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Lake County advances Patriot Path Project

The Lake County Board approved a resolution at its Oct. 8 meeting that moves Segments 2 and 3 of the proposed Patriot Path into Phase II Engineering. Segments 1 and 4 have already advanced to these next steps, so all four segments are now in the detailed design phase with construction programmed to begin as early as 2027.

The Patriot Path is slated to run off-road along IL 137 from near Independence Grove Forest Preserve to Naval Station Great Lakes. It would be 5.5 miles long and serve as a key connection to other regional trails such as the Robert McClory Bike Path and Des Plaines River Trail.

The project has been divided into four segments to better manage the construction effort. Construction is planned to start in Segments 1 and 4, and work would meet in the middle to complete Segments 2 and 3.

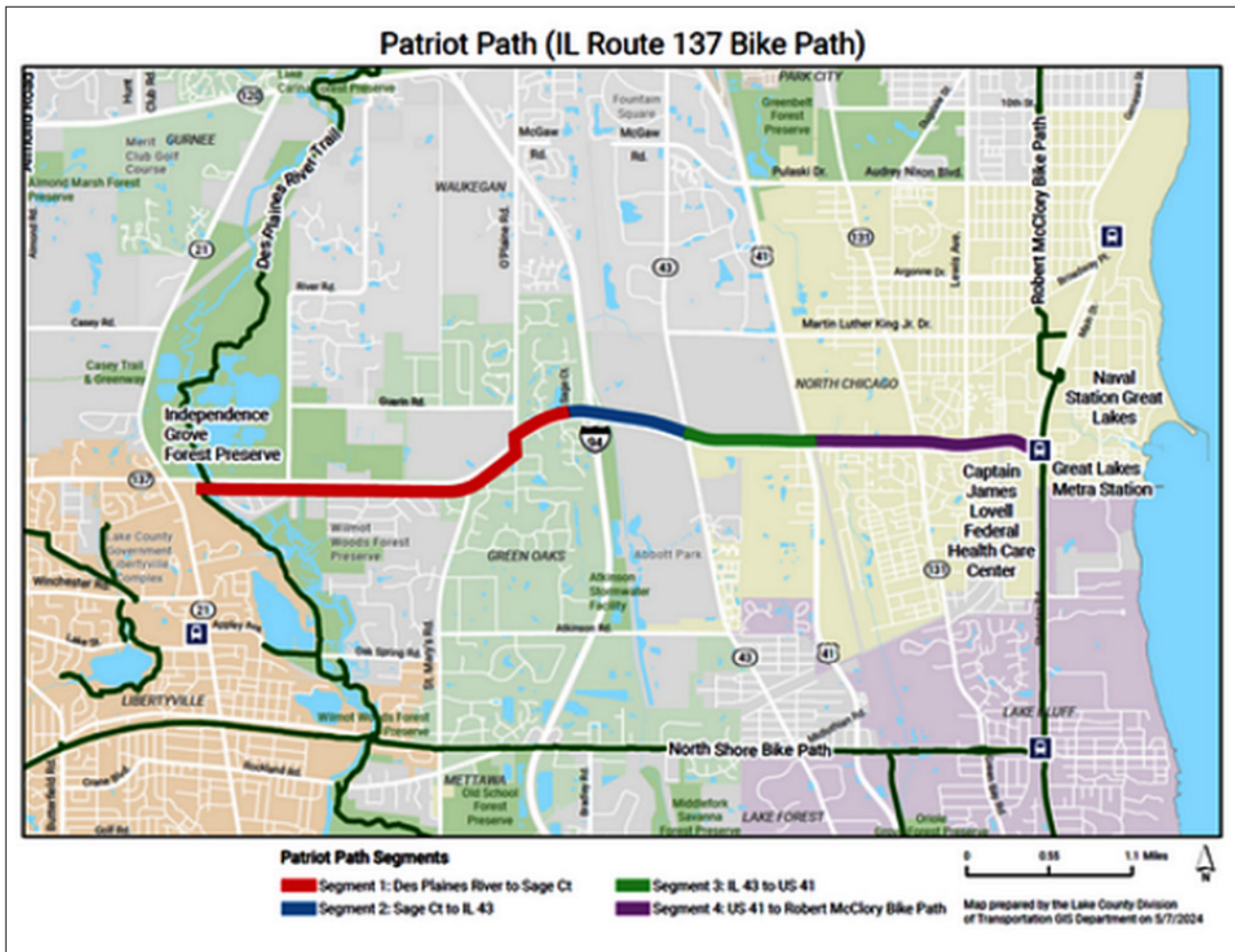
“We anticipate the Patriot Path becoming one of our most popular paths, as it will serve over 40,000 area residents and those who live and work at Naval Station Great Lakes,” said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. “The path will provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to commute to work and school, and offer a convenient connection to parks, forest preserves and transit stops.”

Talks about building the Patriot Path started many years ago due to limited pedestrian accommodations in this area. Phase 1 of the project was comprised of planning, public information meetings to gather input and feedback and meeting with key stakeholders such as the Forest Preserves and US Navy.

“For 20 years I’ve been advocating for the Patriot Path,” said Ann Maine, Vice-Chair of the Lake County Public Works and Transportation Committee and Board Member for District 3. “The concept went from a dream to several different iterations and it’s thrilling that the project is finally coming together after years of hard work.”

The Lake County Board and LCDOT have been busy finding ways to fund the estimated \$30 million project.

“Lake County has been proactive in securing funding for the Patriot Path project,” said Jennifer Clark, Chair of the Lake County Public Works and Transportation Committee and Board Member for District 15. “We’ve worked diligently with our state and federal legislators, as well as local stakeholders, to advocate for the path. Our efforts have resulted in nearly \$12 million in state and federal funding for Segments 1 and 4, and we’re continuing to pursue additional grants so we can expedite moving the remaining segments forward to construction.”



A resolution was approved by the Lake County Board at its Oct. 8 meeting. This will move the Patriot Path into Phase II Engineering to complete segments 2 and 3 of the trail. When complete the Patriot Path will run off-road for 5.5 miles along IL 137.

The Patriot Path is among many of the non-motorized projects LCDOT is currently working on. Whenever possible, shared-use paths are added during a reconstruction and widening project, and bike-friendly shoulders are added where appropriate during resurfacing projects.

The public can view the shared-use paths that are currently available and planned by Lake County for the future through an interactive map. Planned shared-use paths in LCDOT’s Five-Year Plan are shown in purple on the map, and paths in the 2040 Non-Motorized Plan are shown in red.

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Advocates seek support for drug price control board; Raoul files suit against TikTok

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A consumer advocacy group continued its push this week to drum up support for legislation to establish a state board to regulate the price of many prescription drugs in Illinois.

Citizen Action/Illinois, along with other groups, convened a town hall meeting in Rockford on Oct. 8—the fifth in a series of such meetings the group has held since last spring—to push for passage of House Bill 4472, which would establish a Health Care Availability and Access Board.

That five-member board, appointed by the governor, would have authority to set caps on the prices paid by both insurance plans and consumers for certain high-cost drugs.

“Right now, one in three Illinoisans, based on a poll that we commissioned earlier this year, are rationing their medication or skipping pills altogether, meaning that they’re splitting doses

in half, or trying to make it stretch, not taking their medication as prescribed by their doctors, simply because they cannot afford it,” said the group’s director Anusha Thotakura.

Joining Thotakura on Oct. 8 were Democratic U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, who represents the 17th Congressional District that includes Rockford, state Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, and Dr. Ram Krishnamoorthi, an internal medicine physician who practices in the Chicago area.

In 2022, as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, Congress for the first time gave the Medicare program—the federal health care program for seniors—authority to negotiate prices it pays for certain high-cost drugs. Under HB 4472, those negotiated prices would become the upper payment limit for purchasers outside the Medicare program.

The bill was introduced at the beginning of the 2024

legislative session in January by Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Palatine. House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, is among its chief co-sponsors.

No action was taken on the bill during the spring session and it has not yet been assigned to a substantive committee, but it could come up for consideration during the fall veto session, which begins Nov. 12, or in the spring.

TikTok lawsuit

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul has filed suit against the social media platform TikTok, alleging the app is harming children.

The lawsuit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court, claims TikTok violated Illinois’ Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, along with the Uniform Deceptive Business Practices Act. Raoul alleged TikTok uses features that are addictive and exploit young and vulnerable users by encouraging them to spend long pe-

riods of time on the platform. “American children and teenagers are in the grip of a devastating mental health crisis,” Raoul said in a news release. “The addictive features on TikTok’s social media platform interfere with sleep and education, and contribute to depression, anxiety, body dysmorphia and thoughts of self-harm.”

The suit seeks both injunctive relief “to prevent future violations of the Consumer Fraud Act” and monetary damages, including \$50,000 for each “unfair or deceptive act or practice.”

Raoul joined 13 other states in filing separate enforcement actions Oct. 8 against TikTok. He and other critics of the popular online social media platform have denounced its business model, as well as its impact on children.

The Oct. 8 action follows a lawsuit Raoul’s office filed last year against Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta. Raoul’s office

also joined a coalition of attorneys general last month to call for the U.S. Surgeon General to put a warning on all algorithm-driven social media platforms.

Pritzker in Japan

On the day first of a four-day mission trip to Japan, Gov. JB Pritzker on Oct. 7 announced a deal with medical diagnostic product-maker Sysmex America Inc., which is headquartered in north suburban Lincolnshire.

Pritzker’s office said Sysmex will invest \$20.6 million in northeastern Illinois to create 110 more jobs and retain 550 others. The company employs scientists, engineers and health care professionals, and produces medical equipment that aids in diagnosing blood clotting disorders and other conditions.

Pritzker was joined on the Japan trip by about four dozen lawmakers, economic development officials, academics and businesspeople. Their goal is to promote Illinois’

“manufacturing and innovation” and strengthen business partnerships.

The delegation on Oct. 7 met with Japanese executives from the food sector and Pritzker met with leaders of the Japan External Trade Organization, specifically discussing opportunities in clean energy and quantum technology. The governor also delivered a keynote speech to over 100 Japan-based companies at an event hosted by JETRO.

On Oct. 8, Pritzker led a quantum roundtable discussion at the University of Tokyo along with Senate President Don Harmon, House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, and deputy governors Martin Torres and Andy Manar.

Quantum technology has been a major emphasis of the administration and lawmakers, who approved a tax incentives package earlier this year that’s aimed at making Illinois a hub for the nascent technology.

The Japan trip concluded on Oct. 10.

The road to safety: *Be aware of farm equipment as harvest season continues*

By Carrie Muehling
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
PARTNERS

In areas where population growth blurs the lines between urban and rural, sharing the road safely becomes everyone’s responsibility. Illinois farmers who live near Chicago, St. Louis and other metro areas know this all too well, but they implore their suburban neighbors to understand it, too.

Former McHenry County Farm Bureau President Dan Ziller operates a dairy, livestock and grain farm near Huntley, a town that has grown from 2,500 people in 1990 to more than 27,000 in 2020.

“It’s hard to get people to be patient until we can get out of their way or until they can get around us in a safe manner,” Ziller says. “When a huge piece of machinery is coming down the road, people don’t want to give it any room to get by, but if an ambulance is right behind it, they’ll get off the road.”

Renee Deterding farms 350 miles south of Ziller, only 35 miles southeast of St. Louis, and deals with similar frustrations.

“Far too many drivers

cannot wait to pass or remain behind the farmer until they turn off,” says Deterding, who partners with two brothers and their families to operate D&R Huber Farms. “People have passed me on the right side; people have passed me and caused oncoming traffic to slam on their brakes and dodge to the ditch.”

Both farmers encourage impatient drivers to consider the size of the equipment and the importance of slowing down when approaching. “People don’t understand this could kill them if they challenge it in a way they shouldn’t,” Ziller says.

Educating drivers

Ziller works with local high schools’ chapters and driver’s education programs to get the attention of new drivers.

“We take machinery to the school and put vehicles behind it,” Ziller says. “We let the kids get in the machinery and ask, ‘Can you see that car sitting back there?’ And they say, ‘No, we don’t!’ We don’t know you’re back there, so when you come darting around us and we’re not prepared for that, and

somebody’s coming from the other way, that’s a problem.”

Ziller has helped develop videos for driver’s education classrooms, but adding to the existing curriculum has proven difficult. He says FFA chapters are helping and hopes the message resonates even more when students hear it from their peers.

Deterding would also like schools to teach more about safely sharing the road with farm equipment, as farmers have little choice in traversing the now suburban roadways.

“I wish motorists would understand the typical farmer doesn’t care to be on the road as much as the motorists don’t like us to be on the road,” she says.

Ziller echoes this sentiment and emphasizes farmers use main roads only when absolutely necessary.

“We don’t want to be there, but because of the development, we no longer have country roads to move machinery on because everyone else is on them, too,” he says. “You don’t just pack up a farm like a house and move. It’s a very serious undertaking, especially with



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

McHenry County farmer Dan Ziller works with FFA to educate students on the importance of safely sharing the road.

cattle. We’re here for the long haul, and we just need to all work together.”

Deterding has another concern: who are now learning to drive the farm equipment.

“I want my family to be as safe on the road as any-

one else’s,” she says. “My job is to prepare them for all the things that could happen, just like a parent would when their child goes off in a car. Always check your surroundings and proceed with caution.”

She just asks other drivers

to do the same.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit ILFBpartners.com.

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Longmeadow Bridge opens

County leaders joined Governor Pritzker, General Assembly members, and representatives from Kane County, and the villages of Algonquin and Carpentersville, to cut the ribbon on Longmeadow Bridge on August 29. After 3 decades of planning and work, the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge is now a reality and drivers won’t have to pay a toll to cross it. The original plan to pay off the bridge included charging a toll, the County Board’s decision to allocate \$1 million in Advance McHenry County grant funding helped cover the expenses and eliminate the need for a toll. The finishing of the bridge marks the completion of the 5.6 mile Longmeadow Parkway that will reduce traffic congestion.

Rebuilding McHenry County: road, bridge projects highlight another historic construction season

Highlighting one of its busiest construction seasons ever, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that major projects in McHenry County are planned or underway, fueled by Gov. JB Pritzker's historic, bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital program. Eight projects combined represent a total investment of nearly \$79 million, improving safety and mobility while sustaining and creating good-paying jobs throughout the region.

"Rebuild Illinois is revitalizing communities and neighborhoods by investing in projects and people in McHenry County and throughout the state," said Gov. Pritzker. "Through the largest capital program in state history, IDOT will be delivering improvements to

build a more resilient, accessible and equitable system of transportation for generations to come, while creating jobs and enhancing local quality of life."

Of the six major projects in McHenry County, four are scheduled to be completed in 2024 and the remaining two are anticipated to be completed from 2025 through 2026.

- U.S. 14 (Division Street) from Crowley Road to Illinois 173 (Diggins Road) includes resurfacing and ADA improvements. The project began this spring and is anticipated to be completed this fall. Expect daily lane closures.
- U.S. 14 (Division Street) from U.S. 14/Illinois 173 (Division Street): Brink Street to Diggins Street and Illinois 173 (Diggins Street):

Division Street to east of Garfield Street resurfacing and ADA improvements. The project began this spring and is anticipated to be completed late summer. Expect daily lane closures.

- U.S. 14 from Brink Street to east of Park Lane Drive resurfacing and ADA improvements. The project began in spring and is anticipated to be completed this fall. Daily lane closures are needed.
- U.S. 14 (Division Street) at Rush Creek north of Illinois 23 bridge deck resurfacing, bridge joint replacement and repair. The project is anticipated to begin this summer and be completed this fall. One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction.
- Illinois 47 (Seminary Street) at Illinois 176 and at Pleasant Valley Road in-

cludes resurfacing and ADA improvements. The project is anticipated to begin this fall and be completed in fall 2026. Expect daily lane closures.

- Illinois 173 from Alden Road to Madison Avenue includes resurfacing, rumble strip installation and drainage improvements. The project is anticipated to begin this summer and be completed in summer 2025. Expect daily lane closures.

"Rebuild Illinois continues to make a positive impact in McHenry County," said state Rep. Joe Sosnowski (R-Rockford). "I hear from local residents regularly about the need to resurface Illinois 173 as well as other highways in the region. Together, we are fulfilling our promise to improve road and

bridge safety for McHenry County families for decades to come. I would like to thank IDOT and the hard-working men and women of our construction crews for seeing these projects through from start to finish."

Passed in 2019, Rebuild Illinois is investing a total of \$33.2 billion over six years into the state's aging transportation system, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Rebuild Illinois is not only the largest capital program in state history, but also the first that touches all modes of transportation: roads and bridges, transit, waterways, freight and passenger rail, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illi-

nois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements. Visit <https://idot.click/Rebuild-Illinois> for information and highlights of other Rebuild Illinois projects happening throughout the state.

"Under Gov. Pritzker, IDOT continues to deliver projects in McHenry County that strengthen the state's entire multimodal system of transportation," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "If you are traveling anywhere in Illinois this construction season, you will be traveling through work zones. Put down the devices. Follow the signs. And when you see orange, slow down and save lives."



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Officials gathered on September 17 for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a new solar array system that will power the Lake County Central Permit Facility in Libertyville.

Lake County celebrates new solar array to power Central Permit Facility

Officials gathered to celebrate the completion of a new solar array system that will power the Lake County Central Permit Facility in Libertyville at a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 17.

The Central Permit Facility is the first Lake County government building to utilize solar power. Once connected, the new ground-mounted solar array system consisting of more than 2,000 photovoltaic (PV) panels will provide enough electricity to power the Central Permit Facility. The solar array was constructed by Standard Solar. Electricity is being provided to the Central Permit Facility via a solar power purchase agreement.

"By adopting solar power, we're not only showcasing our dedication to combating climate change through the expansion of renewable energy and the decarbonization of our local energy sector, but we're also achieving significant cost savings for Lake County," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "Our partnership with Standard Solar represents a meaningful step forward, both environmentally and economically."

The Lake County Board set the goal to increase the amount of renewable energy generated by the County in its strategic plan. By the year 2040, Lake County

aims to procure 100 percent renewable energy while reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent or more.

"At Lake County, we are always looking to make a positive impact on our communities and the environment. Solar energy is clean, safe and affordable," said Jessica Vealitzek, Chair of the Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee and Lake County Board Member, District 10. "This is one of many steps we are taking and will continue to take to be a more sustainable government."

While the new solar array will power a Lake County operated facility, there are opportunities for residents and businesses to explore solar options for their properties. Lake County participates in the Solar Switch program that organizes group purchasing of residential solar panels to potentially help homeowners receive a discounted price for a solar panel installation. The Lake County C-PACE Program can provide commercial property owners up to 100 percent financing for solar system improvements in existing buildings and new construction.

Learn more about Lake County's sustainability initiatives at lakecountyil.gov/sustainability.

MCCD upcoming events

Native American Story Telling with Gerald Savage
Thursday, Oct. 17, 6-7 p.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.
Join us for an evening with Gerald Savage, Ho-Chunk Ska Ga his formal native name, oldest grandson of Chief Walks with the Wind. Gerald will share Native American Stories from long ago, as well as tribal history and lore. Ages 10+

Hallowoods
Saturday, Oct. 19, several time slots available. Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.
Bring your entire family out for a non-scary stroll through a luminary-lit savanna. Nature characters come

alive and share stories along the trail. Enjoy refreshments around a warm, crackling fire. Costumes encouraged! All ages. Registration is required.

Fall Color Motorcycle Ride
Sunday, Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration required. Location details to be shared with registered participants.
Join your McHenry County Conservation District Police Department Motor Unit for a fun, safe and enjoyable tour of Conservation District sites throughout western and northern McHenry County while taking in the beautiful fall colors. Limited to 30 bikes (passengers welcome.) Bring a picnic lunch. No alcohol please. All ages.

Introduction to Volunteering
Saturday, Oct. 26, 10-11:30 a.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.
Learn about the many ways you can volunteer with the District, including habitat restoration, education, public safety, local history and more! This introductory meeting is the perfect opportunity to ask questions about the perks of being a volunteer, how to register, drop-in programs and important dates.
For more information or to sign up for programs please visit the McHenry County Conservation District website at MCCDistrict.org.

Witches and Wizards of Woodstock this Sunday

The Witches and Wizards of Woodstock will be holding their annual fantasy festival on Sunday, Oct. 20 from noon until 4 p.m. on the Woodstock Square.

The all ages event features activities for everyone including: scavenger hunts, a performance stage, crafts & trivia, magician, quidditch, magical talking hat, the owlery, food, games and photo opportunities. Times of individual events may vary throughout the day.

The square will be filled with attendees parading around in their fantastical costumes, some of those of your favorite characters.

Make a special visit to The Owlery and learn about owls, hawks and other raptors courtesy of the McHenry County conservation District. This event will be held in the park on the square.

The Magical Talking Hat will be on display at Stage Left Café. Predictions are the Hat's specialty, but don't be surprised if the Magical Talking Hat sprinkles in a bit of whimsy to make your day extra magical.

For more information on the event visit their website at witchesandwizardsevent.com.

Village of Fox Lake announces trick-or-treat hours

The Village of Fox Lake has announced that they will hold Trick or Treat on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m.

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Grindhouse, horror films coming to Outdoor

Theater-goers to enjoy chance to meet filmmakers, actors, including Leatherface from 2003 'Texas Chainsaw' remake

Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

Scott Dehn's latest collaboration will bring a decidedly different lineup to the McHenry Outdoor Theater the nights of Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and Nov. 2.

And, for fans of grindhouse and horror-genre movies — as well as those looking for a unique Halloween season experience — it also will bring a great deal more.

The lineup includes a Halloween triple feature of "High on the Hog," "Halloween" and "Halloween III: Season of the Witch" on Thursday, Oct. 31. Then it's the Halloween Hangover Double Shot on Friday, Nov. 1, when 2003 remake "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" will be followed by a 2010 remake of "The Crazies." On Saturday, Nov. 2, it'll be "Gothic Slayers" followed by "Extra Ordinary." The Outdoor is located at Chapel Hill and Lincoln roads, just east of downtown McHenry.

The triple threat weekend began with Kevin Lockhart, who first met with Dehn last winter. Initially, Lockhart sought an opportunity to screen 2019's "High on

the Hog." It's the story of a hog farmer whose finances lead him down the pot farming path, featuring the late horror and action star Sid Haig. Lockhart, writer, producer and owner of the film, had bought and moved into a home just east of the McHenry Outdoor in 2021.

"When I bought the house, I said then, 'The proximity to the Outdoor is a big selling point for me,'" said Lockhart, who's been producing off-beat short and feature films for more than a decade. "My goal when I wrote 'High on the Hog' was that it was a drive-in movie."

Lockhart, 63, has numerous connections with others in the realms of horror and grindhouse, the latter a reference to films best known for sensationalistic themes and gritty, over-the-top storytelling. Via Lockhart's connections, for Oct. 31-Nov. 2, several filmmakers and actors plan to be on hand to meet with Outdoor audiences. Along with himself (Lockhart plans to be present all three nights), other scheduled appearances include:

- Oct. 31: Attending will be actors Fiona Domenica, Si-

arra T. Mong and Joette Waters of "High on the Hog"; and actors Shannon Brown and Jayson Bernard of "Halloweened."

- Nov. 1: Actor Brett Wagner — who portrayed Leatherface in the 2003 remake "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and narrated the popular show "Monster Garage" on Discovery TV, among other projects — will meet fans and, for a fee, sign autographs.

- Nov. 2: Meet Ben Getz, writer and lead actor of "Gothic Slayers."

Additionally, "High on the Hog" editor Ben Lewandowski, currently working on a documentary with Wagner, plans to be there all weekend. Other actors and filmmakers may also appear, Lockhart said, adding that the Saturday night screening of "Gothic Slayers" is an opportunity for filmgoers to enjoy a rare sneak preview.

"This has not been seen in public before," he said. "Gothic Slayers is more of a 'Goonies'-type film, potentially a PG-13 movie."

Dehn said he is offering a \$15-per-carload special each of the three nights. A weekend-long carload pass will be available Thursday for \$30. And a costume contest for prizes will be under way throughout the three nights.

The Halloween weekend events are just the first of what Lockhart and Dehn envision as periodic future collaborations — possibly under a Cult Classics After Dark subsidiary.

"We are hoping to expand to a new demographic while still maintaining the family-friendly atmosphere we've worked to build," Dehn said.

For other information, visit goldenagecinemas.com, or find the McHenry Outdoor Theater on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Above: Staff members dress in costume at the McHenry Outdoor Theater. The theater will show grindhouse and horror films Oct. 31-Nov. 2. Visitors dressed in costume will have a shot at prizes, with \$15-per-carload pricing in effect all three nights. At left: Kevin Lockhart of Lakemoor — writer, producer and owner of "High on the Hog" — talks with a director during the making of the 2019 film. The movie will be among three shown at the McHenry Outdoor Theater on Halloween, Oct. 31.



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Talk and Tour will train citizen scientist to monitor road salt in our streams

The excessive use of road salt in winter pollutes our streams and groundwater. McHenry County is joining a growing network of local governments enlisting and training citizen scientists to

track chloride levels in local streams. This is a great opportunity for the public to help protect water quality.

McHenry County's final Talk and Tour program of the 2024 season to train

volunteer chloride watchers will take place from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the McHenry County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock. People also can attend on-

line if they prefer.

Attendees will learn how to select sampling sites, collect water samples, measure chloride levels, and record the findings online. Visit <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/BMPTourSignup> to register, or email Water Resources Specialist Scott Kuykendall at SHKuykendall@mchenrycountyil.gov.

The Talk and Tour series is an ongoing partnership between county government and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. Presentations showcase the environmental and economic benefits of innovative best management practices that have been successfully implemented in our region. Each of the best management practices are designed to protect and maintain the integrity of natural resources, reduce flooding in communities, and promote land, water and energy conservation.

Many past Talk and Tour presentations are available to watch online on McHenry County Government's YouTube page; you can find them at <https://bit.ly/3ZS-gT5n>. Other presentations from the Water Resources Department, to include training sessions and the annual McHenry County Water Forum, can be found at <https://bit.ly/3XY9006>.

You ought to be in pictures!

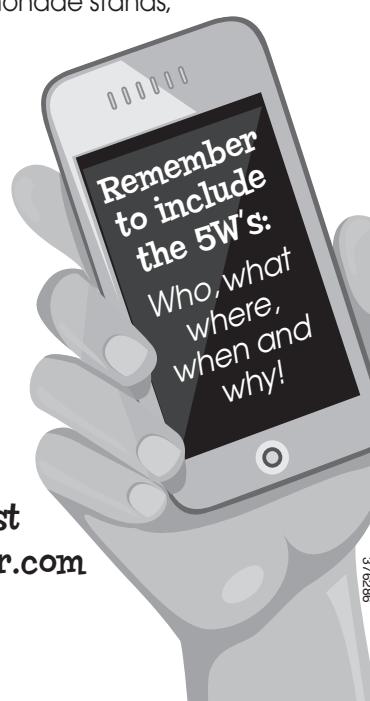
THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.

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

We are interested!

- ▼ Show the community what your group has been doing!
- ▼ **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**
- ▼ Just shoot and e-mail!
- ▼ We need you to ID everyone in the photo *first* and *last* names required
- ▼ 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!



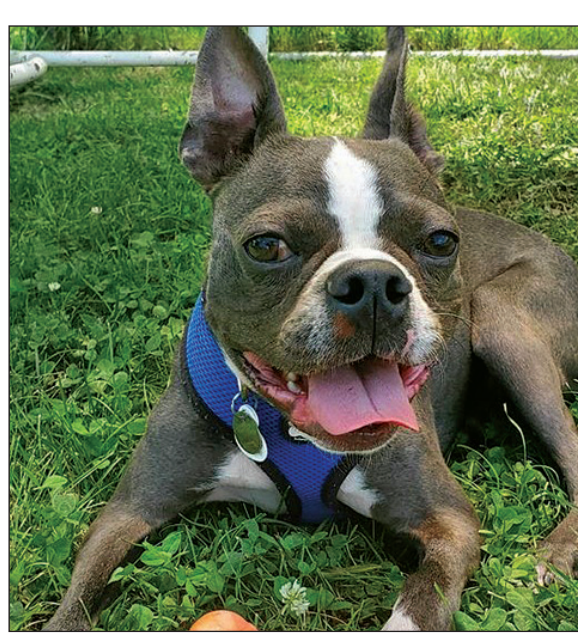
Remember to include the 5W's:
Who, what, where, when and why!

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Pet of the week

Bane, is about 5 years old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative and microchipped.

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.

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Court & crime news

Men responsible for stealing vases from area cemeteries identified

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives have arrested one man and obtained an arrest warrant for another in connection with the theft of vases from cemeteries in Lake and McHenry Counties.

In August, sheriff's deputies responded to a report of stolen vases from a cemetery in unincorporated Libertyville. The victims reported that they had purchased brass or bronze vases, valued between \$500 and \$800 each, to place on the headstones of their loved ones. Further investigation revealed that hundreds of similar vases had been stolen from cemeteries across Lake and McHenry Counties.

Working closely with other law enforcement agencies, Lake County Sheriff's Detectives developed leads that led to the identification of two suspects: Marcos Mendez, 41, of the 3000 block of Route 120, Waukegan, and Fermin Tonche-Gallardo, 30, of the 300 block of N Green Bay Road, Waukegan. After stealing the vases, the suspects sold them to scrapyards for a fraction of their value, where the vases were melted down for their metal content.

Sheriff's detectives are now investigating the scrapyards to determine if any criminal liability exists for accepting the stolen vases.



Fermin Tonche-Gallardo

On October 9, detectives arrested Tonche-Gallardo. After reviewing the evidence, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Theft (Class 3 Felony), and Five Counts of Causing Damage to a Headstone (Class 3 Felonies). Additional charges are anticipated.

An arrest warrant for Mendez has also been issued, and detectives are actively seeking his apprehension. Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "There's nothing much lower than stealing from those resting in peace. Instead of honoring their loved ones, people were victimized by theft at a sacred place. I'm incredibly proud of the hard work of our team and the collaboration with our law enforcement partners in bringing these suspects to justice."

Tonche-Gallardo appeared in court October 9, and was released with pre-trial conditions. He is next due in court on November 7.

Sheriff's Office investigating

serious injury single motorcycle crash

A 30-year-old Hebron man was injured following a single motorcycle crash on Hebron Road east of U.S. Route 14 in unincorporated McHenry County.

On Friday, Oct. 4, at 11:37 a.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office responded to a crash on Hebron Road to the west of Willow Lakes Road involving a motorcycle which resulted in serious injury to the driver.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 1983 Honda Motorcycle was traveling eastbound on Hebron Road. For unknown reasons the operator of the Honda lost control, which caused the unit to

go down on the pavement and the operator was ejected. The motorcycle and operator slid on the roadway coming to rest on the pavement.

The driver was transported to Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center – Harvard by family members. He was later flown to Mercyhealth Javon Bea Hospital – Riverside Campus in Rockford. He is listed in serious but stable condition.

The driver was not wearing a helmet and there are no indications of impairment. Speed and driving experience are believed to be factors of the crash.

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

Woman charged in Wonder Lake shooting

A man has been seriously injured and a woman has been charged after a shooting in unincorporated Wonder Lake on October 10.

At 11:05 a.m., McHenry County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the 8900 block of E Tryon Grove Road near Wonder Lake for reports of two possible gunshot victims. Upon arrival, a male was located with a life-threatening gunshot wound and a female, Aneta Marsek, was located with non-life-threatening injuries. The male was flown to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford in critical condition. Aneta was flown

to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville.

Following an investigation, Aneta Marsek was arrested and charged with the following: One count of attempted murder (Class X), one count of aggravated battery with a firearm (Class X), one count of aggravated domestic battery (Class 2), and two counts of obstructing justice (Class 4).

Wonder Lake Fire Protection District, Richmond Township Fire Department, Hebron-Alden-Greenwood Fire Protection District, Mercyhealth MD-1, UW Med Flight and Superior Air Med all responded to the scene.

The incident remains under investigation by McHenry County Sheriff's Office.

Village Board of Antioch approves measure waiving building permit fees for all disabled veterans

The Village of Antioch Board at its regular October 9 meeting approved an ordinance that waives building permit fees for disabled veterans of any disability. The measure builds upon the language of Illinois Senate Bill 2751, which waives building permit fees related to home improvement projects for disabled veterans. Both the Senate bill and the Village ordinance go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

"It's important that we take care of our veteran community and those who have served. The new ordinance builds on SB-2751 to ensure all disabled veterans in Antioch get

the support they need. By waiving building permit fees for any home improvements, we're hoping to ease some of the burdens they face. It's a small gesture, but it's one way we can show our appreciation for their service and everything they continue to contribute to our community," said Mayor Scott Gartner.

While the fees are waived, the paperwork needed to obtain a building permit must still be submitted. Veterans or their caregivers will need to provide proof of their veteran disability status and the improvement needed when they apply for the permit. A building

permit is required to ensure projects conform to the minimum standards of a municipality's adopted code. These codes exist to guarantee public health, safety, and welfare. The cost of a permit is generally 2 percent of the project cost, with a minimum permit fee of \$62.

A permit application can be obtained at Antioch Village Hall, 874 Main Street, or online at Antioch.il.gov. A list of required building permits can also be found on the Village website at www.antioch.il.gov. For questions regarding these fees, residents may contact the Building Department at 847-395-1000.

22nd Judicial Circuit welcomes new facility dog

The 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is pleased to announce the addition of a new facility dog, Honey, to the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center. Honey, a Golden Retriever, was purchased from Sunset Goldens in Villa Park, will assist in alleviating stress and promoting a calming environment within the court. Undergoing training as a certified service animal with M.A.S.T., Honey will be available throughout various offices, hallways, and courtrooms of the Judicial Center to provide emotional support to members of the public, employees at the judicial center and attorneys.

"Honey is a very welcome

addition to our court family," says Chief Judge Michael Chmiel. "The concept arrived a few years ago, and in learning what was happening in other judicial circuits with the involvement of facility dogs, the time seemed right to move forward with our new teammate."

This initiative reflects the growing trend of integrating facility dogs into court systems nationwide. Recognizing the often-stressful nature of court proceedings, the 22nd Judicial Circuit believes that having a facility dog present is a worthwhile endeavor to foster a more supportive and comforting atmosphere. Courts and judicial

centers are often emotionally intense environments where individuals experience high levels of stress and anxiety. The research suggests that animals have therapeutic benefits for a variety of physical and psychological challenges and have positive effects on a wide range of psychological outcomes, including reductions in anger, anxiety, depression, and general distress. They also reduce heart rate and blood pressure. The presence of a facility dog in courtrooms has also been shown to help witnesses, particularly children and victims of trauma, feel more at ease during difficult testimonies. By providing comfort and a sense of calm, facility dogs help mitigate the emotional toll that court proceedings can have on vulnerable individuals. Additionally, their presence can lead to more clear, coher-

ent testimonies by reducing anxiety-induced barriers to communication.

"While this is not a new idea, it is one we believe is highly beneficial for everyone involved in the judicial process," said Dan Wallis, Trial Court Administrator of the 22nd Judicial Circuit. "We are committed to making our courtrooms and judicial center a supportive environment, and we believe Honey will make a significant positive impact. She already has. Courts are a stressful place, and no one wants to come to court, so this project is meant as a way to make the court process just a little better."

For more information about the Honey and her role within the 22nd Judicial Circuit, please contact Court Administration at courtadmin@22ndcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Honey, a Golden Retriever, is the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County's new facility dog. She is currently undergoing training to be a certified service animal.

AUCTION

BOB'S FALL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

26500 Dover Line Road Waterford, WI 53185

SATURDAY, OCT. 19 • 10:00 AM

DIRECTIONS: E of Racine County. Hwy. 36 W of Hwy. 75 on Hwy. 20 to Mealy Rd, N to Dover Line Road, W. on Dover Line Rd to Auction site. (2nd curve) Watch for signs. **WANTED CONSIGNMENT OF:** Farm and Industrial Tractors & Machinery, Lawn & Garden, ATVs, Snowmobiles, Campers, Trees & Nursery, Building Materials, Livestock & Barn Equipment, Grain, Semi & Dump Trucks, Farm Toys, Antiques & Collectibles, Tools, No Cars, No Tires, No JUNK. **AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** We are taking Consignments up to Friday, 10/18, no later than 4:00 pm. Drop off times: 10/16 from 10-5, 10/17 from 9-5, & 10/18 from 9-4. For an expanded list, pictures, & complete terms visit the WEBSITES: www.bobhagemannauctionreality.com or www.auctionzip.com ID #9051. Food service available. Here are a few items much more coming, Multiple Auction rings.

TOOLS & EQUIP: Snap On, Blue Point, MAC, Craftsman and Diamond brand Hand Tools, Graco Magnum ProX9 airless sprayer, Vertical Sandblaster Cabinet with Cyclone Dust Collector, Central Machinery 1-1/2hp, 120v 20" Production Drill Press, Arbor Press 15ton, Delta and Craftsman Bench Power Tools, 2- Rubbermaid 1 cubic yard carts w/lids, adjustable shelving unit on wheels, shelving unit for 2014 ford transit connect, drafting table, Dumore 1/2hp die grinder motor, Various Ryobi cordless tools, **SPORTING GOODS:** 04 Bass 32 BHSS Fifth Wheel Camper, **Boat:** 1983 15' Cheetah Bass/Ski Combo Fiberglass Boat w/90HP Mercury Engine. Engine manual & Trailer Included. LiveWell. Boat floor was replaced within the last two years and new tires on the trailer, 10' Sun Dolphin Journey SS Fishing Kayak, New In-Package Overstock Assorted Hardware Items, Stihl parts and products, small kitchen appliances, glassware/drinkware, crafting supplies, Christmas decorations, seasonal decor, other holiday decorations, gift items, assorted houseware supplies, small furniture items, teaching supplies, kids' toys, bed linens, home decor, Disney items, Dolly Diamond blades, lawn mower blades, lawn mower tune-up kits, assorted tools, solder items. **AND MUCH MORE.**

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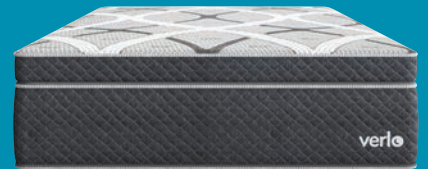


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