

HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

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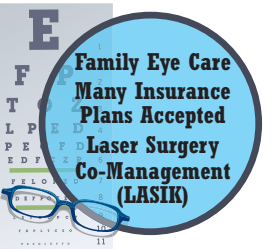


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Lake County EMA honored as top emergency management agency in Illinois

Chosen by peers from across the state, the Lake County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has been recognized for setting the standard in emergency preparedness. The agency received the 2025 Emergency Management Agency of the Year award from the Illinois Emergency Services and Management Association (IESMA), a membership group comprised of emergency management professionals, private sector and first responders from across the state.

The recognition highlights Lake County EMA's outstanding leadership, innovation and commitment to public safety and emergency preparedness. The award is presented annually to an agency that demonstrates excellence in emergency management through effective planning, coordination and response to community needs.

"It is truly an honor to receive this award," said Daniel Eder, Manager of Lake County EMA. "Our staff truly cares about our work, and we do our best behind the scenes in support of our partners and communities. Recognition is never expected but it is always appreciated."

The award stems for numerous Lake County EMA achievements, which includes creating a Family Assistance Center (FAC) Plan that helps partners across the country assist family members immediately after a large-scale incident. They also collaborated with Lake County Workforce Development to implement a Work, Earn, Learn (WEL) internship program as well as the SkillBridge program, which provide active military service members an opportunity to gain valuable civilian work experience. Lake County has seen a 90 percent job placement rate for those who completed those programs since they started two years ago. The two agencies also lead a workshop for statewide

emergency management professionals to help them start their own local programs.

Lake County EMA has been actively involved in local, regional and national education, including a presentation with the FBI on support services after a mass-casualty incident at the 2025 IESMA Conference. Lake County EMA was also recognized for helping nearby agencies during several incidents and events, such as the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

Lake County garnered additional recognition when volunteer Alexandra (Ali) Herzog was honored with the 2025 Student of the Year Award. This is awarded to a student enrolled in an emergency management (or public safety-related degree) program at an accredited institution of higher learning in the State of Illinois who has made significant contributions to the field of emergency management in Illinois or to IESMA.

Herzog has assisted Lake County operations by drafting a standard operations guide and a draft version of hazard ID card, which will assist emergency operations personnel during incidents. She also provided direct support for events such as the national conventions and severe weather responses within Lake County in 2024. She dedicated over 150 hours of time to Lake County EMA all while pursuing her master's degree in public administration with a concentration in Emergency Management at Southern Illinois University.

"Lake County is lucky to have dedicated volunteers like Ali, who contribute to improving Lake County and its communities," Eder said.

To learn more about the Lake County EMA, visit their website at <https://www.lakecountylil.gov/2228/Emergency-Management>.

Results are in for Lake County homelessness data

The results are in from the most recent annual assessment of unhoused individuals in Lake County. This assessment, called the Lake County Point-in-Time Count, is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night every January. The annual count occurs not just in Lake County, but in counties across the U.S. and is reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This year's Point-in-Time Count recorded a total of 561 individuals experiencing homelessness across the entirety of Lake County. The total includes people staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and those sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks or abandoned buildings. Of those counted, 439 individuals were staying in emergency shelters. Another 64 people were in transitional housing, and 58 were living unsheltered. While this total reflects a decrease from last year's count of 705, it remains one of the highest counts in over a decade.

The count was made possible by the dedication of over 100 volunteers who participated in the overnight effort. Volunteers were equipped with a standardized set of questions to ensure consistency and accuracy in data collection. In addition to gathering information, they also distributed care packages to individuals they encountered, providing immediate support and helping to build rapport during the count.

Homelessness is a complex issue with multiple data systems needed to obtain an accurate picture of the overall problem.

"Homelessness isn't just a housing issue, it's a human one," said Sandy Hart, Lake County Board Chair. "Behind every tent or shelter bed is a person or family with a story, a struggle and many of the same hopes we all share. It is important to remember that an individual or family experiencing homelessness looks just like you or me. The job of the County Board and our partners isn't just to manage homelessness, it's to help provide the opportunity to have a place to call home. We are committed to leading this work and know that it will take creative problem-solving and innovative approaches to help our most vulnerable neighbors."

The County's compiled homeless data includes annualized data on homelessness in Lake County for the year that ended September 30, 2024. The report indicated an increase in overall homelessness, with 1,452 accessing emergency shelter compared to 1,158 in the previous year. The data shows that the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time is up as well. A total of 1,097 people reported being homeless for the first time, an 18% increase. This year, there were 105 families in shelter compared to 119 in 2024, a decrease of 12 percent from 2024 to the 2025 count.

The average length of time for individuals in shelters in-

creased to 132 nights from 110 in the previous reporting year.

"The solution to homelessness is housing," said Dominic Strezo, Community Development Administrator. "Housing supply has not kept up with demand, driving up cost beyond the reach of many."

There are countless stories where an individual or family in Lake County ended up being homeless for the first time due to no fault of their own. There must be a network of services readily available to ensure that they can get back on their feet and into a home to call their own.

"While many institutions are contributing to the work of ending homelessness, the efforts of individual community members must also be credited," said Eric Foote, President, Lake County Coalition for the Homeless. "The 2025 Point-in-Time Count was a show of force for the good from Lake County citizens interested in making a difference. The Lake County Coalition for the Homeless sends its appreciation to everyone who helped and a plea for a continued effort to support coalition partners in assisting our vulnerable neighbors, friends and family with their housing struggles."

The Lake County Coalition for the Homeless works to end homelessness in Lake County and is looking for residents to join the fight. Those interested in learning how to get involved can visit the Lake County Coalition for the Homeless website at www.lakecountyhomeless.org.

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Anglers of all ages and skill levels can cast a line with their families at the McHenry County Conservation District's free two-day Hooked on Fishing event. Join on Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to noon at Lake Atwood in The Hollows Conservation Area, 3804 US 14, Cary, and on Sunday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Rush Creek Conservation Area, 20501 McGuire Rd., Harvard.

Everyone is welcome to join a fun morning of fishing, prizes and enjoying the great outdoors. Anglers can bring their own gear to the event or borrow from a limited supply. Equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference given to children. The event coincides with Illinois Free Fishing Days (June 13-16) when fishing licenses are not required. This is a free event, but registration is required for each participant. Learn

more and register online at MCCD.me/HOF.

Hooked on Fishing at Lake Atwood in The Hollows on June 14 coincides with the Lake Atwood Reopening Celebration. Join at 10 a.m. for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and remarks to celebrate the improvements made to the site, which will offer improved access to outdoor recreation for everyone.

Visitors will enjoy a newly paved accessible path that circles the entire lake, an additional accessible fishing

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The Board House's new owners welcoming water sports enthusiasts at Three Oaks Rec Area

By Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

McKenna Dunn first tried stand-up paddleboarding in 2010 when she was 9 years old and the sport was first gaining popularity in Illinois.

The Crystal Lake resident has been smitten ever since. And, as fortune would have it, when longtime family friends Rick and Laurie Pasturczak were ready to sell their Three Oaks Recreation Area paddleboarding business, Dunn and her father, James Dunn, were ready to take over.

And now, 24-year-old McKenna can't wait to share her passion for paddleboarding with a growing base of water sports fans. The DUNNs opened The Board House for their first season May 24, during Memorial Day weekend.

McKenna Dunn is highly familiar with the business. She has been working summers there providing lessons and booking rentals since 2016, and also helped out when it first opened in 2013, she said.

"This is just my happy place," she said on a recent warm afternoon as she removed bubble wrap from some of the business's newest equipment. "Rick and Laurie have turned my dreams into reality."

"It's really neat to have been a part of how this place started,

and now that I'm taking over, I want it to continue to be a place where families create memories," Dunn said. "You are on vacation here one hour at a time."

Dunn — who also is a special education teacher — noted that the lake at Three Oaks, a former gravel pit, is stunningly clean and clear. The shoreline and multiple islands provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.

"It's great to step away and commune with nature," the Crystal Lake Central High School graduate said. "In the mornings, the water is like glass. You can see way down into it. There are fish and beavers and turtles. You get to see the babies come out. It is just beautiful here."

Dunn said paddleboarding is great fun for people of various ages and fitness levels. The Board House's TAO Fit SIC boards, most ranging in length from 10 to 12 feet, are sturdy and not prone to tipping. The business now features 39 10- to 12-foot boards, up from 25, plus one 14-foot Maori board, which can carry up to six people.

"That's our party board," Dunn said.

During the summer, the business will be open expanded hours, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Planned special events include moonlight paddles, paddleboard yoga, sunset paddles, early morning cruises and meditation mornings.

One-, two- and three-hour rentals of the 10- to 12-foot boards will be \$25, \$45 or \$55 plus tax. Rental includes board, paddle, leash and flotation vest. Weekday early-bird specials will be available from 7 to 10 a.m. for \$15, \$25 and \$35, respectively. For other details, visit paddletheboardhouse.com, find The Board House on Facebook or @paddletheboardhouse on Instagram.

"At the heart of it all, our goal is to create a space where everyone feels welcome and inspired to get out on the water," Dunn said. "We want to be more than just a rental service — we want to be a part of our community's story."

Three Oaks Recreation Area, which offers a range of activities, is located at 5517 Route 14 in Crystal Lake. Vehicles belonging to non-Crystal Lake residents incur a \$5 parking fee.



CYNTHIA WOLF PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Formerly an employee at The Board House, 24-year-old McKenna Dunn is now co-owner of the paddleboard rental and lessons business at Three Oaks Recreation Area, 5517 Route 14, Crystal Lake. The Board House is open for the season.

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Keeping local waterways safe

On May 13 the McHenry County Sheriff's Office held a ribbon cutting at their new facility in McHenry where their five boats will be kept for patrolling a portion of the Fox River and the Chain O'Lakes. The boats are fully equipped to respond to water-related emergencies and to assist local fire departments' water-rescue teams. This project was made possible with the cooperation and collaboration of the City of McHenry, the McHenry Police Department and McHenry High School District 156.

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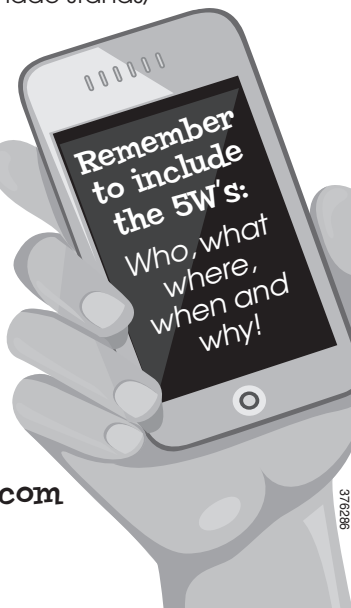
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Clay, is about 4 months old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative and microchipped.

While walk-ins are welcome, adoptions are by appointments only to ensure we have the staff available to help adopters. For information and/or to complete an online application, please visit www.saveapetil.org/adopt.

Antioch Farmers Market opens June 19

The Antioch Farmers Market returns on Thursday, June 19, 2025 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., now at its new home at Sequoit Creek Park, 845 Main St.

The weekly event showcases fresh produce, baked treats and handcrafted goods and will run through Aug. 21.

Vendors are encouraged to participate, with a full-season fee of \$75. Nonprofit organizations are welcome to join at no cost.

Send an email to kkotloski@antioch.il.gov to get more information about signing up.



VOTE FOR YOUR TOP CHOICES
in Walworth,
Racine, or Kenosha
county

Nominate your favorites
in as many categories as you would
like for a chance to win a
\$25 GIFT CARD

Write in the name of the business in each category
Top picks will be published in a special edition

Best Bakery

Best Brunch

Best Burgers

Best Mexican Food

Best Carry-Out

Best Ice Cream Shop

Best Pizza

Best Sports Bar & Grill

Best Realtor

Best Caterers

Best Liquor Store

Best Martini

Best Bar

Best Financial Institution

Best Apartment

Best Reception Venue

Best Place to Worship

Best Marina

Best Hot Dog

Best Outdoor Eatery

Best Restaurant

Best Chinese Food

Best Jewelers

Best Home Builders/Remodelers

Best Dentist

Best Law Firm

Best Bowling Alley

Best Health/Fitness

Best Florist

Best Consignment Store

Best Funeral Home

Best Resort

Best Heating/AC

Best Hair Salon

Best Insurance Agent

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Must be received by
Wednesday, July 9

473152

Court & crime news

Former Sheriff's Detective pleads guilty to multiple charges

On May 30, former Detective Christopher Marvel plead guilty to multiple charges in court that were the result of an off-duty incident.

In February of 2024, the Illinois State Police and the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office filed charges against Marvel, including: 8 counts of official misconduct, 2 counts of solicitation of a sexual act, and 1 count of defrauding drug and alcohol

screening tests.

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office holds every member of our team to the highest standards of integrity and accountability. When we were first made aware of Marvel's actions, we took swift action—placing him on administrative leave and launching an internal investigation. Before that process concluded, he resigned in December

See CRIME, Page 7

AUCTIONS

Guns & Militaria Auction

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BOB'S SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION 26500 Dover Line Rd., Waterford, WI 53185 SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 • 10:00 AM

DIRECTIONS: East of Racine County. Hwy. 36 West of Hwy. 75 on Hwy. 20 to Mealy Road, then go north to Dover Line Road, then go West on Dover Line Road to Auction site. (2nd curve) Watch for signs.

WANTED CONSIGNMENT OF: Farm and Industrial Tractors & Machinery, Lawn & Garden, ATVs, Snowmobiles, Campers, Trees & Nursery, Building Materials, Livestock & Barn Equipment, Grain, Semi & Dump Trucks, Farm Toys, Antiques & Collectibles, Tools, No Cars, No Tires, No JUNK.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: We are taking Consignments up to Friday evening, June 13, 2025 no later than 4:00 PM. Drop off times are: June 11 from 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, June 12: from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, and June 13: from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Here are a few High lights so far. Multiple Auction rings. For an expansive list, pictures, & complete terms visit the **WEBSITES:** www.bobhagemannauctionreality.com or www.auctionzip.com ID #9051. Food service available on site. **Auctioneers Note:** please check web site for updates & Pictures.

Tractor: IHC 504 OH Unity Loader, Ford 2N, Waldon 6000 articulating 4x4 diesel loader (runs & drives), Year-around cab off 806

Machinery & Equipment: JD 1010 20FT W/300-Gal Tank, Killbros 200 Bu. W/E-z Trail 872W Gear, 8x12 grain box with hoist, 10' municipal snow plow, JD Belly Mower (4000 series), PTO ext.,

Tools: Milwaukee, Stihl, Black & Decker, and Central Machine power tools, Snap-On, Blue Point, and Craftsman hand tools. two Miller 75 series wire feeders, 2 Briggs powered Lincoln arc welders (1 gas & 1 propane), Briggs powered Milwaukee generator, Wisconsin powered REX water pump, Coats tire balancer, 3-ton overhead crane forks, Craftsman Mig Welder W/Tank

Lawn & Garden: D.R. 8hp. Roto Tiller. Toro Grounds Master 345 with 72" deck (runs & operates), Ariens GT17 with deck, snow blower, tiller & grader blade, John Deere 116 with deck

Sporting Goods: 1988 Polaris Indy 340 snowmobile (runs)

MISC: Set of 4 10"x27" solid skid loader tires, Set of 4 Goodyear 11r22.5 drive tires on Budd wheels -Truck dual wheel dolly, Truck side mount fuel tank, 3 spools 5/8" cable, Receiver hitch carrier, & MUCH MORE. Check The Web for updates

AUCTIONEER: Bob Hagemann, Wisconsin Registered Auctioneer No. 509.

TERMS: No Buyers Fee on Cash or Good Check payments with proper I.D. 4% Convenience fee on credit card payments. All sales are final and to be sold "AS IS" with no guarantees expressed or implied. Not responsible in case of accident or for items after sold.



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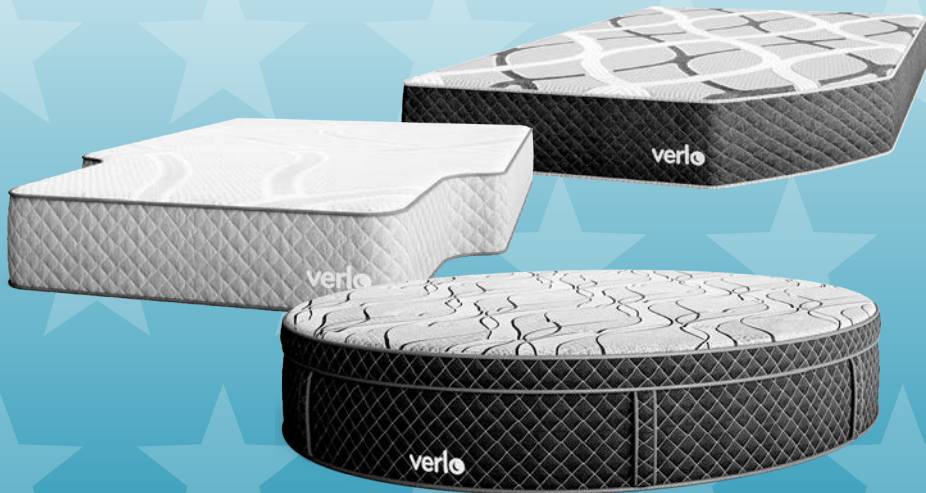
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