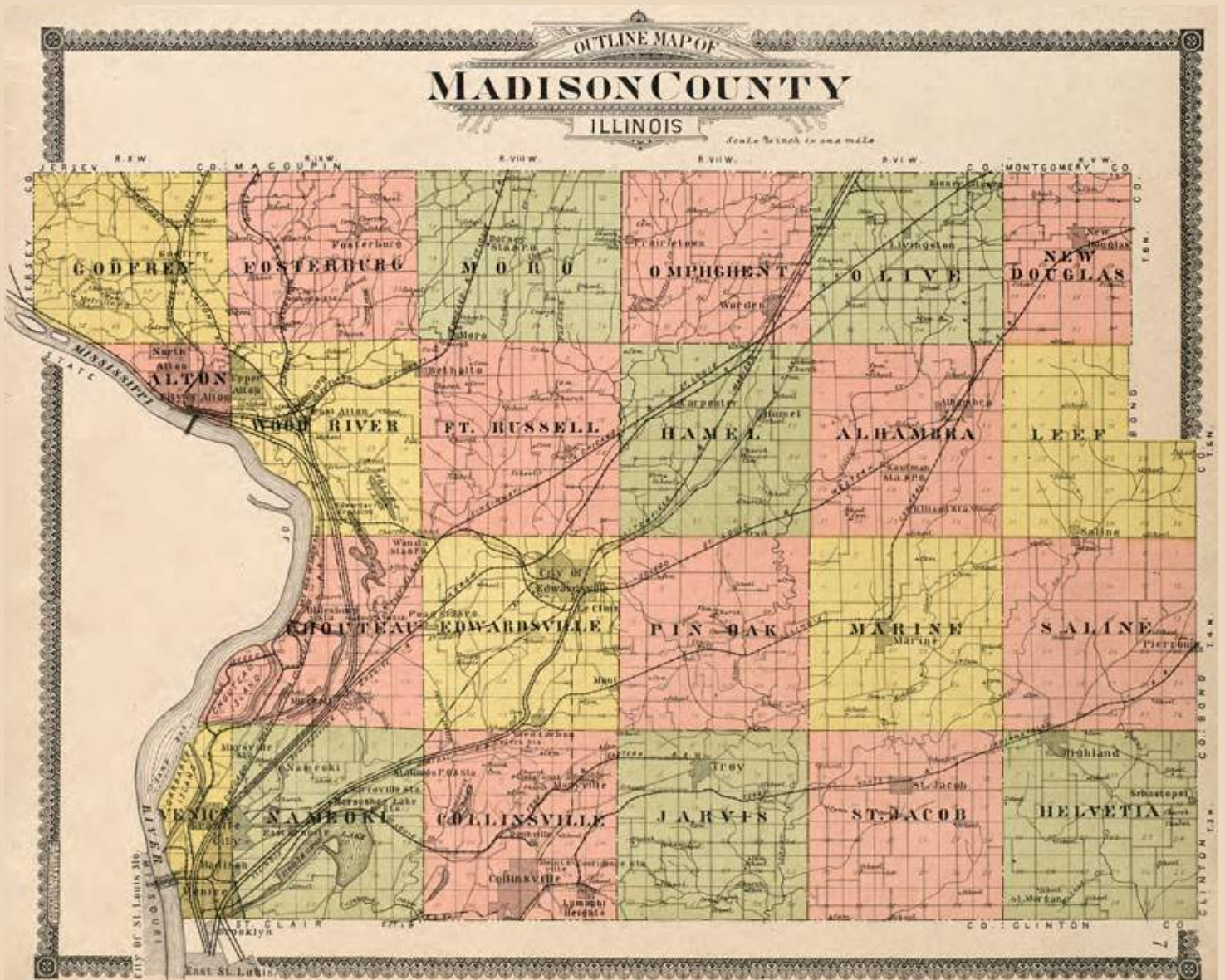




# Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY

MAY/JUNE 2021





## New County Board member sworn into office

The County Board approved Chairman Kurt Prenzler's pick for the vacant District 9 board seat on April 21. Bill Stotenborough of Alton is replacing Jim Dodd who died on March 10.



  
*Out & About*  
in Madison County



Madison County State's Attorney visited local law enforcement during National Police Week (May 9 to 15) to thank and recognize all of the brave men and women who tirelessly work to keep us and our communities safe.



# MADISON COUNTY PROPOSES REDISTRICTING MAPS

*Chairman and County Board both propose plans*

**On May 11,** The Madison County Board met for the first time in person since the start of COVID-19. Chairman Kurt Prenzler presented a proposed redistricting map.



25

Madison County Proposed County Board Districts  
Chairman Kurt Prenzler, CPA

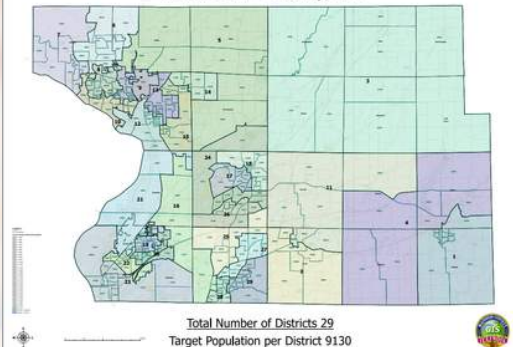


**On May 18,** the County Board held a public hearing on the proposed map, which reduces the county board districts from 29 to 25. The board voted against it on May 19.

**On May 19,** the board presented their own redistricting maps. one for 29 and one for 27. A public hearing is being planned for June.

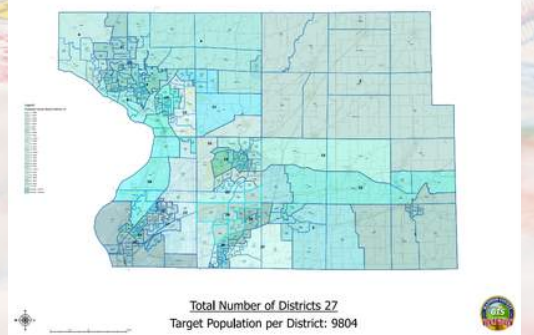
29

Madison County, IL



27

Madison County, IL



To view the current map and all proposed maps visit the county's website at [https://www.co.madison.il.us/government/county\\_board/districts.php](https://www.co.madison.il.us/government/county_board/districts.php).



# New Leadership in Madison County



N

ew County Administrator Dave Tanzyus and IT Director Chris Bethel started in their new roles on May 11.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler appointed, with approval of the County Board, Community and Economic Development Administrator Dave Tanzyus to serve as the new county administrator and Chris Bethel as the IT director, to fill the vacant positions.

"I believe both gentlemen will do a great job," Prenzler said.

The county approved Tanzyus' appointment as community development administrator in December 2020. He has 30 years of experience in all levels of government.

Tanzyus holds a bachelor of arts in history from Oral Roberts University and a master of arts in communications from Lindenwood University.

His background 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.

Tanzyus also worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and on the (then) federally funded Comprehensive Child Development Program. He served as an elected board member and president to the Collinsville Area Recreation District.

Bethel started working for IT in January 2017. He began as a project manager, then became manager of network services. He's served as interim IT director for the department during the past year.

Bethel holds a bachelor of science in computer management and information systems from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Prior to the county, Bethel worked in various IT positions, including computer operator, assistant network administrator.

Bethel also worked as a legislative aide/communications liaison, communications analyst and as district director for Illinois State Rep. Dwight Kay.





# MADISON COUNTY TRANSIT LOWERS FARES



In an effort to make riding the bus easier and more affordable for its passengers, Madison County Transit (MCT) is making a series of positive changes beginning this spring.


Effective May 9, MCT reduced fixed-route and paratransit fares and eliminated confusing fare zone boundaries in Madison County.

“MCT’s goal is to provide affordable, efficient, and high-quality transportation that enables the people of Madison County to access jobs, shopping, medical appointments, and other vital services,” MCT Managing Director SJ Morrison said. “By reducing the fares, and eliminating confusing fare boundaries, it’s our hope that we are removing barriers and making MCT as user-friendly as possible for both current and prospective passengers.”

All fixed-route trips within Madison County will be reduced to just \$1 per ride, and trips to St. Louis and St. Clair County will be \$3. In addition, MCT will be extending bus routes to new job centers, and introducing new trips, with an emphasis on the warehouses in the IL-111 Logistics Corridor.

## FARE STRUCTURE CHANGES:

- Eliminated Madison County fare zones.
- Bus trips that begin and end in Madison County will cost \$1 each way. Those trips are currently \$1.50 or \$2 depending on whether a fare boundary is being crossed.
- Bus trips to or from St. Clair County or St. Louis will cost \$3 each way.
- MCT is expanding the acceptance of the current “Express Round Trip Pass” (Currently \$5 and only valid on MCT Express buses) and transitioning this pass to a “Day Pass” which will remain \$5 but will be valid on ALL MCT fixed-route buses for a full calendar day.
- Eliminated the 2-Hour Zone Pass.
- Reduced costs of the MCT Local Monthly Pass and the MCT Local 30-Day Pass (mobile) from \$50 to \$40.
- Reduced costs of MCT Student Monthly Pass and the MCT 7-Day Pass (mobile) from \$20 to \$15.
- Reduced ADA-eligible trips on Runabout buses.



## Fares

LOCAL	\$1.00	REGIONAL	\$3.00
Elderly <sup>1</sup> Disabled <sup>2</sup> Children under age 5 Police and Military in Uniform		FREE	

## Half Fares

Elderly <sup>3</sup> Disabled <sup>3</sup> Children aged 5 – 12	LOCAL	\$.50
	REGIONAL	\$1.50

Please have correct change. Valid Metro passes and tickets are accepted.

- Seniors (65 and up) with MCT Senior Free Ride ID, or seniors (75 and up) with MCT Senior Select ID.
- Registered ADA Paratransit users with valid MCT Paratransit ID, MCT ADA ID, or MCT Benefits Access ID.
- Persons with disabilities, seniors (65 and up) with MCT Half Fare ID or Metro Reduced Fare Permit. Medicare cardholders eligible.

### MCT Passes

MCT Local Monthly Pass	\$40.00
MCT Local 30-Day Pass (Mobile)	\$40.00
MCT System Monthly Pass	\$70.00
MCT Student Monthly Pass	\$15.00
MCT 7 Day Pass (Mobile)	\$15.00
MCT 2 Hour Regional Pass	\$3.00
MCT Day Pass	\$5.00







# County welcomes FARMER'S MARKET



A summertime staple opened in Madison County this month and Chairman Kurt Prenzler is encouraging people to get out and enjoy it.

"The first farmers markets of the year opened," Prenzler said.

Prenzler said that last year COVID-19 delayed the start of farmers markets, so he's excited about shopping for fresh locally-grown produce, meat, cheese, eggs, honey, baked goods and other edible products

"Nothing tastes better than something that's been grown or made by a local producer," he said. "Farmers do a great job of producing crops for our communities. Plus, it's supporting small business at its best." Prenzler said that the majority of the produce and other goods brought to the markets are by sustainable family farms.

"The University of Illinois Extension also does a lot to promote nutrition and wellness as well as support our local food systems and small farms," Prenzler said. "It goes hand in hand with farmers markets."

Prenzler said the county contributes annual funding to the extension office that serves Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties and offers a variety of programs at no cost. The extension office will offer an online class, "Sample the Season," at noon, May 19, through its "Eat Fresh, Eat Local" series, which will discuss what kinds of fruits and vegetable to expect at the farmers market and explain how to prepare them for ways at the dinner table.

"Food is medicine," Prenzler said. "The farmers markets offer an array of fruits and vegetables throughout the season to fill our nutrition prescription."

Other classes being offered in the series include: "What to Expect at Farmers Market," "Preserve like a Pro," and "Storing your Bountiful Harvest." Visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2021-05-19-sample-season-eat-fresh-eat-local> for more information or to register online.







## Madison County Farmers Markets



### Alton Farmers' and Artisans' Market

<https://downtownalton.com/events/alton-farmers-artisans-market/>



### Bethalto Market in Park

<https://www.bethaltomarketinthepark.org/>



### Land of Goshen Community Market

<https://www.goshenmarket.org/>

### Maryville Farmer's Market

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket/>



### Wood River Farmers' Market

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wood%20River%20Farmers%20Market/383876235001597/>



## ILLINOIS EXTENSION Recipes

### Zucchini Pineapple Bread

(serves 24)

This bread is filled with lots of fruits and veggies.



#### Ingredients

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 3 eggs  | 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour |
| 1/2 cup vegetable oil                           | 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour |
| 1/2 cup applesauce (unsweetened preferred)      | 2 tsp baking soda            |
| 1 cup sugar                                     | 1 tsp salt                   |
| 2 tsp vanilla extract                           | 1/4 tsp baking powder        |
| 2 cups shredded zucchini                        | 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon    |
| 1 can (14-15 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained | 3/4 tsp ground nutmeg        |

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Wash hands with soap and water.
3. Wash zucchini and slice off both ends. Cut zucchini into large chunks and grate. Measure shredded zucchini by packing firmly into a measuring cup.
4. In a large mixing bowl, combine eggs, oil, applesauce, sugar, vanilla, shredded zucchini, and pineapple.
5. In a separate bowl, stir together flours, baking soda, salt, baking powder, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
6. Slowly add dry ingredients to the zucchini mixture and mix well. Pour batter into 2 greased loaf pans.
7. Bake for about one hour or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean.
8. Cool for 10 minutes. Remove and place on wire rack to cool completely.

**Nutrition Facts per serving:** 150 calories, 6g fat, 220mg sodium, 24g carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 3g protein

### Zucchini and Corn Chowder

(serves 4)

Try this chowder on cool, rainy days in summer or any time of year.



#### Ingredients

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 medium carrot, diced       | 2 cups fat-free, low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth  |
| 1 medium stalk celery, diced | 1 1/2 cups diced zucchini (about half a large zucchini) |
| 1 medium potato, diced       | 1 cup corn kernels (fresh or frozen)                    |
| Half a medium onion, diced   | 1 cup 2% milk   |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced      | 1/2 tsp ground black pepper                             |
| 1 Tbsp oil                   |   |

#### Directions

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Wash produce and cut as directed in **Ingredients** list.
3. To a large saucepan, add oil, carrots, celery, potato, onion, and garlic. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes.
4. Stir in broth. Cover and let mixture simmer until vegetables are tender, about 10-15 minutes.
5. Add zucchini and corn. Cover and cook 5 minutes or until zucchini is tender.
6. Stir in milk and black pepper. Cook uncovered 5 minutes or until milk is heated.
7. For a thicker chowder, try option A or B below:
  - A. With a ladle, scoop out 1 cup of mixture without much liquid. Puree in a food processor until smooth, and stir back into chowder.
  - B. In a small bowl, mix 1 Tbsp all-purpose flour with 1/2 cup of chowder liquid until smooth. Pour into saucepan, and stir occasionally until mixture thickens.

**Nutrition Facts per serving:** 170 calories, 5g fat, 120mg sodium, 27g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 5g protein

For more recipe ideas visit the [University of Illinois Extension](https://www.illinoisextension.org/)



# COUNTY OFFICIALS CORNER

Monthly Reports by Elected Officials

## A picture is worth ...



Chief Judge Bill Mudge



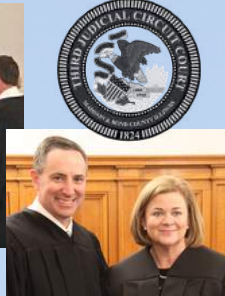
State's Attorney  
Thomas Haine



Coroner Stephen Nonn



### New Circuit Court Judge Sworn Into Office



Illinois Supreme Court Justice David K. Overstreet swore in Madison County's new resident circuit court Judge Amy E. Sholar on May 1 to fill the vacant seat of retired Judge Richard L. Tognarelli.



### County Takes Drugs off the Streets

The State's Attorney's Office, the Madison County Coroner's Office and the Madison County Sheriff's Office hosted its annual Drug Takeback Day on Saturday, April 24 at the Madison County Administration Building.



Madison County State's Attorney Thomas Haine and Coroner Stephen Nonn took part in the annual Drug Takeback Day.

### State's Attorney's Office Gets new staff



Madison County State's Attorney Tom Haine had the honor of swearing in Chris Warren as an investigator for the State's Attorney's Office on April 21.



Illinois Supreme Court Justice David Overstreet swore in new Madison County Assistant State's Attorney Luke Yager on May 5. Yager comes from the Cass County, Mo. Prosecutor's Office, and joins the office's violent crimes unit.



## Canines visit county



The Sheriff's Correctional Officers were honored with a visit to the Madison County Jail on May 5 from the National Crisis Response Canines during National Correctional Officers Week thanking them for their service.



Madison County' Coroner Probationary Investigator Kyle Burgess took his oath of office on April 26.

## County gets new probationary coroner



# Madison County Property Tax Bills to be mailed in June

Treasurer Chris Slusser said residents should start receiving their Madison County Property Tax bills by June 4 and the first due date will be on July 8.

Visit the Treasurer's Office at <https://www.co.madison.il.us/treasurer/index.php> for more information and check out the information on what will be included on the tax bills.



## Total Collected in 2020 - \$422,305,539

SCHOOL DISTRICT	61%	\$254,603,559
CITIES/VILLAGES	8%	\$31,363,171
MADISON COUNTY	7%	\$30,794,352
COMMUNITY COLLEGE	7%	\$31,363,171
OTHER DISTRICTS	6%	\$25,739,637
TIF DISTRICTS	6%	\$27,347,683
TOWNSHIPS	5%	\$21,093,966

In Illinois, property taxes are paid in arrears. Your 2020 taxes are billed and collected in 2021.



**WARNING: Don't Overpay!**  
Ways to reduce YOUR equalized assessed valuation (EAV)

Contact the Chief County Assessor's Office @ 618.692.6270

- Homestead — \$6,000
- Senior Citizen — \$5,000
- Disabled Veteran — Contact Assessor
- Returning Veteran — \$5,000
- Disabled Person — \$2,000
- Senior Citizen Freeze — Contact Assessor
- Homestead Improvement — Contact Assessor



## Important Property Tax Dates

**JULY  
8**

**1st Payment Due**

**SEPT  
8**

**2nd Payment Due**

**OCT  
8**

**3rd Payment Due**

**DEC  
8**

**4th Payment Due**

**To Avoid  
\$10 Certified  
Mailing Fee**  
Payment Must  
Physically Be in  
our Office  
By:

**DEC 31 \***

**To Avoid Name  
Published  
in the Paper**  
Payment Must  
Physically Be in  
our Office  
By:

**JAN 21 \***

**Last Day  
to Pay  
at Local  
Banks/Credit  
Unions:**

**DEC 31**

**Last Day to  
Pay to Avoid  
the Tax Sale:**  
Payment Must  
Physically Be in  
our Office  
By:

**FEB 18 \***

*\*No postmark accepted*

## PAYMENT PENALTIES

The Illinois State Statute states a penalty will be applied for installments post-marked after the due dates.

## SAVING TAXPAYERS' MONEY

Each year, more tax payments are received electronically, which reduces the cost of collecting property taxes. Efficiencies with printing, postage and other reductions save taxpayers' money.

## SAVE TIME Pay Online...Not In Line

There are multiple ways to pay. Visit [www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org) to make an immediate payment or set-up payments. It's fast and secure. Payments may also be made in person, by mail, by phone, at local banks or credit unions, and through online bill pay.

**Chris Slusser**  
Madison County Treasurer



## 5 Easy Property Tax Payment Options

For more information visit  
[www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org)



- 1 Walk-in & Pay** – It is free to pay at the Madison County Treasurer's Office in downtown Edwardsville.
- 2 Mail your Check** – All it costs is a stamp and an envelope. Must be postmarked on or before the due date to avoid penalties.
- 3 Pay at a local Bank/Credit Union** – You may pay at more than 100 county bank locations. You will need to present your tax bill coupon to pay at a participating bank.
- 4 Online Bill Pay** – Many banks offer this electronic payment service for free or for a small fee. Ask your bank about Online Bill Pay.
- 5 Pay Online, by Phone, E-check or Credit Card** – To pay by phone, call 1-844-919-4300. Visit [www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org) to pay by e-check (\$1.50 convenience fee) or by credit card (a 2.5% convenience fee is applied by MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover). **Last Day to use this service will be Feb 18, 2022.**

## Reminders

- Our online payment solution features a convenient AutoPay feature that will allow you to set up your four installments for July 8<sup>th</sup>, Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> and Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. You will receive an Email a few days before each due date reminding you of the pending transaction.
- The online payment system will inform you if a mortgage company has or plans to pay your property taxes.
- Phone payments will only be accepted by calling 1-844-919-4300
- When mailing your payment, please separate the payment coupon fully and cleanly tear off all perforations.

## If you scheduled your tax payment through our web-site last year, you do not need to do anything.

Your payment will continue to be deducted as you have specified.

To **Stop, Verify or Change** your scheduled payment, go to [www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org)

For updates visit us on at **Madison County Treasurer** or call us at (618) 692-6260.

[www.madcotreasurer.org](http://www.madcotreasurer.org)  
madcotreas@co.madison.il.us





# Madison County is **StormReady**

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

*M*adison County is certified "Storm Ready."

On May 4, Kevin Deitsch, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service St. Louis presented a StormReady recognition certificate along with a metal road sign to Madison County Emergency Management Agency Director Anthony Falconio and Chairman Kurt Prenzler at the Administration Building.

"Recognition as a StormReady community is a great honor to the agency, and county as a whole," Falconio said.

Falconio said the certification means that Madison County did everything possible to be fully prepared for extreme weather conditions, such as storms, tornadoes and flooding.

"The county is appreciative of all the work done by EMA and its volunteers," Prenzler said.

The StormReady Program is designed to help communities prepare for severe weather with the communications and safety skills needed to save lives and property-before, during, and after a weather related incident occurs.

In order to receive such recognition the county had to demonstrate competency in certain areas of storm preparedness such as providing timely alerts to the public and public safety agencies. Other areas demonstrated were the abilities to have trained storm spotters and ways to communicate weather conditions to the National Weather Service during a severe weather event.

To be StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.



·Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.

·Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Visit [www.weather.gov/StormReady](http://www.weather.gov/StormReady) to find out more about the NWS program.

The StormReady recognition is awarded for a three-year period and is renewed by inspection through NWS.

"StormReady means that we are ready to respond to whatever Mother Nature wants to throw at us and that is a reflection of the team we have built at Madison County EMA," Falconio said.



# Madison County Honors Volunteer

Andy McKellar named EMA's first Volunteer of Year

**M**adison County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) picked their volunteer of the year.

On May 2, Andy McKellar, of Troy, and a longtime volunteer for EMA was presented with the agency's inaugural award. EMA held its first dinner to thank the agency's team of 35 registered volunteers and honored McKellar for his service and dedication.

"Andy has been with us since the volunteer team began," Director of Madison County EMA Tony Falconio said. "The team has changed a lot in the last few years and we rely on our volunteers heavily to respond to incidents and deploy equipment. We couldn't do all that we do without them and Andy is a prime example."

In 2009, McKellar signed up for his first emergency management class with then EMA Director Larry Ringering

"At the end of the class, Larry invited me to join the Madison County Incident Management Team," McKellar said. "The following year I helped him at another class which led me to become an instructor myself."

Since then, McKellar has become a certified instructor and has taught about 300 people across 18 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes throughout the County. During the classes, which are free to residents, the program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

"I truly enjoy seeing people get involved after attending CERT classes," McKellar said. "When I first began teaching CERT classes, I was the only instructor; now three former students are also certified instructors and six former CERT students are on the EMA volunteer team."

In addition to his volunteerism in Madison County, McKellar also puts in time with the Methodist Church Illinois Great River Conference Early Response Team and has been involved in recovery efforts in Joplin, Missouri and Haiti among others.

Visit

[https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/emergency\\_management](https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/emergency_management) to learn more about the County's CERT team and other volunteer programs.



## Community Emergency Response Team



**T**he Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs.

CERT became a national program in 1993. There are now CERT programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each is unique to its community and all are essential to building a Culture of Preparedness in the United States. There are over 2,700 local CERT programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program.





# Madison County provides "tools" for fire department training



Edwardsville firefighters made the most recently of three Madison County vans during extrication training at the city's public works facility.

Edwardsville Fire Department received a new Holmatro Pentheon electric/hydraulic extrication tool and the county sold them three surplus vehicles for \$1 each. Each year area communities receive decommissioned vehicles as part of the county's initiative to sell its surplus.

Chairman Kurt 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 is the first time we sold a vehicle that a department won't be driving around," Prenzler said. "These vans were inoperable and this is a great use for them."

Chief James Whiteford said believes this type of training is invaluable and is thankful they were able to purchase the vans. All three shifts, 30 firefighters, will receive training on the new tool.

"It's not often we receive these type of vehicles to train on," Whiteford said.

Whiteford said although firefighters are always training, it was nice to have the ability to work on the larger vehicles, especially since the department got to use its stabilization struts.

"It's good for the community to know that first responders that are coming to a scene are current with extrication skills and up to speed on the tools they are using," County Board member Jamie Goggin of Edwardsville said.

Goggin said he felt it was a terrific idea to sell the surplus vehicles to the fire department and he hopes that in the future other departments and districts consider the surplus vehicles.



Madison County Board member Jamie Goggin, Edwardsville Fire Chief James Whiteford and Chairman Kurt Prenzler







MADISON COUNTY BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Madison County leads the effort to pick up trash along highway



here is nothing attractive about trash on the side of the roads, that is why county leaders are cleaning it up themselves.

"We take it seriously, we want our communities to look good, we want it to look clean for a variety of reasons," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

Building and Zoning Director Chris Doucleff said he receives constant complaints about the litter along Interstate 270 and Illinois 255, along with other routes that lead to the landfill. The reason — garbage dump trucks may not be tarping their trucks properly and debris flies out.

"Trash is constantly flying out the trucks hauling trash from Missouri to the Roxana Landfill," Doucleff said. "The No. 1 problem area in the county is the intersection at I-270 and Illinois Route 3."

Madison County launched its Clean Communities program in March and within its first two months, more than 1,500 resource tool kits distributed to individuals and groups. The kits include trash bags, reflective vests, gloves and litter grabbers.

"It's remarkable how many people are excited about taking part in this program," Doucleff said. "Not only does the public get involved, but the chairman has gone out on several occasions to pick up trash and so have employees."

On May 12, Doucleff, along with building and zoning employees — Public Engagement Coordinator Brandon Banks and Education Coordinator Bailey Lutz — went to two problem locations to pick up trash — Illinois Route 143, just east of the Illinois 255 overpass, and the intersection of Interstate 270 and Illinois Route 3.

"We collected trash all day and didn't even pick up half the trash that was out there," he said.

Doucleff said that after picking up the trash he contacted Granite City Mayor Mike Parkinson, who then sent a public works crew to haul away the collected items.

"Not all of the debris at the 270/3 interchange is coming from the trash haulers," he said. "Some of it is being dumped."

Metal parts, clothing, bottles filled with urine and a mattress were all discarded under the overpass.

"It's always nice to have a cooperative effort between the city and county," Parkinson said.

Parkinson said anytime the county or residents in Granite City volunteers to pick up trash the city will assist in hauling away the debris. 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. Like Madison County Clean Communities Facebook page and share your volunteer cleanup with the hashtag #MadCoClean.



## WRAPPING VETERAN WITH GRATITUDE



Madison County VAC Veterans Service Officer Torie Ryan receives a Quilt of Valor from Jan Copeland on April 30.

A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

Visit [Quilts of Valor](#) to find out more.



*Quilts of Valor®*  
Quilts = Healing!



## HONORING FALLEN VETERANS

This national cemetery in Alton is one of 131 national cemeteries spread over 40 states. The tradition of honoring those died while serving in this country's armed forces began after the Civil War in 1868.

It's at the Alton cemetery where many Civil War veterans, some 200 union soldiers are buried.

A sunset service will held May 31 at the cemetery to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice..

Visit the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, National Cemetery Association to learn more about the [Alton Cemetery](#).







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

# Madison County resident receives lifetime achievement



Although retired as an educator, Johnson continues to teach others about the history of African American families, especially throughout Illinois. "Johnson is being recognized for her knowledge and expertise," said Furry, "but her reputation as a historical resource and her generosity as a researcher are hallmarks of the letters in support of her nomination."

In one of those letters, Allen Ringshausen of the Great Rivers Land Trust said he came to work with Johnson on the Rocky Fork Creek Network to Freedom Site several years ago. He readily admits that although he had experience in preservation and archeological research, he knew little about black history.

"Charlotte changed all that," he said. "Charlotte acted as teacher, mentor, and historian and guided Great Rivers Trust through the process of tracking the history of the Rocky Fork Community. Her collection of historic photos, letters, notes, and articles is second only to the knowledge she carries in her mind. It is information she willingly shares with those around her."

Similar sentiments were echoed by others who wrote letters of support of the nomination including Dr. Dale Chapman and Dr. Linda Chapman who worked with her and Curator Jim Price to build an extraordinary exhibit on the Rocky Fork Church at Lewis and Clark Community College in 2014.

Dr. Wesley Johnson-McNeese called on Johnson's expertise when writing a book about African American physicians in Springfield. "She is a skilled and knowledgeable historian," he said, "who has shared her expertise liberally, especially with members of the central and southern Illinois region. Her body of work is extensive. Her reputation in research is impeccable, and she is well respected by her peers."

Johnson, who grew up in Springfield, Ill., taught choral music in Chicago and Minneapolis before moving to Alton where she became involved in the Black Pioneers of the Alton Museum of Art and History. An exhibit at the museum, "20th Century African American Leaders of Alton," led to her work with the Springfield Bicentennial Commission's exhibit, "If the Truth Be Told," and then to work with the National Park Service and its Underground Railroad Freedom Project, to name just a few of her many research subjects.

Johnson's most recent project is a blog, written with her daughter, Reneé B. Johnson, telling the history of African Americans in southwestern Illinois. The blog can be found on the Great Rivers and Routes tourism bureau website.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Johnson continues to teach and explore the lessons of the past, while in many respects also living in history. Her home is on land that overlooks property that has been in the Johnson family since 1845.

**A**lton resident receives 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS.)

The ISHS presented Charlotte E. Johnson with the award on April 23 via video conference. ISHS Director William Furry and Cindy Reinhardt of the Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) delivered the award to her.

MCHS nominated Johnson for the award, which is given to individuals for sustained and varied contributions to state and local history.

In presenting the award, ISHS stressed how Johnson has "cast her shadow across southwest central Illinois for nearly 50 years as a researcher, genealogist, historian, and teacher." The society called her a virtual "encyclopedia of African American history."



Visit <https://madcohistory.org/> to learn more Madison County Historical Society or view online exhibits.

Visit <https://www.historyillinois.org/> to find out more about history in Illinois.



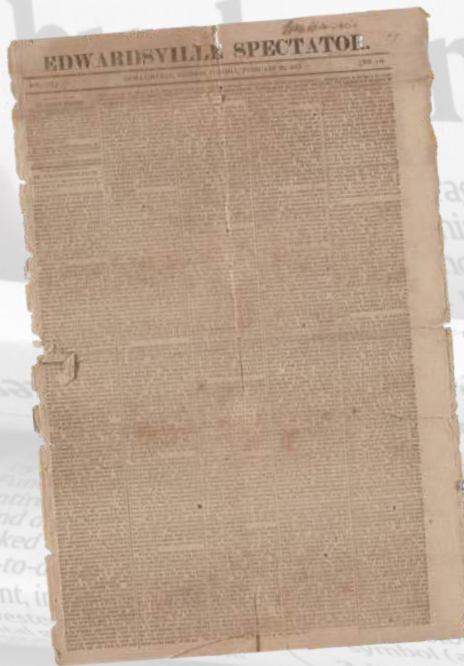
**ILLINOIS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**





# Madison County NEWSPAPERS

<https://madison.illinoisgenweb.org/newspapers.html>

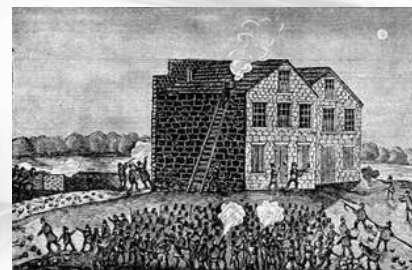


**The Edwardsville Spectator** — May 29, 1819 - 1826 — Madison County's first newspaper printed.

It was the third paper published in the State and opposed the convention of 1824, marking it the first distinctively anti-slavery paper ever published in the Illinois.



**Observer** — Sept. 8, 1836 to Aug. 21, 1837 — First published in St. Louis as an organ of the Presbyterians, Elijah P. Lovejoy became the editor and in 1836 moved the press to Alton to continue his "assail on the institution of slavery." Due to his support for the abolitionist regime he was shot dead in a warehouse and his printing press thrown in the Mississippi River.



**The Question and Madison County Courier** were a few newspapers published for and about the African American Community. Read more on [Rivers and Routes](#).



**Argus** — 1871 to 1880 — First published by Union Publishing Co. and then owned by Collinsville Publishing Co.

In Greek Argus means "all seeing one" or alert and watchful eye.



Madison County's longest running newspapers are now both owned by Hearst Newspapers.

**The Telegraph** — Jan. 17, 1836 to present

**Intelligencer** — Nov. 12, 1862 to present





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.

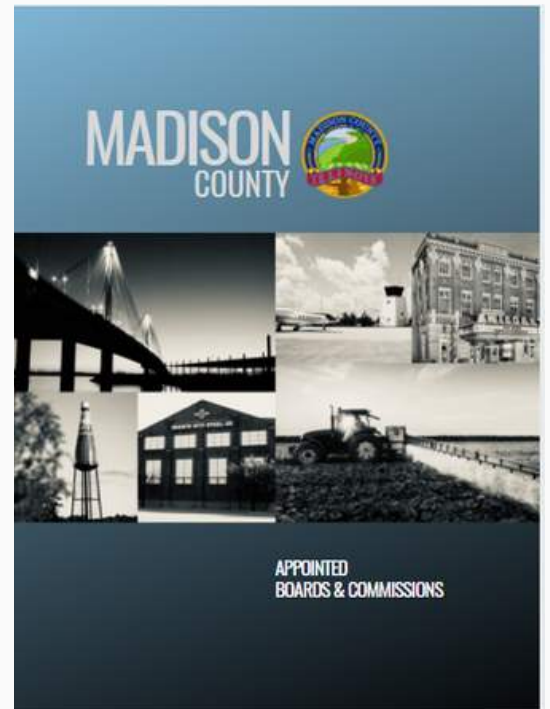
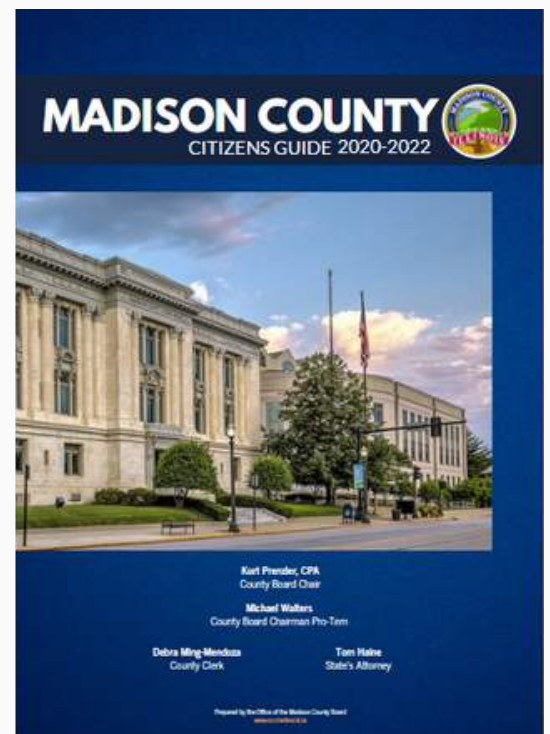


Visit Madison County to watch live County Board meetings. The public is invited to attend.

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