



# *Talk around Town*

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

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JUNE/JULY 2021



# Out & About

in Madison County



Chairman Kurt Prenzler and his wife, Rita, ran the International Horseradish Festival 5k race in Collinsville on June 5. the chairman completed the race in 26:12 and Rita, 26:48.



Treasurer Chris Slusser ran the International Horseradish Festival 5K race in Collinsville in 27:23



U.S. Congressman Rodney Davis met with Madison County Employment and Training Director Tony Fuhrmann, County Administrator Dave Tanzyus and county employees on June 4.









# JULY IS NATIONAL HORSERADISH MONTH

**I**n the United States, an estimated 24 million pounds of horseradish roots are ground and processed annually to produce approximately 6 million gallons of prepared horseradish – enough to season enough sandwiches to wrap 12 times around the world.

Collinsville is known as the horseradish capital of the world. The horseradish growers plant about 1,800 acres of the specialty crop.

The city celebrated its root crop during its International Horseradish Festival on June 4. The event started in 1988, and event planners designed it to create national awareness for the herb and the area where most of the world's supply is grown.

Collinsville and the surrounding area is part of what is known as the “American Bottoms”, a Mississippi river basin area adjacent to St. Louis. Carved-out by the glaciers from the ice age, the soil is rich in potash, a nutrient on which the horseradish thrives. The area grows 60 percent of the world's supply.

German immigrants to the area began growing horseradish in the late 1800s and passed their growing methods from generation to generation. The area's cold winters provide the required root dormancy and the long summers provide excellent growing conditions.

Visit [www.horseradish.org](http://www.horseradish.org) to find out more about the herb or look for recipes.

*Fun Fact*

**Horseradish  
is a member  
of the  
mustard  
family**







**O**fficials approved more than \$163,000 in contracts to “beef up” Madison County’s cybersecurity.

“The county is improving its cybersecurity, which will include multi-factor authentication and security monitoring services,” Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

The County Board approved two resolutions Wednesday night — the first, a one-year contract for a cloud service subscription and the second, a contract for security monitoring services.

Prenzler said the county is spending its first American Recovery Act (ARPA) monies to pay for the projects. He said the county was working toward improving its cybersecurity plan when the federal funding became available.

“By using the ARPA funds the county won’t be spending its general fund monies to protect its infrastructure in Special Services Area No. 1,” he said.

Prenzler said the county is able to improve its cybersecurity because it provides the technology and support for SSA, which is a sewer system operated by the county and tied into the county’s network.

He said the county is concerned about cybersecurity, especially after recent ransomware attacks in nearby communities. Hackers breached both St. Clair County and City of Alton.

“We want to do what we can to prevent it and protect information,” he said.

IT Director Chris Bethel said the approval of the contracts puts the county in a better position to defend itself and fortify its cybersecurity systems.

“We are very pleased the ARPA funds are allowing us to accelerate our plans to improve our security posture,” Bethel said.

Prenzler said this spending is just one example of how the county will best use the ARPA funding.

The chairman put together a “blue ribbon” panel of community leaders who are scheduled to meet in late June.

“The individuals on the panel will provide an outside voice as to how the county should prioritize its planned projects and make sure there is transparency and that guidelines are followed,” Prenzler said.

Prenzler said there are also several working groups, which includes county administration, elected officials and board members.

The ARPA places broad limits on how state and local governments can use the stimulus funds. On May 10, the U.S. Department of Treasury released guidance on how the local governments could spend the money.

“The county is prohibited from using these funds to lower taxes, pay for pensions or to finance general fund expenses,” Prenzler said.

He said the county could use the funding for infrastructure investments on water, sewer or broadband, as well as cover the expenses of first responders or provide premium pay for essential employees. The county will have until Dec. 31, 2024 to allocate the funds and complete the projects by Dec. 31, 2026.

Prenzler said the county would be hiring an outside consulting firm to manage the funding and make sure the county follows federal guidelines. The second installment is set to arrive in 2022.

“We have some good ideas on how to spend this money and we want to make sure we do it right,” he said.



*Celebrate  
National*



*and Recreation Month*

*M*

Madison County to celebrate Park and Recreation Month.

Every park has a history made up of thousands of stories that help to define it. This July, let's tell our park and recreation story and provide opportunities for everyone in our communities to create their own stories, as well.

"July is Park and Recreation Month and a time to highlight all the park and recreation professionals and activities throughout Madison County," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the vital and powerful role local park and recreation professionals

This year's theme is "Our Park and Recreation Story!"

"Every park has a history made up of thousands of stories that help to define it," Prenzler said. "We want to know yours."

Prenzler said parks are at the center of so many experiences and memories and park and recreation professionals make these moments possible.

Parks provide many people with their first experience in nature, an introduction to a favorite hobby or physical activity and places to gather with friends and family and spaces to celebrate life's special moment.

Local parks have been essential throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with many community members finding a new appreciation for the essential spaces and vital programs provided to the public.

In Madison County, there are 138 parks and the Metro East Park and Recreation District provides an interactive map at [meprd.org](http://meprd.org) to view them and to check out all the amenities.

Visit [meprd.org](http://meprd.org) to discover more about local park and recreation or to check out projects funded through the organization.

In November 2000, voters approved MEPRED for Madison and St. Clair counties and a one-tenth of one percent sales tax. MERPD retains 50 percent of the monies and the 50 percent is distributed back to the counties. Currently, the MERPD is offering three grant programs for FY 2022.

The chairman of each county appoints members of the MEPRD board.

"Our local parks and recreation activities directly contribute to the health and wellbeing of our residents, the environment and our economy," Prenzler said.

Share your park and recreation story on social media with the hashtag #OurParkandRecStory or #OurParkandRecStoryMadCo.







# Madison County approves park enhancement loan for pickleball courts in Wood River Township

**M**adison County officials approved a \$53,000 park and recreation loan for Wood River Township to install pickle ball courts in Cottage Hills.

"Pickleball is becoming more and more popular," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said. "I'm seeing pickleball courts being used throughout Madison County and this loan just provides the township funding to build another area for people to play."

The Grants Committee approved a resolution Monday for the \$53,112 from the Capital Improvements Low Interest Loan that Program to assist the township in converting old tennis courts at Kutter Park, 255 Franklin Ave., Cottage Hills into pickle ball courts. The Park and Recreation Grant Commission approved the request on May 12.

The County Board approved the loan June 16.

The funding is provided through the revolving loan fund from the 1/10 percent sales tax of the Metro-East Park and Recreation District. The loan will also aid in the resurfacing of parking lots and drainage along the walking path/trail at the park. The loan will be at 3 percent for two years.

County Board member Mick Babcock of Bethalto, who also serves as Wood River Township supervisor, said the township would be converting two tennis courts into six pickle ball courts.

"We feel the pickleball courts will get more use than the tennis courts were getting, which was almost non-existent," Babcock said. "I think it will be a great amenity to Kutter Park."

He said the additional work would improve the safety of the parking lot and prevent water pooling along the trail, helping to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. The total cost for the projects will be \$74,620.



# Madison County CAFR complete



**T**he Madison County Auditor's Office completed its 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR.)

Madison County Auditor David Michael said the CAFR for the year ending Nov. 30, 2020 is done and his office filed it with the Illinois Comptroller's Office and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) on May 28.

"May is always a busy time in the auditor's office," Michael said. "Our state law requires that all general-purpose local governments publish within six months of the close of each fiscal year. Once again, I am very pleased to report to all stakeholders of Madison County that we received a clean (unmodified) opinion from our external auditor, Scheffel Boyle."

Michael said the goal of the independent audit by an outside firm is to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the county are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involves examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management; and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

"In other exciting news, my office was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the previous fiscal year of 2019," Michael said. "This was the 30th consecutive year that the county received this prestigious award and we hope to continue this successful streak by earning another award for the report we just filed."

Michael said he is grateful for his staff and for their hard work in preparing the CAFR. He said he was also thankful for the external auditors at Scheffel Boyle for their expertise and diligence in completing the CAFR.

"Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to County Board Chairman Kurt Prenzler, members of the County Board, the County Board offices, and elected officials for their leadership and commitment to the financial matters of Madison County," he said. "Their cooperation is greatly appreciated and facilitates a more effective and efficient government."

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is now available online by going to the Auditor's page on Madison County's website at <https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/auditor/>.







## Madison County Treasurer reminds property owners first installment of tax bill is due July 8



**M**adison County Treasurer Chris Slusser said property owners received their tax bills and the first installment is due in July.

This year, treasurer's office continued with its paperless delivery of tax bills, or "e-notice". Included on the front page of the tax bill is a website, [enoticesonline.com](http://enoticesonline.com), and an authorization code that will allow taxpayers to begin receiving their tax bills electronically the next year.

"Although the treasurer's office serves as the county's tax collector, it's important to remember that the treasurer's office doesn't determine the amount that is billed," Slusser said. "Property tax bills are determined by four factors — the assessment, the equalization factor or 'multiplier,' the tax rate and any exemptions."

Each year taxpayers receive a bill which includes information indicating where their tax dollars are spent, upcoming due dates and available payment options.

Slusser said his office mailed tax bills on more than 135,000 parcels in early June.

"The first due date is July 8," Slusser said. "Subsequent due dates fall on Sept 8, Oct 8 and Dec 8. Once again, everyone in our office worked hard to guarantee tax bills were mailed out on time."

County tax bills are designed to show taxpayers the exact breakdown of their overall bill. M

Slusser encourages those with questions to contact the office.

"The treasurer's office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and no appointment is necessary," Slusser said. "We get busy near the due dates, so it's important to get payments in as quickly as possible in order to avoid the rush."

Slusser said to continue the office's trend of adding efficiencies and creating value for taxpayers, they're excited to offer paperless billing.

Those who register this year will begin receiving their tax bill electronically next year.

"Registering for paperless billing alleviates postage and printing costs while adding accessibility and peace of mind to those who would normally have to wait for a bill to arrive by mail."

Slusser said he would like to remind taxpayers they can "pay online, rather than in line." He said taxpayers will still have the option of making an immediate payment using an electronic check or credit card at [www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org), or they can set up the four installment payments using either method.

Taxpayers who signed up for the automatic deductions will be sent an email prior to the due date reminding them about the withdrawal from their bank account and what to do if they need to make changes. Changes may include banking or credit card information or to stop online payments altogether.

Taxpayers are reminded that when they change an address with the U.S. Postal Service, tax bills are never forwarded.

"It's important for taxpayers to complete the department's change of address form" Slusser said. "The law states a taxpayer is responsible for paying a bill regardless or not if they receive one. The fact is we want to make sure you do receive one."

A change of address form is available online.

Taxpayers can also pay by mail, in person at the Treasurer's Office, or at one of the more than 100 collector banks and credit unions.

Summary of payment options:

- Visit [madcotreasurer.org](http://madcotreasurer.org) to pay by eCheck or credit card.
- Mail payments to Madison County Treasurer, P.O. Box 849 (with coupon) or P.O. Box 729 (without coupon) Edwardsville, IL 62025
- In person, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Madison County Administration Building, Treasurer's Office, Suite 125, Edwardsville
- More than 100 collector banks or credit unions. Tax coupons required.
- Online bill pay through your bank or credit union.

For questions or more information visit [www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org) or contact the Treasurer's Office at 618-692-6260.





# Let's



**T**ravel in the United States and abroad is picking up pace as COVID-19 cases continue to decline — and with an increase in travel comes the need for passports.

Local residents needing to apply for or renew a passport are encouraged to visit the Madison County Courthouse.

"Many people think only of the court system when they think of the Circuit Clerk's Office," Madison County Circuit Clerk Thomas McRae said. "We also offer other valuable services to residents, and helping apply for passports is one of them. We are here to help and encourage residents to take advantage of these services."

Passport applications are processed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays.

To save time, passport applicants should download and complete their application form before by visiting [www.travel.state.gov/passportforms](http://www.travel.state.gov/passportforms). Forms must be completed in black ink.

At the present time, applicants must bring their own passport photo, which can be taken at local pharmacies and other retailers. In the near future the Circuit Clerk will be able to take photos.

Two forms of payment are also required, including at least one check or money order.

The processing time when applying for and receiving a passport is 10 to 12 weeks. An expedited one takes four to six weeks.

Visit the Circuit Clerk's website at [https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/circuit\\_clerk/passports.php](https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/circuit_clerk/passports.php) to learn more.



An application consists of the following items:

**APPLICATION FORM** — Completed U.S. Dept. of State "APPLICATION FOR PASSPORT," Form DSP-11, available at the Circuit Clerk's office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>.

**PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP** — Proof of U.S. Citizenship, such as your previous U.S. passport. Or, if you were born in the U.S., you may submit a certified birth certificate that includes your first and last names, date and place of birth, and date the birth record was filed. If you were born outside the U. S., you may submit a Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of Citizenship, Report of Birth Abroad, or similar evidence. If you are a citizen from the naturalization of your parent(s), submit a Certificate(s) of Naturalization of your parent(s), your foreign birth certificate, and proof of your admission to the U.S. for permanent residence.

**PROOF OF IDENTITY** — You may submit your previous valid U.S. passport, Certificate of Naturalization, driver's license (not a learner's permit or temporary license), or government identification card or pass.

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER** — Although not required for issuance of a passport, the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, 26 USC 6039E, states that any passport applicant failing to provide this information is subject to a \$500 penalty enforced by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

**PHOTOGRAPH** — The photo must be of you alone. It must be 2" x 2" in size, and the area from the bottom of your chin to the top of your hair must be between 1" and 1 3/8". The photo must be clear, front view, full face, in normal attire, without a hat or dark glasses. It must be on a plain white or off-white background and may be black & white or color. A retouched photo in which your appearance is changed is not acceptable.

## FEES

Adult Book — \$110; Card, \$60 Child Book — \$80; Card \$15  
U.S. Dept of State Acceptance Fee \$35 — Circuit Clerk Cash/Check

Expedited fees — Adult or Child, \$61.35 cash, paid to Circuit Clerk for processing, plus check/money order payable to "US Dept of State."





## Multi law enforcement agencies organizes crime fighting task force

**M**adison County State's Attorney Tom Haine announced that the Cross-River Crime Task Force reconvened June 3 and formally adopted an organizational charter and phased implementation plan.

"This task force has made significant progress since its first meeting in April," Haine said. "Today we adopted a charter to establish a leadership structure for this organization and a two-phased plan. Over the next week I will be working with the Sheriff and task force members to formally appoint a commander. After this, the task force can swing into action as a new tool to fight crime flows into and throughout Madison County."

Phase one of the task force will begin this month with proactive patrols of the county using existing license plate reader (LPR) technology. The organization will also conduct an inventory of available assets and use these tools to analyze current and historical data to identify real-time crime patterns within the county.

Future phases will include expanding the use of LPRs to help identify individuals with outstanding warrants or vehicles known to be involved in criminal activity. These LPRs are not "red light cameras," and will not be used to issue traffic citations.

Haine also pointed to the newly adopted Mission of the Task Force as the basis for future action, which states: "It is the mission of the Cross-River Crime Task Force to use joint county-wide operations to reduce crime flows into and through Madison County while working within an established electronic infrastructure (the LPR network) that was designed to balance legitimate law enforcement needs against the equally important interest in protecting individual privacy."

"It's an honor to work with so many great law enforcement leaders to make this new effort a success," Haine said. "Madison County residents demand safe communities, and these efforts will reinforce our mission to fight crime."







Madison County's chief deputy sheriff is named commander of Cross-River Task Force.

Maj. Jeff Connor will serve as the as commander of the Cross-River Crime Task Force. Madison County State's Attorney Tom Haine and Madison County Sheriff John Lakin nominated, him to the position.

"I'm proud to have been chosen as commander for this important new law enforcement effort," Connor said. "I'm thankful for the deputy commanders who have agreed to assist, and we look forward to getting to work combatting the flow of violent crime into and throughout Madison County."

In addition to his appointment as commander, Connor named Maj. Nick Novacich of the Granite City Police Department and Deputy Chief Jarrett Ford as deputy commanders for the task force.

Connor currently serves as the chief deputy sheriff for Madison County. After being nominated as commander by Haine and Lakin, the members of the task force confirmed Connor by unanimous consent.

The Cross-River Crime Task Force is comprised of law enforcement officials from federal, state, county and local agencies with the goal of combining resources and manpower to protect Madison County from criminals who cross state lines to commit violent crimes. Members of the task force approved a charter and implementation plan earlier this month, and aim to begin patrols by the end of June.



# Coroner's Notes

**C O N G R A T S**



Please join Madison County Coroner Stephen P. Nonn in congratulating Diondra Horner on her recent promotion to senior investigator.

She has been with the Coroner's Office for more than eight years and has excelled in her career path. Besides her investigation duties, Diondra is also a member of the St Louis Major Case Squad and the Southern Illinois Child Death Task Force.

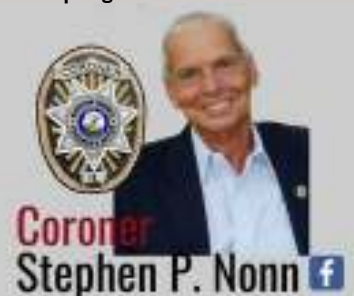


Chief Investigator Shane Liley, Senior Investigator Diondra Horner, Coroner Steve Nonn and Chief Deputy Kelly Rogers.

Nonn is reporting that the number of COVID-19 related deaths are down considerable, however the Coroner's Office remains 53 deaths ahead of where it was at this time last year.

On June 22, Nonn will attend training sponsored by the Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association in conjunction with the Illinois Association of County Officials, to be held in Springfield..

On June 28, Nonn returns to his instructor roll at the Coroners Academy for a week long training to be held in Decatur, Ill..





## When Disaster Strikes: Plan for Pets

**A**re you prepared for a disaster or emergency? Does your plan include your pets?

June is National Pet Preparedness Month, which urges people to make plans for pets during an emergency such as a tornado, flood or other natural disaster.

Here are a few simple steps to save your pets:

Most emergency shelters cannot accept pets due to health and safety concerns. Make a plan on where they can go during this time.

Keep copies of your pets medical records. Pet friendly shelters require up-to-date records.

JUNE IS NATIONAL PET  
PREPAREDNESS MONTH



Federal law requires states to include planning for domestic animals in their emergency evacuation plans.

Make sure to get your pet microchipped. If your pet becomes lost or separated then there is more success in finding them.

Pack your pet's disaster and first aid kits. Make sure to pack a leash or harness, cat carrier and extra collar label with your pet's name, first aid kit, plastic bowl, cat litter, and at least five days of spare medication and water to last at least three days.

Visit Madison County Emergency Management to learn more.

## SUMMER SAFETY FOR PETS

**S**ummer is officially here and Madison County Animal Control officials want to remind people on ways to keep pets safe.

The summer months can be uncomfortable when it heats up outside and remember if it's "too hot outside for you, then it's too hot for them."

On a hot day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time — even with the windows open — which could lead to fatal heat stroke. Temperatures inside a vehicle rise to dangerous levels and pets can suffer irreversible organ damage.

Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise or have heart or respiratory disease. Some breeds of dogs — like boxers, pugs, shih tzus, and other dogs and cats with short muzzles — will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat.

It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature but also the humidity that can affect your pet. An animal pants to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body and if the humidity is too high, your dog is unable to cool themselves and their temperature can rise to dangerous levels.

Summer is an exciting time of year and most people go outdoors at backyard barbecues, swimming, camping and of course watching fireworks for the Fourth of July. These things can be thrilling for families, but for our furry friends these events can bring unwanted anxiety.

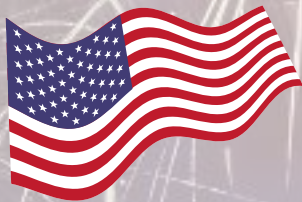


### Helpful tips:

- Never leave pets in a parked car. Remember to "Look before you Lock."
- Avoid walks during the hottest part of the day. Go out in the morning or evening.
- Provide plenty of water and shade for those animals that do spend time outdoors.
- Give your dog a lightweight summer haircut to help prevent overheating.



# STARS, STRIPES & SUMMER SAFETY



Fourth of July fireworks are anything but fun for pets. The loud noises can cause serious anxiety and stress for both cats and dogs. Take extra precautions this Independence Day, and all summer long, by following this expert advice to ease your pets fear.

## FEEDING TIME

Feed your pets to help them settle

## IN BEFORE DARK

Make sure your pets are in before the festivities start

## REDUCE NOISE

Drown out the loud bangs with a TV or radio

## ENVIRONMENT

Set your pet up in a room with their favorite things

## WALK

Take your dog for an extra-long walk prior to event

## ORGANIZATION

Prepare for the night in advance

## REASSURANCE

Stay with your pet to keep them settled

## KITTENS & PUPPIES

Young ones can be extra sensitive to loud noises

## SECURITY

Make sure room is secure and pets can't get out



## Animal Control Facilities

Alton	463-3553
Bethalto	377-5266
East Alton	259-8069
Edwardsville	656-2131
Glen Carbon	288-7226
Granite City	452-6233
Godfrey	466-7468
Highland	654-2131
Madison	876-6268
Pontoon Beach	931-5100
Roxana	254-1945
South Roxana	254-7469
Venice	452-6233
Wood River	251-3113
Madison County	692-1700



  
**50%**  
of Dogs & Cats  
Suffer from Fireworks Stress  
**10x**  
more sensitive than a human  
A dog's hearing is





MADISON COUNTY BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



As part of the Building and Zoning Department, the Madison County Resource Management Program works with municipalities and local residents to improve the problem with food waste in our disposal systems. One of the best ways to reduce the amount of organic waste that makes it to our landfills is to improve local composting efforts in Madison County.

### Why is composting so important?

One of the key benefits of compost is that it helps the environment by providing a more viable system of materials management. In fact, composting supports a healthier environment in many ways, including:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions. According to the EPA, yard debris and food waste make up about 30% of waste sent to landfills. Composting your food and yard waste helps reduce emissions by diverting these items from landfills, which produce methane.

- Promotes healthy soil. Compost reduces the need for artificial fertilizers. Compost increases the nutrients available to plants in the soil, while also helping to prevent soil erosion.
- Contribute to a circular economy. In 2018, 2.6 million tons of food in the U.S. was composted (EPA). The goal is to reduce the need for raw materials, mitigating the associated environmental and social burden. By repurposing food waste and yard trimmings for compost, you're keeping them in circulation and supporting a more sustainable and circular economy.
- Composting has become an essential practice in maintaining a healthy and balanced environment. However, for many, the idea of starting their own compost bin seems to be a daunting task.

But it doesn't have to be!

With these Small Green and Clean Steps you can start composting in your home and reduce food waste today!

### Use these 5 Small Green and Clean Steps to ensure a successful composting journey:

**Do your homework.** Before you start composting, make sure you understand which items and materials should be composted and how best to keep your compost balanced. Composted items include coffee grounds, fruits and vegetables, eggshells, tea bags, nutshells, yard waste, leaves and more. Items not to be composted include fats, meats or dairy products. You'll want to make sure you have a good ratio of greens (like vegetable or fruit scraps and yard waste) and browns (like dead leaves and twigs). Remember, water is essential – you can't compost material that doesn't have the right amount of moisture.

**Determine your composting goals.** The types of materials you put in your compost will vary depending on how you want to use your compost. You can use your compost in your yard or garden or share it with friends and family for their gardens. Don't need compost yourself? Depending on your area, you may be able to collect your food scraps and yard waste for industrial composting and work with a local provider, like Republic Services, for collection.

**Assess your space.** Look around your space and evaluate what you may need to start composting. You'll want to store food scraps in a place that makes it convenient to compost while you're cooking or cleaning your kitchen. You don't need a fancy scrap bucket, but make sure it has a tight seal to reduce odor.

**Get the right tools.** After you've assessed your indoor space, you'll want to get the tools that will set you up for success. You'll also need a compost bin, which you can purchase or build on your own. Remember, you'll need to find an outdoor space that is dry and shaded to store your compost bin.

**Understand the warning signs.** Once you've started your compost, you'll want to monitor for warning signs that it is out of balance. Your compost shouldn't attract bugs or rodents or produce a strong odor. If it is, then you'll know that it's time to adjust the mix of greens and browns you're adding to your bin. Ideally, your compost should include an equal mix of green and brown material.

### The 4 Key Ingredients for a Healthy Compost Pile: Carbon, Nitrogen, Air, and Water

- **Carbon** – Found in the "brown" ingredients, such as dead leaves, sticks, branches, straw, etc.
- **Nitrogen** – Found in the "green" ingredients, including vegetable and fruit waste, coffee grounds, egg shells, green grass clippings

**HINT:** You need equal parts brown and green for a healthy compost pile.

**HINT:** If you're adding large items, such as limbs or large branches, cut them up to help speed up the decomposition process. The more surface area, the faster the microorganisms can work on breaking down the materials.

- **Air** – Air is a necessary ingredient to keep the aerobic bacteria healthy so they can aid with decomposition of the materials. To keep the air circulating, stir the compost pile with a pitchfork or shovel at least once per week. If there isn't enough air, the anaerobic bacteria can take over, causing the compost to smell and decompose at a slower rate.

**HINT:** To increase the rate of decomposition, stir the pile more frequently.

- **Water** – Compost piles need to be kept moist, however excess water can cause the pile to smell and slow the decomposition process. Your pile is moist enough if a handful of the pile feels like a damp sponge.

**HINT:** What's that smell? Compost piles only smell when you build or manage them improperly. If your compost pile develops a bad smell, turn it. If the pile is too wet, add dry materials when turning the pile. This should eliminate the smell.





## Madison County History



# MoMS travel to Madison County



Madison County is selected to host a Museum on Main Street Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit.

Madison County Historical Museum will present "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America," a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition from July 17 to Aug. 21. MoMS gives small-town America access to the Smithsonian through museum exhibitions, research, educational resources and programming.

"In addition to learning about our country's voting history, we will be exploring the voting rights history of Madison County with presentations," Museum Director Jon Parkin said.

Each Voices and Votes host creates a local exhibit to complement the Smithsonian Institution exhibition. Madison County's exhibition will be installed in a display case at the Administration Building and presentation will be held through August.

Illinois Humanities selected six host organizations to participate in the Illinois tour of Voices and Votes. Other communities to host the exhibit include: Salem, Savanna, Jacksonville, Clinton and Murphysboro.

The selections were made through a two-step application process; 22 institutions applied in the first round, and 13 were invited to proceed to the second round.

Illinois Humanities selected the hosts based on criteria such as:

- the applicant's organizational capability
- its potential to benefit from the experience and the learning and growth opportunities associated with it
- its preliminary plans to companion exhibitions and public programs
- the suitability of its venue
- the likelihood of community support and participation
- geographic distribution

According to Smithsonian's website, "When American revolutionaries waged a war for independence they took a leap of faith that sent ripple effects across generations. They embraced a radical idea of establishing a government that entrusted the power of the nation not in a monarchy, but in its citizens."

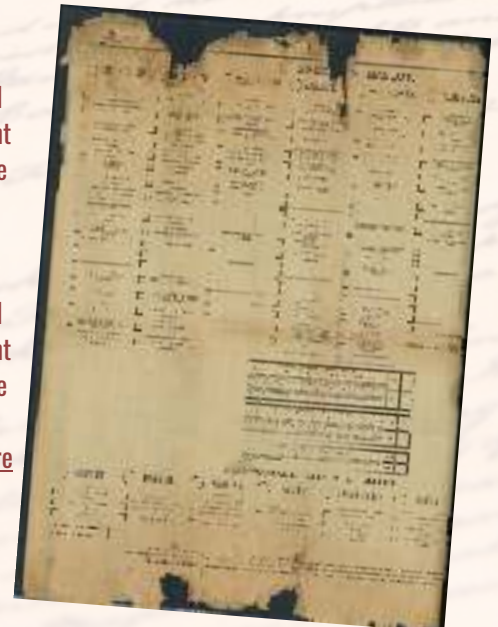
That great leap sparked questions that continue to impact Americans:

- Who has the right to vote?
- What are the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens?
- Whose voices will be heard?
- How do you participate as a citizen?
- How do we encourage more people to participate in our democracy?

Voices and Votes is a springboard for discussions about those very questions and how they are reflected in local stories. The exhibition features contemporary and historical photographs and historical objects, such as campaign souvenirs, voter memorabilia and protest material.

Voices and Votes programming is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the state of Illinois.

Voices and Votes programming is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Illinois. Visit <https://museumonmainstreet.org/> to learn more.





## Voices and Votes: Democracy in America



### Upcoming Events



Use the QR code to find out more

**July 19** — 1 to 3 p.m., "Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement", presented by Chris Vallillo. This will be a live (and possibly live-streamed) concert held in the County Board room of the Administration Building.



**July 26** — 2 to 3:30 p.m., - "Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage for Women in Illinois", a Zoom lecture by Jeanne Schultz Angel (Illinois Humanities Roads Scholar.) Visit



**Aug. 11** — 1 to 3 p.m., Panel discussion on Women's Suffrage in Illinois, by SIUE professors Bryan Jack and Erik Alexander. This will be a live (and possibly live-streamed) discussion held in the County Board room of the Administration Building.



Anyone who might be interested in volunteering as a docent for the Madison County Archival Library please call (618) 656-7569 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## Greetings FROM MADISON COUNTY



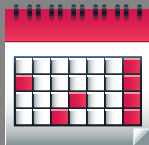


Check out the Citizens Guide on the county's website to find out more on the operations of Madison County Government and its departments.



## Madison County Board Meeting Update

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

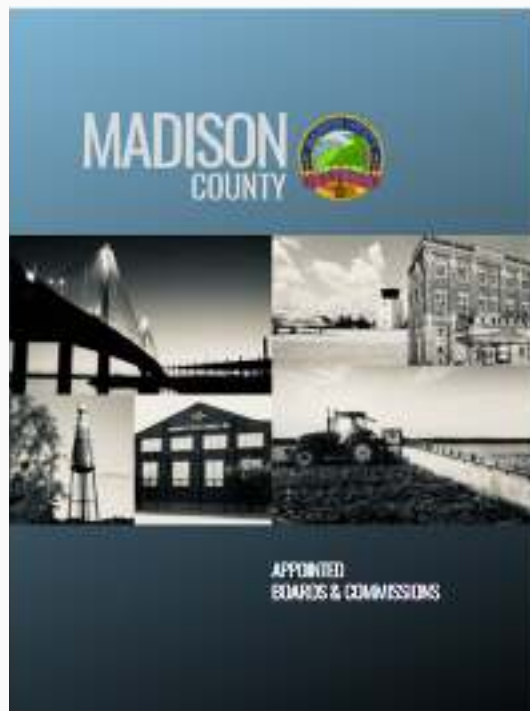
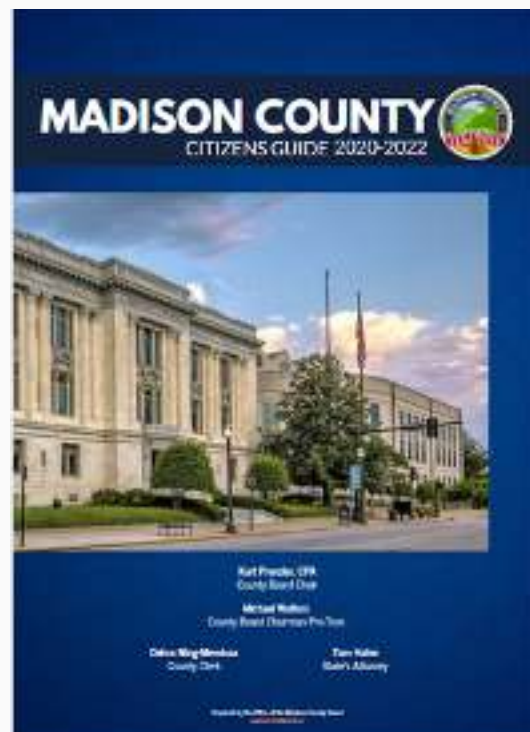


The public is invited to attend County Board meetings, which are held in the Board Room at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, Ill.

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](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