

HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

APRIL 3-9, 2024 VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 48

DISPLAY ADS | CLASSIFIEDS | DELIVERY: (815) 877-4044

Email: news@hi-liter.com • Published By Southern Lakes Newspapers & Rock Valley Publishing

As of Feb. 9, 2022 Hi-Liter is the successor publication to McHenry County News

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Garden Club celebrates 20 years of beautifying, supporting the community

Spring container gala will be held April 23

By Sandra Landen Machaj
CORRESPONDENT

The McHenry Garden Club has been an active part of the community for 20 years, but it was just a dream until a group of people interested gathered to consider forming a club.

When Marita Sension and her husband moved to McHenry in 2001, she had no idea that she would be one of those responsible for starting a garden club in McHenry, let alone one that would grow and prosper over the next 20 years and expand from a few original members to more than 40.

Sension said shortly after moving here, she and her family went to Woodstock to view the decorated Christmas Trees in the square. The trees had each been decorated by different clubs in the area.

While speaking with the representative from the Woodstock Garden Club, Sension was invited to their next meeting. She went – and joined the club – but began thinking about the need for a Garden Club in McHenry.

She wondered why McHenry didn't have a garden club, after all, there were lots of gardens in the area.

She was also surprised to learn that Crystal Lake had four garden clubs so she began to actively pursue starting one in her own community. With help from the Crystal Lake and Woodstock clubs, she reached out to the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which sent her some "How to" information.

By 2004, Sension was ready to put her plan for starting a McHenry Garden Club into action. She began this fledgling attempt by arranging the use of the meeting room on the lower level of the McHenry Savings Bank and wrote a piece for the local newspaper, inviting people to come to a meeting on the third Thursday of January 2004 for a discussion about forming a garden club.

To her surprise and delight 12 people showed up and the club was formed. That night when the McHenry Garden Club was created, Sension was elected president and Barb Patterson was elected vice president in charge of programs. Patterson would go on to become the second president of the club.

Slow, steady growth

"In the first four years, we grew in numbers and activities, developed bylaws, a

website and a Facebook page, and endeavored to see how we could help McHenry be more beautiful," shared Sension.

The group slowly began inviting other like-minded people to join. Their meetings were held monthly and were a combination of a social event as well as a learning opportunity that often featured a guest speaker. The guests were often Master Gardeners who shared their knowledge of gardening, or a craft such as creating a pot or planting a dish garden. Some of the activities were held at members' homes, with the homeowner hosting the group.

Sension said the meetings were enjoyable events, with members and visitors leaving with new knowledge about growing beautiful plants and flowers. Those present were also enjoying the friendships among the members of the club, friendships that have continued to grow over the years.

One of the early concerns was how to find ways to raise money for the club's beautification projects and scholarships, but they discovered that their early efforts only yielded meager amounts.

Thanks to members Jean Schiller and Lora Godak, an event that would be successful in providing the funds

needed to reach the club's goals was pursued.

After attending a garden show in Richmond, Schiller and Godak suggested the McHenry Garden Club put on a show, too, but it was not met with much enthusiasm by the members. But they persisted and the club's first flower show was held at McHenry

High School in 2007. It was successful and profitable for the club and not only did it become an annual event but expanded to two shows each year.

Putting on a show

"The flower show attracts about 300 people for each event," according to Wanda

Comein, current president of the McHenry Garden Club.

The shows are a tremendous amount of work and require the help of the entire club membership for it to be successful.

The show itself includes participation from several...

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• Garden club

(Continued from front page)

usually four to five, local florists who make beautiful flower arrangements. The arrangements are created on stage for the audience to observe and a commentator, who is also a floral designer, describes the plants and flowers in the arrangements. At the last show, Jennifer Hunt from JH Events and Flowers served as commentator.

Then, to the delight of the crowd, each arrangement is raffled off to someone in the audience. There's no additional charge to be in the raffle as the admission ticket is also the ticket for the raffle. Approximately 50 arrangements are presented during a show and are taken home by the lucky winners.

Another fun aspect to the show is the beautiful baskets created by club members and filled with unique items of which many, but not all, are related to gardening. The raffle baskets are another means of raising funds to continue the garden club's work.

For many years, Traudl Koberlein and Pat Schafer along with a committee of other volunteers, have designed and created these exciting baskets to be raffled off as prizes. And as a bonus, they add to the money raised at the flower shows.

While at the show, guests can enjoy coffee, tea or hot chocolate, along with some homemade baked goods available for sale.

Part of the community

The McHenry Garden Club is involved in – and supportive of – the local community in several ways. “One of our events that continues to be held and enjoyed is our Garden of the Month designation,” Comein said.

“A committee of several club members visit gardens in the community and after speaking with the homeowner, will choose two to three gardens and meet privately to choose which of these is to be made garden of the month,” she said.

The winner is given a \$25 gift certificate, and a sign is placed in their yard for the month. A garden is chosen each month throughout the summer, according to Comein.

Another group of members regularly spends time at Koberlein's home putting together small bouquets of flowers that are taken to senior homes, the hospital, and hospice patients.

These Sunshine Deliveries are created from donated arrangements. The flowers are re-purposed into smaller bouquets of sunshine for those who may not be at their best health wise. The goal is to bring a smile to the recipient's faces and some sunshine into their lives.

Over the years, McHenry Garden Club members have created some beautiful plantings to add to the beauty of the city. Some of those plantings are at the request of the city or the Chamber of Commerce.

Among the many projects done were plantings on Green Street, beautifying the Post Office parking lot and planting flowers at the Riverwalk shops, all of which were done by garden club volunteers.

During the Christmas holiday season, club members participated in the Festival of Trees held at the recreation

center.

“We encouraged visitors to leave non-perishable food under the tree to be donated to the food pantry,” Comein said. “Last summer, for the first time, we had a float in the Fiesta Days Parade.”

The club has sponsored numerous library programs over the years, which have included teaching children to plant flowers. Additionally, they support the McHenry High School Garden Club.

The biggest outlay of money from the club is the awarding of college scholarships to students residing in McHenry who are pursuing the study of agriculture or any type of soil-based studies.

Staying active

Currently, club members are preparing for the Spring Container Gala, which will be held Tuesday, April 23, at McHenry High School – West Campus, 4724 W. Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry.

Florist participants already on board for the upcoming Gala include Harms Farm & Garden Center, Lockers Flowers Greenhouses and Gifts – both of McHenry, and Soil & Spade, out of Crystal Lake. Once again, these creative designers, who might be joined by others yet to sign on for the event, will provide a variety of garden containers to beautify a yard or the inside of a home.

The basket committee is already working hard to create raffle prize baskets to be enjoyed by the winners. And while it's a bit too early for the bakers to be creating their freshly baked goods that will be offered for sale, those planning to attend can be assured the sweet treats will not disappoint at the event.

Advance tickets to the Spring Container Gala can be purchased for \$12 per person or at the door for \$15. The doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Those interested in joining the McHenry Garden Club, are welcome to attend a meeting so they can meet club members and learn more about the programs the club offers and supports.

Regular club meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 404 N. Green St., McHenry. Some meetings, however, are at members'

homes or involve trips taken by club members so please check the calendar on the website for details.

To learn more about the club, purchase tickets to the Spring Container Gala, or inquire about attending a meeting, contact club president Wanda Comein, at 708-205-8428, membership chairman Pat Dicker at 815-382-2611 or send an email to mchenrygardenclub@gmail.com.

Additional information can be found on the McHenry Garden Club website at www.mchenrygardenclub.com. welcome to attend a meeting so they can meet club members and learn more about the programs the club offers and supports.

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Top: The garden of the month for July 2023 featured a variety of flowers. The sign honoring the owner is posted near the garden for the entire month. Above: Many members of the Garden Club spend a great deal of time creating beautiful gardens in their own yards. Right: Jennifer Hunt, as commentator for one of the McHenry Garden Club's flower shows, explains the variety of flowers in one of the arrangements.



PHOTOS COURTESY MCHENRY GARDEN CLUB Hi-Liter/MCN

Touch-A-Truck event May 19

McHenry County Division of Transportation will be holding a Touch-A-Truck event on Sunday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blaine's Farm & Fleet parking lot.

Join for a fun-filled day of exploration and discovery at this inaugural event.

There will be interactive exhibits where where you can see the machines and vehicles up close and learn about how they operate, food trucks with food and refreshments from local vendors, and prizes and giveaways throughout the day.

This family-friendly event is open to everyone in the community free of charge.

Blain's Farm & Fleet is located at 11501 US Route 14, Woodstock.

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As of Feb. 9, 2022 Hi-Liter is the successor publication to McHenry County News

DEADLINES:

News..... Friday noon
Display Advertising Friday 3 p.m.
Legal Notices..... Friday 4:30 p.m.
Classifieds Monday 10 a.m.

Published by Southern Lakes Newspapers & Rock Valley Publishing

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— PUBLISHED WEEKLY —

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Celebrate Earth Day

McHenry County Conservation District will host its annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 20 from noon - 4:00 p.m. at Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake. Visitors can explore earth-friendly activities and stations, plant seeds, take a guided hike, view a puppet show and more. For those looking to relax, bring a blanket and a lunch for a picnic with views of the prairie. The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County will also be on hand to accept household recycling. This is a free event for all ages with no registration required. Co-sponsored by the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. Learn more at MCCD.me/SpecialEvents. Shown is an activity from a previous Earth Day celebration.

Millstream Road bridge project to continue through July 2025

Thru traffic and waterway closures in place, except for local access to homes

The McHenry County Division of Transportation announces the start of the Millstream Road Bridge Project. The project was scheduled to start March 18 and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2025, weather permitting.

Millstream Road was closed March 18, from River Road to Route 176. Kunda Road will be closed to thru traffic from Millstream Road to Union Road, however local access to homes will be maintained at all times. Waterway closures are to be expected and signage will be placed to notify water-travelers of the construction zone.

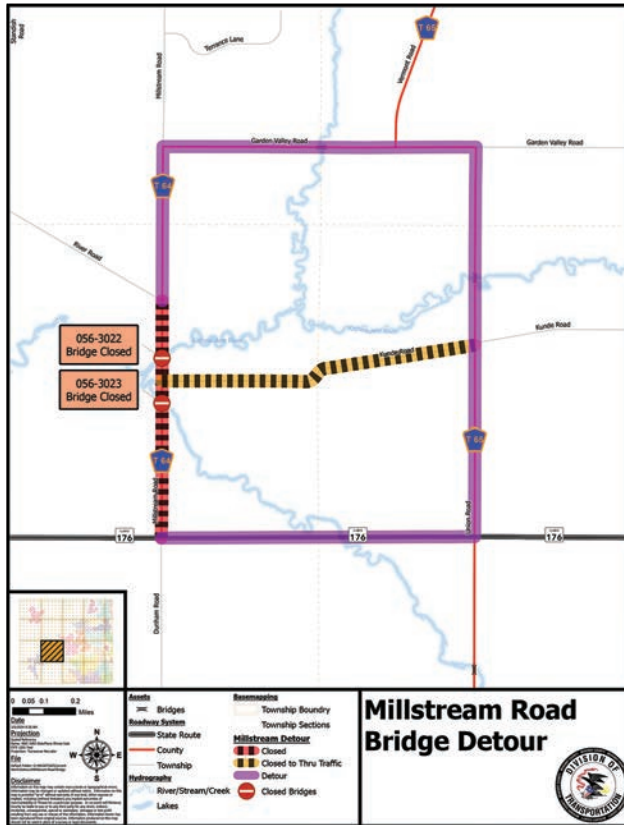
The detour redirects traffic from the intersection of

River Road and Millstream Road to Garden Valley Road, Union Road and Route 176.

The project will replace two bridges on Millstream Road over branches of the Kishwaukee River. Upon completion, both bridges will be widened, with the north bridge widening to 36 feet and the south bridge to 40 feet to better accommodate truck traffic, farming equipment and non-motorized users.

The south bridge will undergo significant enhancements, including a relocation of approximately 35 feet southward, resulting in a 29-foot extension compared to the existing structure. Meanwhile, the north bridge will remain in its current location.

Follow the Division of Transportation on Facebook and Nextdoor to stay abreast of construction projects on county highways.



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Pet of the week

Betsey, is about 3 years old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworm and micro-chipped.

This polydactyl cat is currently at the PetSmart in Kildeer on Route 12.

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.

Lake County Health Department reports first measles case

Case investigation continues to identify possible exposures

The Lake County Health Department has confirmed a case of measles in a Lake County resident. To date, there have been over 60 reported measles cases in Illinois since 2010. Case investigation has determined that this case is related to the ongoing situation in the City of Chicago.

The Health Department is working to identify and notify people that may have been exposed to measles, including at the facilities where the Lake County resident sought medical care. The Health Department is in close contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as the investigation continues.

The Health Department has identified the following exposure locations in public settings. Members of the public who were at any of the locations on the dates below might have been exposed to measles:

- Consume Restaurant, 569 W IL-22 Telser Rd., Lake Zurich. 3/13 – 1:58 p.m. to 11:10 p.m., 3/14, - 12:15 p.m. to 11:12 p.m., 3/15 – 11:12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., 3/16 – 10:39 a.m. to 11:27 p.m., and 3/19 – 1:42 p.m. to 5:34 p.m.

- *Advocate Condell Medical Center Emergency Department, 801 S. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville. 3/20 – 5:56 p.m. to 3/21 at 4:01 a.m.

*Those exposed and unvaccinated from the Advocate exposure should contact a healthcare provider or pharmacy to receive the MMR vaccine to prevent measles.

People who are unvaccinated, pregnant, an infant under 6 months old, or immunocompromised and were exposed at either location above may still be eligible to get immunoglobulin to prevent disease. Contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible for more information and next steps.

Those who have been vaccinated against measles are likely protected and do not need to take further action at this time. Please monitor for symptoms for 21 days and call the Health Department if symptoms develop. Unvaccinated individuals who were at any of the locations above on the dates and times listed, may have been exposed to measles and should contact the Health Department's Communicable Disease team at (847) 377-8130.

While cases of measles are exceedingly rare due to high vaccination coverage from childhood, reports of measles cases have recently been increasing internationally and in the United States. The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is extremely effective at preventing measles and remains by far the best protection against measles for people of all ages. However, measles is highly contagious and can be dangerous to those who are unvaccinated, especially babies and young children.

"Vaccination is the best tool we have to prevent the spread of measles. This is a good reminder to make sure that you are up to date on all your vaccines," said Dr. Sana Ahmed, the Lake County Health Department's Medical Epidemiologist. "If you don't know if you have been vaccinated, ask your healthcare provider to find out if you need an MMR vaccine. If your child is 1 year old or older and has never received the MMR vaccine, contact your child's pediatric provider to discuss how your child can get caught up with their vaccines."

About Measles

Measles is a serious respiratory infection that causes a rash and high fever and is capable of leading to pneumonia and other complications. Measles spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, talks, coughs, or sneezes.

The virus can stay in the air and on surfaces for many hours, even after the infected person has left. The infected person can spread the disease up to four days before a measles rash appears and up to four days after the rash appears. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.

A first dose of MMR is recommended at 12 months of age and a second at 4 to 6 years of age, but it is never too late to get your MMR vaccine if you haven't already. Anyone who isn't sure if they're vaccinated against measles should contact their healthcare provider or local pharmacy today.

Most health insurance covers the cost of the MMR and MMRV vaccine. Insured persons should check with their provider or local pharmacy to see what vaccines are offered. Uninsured or underinsured children and adults can access free or low-cost vaccines. To find a clinic near you, visit HRSA's Health Center Finder at <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>, or call 2-1-1.

For more information about measles and how you can protect yourself, visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles>.



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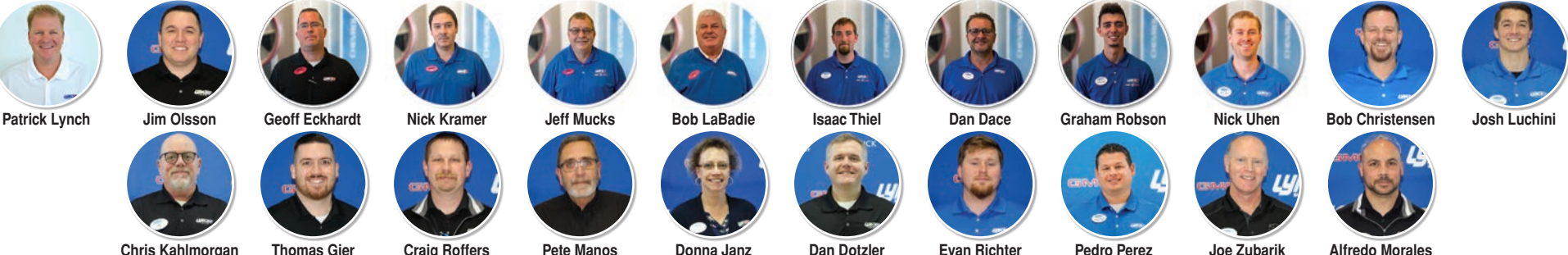
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Village of Antioch seeking resident input on new park name

With the construction of the Village of Antioch's newest and most visible park wrapping up in the coming months, the Village of Antioch is now asking residents for their help in naming the new park. This past Friday, Antioch Mayor Scott Gartner announced a community-driven park naming process aimed at engaging residents for their input. This initiative, spearheaded by the Antioch Village Board and the Antioch Parks Commission, invites residents to submit suggestions for the park's new name, reflecting the community's identity and values. Submissions will be accepted online through April 7, 2024. The park, which will be located on the north end of the downtown Antioch busi-

ness district, will serve as a hub for recreational activities, family gatherings, and community events. Mayor Gartner emphasizes the importance of involving residents in the naming process. "Our parks are central to the fabric of our community, and it's important that our village residents have a voice in shaping this park's permanent identity," said Gartner. "This naming process is an opportunity for every member of our village to contribute and leave a lasting legacy for future Antioch generations." Residents are encouraged to participate by submitting their suggestions through an online submission platform. Suggestions are asked to include a brief statement justifying the chosen name, taking into consideration factors such as geographical location, historical significance, and connection to the community. The top five names that best meet the established criteria will be shortlisted by the Antioch Parks Commission for further consideration. Residents will have the opportunity to vote on their choice of the final names, with the top choices, including the name that receives the top vote, will then be presented to the village board for final approval later this spring.

For more information and to submit naming suggestions, visit: <https://polco.us/n/res/vote/antioch-il/vote-to-name-the-villages-newest-public-open-space-round-1>



SUBMITTED IMAGE Hi-Liter/MCN

Shown here is a rendering of what some of the space at the new park in Antioch will look like. The village is taking online submissions until Sunday for suggested names for the new park.

Community briefs

Mark your calendar for Touch-A-Truck event May 19

McHenry County Division of Transportation will be holding a Touch-A-Truck event on Sunday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blaine's Farm & Fleet parking lot.

Join for a fun-filled day of exploration and discovery at this inaugural event.

There will be interactive

exhibits where you can see the machines and vehicles up close and learn about how they operate. Food trucks will be on site with food and refreshments from local vendors, and there will be prizes and giveaways throughout the day.

This family-friendly event is open to everyone in the community free of charge.

Blain's Fram & Fleet is located at 11501 US Route 14, Woodstock.

McConnell Ball tickets still available

The nonprofit W.A. McConnell Foundation is bringing back its popular McConnell Ball on Saturday, April 13 - featuring chances to win fabulous prizes and puzzle over a turn-of-the-century whodunnit that remains unsolved.

The event runs from 7 to 10 p.m. in The District, a National Register of Historic Places venue located

in downtown Richmond at 10308 N Main St. Each \$50 ticket entitles guests to an array of unique hors d'oeuvres, two drink tickets, dancing music, a silent auction and an Eldredge Mystery presentation and gallery featuring celebrated storyteller Jim May. Two brothers were shot to death 24 years apart - with the same gun!

Formed in 2021, when a group of community members recognized a need for preserving the unique history of Richmond and the

surrounding area, the nonprofit foundation continues to grow and impact local history in a number of ways, including buying and saving the oldest building in town built in 1844. However, the Charles G. Cotting House, referred to as Olde No. 90, requires significant restoration in order to preserve it for future generations.

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, silent auction items include tickets to a White Sox game, Chipotle gift cards, a BarkBox gift

pack, Cubs and Bears memorabilia, an animal tour for the kids, a wine tasting for 12, and tickets to see a Kane County Cougars or Rockford Rivets game.

Visit www.wammcconnellfoundation.org for more information or to buy tickets. You also may buy tickets in person at Anderson's Candy Shop, and Cimmarron Archery. Dress "to the nines" or simply come as you are. Just come, and support local history.

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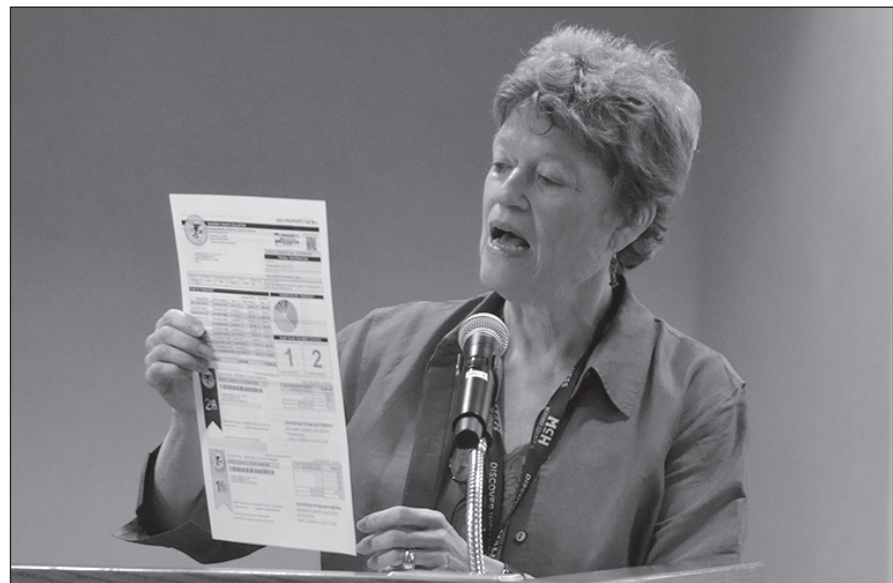
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

McHenry County Treasurer Donna Kurtz gave a presentation on the county's new property tax bills to the McHenry County Board Committee of the Whole on March 14.

Treasurer unveils new property tax bills to improve transparency

Starting this year, McHenry County property owners will see a new tax bill that offers more transparency than ever about where their tax dollars go, and offers more ways to pay.

The list of taxing bodies into which property owners pay will now be listed in order based on their total dollar amount increase, as well as include the phone number for each organization. A pie chart next to the list will help taxpayers understand how much of their bill goes to each unit of local government.

On the back of the bill, taxpayers also will find the phone numbers of every township assessor, as well as contact information for the County Assessments Office, which handles property tax exemptions and assessment appeals.

"McHenry county is home to 119 units of government that levy property taxes - that's a lot for taxpayers to keep track of," Kurtz said. "This new tax bill increases not only transparency, but also local governments' accountability to taxpayers - if a business can include its phone number on its receipts, why can't government do the same with its tax bills?"

The new bills also make it easier

for taxpayers to pay electronically if they wish. Besides the traditional tear-off coupons to mail both installment payments, the bill now includes a QR code that takes the taxpayer directly to the portal to pay electronically.

McHenry county's municipal governments and townships are partnering with Kurtz's office to ensure that contact information listed on the bills directs taxpayers to tax-knowledgeable employees who can answer their questions. Kurtz's office is also partnering with Regional Superintendent of Schools Diana Hartmann to gather contact information for county school districts, and McHenry county Coordinator Chalen Daigle, who facilitates ways for county and regional governments to work together to increase efficiency and decrease redundancies and costs.

"Transparency and ease of communication should be a function of all government, Crystal Lake Mayor Haig Haleblan said. "Efforts to increase transparency for all constituents within the county is welcome."

The new property tax bill will be mailed out May 3, with the installments due June 10 and Sept. 10.

You ought to be in pictures!

THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.

▼ Community events, car washes, festivals, lemonade stands, school projects - people at work and at play.

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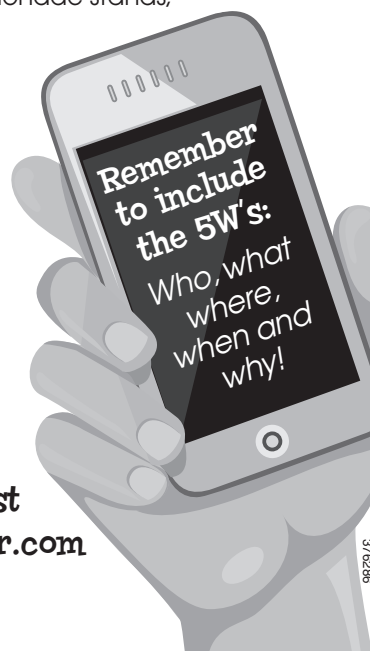
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▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo

▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

▼ Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit

This is your chance to promote your organization or special event!



E-mail your photos at the highest possible resolution to: news@hi-liter.com BY NOON ON FRIDAY

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE.

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Lake County Sheriff's Office to purchase flock safety cameras

On March 12, the Lake County Board approved the purchase of 15 Flock Safety Cameras for the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will join over 20 Lake County municipalities who currently use Flock Safety Cameras, of which there are over 260 throughout the county. No additional taxes or fees were

necessary to fund this purchase.

Flock Safety Cameras provide a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies to locate missing or endangered persons, stolen vehicles, and suspects wanted for violent crimes. The cameras are not used for traffic enforcement purposes. Guidelines are in

place for the collection and use of the data from the cameras.

The exact locations for the cameras have not yet been determined. However, as the cameras will be placed near public roadways, those locations are subject to approval by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

NHTSA and local law enforcement remind drivers 'Put the Phone Away or Pay'

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is launching a national high-visibility enforcement effort, April 1-30, 2024, to deter distracted driving. The McHenry County Sheriff's Office and Law enforcement officers nationwide will work together to enforce texting and distracted-driving laws and remind drivers: "Put the Phone Away or Pay". This effort comes during April, which is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

According to NHTSA, in 2021 there were 3,522 people killed and an estimated additional 362,415 people injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers.

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office urges drivers to put their phones away when behind the wheel. If you are the driver, follow these steps for a safe drive:

- If you are expecting a text message or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location.
- Ask your passenger to be your "designated texter." Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.

- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone's "Do Not Disturb" feature, silence notifications, or put your phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

The Distracted Driving enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by IDOT.

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.

Feb. 28
Brian A. King, 36, Antioch, was cited for a warrant obtained: criminal sexual assault, and aggravated criminal sexual abuse;

Jocelyn Neri, 26, Mundelein, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Ali Marami, 49, Antioch, was cited for aggravated speeding (85 mph in 45 mph zone);

Feb. 29
Michael G. Molombo, 42, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant obtained: failure to register as a sexual offender;

Austin M. Feltner, 28, Antioch, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Noel Martinez-Flores, 39, West Allis, WI, was cited for aggravated speeding (84 mph in 50 mph zone);

Florence Abernathy, 59, Lake Villa, was cited for battery;

Kemani T. Bettis, 23, Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended and no insurance;

March 1
Ashley R. Thompson, 35, Woodstock, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated fleeing and eluding;

Alfonso Monroy-Serrano, 40, Waukegan, was cited for aggravated DUI, and open transportation of alcohol;

Byron L. Craig, 44, North Chicago, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Benjamin Rodriguez, 28, Mundelein, was cited for a warrant arrest: fleeing and eluding and resisting arrest;

James A. Bills, 20, Round Lake Beach, was cited for no driver's license;

Andrew R. Derham, 29, Gurnee, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and driving while license suspended;

Mitchell W. Boeckmann, 29, Ingleside, was cited for DUI - alcohol and reckless driving;

March 2
Cassie L. Fluegel, 37, Richmond, was cited for DUI - alcohol and no insurance;

Jose A. Maldonado-Delgado, 52, North Chicago, was cited for DUI - alcohol, leaving the scene of an accident and no insurance;

Dominic E. Cervantes, 32, Round Lake Beach, was cited for no driver's license;

Kimberly A. Kastar, 57, Gurnee, was cited for DUI - alcohol.

Kidnapping offender identified and apprehended by Sheriff's Office

Detectives believe it was not his first time committing this offense

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives solved a kidnapping that occurred in February, and the offender was arrested over the weekend.

On February 25, 2024, at approximately 2:10 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's 911 Dispatchers received a 911 call from a witness who reported her friend was just kidnapped by an unknown male. Sheriff's dispatchers obtained valuable information and provided it to responding deputies.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and learned the witness and the victim, a 22-year-old woman from Whitewater, Wisconsin, just left a nightclub in Waukegan. As they were driving home, a man, later identified as Jonatan Luna-Carrasco, 28, of the 1100 block of Adams Street, North Chicago, pulled alongside of them as they traveled on Route 41 in the area of Hanssen Road, Wadsworth. Luna-Carrasco told them they had a flat tire, so the witness and victim pulled over.

Luna-Carrasco told the two he would assist in changing the flat tire and encouraged the victim to stay warm inside his car. After the victim entered Luna-Carrasco's vehicle, he fled with her against her will. The victim was able to jump out of the car in the 3500 block of Highland Avenue, Gurnee, and run to a home to ask for help. Gurnee Police Department responded and aided the victim until sheriff's deputies arrived.

Sheriff's detectives believe Luna-Carrasco was attempting to take the victim to an unknown location. It is not clear what his intentions were once he arrived there with the victim, however, the victim indicated Luna-Carrasco made sexually suggestive comments after kidnapping her.



Jonatan Luna-Carrasco

Sheriff's deputies learned Luna-Carrasco was driving a gray Dodge Durango. Sheriff's telecommunicators and sheriff's deputies at the scene utilized Flock Camera technology and located a vehicle that matched the description. Sheriff's detectives

furthered the investigation and identified Luna-Carrasco as a suspect. Further investigation revealed that he was responsible for the kidnapping of the victim.

On March 22, 2024, sheriff's detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Luna-Carrasco for kidnapping. He was arrested on March 30, 2024, in Waukegan. Luna-Carrasco was held in the Lake County Jail pending a detention hearing.

Sheriff's detectives believe this was not Luna-Carrasco's first time committing this offense. Anyone who has been victimized by Luna-Carrasco or has additional information, should contact the Lake County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 847-377-4000.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "This is another example of excellent police work by everyone involved, from our sheriff's telecommunicators to our deputies who responded, to our detectives who put in an extensive amount of investigative work. Additionally, we were able to leverage Flock camera technology to help us further our investigation, which played a large role in identifying the offender in this case.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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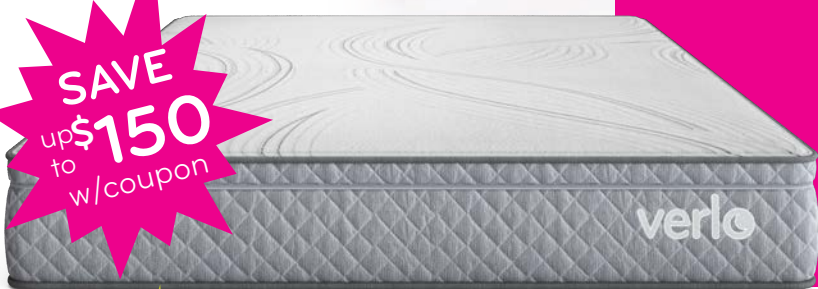
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