



Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY

JULY/AUGUST 2021

In memory of Madison County Telecommunications officer Todd Werner

Todd Werner, 48, died July 1. Werner started working as a Communications Officer with the Madison County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 1, 2018.

In 2013, Werner became the South Roxana Fire Protection District chief.



Todd started his public service at the age of 13 when he became a member of the Police Explorer Program at Bethalto Police Department. He went on to become a police officer, firefighter, paramedic, and communications officer/dispatcher. Werner also served as a volunteer with the Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

In his final act of service, William "Todd" Werner took his "honor walk" becoming an Organ Donor through Mid-America Transplant.



In memory of retired director of Madison County Historical Museum

Suzanne C. Dietrich, 84, of Edwardsville died June 10. Suzanne retired in 2016 after serving 17 years as director of the Madison County Historical Museum and Archival Library.

During her tenure, the facility grew from a single museum building to a complex that also includes a library, a collections center and a fourth building that will one day allow for expansion of the library.

Suzanne holds many accomplishments to include the Athena Award from the Chamber of Commerce for the "highest level of professional accomplishment," and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS), Preservation Award from the Goshen Preservation Alliance. The Rotary Club also named her as a Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition to her work in Madison County, she also served on the Illinois State Historical Society Board.



Calendar



July 31



August is



National Golf Month

National Fishing Month



August 6



August 8

World
Cat
Day



Get your Golf On



August is the perfect time to treat yourself to a day outdoors. It's National Golf Month, which means it is a great time for novices and skilled players alike to take to the green.

Madison County has 14 public golf courses for you to play and many of them will offer a selection of specials during the month, so don't miss your chance to join in the fun.

National Golf Month is a holiday founded in 1993 by the Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA). The month is dedicated to celebrating a family-friendly sport accessible to a wide variety of people. There are plenty of ways to honor this tradition. If you are a skilled player, consider offering to mentor someone new to the sport! Anyone can bring a new friend to the driving range. If you normally golf with peers, instead bring your kids or younger family members to the course. If you are looking for a unique spin on the sport, check out FootGolf— a hybrid of soccer and golf or disc golf.

Metro East Parks and Recreation District offers an interactive map to show you all the places you can tee off.



Madison County Board of Health calls for schools districts to allow parents to decide on masks in class

The Madison County Board of Health passed a resolution Wednesday night advocating for personal choice on whether students should wear masks when they return to class.

The Board of Health, which is comprised of the county board's 29 members, voted 16-10 approving a resolution "encouraging personal choice relating to masks in schools."

The resolution states local school districts should allow parents to make the mask choice for their children and that masks can interfere with a child's education and ability to communicate with teachers and fellow students.

Parents contacted board members seeking guidance on the issue, many of them saying it should be their choice if their child wears a mask.

The resolution states that "all Board of Education for school districts containing territory with Madison County are strongly encouraged to allow families the option of whether to have their students wear masks in school buildings and classrooms for the coming school year."

Listen to the meeting online [here](#).



Visit the school districts to find out more on mask policies :

[Roxana Community Unit Dist. 1](#)

[Collinsville Community Unit Dist. 10](#)

[Triad Community Unit Dist. 2](#)

[Alton Community Unit Dist. 11](#)

[Venice Community Unit Dist. 3](#)

[Madison Community Unit Dist. 12](#)

[Highland Community Unit Dist. 5](#)

[East Alton Elementary Dist. 13](#)

[Edwardsville Community Unit Dist. 7](#)

[East Alton Wood River High School Dist. 14](#)

[Bethalto Community Unit Dist. 8](#)

[Wood River Hartford Elementary Dist. 15](#)

[Granite City Community Unit Dist. 9](#)

[Regional Office of Education 41](#)



Surplus \$ale

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adison County to hold a surplus sale next month at its Wood River facility.

The auction, which will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 7, at 101 E. Edwardsville Road, Wood River, will sell more than a half-dozen vehicles. The items, which will be sold to the highest bidder as is, include a Chevy Impala, two Ford expeditions, two Dodge caravans, three Ford F150 pick-up trucks, four Ford crown victorias, a Ford Trailblazer and two box trailers.

Criteria for designating items as surplus includes evaluating their condition, mileage and age of the vehicle. Auction proceeds will go back into the county's general fund budget.

"By auctioning unused property, we generate revenue for the county and encourage fiscal responsibility," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

The county tries to recycle or re-use equipment and materials no longer needed by its county departments before disposing of them. The county initiated a program 15 years ago to sell vehicles to governmental entities for \$1 after taking them out of service due to high mileage or age.

"When it comes time to surplus a vehicle, the county makes an assessment of the vehicle to determine the best course of action for when and how to remarket it," Purchasing Director Linda Ogden said.

Ogden said when using a local auction company to handle the entire process, it eliminates the need for the county to allot staff time to oversee the auction.

"The auctioneer handles everything," she said.

Ahrens and Niemeier Auction Service, LLC will manage the county sale. A list and photos of vehicles can be viewed online at www.a-nauctions.com.



Driver crashes into Madison County Animal Care and Control Facility

Madison County Animal Care and Control recently closed its doors for a few days after an 16-year-old driver crashed into the facility on July 15.

The Madison County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene where a driver who was attempting to make a U-turn in the parking lot struck the southwest corner of the building at 8501 Route 143, Edwardsville.

Animal Control Manager Katherine Conder said the driver hit the office area of the building and no individuals or animals were hurt.

"We are thankful the office was closed at the time of the crash and no one was injured," Conder said.

Currently, repairs are being made at the facility. The county's Safety and Risk Department estimated the damage and repairs could be around \$50,000.

County officials said that traffic has increased along Illinois Route 143 due to the construction detour from Interstate 70 and Animal Control is experiencing more drivers using the parking lot to turn around.

Please follow Madison County Animal Control on Facebook for more up-to-date information about the facility.



Madison County Circuit Clerk applies for grant to help self-represented litigants

Residents who represent themselves in legal proceedings could soon receive assistance from the Madison County Circuit Clerk's Office.

"The court system can be very intimidating and time consuming, especially for those who choose to represent themselves rather than retaining a lawyer," Circuit Clerk Tom McRae said. "Recently grant money became available to assist self-represented litigants (SRLs) and I began to explore areas in the Circuit Clerk's office where we could potentially make improvements utilizing that funding."

The Clerk's office applied for a \$20,000 grant to assist SRLs who appear in Traffic Court.

"The vast majority of those appearing in traffic court do not have attorneys representing them so this was an obvious area to concentrate on," McRae said.

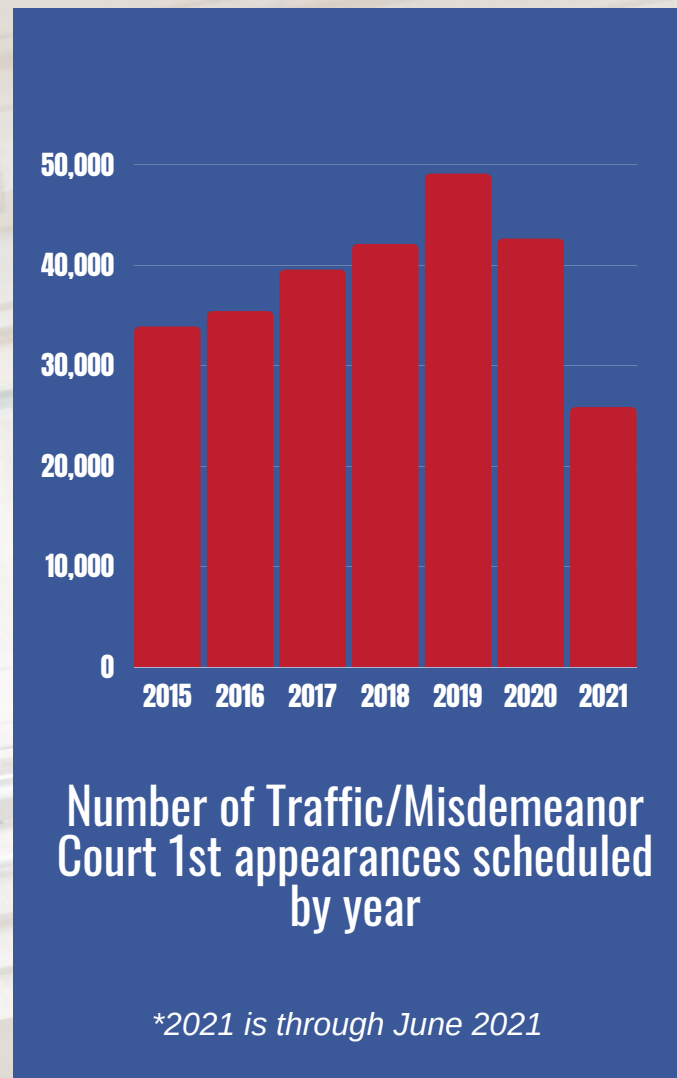
If awarded, the grant will be used to purchase computer software to automate the check in process in traffic court and make the experience by SRLs more user friendly and help to get them in and out of the courthouse in a timely manner.

The Illinois Supreme Court established the funding through their Access to Justice Program to encourage development of innovative programs to assist SRLs.

Gina Hargrave, a senior manager in the Circuit Clerk's office, will act as the coordinator of the SRL program within the office and will gather data to include the number of SRLs served and provide that data quarterly to the Illinois Supreme Court.

"If awarded any grant money we are required to provide information to the Supreme Court for the next year to identify who benefitted from the funding," Hargrave said.

"We are hoping to introduce the first phase of the improved Traffic Court Triage program as early as late August," McRae said. "All those who come in contact with the Circuit Clerk's office are our customers. We believe this program is a big step forward in improving customer service."





Madison County sticker program underway for residents with communication barriers

The Madison County Sheriff's Office is doing its part to alleviate potential communication issues between first responders and the people they serve.

The Sheriff's Office recently unveiled a new free program available to all citizens in Madison County called the PIN (Potentially Impaired or Non-Verbal Person) Sticker Program.

The PIN lets law enforcement, firefighters and EMS partners know that someone may have a communication barrier, and if authorities try to talk with them, they may be non-verbal.

"Any tool that we can have in our arsenal that allows us to seamlessly communicate effectively, especially in times of crisis, going into an incident or a situation, already knowing that there's a communication barrier, we can prepare for that, we can prepare ourselves to effectively communicate," Madison County Sheriff's Department Capt. Kristopher Tharp said.

Those with communication barriers are asked to pick up a free sticker and place it on the back window of their car and on their front door, or front window glass.

Residents with communication barriers or their caretakers can get a free sticker at Madison County Sheriff's Office, TRIAD, or St. John's Community Care, which helped fund the project.

The stickers are color-coded, but only police officers and first responders know what each color represents.

"We aren't releasing what the colors represent," Tharp said. "The only ones that know that are the participants and the first responders, that to ensure that we don't enhance the participants' vulnerability to victimization."

The same color scheme is used in other jurisdictions.

Police officers and first responders over in Missouri should recognize if they encounter someone from Madison county that's involved in our program," Tharp said.

Tharp is encouraging people to spread the word to those who would benefit from this program.

"We all have someone close to us that's affected by one of the potential communication barriers," he said.

Tharp said he knows firsthand how beneficial these stickers can be.

"I made a traffic stop and when I encountered the driver, there was a lot of activity," he said.

"The hands were going everywhere, and as a police officer, that's always a concern. A traffic stop can be one of the most dangerous encounters that an officer can experience, but what was really going on, was the person was hearing impaired and they were trying to sign."

Being a young police officer at that time, Tharp said he didn't immediately recognize what they were trying to do.

"For a short period of time, I was alarmed because I didn't recognize the communication barrier," he said. "Now, had the sticker program been in place back then, I would have been alerted."

The county has a database of participants and local police agencies will be notified if someone who gets a sticker lives within another agency's jurisdiction.

Madison County modeled their sticker program off St. Louis County Police's program. Hazelwood, St. Charles County and O'Fallon, Missouri, police departments also provide these stickers, to name a few.

P.I.N. STICKERS

A voluntary program directed towards potentially impaired or non-verbal persons that reside within Madison County.



ST. JOHN'S
COMMUNITY CARE

FAQs

What is the purpose of the stickers?

The purpose is to alert officers, allow for more effective interactions between officers and citizens, and provide assurance to residents and/or their caregivers.

Who qualifies for a sticker?

Individuals who live in Madison County with serious medical conditions or impairments that may cause them to become non-verbal.

How do I get a sticker?

You or a caretaker should visit the Madison County Sheriff's Office, TRIAD, or St. John's Community Care.

Where should I put my sticker?

Place your sticker on the back window of your vehicle or in the front of your house, but only place the sticker on glass.

The sticker is front sticking and should be placed from the inside facing out.

Will the sticker leave a residue?

No, it should not leave a residue.

Will the color codes be made available?

For the safety and security of program participants, the color codes will only be publicized with our local police, fire, and EMS partners.

Visit the Madison County Sheriff's Office to pick up a sticker or for more information.





Workers Wanted

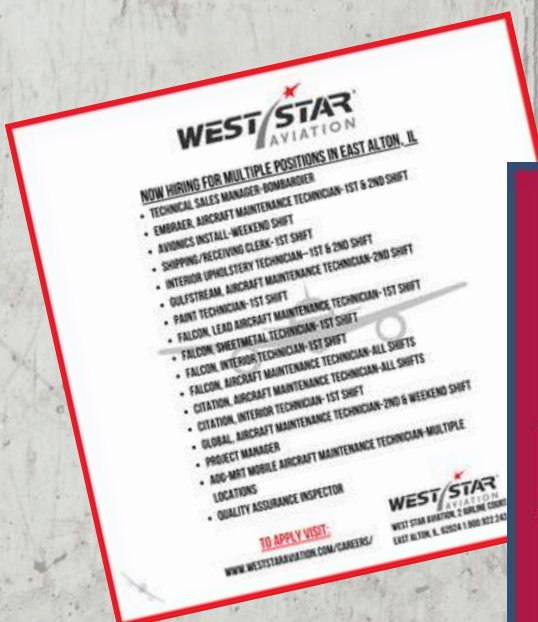
Looking for a job?

Area employers are facing a challenges when it comes to finding workers and Madison County Employment and Training wants to make sure you can find all the help you need with its "One Stop Shop."

Employment and Training belongs to the partner organizations of the Madison-Bond-Jersey-Calhoun Workforce Innovation Board's one-stop system, known as Southwestern Illinois workNet.

Employment and Training helps job seekers from entry to executive levels, we help people get back to work. Job seekers can receive professional coaching on various topics.

Check out a few of the recent job postings. Like Employment and Training's Facebook page for more info



Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices

What is green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits. While single-purpose gray stormwater infrastructure — conventional piped drainage and water treatment systems—are designed to move urban stormwater away from the built environment, green infrastructure reduces and treats stormwater at its source while delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in urban areas. When rain falls on our roofs, streets, and parking lots in cities and their suburbs, the water cannot soak into the ground as it should. Stormwater drains through gutters, storm sewers, and other engineered collection systems and is discharged into nearby water bodies. The stormwater runoff carries trash, bacteria, heavy metals, and other pollutants from the urban landscape. Higher flows resulting from heavy rains also can cause erosion and flooding in urban streams, damaging habitat, property, and infrastructure.

When rain falls in natural, undeveloped areas, the water is absorbed and filtered by soil and plants. Stormwater runoff is cleaner and less of a problem. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and other elements and practices to restore some of the natural processes required to manage water and create healthier urban environments. At the city or county scale, green infrastructure is a patchwork of natural areas that provides habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water. At the neighborhood or site scale, stormwater management systems that mimic nature soak up and store water.

Green infrastructure elements that can be woven into a community, from small-scale elements integrated into individual sites to larger scale elements spanning entire watersheds include:

- Downspout disconnection
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Rain Gardens
- Planter Boxes
- Bioswales
- Permeable plants
- Green Streets and Alleys
- Green Parking
- Green Roofs
- Urban Tree Canopy
- Land Conservation

More information on these Green Infrastructure elements can be found on EPA's Website: [What is Green Infrastructure?](#) | [Green Infrastructure](#) | [US EPA](#).



Madison County Child Advocacy Center

The Madison County Child Advocacy Center is currently collecting school supplies for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year for the children that we serve. Your donation helps support children and families with tools to have a successful learning experience!



Items needed are listed below:

- **Backpacks**
- **Pencils**
- **Pencil Cases**
- **Notebooks**
- **Crayons**
- **Glue**
- **Folders**
- **Tissues**
- **Loose leaf paper**
- **Binders**
- **Highlighters**
- **Rulers**
- **Colored pencils**
- **Water Color Paints**
- **Markers**
- **Clorox Wipes**
- **Lunch boxes**
- **Hand Sanitizer**
- **Water Bottles**
- **Blue Black & Red Ink Pens**
- **Erasers**
- **Face Masks**



Madison County
Child Advocacy Center
HEARD. SUPPORTED. CONNECTED.

Items will be collected through
Monday August 2, 2021. To arrange
for donation drop off, please contact
Claire Cooper at cccooper@co.madison.il.us
or via phone at 618-296-5398.



Madison County History



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM
on Main Street

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America



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Madison County Historical Museum and Madison county Historical Society held an opening reception for "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America," a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition on July 21. The exhibit will will in the County administration Building through through Aug. 21.

MoMS (Museum on Main Street) gives small-town America access to the Smithsonian through museum exhibitions, research, educational resources and programming.





Check out the Citizens Guide on the county's website to find out more on the operations of Madison County Government and its departments.



Madison County Board Meeting Update

Check out the calendar to view upcoming County Board and Committee meetings.

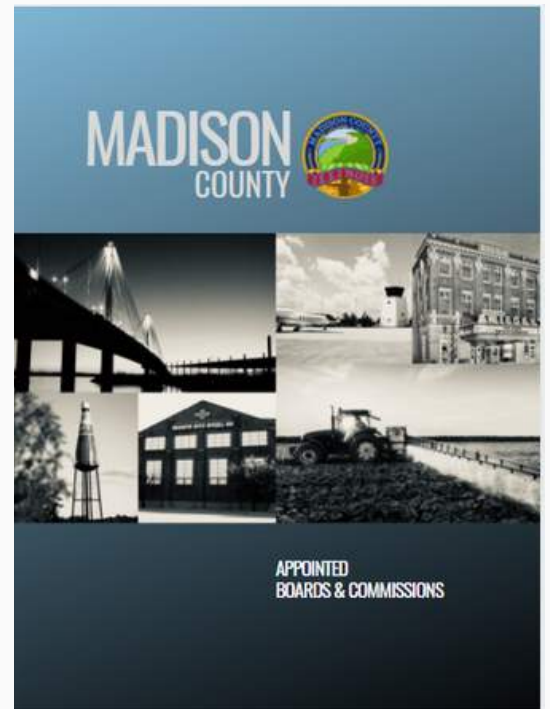
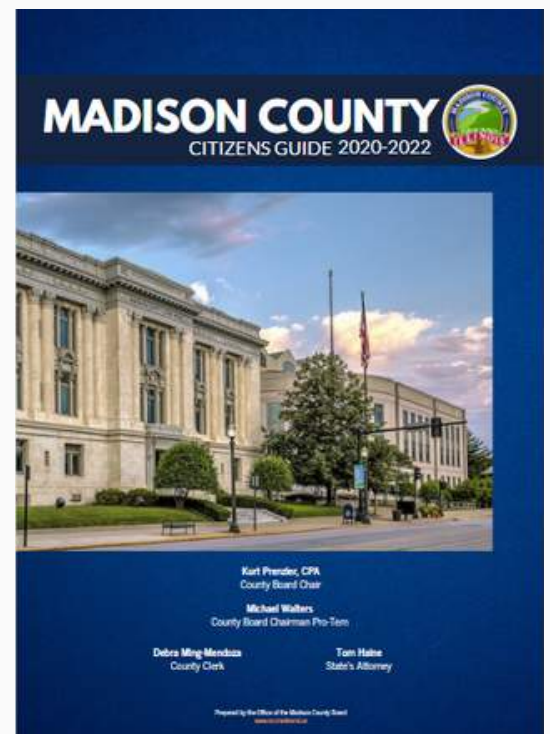


The public is invited to attend County Board meetings, which are held in the Board Room at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, Ill.

To listen to past meetings, or read approved minutes, visit https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/county_clerk/county_board_records/board_agendas_and_minutes.php for more information.



The Madison County Board Chair appoints individuals to more than 70 boards and commissions throughout Madison County. Click on the booklet to find out more.



Madison County Government continues to share the latest updates surrounding the county's response to COVID-19 on its website and social media pages.



Madison County Board —



618-296-4341 —



coboard@co.madison.il.us