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# Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart honored

## A Safe Place presented the 2024 Joyce Fitzgerald award at their Unmask the Violence Gala

On October 19, A Safe Place honored Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart with the 2024 Joyce Fitzgerald Award at the Unmask the Violence Gala. The award honors a unique individual whose ongoing leadership advances the mission of a A Safe Place, and whose dedication advances the rights of victims and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

During the ceremony, A Safe Place Board of Director President Judith Rosowicz highlighted Rinehart's leadership in securing the funding for Lake County's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and for increasing the number of prosecutors and victim counselors in the office over the last three years. As co-leaders of the task force, A Safe Place and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office are co-recipients of \$1.5M from the U.S. Department of Justice.

A Safe Place CEO Pat Davenport stated, "Eric has been a leader when it comes to the Human Trafficking Task Force and has been a wonderful partner. We are now able to connect with victims of domestic violence and provide direct services in the courtroom because of our partnership. We look forward to continuing working with his office to help survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking."

During the presentation, State's Attorney Rinehart stated that he was accepting the award on behalf of "the dozens of prosecutors, victim support professionals, and administrative staff within the Office who work tirelessly to help survivors of domestic violence." Rinehart noted that "these amazing public servants take their work home with them as they work to help others, reduce trauma, and make us all safer."

Every year, the Unmask the Violence Gala brings together more than 300 supporters from across the Chicagoland area to bring awareness, help stop the spread of domestic violence in our communities and raise funds for vital programs and services for our most fragile families experiencing domestic violence.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

A Safe Place (ASP) Board of Directors are shown with Rinehart and others at the Unmask the Violence Gala on October 19. (Front row, left to right) First Assistant State's Attorney Lauren Callinan, Lake County Member Gina Ingoglia-Roberts, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart, A Safe Place (ASP) CEO/Executive Director Pat Davenport, Karen Szymanski, Assistant State's Attorney Brooke Wanzenberg, Regina Hirn, ASP Board President Judith Rosowicz, ASP Board Secretary Jessica Trotter, Tabitha Kilpatrick, and Christy Noland. (Back row, from left) Waukegan Alderperson Lynn Florian, Kevin Stevens, Daniel Blaine, ASP Board Vice President Kate Johnson, Michael Rosengarden, and Assistant State's Attorney Scott Hoffert, Mohan Ramalingam.

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# State, County use similar arguments to defend assault weapon bans

## Ruling on state ban expected soon in Southern District as Cook County prepares for 7th Circuit arguments

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Attorneys in the offices of Attorney General Kwame Raoul and Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx made similar arguments in recent court filings as both defend bans on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines against constitutional challenges.

In separate cases at different levels of the federal court system, both offices are trying to make the case that the laws under challenge—a state law enacted in 2023 and a county ordinance that dates to 1993—fall within the bounds of the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent interpretation of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

Raoul's office filed its final written arguments Monday, Oct. 21, in the Southern District of Illinois, where an in-person trial was held in September on multiple challenges to the state's Protect Illinois Communities Act. That's the weapons ban state lawmakers passed in 2023 in the wake of a mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade the previous summer in Highland Park.

Foxx's office made its argument in briefs filed with the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, where a three-judge panel will hear oral arguments Nov. 12 in a challenge to the county's assault weapons ban.

First adopted in 1993, that law was strengthened in 2006, and again in 2013. It is now known as the Blair Holt Assault Weapons Ban, named after a Chicago teen who was killed in a 2007 shooting while protecting a high school classmate.

Both cases are among the numerous challenges to assault weapons bans that have been filed in recent years in Illinois and elsewhere. Those cases come as state and local governments look for ways to control the proliferation of increasingly deadly weapons on their streets while a conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court takes an increasingly expansive view of the Second Amendment's protection of gun rights.

The court's current standards for judging Second Amendment cases are spelled out in the 2008 decision *District of Columbia v. Heller*, and the 2022 decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*.

The *Heller* case held the right to bear arms is an individual right, not a collective right, and that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own and carry weapons such as handguns that are commonly used for self-defense and other lawful purposes.

In the Bruen decision, the court went further to say that for a gun control law to pass constitutional muster, the government must show that the law is consistent with the nation's "historical tradition of firearms regulations."

In both pending cases, attorneys for the plaintiffs argue the weapons banned under the laws are among the most popular firearms in America and are commonly used for self-defense and other legal activities such as hunting and target shooting.

Attorneys for the state and Cook County, however, argue the assault weapons covered under the laws are modern variations of guns first developed in Nazi Germany during World War II, the *Sturmgewehr* 44. That weapon's design was later adapted and modified by the U.S. military into a weapon known as the AR-15, which was later "rebranded" as the M-16 rifle.

Briefs filed in both cases also offer graphic descriptions of mass shootings in which assault weapons have been used to illustrate how their lethal power is many times that of smaller weapons like a 9 mm handgun.

Cook County's brief, for example, begins with a description of the 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School, in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two teachers were killed by a man wielding an AR-15.

"Afterward, a pediatrician observed that the children 'had been pulverized by bullets fired at them, decapitated,' their 'flesh had been ripped apart' to such an extent 'that the only clue as to their identities was blood-spattered cartoon clothes still clinging to them,'" the county's brief states.

Cook County's brief also includes a list of 17 mass shootings in the United States involving assault weapons between 1984 and 2022, as well as the July 13 attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.

The state's brief begins with a description of the Highland Park mass shooting, noting that "(i)n less than 60 seconds, the shooter fired approximately 83 shots into the families and community members gathered to celebrate the nation's birthday. Seven people died, and an additional 48 people were wounded."

Both the state and county argue the military origins of assault weapons, combined with their lethal impact when used in mass shootings, place them in the category of "dangerous

and unusual" weapons which, under the *Heller* decision, are outside the scope of Second Amendment protection.

Both the state and the county also argue there is a long, historical tradition of regulating weapons that posed particular threats to public safety. They both cite laws from the first half of the 19th century banning Bowie knives, as well as later laws regulating pistols, revolvers, and "Tommy guns."

Plaintiffs in both cases, however, argue there is a fundamental difference between the assault weapons banned under the state and county laws and the type of weapons used in the military—namely, that the laws ban "semiautomatic" weapons, which fire only one round with each pull of the trigger, while the military uses weapons that can fire in either semiautomatic or fully automatic mode, meaning they fire continuously with a single pull of the trigger until the trigger is released or the ammunition is depleted.

In earlier proceedings, Judge Stephen P. McGlynn, who is presiding over the case in the Southern District of Illinois, issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the Protect Illinois Communities Act, saying the plaintiffs were likely to win on the merits of the case.

But the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case at this juncture, opting instead to remand it back to district court for full proceedings. The trial in that case ended Sept. 19, and McGlynn is expected to issue his ruling soon.

In the case challenging the Cook County ordinance, U.S. District Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer ruled March 1 in favor of the county, noting the 7th Circuit has ruled several times that assault weapons bans are constitutional, including an earlier challenge to the Cook County law. The plaintiffs are now appealing that decision. The appellate court will not release the names of the three judges assigned to hear the case until the morning of oral arguments Nov. 12.

Both lawsuits have backing from national gun rights organizations such as the Second Amendment Foundation, the Firearms Policy Coalition, Federal Firearms Licensees, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

National gun control advocates such as Everytown for Gun Safety and Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have also filed briefs in support of the weapons bans.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

(Left to right) Dr. Chico Tillmon, Executive Director, Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy (CVILA) University of Chicago Crime Lab; Tierra Lemon, Lake County State's Attorney's Office GVPI Director; Oresa Napper-Williams, Founder & Executive Director, Not Another Child Inc. (NAC); Amber Goodwin, Founder & Strategic Advisor, Community Justice Action Fund (CJAF)

## Director of Lake County GVPI graduates from University of Chicago Crime Lab Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy

Last week, Lake County State's Attorney's Office GVPI Director Tierra Lemon and 30 other Community Violence Intervention (CVI) leaders from 20 cities across America graduated from the University of Chicago Crime Lab Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy (CVILA) second cohort. The graduation ceremony took place in Los Angeles, California.

The CVILA is a first-of-its kind, five months rigorous training that provides CVI leaders like Director Lemon with skills to improve their organizations and support their mission of preventing and reducing gun violence.

"Earlier this year, I was selected to join 30 extraordinary superheroes as part of CVILA's second cohort and this experience has been one that goes far beyond what my expectations were," GVPI Director Lemon said. "As the GVPI Director, my main goal is to prevent gun violence in Lake County and the CVILA has given me the right tools to strengthen our efforts in addressing trauma, lack of services, and other root causes of gun violence."

The CVILA is the only management and leadership program in the country designed to help CVI leaders strengthen their programs and scale their impact. It offers emerging leaders hands-on training on staff management and retention, data use, violence prevention and reduction, and community engagement – ensuring CVI programs turn new funding into on-the-ground impact.

As part of the program, students participated in immersive learning labs in Oakland, New York, and Washington, DC that integrated their classroom experiences

with community-based experiences.

"Director Tierra Lemon is an amazing leader who is receiving training from experts across the country from Hawaii, to Los Angeles, to Washington D.C. She and the GVPI are saving lives. Gun violence is down in Lake County partially because of the comprehensive work of the GVPI and its members. Thank you, Tierra for all that you do," Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated.

"These CVI leaders live and work in the communities they serve, and they are often in the best position to disrupt cycles of violence," said CVI Leadership Academy Executive Director Dr. Chico Tillmon. "By investing in their skills, the CVI Leadership Academy will help communities across this country become safer and more resilient."

A team of key community violence intervention leaders from across the country serve on the CVI Leadership Academy Steering Committee. Along with the Black and Brown Peace Consortium, these leaders helped craft a curriculum and aided in the academy's development to provide participants with transferable skills that they can leverage to support other organizations and groups, fostering well-rounded and skilled leaders within their communities and strengthening public safety, public trust, and equal justice.

GVPI Director Lemon added, "The CVILA has helped me gain a holistic picture of the efforts being made nationwide to save people from gun violence."

For more information about the CVI Leadership Academy, visit <https://crimelab.uchicago.edu/projects/community-violence-intervention-leadership-academy/>.

## McHenry County to review Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

McHenry County governments and public safety agencies will be conducting their annual review of the county Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan this month.

The plan exists to assess natural and man-made hazards that may affect local communities, and to identify strategies to reduce their impact. Having a mitigation plan allows local governments to be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

The McHenry County Emergency Management Agency will host the review at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the McHenry County Regional Training Center, 655 Village Hall Drive, Cary.

You can review the meeting agenda and read the current version of the plan by visiting <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-planning>.

While the plan is reviewed annually, it is rewritten every

five years, with input gleaned from the annual meetings.

The McHenry County EMA's website, [www.mchenryaware.com](http://www.mchenryaware.com), offers valuable tips for people to be prepared when disaster strikes and reduce the risks to themselves and their property.

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# Libertyville chiropractor expands on pediatric care knowledge base, offerings

Cynthia Wolf  
CONTRIBUTOR

Earlier this year, Libertyville resident Jessica Haramis worried that her daughter's adjustment to kindergarten might be causing some painful, ongoing gut issues.

Concerned, Haramis reached out to fellow mothers via a private Facebook group called Libertyville Moms. Several, she said, pointed her toward Dr. Jade Dellinger at North Shore Pro-Active Health, or NSPAH. Well-known locally as a trusted chiropractor with a pediatric specialization, Dellinger over the summer added pediatric functional medicine to her list of certifications.

For Haramis' 5-year-old, relief came within a week of her first visit last spring, Haramis added, noting that she herself was relieved not to have to resort to pushing laxatives on her child.

"Dr. Jade is so amazing with kids," Haramis said. "My daughter started with weekly [chiropractic] adjustments and also some supplement recommendations and some exercises."

Dellinger said digestive issues are just one set among many maladies that a good chiropractor and functional medicine practitioner can help to resolve — without medication. The courses required to com-

plete her functional medicine certification have added extensively to her child-centric tool kit.

"In general, functional medicine is a way of addressing root causes of an issue or concern or illness naturally, using lifestyle and possibly supplementation and chiropractic care to manage it as opposed to pharmacological interventions," Dellinger said.

"We've been offering functional medicine at our office for about 15 years through Dr. Jordan, but she primarily works with adults," Dellinger said of her sister, chiropractor and functional medicine practitioner Dr. Jordan Leasure. Both offer their services at NSPAH, 112 Lake St., Libertyville.

"I thought completing a pediatric functional medicine certification would complement what we were already doing," Dellinger said, adding that she is particularly driven to help the very young gain a healthy basis early, giving chronic illnesses no foothold.

"I have always felt that changing the health trajectory of the United States is not going to start with chronically afflicted adults," she said. "It's important to help adults regain their health, and they need that support. But my mission is bigger. I believe the future health of the country lies within our

kids."

Dellinger, who has two sons ages 5 and nearly 2, referred to a 2022 study that found roughly 30 percent of U.S. 5- to 15-year-olds suffer from chronic concerns ranging from persistent ear infections to eczema, allergies and digestive problems, as well as sleep, behavioral or immunity disorders. More than 7 million were on psychiatric drugs to treat anxiety, depression, ADHD and other maladies — "and those numbers are just trending up," she said.

Dellinger's goal is to do whatever she can to help to reverse that trend. Through her new specialization, Dellinger has expanded her toolkit for helping parents make healthier nutritional, activity, water intake, mindfulness and other choices on behalf of their children — from infants to teens. Functional medicine visits are conducted virtually, and typically are much lengthier than chiropractic visits, allowing adequate time to delve into what's causing alarm, what may be behind it, and how best to address it.

Testing, if advised, may include finger prick, fecal, urine and/or saliva samples, and can be accomplished via the mail. While functional medicine is not covered by insurance, it may be reimbursable via cafeteria plans offered by many employers, Dellinger added.

"I view it as an investment," she said. "For me, if it became 'Get my nails done or get a coffee or eat out versus help my child feel better, perform better in school and have better relationships with peers,' I wouldn't have to weigh where I'd rather put my money."

Those interested can schedule a free initial strategy session.

"During that, we see if this is the right next step," Dellinger said. "If I feel like what they are looking for is what I do, and they wish to move forward, we can establish a three-, four- or five-month program."

For Haramis, who still is scheduling visits on behalf of her kindergartener, Dellinger's expertise has been invaluable.

"Dr. Jade is so knowledgeable," Haramis said. "She's a mom, too, so I can talk to her both as a mom and as a health care professional. She knows what she's doing."

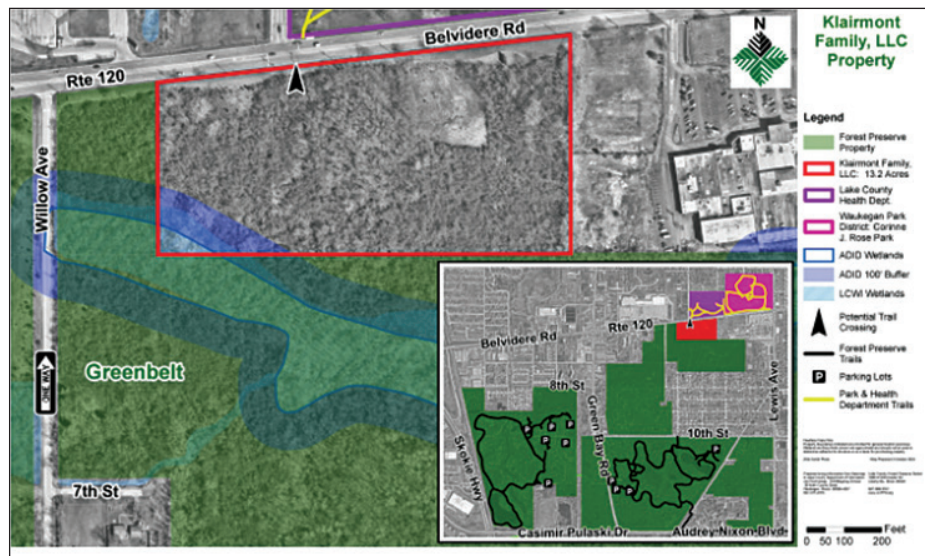


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES Hi-Liter/MCN

The Lake County Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners gave the green light to acquiring 13.2 acres, paving the way for the expansion of Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago.

## Greenbelt Forest Preserve to expand with 13-acre purchase

At its October 9 meeting, the Lake County Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of about 13.2 acres to expand Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago.

The property, owned by Klairmont Family LLC, is on Route 120, just east of Willow Avenue and west of the Belvidere Discount Mall.

The Forest Preserves has been interested in buying this land for more than 35 years, according to Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "By acquiring this property, we're expanding Greenbelt and opening doors to link nearby trails."

The \$3.25 million addition will be factored into a new master plan for Greenbelt Forest Preserve, a process has just begun and will continue into 2025. Implementation of the master plan is included among a proposed list of projects that will be funded if the Forest Preserves capital referendum passes on November 5.

Walking paths currently exist just north of Route 120 connecting the Lake County Health Department property to

the neighboring Corrine J. Rose Park. "Ultimately, we aim to add a signalized crosswalk at the traffic light at Keller Avenue and connect these paths to the existing trails at Greenbelt Forest Preserve," Kyle noted.

"We're thrilled with this addition," said Board Member Mary Ross Cunningham. "It is a critical purchase for residents in this area."

There aren't a lot of opportunities to protect and enhance a parcel of this size in Waukegan, which is one of Lake County's most densely populated areas, Ross Cunningham said.

The Forest Preserves aims to finalize the purchase by the end of the year.

"We're so pleased we have preserved this land," said Board Member Paras Parekh, chair of the Forest Preserves planning committee. "This purchase aligns with the Board's rationale for issuing limited land acquisition bonds in late spring, which was to be able to move quickly to preserve critical parcels when they become available."

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## Ribbon cutting celebrates new mobile clinic

The McHenry County Department of Health is proud to announce the successful launch of its new Mobile Clinic, aimed at improving access to healthcare services for residents in underserved areas. To mark the occasion, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on October 10, at the McHenry County Administration Building in Woodstock, further advancing a key initiative to promote health equity in the community.

The Mobile Clinic is de-

signed to address long-standing challenges in healthcare access, particularly in areas where transportation and cost create barriers. It is equipped to provide essential services, including immunizations, health screenings, and WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), making preventative healthcare services more accessible to vulnerable populations across McHenry County.

The ceremony featured remarks from Board of Health President Joe Clarke, McHen-

ry County Chairman Michael Buehler, Public Health Administrator Melissa Adamson, and Director of Public Health Nursing Susan Karras. Following the speeches, County employees, elected officials, and attendees from Leadership Greater McHenry County were given tours of the Mobile Clinic, where they could see firsthand the range of services the clinic will offer. The Mobile Clinic will travel to various locations throughout the county, bringing critical healthcare services directly to communities that face challenges in accessing care.

The launch of the Mobile Clinic underscores the McHenry County Department of Health's mission to remove barriers to healthcare and ensure that all residents have access to the support and services they need.

The McHenry County Board awarded \$450,733 in Advance McHenry County funding for the purchase of the Mobile Clinic in March of this year. The Advance McHenry County program is funded through American Rescue Plan Act dollars, which have been invested directly into infrastructure capital projects, workforce development and jobs programs, nonprofit agencies, special districts, and local governments.

The McHenry County Board has approved over \$26.5 million in awards through the Advance McHenry County program to date.

For more information about the Mobile Clinic or the services offered, visit [MCDH.info](http://MCDH.info) or call (815) 334-4510.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

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**2021 CHEVY SPARK 1LT**  
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**2021 NISSAN SENTRA SV**  
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**2022 CHEVY MALIBU LT**  
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P16355  
  
**2018 GMC ACADIA SLT**  
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P16343  
  
**2022 KIA K5 LXS**  
**\$19,790**

250034A  
  
**2023 BUICK ENCORE GX PREFERRED**  
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P16241  
  
**2023 CHRYSLER VOYAGER LX**  
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**2022 TOYOTA RAV 4 LE**  
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**2022 GMC CANYON ELEVATION**  
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**2022 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR**  
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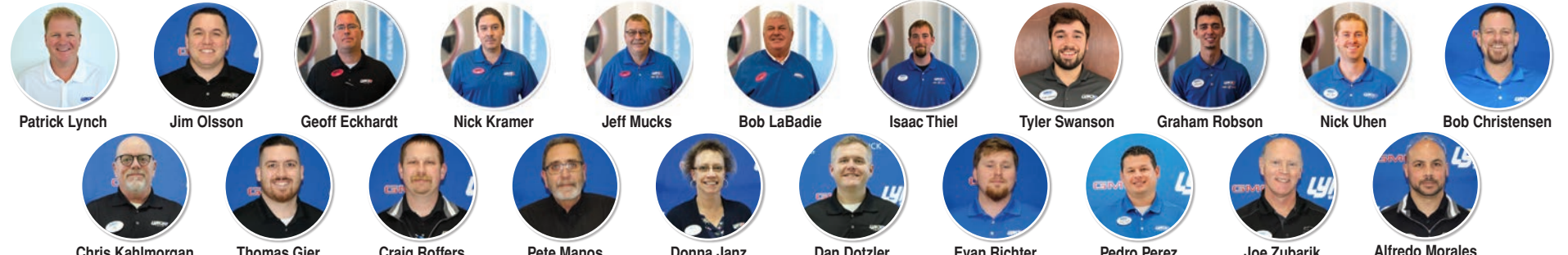
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P16359  
  
**2022 GMC SIERRA AT4**  
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P16410  
  
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# Court & crime news

## Sexual predator arrested after participating in trick-or-treating

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives arrested a Beach Park man for violating the sexual predator registry during trick-or-treating hours on Sunday, Oct. 27.



Margarito T. Esparza

in the 38200 block of North Sheridan Road, Beach Park. Esparza opened the door and provided candy to the children.

Detectives made contact with Esparza and placed him under arrest. After reviewing the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the charge of Unlawful Participation of a Sexual Predator During a Holiday Event Involving Minors.

Esparza appeared in court this morning and ordered to follow pretrial conditions. He is due back in court on November 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom T020.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg stated, "Convicted child sexual predators know they are strictly prohibited from nearly every activity involving children. Our team works tirelessly to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable, and this is another example of their outstanding dedication."

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives will continue their

extra patrols throughout this week's trick-or-treating in Lake County.

### Man who exposed himself to a minor found guilty 15 years later

Patrick D. Kenneally, McHenry County State's Attorney, announces that 50-year-old Juan Mendez-Campos of Crystal Lake, IL was found guilty of Public Indecency by a jury of his peers. The matter is set for a sentencing hearing on December 6, when Mendez-Campos will face up to 364 days in the McHenry County Jail.



Juan Mendez-Campos

Evidence at trial established that on October 28, 2009—for three consecutive days—Mendez-Campos ex-

posed and gratified himself in front of a minor as she walked to her school bus. The incident was reported to the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, and a warrant was issued for Mendez-Campos' arrest. 15 years later, to the day, on October 28, 2024, Mendez-Campos was held accountable for the trauma he inflicted upon the now-adult victim, which still impacts her today. The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office commends her bravery in making herself available to confront her victimizer all these years later. This office will continue to vigilantly prosecute sexually motivated offenses against minors in our communities regardless of time passed.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally would like to thank the McHenry County Sheriff's Office for their investigative efforts and Assistant State's Attorneys Maria Marek and Joseph Tarczon for their successful prosecution of this

case, which should serve as an example to all offenders who think they can escape justice.

### Man sentenced for unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Brett Norris, 43, of Lakemore, Illinois, was sentenced to 5.5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis after pleading guilty to Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class 1 Felony.



Brett Norris

On December 8, 2022, Norris was riding in a car that was stopped by a McHenry County Sheriff's deputy near the intersection of Riverside Drive and Scott Avenue in McHenry. During the traffic stop, deputies learned that Norris had 18.5 grams of cocaine in his possession.

McHenry County State's Attorney, Patrick D. Kenneally praises the exceptional work of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force for their investigative work. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Shelby Page.

### Sheriff's Office investigates one car fatal crash in Antioch

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators are investigating a fatal crash that occurred in unincorporat-

ed Antioch.

On October 28, at approximately 1:10 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the area of West Grass Lake Road and Broadway Avenue in unincorporated Antioch for a single-vehicle crash with injuries.

Upon arrival, deputies located a heavily damaged GMC Sierra. The driver of the vehicle, a 37-year-old man from Wauconda, had already been removed from the vehicle by bystanders. He sustained critical injuries and was transported by ambulance to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, where he later succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the GMC was traveling westbound on West Grass Lake Road when, for an unknown reason, it left the roadway, struck a utility pole, and rolled over.

The Lake County Coroner's Office is scheduling an autopsy.

This incident remains under investigation by the Lake County Sheriff's Office Technical Crash Investigations Team.

### Hachmeister sentenced to 4 years for domestic battery

Patrick D. Kenneally, McHenry County State's Attorney, announces that on October 25, Joshua D. Hachmeister of Wonder Lake was sentenced to 4 years in the Illinois Department of

See COURTS & CRIME, Page 7

# VETERANS DAY

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**AUCTIONEER NOTE:** After 62 yrs collecting these treasures are being offer at auction. Real Estate at Noon. Here are a few High Lights we are still clean and finding more treasures. See the web for updates & Pictures.

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# Courts & crime (Continued from page 6)

Corrections by the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt after pleading guilty to the offense of Domestic Battery, a class 4 felony.



**Joshua D. Hachmeister**

On February 5, 2024, officers with the Wonder Lake Police Department were dispatched to the 8400 block of Alden Road for a report of a domestic. Upon arrival, officers spoke with Hachmeister's girlfriend, who told officers that Hachmeister was angry with her when she refused to participate in a sex act. Hachmeister got on top of her, and they both ended up on the floor. While Hachmeister was on top of her, he put his hand over the victim's mouth.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick D. Kenneally wishes to thank the Wonder Lake Police Department for their investigation into this incident. This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's

Attorney Maria Marek.

## Boncosky sentenced to 5 years for financial exploitation of an elderly person

On October 22, Douglas R. Boncosky, a 55-year-old male from Barrington, was sentenced to 5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis following a negotiated plea to the charge of Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person. As part of the agreement, Boncosky was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,983,378.60 to the victim in this case.

An investigation revealed that Boncosky became a power of attorney for an elderly individual who had been admitted into a memory care unit for dementia. From 2018 to August 22,

2023, he had been transferring funds out of her account and into his without consent or knowledge. The evening of October 30, 2023, Boncosky arrived at the Cary Police Station and upon questioning admitted to his crimes.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick D. Kenneally thanks the Cary Police Department for their work in this case. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Justin Neubauer. Our office remains committed to ensuring the elderly are well protected from predators.

## Dawson sentenced to 7 years for possession with intent to deliver

On October 29, Philip John Dawson, a 37-year-old male from Crystal Lake, was sentenced to 7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, a Class 1 felony. Dawson pled guilty to the charge in front of the

Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt.

In July of 2023, a McHenry County Sheriff's Department deputy observed Dawson, who had a pending warrant for his arrest, in a parking lot and made contact to effectuate the arrest. At the time of the arrest, Dawson was clutching a cigarette pack that, when searched, contained small knotted bags, holding a white powdery substance. The substance was confirmed to be 8.1 grams of cocaine. Dawson was subsequently charged with this offense.

McHenry County State's Attorney, Patrick D. Kenneally, recognizes the hard work and detailed investigation of the McHenry County Sheriff's Department. Their thorough investigation led to a successful prosecution, thanks to the hard work of McHenry County



**Philip John Dawson**

Assistant State's Attorney Fara Momen. The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office remains committed to protecting the community from illicit drugs.

## Man found guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child

Patrick D. Kenneally, McHenry County State's Attorney, announces that 60-year-old Richard Rowland, formerly of Crystal Lake, Illinois, was found guilty of three counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child after a jury trial on October 31. Rowland is facing between 18 and 180 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and will be sentenced by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis on December 13.

On March 18, 2024, the Crystal Lake Police Depart-

ment began investigating a delayed report of the sexual assault of a child. Evidence at trial proved that between June 1, 2017, and February 1, 2019, Rowland committed multiple acts of sexual penetration against a female minor child during a time in which the child was under 13 years of age.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorneys Margaret O'Brien and Justin Neubauer. The State's Attorney's Office would like to thank Victim Witness Coordinators Polo Fabian and Kelly Gallagher for their assistance on the case.

The State's Attorney's Office would also like to thank Det. Ethan Berillo of the Crystal Lake Police Department and Det. Richard Zapf from the Belvidere Police Department for their thorough investigations, as well as the Child Advocacy Center and the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford for their work on this case and their continued dedication to child victims.



**Richard Rowland**

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