~ including McHenry County News

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Volunteers are shown at the 2022 tree planting event. This years reforesting event will be held on October 14 at Marengo Ridge.

McHenry County Conservation Foundation awarded Nicor Gas Oak **Ecosystem Conservation Grant**

Foundation was awarded a \$9,995 Nicor Gas Oak Ecosystem Conservation Community Projects grant to assist with woodland reforestation efforts at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area.

The funds will support efforts of McHenry County Conservation District's Big Woods planting program, where nearly 600 native trees and shrubs will be planted on 10+ acres at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area in Marengo, IL.

Members of the public are invited to come out and join two Big Woods "Oaktober" planting parties at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area, 2411 N. Route 23, Marengo:

• October 14, from 1 -3 p.m. – Help reforest the heart of Marengo Ridge by planting 350 oak trees and shrubs on 5.8 acres. This tree planting will complete a 27-acre reforestation project within the 818-acre woodland

• October 17, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. - Take a guided educational .75 mile hike through the scenic trails of Marengo Ridge and learn about woodland management best practices at this popular site. The hike will conclude with the planting of 240 trees on 4.5 acres.

The "Big Woods" once covered over a third of McHenry County, and these programs support McHenry

of acres of woodland across the County. Since 2016, more than 3,565 trees and shrubs have been planted on over 50 acres, supporting the long term goal of improving the health of our county's oak ecosystems by filling in the fragmented landscape with contiguous woodland communities.

The McHenry County Conservation Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to obtain grants and gifts in support of the work of the McHenry County Conservation District. To learn more about the McHenry County Conservation Foundation or the projects it supports, visit http://www.mchenryconservation. org or call (815) 338-6223.

Friends of Volo Bog presenting Ghost **Stories with storyteller** Megan Wells Oct. 14 On Saturday, Oct. 14 from and children (minimum age

5-9 p.m. the Friends of Volo Bog will present a spooky evening of activities and storytelling at the bog. The event requires reservations, and will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (minimum age of 5 that will be strictly enforced).

The Volo Bog - where trees grow atop a floating moss mat, carnivorous plants devour bugs, and poisonous shrubs implore travelers to stay on safely upon the board walk. It is here the evening begins with guided Bog Tours. Down another trail lies the Haunted Woods where goblins and ghoulies await to scare those who dare to wander into the late afternoon shadows under the oaks. In the Visitor Center, participants can find refreshments including donuts, taffy apples, hot cocoa, and cider for sale by the Friends of Volo

Then, as darkness descends, the crowd gathers on blankets and lawn chairs in the State Natural Area's picnic area just over the hill from the Bog itself, to hear hair-raising tales from far and near, including one that features a bog! The first set is family-friendly with funny tales for adults

5 admitted; no one younger). The second set is more adult oriented where families with older children (minimum age

Storyteller Megan Wells is a Volo Bog favorite, returning for her fourth performance since 2008. She is an award-winning and nationally-respected professional storyteller who has enthralled audiences for more than 40 years. This extensive experience has allowed Megan to develop a vast repertoire of engaging stories, including traditional tales, multicultural myths, historical retellings, and even some personal stories from her own life. Regardless of the story she's telling, Megan's passion and energy bring the words to life in front of your eyes. Visit Megan's website at meganwells.com to learn more about her storytelling.

Space is limited for this event. A printable parking pass with complete instructions will be emailed to registrants.

Purchase tickets on line through Friends of Volo Bog at https://www.friendsofvolobog.org/ or pay upon entry (check or cash only). Or condnr.volobog@illinois. gov or 815-344-1294.

Oktoberfest being held at Horse Fair Park

The Village of Spring Grove's Community Engagement Committee invites you to the Second Annual Oktoberfest being held Saturday, September 30th from 4pm to 9pm at Horse Fair Park.

Enjoy German beers, German food straight from OMA's recipe book, entertainment from Die Kenosha Musikanten, and games including a stein holding contest and cabbage bowling.

Some of the featured menu items include: sauerbraten, hanchen-schnitzel, bratwurst plate, potato pancakes, spaetzle and German potato salad.

Sign up now for cabbage bowling. The top 4 teams of two with the highest score after 10 frames will compete in a bowl off. Email your team name to info@springgrovevillage.com.

This is a 21 and over event and will be cash only. There will be an ATM on site

Horse Fair Park is located at 8105 Blivin Street, Spring

Secretary of state testifies before U.S. Senate committee on Illinois' recent effort to prohibit book bans

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias was in Washington, D.C. last week to testify before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee regarding a new state law aimed at deterring book

"state librarian," this spring championed legislation allowing his office to withhold state money from public libraries if they ban books. On Tuesday, he told the Senate panel that public libraries have become "thunderdomes of controversy and strife" across the country.

"We want our schools and libraries to be open and welcoming settings for education, not cultural battlefields," he said during his testimony. "This legislation aims to unify our communities and seeks to restore a right that some of us may have grown to take for granted – the freedom to think for

Giannoulias said he hoped other states would "look toward Illinois" to adopt simiout fear of retribution."

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-IL. convened the hearing dubbed "Book Bans: How Censorship Limits Liberty and Literature." It was in reference to a report from the Amerlibrary materials last year nearly double the number of similar requests in 2021.

While no specific legislation was considered in the hearing, much of the discussion centered around who should decide the content that is available in public libraries—including school libraries—across the country.

The current wave of agitating for book bans has grown with the so-called rights 'parents' movement" in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Anger about school shutdowns in the early months of COVID, which evolved into anger about mandatory masking and optional virtual learning when schools reopened, coalesced with discomfort around the growing popu-

and inclusion.

School board meetings and libraries have become the targets of parents' rights activists. Groups have demanded books be removed from classrooms and library ican Library Association shelves based on content diswhich calculated there were cussing race, history, gender Knox said. "What we see Chicago suburbs have also received bomb threats in recent weeks, according to reporting by the Chicago Sun-

Emily Knox, a professor who researches intellectual freedom and censorship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, also testified before the Senate committee. She said her focus on book bans began as the child of a librarian in Maryland, where she remembered being confused when her favorite author, Judy Blume, showed up on a list during "Banned Books Week" each year.

Knox told the panel that as a young person, reading about people who were like her helped her navigate her world. She pointed to an analogy from Rudine Sims lar legislation to "protect the larity of curriculums that Bishop, a retired Ohio State

right to read freely and with- emphasized diversity, equity University professor known members in less than three ham said shortly before leavas the mother of multicultural children's literature, likening books to windows, mir-

rors, or sliding glass doors. "A book can help us understand each other better by helping to change our attitude towards difference," books are only mirrors and sliding glass doors. They only reflect something true about the reader themselves, or the reader's world or they invite the reader to mimic an identity or action they read about a book. It's important to remember that books are also windows: They give us access to other people's lives.'

Though movements to ban certain books are nothing new, the last few years have seen the rise of sophisticated organizing and even professional non-profits that target public schools and libraries for their curriculums and materials available to children. In early 2021, U of I alum Nicole Neilly founded one such organization, Parents Defending Education, which has grown to 13 staff

Neily told the Senate panel that she wasn't advocating for censorship, but rather allowing parents and community members to have a say in what their children are exposed to.

"The book issue is a cu-Giannoulias, whose posi- more than 1,200 demands identity and sexuality. Sev- right now is that people ration issue," she said. "It readers a choice." tion also includes the title of to censor books and other eral public libraries in the are fixated on the idea that should be obvious that a "You don't have to burn book that is part of a lesson plan in a second-grade classroom is more concerning than a book that can be voluntarily checked out from a public library and also that sensitive topics read to children at very young ages is more concerning than high schoolers learning about the human body and health class."

Comments from Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, demonstrated the divide between political parties on the

"If I don't have any kids. Should I shut up? I pay taxes. When you have a public library and you have a board, somebody decides what books go in and what not to go in. Lend your voice to the for your community," Gra- doctrinal beliefs.

ing the hearing. In his testimony, Giannoulias pointed out he has children of his own, and believes he holds the responsibility to decide what they are exposed to and when. But he says the point of this year's legislation was to give parents and

books to destroy culture. Just get people to stop reading them. And that's where the real danger lies," he said. "Parents, parents and only parents have the right and the responsibility to monitor the access of their children and only their children to library resources.'

Illinois' law specifically states that as a condition for being eligible for state grants, libraries must adopt either the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or some other written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books.

Giannoulias said previously it does not require that libraries have certain books on their shelves, but rather it aims to prevent the removal cause. It's okay to speak out of books based on partisan or

Lake County officially allocated \$135.2 million in ARPA funds

ly allocated all of \$135.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds it received from the federal government. The projects funded demonstrate the Lake County Board's commitment to address immediate pandemic response needs and pursuing long-term equity-informed initiatives to support our residents and local businesses.

This two-and-a-half-year process took swift decision-making and thoughtful planning on how we can best support projects and programs that solve problems our community is facing and make Lake County more resilient to future challenges.

The following is the timeline of the Lake County ARPA

Arrival of ARPA funds

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act to aid public health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This Act allocated State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to all states, counties and municipalities across the United States. At the time, Lake County knew it would receive ARPA funding, but it didn't know how much, when it would arrive, or what rules and regulations the County would need to

Within a few weeks, Lake County along with governments across the country gained the necessary knowledge of how ARPA funds could be used. The US Treasury released guidance on how we needed to use the funds and were informed that Lake County would be receiving \$135.2 million. Quickly

working to turn questions into certain Lake County followed County entities. answers, staff compared this the necessary procedures and time to solving a 100-piece puzzle as quickly as possible.

"Pieces to the puzzle started falling into place and now we had the enormous task of determining the best way to allocate this once-in-a lifetime funding to make the biggest impact possible for Lake County residents," said Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator.

Figuring out the "best way"

The Lake County Board was now responsible for allocating the \$135.2 million in funding. They had the tough task of balancing the immediate needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and looking towards maximizing strategic investments that would benefit residents for years to come by funding improved outcomes rather than short-term fixes. With this in mind the Board did the fol-

- 1. Allocated funding to address immediate, ongoing COVID-19 response needs. There still remained a strong need for food and shelter programs. In June 2021, the Board quickly authorized \$1 million to continue food distribution and housing pro-
- 2. Created the Lake Coun-Special Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Investments to assess and prioritize potential projects and programs for the fu-
- 3. Approved a contract for consulting support in the administration of ARPA funding. The US Treasury guidance has various complexities. We wanted to ensure we had a second set of eyes on the allocation of funds to make

To support the new Special Committee, Lake County established task forces comprised of staff across five categories that aligned with the US Treasury guidance. Each task force reviewed their focus areas and developed plans for initiatives that would address community needs. The five Task Forces covered the following focus areas:

- Public Health
- · Community and Household Assistance
- · Economic and Business In-
- · Infrastructure and Facility Investment
- County Services Investment

"Once we laid the groundwork, Lake County was in a great position to meticulously vet all ARPA funding decisions," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "Over the next few years, the Board discussed ARPA more than any other topic. We wanted to take the time to get this right as we would only have one opportunity."

Addressing immediate response needs

Throughout 2021 2022, the Lake County Board continued to allocate ARPA funds to programs to address immediate COVID-19 response needs. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was in high demand. Using ARPA funds, Lake County built a stockpile of PPE and other supplies to distribute to long term care facilities, hospitals, police and fire departments, mass vaccination clinics, and many more entities. By mid-2021, more than 4.1 million PPE and supply items had been distributed to Lake

Lake County was also active in supporting food and housing programs. One program that became very popular was the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (FERA). The FERA Program provided low-income renters that experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic with up to 12 months of assistance for both rent and utilities, including internet. As of June 30, 2023, FERA aided with rent and utilities on behalf of over 4,700 Lake County house-

"Throughout the pandemic and the ongoing recovery, we were hearing from families and our community partners about the need to keep families stably housed in uncertain times," said Brenda O'Connell, Community Development Administrator. "This money provided stability to Lake County residents that allowed them focus on their health, education and employ-

Investing in the future

The Lake County Special Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Investments met for the first time on Oct. 15, 2021, and has met regularly ever since. Their primary focus of addressing immediate response needs shifted over time to forward-thinking initiatives that will benefit Lake County residents in the years to come. Millions of dollars have been dedicated to upgrading Lake County Public Works infrastructure, building back our economy by expanding access to jobs and talent, and Lake County's new Regional Operations and Communications (ROC) Facility. We also in-

vested in various technologies to help Lake County adapt to a remote work-capable environment. For example, County employees can now receive telephone calls on their computers and meet virtually, allowing many employees to work from anywhere with internet access and reducing the need for physical phones across the organization. The COVID-19 pandem-

ic was winding down in the summer of 2022 and Lake County had committed about \$71 million in ARPA funding thus far. In July and August 2022, the Special Committee sought input from Lake County residents on how to prioritize the remaining funds, asking our communities for their needs. Lake County held three community events and posted an online survey for residents to submit their thoughts. The public engagement results are available to view online at https:// www.lakecountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/47452/ ARPA-Public-Input-Information-and-Comments?bidId=. These results helped inform the Special Committee and Lake County Board of the types of programs and initiatives to consider when allo-

cating the remaining funds. "Community engagement was an important step in helping us wrap our heads around projects that can help better position our county in the decades to come," said Paul Frank," Chair of the Lake County Special Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Investments. "We thank everyone that talked with us, attended our meetings, met with staff at our community events and completed the online survey."

Allocating the remaining \$15.6 million

By July 2023, Lake County was in the homestretch. About \$16 million in ARPA funding remained to be allocated which had been set aside for a process that started in late

Last year, the County opened an application period to accept program and service ideas from nonprofit organizations and local units of government to aid in the ongoing response and recovery. Interested organizations had to go through an application process where they explained how their project(s) would be eligible for ARPA funding.

Lake County's ARPA consultant, Bronner Group, LLC, scored each of the submitted projects based on several factors including the community input we had received earlier in 2022. On Aug. 8, 2023, the Lake County Board allocated \$15.6 million towards 20 community-support projects that focus on negative economic impacts, public health and new capital projects. An example of one of these projects will complete the unfinished interior of the Waukegan Business Center building to help expand current mental health service offerings at the Josselyn Center.

The ARPA story continues

Lake County has successfully allocated the \$135.2 million it received in ARPA

To view a complete list of programs and initiatives that were funded visit https:// www.lakecountyil.gov/4648/ American-Rescue-Plan-Act.

Illinois House Speaker's staff could test limits of Workers' Rights Amendment

By Peter Hancock

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Efforts to form a union by staff in House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch's office could provide an early and unexpected test of the new Workers' Rights Amendment to the Illinois Constitution.

Brady Burden, a staffer in the speaker's office who is part of the organizing committee of the Illinois Legislative Staff Association, said efforts to unionize have thus far been stymied by a provision in state law that specifically exempts the General Assembly from the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act.

But there is no such exemption in the Workers' Rights Amendment, approved by voters less than a year ago. That addition to the state's constitution provides, in part, that all employees have a "fundamental right" to organize and engage in collective bargaining over wages, hours and working conditions.

But at least one expert in Illinois labor law says relying on that amendment may be more difficult legally for the workers than it might first

"Anytime this (constitutional amendment) is going to be litigated, if ever, it's going to require some degree of interpretation. It just will because it's just not clear," said Michael LeRoy, a professor at the University of Illinois College of Law and the School of Labor and Employment Relations. "It's not exactly clear what this means."

According to Burden, efforts to form a union began last year but they did not go public with their campaign until May. He said well over half of the 38 employees who would be part of the bargaining unit—analysts, researchers and people who work with legislators—have signed a petition calling to form a union, which would be enough for automatic recognition by most other public employers.

Among the issues they'd like to negotiate, Burden said, are wages and hours. He said the starting salary for is around \$43,000 annually, sent them. which he said is significantfor House Republican staff. He also said they would like better compensation for over-

Legislative staff jobs are exempt from wage and hour laws, so those workers do not receive the standard time-and-a-half when they

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work more than 40 hours in a week-which they do routinely during legislative sessions. Instead, Burden said. they receive roughly one hour of comp time for every three hours of overtime they work. But because current law specifically exempts the General Assembly from the definition of a "public employer," Burden said they are asking Welch to recognize their union voluntarily.

Welch's office, however, has said he prefers they hold an election because recognizing the union voluntarily would deny staff the chance to weigh in on which orga-Democratic House staffers nization they'd like to repre-

Burden said that can't be lower than comparable done because of the exempjobs in the Senate or even tion in current state law, leaving them with the options of voluntary recognition or a lawsuit.

Becky@SouthernLakesNewspapers.com

Worker's Rights Amendment is actually vague on that issue because it's written in prospective terms, referring to future enactments by the state or local governments.

He said that although the first sentence of the amendment says employees have a fundamental right to organize, the next sentence says, "No law shall be passed that interferes with, negates, or diminishes" collective bargaining rights.

"They use the term 'shall be.' That's future tense," he said. "It doesn't reach back. It doesn't say any law that has been enacted that inter-

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gaining is hereby nullified. It doesn't say that.'

LeRoy said the purpose of the amendment was to prevent the enactment of socalled "right-to-work" laws at either the state or local level. Those are laws that say employers cannot require someone to be a member of a union as a condition of employment.

constitutional amendment really grew out of the experience with (former Republican) Gov. Bruce Rauner, who really wanted to make Illinois a right-to-work this battle can be waged with

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feres with collective bar- Democratic reaction to, or response to, (Rauner).'

LeRoy said that from a legal standpoint, he believes the Workers' Rights Amendment is not a convincing argument for those trying to form a union. But he added, "Politically, it is very con-

"I mean, in effect, this is really calling out the Democratic-controlled General Assembly as a group of hypocrites," he said. "You're legislating for thee, not me. And I think in the court of public opinion, that's where state," he said. "That was a a better chance of success."

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Customers bundle up for a fall trip to the McHenry Outdoor. Those attending Saturday, Sept. 23, will enjoy a live musical performance by Queen tribute band Queen Explosion followed by "Wayne's World" and "Wayne's World 2".

Rotary fundraiser Saturday at McHenry Outdoor Theater

Public invited to enjoy Queen tribute band, look-alike contest, raffles before 'Wayne's World' and 'Wayne's World 2'

When the McHenry Area Rotary booked the tribute band Queen Explosion for a Sept. 23 fundraiser at the McHenry Outdoor Theater, the idea was to pair it with the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody." But when theater owner Scott Dehn tried to book the film, he was informed it was among many now owned by The Walt Disney Co., which is not presently

It was time for a Plan B, and both Dehn and Rotary leaders were a bit stumped.

"My son Peter and I were sitting at trivia a few Wednesdays ago and I said 'Help me brainstorm this. We need something that will still work well with this band," said Diana Mark, the Rotarian who'd booked the live performance. "He said 'Wayne's World.' I said 'Yeah, Peter, I love that idea!"

For the uninitiated, the original 1992 "Wayne's World" famously opens with SNL characters Wayne, Garth and a few friends rocking out to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" while ambling around Cicero, Berwyn and Aurora in Garth's 1976 Pacer.

And so, on Saturday, Sept. 23, it'll be Queen Explosion opening for "Wayne's World" and "Wayne's World 2" at the Outdoor, 1510 N. Chapel Hill Road,

Gates will open early, at 5 p.m., with live music set to run from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m., when the double feature will start. Dehn is donating a portion of his concession sales from both Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22-23, to the McHenry Area Rotary. The club also will host 50-50 raffles on Sept. 23, as well as a look-alike contest.

Come dressed as Freddie Mercury, Wayne or Garth to be excellent, we mean eligible, to win a \$100 gift card. The contestant best exemplifying their chosen character will be the winner.

"This is going to be a great time," said Dehn, noting that when "Wayne's World" debuted, it rocketed both "Bohemian Rhapsody" and Queen back to the top of the music charts. "That scene is what the movie is most well-known for. It's a classic.'

Both Dehn and McHenry Area Rotary Club President Don Tonyan said they hope for a great turnout as the club continues to raise funds for local and global humanitarian and youth leadership causes.

We're grateful to Scott for his continuing support," said Tonyan, noting that the McHenry Outdoor Theater was the club's premier sponsor for Bands, Brews & BBQ in August. "What a great, fun partnership this has been, and Sept. 23 should be no exception."

Regular theater admission will apply. It's \$14 per adult, \$8 for military and seniors age 60 and up or for children ages 3 to 11. Those 2 and younger are admitted free. Premier parking (in the front two rows) is \$14 per vehicle. For other information about the theater, visit goldenagecinemas.com or find McHenry Outdoor Theater - Golden Age Cinemas on social media.

For information about the McHenry Area Rotary, visit mchenryarearotary.com, send an email to mchenryarearotary@ gmail.com or drop in on a meeting at noon Thursdays at Buddyz Pizzeria, 1138 N. Green St., McHenry.

The curtains rise as PM&L Theatre announces lineup

The anticipation, the whispers, the allure—it's all led to this moment. For the first time in PM&L Theatre history, they're rolling out the entire spectacular lineup of Season 61 for your immediate selec-

Gone are the days of waiting for each act. Now, the entirety of their theatrical panorama is at your fingertips, ready for you to delve into, one performance at a time or all in one sweeping gesture. This isn't just a ticket offering; it's an invitation to be part of a pioneering chapter in their storied legacy.

Begin by arming yourself with chuckles as you learn How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse, and venture into the shadowy depths of human nature with Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde. Relive the magic of Miracle on 34th Street and take a whimsical journey down the yellow brick road in The Wizard of Oz. Find beauty in the complexities of The Curious Incident, be touched by the transformative tales in Bill W & Dr. Bob, and dance into history with the spirited Ain't Misbehavin'.

How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse by Ben Muir - Sept. 29 to Oct. 15

"Ready to learn the art of survival? Join us for 'How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse' by Ben Muir. Engage in hands-on demonstrations, strategize with experts, and unlock the secrets to outsmarting the undead. This interactive journey will leave you equipped with the skills you need to face any zombie threat. Don't just watch the apocalypse unfold, become the ultimate survivor!

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde by **Robert Louis Stevenson** Oct. 27 to Nov. 12

Prepare to be captivated by the dark and gripping tale of 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,' adapted by the brilliant Jeffery Hatcher. Journey into the depths of the human psyche as the battle between good and evil unfolds on stage. With masterful performances, intricate storytelling, and

a haunting atmosphere, this Mark Haddon - April 12theatrical adaptation delves into the complexities of duality and the consequences of unleashing our inner demons. Brace yourself for a thrilling Boone in 'The Curious Inciexploration of the human condition that will leave you spellbound and questioning the very nature of humanity. Don't miss this unforgettable theatrical experience that will leave you on the edge of your seat!

Miracle on 34th Street - a live musical radio play adapted from the 1947 Lux Radio Broadcast by Lance Arthur Smith -Dec. 1-7

Let your imagination soar with the heartwarming holiday tale, 'A Miracle on 34th Street,' brought to life in a captivating radio play. Join a talented ensemble of actors as they transport you to a magical world where belief reigns supreme. Experience the joy, the wonder, and the power of love as Kris Kringle, a charming old man claiming to be Santa Claus, sets out to prove the true spirit of Christmas. With delightful music, nostalgic storytelling, and a touch of holiday magic, this enchanting musical will fill your heart with warmth and remind you of the miracles that can happen when you believe. Tune in and let the Christmas spirit sweep you away!

The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum – Feb. 9 to March 3, 2024

Experience the enchantment of 'The Wizard of Oz' like never before! Follow Dorothy on a magical journey through a kaleidoscope of colors, unforgettable songs, and whimsical characters. Lose yourself in a world of wonder as you join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion in their quest for courage, heart, and home. With dazzling sets, mesmerizing performances, and the timeless message that there's no place like home, this beloved musical will transport you to a land of pure imagination. Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable adventure for the whole family!

The Curious Incident based on the novel by

28, 2024

Prepare to embark on an extraordinary journey through the mind of Christopher dent of the Dog in the Night-Time.' This mesmerizing play unravels a captivating mystery while exploring the power of determination, resilience, and the beauty of seeing the world through a different lens. With innovative staging, heartfelt performances, and a story that will leave you spellbound, this is a theatrical experience that will challenge your perceptions and ignite your imagination. Don't miss the chance to witness this poignant and thought-provoking masterpiece!

Bill W. & Dr. Bob, by Samuel Shem & Janet Surrey – May 17 – June 2, 2024

Discover the remarkable untold story of Bill W. and Dr. Bob, the two visionaries behind Alcoholics Anonymous, in this inspiring play by Samuel Shem. Witness their extraordinary journey of friendship, resilience, and redemption as they defy the odds to help millions battling addiction. With powerful performances and a profound message of hope, this play will touch your heart, ignite your spirit, and leave you with a renewed faith in the transformative power of human connection. Join us on this unforgettable exploration of courage and recovery!

Ain't Misbehavin', The **Fattls Waller Musical** Show – June 7-30, 2024

The joint is most certainly jumpin' for an evening full of rowdy, raunchy and humorous songs that capture the love longing and zest for life in the 1920's/'30s. Conceived by Richard Maltby, Jr. and Murray Horwitz, AIN'T MIS-BEHAVIN' is a musical celebration of the irrepressible songwriter-performer Fats Waller.

PM&L Theatre is located at 877 Main Street, Antioch, IL. To reach the ticket office call 847-395-3055 or ticket@pmltheatre.com. Connect with them on Facebook or Instagram or visit the website at pmltheatre.com.

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Pet of the week

Phyllis, is about 4 months old, spayed, up-todate on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworm and micro-

While walk-ins are welcome, adoptions are by appointments only to ensure we have the staff available to help adopters. For information and/ or to complete an online application, please visit www.saveapetil.org/adopt.

MCCD hosting birding event

Migration season is upon us, and now is one of the best times of the year to spot unusual birds as they pass through the county on their journeys south. Join McHenry County Conservation District this fall to observe and document migratory birds and learn more about these species.

THE BIG SIT

Sunday, October 8, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Route 31 & Harts Road.

Don't miss this year's bird-a-thon, The Big Sit, an annual and international birding event held in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge

The concept is simple: find a good spot for birdwatching, sit in one spot for a designated time period, and count all the bird species you see or hear. Stop by for a few minutes, stay a few hours or join the whole sit.

Hosted by Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and McHenry County Audubon Society with support from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and McHenry **County Conservation** District.

This is a free, drop-in event for all ages.

For more information, call (815) 338-6223 or visit MCCD.me/programs.

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Executive Director Alex Ty Kovach (left), Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves and Paul Frank, Lake County Forest Preserves commissioner, reopened a 71.55-acre parcel of land that is now part of Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve in Lake Forest.

Lake County Forest Preserves open the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve

Recently the Lake County Forest Preserves reopened a 71.55-acre parcel of land that is now part of Fort Sheridan Forest Preserves in Lake

The donation was completed Wednesday, Aug. 30, transferring ownership of the parcel known as the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve from Openlands, a Chicago-based regional conservation organization and land trust, to the Forest Preserves.

The property features 1 mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, three beautifully restored ravines and bluff tops, accessible trails, overlooks and art installations. "We are thrilled this picturesque addition to Fort Sheridan is now in public ownership for all to explore and enjoy," said Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest

One of the few publicly accessible ravines and bluff top ecosystems in the area, Openlands assumed ownership of the site, part of the former Fort Sheridan Army Base, in phases in 2007 and 2010. The area is of statewide ecological significance and home to at least six threatened and endangered plant species. Thousands of migrating birds rest and refuel at the preserve each year.

'Openlands did a wonderful job creating accessible trails through the sensitive ravine and blufftop habitats, installing bridges and staircases and did exceptional restoration work," said Paul Frank, Lake County Forest Preserves commissioner.

"We look forward to building on their investments in the site and to incorporating the new acreage into the Fort Sheridan experience.'

As part of the transfer, Openlands donated approximately \$1.36 million for conservation and habitat restoration on the property. The Preservation Foundation, the charitable partner of the Forest Preserves, received the gift and will establish a long-term endowment, which will support ongoing ecological management of the 71.55 acres. "The endowment will provide a permanent source of support to care for the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve at Fort Sheridan today and forever," said Paras Parekh, Lake County Forest Preserves commissioner.

"This is the third time in the past 18 months that Openlands has transferred land to another qualifying entity in Lake County, protecting nature for all," said Jerry Adelmann, president and CEO of Openlands. "As longstanding partners of the Lake County Forest Preserves, we're pleased to see the preserve thrive as part of Fort Sheridan. We look forward to future partnerships, building on our 60-year track record as a trusted leader on behalf of land conservation in Lake County and across the region."

Now that the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve has reopened, visitors have an important role to play. "We ask everyone to do their part when visiting the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve," said Alex Ty Kovach, executive

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Remember

to include

the 5W's:

Who, what

where,

when and

why!

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director of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "Visit only during open hours, which are 6:30 am until sunset, every day of the year, and remember that the entire site, including the shoreline, is closed at night." Visitors are also encouraged to stay on the trails to protect the sensitive blufftop and ravine habitats.

A full public master planning process to incorporate the new property into the larger forest preserve is planned within the coming years.

About Openlands

Founded in 1963, Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives. Openlands works across area to advance naturebased solutions to climate change, improve the health and well-being of communities and create a more verdant region for all.

About Lake County Forest Preserves

As principal guardian of Lake County's open space and natural areas since 1958, we set the standard in nature and historic preservation, and in outdoor recreation and education. Acknowledged as a regional and national leader, we protect more than 31,000 acres of natural land and are the second-largest Forest Preserve District in Illinois.

Lake County ROE takes big step toward mental health care access

The Lake County Regional Office of Education (Lake County ROE) is taking a big step towards mental health staff and the families of Lake

The Regional Office of Education, in partnership with ReferralGPS, is launching a free mental health service, linking families and employees to therapists and counselors in the community. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to supporting the holistic development of students and promoting a nurturing learning environment. This free mental health service is being provided through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Stop School Violence Grant awarded to the Lake County Regional Office of Education

The partnership with ReferralGPS will expand access to mental health services and or reinforce ROE's commitment to the well-being of students,

their families, and educators. Education is a community mission of the ROE and it is important that we support care access for students, students, families, and staff so they have access to timely care. This partnership will help to assist students and provide wrap-around supports because what transpires outside of school impacts the school day. Collaborating with community partners helps to ensure that every student thrives and achieves their full potential.

As the Lake County ROE and ReferralGPS embark on this groundbreaking initiative, the community can expect to see positive outcomes that contribute to the overall health and success of students in Lake County and the broader educational landscape.

For questions, please coninfo@lake.roe34.org for more information. please visit https://www.lake. k12.il.us/referralgps.

McHenry County Sheriff's arrest bulletin

The following arrests controlled substance - other in McHenry County were reported by the McHenry County Sheriff's Department. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Aug. 1

43.33A retail theft – not exceeding \$300 - taking merchandise from retail establishment with intent to deprive merchant without paying;

Arthur L. Gage, 41, Woodridge, was cited for identity theft:

Jason P. Bachler, 31, Fox River Grove, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, and A-2 domestic battery/physical contact;

Aug. 2

Éliezer Hernandez-Lopez, 32, Chicago, was cited for

contempt of court; Jose Zuniga-Olivas, 53, Rockford, was cited for manufacture/delivery of controlled substance 900+ grams heroin, possess 900+ grams of heroin, and possession of

drug/any amount;

Marc D. Travis, 51, Woodstock, was cited for criminal trespass to land;

Aug. 3

Amanda T. Watson, 42, Crystal Lake, was cited for Brian A. Bice, 46, Mer- A-5 aggravated domestic batrillville, was cited for AL tery/strangle, A-2 domestic battery/physical contact, and A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm;

> Joel Martel Nevarez, 47, Aurora, was cited for manufacture/deliver 900+ grams cocaine, and possess 900+ grams cocaine;

Aug. 4

Michael H. Boxlietner, 28, Wonder Lake, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm and A-2 domestic battery/physical contact;

Aug. 5

Francisco Palencia Angeles, 30, Crystal Lake, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/ physical contact;

Aug. 7

Michelle Angeles, 23, Crystal Lake, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical

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College news -

Brillion named to summer Dean's List

Nicholas Brillion of Antioch has been named to the Southern New Hampshire

University's summer 2023 SNHU is located in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Full time undergraduate Dean's List. The summer students must earn a minterm ran from May to August. imum gpa of 3.5-3.699 for the term to be named to the Dean's List.



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Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin The Lake County Sheriff's Dept. reported the following arrests in Lake County. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Aug. 4

Demazjae Neal, 18, North Chicago, was cited for criminal damage to state supported property;

K. Beitzel, 23, Brock Spring Grove, was cited for while license susdriving pended

Laura S. Meredik, 44, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal damage to property;

Robert E. Price, Jr., 33, Beach Park, was cited for resisting a peace officer, and pedestrian creating hazard in roadway:

Juvenile, was cited for violating an order of protection;

Daniel J. Varsek, 40, Grayslake, was cited for disorderly conduct; Ivan Diaz-Alvardo,

Gurnee, was cited for DUI -

Patrick T. Izzo, 47, Des Plaines, was cited for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol;

Aug. 5

Jesus A. Hinojoza-Ayala, 38, Zion, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Veronica Bustamante, 52, Libertyville, was cited for DUI - alcohol and no insur-

Lake Beach, was cited for driving while license sus-DUI – alcohol, and reckless Aug. 6

Deonte D. Toliver, 37, Chicago, was cited for disorderly conduct, and obstructing a

peace officer; Antonio James R. Welch, 51, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: theft;

Edwing A. Ramirez, 46, Grayslake, was cited for DUI alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol;

Gisselle M. Trujillo, 23, Mundelein, was cited for DUI - alcohol/drugs, open transportation of alcohol, illegal transportation of cannabis and no insurance.

Aug. 7

William E. Southgate, 70, Antioch, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Aug. 8

Devion M. Washington, 18, Lindenhurst, was cited for Sharbonia Poole,

Round Lake Beach, was cited for battery;

Miguel A. Delgado, 42, Beach Park, was cited for aggravated assault, and disorderly conduct;

Matthew T. Mitsven. 25. Grayslake, was cited for domestic battery;

Marcell D. Winston, 47. Beach Park, was cited for parole violation (WI Dept. of Corrections);

Margaret K. Rohr, 26, Martin Tovar, 22, Round Woodstock, was cited for

pended, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Jordan E. Leibforth, 31, Palatine, was cited for aggravated speeding (94 mph in 55 mph zone);

Abbey E. Greenberg, 33, Vernon Hills, was cited for attempt to defraud a drug screening test;

Matthew J. Horvath, 25, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful use of forged credit cards;

Karli Corey, 31, Round Lake, was cited for DUI - alcohol, open transportation of alcohol, and no insurance;

Cordell Humphrey, 51, Hazel Crest, was cited for forg-

Vincent L. Boston, 54, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Aug. 10

Anthony D. Foster, 32, Evanston, was cited for resisting arrest;

Jeroid Brightly-Wright, 40, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI - alcohol; Rodney A. Lancaster, 58,

Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: violation of an order of protection; Ernesto Vergara-Ramirez, 36, Round Lake Beach, was

cited for aggravated driving while license revoked; Julian Schlottman, Spring Grove, was cited for a warrant arrest: probation vio-

lation (WI DOC);

Anthony C. Riek, Jr., 50, Woodstock, was cited for disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property and assault;

Darnell L. Springs, 54, Beach Park, was cited for criminal trespass to residence, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, battery, criminal damage to property, and disorderly conduct;

Andrew C. Sittig, Beach Park, was cited for aggravated DUI, attempt unlawful possession of a controlled substance:

Aug. 12

Manuel L. Gonzalez, 25, Waukegan, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, DUI - alcohol, open transportation of alcohol and no insurance:

Anthony Reyes, 22, Island Lake, was cited for DUI - alcohol:

Victor Hugo Corte-Morales, 32, Crystal Lake, was cited for domestic battery, child neglect, and endangering the life/welfare of a child.

Maria Del Rosario Gomez Mata, 37, Round Lake Beach, was cited for DUI – alcohol:

Cristian D. Pulido Perez, 29. Beach Park, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Erick Sanchez, 33, Waukegan, was cited for DUI - alcohol, no driver's license, and attempted criminal damage to state supported property;

Antioch car vs. motorcycle fatal crash under investigation

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators are investigating a fatal motorcycle crash that occurred in Unincorporated Antioch over the weekend.

On September 9, at approximately 2:20 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a traffic crash with injuries at Lake Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue, Unincorporated Antioch. Deputies arrived and found a motorcycle and vehicle collided.

Preliminary investigation shows a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, driven by a 60-year-old man of Salem, Wisconsin, was traveling southbound on Lake Avenue approaching Hillcrest Avenue. At the same time, a Volkswagen Tiguan, driven by a 29-year-old woman of Antioch, was traveling northbound on Lake Avenue. The driver of the Volkswagen made a left turn onto Hillcrest Avenue, directly in front of the motorcycle. The driver of the motorcycle was unable to avoid a collision and struck the Volkswagen.

The driver of the Harley-Davidson was thrown from the motorcycle, over the Volkswagen, upon impact. Both he and the driver of the Volkswagen were transported via ambulance to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, with what were described as non-lifethreatening injuries.

On September 10, the sheriff's office received news the driver of the Harley-Davidson died, likely because of the injuries sustained in the crash. Upon receiving this information, the crash investigation was turned over to the Lake County Sheriff's Office Technical Crash Investigations Team, where it currently remains under investigation.

The Lake County Coroner's Office was notified in the afternoon on September 10, that the driver of the motorcycle had succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at Advocate Condell Medical Center. The deceased has been identified as 60-year-old Mark

Basil of Salem, Wisconsin. Preliminary results of the Coroner's investigation indicate that Mr. Basil died from blunt force injuries as a result of the crash.

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2015 NISSAN PATHFIND-**ER** Exc. cond, 84,000 miles. \$15,500. 262-882-4299.

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