND )
NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, )
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at the hour of 12:15 p.m., inside the front entrance of the, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
UNIT 3-4 IN OAKBROOK WOODS CONDOMINIUMS, AS DELINEATED ON A SURVEY OF CERTAIN LOTS OR PARTS THEREOF IN PLAT NO. 2 OF OAKBROOK WOODS, BEING A SUBDIVISION IN PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 2000R08142 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "PARCEL"), WHICH SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "B" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS DOCUMENT NO. 01R09747 AND RE-RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 01R10720 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION AND SURVEY; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
P.L.N. 07-02-102-008.

Commonly known as 1680 Chrysler Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.
The improvement on the property consists of a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act
Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.
The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2304008
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3237526
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024 PNN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff,
-VS- 23 FC 54
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF FLOYD SINGLETON A/K/A FLOYD D. SINGLETON, DECEASED, ALYSSA SINGLETON, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC., JOHN VINCENT LA BONTE, JR., TIM MILLER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF FLOYD SINGLETON A/K/A FLOYD D. SINGLETON, DECEASED, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS
Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 23, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 7, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
LOT ONE HUNDRED FORTY THREE (143) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 8, A SUBDIVISION SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-3073; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as 219 THORNHILL DRIVE SW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065
Property Index No. 03-27-155-018
The real estate is improved with a condominium.
The judgment amount was \$265,528.19.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.realtyBid.com or call 877-518-5700.
For information, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP

Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm.. Please refer to file number 23-099096.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
LOGS Legal Group LLP
2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301
Bannockburn IL, 60015
847-291-1717
E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com
Attorney File No. 23-099096
Case Number: 23 FC 54
TJSC#: 44-217
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 # 23 FC 54 6088-939540
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024 CW

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF COLTON MAXWELL SABO, DECEASED
No. 24-PR-4
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Colton Maxwell Sabo of Poplar Grove, Illinois Letters of Office were issued on January 29, 2024 to Representative:
Todd s. Sabo
212 Briar Cliff St., SW
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

whose attorney is:
Steven J. Cuda
Hamer, Schuh & Cuda
101 Van Buren Street
Woodstock, IL 60098
Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within six months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred.
Claims may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the representative, or both.
Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: DEBORAH L. MARCUS, Deceased. CASE NO.: 2024 PR 3
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Deborah L. Marcus. Letters of Office were issued on January 23, 2024 to Felix Francis Marcus at 444 Regina Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is James Hursh, Guyer & Enichen, P.C., 2601 Reid Farm Road, Suite B, Rockford, IL 61114.
Claims against the estate may be filed on or before August 15, 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 Section 5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the estate's legal representative, or both.
Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate's legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
DATED: February 15, 2024
By: Guyer & Enichen, P.C.
By: /s/ James Hursh Attorney for Executor
James Hursh, #6230997
Attorney for Estate
Guyer & Enichen, P.C.
2601 Reid Farm Road
Rockford, IL 61114
815.636.9600
jhursh@guyerlaw.com
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 15, 22, 29, 2024

Public Notice
Early Voting for the March 19th, 2024 General Primary Election will begin on Thursday, February 8th, 2024 and end March 18th, 2024. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM, except for holidays. The office will also be open on Saturday, March 16th, 2024 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. The office will be closed on Monday, February 19th, 2024 in observance of Presidents' Day.
For more information about Early Voting please contact the Boone County Clerk's Office at 815-544-3103
Laura Bettis
Chief Deputy Clerk
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 8 to March 14

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Boone County Board will receive bids marked BCG-2024-03 for the purpose of outfitting the Boone County Sheriff's Office, deputies and correctional officers, with 60 (sixty) body worn cameras including cloud-based long-term storage solution.
Bid documents will be available on or after February 20, 2024. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids\_rfp\_s.php for further details. Copies of the Bid Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Monday, March 18th, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. Bids will be opened at 12 P.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.
Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 22

General Primary Notice
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, at the usual polling places in the various precincts in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, a General Primary will be held for the purpose of securing the expression of the preference of the party voters with respect to candidates for the nomination for the office of the:
REPUBLICAN PARTY AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY
TO BE NOMINATED:
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - 11TH District
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS - 16TH District
STATE SENATOR - 34TH District
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 68th District
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 69th District
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 89th District
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY- 90th District
STATE'S ATTORNEY
CIRCUIT CLERK
CORONER
COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS- Districts 1, 2, and 3
JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT- 4TH Judicial District (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Rita B. Gorman)
JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT- 4TH Judicial District (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. John W. Turner)
JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT- 4th Judicial District (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Lisa Holder White)
TO BE ELECTED:
DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES
PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSONS (One to be elected by each party in each precinct)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS OF CERTAIN PRECINCTS IN CALEDONIA, MANCHESTER AND POPLAR GROVE TOWNSHIPS IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE.
Shall Boone County Fire Protection District #5 dissolve and be consolidated into North Boone Fire Protection District #3?
AT THE FOLLOWING PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES
BELVIDERE 1 COMMUNITY BUILDING - 111 W First St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 2 COMMUNITY BUILDING - 111 W First St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 3 COMMUNITY BUILDING - 111 W First St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 4 COMMUNITY BUILDING - 111 W First St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 5 COMMUNITY BUILDING - 111 W First St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 6 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 1255 W Jackson St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 7 BOONE CO CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 603 N Appleton Rd, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 8 COMMUNITY BUILDING - 111 W First St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 9 BOONE CO ADMINISTRATION CAMPUS/Board Room- 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 10 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH- 221 N Main St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 11 BOONE CO ADMINISTRATION CAMPUS/Board Room- 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere (\*Temporary Location)
BELVIDERE 12 KEEN AGE CENTER- 2141 Henry Luckow Ln, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 13 POPLAR GROVE AIRPORT (EAA HANGAR)- 5151 Orth Rd, Poplar Grove
BELVIDERE 14 VFW POST 1461- 1310 W Lincoln Ave, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 15 KEEN AGE CENTER- 2141 Henry Luckow Ln, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 16 SWAN HILLS GOLF COURSE- 2600 Gustafson Rd, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 17 HAMBLOCK FORD/LINCOLN- 1800 N State St, Belvidere
BELVIDERE 18 CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH- 425 Riverside, Belvidere
FLORA 1 AMERICAN LEGION BOONE POST 77- 900 W Chrysler Dr, Belvidere
FLORA 2 FLORA TOWN HALL- 3100 Townhall Rd, Belvidere
FLORA 3 AMERICAN LEGION BOONE POST 77- 900 W Chrysler Dr, Belvidere
CALEDONIA 1 TIMBERLANE VILLAGE HALL- 2940 Charleston Ct, Caledonia
CALEDONIA 2 CANDLEWICK RECREATION CENTER- 1812 Candlewick Dr SW, Poplar Grove
CALEDONIA 3 GROVE
CALEDONIA 4 TIMBERLANE VILLAGE HALL- 2940 Charleston Ct, Caledonia
CALEDONIA 5 PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH- 502 Orth Rd, Loves Park
MANCHESTER MANCHESTER TOWN HALL- 20904 Grade School Rd, Caledonia
SPRING SPRING TOWN HALL- 3150 Shattuck Rd, Belvidere
BONUS 1 BONUS TOWN HALL- 9015 Marengo Rd, Garden Prairie
BONUS 2 CROWN POINT BUILDING- 925 Belvidere Rd, Belvidere
BOONE 1 CAPRON LIONS COMMUNITY BLDG- 305 E North St, Capron
LEROY LEROY TOWN HALL- 9743 Blaine Rd, Capron
POPLAR GROVE 1 POPLAR GROVE FIRE STATION- Route 173, Poplar Grove
POPLAR GROVE 2 POPLAR GROVE VILLAGE HALL- 200 Hill St, Poplar Grove
POPLAR GROVE 3 POPLAR GROVE VILLAGE HALL- 200 Hill St, Poplar Grove
POPLAR GROVE 4 POPLAR GROVE FIRE STATION- Route 173, Poplar Grove
POPLAR GROVE 5 POPLAR GROVE FIRE STATION- Route 173, Poplar Grove
NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COLORS OF THE OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOTS TO BE USED BY THE RESPECTIVE POLITICAL PARTIES AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
REPUBLICAN YELLOW
DEMOCRAT GREEN
NON-PARTISAN WHITE
\*NOTE: In order to vote for a NON-PARTISAN proposition, it is NOT necessary to declare a political party affiliation.
The polls of said Primary Election will be open continuously from 6:00AM to 7:00PM on March 19, 2024, at which the Unisyn Voting System, including OVO Optical Scan and Freedom Vote Tablet (FVT) will be in use.
Dated this 15th day of February, 2024 LAURA BETTIS, DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK
Published in The Boone County Journal February 22, 2024

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff,**  
 -v- **2023 FC 73**  
**BERNARD W. SPENCER et al Defendant**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 25, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 96 IN CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 6, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 72-2060 AND CORRECTED BY CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 73-4912 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 153 COLUMBIA ST NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065  
 Property Index No. 03-22-352-007

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

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

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

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

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

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

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

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

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
 630-794-5300  
 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com  
 Attorney File No. 14-23-06055  
 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
 Case Number: 2023 FC 73  
 TJSC#: 43-4549

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 73  
 13238653  
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 22, 29, March 7

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
 BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of the Sister Cities Association of Belvidere, IL Inc., PO Box 1822, Belvidere, IL 61008 on behalf of the property owner, Gail Spoden, 315 South State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a special use to install a mural at 315 South State Street within the CB, Central Business District (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.1012(A)(1) and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures). The proposed mural will be mounted on the north side of the building and depicts Belvidere's tri-city relation with the two sister cities. The subject property is legally described as:

Lot Three (3) of Grover Lane's Re-Subdivision of part of Lots 7 and 8 in Block 4 of Aaron Whitney's Addition to the Town of Belvidere, saving and reserving the North Seven (7) inches of said Lot Three, being a strip of land seven inches in width on Sate Street and running of equal width along the Northerly side of said lots to the rear end thereof, situated in the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. ALSO: Lot Four (4) of Grover Lane's Re-Subdivision of part of Lots 7 and 8 in Block 4 of Arron Whitney's Addition to the Town of Belvidere, situated in the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. PIN: 05-25-353-010

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,  
 Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission  
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 22

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

**Oakbrook Woods Condominium Homeowners Association vs Jack Offenheiser, Deceased, et al defendants**

**Case No 23 EV 83.**

Notice is hereby given to you, all Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jack Offenheiser and All Unknown Occupants, that the above entitled action has been filed against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Boone County, Illinois for the recovery of the possession of real estate located at 1633 West Chrysler Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.

You are hereby required to appear in person on February 23, 2024 at 10:45am in Courtroom 3, Circuit Court of Boone County, Located in the Boone County Judicial Center, 601 North Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, for return date of this cause. You are further required to file your written appearance by yourself or your attorney at the same place and time.

Now unless you, the said above named defendants appear at the time and place fixed for return date, judgment by default will be entered against you for possession of the aforesaid premises and an order for possession will be issued out of said court by which you will be dispossessed of said premises.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 22, 29, March 7

**ASSUMED NAMES**

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

No. DBA4184 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a HOME DECOR business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of 5 STAR PRIMITIVES that its location is or will be 11188 Orth Road, in Garden Prairie, 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: 815-509-7479  
 Crystal Ann Mueller, 11188 Orth Road, Garden Prairie, Illinois 61038  
 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: February 5, 2024,

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
 Published in Boone County Journal 02/08, 02/15, 02/22 - P

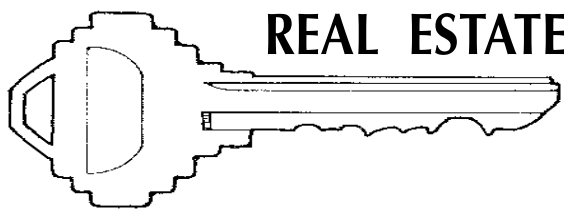
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4185 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RACECARS business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MAX KAHLER RACING that its location is or will be 1013 IL ROUTE 173, in Caledonia, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-701-6990  
 Maximilian Richard Kahler, 1013 IL Route 173, Caledonia, Illinois 61011

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: February 14, 2024

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
 Published in Boone County Journal 2/22, 2/29, 3/7 - P



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

**U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS ) TRUSTEE FOR BKPL-EG HOLDING TRUST; Plaintiff,) vs. ) 23 FC 52**  
**MICHAEL SHERE; OAKBROOK WOODS CONDOMINIUM ) HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND ) NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants.)**

**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at the hour of 12:15 p.m., inside the front entrance of the, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
 Commonly known as 1680 Chrysler Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.

The improvement on the property consists of a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.  
 For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130, (440) 572-1511. ILF2304008  
 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
 intercountyjudicialsales.com  
 I3237526  
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024 PNN

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

**NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff,**

-v- **2023 FC 73**  
**BERNARD W. SPENCER et al Defendant**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 25, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
 Commonly known as 153 COLUMBIA ST NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-22-352-007  
 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
 Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
 One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

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

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com  
 Attorney File No. 14-23-06055  
 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
 Case Number: 2023 FC 73  
 TJSC#: 43-4549

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 73  
 13238653  
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 22, 29, March 7

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

**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff,**

-v- **23 FC 54**  
**UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF FLOYD SINGLETON A/K/A FLOYD D. SINGLETON, DECEASED, ALYSSA SINGLETON, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC., JOHN VINCENT LA BONTE, JR., TIM MILLER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF FLOYD SINGLETON A/K/A FLOYD D. SINGLETON, DECEASED, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS**  
**Defendant**

**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 23, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 7, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 219 THORNHILL DRIVE SW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-27-155-018  
 The real estate is improved with a condominium.  
 The judgment amount was \$265,528.19.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.realtyBid.com or call 877-518-5700.

For information, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm. Please refer to file number 23-099096.

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

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

LOGS Legal Group LLP  
 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301  
 Bannockburn IL, 60015  
 847-291-1717

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com  
 Attorney File No. 23-099096  
 Case Number: 23 FC 54  
 TJSC#: 44-217

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 # 23 FC 54 6088-939540  
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024 CW

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# EV Chargers

from page 5

of these will be level two chargers, but we will need close to 7,000 fast charging ports by 2030," Lakhchaura said in an email statement. "We expect to have over 2,000 fast charging ports by the end of 2024 if the chargers are installed on time."

There are almost 2,300 level two charging ports in Illinois which fully charge a vehicle in five to six hours. The number of DC fast charging ports, which can charge a vehicle in under an hour, increased in the last month from 993 to 1,010 ports.

The development of EV infrastructure will build on expansions completed last year. The number of electric vehicles in Illinois rose 60 percent last year – by more than 30,000 EVs – compared to the national average increase of 50 percent. As of January, the Illinois secretary of state reported there were 93,821 EVs licensed for state roads.

"We spent money last year to double the number of ports within a year. So, by the end when all of this comes into fruition when the installation happens, you'll have just seen a doubling of the number of ports by just the state programs," Lakhchaura said. "And we're not done yet. We still have more money to go on this year."

### EV funding sources

There are three main sources of EV infrastructure funding: the federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure, or CFI, grant program; the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, or NEVI program; and state funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the IEPA.

"We have three baskets of investment to create this charging network in the state," Lakhchaura said. "The idea is that everything complements each other, and we're avoiding duplication or building at the same sites."

Lakhchaura said building out EV charging infrastructure and educating the public on the advancements in EV technology is an important step toward moving Illinois toward its climate goals.

"We're just right at the start of the learning curve on how to use these vehicles," Lakhchaura said. "We can get over this. It's really about understanding this product and adapting to it and making these little changes like you do for anything you get in life."

### Federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure

The Illinois Finance Authority, in their role as the Illinois Climate Bank, received almost \$15 million from the federal CFI grant to develop community-based charging stations. The grant will fund the construction of 881 charging stations. Only 36 of the 881 chargers will be DC fast chargers. While DC chargers are faster, they are more expensive. The focus of this track of the CFI program is developing community infrastructure to support local travel.

"In these cases, people are more likely to be topping up a battery or leaving a car parked long enough to get a full charge on a level two charger," Illinois Department of Transportation spokesperson Paul Wappel said. "Level two chargers are significantly more cost-effective for these types of uses, which means we can install more chargers for the same amount of money."

### National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

The state will continue to receive funds through

NEVI to build DC fast chargers along alternative fuel corridors, networks of highways with infrastructure to support electric and hydrogen powered vehicles.

The program requires public charging stations be available at least every 50 miles along a corridor. Chargers must be publicly accessible 24/7 and be set up with combined charging system connectors and contactless payment options.

Illinois will receive \$148 million between 2022 and 2027 to build a network of EV chargers along highways, starting with the interstate system.

The state's deployment plan was approved in September 2022. Wappel said final standards for the charging stations were set in February 2023. Phase one of Illinois' plan will use approximately \$50 million to build chargers at 46 locations within eligible corridors.

### State programs

Meanwhile, Illinois is implementing its own programs to meet the goals set under CEJA.

The IEPA will award \$27 million dollars in grants to build DC fast charging stations at public locations including hotels, shopping centers and gas stations. The grants are expected to be announced this month.

"We haven't issued the awards yet," Lakhchaura said. "But what we've seen from the applications that we got is that they were spread all over the state."

As part of CEJA, Illinois established a rebate program to incentivize the purchase of EVs. The program allows Illinois residents to collect a rebate for the purchase of an all-electric passenger vehicle from a recognized dealer. The current rebate rate is \$4,000 per vehicle. In fiscal year 2023, 7,669 rebate applications were filled with 4,872 rebates awarded. The funding cycle for this year ended on Jan. 30 with over 5,500 applications

being received and the maximum funds being allotted.

Illinois school districts and bus companies purchased 180 electric school buses last year through the federal Clean School Bus Program. Lakhchaura said additional EV buses were purchased with funds from the Volkswagen settlement with a focus on communities that did not receive federal funds, such as Chicago.

The settlement was the conclusion of lawsuits filed against Volkswagen for violating Clean Air Act emissions standards by installing "defeat devices" in certain diesel models between 2009 and 2015. The established trust provided Illinois with over \$1 million in funds for diesel emission reduction projects.

Time is another crucial factor in the expansion of EV charging, especially as the number of EVs on state roads must increase 10-fold for the state to meet its stated goal. Lakhchaura said she expects to see significant progress this year.

"In 2024, you can see more authorizations and more money going out towards it. I can say that construction and installation take a while," Lakhchaura said. "So, towards the end of the year, you'll see dramatically more charging stations than what you can see today."

More funding and resources will be needed to meet the goal of building 30,000 more chargers. Illinois will still have almost \$100 million from NEVI for future use after phase one is completed. Lakhchaura said the state will continue to apply for competitive funds like CFI. While Illinois plans to continue to invest in EV infrastructure, Lakhchaura said the state won't fund every charger.

"In the near term, Illinois will focus on installing a significant number of public chargers in the next two years to create a basic public infrastructure for the state," Lakhchaura said in an email statement. "Future rapid growth of vehicles will lead to private companies investing in public charging without the need for grants and rebates. However, charging will require more funding and support for at least the initial years to support EV growth."

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.



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