



# *Talk around Town*

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY

MARCH 2021



## In memory of Madison County Board Member James L. "Jim" Dodd, Sr.

Dodd, 77 died March 10 at his home in Alton after suffering a lengthy illness.

Dodd served as a Madison County Board member in District 9 and was first elected in 2012.

Dodd served as a alderman in the City of Alton for 16 years (1981 to 1997) and owned and operated Jim's Mobil in Alton.

He is survived by his wife, Carol, in Alton, his sons and grandchildren.



photo credit: Scott Cousins

## Talk Around Town!

### CONTACT US

#### WRITE TO US

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## In memory of Madison County Sheriff's Office Jail Sgt. Don McNaughton

McNaughton, 47, died March 16. He served with the Sheriff's Office since July 2006. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and served during Desert Storm. He was also a member of the Skyriders Motorcycle Club. He is survived by his wife Rebecca and children.



## NOW OPEN

Indoor dinning is open in the Madison County Administration daily with limited seating. Limited menu with daily specials.

Hours of operation will be from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday. Breakfast is served until 10:30 a.m. daily



The café is operated by Illinois Challenge Unlimited, Inc. committed to serving and providing employment services to people with disabilities that empower them to live, work and participate in their local communities. Learn more about their mission



# VACANCY



# COUNTY OFFICIALS CORNER

Monthly Reports by Elected Officials

## Treasurer collects delinquent taxes and makes investments

The month of March officially marks the end of the 2019 Real Estate Tax Cycle.

On Feb. 22, the Treasurer's Office conducted the annual tax sale (auction) of delinquent taxes and will make the final distribution of collected real estate taxes to the taxing districts this month.

During the next two months, the office will finish cleaning things up, organizing and preparing for the upcoming year's (2020) tax bills to go out in June.

While this past year presented many challenges, I would like to credit my amazing staff for stepping up to the challenge and working together as a family to make sure everything was completed on schedule.

Some team members worked remotely at various points throughout the year, while others had to quarantine at times. However, the treasurer's office never closed its doors and my staff continued serving the public in person every day from the pandemic's start.



**Treasurer**  
**Chris Slusser** 



The annual **Tax Sale** on Feb. 22 resulted in the lowest-ever penalty rate, an average of 1.52 percent, with the county collecting **\$3.7 million** in delinquent taxes.

"This year we were collecting and distributing money at a consistently higher rate- which was a good sign considering COVID-19 forced many people out of work," Slusser said.

There were **33 tax buyers** who took part in this year's annual event, purchasing the taxes on **2151 parcels**. Of the taxes sold, nearly 80 percent were at a 1 percent penalty rate or less.

Anyone whose taxes were sold should contact the Madison County Clerk's office at (618) 692-6290 for more information. If you have questions about the Tax Sale contact the Treasurer's Office at (618) 692-6260.

Visit the [Treasurer's Office](#) online to learn more about the Tax Sale.

As a way to soften the blow of the pandemic for taxpayers, we got the County Board to approve a 60-day grace period on the first of the four real estate tax installments, meaning there would be no penalty interest charged on the payment if it was late. Although, other county treasurers across the state experienced the same thing, not many taxpayers took advantage of it.

In fact, we had a record amount of taxpayers pay all four installments in full, in July. This meant that we were able to distribute funds ahead of schedule to all of the taxing districts.

When I took office in December 2016, one of the things that was tackled was a complete overhaul of the county's underperforming investment portfolio. As investments (mainly government bonds and CDs) matured, I reinvested the funds according to our new strategy.

As a result, the county's annual investment earnings has more than quadrupled during the past four years and it has positioned our investments as the top performing portfolio of any county in the state.

Our investment balance is currently more than \$171 million, up from \$149 million in December 2016. Income from the portfolio from 2013 to 2016 totaled just under \$3.4 million during those four years. Once we revamped the portfolio, we were able to generate more than \$12 million in income during the past four years.

The increase in investment income allowed the county more flexibility in each department's budget, allowed us to pay-as-we-go for the \$14 million jail renovation project (instead of borrowing) and called for less-reliance on property tax dollars to fund the overall budget.

It has been a great success and we've all benefited from it.



**Sheriff  
John Lakin**

Follow  
Madison County Sheriff's Office



## Sheriff Recognizes Jail Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic presented the Madison County Jail with unfamiliar challenges and obstacles. New rules and regulations were put into place to help control the spread of the virus.

The sheriff's office and the criminal judges worked together to keep the number of prisoners to a minimum to reduce the risk of spread of the virus.

The jail experienced increased work duties and multiple manpower shortages. Prisoners who tested positive were isolated in a jail block away from other inmates. Some showed minor symptoms, while others had no symptoms.

In light of all that has happened, and continues to happen, during this unprecedented time, jail staff members continued to power through. Showing up for work each and every day and putting their best foot forward.

On Feb. 1, the staff of the Madison County Jail were recognized for their efforts during the pandemic. Sheriff John Lakin and Major Jeff Connor presented the Jail Division with a plaque to acknowledge and commend their hard work.

Lakin said he is proud to have individuals who are dedicated and hard working at the Madison County Jail.

"I wanted to thank them for all they've done and will continue to do as we fight this pandemic," he said.

## Coroner's Office Sees Promotions

Old faces in the Madison County Coroner's Office are taking on new challenges as promotions took place as the result of a recent retirement.

Chief Investigator Kelly R. Rogers is the new chief deputy coroner, replacing Roger Smith who retired March 12. Senior Investigator Shane P. Liley assumes the rank of chief investigator.

Although cross-training and shared responsibilities exist between the two positions to assure continuity of operations during potential emergencies, the chief deputy has primary responsibility to oversee administrative and the business functions of the office while the chief investigator manages day-to-day investigational operations and case management.

"The positions were filled from within the organization to take advantage of their wealth of knowledge and depth of experience", Coroner Stephen Nonn said. "I think they will mesh well together and assure that Coroner's Office continues move forward into the future while assuring that matters in the here-and-now are taken care of promptly and efficiently."



On March 1, Nonn and outgoing Chief Deputy Roger Smith were instructing their newly elected coroner colleagues from across the state at the Illinois Coroner Training Board's "Basic Coroner Training" program. The 40-hour course is statutorily required for newly elected coroners and is also attended by invited key coroner staff members covering a plethora of regulatory, administrative, and investigative topics.



Nonn, drawing on his past longtime experience with the Madison County Sheriff's Office, lectured on interaction and development of positive relationships with law enforcement agencies while Smith presented Illinois coroner law and the statutory requirements required to fulfill the obligations of the position by law.

Case load activity continues to keep the staff of the coroner's office busy serving the public. So far in 2021, the number of deaths reported, reviewed or investigated remains 160 over this same time period in 2020. Reported COVID-19 related deaths decreased, but the public is warned to continue to be vigilant with social distancing, hand washing and the dreaded – but necessary – mask wearing.

Someday and hopefully sooner than later, COVID-19 may begin to fade into memory, but perhaps the habits of frequent hand washing, covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze and cough, and limiting contact when you are sick will remain with us as seasonal influenza and the pesky common cold continue to visit regularly.



**Coroner  
Stephen P. Nonn**





# New Leadership

State's Attorney Tom Haine  
Names Executive Team

**W**ith Madison County courts opening up again on March 1, State's Attorney Tom Haine is introducing the new leadership team of the State's Attorney's Office.

"The period of transition since I took office two months ago has been fast-paced but fruitful," Haine said. "My team took advantage of the COVID-required pause to introduce many important internal improvements, to include a full-case tracking system, office and policy modernization, and a modified leadership structure. In short, we are motivated and prepared for a very busy year in Madison County's justice system."

"Madison County can be proud of this team of professionals, dedicated to pursuing vigorous and fair justice. I am grateful for their hard work."

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Chad Loughery is now first assistant. He was elevated to this position by Haine, after having worked in the State's Attorney's office for the past 14 years. He has general duties over all attorneys in the office under State's Attorney Haine.



State's Attorney  
**Thomas A. Haine** 

Lauren Maricle is now Chief of the Violent Crimes Unit. She was elevated to this position by State's Attorney Haine after having worked in the State's Attorney's office for the past eight years. She directs the Violent Crimes Unit, organizing its trial work, and is also prosecuting many of the office's most important upcoming trials.

Andrew Carruthers is the chief of the Civil Division. He was brought on by Haine after a distinguished career in private practice. He manages the office's representation of county officials and offices as well as outside litigation and advice to the County Board.

Kathleen Nolan is chief of the Juvenile Justice and Child Justice Division. She has worked in the office for the past eight years. Kathleen leads a passionate and focused team to bring justice to child victims and survivors of sexual abuse, and to prosecute juvenile offenders.

Katie Warren is now chief of the Criminal Division. She was elevated to this position by State's Attorney Haine after having worked in the office for 11 years. Katie directs the assignment and management of the large number of felony cases prosecuted by Madison County – over 700 just since Dec. 1.

Trent Cameron is chief of the Child Support Division. He has worked in the office for five years. He has continued working to ensure child support and paternity issues are promptly and energetically prosecuted by the state.

Sean Williams is chief of the Traffic and Misdemeanor Division. He has worked in the office for seven years and has been instrumental in innovations such as the ZOOM traffic dockets. Sean also prosecutes felony cases.

Finally, Haine created two new positions in the office — trial advocacy coordinator and office manager. Susan Jensen is the trial advocacy coordinator. Susan is a long-time prosecutor who Haine brought back to the office to help build up the trial skills in the office through mentorship and training of younger attorneys. Maria Maxwell is the new office manager and was a congressional aide for many years, also working in compliance work in private industry. She has focused on re-building and professionalizing the internal operations of the office.

"I'm happy to introduce this team, dedicated to bringing stronger, faster, and fairer justice to Madison County," Haine said. "It will be a busy year, and we are ready to go."





## Madison County Circuit Clerk Tom McRae finishes first 100 days

When Tom McRae started his job as Madison County Circuit Clerk on Dec. 1, 2020, he set a goal to learn about the "organization within an organization" and now is reflecting on his first 100 days.

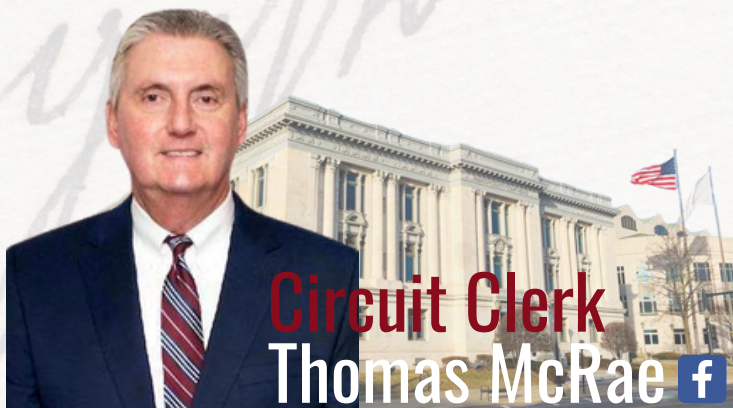
"It's a complex organization with numerous stakeholders including the citizens we serve as well as lawyers, judges and employees, etc.," McRae said.

The circuit clerk's office employs around 80 people. The majority are deputy clerks that work in the court's four divisions — felony, civil, family and traffic.

The office also includes IT specialists, an accounting department that collects more than \$10 million in annual revenue, as well as a call center with a staff that processes more than 12,000 calls per month.

A few years ago the civil and family divisions had been combined in an effort to make it more convenient for those doing business with the office. Although well intentioned combining offices required extensive cross training with clerks having to be well versed in both civil and family matters. It also meant that the stakeholders requiring services would be funneled to one office "counter" rather than two.

On March 1, McRae made the decision to separate the civil and family divisions again based on feedback that he received from a program he initiated and called "Process Improvement Team." McRae asked former clerk, and now his administrative assistant, Melodie Smith, to lead the team and meet with her colleagues to get their input on how to improve the Circuit Clerk's office.



**Circuit Clerk**  
**Thomas McRae** 

Get a traffic ticket in Madison County lately? You can get that taken care of from the comfort of your home via Zoom.

Monday mornings at 9 a.m., Madison County Virtual Traffic Court:

A common theme that resulted from the meetings was that all stakeholders would be better served if civil and family divisions were separated.

"The initial feedback from judges, lawyers and staff members is quite positive" McRae said. "I really appreciate those who gave us honest feedback on how to improve the office. We are definitely listening".

McRae said he feels blessed to have such great staff that is made up of hardworking people who really are dedicated to serving the citizens of Madison County.

McRae hired then County Board member Ray Wesley to serve as his chief deputy. He said Wesley brings a wealth of private sector experience in his new role.



"I served on the County Board for 10 years and I didn't realize the complexity and diversity of the office," he said. "I'm excited for the direction we are headed in the Circuit Clerks office to make it the most well run in the state of Illinois".





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

# GET YOUR VOTE ON!



oters will have hundreds of choices to make in the Madison County April 6 general election.

"It's a big, big ballot," County Clerk Debra-Ming Mendoza said. "All the township offices are up on this ballot. The municipalities are a little different, not everybody runs."

She said there are a large number of contested and open mayoral seats, as well as the referenda's that will draw out voters.

The consolidated election includes municipal, township, school district and other board races.

There are more than 500 separate ballot combinations due to the overlapping municipal, school board and other districts. Early voting is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through March 19 in the Madison County Administration Building, and will expand March 22 throughout the county.

For information about the election visit [www.MadisonVotes.com](http://www.MadisonVotes.com).

**MADISON COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE**

PROVIDED BY **DEBRA D. MING-MENDOZA** - MADISON COUNTY CLERK  
CONSOLIDATED ELECTION • APRIL 6, 2021 • POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6 AM TO 7

**LEGAL NOTICE** NOTICE is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at the listed Polling Places in the various precincts in Madison County Illinois, a Consolidated Election will be held for the purpose of securing an expression of sentiment and will of the voters with respect to candidates for election. The polls of said Consolidated Election shall be open continuously from 6 AM until 7 PM on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Dated at Edwardsville, Illinois, March 1, 2021.  
*Debra D. Ming-Mendoza*  
Madison County Clerk

**PRACTICE THE 3 W'S**  
TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS WHEN VOTING

- WASH** YOUR HANDS
- WEAR** YOUR MASK
- WATCH** YOUR DISTANCE

Due to COVID-19 your polling place may have changed. Please go to [www.MadisonVotes.com](http://www.MadisonVotes.com) and click on **Where to Vote** to confirm your polling place.

**Emergency Election Day Polling Location**  
County Administration Building • 157 N. Main St. • Edwardsville  
April 6, 2021 6 AM - 7 PM  
In the event a precinct is unable to open, and to offer relief to precincts with long lines, voters can cast their ballot at this Emergency Election Day Polling Location.

**Vote BY MAIL**

TO HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, JUNE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION VOTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CAST A BALLOT PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY, EITHER BY MAIL OR DURING EARLY VOTING. In order to allow more people to vote from the safety of their own homes, you can request a vote by mail ballot by e-mail, mail, on line, or in person.

**IT IS SO EASY . . .** if you are registered to vote in Madison County, you are eligible to cast a ballot by mail. In addition, the following registered voters are eligible to vote by mail:

- Members of the Armed Forces or Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents whether serving in the United States or abroad whose permanent residence is in Madison County.
- U.S. citizens and their spouses or dependents, whose permanent residence is in Madison County but who will be temporarily residing abroad on Election Day.
- U.S. citizens and their spouses or dependents who are not and a residence in Madison County immediately prior to their departure from the United States.

**APPLY ON-LINE** Go to [www.MadisonVotes.com](http://www.MadisonVotes.com)

**EASY • SAFE • SECURE**

**3 EASY WAYS TO VOTE**

Vote by mail by filling out an online application at [www.MadisonVotes.com](http://www.MadisonVotes.com)

**Vote BY MAIL**

**Early Voting** begins March 22 and runs through April 5.

**Vote Election Day** April 6, 2021 at your designated polling place.

**GET TO KNOW YOUR BALLOT** You can view and print out your Specimen Ballot @ [www.MadisonVotes.com](http://www.MadisonVotes.com)

**2021 POLLING PLACES**

**CONSOLIDATED ELECTION APRIL 6, 2021**

**SPECIMEN BALLOT**  
APRIL 6, 2021 - MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Instruction To Voters: To vote, darken the oval to the left of your choice, like this . To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the left of the blank space provided and write the candidate's name in that space. For specific information, refer to the card of instruction printed in the voting booth. If you test, void, deface or otherwise mark this ballot, return it to the Election Judge and obtain another.

Checklist: Verify that the following is the official ballot to be used in the Consolidated Election for Madison County, Illinois on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

*Debra D. Ming-Mendoza*  
Madison County Clerk

Find your polling place



**EARLY BIRD VOTING**

[madisonvotes.com](http://madisonvotes.com)



# ADMINISTRATOR'S & DIRECTOR'S *Talk...*

## Madison County's Emergency Management Director Receives Recognition



**M**adison County's Emergency Management Agency Director **Anthony Falconio** received the International Association of Emergency Managers highest recognition.

IAEM recognized Falconio as a certified emergency manager (CEM.) The CEM designation is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the association that represents professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters.

Falconio qualified by submitting an extensive credentials package giving personal and professional background achievements and successfully completing a management essay and a written examination. In order to maintain certification, a person must continue a program of professional development over successive five-year periods.

Falconio was appointed the county's EMA director on Feb. 19, 2020 after serving eight months as interim director.

Prior to Madison County, Falconio served as the director of Emergency Management in Clinton County, Illinois from 2009 to 2014. Falconio holds an Illinois Professional Emergency Manager Designation as well as Master of Science degree from Southern Arkansas University.

IAEM developed the emergency management certification program during the past last several years by with funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and guidance from an advisory board, which included professionals from a variety of disciplines and representatives of key groups with a stake in emergency management.

To maintain certification, CEM recipients must submit additional training and contributions to the professional every five years. Visit <https://www.iaem.org/certification/intro> for more information about the certification and association.

Visit [https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/emergency\\_management/index.php](https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/emergency_management/index.php) for more information about Madison County Emergency Management Agency.





## Madison County Community Development Administrator

**Dave Tanzys** was recently approved for appointment by the Madison County Board, in December 2020, to the position of Director, Madison County Community Development. He began work at the county on January 11, 2021.



Dave has nearly thirty years of experience, at all levels, in government and small business.

His background in government-related employment includes: district director for U.S. Rep. Mike Bost.; oversaw the southern region of the State of Illinois Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program under Judy Baar Topinka; served as Madison County's Commissioner on the Bi-State Development Board (Metro), which included a term as Metro's Audit Committee chairman during two Metro Link expansions. Elected to the Collinsville Area Recreation District and served as board president during some challenging times.

Immediately after college graduation, Dave worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and on the (then) federally-funded Comprehensive Child Development Program. These opportunities gave him a front row seat to view how levels of government are interdependent in delivering services. It also provided many situations to bring various groups together for a common goal.

In business, Dave has been a part of two start-up companies, purchased two small businesses and spent time managing branches for a major bank. These experiences allowed him to develop leadership traits and, during some trying circumstances, grow both personally and professionally. Early in his work career, one company failed, giving him many valuable lessons he brought forward to his other ventures.

In his personal life, Dave spent many years coaching basketball at the high school AAU and college levels, helping many young men attain the next level of life both on and off the court. Four of his players went on to play some form of professional basketball. Prior to basketball, he served the community by taking on leadership roles with service clubs and a local food pantry.



## Madison County's Building & Zoning Administrator named EAC chair for East-West Gateway

**Chris Doucleff** was named chair of the executive advisory committee for the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.



Chris has served as the administrator of Madison County's Building and Zoning Department since November 2019.

East-West Gateway Council of Governments' Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) provides recommendations to the Board of Directors and has members that are appointed by the Board. The EAC officers are the chair and vice-chair.

East-West Gateway was formed in 1965 as part of a national policy to more equitably distribute federal funding in metropolitan areas by involving municipal and county jurisdictions in the decision making process.

As the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization, East-West Gateway plans and approves federal funding for major regional transportation and homeland security projects.

The East-West Gateway board of directors has 24 voting members, including the mayor of the city of St. Louis, and the top elected officials of the surrounding seven counties. There are five non-voting members on the board in addition to the 24 voting members.

The East-West Gateway region consists of the city of St. Louis, and Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis counties in Missouri, and Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois.





## Madison County Facilities Management Director

**Michael Bold** starting working as a Craftsman III in the Madison County Facilities Management Department in 2018. Prior to working for the county he worked as a property manager for RP Development for and was responsible for site selection, securing building and zoning permits and selecting contractors.



Michael also served as the interim director of facility at Greenville Regional Hospital in Greenville; plant operations manager for St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville; and facility/ordering supervisor at Hospice of Southern Illinois. Other work includes facility supervisor for Bold Enterprise; heavy equipment operator/yard supervisor at Keller Construction; lead finish carpenter at Bluff City Builders and store manager of McDonald's.

His work experience includes everything from preventative maintenance of building facilities, creating and maintaining budgets and supervising staff. He holds accreditations and certifications to include Reality Based Leadership Training, certified heavy equipment operator, and various certifications for OSHA and FEMA, as well as other skill sets.

## Madison County Engineer - Highway Department



**Adam Walden** is an Illinois licensed professional engineer with 15 years of experience in the private and public sector. In 2007, Walden started working for Madison County as an engineer and in 2017 was promoted to township engineer. Prior to coming to the county he work for Juneau Associate's, Inc. as an engineer.

Adam's experience included preparing professional plans, supervising and monitoring construction projects, preparing projects reports, advisor to township road commissioners, maintaining motor fuel tax account for the 21 townships' maintenance program, including reporting to the Illinois Department of Transportation and audit support, reporting conditions of the county and township bridge structures and engaging with the public to resolve complaints.

Adam holds various certifications to include licensed professional engineer, IDOT bridge inspection team leader, MFT accounting, IDOT Contract administration, documentation and pile driving. Walden, who holds a bachelors in science in civil engineering from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, is also a member of the East-West Gateway Council of Governments executive advisory committee and Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



## ROAD WORK

### I-55/70 pavement repairs

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced nightly lane closures on Interstate 55/70 from the I-55/70/270 interchange to 2.6 miles east, started on March 8.

Both directions will be reduced to a single lane in each direction during the hours of 6 p.m. through 6 a.m. nightly. This stage of work is necessary to make pavement repairs and is expected to be completed by May 1.

This stage of work is part of a larger project that will include many additional lane closures. The times and locations of future closures will be announced as the project continues. The entire project is expected to be completed by November.

Drivers may experience delays when traveling through the work zone. Drivers are urged to reduce speed, be alert for changing conditions, obey all construction signage, and refrain from using mobile devices while approaching and traveling through the work zone.

### Illinois 255 bridge deck repairs

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced lane closures on Illinois 255 between New Poag Road and Madison Avenue started March 8.

Both directions will be reduced to a single lane in each direction. The closures are necessary to make bridge deck repairs, and work is expected to be completed by September.

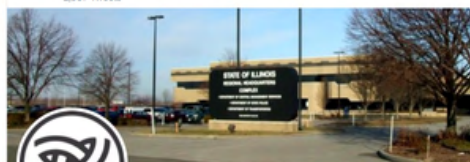
Drivers may experience delays when traveling through the work zone. Drivers are urged to reduce speed, be alert for changing conditions, obey all construction signage, and refrain from using mobile devices while approaching and traveling through the work zone.

### Illinois Route 140/3 Lane closures

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced there will be lane closures on Illinois Route 140/111 between Kendall Ave. (just west of IL 3) and Fosterburg Road, weather permitting.

he eastbound and westbound directions will be reduced to a single lane in each direction. This work is necessary to make bridge deck repairs and is expected to be completed by September 2021.

Drivers may experience long delays when traveling through the work zone and are encouraged to find alternate routes during construction. Drivers are urged to reduce speed, be alert for changing conditions, obey all construction signage, and refrain from using mobile devices while approaching and traveling through the work zone.



**IDOT District 8**  
@IDOTDistrict8

Official updates from the Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8. (Click link below for counties included in District 8.)

📍 Collinsville, Illinois 🌐 [idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/ido...](https://idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/ido...)  
📅 Joined October 2013

95 Following 2,489 Followers

To read more about road closures  
check out IDOT on





# MADISON COUNTY SELLS SURPLUS VEHICLES FOR \$1



Area communities received decommissioned Sheriff's Department vehicles as part of Madison County's initiative to sell its surplus.

The county sold six surplus vehicles the past two months to the villages of South Roxana, Godfrey, Venice, Pontoon Beach, along with Venice Township and Worden Fire Protection District.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler and County Board member Chris Hankins of Pontoon Beach presented a Dodge mini-van to Mayor Barb Overton on Feb. 9 at South Roxana Village Hall. The village purchased the decommissioned vehicle for \$1.

"We are so appreciative of this," Overton said. "We plan to put it to good use."

Overton said the vehicle would be used by the village's animal control officer. The village received a 2009 Dodge van with 100,000 plus miles.

Prenzler said the county makes the vehicles available to governmental entities after being taken out of service due to high mileage or age. The county initiated the program more than 15 years ago for municipalities and emergency service departments.

"This program makes it affordable for public entities to buy something they wouldn't normally buy," Prenzler said.

Hankins said the low cost for the vehicles helps taxing districts with costs.

"Communities don't often have the funding to purchase new vehicles and this provides a savings to taxpayers," Hankins said.

County Board member Eric Foster of Granite City agreed.

"This program is helpful to everyone throughout the county because it saves taxpayer dollars," Foster said.

Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick said he is thankful for the county program. He said the purchase helps keep the village's cost down.

Venice Township Supervisor Andy Economy said they would be using the 2010 Dodge Caravan for the townships Food Pantry to haul items, as well as for other purposes in the township. He said on the Third Thursday of each month the Township serves between 800 and 900 people when the food pantry is open.

The county will be auctioning off other surplus vehicles in the upcoming months. Visit [Madison County Administrative Services](#) to learn more.



County Board member Chris Hankins, South Roxana Mayor Barb Overton and Chairman Kurt Prenzler



Chairman Kurt Prenzler, County Board members Mike Walters and Valarie Doucleff and Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick



Chairman Kurt Prenzler, County Board member Gussie Glasper and Venice Township Supervisor Andy Economy





# CLEAN UP BEFORE THE GREEN'S UP

Madison County to provide resources for volunteers seeking to beautify their community

**M**

Madison County is offering a new program to help reduce litter and maintain "Clean Communities."

"As winter ends, litter is everywhere, and we have a plan to clean it up," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

Madison County's Building and Zoning Department has a new program called "Clean Communities," which provides resources to volunteers to assist them in picking up trash.

Prenzler said that he hates seeing litter and believes everyone agrees.

"Our goal is to 'clean it up before all the spring's green is up,'" Prenzler said.

Building and Zoning Administrator Chris Doucleff said his department often receives complaints about litter along the county's roads and ditches.

"This year, we're making it a priority," Doucleff said.

Doucleff said the county is offering a Clean Communities "resource tool kit" so that residents do not have to buy materials themselves. The tool kit will include — trash bags, reflective vests, gloves and litter grabbers — for an individual or a small group to go out and pick up trash.

"The first step is to provide the resources," Doucleff said.

He said Republic Services is contributing some of the materials.

Volunteers will be able to pick up their resource tool kit at the Madison County Administration Building or, in the near future, the materials will also be available at participating township and municipal offices. If necessary, for large groups the county will make arrangements for trash bags to be picked up.

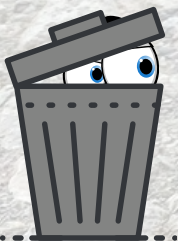
"We're trying to clean up our streets, roads and highways," Prenzler said. "I would encourage people to join in."

Visit [recycling@co.madison.il.us](mailto:recycling@co.madison.il.us) or call (618) 296-4468 for questions or more information about the program.



Find us on 

Use the hashtag #madcocleanup to show us you care!



TRASH  
Talk



Chairman Kurt Prenzler picks up litter as part of the Madison County's Clean Communities initiative, which provides resources to volunteers to assist them in picking up trash. Prenzler is encouraging people to participate in the program.





MADISON COUNTY BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Madison County to host four e-waste collection events

Madison County Building and Zoning, in conjunction with community partners and CJD-E-Cycling, will be hosting four (4) free electronics recycling collections for county residents. Each of the four events will be held on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 5257 N. State Route 157, Edwardsville on the following dates:

- April 10
- June 12
- Sept. 11
- Oct. 9

At these collections, residents who have made an appointment may drop off home electronics. The event is free to attend, but registration is required. Those not pre-registered will be turned away to avoid lengthy wait times and overwhelming site capacity. Register at <https://recycleresponsibly.as.me/electronics>.

Accepted items include anything with a cord, home electronics and televisions, computers and monitors, small appliances, air conditioners, washers, dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, furnaces, lawn equipment. All items, including older-model CRT televisions, are free of charge for residents to recycle during the drive.

Items not accepted include business and contractor waste, paint, hazardous waste, batteries, oils, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, oxygen tanks, DVDs, VHSs, CDs, or cassette tapes, transformers or ballasts, and devices containing mercury including smoke detectors.

Madison County will continue to monitor the latest developments surrounding COVID-19 and may cancel or postpone events as deemed necessary. If this occurs, appointment holders will receive an email notification.

These collections are part of Madison County Building & Zoning's regular programming to provide residents with comprehensive waste-disposal and recycling services.

## 2020 Electronic Waste Collection



Madison County Building & Zoning, in conjunction with community partners and CJD-E-Cycling, hosted four (4) free electronics recycling collections for county residents in 2020 and collected:

44,205 lbs — June 6  
 66,121 lbs — Aug 8  
 38,757 lbs — Sept 26  
 62,126 lbs — Oct 10



# Community Development to distribute \$3.3 million of CARES Act funding for mortgage assistance

**M**adison County received \$3.3 million in funding to help residents with mortgage relief who were impacted by COVID-19.

Madison County Community Development (MCCD) identified a gap in mortgage assistance services provided to residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in an effort to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (CDBG-CV), awarded \$3,304,906 in CARES Act funds to MCCD.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen an increase in people losing their jobs or being laid off," Community Development Administrator Dave Tanzyus said. "As a result, many people have not been able to pay their mortgage or rent, resulting in a huge need in our community."

Tanzyus said the Mortgage Assistance Program will allow income eligible residents that have been affected by the pandemic the opportunity to catch up on up to three months of back mortgage payments.

Mortgage assistance will be provided one time to eligible residents, and it will provide up to three months in consecutive past mortgage payments. Mortgage payments will be offered on a first come first serve basis to income eligible households, while funding lasts.

Income eligible families' gross annual income must be at or below 80 percent of AMI (Area Median Income.) To be placed on the Mortgage Assistance list, interested parties should contact Community Development's Community Resource Line at (618) 296-5300.

Applicants must be Madison County Residents and will be asked to complete a mortgage assistance application, as well as provide income documentation for every member of their household and proof of homeownership or mortgage.

## Rent & Mortgage Income Guidelines

Household Size	Gross Annual Income
1	\$46,450
2	\$53,050
3	\$59,700
4	\$66,300
5	\$71,650
6	\$76,950
7	\$82,250
8	\$87,550

Income Limits are current as of July 1, 2020

\*Proof of COVID-19 hardship may be required



**Mortgage Assistance for  
Madison County Residents**



Madison County Community Resource Line (618) 296-5300



# FACES OF SUCCESS

**M**adison County Employment and Training is finding success with the individuals it helps and wants the public to know more about what they can offer as far as assistance goes.

Tony Fuhrmann, director of employment and training, said that his office assists individuals looking for work. He said the past year, fewer people came into the office to learn about the department's employment assistance programs, but he's hoping to change that.

"We are tasked with linking qualified employees to area businesses or get them trained or retrained in some cases," Fuhrman said. "Our office does a lot of things many people don't have any idea about."



The primary responsibilities of the Employment and Training is administer the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs. Employment and Training receives its funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, which channels grant monies to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development and then to 22 local workforce areas throughout the state.

Madison County is part of Southwestern Illinois workNet, which includes Madison, Bond, Jersey and Calhoun counties as well as St. Clair, Monroe, Clinton, Randolph and Washington counties. There are 10 economic regions throughout the state.

On average, the department reaches around 5,000 individuals per year, which was lower in 2020 due to COVID-19. All the services offered by the department are designed to assist either business or job seekers.

The services include job listings, employment training, skills assessment, career counseling, job search assistance, vocational training, on-the-job training, recruitment assistance, youth employment and training, job and career fairs, referral services and many other types of employer/employee assistance.

Fuhrmann said the goal of the department is to help people become successful in the workforce.

"Not everyone knows what employment and training is all about, but they should," he said. "We help people find work, or provide funding for training or an educational program that works for them."

← Click the TV to watch the video of a Success Story

Visit Madison County [Employment & Training](#) to learn more.







# PARKS AT PLAY

The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) celebrates its twentieth anniversary, marking an important milestone for the agency and its mission to develop a first-class, regional system of parks and interconnected trails.

In 1998, Gateway Parks and Trail 2004, a group of local leaders and engaged citizens from across the greater St. Louis area, organized around an ambitious vision for a true regional system of public parks, trails, and outdoor spaces entitled the “Clean Water, Safe Parks & Community Trails Initiative.” The group later released a final report summarizing their findings, after soliciting input from communities throughout the bi-state area. It called for the creation of two regional park and recreation districts, one in Missouri and the other in Illinois, with the aim of bringing communities together, improving the environment, and celebrating the region’s rivers. It was envisioned that both districts would operate under a shared framework and incorporate the objectives formed out of the Initiative, namely: (1) Improving water quality; (2) Increasing park safety; (3) Proving community trails; (4) Improving, restoring, and expanding local parks; (5) Increasing public and disabled access; and (6) Preserving wildlife habitat.

It was not long after its final report was published that Gateway Parks and Trails 2004’s ambitious vision started to come into fruition. By July of 1999, the State of Illinois passed HB 702, the Metro East Park and Recreation Act; that is, legislation which allows the Illinois Counties of Madison, St. Clair, Jersey, Clinton, Monroe, and Macoupin to opt-in and participate in the Metro East Park and Recreation District if approved by the voters in any such county.

In November 2000, the voters of Madison and St. Clair Counties, IL signaled their support for the regional park district with the approval of “Proposition C: Clean Water, Safe Parks & Community Trail Initiative,” culminating in the formation of the Metro East Park and Recreation District. Across the Mississippi River, the Voters in Missouri would also approve a ballot measure that resulted in MEPRD’s sister organization, the Great Rivers Greenway, or “GRG.”

The Metro East Park and Recreation District is funded by a one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) sales tax imposed in each participating county, as authorized under the Metro East Park and Recreation Act. Fifty percent (50%) of the tax revenue collected by MEPRD is returned to the respective county and the remaining fifty (50%) is utilized by MEPRD, allowing the District to offer grant programs, sponsor outdoor events, and more.

For two decades now, MEPRD has proudly served the residents of Madison and St. Clair Counties by increasing awareness of and promoting the use of existing parks, trails, and recreational facilities, providing useful tools for public use like maps, statistics, and related data, and partnering with other public entities and 501(c)3 non-profit organizations to improve parks, develop interconnecting trails, and enrich recreational opportunities for public enjoyment. Each endeavor has helped to further the District’s mission – “the development, operation, and maintenance of a public system of interconnecting parks and trails throughout the counties comprising the district” – as well as by expanding access, increasing awareness, and encouraging the public’s use of these exceptional recreational facilities and amenities that exist within Metro-East communities.

According to the District’s latest calculations, which are current as of February 2021, show that for every dollar invested by MEPRD to date, \$4.70 has been generated by other funding sources for the planning, development, and/or improvement of public parks and trails in Madison and St. Clair Counties. MEPRD has invested approximately \$32.8M into the region’s parks and trails to date, for a total of 199 park and trail projects (40 of which remain ongoing) with a combined valuation that exceeds \$153.2M. The District also estimates that 105 miles, approximately, of the 215-plus miles of existing shared-use paths (bike trails) in Madison and St. Clair Counties were developed and/or improved in part by MEPRD dollars.

This remarkable progress attained over the District’s twenty-year history has, in large part, been made possible by its 63 unique project partners, to include Madison County Transit District (MCT), St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD), both counties, municipalities, park districts, and nonprofits comprised within the two-county area. It is a testament to the positive outcomes and success that can be achieved when agencies engage one another to collectively tackle a shared goal, for the benefit of each community and the region as a whole.

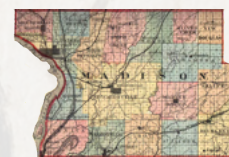
The Metro East Park and Recreation District remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the residents of Madison and St. Clair Counties, IL and to the fulfillment of its mission as it embarks on its next decade of supporting and promoting the region’s great outdoors. If the past twenty years can serve as a measure for what lies ahead, parks and trails in the Metro-East are positioned for a promising and bright future.







# Women's History in Madison County



## A FEW FAMOUS ONES



### GIRL FIGHT



**Barbara Honchak** (born in 1979) is a professional mixed martial artist who is a 1997 graduate of Edwardsville High School and earned her associate degree from Lewis and Clark Community College. She is the first Invicta FC Flyweight champion and has four wins.

Honochak holds a bachelor's in molecular biology and a master's in ecological genetics,

**AnnMaria (Burns) De Mars**, (born in 1958) is the first American to win a gold medal at the 1984 World Judo Tournament. DeMars spent her childhood years in Alton and at age 12 started training at the YMCA.

At 16, she won her first judo competition, the USJA. At 18, she enrolled in a foreign exchange program, where she attended school in Japan. In 1978 she graduated with a degree in business, won the U.S. Judo Senior and Collegiate Nationals

In 2013 Forbes listed De Mars on its annual "40 Women to Watch Over 40". She is CEO of 7 Generation Games and The Julia Group.

She is also the mother of Olympic judo bronze medalist and UFC women's bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey.

### Madison County Connections to ROSEANNE



**Laura Elizabeth Metcalf** (born June 16, 1955) is an American actress born in Carbondale and raised in Edwardsville.

She gained national attention for her performance as Jackie Harris on the sitcom *Roseanne* (1988–1997, 2018) and its spinoff *The Conners* (2018–present) for which she won three Primetime Emmy Awards.

**Bonnie Bramlett** (born Bonnie Lynn O'Farrell, November 8, 1944) is an American singer and actress who was born in Granite City, the daughter of a steelworker.

She played a co-worker and friend (named Bonnie) of Roseanne Barr's character Roseanne Conner.

**Ruth Bryan Owen** (October 2, 1885 – July 26, 1954) attended Monticello Seminary in Godfrey and became the first female to be appointed as a U.S. Ambassador. Franklin D. Roosevelt selected her as Ambassador to Denmark and Iceland.

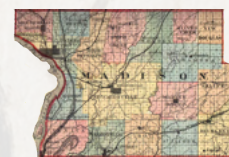
Born in Jacksonville, Ill. to William Jennings Bryan and Mary E. Baird. In 1929 she was elected to Florida's 4th district and Florida's first female U.S representative and she was also the first woman to earn a seat on the U.S. House Committee of Foreign Affairs.







# Women's History in Madison County



**Anna M. Valencia** (born January 16, 1985) serves as the City Clerk of Chicago. First appointed to fill the seat vacated by Susana Mendoza and was elected to a full term in 2019.

Valencia was raised in Granite City and her parents immigrated to Illinois from Mexico. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the first person in her family to graduate college.



**Thekla M. Bernays** (1856 – January 30, 1931) was an American author, journalist, artist, art collector, speaker, and suffragette.

Bernays was born in Highland, Illinois, in 1856, Bernays was a foreign correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat Bernays was a charter member of the St. Louis Artists Guild.



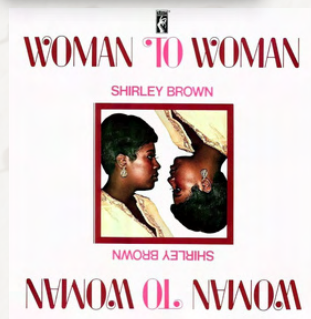
**Shirley Brown** (born January 6, 1947) was born in West Memphis, Ark. and was raised in Madison, Ill. She is an American R&B singer best known for her 1975 Grammy nominated song *Woman to Woman*.



**Jessie Smith** (1941 – February 4, 2021) was an American R&B vocalist who was raised in Alton and is best known as one of the original Ikettes in the Ike & Turner review.



Prior to singing with Ike and Tina Turner, Smith was a member of the Belle Street Temple Church of God in Christ. and sang gospel solos and with choirs as a teenager.



**Shirley "Stovie" Stovroff** (March 18, 1931 – September 16, 1994) was a catcher who played from 1948 through 1952 in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Stovroff batted and threw right-handed. She was born in Madison, Ill.



**Barbara Nejman** (born December 22, 1950) was born in Alton and is an American diver. She competed in the women's 3 metre springboard event at the 1976 Summer Olympics.



Stovroff is part of Women in Baseball, the AAGPBL permanent display at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at Cooperstown, New York, which was inaugurated on November 5, 1988 in honor of the entire league rather than individual baseball personalities.





**Madison County  
Historical Society**  
*Opening Doors to Madison County History*

## Madison County Historical Society returns Civil War materials to Illinois State Archives

The Madison County Historical Society donated original Civil War muster rolls, enlistment papers and miscellaneous documents related to the 144th Infantry Regiment, a state militia unit based out of Madison County to the Illinois State Archives.

“The Madison County Historical Society has been in possession of these records for many years and maintained them in excellent condition,” Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White said. “We appreciate that the society realized these records should be in Springfield, where we keep the official records for the 144th.”

Before World War I, America fought wars using federalized state military units, meaning the records of those units belonged to the states. After the war, the records for the units were to be returned to the state. Often times, however, officers of the units would keep certain records themselves.

The records consisted of three hand-written muster rolls, the enlistment papers of several Madison county soldiers, plus equipment inventories and quartermaster reports. The records will be stored in the climate-controlled Margaret Cross Norton Archives Building in Springfield.

Upon receiving the materials last December, the State Archives performed minor cleaning and repair of the documents. It also made both paper and digital copies of the records for use by the Madison County Historical Society. The Archives returned extra copies of materials and documents not related to the unit to the Madison County Historical Society.

Former Archival Library Research Manager Mary Westerhold said she was pleased to hear the records were donated to the state.

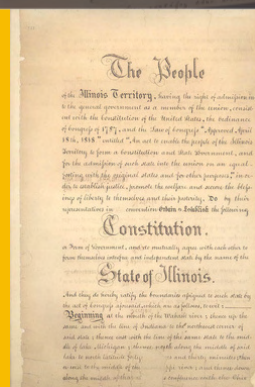
“When I first realized that these were original Civil War documents that belong to the State, I started the process of returning them,” she said. “It’s great that they are finally where they belong.”

The 144th Infantry Regiment served as prison guards at the Alton Prison, one of four prisoner of war camps for confederate soldiers in Illinois.



The Illinois State Archives serves by law as the depository of public records of Illinois state and local governmental agencies which possess permanent administrative, legal, or historical research values. Its collections do not include manuscript, newspaper, or other nonofficial sources.

100 Most Valuable Documents at the Illinois State Archives  
the online exhibit



Check out exhibits  
online or to read the  
Archives quarterly  
newsletter and more.



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.



Public access to live board meetings is on Twitch at

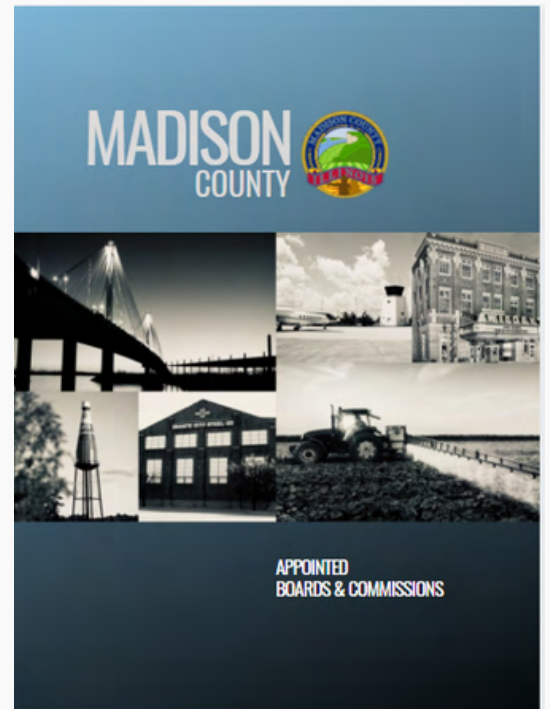
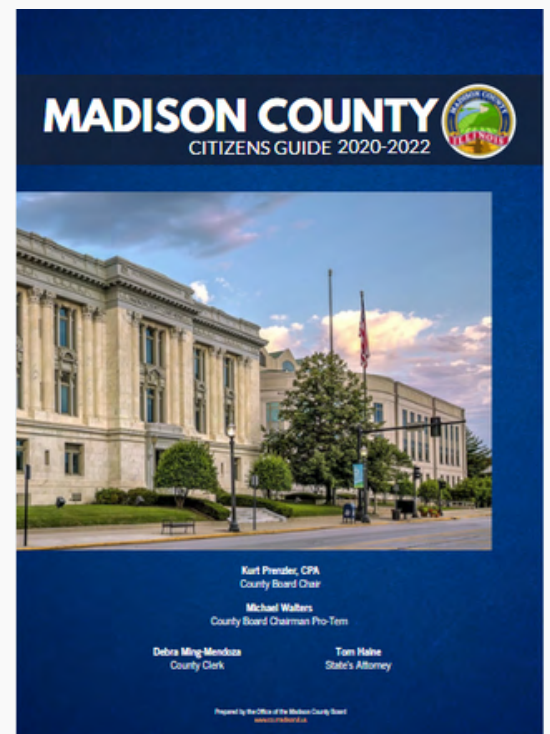
<https://www.twitch.tv/madisoncountyi1>

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 —



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