

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021



Sept. 18

FRI

National Cleanup Day

National Cheeseburger Day

First Day of Fall Sept. 22

National Checkers Day Sept. 23 (a.k.a, Dogs in Politics Day)



Oct. 1 International Coffee Day

Oct 4 National Vodka Dav



Mastermind Vodka 4262 State Route 162 **Pontoon Beach**

Blue Stem Vodka 5313 IL-140 **Bethalto**

distilleries

National Taco Day

Madison County is home to two Vodka

ADHD Awareness Month

October is...

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Animal Safety and Protection Month

lational Depression Education and Awareness Month

Oct. 6 National Coaches Day



Oct. 12 **Farmers Day**

> Oct. 16 **Global Cat Day**





in Madison County



Dog Day Afternoon

Madison County Auditor David Michael is caught petting a pooch from Metro East Humane Society in the lobby of the Administration Building on National Dog Day on Aug. 26 .Madison County Animal Control arranged for MEHS and Partners for Pets to bring in adoptable dogs for the day, ... encouraging employees to take a break and cuddle with a canine



Cutting Edge

County Board member Jack Minner stands with Edwardsville Mayor Jack Risavy on Aug. 27 at the ribbon cutting of the Edwardsville Senior Living Facility at Hillsboro Avenue.

Memorial Run

County Chairman Kurt Prenzler (right) cheered for his wife, Rita, who ran in the annual Bradley R. Smith 5k in Troy on Sept. 11 and then thanked the father, Gary Smith, of the airman killed in Afghanistan, for his sons sacrifice.



Soapbox Smiles

County Board member Matt King (left) takes a break during the annual East Alton Soapbox Derby on Sept. 11 to smile with Wood River Township Assessor Sandy Shaw and East Alton Treasurer Randy Nelson.



Party at the Park

County Board member Mike Walters speaks during a groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. xx for the expansion of Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. Walters also serves as the chair of the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Board.

national Dogs in Politics Day September 23







County Board member Eric Foster with his Labrador "Doc Holliday"

This holiday reminds us that sometimes non-humans make the most honest, dependable, and hardworking public servants.

In honor of National Dog Day, here are some Madison County elected officials with their furry friend.

To findo ut more about National Dog Day visit <u>here</u>.



Regional School Superintendent Robert Werden and his dog, Max.







Coroner Stephen Nonn with his "crew," including one he and his wife, Sue, are fostering





County Board member Erica Conway-Harriss and Penny the Labradoodle.



County Board member Matt King enjoys hunting with his dog Lucy.

Edwardsville Senior Living Facility Opens



/ ity, county and state officials attend ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 27 for the newly opened Edwardsville Senior Living Facility.

The new, apartment complex on Hillsboro Avenue opened in July and is nearly occupied. The complex sits on the site of the former Anna Henry Nursing Home.

President of Phoenix Real Estate Services, Dan Barnard, the site's developer, said at the end of August that 31 of the 48 units were occupied and he expected the buildings to be full by September's end.

Barnard said the project cost \$12 million, including \$9 million in federal low-income housing tax credits and \$450,000 through Madison County Community Development Home Housing and Urban Development funding.

The complex includes two, three-story apartment buildings for those who are 55 years of age and older and a clubhouse. Apartment are between 825 and 1,054 square feet of space and monthly rent ranges from \$675 for a one-bedroom and \$825 for two bedrooms.

A clubhouse offers a kitchenette, restrooms, a lounge area and workout space, as well as several along with the management office.

Barnard said he had been looking to building Edwardsville for quite some time. It is the company's eighth project, with the majority in Missouri.

Madison County Board members Eric Foster, Jack Miner and Victor Valentine attended the ceremony. Foster, who chairs the Grants Committee, which oversees Community Development, said he was impressed by the new apartment complex.

"This project is an asset, not only to Edwardsville, but to all of Madison County," Foster said.

For more information about the Edwardsville Senior Living complex, call 618-789-0073. Alternatively, prospective residents can log-on to edwardsvilleseniorliving.com for more details.





ounty and community leaders came together on Friday to share the message of hope and how there are life-saving services available for all who are considering suicide.

"Suicide is a public crisis," Madison County Mental Health Board president Herb Clay said.

Clay welcomed everyone to the first Madison County Suicide Prevention Awareness event held in the Madison County Administration Building on World Suicide Prevention Day. He said suicide touches the lives of everyone and it does not care about age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion or background.

"Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone," he said.

Clay introduced County Board Chairman Kurt Prenzler, who read a proclamation recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Coroner Stephen Nonn said every 40 seconds someone take their own life.

"That's right every 40 seconds," he said. "It's a national crisis."

He said suicide is the No. 1 leading cause of death for those 15 to 29 years of age.

Nonn said individuals who commit suicide are not cowards, but rather people who are in pain or feel like they have no other choice.

Katie Wilson said that five years ago she felt like one of those people. She said she had thoughts of suicide and felt there was nothing else to live for and recognized she needed help.

"I called a friend and asked if he could take me to the hospital," Wilson said. "He did and he waited there with me. He held my hand the whole time and made sure I was OK."

Two Collinsville firefighters spoke about the perils that paramedics face while on the job,



"I've got 40 years in the fire service and seeing the devastation of dealing with suicide until April 30, 2019," Collinsville Fire Chief Bailot said.

Bailot said at the time he was living in Ohio and they received a phone call his son didn't show up in class for two days, he said he reached out to the police chief where his son lived and asked if he could check on him.

He said his doorbell rang and there two deputies sheriffs at his front door.

"I knew from my experience there was only one reason that two deputy sheriffs were at his house," Bailot said. "Our son Steven took his life. He was just 29.

"Listen to that statistic."

Bailot said his son, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a University of Missouri graduate and in law school at the time of his death.

"The hardest part is people don't want to ask me about him," he said. "The take away today for someone who had lost someone is reach out to them and talk to them."

Collinsville Lt. Kurt Litteken said he's spent 21 years in the fire service and the past 14 years in Collinsville and there is help for the first responders who deal with crisis on a daily basis.

"As first responders we are supposed to be super strong and the toughest out there," Litteken said.

Litteken said no matter if the individual is in full-time, paid-on-call or volunteer first responder death is something people have a hard time excepting.

"As first responders it's something with have to figure out," he said. "I'm here to say there are ways to get help."

Litteken said that firefighters/first responders and law enforcement can reach out to the Illinois Firefighter Peer Support (https://www.ilffps.org/) or Illinois Law Enforcement Peer Support (https://www.illeops.org/) find peers to talk to get the support they need.

"We experience things we shouldn't have to experience," he said. "A lot of first responders have baggage and we don't share that with anyone."

Becky Holmes lost her son, a U.S. Marine veteran, to suicide and said a "glitch" in the system is what prevented him from getting the treatment he needed.

"HE was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and something in his paperwork prevented him from getting the help he needed," Holmes said.

Madison County VAC Superintendent Brad Lavite and a U.S. Army veteran said he experienced a PTSD episode like so many veterans, but his outcome was different.



"I'm still here." Lavite said.





GIVE-US YOUR 0 ! BEST

MADISON COUNTY PHOTO CONTEST

Who can enter? Anyone

What should the photos be about? Madison County arts & history, cityscapes, landscapes, lifestyle, nature/wildlife and transportation

When? The deadline to enter photos is Sept. 30, 2021.

Where do I enter? Send photos to <u>madcoevents@co.madison.il.us</u>. Include photographers name, email address and location of photo. Images submitted must be in .jpg file format, and should be in landscape orientation with a minimum width of 1600 pixels (larger files will be accepted, but not smaller).

Why? Madison County wants to see the county as you see it and share your work for others to see too.

The photos selected will be used on the county's website, social media pages and in other promotional material to include the newsletter



COUNTY OFFICIALS CORNER Monthly Reports by Elected Officials







Honor Flights_

In remembrance of Sept 11, 2001, members of the first responder community gathered at the Cahokia Mounds for the annual 9/11 Stair Climb. Deputies Kelsey Ford and Drew Beckley participated with Deputy Ford honoring NYPD Officer Mark Ellis and Deputy Beckley honored NYPD Detective Claude Richards.

2021 LAPS = 10 FLOORS (O LAPS = 7 8 FLOOD IN 5 LAPS = 62 FLORS

On Sept. 3, Deputy Brianna Markel worked her last shift with her K-9 partner, Jada. Deputy Markel posted on Instagram "Half my career in law enforcement has been spent with you by my side. You've been with me in my darkest hours, both professionally and personally. You saved my life. I saved yours....Seeing you - that goofy brown eyed, big eared face...I dread the day I don't get to see it anymore. It haunts me. There are no words to accurately describe the bond we have. Only other handlers truly get it. You showed me what true, unconditional love and what a true bond is between a K9 and their handler"





Rising Above

Sheriff John Lakin (back) and Major Jeff Conner (far right) would like to congratulate the jail deputies who were recently promoted. From left to right: Jordan E. Griffin to sergeant, James L. Haring to sergeant Devin B. Caldwell to sergeant, Juannell C. Goodwin to sergeant and Sgt. Blake C. Sellers to lieutenant.

Newly promoted Jail Deputy Sgt. Blake Burden stands with Sheriff John Lakin.

Patrol Sgt. Matthew Werner (not pictured) promoted to lieutenant.



PROBATION DEPARTMEN



Madison County Probation Department Holding Diaper and Wipes Drive

adison County probation officers are stepping up to help one of their own and restoring hope for children in foster care.

Six years ago, Madison County Probation Office Harlon Bloodworth and his wife, Lisa, felt the call to serve as foster parents. In 2016, the couple underwent training, home inspections and background check and received their foster care license through Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

"As of today we have been blessed to care for 6 children who were placed in our home," Bloodworth said.

Bloodworth of Bethalto said that two of the children went back into their mothers care.

"We adopted three of the children and are currently fostering a 3-week-old baby," he said. "We also have four of our own kids."

"It's hard work, but it's worth it," he said. "Most things worth doing aren't easy and we are lucky to have the support from our family, friends, our church, Vaughn Hill Church of Christ in Wood River, and The Restore Network."

He said foster homes are in desperate need.

"They just don't have enough help," he said. "There are over 21,000 kids in foster care and 700 foster families in Madison County alone. It's overwhelming."

It was after the Bloodworths took in their latest foster child, his co-workers wanted to do something more to help.

"He's done so much to help kids and we wanted to do something on his behalf for the organization that's helped his family," Probation Officer Nichole Schobernd said.

The Probation Department is holding a diaper and wipes drive for the Restore Network. Anyone wishing to drop off diapers and wipes can do so from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Probation Office at the Madison County Administration Building, Suite 312, Edwardsville.

The deadline for drop offs is Oct. 21. Probation will deliver the donated items to the offices at Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Fosterburg.

Bloodworth encourages people to look into becoming a foster family or volunteering or donating. He said anyone interested should go to <u>https://therestorenetwork.org/</u> to find out more on what it takes to become a foster parent.



Madison County Probation

supports The Restore Network

Diaper & Wipes Drive



Items needed: DIAPERS (any size) WIPES DIAPER CREAM

Madison County Administration Building — 157 N.Main St., Suite 312, Edwardsville

DROP OFF 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday To Friday DEADLINE OCT. 21

RESTORE NETWORK changing the culture of foster care



31st annual Jobs Plus Job Fair

9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Sept. 22 Gateway Convention Center 1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville



* sponsered by Madison and St. Clair counties



Madison County offering Clean Communities Resource Tool Kit

ommunities around the globe are coming together to make a difference in keeping their neighborhoods and outdoor spaces clean and more enjoyable.

"National Cleanup Day is Saturday," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said. "We hope people will outside and pick up trash and debris, even if its just in their neighborhood."

September is National Cleanup Month and its held in conjunction with National Cleanup Day, which more than 180 countries take part in the event. The day is about focusing on cleaning up litter, trash and "free range" plastic.

"Madison County wants everyone to focus on reducing the amount of litter and trash in their communities," Prenzler said.

Prenzler said the county's Building and Zoning Department launched its Clean Communities program in March and it continues to provide resource tool kits to individuals and groups, free of charge.

The kits include trash bags, reflective vests, gloves and litter grabbers.

"There have been a lot of people take part in this program," Building and Zoning Director Chris Doucleff Doucleff said. "We've had more than 1,200 people pick up resource kits from the county."

Doucleff said that studies show that the highest indicator that someone will pick up litter is if they witness someone else picking up litter.

"Volunteering not only encourages others to join in, but it helps support local communities," he said.

Volunteers can pick up their resource tool kit at the Madison County Administration Building, Suite 254, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville. Up to six tool kits will be available for individual households and small groups. Up to 24 kits will be available for larger scheduled clean-ups and organizations.

To receive your tool kits simply fill out the <u>short online form</u> (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CleanToolKit) linked below or email recycling@co.madison.il.us to request the number of tool kits needed. For more information, please call (618) 296-5237 or visit our website at www.madisoncountybz.com

Like Madison County Clean Communities Facebook page and share your volunteer cleanup with the hashtag #MadCoClean.

National





LIHEAP Assistance available for Madison County residents

Adison County is now taking applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP.)

Madison County Community Development obtained funding through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to assist low-income residents with rising cost of home energy bills. The program starts Sept. 1 and runs through May 31, 2022 or until funds are depleted, whichever comes first and there will be no priority groups under the new program year.

Households in need of energy assistance, especially those with disconnection notices, high past due balances and the general population affected by wage fluctuations due to COVID-19 are encouraged to apply. In addition, propane customers are strongly encouraged to apply.

This year Madison County Energy Assistance will be offering three programs:

- The <u>first program</u> is the traditional LIHEAP assistance, which is a one-time payment towards the customer's energy bill. The amount is determined by the household income, number of household members, and the type of fuel used for heating.
- The <u>second program</u> is the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP). The PIPP program is offered to Ameren customers only. This program pays a monthly benefit toward the customer's bill and the customer pays the remaining amount of their bill. The payment is determined by the household income and the type of fuels used for heating. PIPP also has an arrearage reduction program for customers with large back bills. If the customer pays their portion of the monthly bill in full and by the due date, 1/12 of their arrearage, up to \$1,000 per year, will be forgiven by the utility. The PIPP program is from Sept. 1 through March 31, 2022 or until funds run out; whichever comes first.
- The <u>third program</u> Madison County Energy Assistance will offer is the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). The LIHWAP program is offered to LIHEAP applicants that are in need of assistance with their water and/or sewer services. We can help Madison County residents that are: disconnected with their water services, in threat of disconnection, or have a \$250 or more arrearage on that utility. The eligibility for the LIHWAP program is the same as the LIHEAP program.

The Madison County Community Development Energy Assistance Office administers LIHEAP, PIPP, and LIHWAP to help residents with the application process. Persons wishing to apply should contact the nearest Outreach Site in their area for an appointment. Clients must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance including:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30day income period beginning with the date of the application.
- A copy of their current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly).
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.

Proof that their household received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD); or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

2020 Federal Poverty Guideline for 200% of Poverty for Program Year

Family Size	30-Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$2,147	\$25,760
2	\$2,903	\$34,840
3	\$3,660	\$43,920
4	\$4,417	\$53,000
5	\$5,173	\$62,080
6	\$5,930	\$71,160
A MARKEN PORT	\$6,590	\$79,081
8	\$6,737	\$80,838

What is LIHEAP?

The Low Income Home Energy Assistant Program helps those in need pay their heating bills through energy assistance graths

Who is eligible?

Homeowners and renters who are responsible for their heating bill and have a low or fixed income are eligible. Eligibility is given to those making less that 200 percent of the poverty level.



How do I apply?

To apply for LIHEAP call one of the county's 14 Outreach Site's to set up an appointment.

What is the status of my application?

To obtain the status of an application visit https://liheap2020.ilenergyassistance.co m/customeringuiry/ or call the Illinois LIHEAP Hotline at 1-877-411-9276.



Madison County Outreach Sites

Veterans Assistant Commission	(618) 296-4554
Granite City Housing Authority	
Madison County Urban League (Alton)	(618) 463-1906
Madison County Urban League (Madison)	(618) 877-8860
Chouteau Township	(618) 931-0360
Collinsville Township	(618) 344-1290
Edwardsville Township	(618) 656-0292
Ft. Russell Township	(618) 377-5660
Jarvis Township	(618) 667-2560
Highland Area Christian Ministry	(618) 654-9295
Olive Township	(618) 637-2630
Senior Services Plus (seniors 60+)	(618) 465-3298
Venice Township	(618) 452-1121
Glen Ed Pantry	(618) 656-7506

For additional information on LIHEAP contact Madison County Community Development **Energy Assistance**

(618) 296-6485

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Applications for home energy relief are now being accepted through May 31, 2022, or until funds are depleted

CONTACT A MADISON COUNTY OUTREACH SITE TO APPLY





For more information about LIHEAP or where to find and Outreach Site visit https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/community_development/energy_ _assistance_program_(liheap).php



/adison County health officials want the public to know that there is a treatment for those who test positive for COVID-19 and it decreases hospitalization and death from the disease.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler said on Tuesday the Madison County Health Advisory Committee discussed monoclonal antibody infusion following Missouri's rollout of the treatment last week.

"It's important that this treatment is offered to COVID-positive patients as soon as possible," Prenzler said.

Medical professionals say the treatment is a potent version of the natural defense that people build to fight a virus. Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful viruses and bacteria, which can cause disease.

Committee members asked about the treatment and why it wasn't advertised. Committee member Laura DeLuca, a registered nurse, said a co-worker who tested positive was provided the treatment, because they knew about it.

"I don't ever see anything about it," Deluca said.

Health Department Director Toni Corona said medical providers in Madison County are aware of the treatment and it is available on a case-by-case basis. She said the trick is for the individual who tests positive for COVID to discuss the treatment with their health care provider.

"You're right, you don't hear a lot about it." Corona said.

from needing to get admitted to the hospital. Who can get this treatment? To receive treatment you can either have a positive COVID-19 test and be high risk or have been expo who has COVID-19. High-risk individuals can be:

advertised on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website and asked that it be shared on the county health department site.

a good idea to tell the public that monoclonal antibody treatment is

effective and available in Madison County.

who do not require hospitalization or require oxygen therapy

65 or older and weigh at least

80 lbs. or more

What are monoclonal antibodies?

They are a type of treatment, given as a shot in the vein or

before it becomes serious. This can save lives and stop

Told by a doctor

they are at high

risk of a serious

DPH

case of COVID-19

under your skin, that can protect you from getting COVID-19 If you've been exposed and it can also treat COVID-19

State of Illinois Illinois Department of Public Health

Prenzler said the consensus of the health advisory committee is that it is

In November, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization to allow the use of nal antibodies for the treatment of mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 in adults and pediatric pati

Monoclonal Antibodies Treatment

Age 12 or older and weigh at least 80 lbs AND have any of the following:

COVID-19

- Chronic kidney disease
- Heart or lung disease
- BMI of 25 or greater
- Pregnancy
- Diabetes
- Immunosuppressive disease

Questions about COVID-19? Call 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov is Department of Public Health - www.dph.illinois.gov

"It's a shame it's not advertised," Deluca said.



Madison County History



Madison County will no longer operate museum and archival library

fficials voted Sept. 15 to dissolve its 97-year relationship with the Madison County Historical Museum and Archival Library.

The County Board passed a resolution terminating the lease for the museum and granting the Madison County Historical Society \$300,000.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler said the society, which leases the museum and library property to the county, approached the county wanting to end the relationship. "The historical society wants to go in a new direction," Prenzler said. "This is a savings for the taxpayers and everyone wins."

In 1924, the County Board designated a courthouse room for society's historical collections and thus the birth of the museum and archival library.

In 1963, the Society purchased the Weir House at 715 N. Main, Edwardsville, and started renovations and in the same year, the County Board voted to create a tax levy for operating the historical museum.

On Nov. 1, 1964, the museum moved to the Weir House to accommodate the society's growing history collection.





In April 1975, the county approved its first lease with the historical society. The county leases the museum property from the society, collects the taxes for the operation and maintenance of the facilities, and pays for museum personnel salaries and benefits.

The county budgets approximately \$250,000 annually for the museum. In June 2009, the county and society signed the current lease, which included additional properties

On July 1, 2016, the society closed the Weir House to replace the roof and its remained closed since that time as the property continues to undergo renovations and repairs.

The resolution states, "the County Board determines that public necessity and convenience require the termination of the lease and operating agreement effective Nov. 30."

Prenzler said the levy will be "zeroed" out starting in in 2022. The museum's current tax levy collected \$106,962.

"The county will collect 2021 taxes in 2022 and after that the levy will no longer appear on property tax bills," he said.

Myseym's in Madison County





ALTON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART 2809 College Ave. Alton

COLONEL BENJAMIN STEPHENSON HOUSE

409 S. Buchannan St.

Edwardsville



CAMP RIVER DUBOIS 198 N. Main St. Wood River



EDWARDSVILLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM 722 Holyoake Road Edwardsville



MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM 716 N. Main St. Edwardsville



COLLINSVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM 406 W. Main St. Collinsville

ERWIN H. WEDER MUSEUM 600 13th St. Highland

EAST ALTON HISTORY MUSEUM 119 Main St. **East Alton**



MARYVILLE HERITAGE MUSEUM 128 E. Zupan St. Maryville



GLEN CARBON HERITAGE MUSEUM

124 School St.

Glen Carbon

OLD SIX MILE MUSEUM 3729 Maryville Road **Granite City**



WOOD RIVER REFINERY HISTORY MUSEUM 150 E. Fifth St. Roxana



WOOD RIVER MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER 40 W. Ferguson Ave. Wood River



OLD FIRE ENGINE MUSEUM 1411 19th Street **Granite City**



NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM No. 2 Locks and Dam Way, Alton



LEWIS & CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE 1 Lewis & Clark Trail Hartford

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 Committe meertings.

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

> To listen to past meetings, or read approved minutes, visit <u>https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/</u> <u>county_clerk/county_board_records/board</u> <u>agendas_and_minutes.php</u>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.





🔀 coboard@co.madison.il.us

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



618-296-4341 -

Madison County Board —

Created by Madison County Public Relations and Communications