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WAS \$14,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$10,750***

CARS

- 2020 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA SE 4cyl.**, auto, A/C, power all, leather, moonroof. #35073A
WAS \$18,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$14,995***
- 2017 LINCOLN MKZ HYBRID PREMIER** heated seats, rear view camera, remote start, Bluetooth, premium sound, Certified Pre-Owned. #44323B
WAS \$19,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$15,399***
- 2022 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI** heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, sunroof, NAV, very rare car. #34211A
WAS \$28,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$24,986***
- 2019 FORD MUSTANG BULLIT V8**, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV. #P5664
WAS \$48,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$43,995***

SUVS

- 2005 BUICK RAINIER CXL 6cyl.**, 4WD/AWD, heated seats, moonroof, alloy wheels. #P3174
WAS \$8,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$4,995***
- 2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4WD/AWD**, rear view camera, 3d row seat, Bluetooth. #45011A
WAS \$12,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$7,750***
- 2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT 2LT 4cyl.**, 4WD/AWD, heated seats, NAV, rear view camera, Bluetooth, park assist. #P3096A
WAS \$14,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$10,887***
- 2013 CADILLAC ESCALADE ESV** heated seats & steering wheel, 3rd rear seat, NAV, rear view camera, moonroof, & more. #34102B
WAS \$18,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$14,094***
- 2022 FORD ESCAPE SE** heated seats, remote start, NAV, rear view camera, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, power lift gate. #45081A
WAS \$23,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$19,495***



2021 FORD RANGER LARIAT 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, tow hitch/tow pkg., Bluetooth. #P3198
WAS \$36,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$30,990***



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2014 DODGE JOURNEY FWD, auto, air, power all, 3rd row seat, American Value pkg. #35048B
WAS \$8,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$5,632***

- 2021 JEEP COMPASS TRAILHAWK 4WD/AWD**, leather, rear view camera, tow hitch pkg., Bluetooth. #P3184
WAS \$24,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$20,495***
- 2020 FORD ESCAPE 4WD/AWD**, heated seats & steering wheel, remote start, rear view camera, power lift gate. #P3181
WAS \$23,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$21,950***
- 2021 FORD EDGE SEL 4WD/AWD**, heated seats & steering wheel, remote start, NAV, rear view camera. #P3165
WAS \$30,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$25,561***
- 2021 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4WD/AWD**, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, sunroof, tow hitch/tow pkg. #35066A
WAS \$32,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$28,365***
- 2023 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4WD/AWD**, 202A pkg., leather, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, remote start, & more. #P3110
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$31,791***
- 2024 HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED 4WD/AWD**, heated & cooled seats, remote start, 3rd row seats, NAV, Bluetooth, & more. #P3190
WAS \$43,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$39,787***
- 2023 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE SUMMIT 4WD/AWD**, heated & cooled seats, moonroof, rear view camera, remote start, & more. #P3123
WAS \$51,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$46,995***
- 2022 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN Z71 4WD/AWD**, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, remote start, power tailgate, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto. #P3114
WAS \$56,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$48,271***

TRUCKS

- 2014 RAM 1500 EXPRESS 8cyl.**, 4WD/AWD, tow hitch/tow pkg., new tires & brakes, satellite radio. #35041A
WAS \$15,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$11,389***
- 2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500 HD 8cyl.**, Bluetooth, satellite radio, heated outside mirrors. #44500A
WAS \$18,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$15,990***
- 2022 HYUNDAI SANTA CRUZ SEL 4WD/AWD**, Bluetooth, heated seats, remote start, NAV, moonroof. #P3166
WAS \$27,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$23,258***
- 2021 FORD F-150 XLT** heated seats, remote start, rear view camera, tow hitch/tow pkg., Apple CarPlay, Android Auto. #44486A
WAS \$29,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$26,880***
- 2021 NISSAN FRONTIER PRO-4X 4WD/AWD**, heated seats, NAV, rear view camera, tow hitch/tow pkg. #44478B
WAS \$33,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$27,784***
- 2018 FORD F-150 LARIAT 4WD/AWD**, heated seats & steering wheel, cooled seats, remote start, NAV, sunroof, Certified Pre-Owned, & much more. #35017A
WAS \$34,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$31,227***
- 2020 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD/AWD**, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, tow hitch/tow pkg. #P3149
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$33,695***



2018 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON 4WD/AWD, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, only 41,000 miles. #44540A
WAS \$34,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$29,225***

- 2023 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD off-road V6**, 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, Bluetooth, tow hitch/tow pkg. #P3169
WAS \$41,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$37,698***
- 2024 FORD F-150 XL 6cyl.**, 4WD/AWD, rear view camera, NAV, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, only 5,495 miles. #44560A
WAS \$43,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$39,300***
- 2022 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD/AWD**, heated seats, remote start, NAV, rear view camera, tow hitch/tow pkg. #P3154
WAS \$45,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$39,900***
- 2025 RAM 1500 BIGHORN 4WD/AWD**, heated seats & steering wheel, NAV, moonroof, remote start. #34022A
WAS \$55,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$49,550***

VANS

- 2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT 4WD/AWD**, rear view camera, 3rd row seat, power tailgate. #34258B
WAS \$13,495.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$9,450***
- 2014 CHEVROLET EXPRESS 12 PASSENGER VAN RWD**, 8cyl., NAV, 3rd & 4th rear seats. #P3172A
WAS \$22,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$17,264***
- 2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING I PLUS** leather, heated seats & steering wheel, remote start, rear view camera, NAV, & much more. #44575A
WAS \$24,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$21,345***
- 2023 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING I** heated seats, remote start, 3rd row seat, power lift gate, rear view camera, & more. 3 Chrysler Pacificas to choose from! #P3196
WAS \$29,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$25,990***
- 2021 CHRYSLER PACIFICA HYBRID LIMITED 6cyl.**, heated & cooled seats, remote start, leather, NAV, rear view camera, & more. #34257A
WAS \$31,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$26,755***



2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING I leather, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, power lift gate, & more. #44575A
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As Chicago strengthens immigrant protections, downstate officials split on sanctuary laws

Illinois counties, cities leverage local laws to guide immigration policy

By Lily Carey and Medill Illinois News Bureau

As the Trump administration has begun enacting mass deportations in recent weeks, activists and public officials in Chicago have been scaling up protections for immigrants.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker have both vowed to leverage state law to limit such arrests, leading the Trump administration to sue the state, Cook County and Chicago last week over their respective sanctuary laws.

The state's TRUST Act, enacted in 2017, prevents local authorities from assisting Immigration and Customs Enforcement with civil immigration enforcement or asking people about their immigration status.

But beyond the Chicago area, the landscape of local immigration laws is more mixed, and some lawmakers in downstate Illinois are trying to block those protections.

In 2023 and 2024, over a dozen Illinois counties and cities passed non-sanctuary laws or resolutions, explicitly stating that they don't intend to welcome undocumented immigrants—and many of these municipalities are doubling down on their

non-sanctuary approach in the wake of President Donald Trump's push for mass deportations.

"We had a clear mandate from our voters that they wanted us to react with the more 'Trump way' of handling these immigration issues," Drew Muffler, chairman of the Grundy County Board, said in an interview. "We didn't want to find ourselves financially on the hook to have to provide accommodations (for incoming migrants)."

Grundy County was the first municipality in the state to enact a non-sanctuary ordinance in December 2023. Muffler said the move was sparked by voter feedback on a 2020 referendum, where 64% of county residents said they preferred a more conservative approach to immigration law.

Like Grundy County, the counties that have enacted non-sanctuary laws did so when Texas Gov. Greg Abbott began sending buses of migrants to Illinois. Local officials hoped to send a message that they wouldn't welcome these buses after some began dropping migrants off in the suburbs with no warning, rather than a drop-off site in Chicago.

But with the TRUST Act

in place statewide, non-sanctuary resolutions in Grundy County and throughout the state have little legal power, even in the wake of Trump's changes to federal immigration policy.

"People have been asking, what is Grundy County going to do with the new facts on the table? And obviously we leaned on the sheriff for that question, and his answer is very simple: we have to, as of right now, follow the TRUST Act," Muffler said.

Under this law, state and local police are legally not allowed to assist ICE in federal civil immigration enforcement, as long as they don't prevent federal forces from doing their job. It applies to the entire state, even in communities that align more closely with Trump's approach to immigration law.

"Counties or cities or villages where, say, the local government may not be so inclined to resist immigration enforcement, they still cannot participate in immigration enforcement activities," Fred Tsao, senior policy counsel from the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, said in an interview.

In the first few weeks of the Trump administration,

this issue has mainly impacted the greater Chicago area, where the immigrant population is much higher.

According to the ACLU of Illinois, there had been about 1,000 arrests nationally as of Feb. 7, with about 100 of these taking place in Chicago and its suburbs. The ACLU and local law enforcement officials told Capitol News Illinois that they aren't aware of any ICE arrests outside the Chicago area.

Still, partisan opposition to the TRUST Act has become louder in Springfield. In January, Republican lawmakers introduced a bill that would overturn the TRUST Act, requiring local law enforcement to comply with ICE if necessary.

"It's my view that public safety is at greater risk when you restrict the ability for federal and state authorities to communicate with one another," Sen. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport, lead sponsor of the Immigration Enforcement Act, told Capitol News Illinois. "We have a responsibility to make sure that people are here legally, and that those that are not are quickly removed."

The Democratic supermajority in the state legislature—led by Senate Pres-

ident Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, and House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, both of whom supported the TRUST Act in 2017—is unlikely to support any challenge to the sanctuary law, Tsao said. The Immigration Enforcement Act is sponsored by three Republican senators and has yet to gain Democratic backing.

The strongest local sanctuary laws in the state are mostly in the greater Chicago area, in towns like Skokie, Berwyn and Oak Park. In Evanston, the city council recently signed off on additional protections for the city's sanctuary ordinance. It includes several additional protections for immigrants and city data on residents' immigration statuses, making it "perhaps one of the strongest (sanctuary laws) in the entire country," Tsao said.

"By taking these steps, the City of Evanston aims to uphold its values of community trust and safety while ensuring every resident has the opportunity to thrive," the city said in a statement. "Together, we are building a vibrant, inclusive community for all."

A handful of other municipalities in downstate Illinois have joined Chicago and

some suburbs in their push for sanctuary laws. In 2017 and 2018, cities such as Normal and Urbana enacted local ordinances declaring that their communities welcomed immigrants. These came in response to stricter immigration policies during Trump's first term.

In Normal, which has had a Welcoming Community Ordinance since 2018, Police Chief Stephen Petrilli said the police department's policy is to comply with the TRUST Act during any interactions with ICE and not to ask individuals about their immigration status during routine investigations.

Petrilli said his office has seen an influx of questions about immigration policy in the weeks since mass deportations began in Chicago.

"We've held several meetings with different community stakeholders," Petrilli said. "We're really just assuring the public that we are adhering to the state law."

Lily Carey is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and a Fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

Groups demand release of after-school program funding

Programs close, staff laid off while \$50 million in funding remains unspent

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Organizations that provide tutoring, recreation and other after-school programs are calling on Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Education to release \$50 million that was included in this year's budget to fund those programs.

The organizations say tens of thousands of students are being denied access to services because the money is not being spent.

"The General Assembly knew the importance of these programs and heard our caution that funds were ending, so they saw fit to include \$50 million for these programs in the FY 25 budget," Susan Stanton, executive director

of the advocacy group ACT Now, said at a recent news conference.

The programs in question normally receive federal funding through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. They include programs such as local YMCA chapters, Boys & Girls Club and other organizations.

That money flows through ISBE, which awards competitive grants. Those grants are made in three-year or five-year cycles, and at the end of each cycle, the grants can either be renewed or the organization can reapply through a new competitive grant process.

In 2023, however, ISBE miscalculated how much

federal funding would be available and made commitments to award more grants than the state could afford to fund. As a result, many organizations whose grant cycles came due in 2024 could not get them renewed because there was no federal funding available.

As a result, ACT Now and many of the after-school programs it represents sought, and received, \$50 million in state funding in this year's budget to make up for the loss of federal funding.

But now, seven months into the fiscal year, none of that money has been released by ISBE. Stanton said that while some organizations have been able to continue operating, many have been

forced to close their doors and lay off staff, cutting off access to after-school programs to as many as 27,000 youths in Illinois, mainly in high-minority and lower-income communities.

"There's no amount of private philanthropy that exists to fill the hole that we're looking at right now," she said. "We're looking at about a \$50 million hole statewide ... and I encourage you to contact any private family foundation or community foundation or philanthropic group in Illinois, and they will tell you that they don't have \$50 million sitting around for this."

In an email, a spokesperson for ISBE said the agency would like to see the organi-

zations receive their funding as well, but they need more direction from the legislative leaders about how they want the money distributed.

The spokesperson noted that while the money was included in the omnibus appropriations bill that lawmakers passed in May last year, it was not tied to any existing statutory program that outlines a method for distributing the funds.

"We understand the urgency surrounding after-school programming and remain committed to ensuring that these resources are allocated in a way that best serves students and families across Illinois," the spokesperson said. "At the request of the General Assembly, ISBE is

awaiting their direction before proceeding."

But state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, one of the lead budget negotiators for the House Democratic caucus, said in an interview that lawmakers are equally frustrated that the money hasn't been released.

"We feel as though we gave the agency the appropriations authority that it needs to disperse these funds and make sure these programs can continue to operate," he said. "But certainly, if ISBE needs further guidance from the General Assembly, we're happy to provide it to make sure that they perform their statutory responsibility."

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Illinois Sheriffs' Association offering scholarships

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association announces that it will be awarding over \$58,000 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2025-2026 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books, and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois, full-time. Online learning at an Illinois-based school is also acceptable.

McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman will be awarding one scholarship in the amount of \$500.

There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex or national origin. The only limitations are as follows:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents
- Scholarships must be utilized at institutions of higher learning within the State of Illinois, including those offering online learning
- Students must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2025-2026 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at your local Sheriff's office or on the ISA Website www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/. Students must complete the application, answer the essay question, and return all documentation McHenry County Sheriff's Office in their permanent county of residence by March 14, 2025 (must be postmarked by this date). A directory of Sheriff's Offices is available on the ISA website at www.ilsheriff.org/sheriffs-directory/.

For more information, please contact your local Sheriff's Office, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, high school advising center, or college financial aid office.

Start of early voting pushed back for April 1 election

The start of early voting for the April 1 consolidated election has been rescheduled from March 7 to March 17.

The reason for the change is the timing of the ballot counting process for the Feb. 25 primary, County Clerk and Recorder Joe Tirio said – the last day to count primary ballots under state law is March 11, and primary results must be finalized before early voting for the consolidated election can begin.

McHenry County must hold a February primary because of contested Republican races for Algonquin, Grafton and Nunda township offices.

“Voters will still have ample time to cast their ballots if they wish to do so early. We encourage all eligible voters to vote in this important election, which decides the leadership of their units of local government,” Tirio said.

Early voting will be available between March 17 and March 31 at a dozen locations across McHenry County – you can find a complete list of locations and dates and hours of operation at <https://bit.ly/3QcyNcU>. People wishing to vote in person on Election Day must do so at their assigned voting precinct; they can also vote at the McHenry County Election Center at 410 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock, which is a universal polling site.

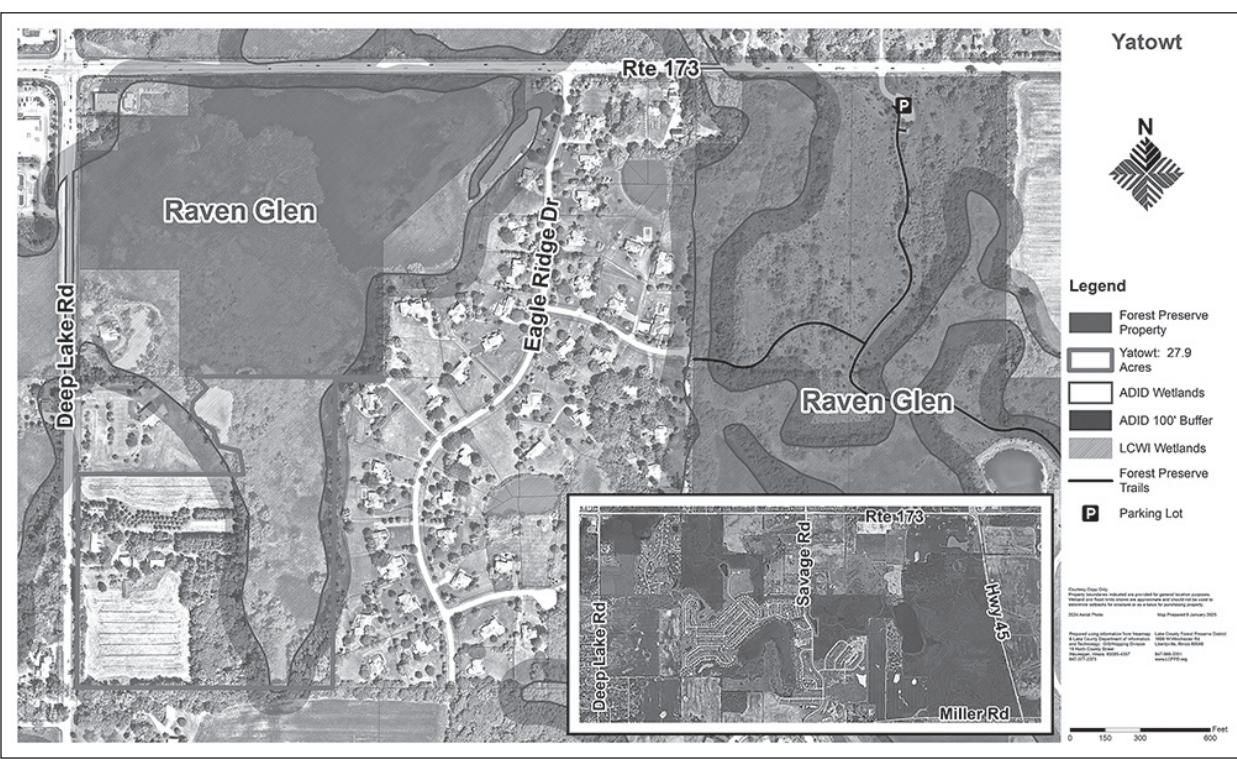
If you wish to cast your

ballot on Election Day at your assigned polling place, you can double-check its location by calling 815-334-4242 or by using the polling place locator on the county clerk’s website at www.mchenrycountyclerk.il.gov; the locator also can generate a sample ballot so that you can see every race and referendum that you will be asked to help decide.

If you wish to request a vote-by-mail ballot, the application forms for either a one-time request or to be permanently enrolled in the vote-by-mail program can be found on the County Clerk’s website.

Completed vote-by-mail ballots can be mailed, delivered in person, or dropped off at any time at the secure ballot drop box in front of the County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock. Four early voting locations – Lake in the Hills Village Hall, the Algonquin Township Office, the Crystal Lake Public Library, and the McHenry Township Office – have indoor drop boxes that are accessible during voting hours.

Voters in the April election will choose their representatives on city councils and village boards, school boards, township offices, park districts, library districts, community college board trustees and fire protection districts. A complete list of candidates can be found on the County Clerk’s website.



SUBMITTED IMAGE Hi-Liter/MCN

The Lake County Forest Preserves purchased a 27.9 acre parcel, known as the Yatowt property, on Deep Lake Road, about a half mile south of Route 173 in Antioch.

New land deals advance conservation goals for LCFP

In mid January, the Lake County Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of additional land to expand Raven Glen Forest Preserve in Antioch and finalized an agreement with the Village of Gurnee.

The Forest Preserves purchased a 27.9-acre parcel, known as the Yatowt property, on Deep Lake Road, about a half mile south of Route 173 in Antioch. More than 14 acres of the former residential property are valuable wetlands and buffer.

Wetlands are among the most vital natural resources, offering essential benefits to both the environment and community. These ecosystems provide critical habitat for diverse wildlife, including birds, fish and amphibians, while supporting important plant species. Wetlands also play an important role in managing stormwater by absorbing excess runoff and reducing the risk of flooding.

“Protecting wetlands is essential for preserving biodiversity, improving water quality and safeguarding our communities from flooding,” said Forest Preserves President Jessica Vealitzek. “These ecosystems are nature’s way of keeping our environment balanced and resilient, benefiting both wildlife and people for generations to come.”

The Forest Preserves will purchase the property for \$954,000, which includes a single-family home and several outbuildings. The buildings will undergo inspection to assess

their potential for use. If deemed unsuitable, they will be removed.

The Board also approved an intergovernmental agreement involving a land exchange at Lake Carina Forest Preserve in Gurnee. As part of the agreement, the Forest Preserves will transfer a 0.2-acre parcel to the Village of Gurnee. The land is located south of Route 41 and east of Kilbourne Road, adjacent to the Gurnee Public Works Facility.

In exchange, the Village of Gurnee is transferring a 1.4-acre parcel on Kilbourne Road, located south of Skokie Highway. This parcel lies entirely within the floodway and is adjacent to the Des Plaines River Trail. Additionally, the Forest Preserves will acquire an 11.9-acre parcel north of Route 120 and east of Milwaukee Avenue. Surrounded on three sides by Lake Carina Forest Preserve, this property is entirely within the floodway, has no road access and holds no potential for development.

“We are very fortunate to receive this land,” said Commissioner Paul Frank, chair of the planning committee. “These parcels are essential to our mission of conservation and preservation. By protecting them, we not only safeguard critical natural habitats but also ensure these spaces remain a resource for future generations to enjoy and connect with nature.”

Pritzker signs ‘Karina’s law’ to remove guns from domestic violence situations

Bill named for Chicago woman killed after receiving order of protection

By Ben Szalinski
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Karina Gonzalez and her 15-year-old daughter Daniela were shot and killed on Fourth of July weekend in 2023 at their Chicago home, allegedly by her husband.

After more than a year of negotiations, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill in her honor last week that is designed to remove guns from domestic violence situations.

“As I look forward towards the future, I hope that the future survivors won’t have to suffer as much as our family and countless others have had to at the hands of abusers,” said Manny Alvarez, Gonzalez’s surviving son, at a news conference in Chicago.

House Bill 4144, also known as Karina’s Law, clarifies that local law enforcement must temporarily remove guns from a person who has an order of protection against them when the alleged victim successfully seeks firearm removal as a remedy in court.

Current law allows people asking a court for an order of protection to request a “firearm remedy” that would lead to law enforcement removing guns from the alleged abuser’s possession. Karina’s Law closes the loophole that made it unclear who was responsible for removing the gun from the situation.

who seeks an order of protection can also ask the court to issue a search warrant that will allow local law enforcement to seize firearms from the alleged abuser. The petitioner or state’s attorney must demonstrate probable cause that the alleged abuser poses an immediate threat to the petitioner. Law enforcement would then be required to execute the warrant within 96 hours of it being issued.

“Taking lethal weapons from those who have already done harm and are an immediate and present danger to do further harm is simply common sense,” Pritzker said.

Guns and domestic abuse are a deadly recipe, said Amanda Pyron, CEO of The Network, an advocacy group that focuses on preventing domestic violence. Between 2019 and 2023, Illinois saw a 63 percent increase in gun-related domestic violence deaths.

“An emergency order of

protection is often the first step out of a violent relationship,” Pyron said. “It can also be the most dangerous step. This is the time that a survivor faces the most risk because it’s also the time that the abusive partner realizes he’s losing control.”

Supporters of the law said they hope closing the loophole will make it safer for victims when they seek a court’s intervention.

“Karina’s Law will protect survivors of domestic violence and give them comfort—the comfort of knowing that their abuser will not have easy access to firearms,” Pritzker said.

The nation’s high court upheld a federal law last June that prohibits people with domestic violence-related restraining orders from having guns. Though Karina’s Law had previously passed through the House last spring, senators delayed action while waiting for the decision.

“I was relieved when the court gave us far more elbow room than I would have expected to tackle this issue, and now we have, and we’ve done it in a matter that is effective and constitutional,” Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said.

Though the bill received bipartisan support, some gun rights groups and Republican lawmakers expressed concerns the bill undermines due process afforded to people accused of crimes. They ar-

gued taking guns away from a person with an order of protection against them assumes guilt on criminal charges and violates their constitutional rights. Orders of protection are filed in civil court.

“This policy sends a clear message to those living through trauma and the terror of domestic violence,” Rep. Maura Hirschauer, D-Batavia, said. “Here in Illinois, we see you. You have the absolute right to leave your abuser and we will do our best to keep

you and your family safe. And most importantly, here in Illinois, we value your life and the life of your families more than we value your abuser’s gun.”

Illinois law enforcement organizations also had concerns about their ability to carry out the law, including where police agencies would store the confiscated firearms and the logistics of carrying out search warrants against

See KARINA’S LAW, Page 7

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Distribution Director Lindy Sweet
Editor..... Heidi Schulz news@hi-liter.com
Advertising..... Becky Loizzo
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Nonprofit readies connection kits for March distribution to Illinois schools

iCARE4 Adoptive And Foster Families to provide key resources to support mental health needs of adopted, foster, kinship kids

Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

This March, in conjunction with National Social Work Month, iCARE4 Adoptive And Foster Families will distribute iCARE Schools Connection Kits to public schools across Illinois.

The initial distribution of 1,000 kits will reach about 25% of Illinois' roughly 4,400 public schools, including Chicago Public and Lake County schools, where many of the state's adopted, foster and kinship students are enrolled, said Laura Adams, president and CEO of iCARE, a nonprofit she founded in February 2024.

"Each kit is packed with more than a dozen resources, from inclusive classroom ideas to mental health support strategies and family support group information," she said. "Some materials also will be available in Spanish.

With over 300,000 adopted, foster and kinship children in Illinois — many of whom struggle with trauma-induced behaviors — the need for specialized training and resources for school professionals is crucial. Children from these backgrounds often face challenges that traditional behavioral and mental health programs may not effectively address, said Adams, who herself is a mother of both adopted and biological daughters.

School social workers who are better equipped to assist this set of students will benefit not only those directly affected, but the overall

school climate as well, Adams added.

"Trauma-informed training is critical for educators and school staff," she said. "It strengthens families, improves graduation rates and supports society as a whole."

Research shows that schools that implement trauma-sensitive practices have seen up to a 28% decrease in student dropout rates and a 25% reduction in mental health crises, Adams said. Addressing these mental health needs while students are still in school also can curb future incarceration rates and provide a long-term financial benefit to the state.

Early feedback on the kits has been overwhelmingly positive, said Adams, who met recently with Tonya Edwards, VP, legislation and advocacy chairwoman of the Illinois Association of School Social Workers.

"She was thrilled," Adams said. "School social workers deal with thousands of children every year, from all walks of life and a wide range of experiences. Many schools have only one school social worker for hundreds of students. These resources will absolutely help them to do their jobs more effectively."

Cortney Jordan is an education and implementation specialist for the National Training Institute (NTI) for the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.). She said the kits will be a godsend.

"I was a professional school counselor for 17

years and I would have loved to receive this kit," she said. "The materials address key mental health concerns, including trauma, attachment, identity development and school-related challenges."

Grant and donor funding is sought to expand the connection kit distribution to all Illinois schools — and perhaps beyond.

"Our goal, ultimately, is to ensure every department in every school — from teachers to counselors — has the tools to support these kids holistically, addressing their mental health and emotional needs in every aspect of their education," Adams said. "For the cost of two cups of coffee, you can help an entire school access these life-changing resources."

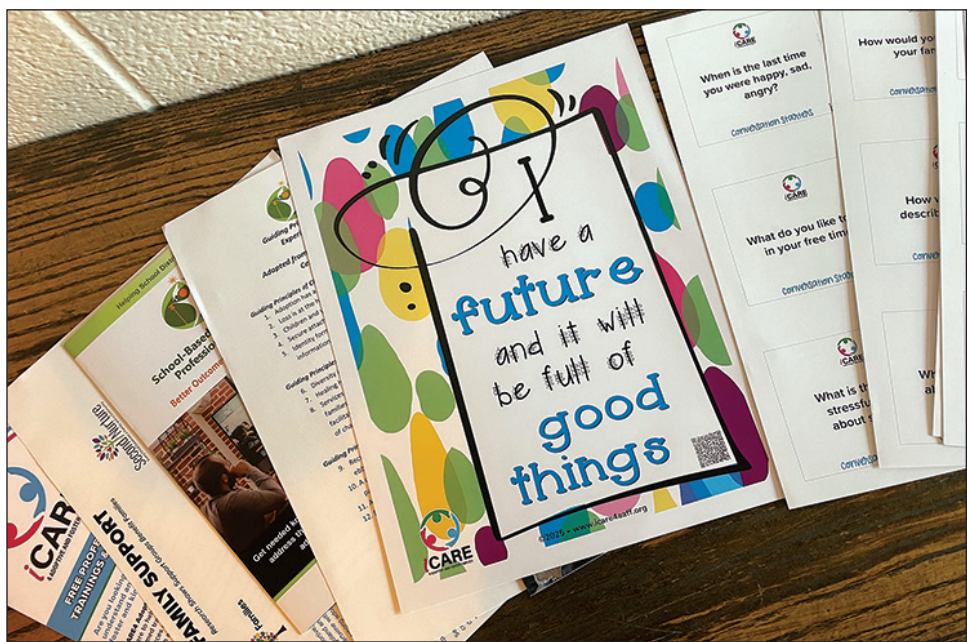
In addition to the connection kits, iCARE recommends school-based mental health professionals training, available for free online. Developed by the Center for Adoption Support and Education, the training includes eight modules covering topics including attachment, loss and grief, trauma-informed assessment and best practices for mental health support. Seventeen and a half continuing education credits are approved by the National Association of Social Workers and the National Board for Certified Counselors.

For more information about the connection kits or other iCARE programs, or to make a donation, visit icare4aaf.org or contact Laura Adams at laura@icare4aaf.org.



Top: Laura Adams, president and CEO of iCARE4 Adoptive and Foster Families, displays a family tree handout as she presents information about the nonprofit's new connection kits to be distributed to Illinois schools beginning in March. The first distribution will include Lake County and Chicago Public Schools. **Middle:** Attending a recent iCARE Coffee Connection in Highland were (clockwise, from left) adoptive mom Isabel Fiore, Susan Neaman, iCARE board members Beth Shabelman and Claudia Berman, iCARE President/CEO Laura Adams, Dan Vosnos of the National Down Syndrome Society, educational advocate Brie Serdar, Empowering Women of Lake County founder Malinda Leonard, Beth Feeley and adoptive mom Beth McCullough of Second Nurture, a foster family support organization. **Bottom:** Shown is a sampling of materials included in the new iCARE4 Adoptive And Foster Families Connection Kits that will be distributed to Illinois schools beginning this March.

CYNTHIA WOLF PHOTOS Hi-Liter/MCN



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Nami, a Bernedoodle, is about 8 months old. She is spayed, 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

Ullrich pleads guilty to involuntary manslaughter and possession of a controlled substance

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announced that on February 7, Cara M. Ullrich, 46, of Richmond, plead guilty to one count of Involuntary Manslaughter and one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance before the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis. The sentencing hearing is scheduled to begin on April 30, 2025.



Cara M. Ullrich

On January 3, 2024, the Richmond Fire Department responded to a call of an unresponsive minor, where emergency personnel attempted lifesaving efforts. The minor was later pronounced dead at Northwestern Hospital McHenry. A toxicology performed on the minor revealed this cause of death was the adverse effects of fentanyl and xylazine.

An investigation into the minor's death by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office revealed several full and used bags of narcotics containing heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine throughout the residence. Ullrich, the minor's mother had brought the illicit drugs into the home and was present in the home and aware of her son's overdose event. Neither Ullrich, nor the minor's father, sought medical attention for their son who they found unresponsive in his bedroom. Medical personnel subsequently opined that the minor would have survived if he had received medical attention during the overdose event.

Involuntary Manslaughter is a Class 2 felony, for which Ullrich would face between three and fourteen years in the Illinois Department of Corrections if sentenced to prison. Possession of a Controlled Substance is a Class 4 felony, that carries a term between one and three years if sentenced to prison. If sentenced to prison, Ullrich could face serving the terms consecutively to each other as well as to the prison sentence she is currently serving for Aggravated Battery.

The McHenry County

State's Attorney's Office recognizes that parents have not only a moral duty, but a legal duty to protect and care for their children. The senseless and tragic death of a 14-year-old was entirely preventable had medical treatment been sought for this minor. The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office continues to remain committed to the prosecution of all those involved in drug-related deaths that occur in our communities, including the most vulnerable – our children.

This case was successfully prosecuted by McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese accompanied by Chief of Staff Ashley Romito and Special Prosecutor William Bruce. The State's Attorney's Office recognizes the diligent efforts of members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office in their thorough investigation into this minor's death.

The State's Attorney's Office also thanks the McHenry County's Coroner's Office for their collaborate work in this case.

Judge grants State's petition to detain man accused of being involved in fatal stabbing

On February 13, a Lake County Judge granted the State's petition to detain Izhiah Gonzalez, 21, who is being charged with one count of First-Degree Murder for his role in a fatal stabbing in Waukegan.



Izhiah Gonzalez

Gonzalez was arrested on Sunday, February 9, in connection with a fatal stabbing that occurred the previous night at 41 14 Steaks and Seafood. Upon Waukegan Police Officers' arrival at the restaurant, they found an unresponsive male victim, later identified as Joshua Kirkwood, suffering from multiple stab wounds. Kirkwood was transported to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The investigation revealed that an argument between

Kirkwood and an employee escalated when the employee's 16-year-old son, Jordan Roque, allegedly retrieved a knife and fatally stabbed Kirkwood. Witnesses reported that Roque and his brother, Gonzalez, fled the scene. Gonzalez later sought medical treatment for a stab wound at Vista East Hospital. Further investigation uncovered evidence linking both Roque and Gonzalez to the fight leading to Kirkwood's death.

At the detention hearing, the State argued that Gonzalez poses a serious threat to public safety due to the violent nature of his actions on February 8, which resulted in Kirkwood's death.

The Honorable Judge Ari Fisz granted the State's petition to detain, and Gonzalez is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on March 5. Jordan Roque's Detention Hearing was scheduled for Friday, February 14.

The investigation is ongoing, and further charges may be filed as new evidence emerges. All defendants are legally presumed innocent unless, and until, they are proven guilty in a court of law.

Man sentenced to eight years for aggravated discharge of a firearm

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that on February 7, Erick Gomez-Rubi, of Harvard, was sentenced to 8 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the charge of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, to be served at 85%. He was also sentenced to one year in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon in another crime to be served concurrently. Gomez-Rubi entered his negotiated plea before the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis.

On June 29, 2023, Gomez-Rubi was in the outdoor area connected with the Benton St. Tap in Woodstock IL at 10:30 pm. Gomez-Rubi engaged in an argument with another patron where Gomez-Rubi brandished a black revolver and pointed it in the direction of the other patron. Gomez-Rubi left the area, but returned shortly after-

wards driving his Ford truck.

A different patron then approached Gomez-Rubi. Gomez-Rubi then fired his gun one time in the direction of the victim. Gomez-Rubi fled the area and returned to his home in Harvard, where he was arrested.



Erick Gomez-Rubi

Three days earlier, on June 26, 2023, at 8:30 p.m., Gomez-Rubi was driving his Ford truck in the area of 1900 Shiela St, Woodstock, IL. Gomez-Rubi engaged in a verbal altercation with another driver, which escalated into Gomez-Rubi brandishing a black revolver and verbally threatening the other driver.

This case was successfully prosecuted by McHenry County Assistant State's Attorneys William Bruce and Justin Neubauer. The State's Attorney's Office recognizes the diligent efforts of members of the Woodstock Police Department, Harvard Police Department and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office in these matters.

Offender apprehended following vehicle chase, foot chase

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies apprehended a fleeing offender, after he attempted to escape, leading deputies on a pursuit.



Alantae E. Cole

On February 13, at approximately 9:40 p.m., a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy was in the area of Greenwood Avenue and Sheridan Road in Waukegan when he received an alert from a FLOCK license plate reader. The system flagged a Chevrolet Impala in the area that had been recently associated with a home invasion law enforcement alert.

Further investigation revealed that the vehicle's registered owner, Alantae E. Cole, 35, of the 1200 block of Jackson Street, North Chicago, had multiple outstanding arrest warrants, including for domestic battery, DUI, fleeing and eluding, violating an

order of protection, and obstructing identification.

The deputy soon located the Chevrolet leaving a nearby gas station and identified Cole as the driver. When the deputy attempted a traffic stop, Cole refused to pull over and led deputies on a pursuit through multiple streets in Waukegan. He eventually turned from southbound Sheridan Road onto eastbound Keith Avenue, then onto Circle Court, where he reached a dead end. Cole then fled on foot but was quickly apprehended by sheriff's deputies.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: two counts of aggravated fleeing to elude, attempt possession of cocaine, DUI – Alcohol and numerous traffic violations.

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies, K9 Duke apprehend burglar

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies with the assistance of Sheriff's K9 Duke apprehended a man who committed an overnight burglary at a tavern in the 34200 block of Route 45, unincorporated Grayslake.

On February 14, at approximately 3:45 a.m., sheriff's deputies responded to a burglar alarm at the bar. Sheriff's deputies arrived and found the tavern secure, without signs of a burglary. The keyholder of the establishment was not able to respond, so deputies could search the inside of the building at the time.

At approximately 7:00 a.m., the same day, the keyholder called to report a burglary. Sheriff's deputies responded and reviewed video surveillance, where they saw a man unlawfully enter the bar, and steal items. The man was wearing very distinctive clothing. Sheriff's deputies located footprints in the snow, which they followed to an apartment building nearby.

Sheriff's deputies knocked on the door of a person who lives at the complex, Brendan

M. Wilcox, 37, of the 34000 block of Route 45, who had an active arrest warrant for burglary. Wilcox fled out of a rear window.



Brendan M. Wilcox

Deputy Dwight Arrowood and K9 Duke arrived at the scene and conducted an immediate track. They tracked for over one mile, and over an hour. K9 Duke tracked to a wooded area, where Wilcox was hiding. Wilcox refused to surrender or follow instruction, so K9 Duke was deployed to assist in the apprehension. K9 Duke bit Wilcox and he then surrendered.

Sheriff's deputies recovered the distinctive clothing worn by Wilcox during the burglary at his apartment.

Wilcox was taken into custody and transported to an area hospital for the dog bite. He was treated and released back into the custody of the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the incident, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Burglary (class 3 felony), Theft (class 3 felony), and Resisting/obstructing a peace officer.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "I am incredibly proud of our sheriff's deputies and K9 teams for their relentless dedication to keeping our community safe. This incident is yet another testament to their hard work. From our telecommunications who monitored K9 Duke and Deputy Arrowood while guiding other deputies, to those who responded and gathered critical evidence, to our K9 team who ultimately made the apprehension—everyone played a crucial role and did a tremendous job – all while working in frigid temperatures!"

Wilcox remains in custody in the Lake County Jail pending an initial court hearing.

Super Bowl traffic safety campaign results announced

During the Super Bowl traffic safety campaign, the Lake County Sheriff's Office arrested three motorists

for driving without a valid driver's license, in addition to issuing the following citations:

- 19 citations for speeding
- 7 citations for failing to wear a seatbelt
- 2 citations for operating an uninsured vehicle
- 4 citations for other moving and equipment violations
- 1 citation for using a cell phone while driving

The Super Bowl weekend "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" enforcement effort ran from February 7 through the early morning hours of February 10. The goal was to keep impaired drivers off the roads and ensure more people buckle up and follow all traffic laws.

The traffic safety campaign was made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns.

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Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin —

The Lake County Sheriff's Dept. reported the following arrests in Lake County. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Jan. 14

Jeffrey R. Tarpen, 39, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of stolen credit cards, identity theft, deceptive practices, and unlawful possession of a fraudulent ID card;

Jordan R. Waldron, 28, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of stolen credit cards, and identity theft;

Allison J. Kostokas, 28, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of a fraudulent ID card, and deceptive practices;

Jan. 15

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license;

Christopher B. Williams, 33, Beach Park, was cited for domestic battery;

Katherine D. Hightower, 37, Lake Barrington, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Gwendolyn Thompson, 34, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: contempt of court;

Jan. 16

Raymond Smith, 46, Zion, was cited for aggravated battery to a correctional officer, and resisting a correctional officer causing injury;

Veronica V. Lazano, 40, Round Lake Beach, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

Jan. 17

Alejandro Escobar, 50, Bloomingdale, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary, theft;

Ryan Hoffman, 25, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant obtained/arrest: criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation of a child.

Scouts holding pancake breakfast, silent auction February 22

Scout Pack 214 and Troop 459 will be holding a pancake breakfast Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the McHenry Moose Lodge.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for kids, and children 3 and under are free. The break-

fast will consist of all you can eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, milk and juice.

All auctions will end promptly at 11:30 a.m. and winning bidders will make payment at the closing of auc-

tion. Items will be awarded after payment verification. Any winning bidders not present will have 24 hours to arrange pickup of prizes.

The McHenry Moose Lodge is located at 3535 N. Richmond Rd., Johnsburg.

•Karina's Law

(Continued from page 3)

alleged abusers.

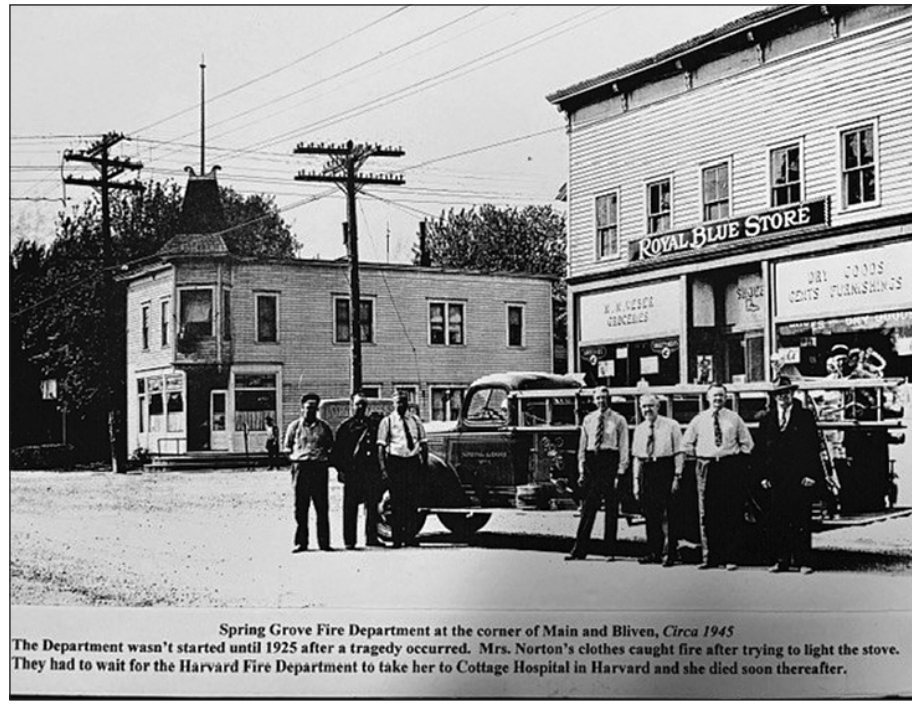
Law enforcement organizations and lawmakers came to an agreement over those logistics. If a victim has not made any reports of domestic violence to police within the last three months, police will have 48 hours to research

the situation behind the order of protection and make any changes to the search warrant. Warrants then must be executed within 96 hours of any changes.

The person who has an order of protection against them will also be able to peti-

tion the court to have the gun transferred to another person who can lawfully possess a firearm. Maralea Negron, director of policy for The Network, said this is designed to help smaller sheriff's offices that don't have capacity to store guns.

Spring Grove Fire Protection District celebrating 100 years



Spring Grove Fire Department at the corner of Main and Bliven, Circa 1945. The Department wasn't started until 1925 after a tragedy occurred. Mrs. Norton's clothes caught fire after trying to light the stove. They had to wait for the Harvard Fire Department to take her to Cottage Hospital in Harvard and she died soon thereafter.

SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Spring Grove Fire Protection District is celebrating 100 years of providing fire and emergency medical services to the Village of Spring Grove and surrounding unincorporated areas of McHenry County. The fire district began in 1925 following a tragic fire in which a woman passed away in a fire at her home. The home's occupants had to wait for a neighboring fire department to arrive from over 10 miles away to fight the fire. Local residents knew they had to do something, and thus the Spring Grove Fire Department was formed. The Department is extremely proud to serve the community and look forward to sharing history and the dedication of members past and present.

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This individual will be inputting information from a variety of sources into documents as well as performing other clerical functions in our Creative Department. The 20-25 hour/week flexible position is available now. The successful Data Entry Clerk applicant will possess the following:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Data entry experience
- Knowledge of correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Ability to be detail-oriented while working under a deadline
- Good communication skills

Knowledge of Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, Excel, and/or Filemaker Pro is a plus
Daytime hours (M,T,W,F) in our Delavan office
No nights or weekends

Please send a resume, questions or to request an interview time to Heidi Schulz at: hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com

Southern Lakes Newspapers LLC

EVENT

Special Events

59th ANNUAL GREATER MILWAUKEE INDOOR WINTER Automotive and Vintage Bicycle Swap Meet. Car and bicycle parts, all makes, collectibles, car related items. Sunday February 23, 2025. 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. \$10 General admission. Heated Indoor Event. Free Parking, food available. Event held at Washington County Fairgrounds 3000 City Hwy PV West Bend, WI 53095. Hosted by WI. Chapter Model A Ford Club of America. WWW.wichaptermafca.com

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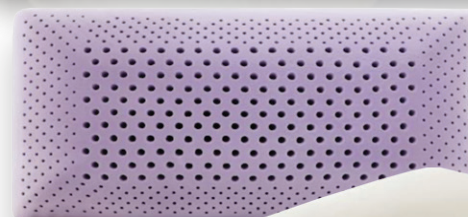


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