

Hi-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

AUG. 28-SEPT. 3, 2024 VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 17

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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Village of Antioch opens Sequoit Creek Park

Once blighted downtown property has been redeveloped into the Village's newest park with an exposed creek waterway, performance pavilion, splash pad, and inclusive playground

The Village of Antioch's newest park is now open to the public! Before a crowd of nearly a thousand residents, community stakeholders, and current and former elected officials, Village of Antioch Mayor Scott Gartner led the ribbon-cutting ceremony and officially opened Sequoit Creek Park. The ceremony marked the conclusion of a milestone project for the village that was years in the making.

"I couldn't be more proud to stand here with you today to celebrate one of the most significant accomplishments in our village's history. This park is a true gem," said Gartner. "This park has been transformed into a beautiful space that reflects the natural beauty of our community. From the greenery to the thoughtfully designed spaces, Sequoit Creek Park is a place where nature, community, and modern amenities come together perfectly."

The park features a splash pad, an accessible playground, a public performance pavilion with room for nearly 1,000, firepits, and a concession area with bathrooms, all centered around a re-exposed Sequoit Creek. The updates to the creek add beautiful aesthetics, plus flood mitigation attributes.

The Sequoit Creek Park project took years of planning, beginning with property acquisition, gathering public feedback, countless meetings on design and engineering, and a significant financial investment. The Village

was able to complete the project without impacting residents' property taxes. Grant funding was secured in part from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) - \$1.9 million, Stormwater Management Commission grant - \$2.75 million, with the remainder of the funds from Alternate Revenue Source General Obligation Bonds, which will be paid by from business district sales tax revenue.

"Today, we stand in the heart of our village, in what we envisioned as the centerpiece for our community for the next hundred years," said Gartner. "A place to gather, meet friends, welcome visitors, and take pride in our village."

Also speaking during the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Josh Boller, president of the site construction contractor, Boller Construction Company. In May 2023, the Antioch Village Board selected Boller Construction as the winning bidder for the \$12.5 million project.

The ceremony started with an invocation by Pastor Mark Albrecht of Northbridge Church of Antioch. Music was provided by the Rats Jazz Combo, consisting of musicians from Antioch Community High School, followed by a performance by local cover band, The Complex.

This Project is supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLT 3381 awarded to the State of Illinois by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



Above: A view of the waterway running through Antioch's Sequoit Creek Park during the August 17 Grand Opening festivities. At left: The crowd at Sequoit Creek Park looks on as Pastor Mark Albrecht of NorthBridge Church in Antioch gives the invocation during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. See page 4 for more photos from the event.

JANELLE ROMINSKI PHOTOS
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As DNC, state leaders tout Illinois as a 'model of Democratic success'

Pritzker speaks to delegation, visits other state breakfasts on opening day

By Hannah Meisel
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

In announcing Chicago would host of the 2024 Democratic National Convention more than a year ago, national party leaders referred to Illinois as a key part of the "blue wall" of Midwestern states crucial to President Joe Biden's 2020 election.

Instead of choosing a venue in a swing state, as they had done for the last two decades, Democrats selected a city and state long dominated by Democratic politics and policies. And while Illinois and Chicago in particular have become conservative media shorthand for out-of-control progressive government, Illinois Democrats sought to cast their brand of politics as an exemplar for

the nation.

Gov. JB Pritzker, who was instrumental in landing the DNC in Chicago, kicked off the Illinois delegation's Aug. 19 breakfast at a downtown hotel by thanking elected Democrats in the room "for the work that you've done to make this the greatest Democratic Party that Illinois has ever had and in the entire country."

Before making a quick exit to speak to delegates at two other states' Democratic Party breakfasts, Pritzker rattled off a litany of legislation passed during his 5½-year tenure as governor so far. The governor acknowledged the Democratic supermajorities in the General Assembly that helped pass items ranging from a minimum wage hike to \$15 an hour start-

ing next year to a \$10 million state investment to pay off a projected \$1 billion in medical debt for low-income Illinoisans.

Republicans, he reminded the group, "voted against all of that."

"It's almost as if Republicans don't want working families to succeed," Pritzker said, pivoting to the attack dog role he's been rehearsing for months and criticizing the GOP for being "obsessed with other things ... like explaining away Donald Trump's 34 felony fraud convictions."

But instead of focusing on Trump and other Republicans, Democrats tried to keep the spotlight on their positive vision for what their party can accomplish.

"This convention is our opportunity to share our successes, to set the agenda, and to show the entire country why Illinois is leading the way," DNC Host Committee Executive Director Christy George, who most recently worked in Pritzker's office on budget and economic issues, told the breakfast crowd.

State Rep. Lisa Hernandez, D-Cicero, who serves as chair of the Illinois Democratic Par-

ty, echoed those sentiments as she called Illinois "a model of Democratic success" and "the beacon of progress in the Midwest."

Illinois is increasingly a blue island in the mostly red center of the country, and Democratic politicians have leaned into that identity in recent years.

On the heels of Trump nominating his first U.S. Supreme Court justice weeks into his first term in early 2017, Democrats in the General Assembly began pushing for abortion protections in the event that a conservative majority on the court might someday overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

By the time that happened five years later, Illinois Democrats had approved a series of laws shoring up reproductive rights just as surrounding states began banning or severely restricting abortion access.

Late last week, Pritzker highlighted Illinois' position as a sanctuary for abortion seekers and providers at an event hosted by Think Big America, the progressive advocacy organization he founded last fall. The group, staffed by the governor's political team, has so far been involved with abortion rights ballot measures in Ohio,

Nevada, Arizona and Montana. Illinois Democrats highlighted the law during an event Aug. 19 in conjunction with the anti-gun violence organization named for former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, who has spent more than a decade advocating for gun control measures after surviving an assassination attempt early in her third term in Congress in 2011.

Recalling the chaos of the Highland Park parade, State Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, who went on to become the lead sponsor of Illinois' assault weapons ban, said it was an "opportunity to turn our pain into purpose."

While Illinois is among a mix of Midwestern states that have not adopted "right to work" laws that bar employers from requiring workers to be union members to keep their jobs.

But Illinois Democrats went a step further, putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot that bans the state from adopting right-to-work laws in the future. Illinois voters approved the "Workers Rights Amendment" in 2022.

And in a move that continues to generate attacks from conservatives, Illinois

became the first state to completely eliminate its cash bail system last year. Abolishing cash bail was just one part of a wide-ranging 2021 criminal justice reform law pushed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in 2020 and a summer of protests that followed.

The law went unmentioned during the Illinois delegation's official breakfast Aug. 19, but House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, highlighted the legacy of black political power in Illinois, stretching back to the founding of the NAACP in Springfield following the 1908 race riots in the city.

Welch traced the trajectories of major black activists and elected officials with ties to Illinois through time, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who he said inspired generations of young black Americans to get involved in politics with his oft-recited speech adapted from an earlier poem that featured the phrase "I am somebody."

"I believed I was somebody, and I stand before you today as the first black speaker of the Illinois House," he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Drug take back program being provided by coroner's office

Dr. Michael Rein and the Coroner's Office announced they have teamed up with Inmar Intelligence Company to start a new program for the citizens of McHenry County. This new initiative will be a drug take back that will help not only the citizens of McHenry County but also help eliminate any possible high concentrations of drugs in our water supply.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has reported that approximately 75% of heroin users have their first experience with opioids obtained from the medicine cabinets of family and friends. At the same time, an Associated Press investigation found measurable concentrations of pharmaceuticals in the water supplies of at least 46 million people in 24 major metropolitan areas.

Helping to curb this growing problem, the Coroner's Office will now have an ongoing place to dispose of medications at no cost. People will be able to bring all outdated or unused prescription medications and over the counter (OTC) drugs for disposal. This includes pills, capsules, inhalers and even liquids will be accepted. This does not include OTC supplements.

Anyone wishing to drop off medication can stop by the Annex A Building behind the Court House, where the Coroner's Office is located, 2200 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock, during normal business hours and drop itmes into the green bin that is conveniently located in the entryway of the building. There is no charge to the citizens and there is no charge to our office. This is a free program for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the coroners office at 815.334.4773 for any other details.

Nonprofit launches initiative to empower adopted, foster and kinship students

By Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

A new, Chicago-based nonprofit is making strides to improve the futures of Illinois' adopted, foster and kinship students.

Founded in February by Laura Adams, iCARE4 Adoptive and Foster Families is introducing a free online training program aimed at enhancing the mental health outcomes of nearly 300,000 adopted, foster and kinship students across the state. The training is accessible at icare4aaff.org.

"Our mission is to bridge the gap between child welfare professionals, parents and schools," said Adams, who now serves as the organization's president and CEO. "We believe that schools, equipped with the right training, can play a crucial role in supporting these students during their most formative years."

The program offers 15 to 17 hours of specialized training designed for school mental health professionals, focusing on the specific needs of adopted, foster and kinship children. Five school districts already have committed to the training: Rondout School District 72, Northbrook/Glenview School District 30, Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest Community High School District 115 and New Trier Township High School District 203.

Already, school staff members taking the training are seeing the benefits.

"NTI School-based Mental Health Professionals Training is an outstanding resource for school-based professionals and behavioral health specialists," said Jenny Wojcik, superintendent of Rondout School District 72. "The training program is filled with evidence-based research strategies for supporting youth and families who have experienced the challenges associated with the world of adoption, foster and kinship parenting relationships. "The training not only of-



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

iCare4 Adoptive and Foster Families President and CEO Laura Adams is pictured during the Region 4 Social and Emotional Learning Symposium in Rockford in June.

fers extraordinary guidance for those whose lives have been touched by the related trauma of these lived experiences," she continued, "but it also supports trauma-informed practices for young people from many backgrounds."

"Adopted, foster, and kinship children are among the most vulnerable in our school systems," Adams noted. "Too often, their emotional support is left solely to child welfare professionals and parents. But with schools playing such a significant role in these children's lives, it's essential that school staff are also well-equipped to meet their needs."

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, the importance of this training will become even more pronounced as Illinois implements SB2824. This new law will allow foster children to remain in their current schools even if they are placed in different foster homes.

"This law provides much-needed stability, ensuring that foster children won't face additional disruptions in their academics, relationships with teachers, and friendships," Adams said. "With these children staying in their schools long-term, it's even more crucial that educators know how to support them effectively."

By the ages of 12 to 17, approximately 80% of foster children and 50% of adopted children require mental health services. Alarming, more than 40% of foster children do not graduate from high school, and only 8% pursue higher education. In Illinois, the estimated 300,000 foster, adopted and kinship students represent about 15% of the state's total public school enrollment, equating to roughly three students in every classroom.

The recent influx of immigrants adds to the numbers as

these children may have similar experiences to adopted and foster children — often suffering the grief of separation from a parent as well as from being uprooted from their childhood homes.

The training is known as adoption competency training and includes eight modules developed by the National Training Initiative (NTI) for the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.). Topics covered include attachment issues, trauma-informed assessment and best practices for mental health support in schools.

Illinois already is leading the way in equity of care by increasing access to mental health support through schools. However, true equity cannot be achieved without ensuring that school staff are properly trained to meet the specific needs of every student, including those who are adopted, in foster care, or part of kinship families, Adams said.

"Our vision is for every adopted, foster, and kinship child to have schools that know how to support them, no matter where they live," she said.

To further advocate for these changes, Adams and her team will present a workshop at the Illinois School Social Worker Conference in October and participate in an equity immersion panel at the joint annual conference for Illinois school boards, superintendents and administrators in November. Another bright spot has been iCARE's recent inclusion on the statewide REACH Learning and Resource Hub overseen by the Center for Childhood Resilience.

Meanwhile, iCARE continues to urge school leaders to enroll their staff in the free online course. For more information, visit icare4aaff.org or contact Laura Adams at laura@icare4aaff.org. Donations to support this important work can also be made on the website.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Below: For Children's Music Day, MCHS Tri-M students hosted younger students at Upper Campus in January for a morning of music activities. Above: The MCHS Tri-M Music Honor Society was recognized at a McHenry Community High School District 156 school board meeting for earning the Illinois Chapter of the Year recognition for 2021-22 from the National Association for Music Education.

MCHS Tri-M Music Honor Society earns statewide Chapter of the Year award

The McHenry Community High School (MCHS) Tri-M Music Honor Society earned the 2023-24 Illinois Chapter of the Year by the National Association for Music Education for the student group's work to support music education that includes hosting a Children's Music Day for younger students.

This is the second time the group earned this distinction in the last three years. The award recognizes, among other things, chapters that perform service projects to increase

awareness and interest in band, choir, and music in general, according to the national association.

In January, the MCHS Tri-M chapter brought back the annual Children's Music Day to give elementary students a chance to learn about high school music programs. The event went on hiatus due to COVID-19.

In addition to Children's Music Day, the MCHS chapter hosts several Coffeehouse open mic nights throughout the year to encourage

high school students to display their many musical talents. MCHS Tri-M members also regularly volunteer to help with middle school band and music programs, helping with fundraising and concerts.

"Our Tri-M students are among the most giving and active in the entire state. We are so proud of them," said Mitch Stengel, director of student activities for McHenry Community High School.

A banner is expected to be delivered later this year.



MCCD upcoming events

September First Friday concert: The StingRays

Friday, Sept. 6, 7-8:30 p.m., Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Join us on the first Friday of each month for an evening of music under the oaks! Bring a picnic dinner, enjoy the beautiful view and stay for a free concert featuring rock and roll group, The StingRays. All ages. No registration required.

Fire Building

Saturday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Rush Creek Conservation Area, Harvard.

Do you know how to start a fire? How about without using a match? Join as we explore different methods of getting a fire going. Ages 7+.

Paper Pulp Painting

Saturday, Sept. 7, 1-3 p.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Try your hand at a new eco-friendly art form: painting with scrap paper. Papermaker Nate will teach you how to shape paper pulp into beautiful nature scenes.. Ages 8+.

Archaeological Awareness

Sunday, Sept. 8, noon to 4 p.m., Powers Walker House, Glacial Park Conservation Area, Ringwood.

See a stone grinder, flint-knapper, and other demonstra-

tions of prehistoric skills. Archaeologists will describe how prehistoric technologies are discovered and interpreted. Examples of artifacts will be on display, including those found at the Powers-Walker House. Don't forget to bring your own finds for identification by professional archaeologists!

All ages, no registration required.

Migratory Madness

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 5:30-8 p.m. or Saturday, Sept. 14, 8-10:30 a.m., Kettle parking lot, Glacial Park.

Join volunteer bird enthusiast Dave Miller on a search for migratory birds stopping over at Glacial Park. Ages 14+.

Creek Peek

Saturday, Sept. 14, 1-2:30 p.m., Keystone Road Landing, Ringwood.

Explore the amazing underwater world of the Nippersink Creek. Search for little critters and learn why they are so important to the creek. Ages 6+.

Harvest Moon Rises

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7-9 p.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Join for a short hike through prairie trails, leading to a perfect spot to watch the full moon rise. Ages 14+.

For more information or to sign up for programs please visit the McHenry County Conservation District website at MCCDistrict.org.

Make a difference in the life of an adult education student

McHenry County College is looking for adult literacy volunteer tutors to make a difference in the lives of students.

Adult literacy tutors work one-on-one with students who are trying to improve their basic reading or math skills, or who are learning English. Besides helping students to learn a new language, tutors also assist with helping students learn the life skills they need to thrive in a new country.

If this sounds like your kind of challenge, visit www.mchenry.edu/volunteer and fill out the brief contact form to learn more.

Hi-LITER

including McHenry County News

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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.

General Manager Sue Z. Lange
Advertising Director ... Vicki Vanderwerff
Distribution Director Lindy Sweet
Editor Heidi Schulz news@hi-liter.com
Advertising..... Becky Loizzo
Becky@SouthernLakesNewspapers.com

Published by Southern Lakes Newspapers & Rock Valley Publishing

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Public invited to learn about local water supply

McHenry County once again is inviting the public and policymakers to learn more about McHenry County's water supply, and the need to use it wisely and protect it.

The seventh annual McHenry County Water Forum will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the McHenry County College Luecht Auditorium (Building B), 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake. The forum is hosted by the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development, with generous support from the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and a wide

range of sponsors.

This year's theme is "Stormwater: Water Quality, Flooding, Land Use and Resiliency in McHenry County." The forum will feature presentations by Illinois State Climatologist Trent Ford, McHenry/Lake Soil and Water Conservation District Urban Conservation Specialist Ryan Bieber, and McHenry County Water Resources Specialist Scott Kuykendall.

The Water Forum is free and open to the public, and free catered food will be provided by Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen. No registration is required.

Water is essential for life and livability, but few people understand where McHenry County's water comes from, or the risks to its quality and sustainability. The annual forum is a festive event where the public can learn about the county's water supply, and what people and government can do to ensure its cleanliness and sustainability for future generations.

For more information, visit the McHenry County Water Resources Division website at www.mchenry-h2o.com, or contact Scott Kuykendall at 815-334-2863 or by email at SHKuykendall@mchenrycountyil.gov.

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Grand opening festivities



JANELLE ROMINSKI PHOTOS HI-Liter/MCN

More photos from Antioch's Sequoit Creek Park opening festivities: From top: Antioch Mayor Scott Gartner delivers remarks during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Children playing in the playground at Sequoit Creek Park during the grand opening festivities. Antioch Mayor Scott Gartner leads the Antioch Village board with the ribbon-cutting for Sequoit Creek Park. Pictured from left: Trustee Petrina Burman, Trustee Rebecca McNeill, Trustee Brent Bluthardt, Trustee Scott Pierce, Mayor Scott Gartner, Trustee Mary Pedersen, Josh Boller (Boller Construction), Dennis Heimbrodt (Village of Antioch Public Works Director), Geoffrey Guttchow (interim Village Administrator / Police Chief - Village of Antioch), State Representative Tom Weber (64th District), and Kevin Hunter (Lake County Board District 5).

Bill that was introduced by Lake County leaders to create a Crime Data Task Force signed by Pritzker

Recently, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed a bill creating a Crime Data Task Force that was sponsored by two Lake County legislators, Mary Edly-Allen and Daniel Didech, and with the collaboration of Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart.

In the spring of 2024, Illinois State Senator Mary Edly-Allen (Libertyville) and Illinois State Representative Daniel Didech (Buffalo Grove) introduced a bill that would create a statewide task force of law enforcement leaders and data experts to enhance and accelerate the analysis and publication of Illinois crime data.

Lake County State's Attorney Rinehart had recommended the idea to both legislators as part of his plan to increase the use of crime data. Currently, under the United States Department of Justice's reporting system statewide crime data takes months if not years to be released to the public.

After the Governor Pritzker signed the bill, Rinehart stated, "Increasing public safety, improving victim services, and preventing crime demand that we have accurate and timely crime statistics. This Task Force will supplement important law enforcement efforts to collect data and educate the public about crime trends. The public is anxious to see accurate crime data, and taxpayers want to know how their tax dollars are being spent with respect to new programs. Accurate and timely crime data improve our work to make all people of Illinois safer."

"In order to effectively

deploy law enforcement and help respond to the needs of communities across Lake County and the state of Illinois, our state's crime data software system needs a major update," said Edly-Allen (D-Libertyville). "This legislation is a public safety win for both residents and first responders because it brings together experts in academia, law enforcement and the legal professions."

State Representative Dan Didech (D-Buffalo Grove) added, "This bipartisan legislation, which was passed unanimously through both houses of the legislature, shows how everyone wants access to accurate and timely crime statistics. In the year 2024, we should not be relying on data that is 18 months old while making important decisions for how to devote resources throughout the state. This legislation will allow legislators, local leaders, and law enforcement the ability to analyze and to prioritize immediately. With safety policy, we cannot be playing catch up."

Rinehart noted, "We have seen data dashboards regarding crime all over the country. Some of these dashboards show data 36 hours after an incident. We need that system -- not just in big cities, but in Lake County and other areas of Illinois. This task force will help us report crime trends on everything from shooting incidents to DUIs to theft."

Rinehart recently reported to the Lake County Board that there have been strong decreases in Lake County violent crime. But Rinehart

also pointed out that this research had come through direct phone calls and emails to local police departments and the coroner's office -- not through a timely statewide or national reporting system.

Rinehart described his office's recent efforts with respect to gun violence: "Our team inside the Gun Violence Prevention Initiative spends hours talking to local police personnel about their solved and unsolved incidents of gun violence. We can also report data from our courthouse, but data in the courthouse comes from cases that are solved. We need timely data regarding unsolved cases that haven't been filed by our prosecutors yet."

Currently, crime data is released to the public through the United States Department of Justice's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) system which is not finalized for several months or years.

The Chair of the Task Force will be the Executive Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), or the Executive Director's designee. The Task Force will include individuals representing law enforcement, Illinois Office of Firearm Violence Prevention, Illinois Secretary of State, experts in academia, health experts, and victim advocate organizations.

Rinehart has already published the first ever prosecutor data dashboard in the office's history and stated that a gun violence dashboard was in development and would be announced by September.

Veterans Consumer Fraud Bill signed into law

On August 6, Governor JB Pritzker signed SB3479 into law, also known as the Veteran's Consumer Fraud Bill. The legislation broadens the definition of "veteran or military benefits services" to include any consultation services that would assist in obtaining, changing, or appealing benefits decisions. The bill also targets predatory "claim sharks," or non-VA accredited individuals or companies that charge for consultation and filing services. These services are offered for free through government and non-profits across Illinois.

"Our state's veterans and military members always deserve clarity and protection when navigating the social services process," said Governor JB Pritzker. "With these amendments to the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, we can ensure claim sharks are prevented from charging Illinoisans hefty fees for services that are offered for free statewide. I want to thank my partners in the General Assembly, especially this bill's chief sponsors: Senator Mike Porfiri and Representative Stephanie Kifowit, for their dedication to getting this bill passed."

The legislation makes three substantive changes to the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act:

1. Adds language to the definition of "veteran or military benefits services" to include

"consulting or coaching in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of claims or other attempts to obtain benefits" as a service.

2. Adds disclosure language to ensure veterans and military members are better informed about the services offered to them. Additionally, all county veteran service officers must now be VA accredited.

3. Adds language to clarify that failure to provide a veteran's services disclosure orally and in writing at the outset of a business relationship is an unlawful practice. Under current law, all private businesses must inform potential clients that consultation services are provided for free by local, state and federal governments.

The new legislation goes into effect January 1, 2025.

"IDVA has heard unimaginable stories from veterans who have lost thousands of dollars of their earned benefits to services taking advantage of them, often at their most vulnerable," said IDVA Director Terry Prince. "We are grateful to the bill's sponsors Senator Mike Porfiri & Representative Stephanie Kifowit, and Governor Pritzker for advocating for veterans by securing these important protections. We encourage veterans to contact IDVA Veterans Service Officers positioned around the state and equipped to help them navigate their benefits and services, free of charge."

"I want to thank Gover-

nor Pritzker for signing this important piece of legislation, and I applaud Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the outstanding team at the Military and Veterans Rights Bureau in the Office of the Attorney General for their help and support on this legislation and all they do every day to protect and serve veterans in the state of Illinois. It is our duty to protect and respect our nation's veterans, not make them a victim to predatory practices," said State Senator Mike Porfiri (D-Lyons Township). "The enactment of this law ensures those who offer veteran and military benefits are held to the highest standards, safeguarding our military heroes from exploitation. The benefits they earned through their service and sacrifice should go into the pockets of veterans themselves so they can pursue the American dream for which they fought and served."

"We are taking needed action against 'claim sharks' who scam my fellow Veterans and their families who are trying to access the benefits they are rightfully owed," said Rep. Stephanie Kifowit (D-Oswego). "It's unconscionable to me that anyone would want to target our heroes like this after the sacrifices they have made for our country. This is a necessary update to our law that will help ensure our Veterans receive the respect, benefits and protections they deserve."

You ought to be in pictures!

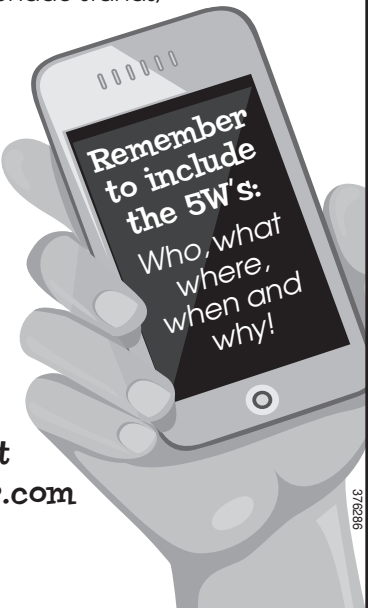
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Community briefs

Suicide prevention fundraising walk set for Sept. 28

On Saturday, Sept. 28, the McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force is proud to be hosting its annual Never Walk Alone event.

Never Walk Alone is a suicide awareness and fundraising non-competitive

walk. It is an opportunity to honor those who have died by suicide, to share stories of healing and hope, and learn about resources for support. All funds raised go directly to supporting suicide prevention programs and support for survivors.

This event is open to the public and all ages are welcome.

The event is free to register. Registration link: <https://givebutler.com/neverwalkalone24/>

The mission of the McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force is to raise awareness of mental health and suicide prevention, provide education, implement prevention programs and

provide support for those affected by suicide within McHenry County, Illinois.

'Run for the Hills' registration open

The Friends of Moraine Hills State Park are holding their annual 'Run for the Hills' races on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Runners/walkers can

choose from a 5K, 10K and half marathon. There will be course support through 12:30 p.m. on the day of the event. A virtual option is also available that can be done September 1-29 but with no course support.

Registration is open at raceroster.com/events/2024/85306/morainehills-run-for-the-hills.

Participants that register before Sept. 1 will save \$5.

For more information, maps and membership information please visit FriendsOfMoraineHillsStatePark.org.

Volunteer and sponsorship inquiries are also welcome by inquiring at FriendsOfMoraineHills@gmail.com







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Sheriff's reports

Two charged in search and standoff, gun recovered appears to have been used in a Chicago homicide

Two suspects were charged following a massive law enforcement search and standoff yesterday in Lake Barrington.

On August 20, at approximately 11:55 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a hit-and-run traffic crash on Route 14 at Pepper Road in Lake Barrington. Sheriff's deputies arrived in the area and began checking for the offending vehicle in the hit-and-run. At approximately 12:35 p.m., the vehicle was located abandoned at a business just northwest of Pepper Road.

It was determined the abandoned vehicle was being driven by a man suspected in a recent homicide that occurred in Chicago, Osceola L. Little, 38, of the 6600 block of Gateway Terrace, Everett, Washington. Additionally, it was learned earlier in the day Little fled from law enforcement during a vehicle pursuit. Information was relayed that Little was believed to be armed and dangerous.

A large perimeter was established with the assistance of local law enforcement agencies. Nearby public and private schools, as well as municipal governments were notified. Video surveillance was obtained from an area business which showed Little exiting the crashed vehicle with a duffel bag and a woman exiting the vehicle with a backpack, both then fled on foot.

The sheriff's office deployed dozens of deputies, including specialized units, to conduct a coordinate search, aided by numerous local police officers. The operation was managed from the sheriff's new mobile command vehicle. As the sheriff's office runs its own dispatch center, emergency dispatch staff was able to be allocated to the command vehicle, which provided greater intelligence gathering and faster information relayed to units in the field.

At approximately 2:10 p.m., the female who fled from the crash, Luisa Sanchez, 22, of the 28800 block of West South Street, Cary, was located and taken into custody at a gas station in the area of Route 14 and Kelsey Road. Sheriff's detectives determined Sanchez hid a firearm inside of the gas station. Members of the sheriff's office and Chicago Police Department located



Osceola L. Little



Luisa Sanchez

the firearm hidden inside a bathroom air vent.

An area extending from Kelsey Road to the west, Route 22 to the north, Route 14 to the south, and North Harbor Road to the east, was systematically searched by over 10 drones, 20 canine teams, an Illinois

State Police aircraft, sheriff's deputies, and area police departments.

At approximately 6:20 p.m., Little was seen by one of the units searching the area. Little immediately ran when confronted. Sheriff's deputies and area police officers pursued him on foot, and Little ran into an occupied industrial building in the 21900 block of Pepper Road, Lake Barrington. Sheriff's deputies were able to contain Little to an office room in the building and safely evacuate the employees who were working inside.

Members of the sheriff's office tactical response team and sheriff's negotiators began communications with Little. After skillful negotiations, Little surrendered at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Further investigation revealed the firearm hidden by Sanchez belongs to Little and it appears to be the firearm used in the Chicago homicide. Following review, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges for Osceola L. Little: Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon. And Luisa Sanchez: Obstructing Justice, Aiding a Fugitive, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm - No FOID.

Little and Sanchez are were in First Appearance Court on Aug. 21. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office was filing petitions to detain Little and Sanchez in custody pending trial. Additional Lake County charges are likely. Additional charges are also likely by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office/Chicago Police Department.

Lake County Sheriff John

D. Idleburg said, "I could not be prouder of my team's relentless determination during this fugitive search. We were able to deploy dozens of sheriff's deputies to quickly establish a perimeter and we cannot thank our municipal and state police partners enough, for their response with dozens of resources. Both suspects are now in custody, a direct result of our collective strength, expert negotiation skills, and dedication to public safety."

Sheriff Idleburg and the members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office thank our local and state law enforcement partners that responded to the scene to assist, including: Arlington Heights Police Department, Aurora Police Department, Barrington Hills Police Department, Barrington Police Department, Buffalo Grove Police Department, Chicago Police Department, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Des Plaines Police Department, Fox River Grove Police Department, Hawthorn Woods Police Department, Illinois State Police, Kane County Sheriff's Office, Kildeer Police Department, Lake Forest Police Department, Lake Zurich Police Department, Libertyville Police Department, Mundelein Police Department, Palatine Police Department, Rolling Meadows Police Department, Schaumburg Police Department, South Barrington Police Department, Tower Lakes Police Department, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, Vernon Hills Police Department, Wauconda Police Department and Zion Police Department

The sheriff's office also thanks the Salvation Army, who responded to provide water and food to all of the first responders at the scene.

Sheriff's Deputies, canine team apprehend fleeing woman

A Fox Lake woman was arrested after fleeing at speeds of over 100 mph from sheriff's deputies.

On August 19, at approximately 11:10 p.m., a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy located a stolen Dodge Charger in the area of Washington Street and Route 21, Gurnee, that has fled numerous times in recent days from Lake



Kristina M. Krause

County law enforcement. A sheriff's deputy followed the Dodge until additional deputies and area law enforcement could respond to the area. The vehicle continued on several roadways, moving westbound, and the sheriff's deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the area of Rollins Road and Drury Lane, unincorporated Grayslake. The driver of the vehicle, later identified as Kristina M. Krause, 42, of the 200 block of Grand Avenue, Fox Lake, fled westbound on Rollins Road from sheriff's deputies at speeds of over 100 mph.

As Krause approached Hook Drive in Round Lake Beach, she turned her headlights off and turned onto Hook Drive, into a residential neighborhood. Due to being in a residential area, sheriff's deputies discontinued pursuing Krause, however, sheriff's deputies continued to check the area for the vehicle she was driving. Sheriff's deputies located the Dodge abandoned in the 1900 block of Hardwood Path.

Lake County Sheriff's K9 Odin and his handler responded to the scene to conduct a track from the abandoned Dodge. Sheriff's K9 Odin tracked through several wooded backyards and located Krause hiding between two bushes, to avoid apprehension. Krause was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Lake County Jail.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the overnight incident, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Unlawful Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle (Class 2 Felony), Aggravated Fleeing to Elude (Class 4 Felony) and Aggravated Speeding (104MPH / 45MPH Zone).

Additional charges are possible. Krause was held at the Lake County Jail pending her initial court hearing.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Our continued goal is to have a sheriff's canine team on-duty 24/7. Their daily impact is astounding - finding missing endangered individuals and catching fleeing felons. I am beyond proud of our entire team - from the sharp sheriff's telecommunicators who kept countywide law enforcement in the loop, to the deputies who tracked down the stolen vehicle, and espe-

cially our canine team that apprehended the offender. This was all around great police work."

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

Pedestrian crash under investigation

McHenry County Sheriff's Office is investigating a crash that left a 19-year-old Harvard man in critical condition on US Route 14 in unincorporated Harvard on Saturday, August 17.

Harvard Fire Protection District, REACT Helicopter, and McHenry County Sheriff's Office responded to a crash involving a pedestrian and a 2013 Nissan Pathfinder at about 11:48 p.m. on August 18. Preliminary investigation shows that the 19-year-old entered the roadway near the 10700 block of Route 14 as the Nissan was headed northbound. The Nissan then struck the man. The pedestrian was suspected to be under the influence at the time of the crash.

The 19-year-old sustained critical injuries and was airlifted to Javon Bea Hospital - Riverside. The driver and passenger of the Nissan were uninjured.

The crash remains under investigation by McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Crash Investigation Unit.

Alcohol a factor in two vehicle crash

A 48-year-old Harvard woman is in serious, but stable, condition and four others were injured following a two-vehicle crash on Charles Road in unincorporated Woodstock.

On August 18, at 2:35 p.m. members of the Woodstock Fire & Rescue, Hebron-Allden-Greendwood Fire Protection District, Wonder Lake Fire Protection District, Woodstock Police Department, Lifenet, and McHenry County Sheriff's Office responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash on Charles Road, east of the intersection with Illinois Route 47 in unincorporated Woodstock.

A 2006 Toyota Rav 4 was traveling westbound on Charles Road and stopped for traffic at the intersection with Rt. 47 when a 2022 Honda CRV, also traveling westbound on Charles Road, failed to yield and rear ended the Toyota.

The Toyota had four occupants and the 50-year-old driver and a 23-year-old passenger were transported to Northwestern Medicine in Huntley with non-life-threatening injuries. A 16-year-old passenger

was transported to Northwestern Medicine in McHenry with non-life-threatening injuries. A 48-year-old female passenger was transported by helicopter to Advocate Condell Hospital in Libertyville with life-threatening injuries.

The 33-year-old driver of the Honda was transported to Northwestern Medicine in McHenry with non-life-threatening injuries.

Airbags deployment was evident in the Honda. The 48-year-old was not wearing a seat belt. All others involved were seat belted. Alcohol is a factor of the crash. The investigation continues by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Crash Investigation Unit.

Double motorcycle crash under investigation

A 42-year-old McHenry man and a 39-year-old Wonder Lake man were injured following a crash involving two motorcycles which occurred on Chapel Hill Road south of Illinois Route 120 in unincorporated McHenry.

On Friday August 16, at 6:24 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, McHenry Township Fire Protection District and McHenry Police Department responded to a crash involving two motorcycles which resulted in injuries to both drivers.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2008 Harley Davidson Dyna and a 2006 Harley Davidson Softail were riding northbound on Chapel Hill Road. They were riding in a staggered formation with the 2008 Harley Davidson Dyna to the front left of the 2006 Harley Davidson Softail. The motorcycles exited the roadway to the right and traveled in the ditch where each driver was ejected. The motorcycles did not make contact with each other during the crash.

The driver of the 2008 Harley Davidson Dyna was transported to Northwestern Medicine in McHenry and later transported to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. He was listed in critical condition. The driver of the 2006 Harley Davidson Softail was transported to Northwestern Medicine in McHenry and listed in serious but stable condition.

The drivers were not wearing helmets and alcohol and speed are believed to be factors in the crash.

The investigation is ongoing and is being investigated by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit.

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.

July 5

Eduardo M. Vara Millian, 34, North Chicago, was cited for aggravated DUI, and driving while license suspended;

Keena K. Banner, 49, Elgin, was cited for battery;

Nicole J. Aleman, 35, Elgin, was cited for battery;

Jeffrey S. Heiler, 60, Round Lake, was cited for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol;

July 7

Bartosz A. Polak, 33, Schiller Park, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Devin B. Curra, 26, Mt. Prospect, was cited for aggravated speeding (77 mph in 30 mph zone), operating

a motorcycle without an 'M' class license;

Diego Hernandez, 23, Round Lake Beach, was cited for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Francisco J. Acevedo, 21, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license;

Rogelio Ramirez, 45, Zion, was cited for criminal

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Arrests (Continued from page 6)

damage to property, criminal trespass to residence and disorderly conduct.

July 8

Corey R. Sutton, 37, Grayslake, was cited for attempted burglary;

Kaden C. McLaren, 19, Antioch, was cited for aggravated speeding (104 mph in 55 mph zone);

Valda R. Cage, 66, Gurnee, was cited for driving while license suspended and no insurance;

July 9

Lauren L. Fiumetto, 25, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a controlled substance (McHenry County);

Darrell K. Francis-Welington, 20, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license, suspended registration and no insurance;

David T. Banick, 32, Wadsworth, was cited for aggravated speeding (70 mph in 40 mph zone);

Paige P. McEwan, 23, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

July 10

Bryan Oregel, 19, Waukegan, was cited for aggravated speeding (69 mph in 35 mph zone), and no insurance;

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license;

Darnell F. Smith, 27, Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: assault (Cook Coun-

ty);

Alexis Ocampo, 26, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and reckless driving;

Benjamin Thompson, 46, Round Lake, was cited for disorderly conduct;

July 11

Cassandra C. King, 32, Chicago, was cited for a warrant obtained: retail theft;

Kahdijah D. Terry, 30, Chicago, was cited for a warrant obtained: retail theft;

Christopher L. Warren, 25, Madison, WI, was cited for a warrant obtained: retail theft;

Ivvy J. O'Campo, 21, Round Lake Beach, was cited for a warrant arrest: misappropriate identification

(Kenosha County, WI);

Angelo J. Vega, 32, no permanent address, was cited for criminal trespass to property;

Eric R. Teliz, 34, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license;

Sheri M. Slough, 38, no permanent address, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal trespass to vehicle;

July 12

Kawanna D. Sawyers, 25, Waukegan, was cited for possession of a stolen motor vehicle;

Richard M. Martinez-Messner, 36, Northfield, was cited for possession of a stolen motor vehicle;

Shabrel N. Wester, 29,

Zion, was cited for aggravated battery;

Jovanny E. DeLaTorre, 25, Palatine, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Mauricio Hernandez Reyes, 20, Cicero, was cited for aggravated speeding (95 mph in 45 mph zone);

July 13

Ilkin Hasanov, 34, Lindenhurst, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

July 14

Blake K. Williams, 42, Tower Lakes, was cited for criminal trespass to vehicle;

Juan M. Meneses-Vargas, 39, Zion, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

John W. Threats, 62, Evanston, was cited for driving while license revoked and no insurance;

Placido A. Mendoza, 35, Lake Villa, was cited for disorderly conduct.

July 15

Veronica L. Parenteau, 60, Grayslake, was cited for violating an order of protection;

Barry J. Hackleman, 53, no permanent address, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

Katherine L. Reitmayer, 33, Ingleside, was cited for DUI – alcohol, leaving the scene of an accident, child endangerment, and failure to secure child in a child safety seat;

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