



Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER



COUNTY OFFICIALS
CORNER

GET THE LATEST
INFORMATION ABOUT
MADISON COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR'S &
DIRECTOR'S TALK.

JANUARY 2021



WELCOME

To the Madison County Newsletter

I'd like to welcome you all to the first issue of the Madison County newsletter, *Talk around Town*.

We are proud to present a newsletter to Madison County citizens as we start the New Year. This newsletter is set to serve as an extension for information about Madison

County government and the people who serve the public. We want to provide you with information on all the "talk around town," or rather what's going on in the county, as well as highlight the accomplishments and milestones.

Despite the previous years' challenges, the county is doing well thanks to conservative financial planning and careful budgeting. With the support of dedicated county government employees, we were able to meet our goals and save taxpayers money.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Let us know what you think.

KURT PRENZLER, CPA
Chairman, Madison County Board

CONTACT US

TALK AROUND TOWN

157 N. Main St., Suite 145
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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IT'S A NEW DAY

READY TO SERVE: MADISON COUNTY LEADERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

A New Year brings new faces to Madison County.

County-wide elected leaders were sworn into 4-year terms in December, with three of them holding the seat for the first time — Auditor David Michael, Circuit Clerk Tom McRae and State's Attorney Tom Haine. Chairman Kurt Prenzler took his oath for a second term and Coroner Stephen P. Nonn took one for a sixth term.

Other office holders sworn in were County Board members: Stacey Pace, Dist. 2; William Meyer, Dist. 3; Bobby Ross, Dist. 4; Michael "Doc" Holliday Sr., Dist. 8; Victor Valentine, Jr., Dist. 17; Jack Minner, Dist. 18; Aaron Messner, Dist. 19; Denise Wiehardt, Dist. 20; Erica Conway-Harris, Dist. 26; Heather Mueller-Jones, Dist. 27; Ryan Kneedler, Dist. 29.

Also sworn in were newly elected Circuit Court judges Stephen Stobbs and Amy Maher.



COUNTY OFFICIALS CORNER

Monthly Reports by Elected Officials

Coroner's Report

The year 2020 brought unique challenges to all, and Coroner Stephen Nonn and his staff at the Office of the Coroner were no exception.

The Coroner's Office — the official death investigator of the county — has unique responsibilities that places its personnel in the position of bringing knowledge of many disciplines to into one focus.

"We have law enforcement powers, but the specialization of our office requires medical knowledge," Nonn said. "We deal with people in crisis brought on by grief and disruption that a sudden death brings. We interact with a multitude of other government services and agencies in many arenas."

The usual caseload of deaths ranging from the expected to the sudden and violent normally faced by investigators came in the midst of a pandemic, requiring investigators to take additional safety precautions in addition to raising the caseload that the office faced during the year.

The year 2020 ended with the coroner's office processing 380 more death reports than it did in 2019.

"We have always had a solid working relationship with the county health department and 2020 illuminated how well our two agencies work together," Nonn said.

"During the pandemic, we stepped up surveillance of deaths for indicators of COVID-19 infection, performed testing on those that were suspicious for the infection to assist in determining cause of death, and quietly engaged in contingency planning for mass fatality management in the event that the number of deaths outstripped normal resources as witnessed in other parts of the country."

Madison County's other public health dilemma — drug deaths — dropped during the past year.

"We recorded 85 deaths in 2020 and that is a reduction from 95 in 2019 and 107 in 2018," Nonn said. He remains hopeful that public education efforts, prevention programs, drug-take-back days and other efforts are helping stem the tide.

Other tentative data showed that the coroner's office investigated 30 deaths by suicide, which is also a drop from 35 in 2019, and ruled homicides in seven cases where the death was pronounced in Madison County. The data generated by the Madison County Coroner's Office does not reflect deaths resulting from Madison County events where the individual passed away at a medical facility in St. Louis or another locale outside of Madison County.

Proudly, the coroner's office does congratulate Investigator Christopher Hartman for achieving "his diplomate certification through the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and our newest employee, Shelbi Pepping-Nelsen completed basic training requirements as well as field training successfully completing her probationary status and achieved the rank of Investigator.

"It is the hope of the entire staff and management of the Madison County Coroner's Office that 2021 will allow a return to more conventional operations with additional training for staff, providing educational presentations to our public safety partners, and the ongoing effort to improve upon the exceptional and professional services provided by this agency", Nonn concluded.

Coroner Stephen P. Nonn





**County Clerk/Recorder
Debra Ming-Mendoza**

The County Clerk's office provides prompt, courteous and knowledgeable service to all of our customers. As the chief election authority, the County Clerk provides a voter and candidate service and administers elections. The Clerk's office also maintains vital records (birth, marriage, and death), public filings, tax and real estate services as well as recording meeting proceedings.

The main responsibility of the Recorder is to record all documents transferring land in order to establish legal ownership and protect rights. The main functions of the Office include:

Maintaining a detailed system of recording all real estate transfers and holders of deeds throughout the County.

- Keeping and preserving all records of deeds.
- Maintaining records of subdivision plats, mortgages and all types of liens against property by cities or villages and incorporation of cities and releases of same.
- Maintain records of dissolution of corporation, articles of incorporation, as well as records of veterans discharged from the military. U.C.C. filings and financing statements.

The strength of the County Clerk/Recorder's office lies in the staff's dedication and knowledge.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

Consolidated Election 2021



**Request Vote By Mail
Wednesday, Jan. 6, to Thursday, April 1**

**In-Office Voting and Vote by Mail starts
Thursday, Feb. 25**

**Last Day to Register to Vote
Tuesday, March 9**

**Grace Period Registration
Wednesday, March 10, to Monday, April 5**

**Early Voting Period
Monday, March 22, 2021 - Monday, April 5, 2021**

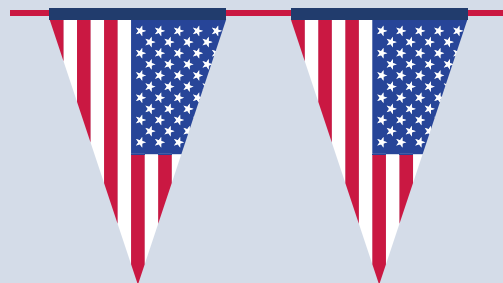
**Election Day! Tuesday, April 6
Polls are open 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.**



Visit the [County Clerk's website](#) to
find out more information

There are two ways to look up an elected
official that represents you:

- [Use Voter Information](#) for a
personalized list. (Recommended)
- [Use the interactive map](#)



MADISON COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE



David W. Michael, CPA
Madison County Auditor

157 North Main Street, Suite 382 | Edwardsville, IL 62025

Phone: (618) 692-7040 ext. 4011 | **Fax:** (618) 655-2001



Greetings from the Madison County Auditor's Office! For those of you who I have yet to meet, my name is David Michael and I am the newly sworn in Auditor who took over after our previous Auditor, Mr. Rick Faccin, retired on Nov. 30, 2020. I am a lifelong resident of Highland where I now live with my wife and young daughter. Professionally, I am a Certified Public Accountant and hold a Masters and Bachelors degree in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

I want to take a moment to thank my staff in the Auditor's Office for the very smooth and efficient transition. After only being here for about 6 weeks, I can already tell that we are going to work very well together as a team, and again, I thank them for their warm welcome.

This month, the County Board agenda contains many items relating to the Board's Finance Committee and the Auditor's office. Mainly, this is the month in which internal budget transfers and Immediate Emergency Appropriations usually take place relating to the previous year's (FY2020) budget. Due to the COVID 19-related economic shutdowns, the county board,

department heads, and elected officials took strong steps during the 2020 fiscal year to cut spending and delay capital outlays. The fruit of these steps is seen in the fact that there are a very small number of Immediate Emergency Appropriations as compared to previous years.

January is also the month in which unspent budgeted funds are sometimes re-appropriated from one fiscal year to the next. Once again, however, due to the shutdowns and expected revenue decreases, no unspent general fund operational expenses are planning to be re-appropriated. Looking ahead in the coming months, we will be welcoming our external auditor into the office for their annual audit work, which is a very important time.

That is the executive summary of the past month in the Auditor's office. If any of you ever need anything from my office, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am looking forward to working together for the betterment of the taxpayers of Madison County.

Sincerely,
David W. Michael
Madison County Auditor

Madison County Financial Reports

Madison County
Fiscal Year
Budgets
([Click Here](#))

Madison County
Auditor's
Quarterly Report
([Click Here](#))

Madison County
Fiscal Year
Comprehensive
Annual Financial
Reports
([Click Here](#))

Madison County
Fiscal Year
General Ledger
XLS
([Click Here](#))

Madison County Logos (click a link to visit the department's page)



- COUNTY DEPARTMENTS -

Madison County Government consists of 32 departments, which 14 fall under the County Board and the remaining are run by elected office holders or appointed boards.

9-1-1 Emergency
Administrative Services
Animal Care & Control
Auditor

Employment & Training
Facilities Management
Health
Highway

Board of Review
Building & Zoning
Chief County Assessment Office
Child Advocacy Center
Circuit Clerk
Circuit Court

Information Technology
Jury Commission
Mental Health
Probation & Court Services
Public Defender
Regional Superintendent of Schools

Community Development
County Board Office
County Clerk/ Recorder
County Coroner
County Historical Museum
Emergency Management

Safety & Risk Management
Sheriff
Special Services Area No. 1
State's Attorney
Treasurer
Veteran's Assistance Commission

ADMINISTRATOR'S & DIRECTOR'S Talk...

Madison County and the Edwardsville community honored Edwardsville's Goodwill Ambassador Marvin "Preach" Webb on Saturday, Jan. 16 with a plaque in the landscaping on the northside of the Administration Building and Courthouse.

The project was spearheaded by the the Preach on Main Project committee.

The event also included an announcement about the Marvin "Preach" Webb Scholarship, which is being administered by the [Edwardsville Community Foundation](#).

The county paid tribute to Preach in 2018 with its Living Legend award. To Read more visit the [County News](#).

**Interim Facilities Management Director
Chris Milton**



Volunteers clean-up wetlands

Madison County Building and Zoning partnered with Heartlands Conservancy and Illinois American Water to host a volunteer day of service at Arlington Wetlands in Pontoon Beach in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

The cleanup at Arlington Wetlands is part of a larger, on-going effort to preserve and protect natural lands and communities within Madison County.

These cleanups are just the beginning of our new focus on Clean Communities and volunteer opportunities to support a cleaner, more beautiful Madison County.

Volunteers at Arlington Wetlands picked up trash and removed invasive species from the area in preparation for a prescribed prairie restoration burn later this winter. He said volunteer hours spent at the site help

Heartlands Conservancy fulfill a Community Challenge Grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

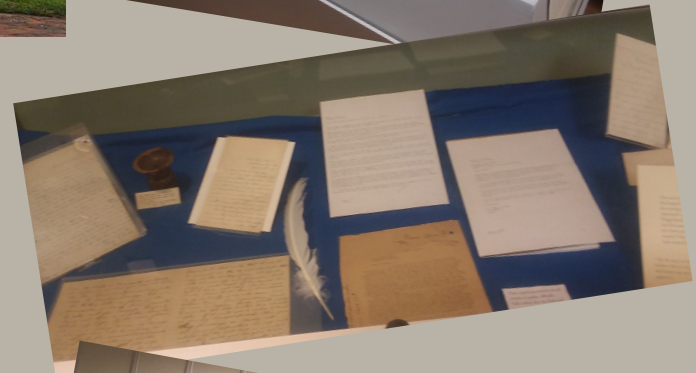
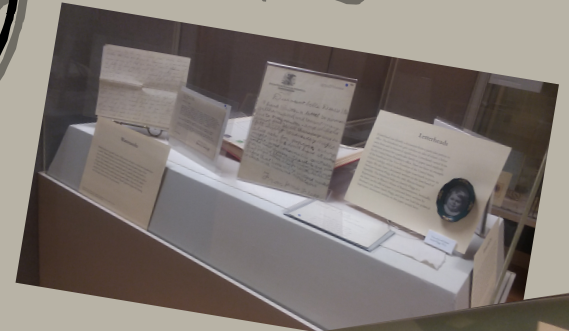
Once 400 volunteer hours are accumulated, Heartlands will receive \$4,000 for site improvements.

The property is one of the many stewardship sites that will hold reoccurring volunteer days on the first Friday of every month throughout the year. Anyone interested in participating in a community cleanup or resources for organizing one of their own can reach out through the Madison County Clean Communities Facebook page or by emailing recycling@co.madison.il.us.

**Building and Zoning Administrator
Chris Doucleff**



Learn your Letters



The County Museum Department has a new exhibit in the Archival Library meeting room. It is entitled *"Ink to Paper: Exploring the Advancement of Letter Writing and its Uses."* It was assembled by David Thompson, a Graduate Assistant at Southern Illinois University.

Thompson's Master's thesis in History focuses on the use of memory in the message of public art. He is also working on obtaining a certification in Museum Studies, and wants to examine heirloom collecting, and the oral history surrounding it. He worked as an intern for the Madison County Historical Society at the Madison County Archival Library during the fall of 2020.

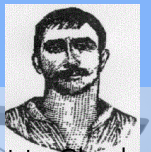
Madison County Historical Museum & Archival Library Museum Superintendent

Jon Parkin

This day in Madison County History Jan. 23, 1892

Two men —John Muench and Patrick Boyle — were "tramping" near Nameoki on Aug. 12, 1891. They went to Charles Forcade's Saloon, where Muench treated Boyle to a drink. He laid down \$1 and received 90 cents change from the bartender. They left the saloon and started north on the railroad tracks and after some distance Boyle drew a pistol, shooting and robbing Muench, who made his way back to the saloon. Muench was admitted to the hospital with a bullet in his lung and the Madison County Sheriff's tracked Boyle down, took him into custody, where he briefly escaped and was captured. Muench died and a trial was held and Boyle convicted of murder and sentenced to hang. The governor stayed the execution until Jan. 23 so the Illinois Supreme Court could review the case.

To read more ([click here](#)).



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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Public access to live board meetings is on Twitch at

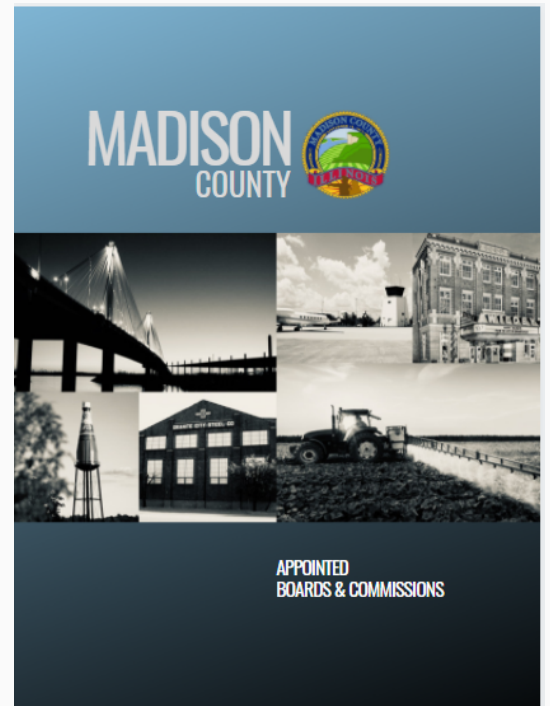
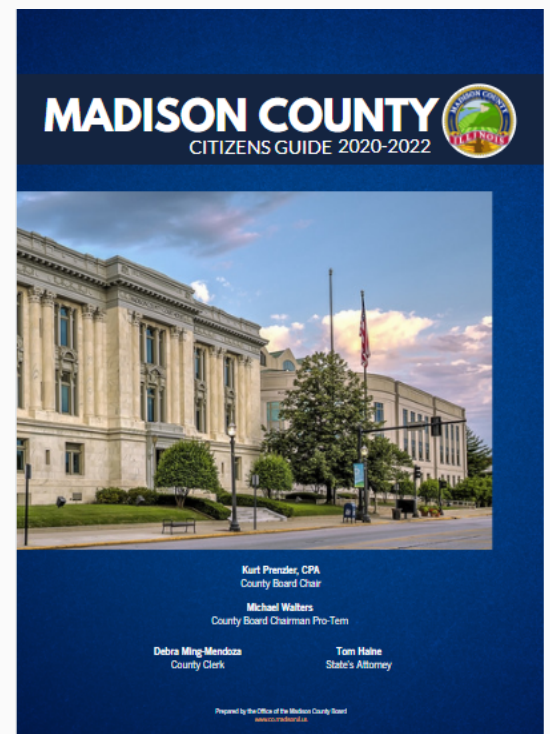
<https://www.twitch.tv/madisoncountyil>

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