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‘Champion of Victims’ Rights’ award

Lake County State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart, Chief of Victim Services Jacqueline Herrera Giron and department staff presented award

Lake County State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart and Chief of Victim Services, Jacqueline Herrera Giron, along with the Victim Services Division, were presented with Champion of Victims’ Rights awards from Marsy’s Law for Illinois for their outstanding commitment and professional excellence in advocating for, and delivering on, victims’ rights for victims of violent crime in Lake County. Marsy’s Law views the Lake County States Attorney’s office as a model of victims’ rights enforcement and support in Illinois.

Notably, after the mass shooting at the Highland Park Parade in 2022, his office immediately geared up in direct and effective victim services for all involved. The Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office (LCSAO) was victim focused from the first moment of the tragedy and remains so, now still years later.

Notably, the LCSAO office annually leads the largest event in Illinois to educate the public and service providers about victims’ rights and services during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. He has highlighted in panels and trainings Illinois’ crime victims’ rights constitutional amendment, known as Marsy’s Law for Illinois, which was adopted just over ten years ago. Marsy’s Law for Illinois expanded



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter

(Left to right) Jacquelyn Reidy, Melissa Cisneros, Brandon Mabrey, Maggie Sarauer, Maria Villareal, Zaira Herrera, Jacqueline Herrera Giron, Eric Rinehart, Melissa Burke, Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, Susana Perez, Vanessa Vargas Ramirez and Kim Clark gather during the presentation of a Champion of Victims’ Rights award to Rinehart, Herrera Giron and the Victim Services Division.

victims’ rights and made them legally enforceable. State’s Attorney Rinehart articulated his commitment to these rights repeatedly and made them a centerpiece for his office.

The LCSAO has been distinguished for their attention to the problems of domestic violence victims in particular. His website

features a page devoted to victim feedback for his office. He also partners proactively with victim service provider New Horizons to address victim trauma issues.

“Eric Rinehart and Jackie Herrera Giron embody everything a victim would want from a prosecutor’s office,” said Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, state director for

Marsy’s Law for Illinois. “They are compassionate, considerate, and committed to ensuring crime victims have access to their rights under Marsy’s Law. They are truly ‘Champions of Victims Rights’ in every way.”

State’s Attorney Rinehart said: “I am so honored to be recognized by one of the leading

groups that has been changing the national conversation around victims’ rights. Every hour the men and women of the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office work innovatively and urgently to address trauma that is caused by crime. We remain dedicated to lifting up and following the Illinois Victim’s Bill of Rights, connecting victims to support services, and navigating victims through the court process. We will never stop doing everything we can to ensure victims see justice in the courtrooms and long-term safety in all communities.”

Chief of Victim Services Jacqueline Herrera Giron said: “Marsy’s law elevated victims’ voices by adding critical protections and ensuring their participation in the judicial process. This vital work continues through the vision and dedication of leaders who prioritize victims’ rights and invest in creating a victim-focused environment guided by a victim-centered approach. Their ongoing efforts and constant advocacy help ensure that victims’ voices and rights remain at the forefront.”

Our office remains committed to raising awareness on victims’ rights and standing with every survivor. For more information on the LCSAO Victim Services Division, please visit: lcsao.org/VictimAssistance.

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Crime & Court News

Two-vehicle crash near Woodstock under investigation

A Belvidere man was pronounced dead after a crash on Kishwaukee Valley Road near Woodstock.

On June 24, at approximately 5:52 a.m., McHenry County Sheriff's Office and Woodstock Fire & Rescue District were dispatched to the 16500 block of Kishwaukee Valley Road, west of Hughes Road, in unincorporated Woodstock for a two-vehicle crash.

A 2011 Dodge Ram was traveling eastbound on Kishwaukee Valley Road when it crossed over the centerline for unknown reasons. The Ram was then struck by a westbound 2023 Mack truck, coming to rest in the ditch. The driver and sole occupant of the Ram, a 50-year-old Belvidere man was pronounced dead on scene. The driver and sole occupant of the semi was not injured.

Both drivers were wearing seat belts. The investigation is ongoing by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit and the McHenry County Coroner's Office.

Three-vehicle crash in Beach Park under investigation

Lake County Sheriff's Crash Investigators are investigating a serious traffic crash that occurred in Beach Park.

On June 26, at approximately 7:35 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Lewis Avenue just north of Beach Road for a traffic with injuries. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located three vehicles with serious damage.

Preliminary investigation shows a 2004 Mini Cooper, driven by a 52-year-old man of Waukegan, was traveling northbound on Lewis Avenue. Witnesses reported seeing the Mini Cooper driving erratically before the crash. The driver of the Mini Cooper, for an unknown reason, crossed into the southbound lanes of traffic.

The Mini Cooper collided head-on with a southbound 2004 Buick SUV, driven by a 34-year-old from Waukegan. There were also three children inside the Buick. The Mini Cooper then struck a southbound 2018 GMC SUV, driven by a 48-year-old woman of Zion.

The driver of the Mini Cooper sustained critical injuries and was transported to an area hospital, where he remains in critical condition.

The occupants in the Buick and GMC were transported to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

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

Barradas sentenced to thirty years for criminal sexual assault after jury trial

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announced that Alejandro Barradas, 36, was sentenced to thirty years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Criminal Sexual Assault on June 11, by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis. This sentence was imposed after a McHenry County jury found Barradas guilty of these charges on April 17, 2025.



Alejandro Barradas

Evidence at trial proved that between March 1, 2023 and June 23, 2023, Barradas committed multiple acts of sexual penetration against a female minor child, a family member to Barradas, at a time when the child was under 18 years of age.

Truth-in-sentencing will require that Barradas serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence. Upon release, Barradas will be placed on mandatory supervised release for a period of between three years to his natural life and will be required to register as a sexual predator for life.

The State's Attorney's Office would like to thank the victim for her courage during the prosecution of this case. The State's Attorney's Office would also like to thank Detective Sharp and Detective Prentice of the Woodstock Police Department for their thorough investigation.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Deputy Chief Margaret O'Brien and Assistant State's Attorney Maria Marek.

Lake County deputies de-escalate a standoff with armed woman in crisis

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies de-escalated a tense situation with an armed woman in Beach Park.

On June 27, at approximately 5:50 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to check the well-being of a 36-year-old woman at her residence, after receiving a call from her family she was threatening self-harm.

Upon the arrival of sheriff's deputies, the woman immediately ran outside and confronted the deputies with a machete. As the deputies retreated, the woman ran into her backyard and began making suicidal statements. Sheriff's deputies utilized their crisis intervention team techniques and calmly spoke to her for over 20 minutes.

Because of their de-escalation skills, the woman dropped the machete, and deputies guided her away from the weapon. The woman walked with deputies to a waiting ambulance and was transported to a nearby hospital to receive care.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Crisis intervention and de-escalation are skills our staff believe in and continually train for. I am so proud of our entire agency for always



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were requested to check on the well-being of a woman. When they arrived, she ran outside and confronted them with a machete. Officers were able to talk with the woman, who eventually dropped the weapon.

focusing on helping those who are in need and truly caring about the community. Excellent job to Deputies David Bandillo, Admir Duratovic, Lawrence Popp, Jessica Fill, and Andrew Martini handling this intense situation."

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COaST), consisting of Gurnee Police Department, Lake Forest Police Department, Libertyville Police Department, Lincolnshire Police Department, Mundelein Police Department, Vernon Hills Police Department, and the Lake County Sheriff's Office have successfully reached out to and helped thousands of people in Lake County need-

Ullrich sentenced to 14 years for involuntary manslaughter for the death of her son

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announced that on June 13, Cara Ullrich, 46, of Richmond, Illinois was sentenced to fourteen years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Involuntary Manslaughter. Ullrich was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis.



Cara Ullrich

At the sentencing hearing, the State's Attorney's Office presented evidence from multiple witnesses that on January 3, 2024, the Richmond Fire Department responded to a call for an unresponsive minor. Although responding emergency personnel attempted lifesaving medical treatment, the minor was later pronounced dead at Northwestern Hospital McHenry. A toxicology test performed on the blood of the minor revealed that his cause of death was the adverse effects of fentanyl and xylazine.

Several members from the McHenry County Sheriff's Office testified at the hearing regarding

their investigation into the minor's death. Photographs and footage from responding officers' body worn cameras documented several full and used bags of narcotics containing heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine, along with assorted narcotics paraphernalia strewn throughout the residence. Evidence was also presented that Ullrich, who was the minor's mother, was present in the home and was aware of her son's overdose event. Ullrich consciously chose not to provide medical treatment for her child during the overdose event and did not call 911. During the investigation, Ullrich also consistently provided false information to officers regarding the circumstances of her son's death.

Honorable Judge Davis also heard evidence from the Coroner's Investigator and an Emergency Room Physician about the minor's medical treatment and prognosis if treated promptly for the overdose event. Cook County Emergency Physician and Medical Toxicologist Steven Aks reported that the minor would have been easily treatable and would have survived if he had received medical attention during the overdose event.

Parents have a legal duty, not

just a moral one, to protect and care for their children. This senseless and tragic death of a fourteen-year-old was entirely preventable had medical treatment been sought for this child. Fentanyl continues to be a leading cause of death among young adults across the United States. 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, especially those involving the most vulnerable – our children. "The death of a child is tragic for not just the family, but our whole community. My office will continue to work tirelessly to combat drug sales, use, and distribution in our county so that we don't have to lose anyone, especially our children, to such an awful outcome," Freese said. Freese also commends the members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office for their diligent efforts and thorough investigation into this minor's death.

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.

Sheriff's office investigating fatal crash

An 11-year-old child has died, and a 29-year-old Wonder Lake man sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries following a two-vehicle crash in unincorporated Marengo.

On June 23, at 6:41 p.m. McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Marengo Fire/Rescue District, Woodstock Fire Protection District, Mercyhealth MD-1, and Huntley Fire Protection District responded to a crash involving two vehicles at the intersection of Kishwaukee Valley

Road and Deerpass Road in unincorporated Marengo.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2016 Ford Transit Van, driven by an 18-year-old Huntley man, was northbound on Deerpass Road, approaching the intersection with Kishwaukee Valley Road, which has a stop sign. A 2012 Audi Q5, driven by the 29-year-old Wonder Lake man with the 11-year-old passenger was eastbound on Kishwaukee Valley Road, and did not have a stop sign. For un-

known reasons, the driver of the Ford failed to yield at the stop sign and crashed into the Audi, causing the Audi to hit a tree on the north side of the roadway.

The driver of the Ford was transported by ambulance to Northwestern Medicine Hospital in Woodstock with minor injuries. The driver of the Audi was transported to Northwestern Huntley Hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The 11-year-old passenger of the Audi was transported

by ambulance to Javon Bae Hospital in Rockford and was later pronounced dead.

Airbags deployed in both vehicles. The driver and passenger in the Audi were wearing their seat belts, while the driver of the Ford was not. Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the crash.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Kool Keith is about 5 years old, neutered, up-to-date on shots, tested negative for feline leukemia and heartworm 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.

MCCD events

First Fridays Concerts: Mill Creek Jumble

Friday, July 11, 7-8:30 p.m., Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Enjoy an evening of music and nature on the first Friday of each month this summer. Our July concert features Mill Creek Jumble, an Americana/folk/string band out of Grayslake, Illinois. The group is comprised of six members of which five of them are current or former educators! All ages free event.

Living History Open House: Over There & Over Here

Sunday, July 13, Noon – 4 p.m., Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Explore an open house featuring the Miller family, who lived in the area during the World War I era. Enjoy wartime memorabilia and listen to stories from both the home front and the soldiers' perspectives on this significant conflict that transformed our world. All ages welcome.

Hike with Mike: Buehler's Day Outside

Saturday, July 19, 10-11:30 a.m., Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Curate conservation conversations with McHenry County Board Chairman Mike Buehler. Lace up your sneakers, enjoy all the healthy benefits of the great outdoors and explore the trails at different conservation areas throughout the summer and fall. Discover what makes McHenry County a healthy and thriving place to work, live, and play! Bring a water bottle and enjoy the outdoors. All ages.

R is for Raccoon

Saturday, July 19, 10-11 a.m., Fox Bluff Conservation Area, Cary.

Raccoons are very common, but they are still a very wild and interesting animal to understand! Explore with your young ones about raccoons, from their favorite foods, to adaptations and

more. Be prepared for a short hike and to get a little messy exploring with science and crafting. Ages 2-6.

Wandering Writers: Summer Similes

Saturday, July 19, 2-4 p.m., Kishwaukee Headwaters, Woodstock.

Calling all creative writers! Join us for an inspirational hike where we identify various species of flora and fauna; and learn a few natural history tidbits that might be useful as we word-smith our creative works. Rain or shine, we will meet and share some favorite classic poems and short stories that illustrate the summer season. Ages 14+.

Introduction to Map and Compass

Saturday, July 26, 10-11:30 a.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Do you know how to use a compass? Or how about using your compass with a topographic map to assist you in wayfinding?

In this introductory class participants will learn about maps and compasses, then learn how to combine the two to successfully navigate the outdoors. Suitable for those who are 8 and older.

Update to fatal bicyclist crash

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Crash Investigation Unit has been working closely with the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office and McHenry County Coroner's Office since a fatal hit and run, which occurred at approximately 9:34 p.m. on July 2.

A 15-year-old Crystal Lake boy lost his life while riding his bicycle in the southbound lane of Terra Cotta Rd near Deering Oaks Road in unincorporated Crystal Lake. Investigation indicates he was struck from behind by what is possibly a dark colored (red) 2017-2018 Jeep Cherokee.

McHenry County Sheriff's Office is asking the public and local body shops and/or dealerships to contact us if they come across a dark colored (red) 2017-2018 Jeep Cherokee with front end damage. Any tips can be phoned in to (815) 338-2144.

Original information released

On July 2, at about 9:34 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office and Crystal Lake Fire Protection District responded to a crash involving a car and bicycle on Terra Cotta Road near the intersection of Deering Oaks Lane in unincorporated Crystal Lake.

Preliminary investigation indicates that two 15-year-olds were riding bicycles southbound on Terra Cotta Road.

An unknown southbound vehicle struck one of the riders from behind. The child was transported to Northwestern Medicine Hospital McHenry where he was pronounced deceased.

The driver of the vehicle did not stop and fled the scene.

The bicyclist involved in the crash had a red activated

WANTED:

Possibly dark colored (red) 2017 or 2018 Jeep Cherokee with front-end damage for involvement in a fatal hit and run crash.



Call McHenry County Sheriff's Office with any information: (815) 338-2144



Home of the Sparrow honored with Community Partner of the Year Award

The McHenry County Community Development Department has bestowed Home of the Sparrow with its 2025 Community Partner of the Year Award.

The Woodstock-based social service agency received the award for its vision and leadership in launching its Landlord Engagement Program, which was created to expand access to various types of housing, including workforce housing, in McHenry County. Founded 37 years ago as a provider of transitional shelter, Home of the Sparrow has since grown to provide an array of services to prevent homelessness and address the core issues behind it.

"Home of the Sparrow is a driving force that takes a head-on approach to addressing McHenry County's housing needs and ensuring that our most vulnerable residents have housing security – and their dedication to expanding workforce housing options for low- and middle-income families makes them a partner in the truest sense of the word," County Board Chairman Mike Buehler-R-Crystal Lake, said at the award ceremony.

The Community Development Department bestows the award upon agencies that go above and beyond to assist its mission to administer US Department of Housing and Urban Development programs

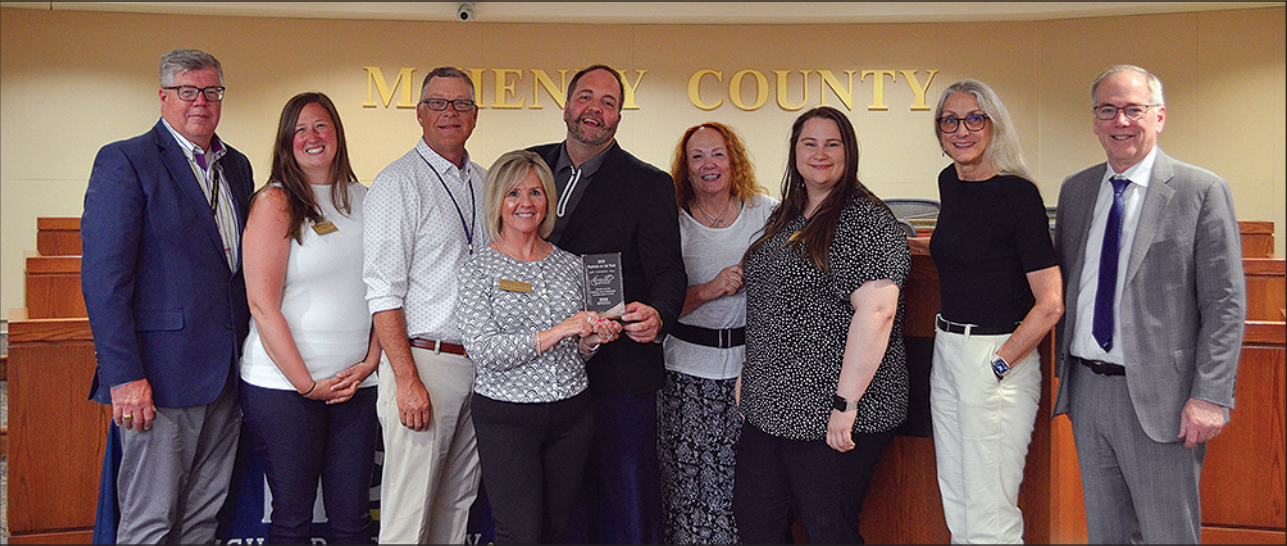
such as the Community Development Block Grant, the Housing Investment Partnership (HOME) Grant, and the Continuum of Care Grant, as well as other programs such as emergency assistance and lead-based paint hazard reduction.

The Landlord Engagement Program is a partnership with Home of the Sparrow and other members of the Continuum of Care, a network of agencies working together to end homelessness in McHenry County, that brings landlords on board to work with their clients. This ensures a point of contact with Home of the Sparrow staff if any problems arise, and brings more housing units ready for

immediate occupancy to people and families needing Continuum of Care services. This program was launched in part with a \$75,000 award from the McHenry County Community Foundation, and the County Board approved another \$39,000 of CDBG funding.

Home of the Sparrow also received the award for opening two new workforce housing units this year through an allocation of \$395,950 of HOME grant funding.

Past recipients of the award include the Senior Care Volunteer Network, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Northern Illinois, and the McHenry County Housing Authority.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter

The 2025 Community Partner of the Year Award was presented to Home of the Sparrow for its vision and leadership in launching its Landlord Engagement Program.

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First Talk and Tour event of 2025 to focus on stream restoration

The Talk and Tour presentation series, co-hosted by the McHenry County Planning and Development Department and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, is returning for its fourth year.

The first presentation of the 2025 season, “Stream Restoration for Flood Reduction and Water Quality,” takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, July 25, and will include a tour of one of the Village of Algonquin’s recent stream restoration projects.

Village Parks and Forestry Supervisor Brad Andresen will lead the tour and explain the entire process of executing a restoration project for flood management from start to finish. The presentation includes a guided tour of a 1.7-acre restoration project along Dixie Creek. For decades, Algonquin has successfully addressed flooding concerns by implementing stream and ecological restoration projects like this one; the village and its staff are now receiving well-deserved national recognition for these efforts and for

the value the projects provide to their residents.

This workshop is a fantastic opportunity to learn how restoration can be used to mitigate flooding and improve water quality in our communities.

The event is free, but attendees must register in advance online, directions and parking instructions will be sent upon receipt of an RSVP. For more information, email McHenry County Water Resources Specialist Scott Kuykendall at SHKuykendall@mchenry-countyil.gov or call 815-334-2863.

County government and the Environmental Defenders teamed up in 2022 to present Talk and Tour workshops that showcase the environmental and economic benefits of innovative best management practices that have been successfully implemented in our region. Each of the best management practices are designed to protect and maintain the integrity of natural resources, reduce flooding in communities, and promote land, water and energy conservation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter

Heart of the Valley

McHenry County Board members, Valley Hi employees, and other guests cut the ribbon on the state-of-the-art, 21-bed facility that will help meet the growing need for senior memory care.

Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus in Lake County

A mosquito “pool” (batch of mosquitoes) sampled on June 24, 2025 at a Southlake Mosquito Abatement District (SLMAD) trap in Highland Park has tested positive for West Nile virus. This mosquito pool is the first confirmed indicator of West Nile virus presence in Lake County in 2025.

“Mosquitoes are an expected part of summer, but

they also carry diseases that can lead to serious illness and even death,” said Chris Hoff, Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center. “We can take steps to ‘Fight the Bite’ to protect ourselves and our families while we enjoy all that summer has to offer.”

Practice the “4 Ds of Defense” to protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes:

- Drain: Drain standing water from items around your home, yard, and business.
- Defend: When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, 2-undecanone, or IR3535 and reapply according to label directions.
- Dawn and Dusk: Protect yourself all day and night, and wear repellent outdoors during these prime times for mosquito activity.
- Dress: Wear long sleeves, pants, and closed toe shoes when outdoors to cover your skin.

Culex pipiens mosquitoes are the primary carriers of West Nile virus. Residents can help prevent these mos-

quitoes from breeding by eliminating areas of stagnant water from their properties. Items like buckets, gutters and plant containers, kiddie pools, and any other items holding water around homes and businesses can become breeding sites.

The Lake County Health Department’s Mosquito Surveillance Program coordinates mosquito trapping results throughout Lake County. Mosquitoes are tested weekly for West Nile virus. The program also monitors reports of dead birds (an early sign of the presence of the virus) and investigates areas of stagnant water for the presence of mosquito larvae, specifically from the Culex mosquito, which is the primary carrier of West Nile in Illinois.

“With the warmer weather, people spend more time outdoors and mosquitoes become active,” said Alana Bartolai, Ecological Services Program Coordinator at the Health Department. “From late-Spring to Fall, we set traps around Lake County and monitor weekly for this public health threat.”

In 2024, 154 out of 723

mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile virus. There were six human cases of West Nile virus. Since 2002, there have been 86 confirmed human cases of West Nile virus in Lake County, as well as five confirmed deaths.

Most people infected with West Nile virus have no symptoms of illness. However, some may become ill usually 3 to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle ache. In some individuals, severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 50 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

Find more prevention tips and information on West Nile virus at www.FightTheBite-Now.com. Residents can also call the Health Department’s West Nile hotline to report areas of stagnant water, report locations of dead birds, and obtain more information on the signs and symptoms of West Nile virus. The West Nile hotline number is (847) 377-8300.

Hi-Liter

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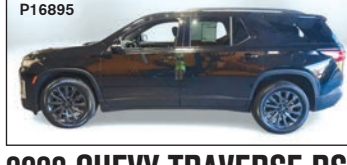
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Work continues on Lake County Stormwater infrastructure projects

In 2022, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) was awarded a \$122 million appropriation from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to complete stormwater capital improvement projects and reduce flooding in hard hit communities countywide.

SMC completed 13 projects from an initial \$30 million grant received in 2022. Together, they have a combined impact of limiting flooding to over 2,300 properties and 25 roads. The second \$30 million, received in 2024, will fund 16 projects to be completed by fall 2026. It's estimated these 16 projects will benefit over 2,000 properties and 100 roads by reducing flooding. Overall, these projects improve infrastructure, restore wetlands and channels, and increase stormwater conveyance and storage.

"We are grateful to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for providing \$60 million to SMC to help alleviate flooding throughout Lake County for years to come," said Stormwater Management Commission Chair Donny Schmit. "A big thanks to our state legislators who helped us secure this funding, and our local sponsors for working closely and efficiently with us over the last three years to finish so many projects. These projects are making a difference to improve the quality of life of Lake County residents."

What comes next

Half of the planned DCEO capital improvement projects are now funded, but there is still more work to be done. The remaining \$62 million in grants would support up to 32 projects, if funding becomes available. These projects are in areas facing critical infrastructure challenges. SMC has continued to make progress on the unfunded projects with ongoing planning and preparation in collaboration with local partners. The 15 projects of the third round of DCEO projects, if funded, have been authorized by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

Additional funding for stormwater infrastructure is needed. As existing systems age and reach the end of their service life, the gap in needed investment will continue to grow. At the same time, heavier rainfall is increasing demand on these systems, and many are not prepared to handle future needs. With 20 percent of Lake County covered by surface water, our aging and undersized infrastructure is increasingly strained. As a result, flooding is likely to persist and worsen both locally and across the state.

“Our work is vital to modernizing Lake County’s stormwater system,” said Stormwater Management Commission Executive Director Kurt Woolford. “It’s important to continue funding stormwater infrastructure to bring it into the 21st century across Lake County and the state of Illinois. SMC has

identified the most critically needed projects to benefit our communities and residents. We want to continue this forward momentum and fund additional projects in the next few years with continued support from the DCEO.”

A national concern

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released their 2025 Infrastructure Report Card. It is a comprehensive assessment evaluating the country's infrastructure of roads, public buildings, mass transit,

airports, water systems and more. America's infrastructure got an overall grade of a C, an increase from the C-grade received in 2021.

Stormwater's national grade remained stagnant at a D. This grade is assigned to infrastructure labeled as poor, at risk of failure and below standard with elements reaching end of service life and significant deterioration. The forward momentum on America's overall grade is an achievement, but more investments are needed in stormwater with it lagging

behind the national average.

“The 2025 Report Card on America’s Infrastructure shows that when we invest in our nation’s infrastructure, the grades improve and our communities and businesses benefit,” said Darren Olson, Chair of the ASCE Committee on America’s Infrastructure. “While the stormwater grade remained one of our lowest grades, we are encouraged that continued investments from agencies, such as Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and others, will begin to

move that grade toward one we can be proud of.”

Are projects happening in your community?

Each DCEO capital improvement project was chosen for its potential to deliver the greatest countywide impact on stormwater management. These DCEO capital improvements not only limit flooding but can have a huge impact on the quality of life of Lake County residents.

Learn more about SMC's work on the website at lake-countyil.gov/stormwater.

Ray Lake, Half Day Preserves grow with new acquisitions

On Wednesday, June 11, the Lake County Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of two land parcels totaling 48 acres.

The larger parcel, known as the Sidhu property, sits along Fremont Center Road about a quarter mile north of Gilmer Road. The \$1.16 million acquisition will expand the Ray Lake Forest Preserve in Wauconda.

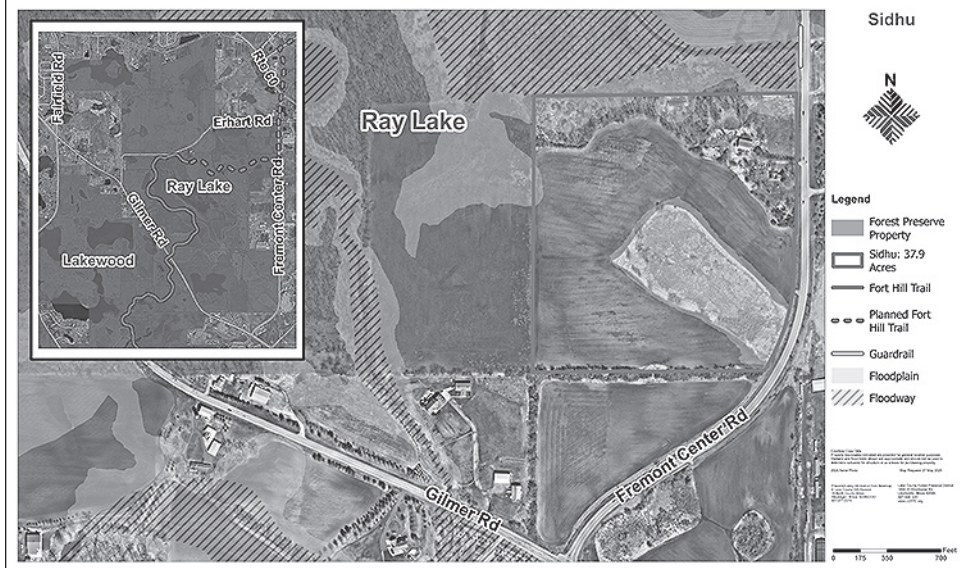
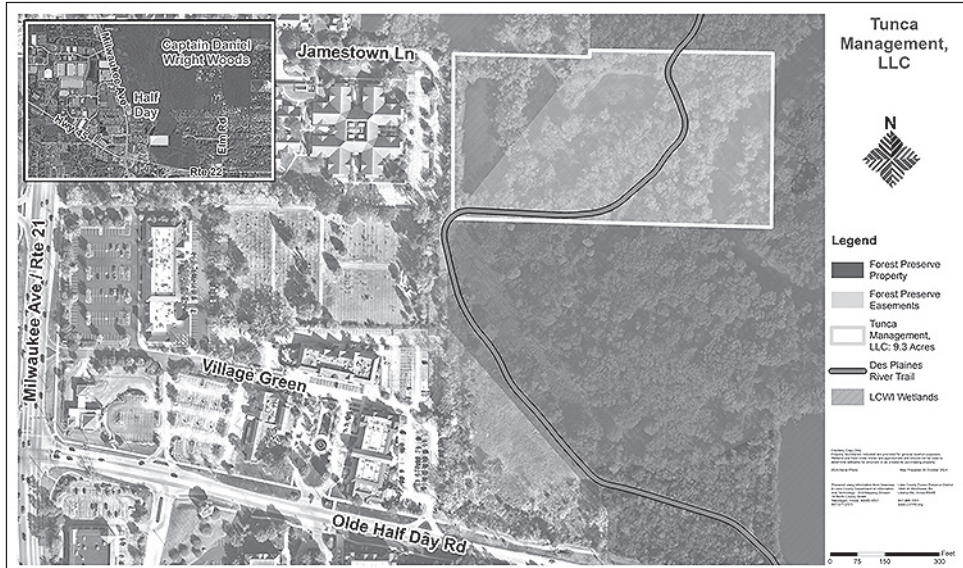
The property holds significant ecological value. It falls within the 28,828-acre Lake-McHenry Wetland Ecological Complex, a key area for protecting water quality and wildlife habitat. It also includes mature oak woodlands to the north, 22 acres of farmland and over 10 acres of floodplain.

"Preserving this land helps protect the water systems that run through Ray Lake and Lakewood forest preserves," said Land Preservation Director Ken Jones. "It enhances the ecological link between these areas and supports long-term conservation."

The board also approved the purchase of 9.3 acres known as the Tunca Management property for \$37,300. Located on Jamestown Lane east of Milwaukee Avenue, the land will expand Half Day Forest Preserves in Vernon Hills.

The acquisition protects important wetlands and strengthens ongoing conservation efforts. It also secures full ownership of a portion of the Des Plaines River Trail that runs through a trail easement on the site.

Both purchases are being



made with the proceeds of a \$20 million bond issue in April 2024 specifically to acquire high-priority properties. About \$2.5 million remains available for future land acquisitions. After that, the For-

est Preserves will use funds that voters approved through a November referendum.

“These land purchases reflect our long-term commitment to protecting nature and expanding access to open

space,” said Forest Preserves President Jessica Vealitzek. “They’re part of a broader effort to protect wildlife habitat, improve water quality and create more places for residents to connect with the outdoors.”

West leg of Miller
Road closed for
bridge construction
starting July 14

As part of the North Randall Road Project, the west leg of Miller Road at Randall Road will be closed starting Monday, July 14 for bridge construction. The closure is expected to last approximately six months and will restrict all access on the west leg of Miller Road at Randall Road.

We encourage drivers to follow the posted detour or take alternate routes around the construction zone. Drivers are advised to plan and allow extra time when traveling through the area.

The project will improve safety and mobility in the Crystal Lake and Lake in the Hills areas.

For ongoing updates, visit randallroad.info. A detour map and video are available on the project website.

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365 EDWARD STREET, BURLINGTON July 9th Wed. 4-7,Thurs.7/10, 9-12 & Sat. 7/12, 10-3. Canceled if rain. Tons of kids toys, games & craft items, baby equipment, adult books and home decorations, lots of misc. Cash only.

755 FOXTRAIL CIRCLE July 10 - 12, 9-6. Huge Multi-Family. Collectables, fishing items. Toys new & old. Tons of household & Misc. Too much to list. You don't want to miss this one!

HONEY LAKE SUBDIVISION Saturday, July 12th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Clothes, furniture, tools, toys and everything in between. Off of Academy Rd. West of the railroad tracks, follow signs.

MONICA COURT Fri.,7/11,9-4 & Sat.,7/12, 9-1. Huge Multi-Family Sale. Home goods, clothing, toys, furniture, holiday, sports & more!

Delavan Garage Sales

1707 STONE LANE/DELAVAN Saturday & Sunday, July 12 & 13, 8-6. Vintage Carnival Glass pitcher, Blue-Bottle glass decanters, Nippon vase, Depression glass (green,cobalt,pink.) Wedgewood pieces, Roseville planter, pitchers, teapots, paperweights, novelty S&P shakers, woven picnic basket/cooler (circa 1920) Time magazines 1967 & 1968, SAT-URDAY EVENING POST MAGAZINES 1947 & 1949, vintage Western Electric Oak hand crank wall mount telephone with internals, rustic/primitive items, Mickey/Minnie Mouse collectibles & much more!

Lyons Garage Sales

1377 NORTH RD. LYONS, WI July 11-12th, 9-4. Our Annual Sale. Stop & check out all the new great items!! One bean bag chair, Pottery Barn chair, specialty craft supplies.

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1997 SEA RAY 175 BOW RIDER FISH SKI. I/O Merc., with 19' trailer, \$6500 OBO. Good cond. Richmond, IL 630-212-4945.

2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TROPHY W/ Trailer. 90 HP, 9.9HP & equip. 815-389-2480.

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2004 MONTE CARLO SS INTIMIDATOR Mint condition, 49k miles, mechanically sound. \$18,000. OBO. 262-379-4161.

Trucks & Trailers

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Other Real Estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familiar/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

Burial Needs

7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. **This is a private sale.** Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.

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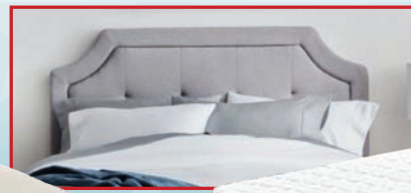
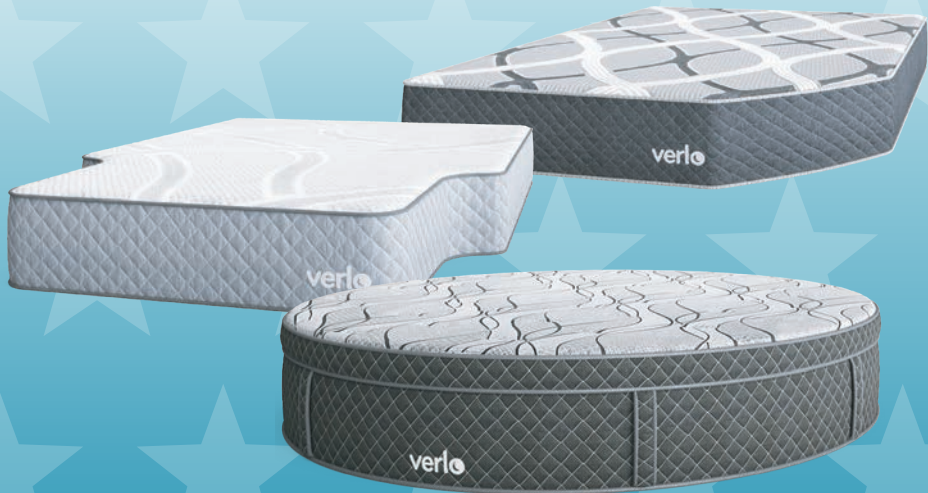
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