~ including McHenry County News

NOV. 27 - DEC. 3, 2024

VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 30

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



## ies celebrate the holiday season found, have your map signed and mas Village Showroom is available

By Sandra Landen Machaj CORRESPONDENT

As the holiday season draws near, changes appear on the streets in the many communities in the Chain O' Lakes area. Throughout the area holiday lights, snowmen, nativity scenes, wreaths, and Santas are seen in the windows of local stores, in family homes, and along the streets. Many of these holiday decorations and activities start right after Thanksgiving, as we begin to embrace the spirit of the season.

Among the communities that come alive with this holiday spirit are some of our favorite communities along the Chain O' Lakes and along the Fox River.

#### Antioch

For many years, the Antioch community has been very active in creating not only scenic holiday displays but also a variety of activities that will be embraced by the community throughout the season.

"Antioch continues to bring family fun programs to the community,' shared Barbara Porch, Director of the Antioch Chamber of Commerce. "This year, we will continue to provide many of the programs we have offered in previous years. There will be some additional programs in the newly created Sequoit Park, sponsored by the City of Antioch. Many of the programs offered by the Chamber are free to the public, due to sponsorship of Ray Chevrolet-Kia dealership."

One of the earliest holiday programs began on Nov. 14 and continues through Dec. 4. It is the Holiday Pickle Hunt, where individuals make their way through many of the community's retail stores and try to locate the pickle hidden there. If continue to the next location partici-

When you have found at least half the number of pickles, turn in your signed sheet for a chance to win a prize. If you find them all, there will be two chances to win a prize.

This event is based on the old German tradition of hiding a pickle in the Christmas tree. and whoever finds it first receives a special gift. In the early days, it was a real pickle, and later, a pickle ornament.

For many years, the Antioch Dickens Christmas and Kringle Villages have been the highlights of the Antioch Christmas Season. Originally, the Dickens characters were created a few at a time by local artists, and each year the collection

They were placed on Main Street in front of individual businesses, making one feel as if they were walking into the world of Dickens. This year, two of the life-sized Dickens figures will be placed out of doors at Main Street and Lake.

The Kringles, a large group of supersized shadow boxes that were donated to Antioch, are a gorgeous display of Christmas scenes that may bring memories to older visitors of the types of scenes that were enjoyed in the Chicago Marshall Field's windows in their childhood. Each scene is unique and very detailed and will be enjoyed by young and old.

While at the Kringles Christmas Village, be sure to take in the Community Christmas Tree contest. A variety of trees decorated by family groups, businesses, scout groups, and others will be on display and open for voting by visitors to choose the community's favorite.

The Kringles and Dickens Christ-

for viewing at 510 Orchard Street Plaza and there is plenty of free parking available.

The Kringles and Dickens programs will be held from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, and both will be held indoors at the Christmas Village Showroom, as it has the last few years. Be sure to stop in and enjoy.

There is nothing more beautiful than the Christmas Music Light program that can be enjoyed from the comfort of your automobile, another free community event. The music and light show will feature a synchronized light display paired with favorite Christmas music.

"Drive to the Bandshell in downtown Antioch and enjoy this 20-minute show while in your car," said Porch. "You will be directed to turn your car radio to a set station where you will enjoy the lights and music."

The Light and Music show will begin on Dec. 1 and continue through Dec. 25 each day from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be two separate 20-minute shows, one played on even days and the second on odd days. Be sure to enjoy both pro-

The Band Shell is located on Skidmore Drive, in downtown An-

Throughout the holiday season, there will be a variety of other events, which are listed on the Chamber website. Be sure to check them out so you don't miss any of the holiday fun and special shopping events.

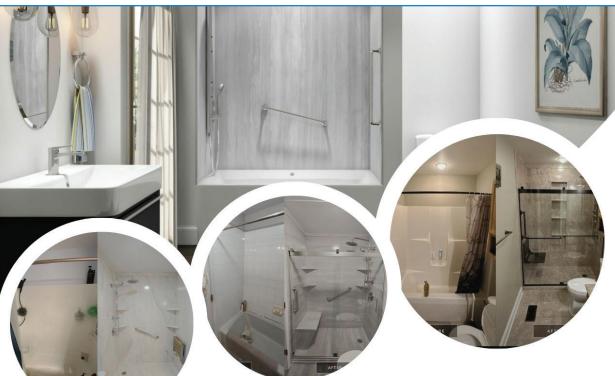
"The Village of Antioch, Parks and Recreation will be holding the annual Christmas parade and the tree lighting ceremony in downtown

See HOLIDAYS, Page 2



COURTESY MCHENRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Hi-Liter/MCN

A live person plays the role of the soldier in this living window display in McHenry. Find more information about holiday events by visiting cityofmchenry.org.





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**Matthew Schumacher** (815) 566-1189

• Holidays (Continued from front page)

Antioch on Friday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m.," shared Kelley Crimmins, Antioch Communications and Event Specialist. The Parade will travel

down Main Street from Park to Orchard and end at Sequoit Creek Park, where there will be a lighting of the community Christmas tree.

What child doesn't look forward to visiting Santa Clause before Christmas to share their list of desired gifts? The children of Antioch will have the chance to visit Santa at the Hiram Buttrock Sawmill, 770 Cunningham Dr., Antioch, on Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 6 to Dec. 21 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bring your camera to take photos of the visit with Santa.

Has Santa ever made a home visit before Christmas? This year, you can arrange for Santa to visit your home before he starts his journey to deliver gifts to all the children who have been good. Wish Santa safe travels when he stops by on Dec. 9, 11, 16, and 18. Home visit tickets are available, and the cost is \$25 for the house visit, which includes one child present and \$10 for each additional child.

Have you ever wanted to go to the North Pole? Now is the chance. From Dec. 3-19, The Polar Express will leave the Antioch Train Station at 9 a.m. and travel to the North Pole (Buffalo Grove), where there will be a variety of activities and lunch. Tickets are \$26 for Antioch residents and \$36 for non-residents. Check the Village of Antioch website at antioch.il.gov for more information and to purchase tickets.

#### Fox Lake

In Fox Lake, the spirit of Christmas is also emerging and will officially begin on Saturday, Nov. 30 when the Festival of Lights kicks off with the Kris Kringle Market, which will be on the Community Green, 17 E. School Ct.

"The market will offer craft and holiday items and food items from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.," said Kim Loewe, from the Fox Lake Recreation Department. "At 5 p.m., the parade will begin at Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Ave., and travel

through downtown."

The parade will end at Millenium Park, where the Fox Lake Tree will be lit. After the lighting of the tree, Santa's cottage will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. for children to share their Christmas wishes with Santa.

The community will be turned into a winter wonderland during the community 2024 Holiday House Decorating Contest. During the season, homes will be transformed into winter wonderlands. Homes must register with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation by Dec. 13.

The houses are judged by the public, who can collect judging sheets from and return them to the Dept. of Parks and Rec. Winners will be announced by Dec. 20.

Prizes are awarded for the Best Use of Lights, Best Decorating Theme, Most Extravagant Display, and the Best Holiday Spirit.

Enjoy the decorations and events celebrated in Fox Lake this season. For more information visit the Village of Fox Lake website, https://foxlake.

Ring in the holidays in McHenry, which will offer a variety of activities beginning in late November.

For fun gifts, shopping local is always the best, and the Holiday Market at the Riverwalk is the place to find a variety of interesting gifts. The Holiday Market will be held at the Riverwalk Shops from mid-November through Dec. 7. Each week, a different theme will be featured and on Saturdays a food truck will be present.

Don't miss the other events, including the adults-only Polar Express Pub Crawl which allows the "big kids" to put on their best Christmas pajamas and get out for some holiday

Visit cityofmchenry.org ro naturallymchenrycounty.com for more information on holiday events.

With such a variety of events planned in Chain O'Lakes communities, there will be no shortage of ways to welcome the season of Christ-



past, with many of them including a live person such as this mannequin. At right: Featuring a living room scene, this display is complete with an iconic "leg" lamp and includes a Christmas living room with a variety

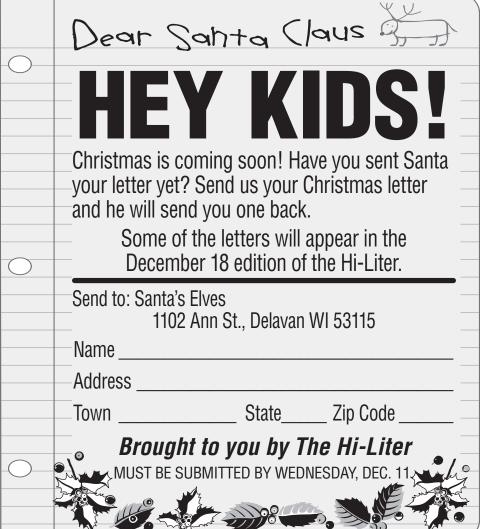
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COURTESY MCHENRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



COURTESY ANTIOCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Hi-Liter/MCN

The handmade Dickens characters, created by local artists, are shown on display in the Kringles/Dickens showroom in Antioch along with a beautifully deco-





COURTESY ANTIOCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Hi-Liter/MCN

A group of children watch in awe while checking out this Kringle box of Santa's workshop in Antioch.



The City of Woodstock recently won two awards for its Old Courthouse Center Rehabilitation Project. City officials received the Excellence in Economic Development Gold Award and the Best in Show Award from the International Economic Development Council at its 2024 conference. Woodstock completed renovations on the Old Courthouse Center last year. The 167-year-old landmark on the downtown Square is home to tenant businesses, the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and two micro business incubators.

## FEMA invites all Nippersink Creek Watershed property owners to review updated flood risk maps on Dec. 4

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, December 4, at Nippersink Public Library in Richmond, IL, from 3 to 6 p.m. to present the preliminary flood maps for portions of the Nippersink Creek Watershed and answer questions. Experts from FEMA will provide updated flood maps and information about your flood risk.

All are invited. Homeowners, renters, and business owners are encouraged to attend and meet with experts one-onone to check their own addresses on the new maps.

#### Overview

Over the past 10 years, FEMA has been working to update our local flood risk information, including a revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) indicating the areas of our communities most vulnerable to flood risk. Twenty streams were studied as part of the Nippersink Creek Watershed project. The recently released preliminary maps represent a more comprehensive, collaborative re-examination of the local flood zones.

Flood risks change over time due to changes in land use, development, or other factors. It's important for the information available in our community to reflect the changes

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 29 & 30: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

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identify actions we can take to protect our community from strengthen our ability to make future risk. The outcome of this multiyear process will be more up-to-date, digital information that helps us understand our community's current flood risk and protect the places we love from the damage of future floods, including public spaces, businesses, and properties. At the upcoming Open House, FEMA's partners will be available to discuss the new flood hazard map released in late August 2024. These experts can explain what this means for our community and your property and will answer questions.

#### About the Risk Map effort

Risk MAP is a nationwide effort designed to provide communities like ours with more precise flood hazard maps, risk assessment tools, planning, and

so that we can rely on it to outreach support to enhance our local mitigation plans and informed decisions about reducing flood risk.

#### **Benefits of Map Updates**

Flooding can be dangerous and costly. The new maps will provide a more complete picture of the risk that affects our community so we can take action to address it. For example, builders and developers can use the updated map data to determine where and how to build structures more safely to protect them from flood damage. Real estate agents will be better equipped to inform clients of any factors that may affect properties and make them aware of upcoming changes in flood risk status and flood insurance requirements.

See FEMA, Page 7

# ~ including McHenry County News

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NEWS ...... DISPLAY ADS .. (815) 877-4044 CLASSIFIED ADS... (815) 877-4044 LEGALS....

- PUBLISHED WEEKLY -

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A group of volunteers from last year's Green Friday Restoration Day are shown here. There are six locations available to volunteer at this Friday for the annual event. For more information on volunteer opportunities visit MCCDistrict.org.

## MCCD hosting Green Friday Restoration Day

On Friday, Nov. 29, McHenry County Conservation District's stewards invite the public to drop in at one of six Green Friday Restoration Day events held at conservation areas throughout McHenry County. Volunteer stewards will explain the importance of restoration and demonstrate how to identify, cut and stack branches of invasive plants. All ages 6+ are welcome. No experience necessary. Dress for the outdoors and bring your own work gloves if you have

There are six locations and times to choose from:

- Alden Sedge Meadow South from 1:00
- 3:30 p.m. (Meet at 15820 Route 173, Harvard.)
- Boger Bog Conservation Area from

Valley Rd, Bull Valley.)

- Boone Creek Conservation Area from Noon - 3 p.m. (Meet at 916 Cold Springs Rd, Woodstock.)
- Exner Marsh Conservation Area from 9 a.m. - Noon (Contact steward for meeting location.) • Fox Bluff Conservation Area from 9
- a.m. Noon (Meet at Cary Algonquin Rd & Fox Trails Dr S, Algonquin.) • Pioneer Fen from 9:30 a.m. - Noon
- (Meet at 4700 N Waltshire Ln, McHenry.)

RSVP's are encouraged. To RSVP, visit MCCD.me/GreenFriday.

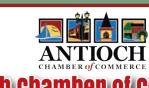
For more information on volunteer opportunities visit MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 338-6223.

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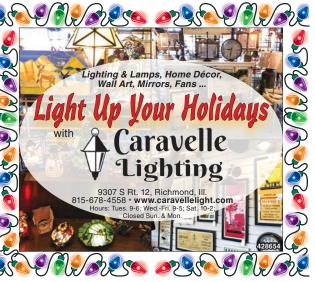




## <u>Antioch Chamber of Commerce</u>

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## Celebrate the season **Christmas of**

Yestervear returns to Richmond Dec. 7, 8 The Christmas of Yesteryear in Richmond will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Dec.

7-8 downtown in The District.

10308 Main Street. Saturday, Dec. 7

• 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Richmond Business Association's Annual Cocoa Walk. Cost is \$2 per person and proceeds benefit CASA of McHenry County.

• 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. local Girl Scout Troops will be caroling downtown. • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Richmond

Township will be hosting

Santa & reindeer at their of-

- fice located at 7812 Rt. 31. • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lakeland Madrigals will be caroling downtown.
- 11 a.m. 5 p.m. Giving Tree donations accepted at Doyle's Pub, 5604 Mill St., to benefit

Sunday, Dec. 8 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Richmond

Business Association's Annual Cocoa Walk. Cost is \$2 per person and proceeds benefit CASA of McHenry County.

PADS and Home of the Spar-

• Richmond Fire House, 5601

Hunter Dr., Food Drive, any-

- Noon 3 p.m. visit Santa in downtown Richmond.
- 1-3 p.m. Faith First Carolers

will be caroling downtown.

 Doyle's Pub and Richmond Fire House Food Drive's (see Saturday details).

#### **RBCHS Pancake** Fundraiser Dec. 7

Also being held on Saturday, Dec. 7 in Richmond, from 8-11 a.m., RBCHS Music Department presents their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pancake Fundraiser. Tickets sold at the door, \$7 aults, \$5 kids 12 and under. Park. There will be raffle baskets, bake sale, and student performances from 9-10 a.m. Richmond Burton Community High School is located at 8311 State Rt. 31.

#### Merry and Bright in Spring Grove Dec. 7

Merry and Bright will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Horse Fair

Admission is free. Attendees are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food or toiletry items for the local food pantry.

The tree lighting will take place at 5 p.m. Visit with Santa, enjoy crafts, hay rides, hot

chocolate and cookies.

Horse Fair Park is located at 8105 Blivin Street, Spring Grove. Visit springgrovevillage.com for information.





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# Man charged with distributing child pornography

County State's Attorney's Office Cybercrimes Unit and Lake County Sheriff's Office Cybercrimes Unit concluded an investigation



Oseguera

that resulted in the arrest of a North Chicago man.

State's Attorney and Sheriff's Investigators began an investigation after being notified by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that an electronic device was uploading child pornography in North Chicago, utilizing a mobile application. The investigation revealed the device was located at a residence in the 1000 block of McAlister Avenue, North

State's Attorney and Sheriff's Investigators obtained a search warrant for the residence, and they conducted the search on the morning of November 21. During a search of the residence, investigators located electronic evidence. which contained hundreds of images and videos of child pornography, including children under the age of 10 engaged in sexual acts. Angel Oseguera Lopez, 24, of the same address, was found to be responsible for saving child pornography he received from others, and redistributing the child pornography to others.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved two counts of distribution of child pornography against Lopez.

Additional charges are

State's Attorney

Eric Rinehart said, "Our office is committed to protecting all children in Lake County. We are immensely grateful and commend the Sheriff's Investigators and our Cyber Crimes Division Investigators for their relentless work in the fight to track down and prosecute those who exploit the most vulnerable in our community.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "We will continue to go to great lengths to ensure

our most vulnerable are safe Attorney from predators. This arrest highlights the hard work of our team and our ongoing collaboration with the state's attorney's office to identify and apprehend child predators."

Lopez remains held in the Lake County Jail pending an initial court hearing tomorrow morning. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office intends to file a petition to detain Lopez in custody while he awaits trial.

#### Gray receives ten year sentence for unlawful delivery of a controlled substance

On November 13. Jerry L. Gray, a 30-year-old male from Volo, was sentenced to 10 years in the Illinois Department Correc-



Jerry L. Gray

tions for Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance. Grav entered into a negotiated plea of guilty to the charge before the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt.

On August 12, 2023, the Lake County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to West Hartigan Road in Volo for a report of an unresponsive male. Evidence showed that the victim bought Percocet at his place of employment, the Speedway Gas Station in Volo, on August 10 and 11. A review of the victim's cellphone records and surveillance footage at Speedway confirm that the pills were purchased from Jerry L. Gray. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the pills were not in fact Percocet, but pure fentanyl.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick D. Kenneally thanks the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Assistant State's Attorney Fara Momen for her work on this case. Most overdose fatalities in McHenry County involve opioids – often fentanyl.

#### McCoy sentenced for robbery

Kenneally, was McHenry County State's

announces that 20-year-Jarvoi-McCoy, sias of Crystal Lake, sentenced to five years and eight months

**Jarvoisias** McCov in the Illinois

Department of Corrections on one count of Robbery, a Class 2 felony. The sentence was handed down, as part of a negotiated plea, by the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt on November 8.

On August 29, 2022, Crystal Lake Police Department officers were dispatched to Good Shepherd Immediate Care and met with an individual who had sustained non-life-threatening injuries because of a robbery at the Buckingham Apartments on Buckingham Drive. The victim was able to provide identifying information of both the assailant and the vehicle he left in. Their investigation led officers to identify McCoy as a potential suspect. Both the victim and an eyewitness positively identified McCoy from a photo lineup presented to them the next day. Through a search warrant obtained of McCoy's cellphone, officers were also able to place Mc-Cov at the scene at the time of the offense. Officers also retrieved some of the personal items taken from the victim within McCoy's possession.

The McHenry State's Attorney's Office commends the work of the officers and detectives of the Crystal Lake Police Department for their exceptional work on this case. This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Ashur Y. Youash.

#### **Buffano sentenced** to 7 years for child pornography

Patrick D. Kenneal-McHen-County State's Attorney, announces that Michael 33, Buffano, of Fox Lake. sentenced to seven years in the



rections upon pleading guilty to one count of Child Pornography, a Class X felony. The sentence was handed down, as part of a negotiated plea. by the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt on November 8.

On July 30, 2022, Fox Lake Police Department officers were dispatched to a home where a 911 caller had reported observing a lewd video of an underaged girl on a cell phone belonging to another resident. Responding officers seized a cell phone identified as Buffano's, and upon obtaining and executing a search warrant, located multiple pornographic videos depicting a child. Further investigation of the files determined that Buffano had recorded the videos earlier that month, which ultimately led to his arrest.

Upon release from custody, Buffano must serve a term of three years to natural life on mandatory supervised release. He must also register as a Sex Offender for the rest of his natural life.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally thanks the Fox Lake Police Department and Assistant State's Attorney Maria Marek for their exceptional work on this case. The McHenry

fice is committed to aggressively prosecuting those who dare to exploit children.

#### Suspect in gaming café burglary arrested

On November 24, at approximatelv 1:15 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a burglar alarm at a gaming café in the 34500 block



Moiarro-Garcia

of Route 45, Third Lake. Upon arrival, deputies observed a shattered front glass door and clear evidence of a burglary. Inside the café, they discovered fresh blood, likely from the suspect sustaining injuries during the break-in. Deputies also identified a neighboring business that was also burglarized. During a search of the

area, deputies encountered a man, identified as 36-yearold Gilberto Mojarro-Garcia, who had no permanent address. Mojarro-Garcia exhibited fresh cuts on his hands and arms, along with bloodstained clothing. Nearby, damaged cash register.

Surveillance footage from the gaming café confirmed involve-Mojarro-Garcia's ment in the burglary. Deputies arrested Mojarro-Garcia near the scene. While secured in a squad car, he began kicking the door. When deputies attempted to further restrain him, Moiarro-Garcia kicked one of the deputies. Fortunately, the deputy was not iniured.

Upon arrival at the Lake County Jail, Mojarro-Garcia's aggressive behavior escalated, requiring correctional officers to deploy pepper spray to ensure the safety of all per-

After reviewing the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges against Moiarro-Garcia: Two counts of Burglary, Aggravated Battery to a Peace Officer, Criminal Damage to Property, Criminal Damage to Government Property and Resisting Arrest.

Mojarro-Garcia was being held at the Lake County Jail. As the investigation continues, sheriff's detectives are working to determine whether Mojarro-Garcia is connected to separate burglaries reported in the same area last week.

## Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin

The Lake County Sheriff's DUI – alcohol, and improper Dept. reported the following arrests in Lake County. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court

#### Oct. 11

Anthony M. Blanc, 21, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Roman Flores-Sanchez, 51, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol; William C. Jones, 68,

North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a controlled Alexander Gomez-Fuent-

es, 20, Vernon Hills, was cited for suspended registration, no insurance, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Rachel F. Alvear-Ramirez, 21. Mundelein, was cited for improper transportation of

Anthony D. Urete-Laguna, 22, Waukegan, was cited for

transportation of cannabis;

James A. Dinino, 33, Rolling Meadows, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting a peace officer (DuPage Coun-

#### Oct. 12

Michael J. Diaz-Jiminez, 24. Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license and no in-

Cipriano C. Avalos, 57, Beach Park, was cited for no driver's license and suspended registration:

Lizeth Zamora, 30, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended and suspended registration;

Brian K. Tasky, 38, Lake Villa, was cited for domestic battery;

Elias R. Chavez, 18, Wheeling, was cited for DUI alcohol, no driver's license, no insurance and open transportation of alcohol;

Joshua P. Robles, 29,

SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Waukegan, was cited for DUI alcohol, open transportation of alcohol, and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia;

Julizza A. Ayala, 25, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal dam-

#### Oct. 13

Timothy J. Coughran. 53, Lake Villa, was cited for criminal damage to property;

Doris M. Garcia-Castro, 67, Stevens Point, WI, was cited for DUI - drugs and no insurance:

#### Oct. 14

Michael W. Cook, 31, Zion, was cited for violating an order of protection;

Tyrus P Kavanaugh, 48, Volo, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft (Kane

Cynthis F. Hanes, 59, Carpentersville, was cited for bat-

Joshua P. Hayhurst, 21, Antioch, was cited for a warrant arrest: burglary:

Willi Wright, 52, no permanent address, was cited for criminal trespass to property;

Shanika L. Heichelbech, 34, Waukegan, was cited for criminal trespass to property;

Oct. 18 Diana Williams, 43, was

cited for a warrant obtained: theft, and criminal trespass to Cody R. Nibbe, 21, Dan-

ville, was cited for aggravated speeding (80 mph in 35 mph

Jesus S. Ortega, 25, Round Lake Beach, was cited for aggravated speeding (80 mph in 40 mph zone);

Jorge Gutierrez Esponda, 51, Kenosha, WI, was cited for driving while license revoked, and passing a loading/ unlading school bus;

#### Oct. 19

Louis A. Vega, 34, Lake Villa, was cited for aggravated speeding (87 mph in 45

Jacqueline Gutierrez, 24, Zion, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and leaving the scene of an accident.

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worm and on preventative and microchipped. While walk-ins are welcome, adoptions are by

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about 4 months old, neutered, up-to-date on rou-

tine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heart-

## World AIDS Day event aims to reduce stigma, accelerate acceptance Health Department encourages everyone to join the free event to commemorate World AIDS Day

Each year, on December 1, we commemorate World AIDS Day. This important awareness day is a time to reflect on and celebrate the global progress in the HIV/ AIDS journey, recognize the challenges remaining, and honor the lives lost. On this day, we also renew our commitment to supporting the well-being of those with HIV, as well as those at risk for infection. Join the Lake County Stands Against Stigma Coalition from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 N Greenbay Rd, North

"The Health Department is proud to play a strong role in ending the HIV epidemic and providing access for community members," said Interim Executive Director Sam Johnson. "We are always available to help clients know their status and provide the services people need to stay healthy.'

The event is free and open to the public and will feature a candle-lighting ceremony, special guest, Chad J. Zawitz, MD, True Aris Renato; a creative partner from the I am a Work of ART national campaign, a drag performance by Lola Madison, and much more. Attendees will learn about the Illinois Getting to Zero initiative, which aims to see zero new HIV infections in Illinois and zero people living with HIV who are not on treatment by 2030. Attendees will also learn about ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic with an emphasis on HIV testing, increasing access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications, and highlighting the importance of viral suppres-

The U.S. government's theme for World AIDS Day 2024—Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress—highlights the dedication to harnessing the significant progress that has been made through global and domestic HIV programs over the last four-plus decades. The theme also emphasizes initiatives based on new scientific advancements, implementation of research, and lessons learned from programs in the field. The Lake County Health Department's Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) program, also known as Need-2Know Lake County, works with clients and community members on HIV prevention with services, including HIV testing, PrEP, treatment, and

The theme for the Lake County Health Department's 2024 World AIDS Day Event is, "I Am a Work of ART". This theme underscores the transformative power of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in the lives of those affected by HIV and aims to highlight ev-

ery person's uniqueness and dignity. This year's message focuses on breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination to foster a culture of acceptance, understanding, and empathy. ART not only encourages people to lead healthy, full lives but also significantly reduces the risk of transmission, showcasing the power of treatment as a bridge toward both individual well-being and public health.

"Each year we come together as a community to honor those who have lost their lives, celebrate our resilience, and bring awareness and inspiration to the continued work left to be done in the fight against HIV/AIDS", said Valerie Johansen, STI Program Coordinator at the Lake County Health Department.

All are encouraged to attend and wear a red ribbon to show their support and stand against HIV stigma and discrimination. To RSVP or and the elimination of HIV-refor more information, please call the Health Department's Need2Know program at (847) 377-8450.

#### **About Lake County** Stands Against Stigma

The Lake County Stands Against Stigma Coalition is a collaboration of community members, including Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center, LGBTQ+ Center Lake County, Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Gilead, Awaken Culture, WAUKEGAN FRIENDS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Waukegan Alumnae Chapter Chi Eta Phi, Josselyn, ViiV Healthcare, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, Ascension Illinois The Harbor. Our community partners and volunteers work together for capacity building, advocacy,

lated stigma.

#### **About Need2Know Lake** County

The Health Department's Need2Know Lake County program provides comprehensive care and prevention services for at-risk individuals in Lake County. The program provides HIV counseling and testing, clinical services for sexually transmitted infections, treatments to individuals diagnosed with an STI, hepatitis C screenings, syphilis screenings, risk reduction counseling, psycho-social support, health education groups, and outreach and surveillance services related to all sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and Hepatitis C.

For more information, call: (847) 377-8450 or visit: lakecountyil.gov/need2know.

## • **FEMA** (Continued from page 3)

Upcoming milestones

The 90-day Public Appeal Period is estimated to begin Spring 2025. During the official 90-day appeal period, members of our community, including homeowners, landowners, business own-

ers, and lessees can submit

on scientific and/or technical peals received. data that would justify revising the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and flood map.

It is anticipated that the updated maps will take effective in Fall 2026. Note, the timeline is subject to appeals and comments based change depending on ap- sink Creek Watershed will

#### For more information

• Visit https://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org/, to learn more about this project. At this site, you can download the preliminary maps to see what areas of the Nipperchange and listen to previous meeting recordings.

- Visit floodsmart.gov to see an overview of the National Flood Insurance Program, how to purchase a flood insurance policy, and how to find a flood insurance agent in the area.

countyil.gov/2373/Flood-In- ceOutreach@fema.dhs.gov surance-Maps Floodplain information for Lake County.

Attendees who require accommodations, such as sign language interpreters, can request assistance by emailing FEMA at FE-• Visit https://www.lake- MA-Region5-FloodInsuran-

for more at least 48 hours before the

If you cannot attend the open house, contact FEMA Flood Mapping and Insurance EXchange (FMIX) at 877-336-2627. A map specialist can help answer your questions.

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ITEMS MAY BE SENT TO

## news@hi-liter.com

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND A PHONE NUMBER SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU IF NEEDED.



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