



Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY

MARCH 2023

GREAT RIVERS & ROUTES

OF SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS



March 3 - 5

SEAARK CATFISHING TOURNAMENT 2023
Riverfront Park - Liberty Bank Amphitheater
Landmarks Blvd. between Piasa St. & Henry St.
Alton



March 11

ST. PAT'S PUB CRAWL
Downtown Alton
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Wishbone Ash
The Four Horseman
Rafe Williams - Comedy
Janet Evra
Angel
Jim Messina

Jump! - America's Van Halen Experience



March 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SHAM-ROCKED
Woodland Park
2 Pine Lake Rd.
Collinsville



March 18

GOSHEN WINTER MARKET
100 St. Louis St.
Edwardsville
9 a.m. to noon



Programs & Events throughout March

March 18

REIMAGINING PLACES OF THE PAST: HISTORIC PRESERVATION LECTURE SERIES, PART THREE
GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY - ARCHITECT
THEODORE LINK
401 State Street
Alton,
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



March 31

1ST ADULT EGG HUNT AT WILLOUGHBY FARM 2023
Willoughby Heritage Farm
631 Willoughby Ln.
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
Admission: \$10 Per Person
6 to 9 PM



March 19

BUZZ'S BEER FESTIVAL AT OLD BAKERY BEER COMPANY
400 Landmarks Blvd
Alton
Admission: \$35 in Advance; \$40 @ door;
\$10 designated driver



Visit [Rivers & Routes](#) to find more events



Madison County Clerk Linda Andreas congratulates new Board member Frank Dickerson of Worden after swearing him into office.

Madison County swears-in new board member to fill vacant seat

A

Worden resident is replacing the seat of Madison County Board member William “Bill” Meyer who died in early January.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler recommended Frank Dickerson as Meyer’s replacement for District 3, after interviewing more than 10 people for the position. The board unanimously approve Dickerson to replace Meyer, who died on Jan. 6

“Bill Meyer did a great job in keeping in touch with the villages, townships and citizens in his district,” Prenzler said. “That was a key consideration as I interviewed everyone for this position.”

Prenzler said Meyer’s district is unique, the largest geographical district, encompassing six townships — Leef, Alhambra, New Douglas, Omphgent, Hamel and Olive — and seven towns — Hamel, Alhambra, Prairetown, New Douglas, Livingston, Williamson and Worden.

Dickerson is a lifelong resident of Madison County and moved to Worden in 1996. He served two terms as village president of Worden from 2005 to 2013 and prior to that he served as a village trustee for one term.

Dickerson is a graduate of Lewis and Clark Community College and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a specialization in production and operations management.

He is currently the purchasing manager for icon Mechanical in Granite City.

“I am excited to represent District 3,” Dickerson said. “I enjoy helping people and building common goals with my constituents. I take pride in being part of the communities I serve and do the same at work with every project I encounter.”

Board member Mick Madison of Bethalto and chairman pro-tem said he felt Dickerson was an excellent pick for the position.

“I believe Bill Meyer would approve,” Madison said.



Madison County recognizes employee for 60 years of service

Madison County Treasurer Chris Slusser on Wednesday recognized one of his employees for six decades of service.

"I want to honor one of my amazing employees," Slusser said. "Lerleane (Payne) Chavis, celebrated 60 years working for the Treasurer's Office on Jan. 7."

Slusser said Treasurer George Musso hired Chavis in 1963 and she became the first African American office worker in Madison County Government, as well as the first African American female hired in the county.

"She's served under nine county treasurers," Slusser said. "That's a feat in itself."

Besides Slusser, Chavis worked for treasurer's George Musso, John Maeras, Mick Henkhaus, John Shimkus, Bill Aerie, Fred Bathon, Frank Miles and Kurt Prenzler.

Chavis retired from full-time employment in 1998 as a deputy treasurer and for the past 25 years worked part-time.

The 1960 Madison High School graduate started working at the Treasurer's Office at 20- years-old.

"Lerleane is so dedicated and hard-working," Slusser said. "I have some really great employees, and no offense to them, but they would all agree that even at age 80, Lerleane is the most

productive member of our team."

Slusser said that a week prior, his office had her come in for a staff meeting in order to recognize her.

"We had to trick her to come in, otherwise she would never have shown up," he said.

He said Henkhaus and Shimkus stopped in to congratulate Chavis.

Slusser said then Shimkus told them that he spoke with U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski to present a statement on Chavis' "dedicated service" on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Budzinski recognized Chavis on Feb. 8.

In 1968, Lerleane married LeRoy Chavis. They were married for 49 years until his passing in 2017. She has four children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She is a longtime member of Mt. Joy Baptist Church in Edwardsville, and spends much of her time voluntarily taking care of several elderly friends in the area whom she holds dear.

Chavis, remained at the top of the County Board chambers with her family, and wiped away the tears as everyone applauded and gave her a standing ovation.

"Lerleane is the epitome of class, humility and grace," Slusser said. "She is an unsung hero who deserves flowers and appreciation."



Living Legend

Madison County honors Alton pastor

Madison County officials recognized an Alton pastor Wednesday night as a "Living Legend" for his contributions in the community.

County Board member Michael "Doc" Holliday of Alton honored Bishop Samuel White of Alton with the 9th annual Madison County Living Legend Community Service Award during the February County Board meeting. The county presents the award during Black History Month to a resident who makes extraordinary contributions in the community.

Holliday said White is dedicated to a life of service and ministry for Jesus Christ and for the past 49 years serves as the pastor of Monroe Memorial Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Alton.

White could not attend the meeting, due to a scheduling conflict, but said it was a distinct pleasure to serve the citizens of Madison County for over 50 years.

"As God continues to direct my path, I look forward to continuing to serve," he said.

White retired from Lewis and Clark Community College as the minority affairs coordinator (now the office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence) after working at the institution for 30 years. He is also the chair of the Coalition for Concerned Citizens of the Alton Area — a group of civic leaders of the government, judicial system, school districts,

business owners, clergy and citizens.

White was one of eight children born in Arkansas and in 1961 moved to Alton, where he completed high school and

then attended Temple University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Concordia Seminary.

White became a member of Upper Alton Church of God in Christ (now Brown's Faith Temple) and served his local church until he was "called" upon to become a pastor. In 1974, White founds the Grace Temple (COGIC) in Edwardsville.

Following the death of the former pastor and founder of Belle Street Temple COGIC in Alton, the congregation merged in Alton with Grace Temple.

White served as finance assistant secretary and secretary of the Elders' Council in the Southern Illinois jurisdiction, COGIC. In 1989, White was appointed the district superintendent of the Mississippi Valley North District in Eastern Missouri and Western Illinois Jurisdiction COGIC where he now serves as the first administrative assistant to the jurisdictional prelate, jurisdictional secretary, jurisdictional finance board co-chair and District 8 superintendent.

White was unable to attend the board meeting and Holliday presented the award to him at a later time.



Judges go Back to School



Madison County judges headed back to school last month.

Circuit Judge Amy Maher along with Associate Judges Veronica Armouti and Justin Zimmerman of the Third Judicial Circuit read to students in Alton and Godfrey for the Inaugural Judges go to School Day on Feb. 13.

The judges read a book to classes at Lovejoy Elementary and Eunice Smith Elementary schools in Alton and Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Godfrey. After reading the book they discussed the books' intersection with history and the law, then presented each student with a book.

The judges believe it is important to give back to the community, but also central to foster an early love and appreciation for reading.

"It was an absolute pleasure to read a book about President (Abraham) Lincoln in honor of his birthday to a kindergarten class," Zimmerman said. "The kids were well behaved and asked great questions."

The event is a project of the Illinois Judges Association aimed at children in grades K through 4th grade to encourage the appreciation, value and enjoyment of reading.

"I think it's safe to say most judges and lawyers develop a love of reading early in their lives," Maher said. "Books are windows into different worlds, a way to meet and learn from a wide variety of people who may live lives very different from our own—all without leaving our homes."

"Sharing these books with kids in our communities is a wonderful way for us to pass along our love of reading, and hopefully to inspire the next generation of community leaders."





GET YOUR VOTE ON!



oters will have hundreds of choices to make in the Madison County April 4 consolidated election.

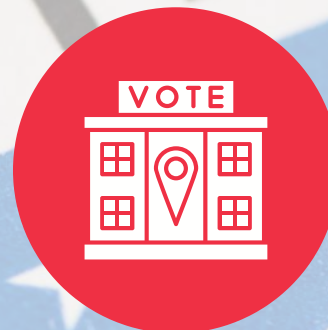
County Clerk Linda Andreas said early voting started and there are races in nearly every municipality in the county, along with library, park, fire protection and water districts, as well as school boards. The ballots also include referenda on such as school building bonds, tax rates and elimination of municipal elected official.

There are more than 300 separate ballot combinations due to the overlapping municipal, school boards and other districts.

Early voting is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through March 17 in the Madison County Administration Building, and will expand March 20 throughout the county.

For information about the election or early polling places visit www.MadisonVotes.com.

*Find
your
polling
place*





CLEAN UP BEFORE THE GREEN'S UP

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

Madison County offers a free program to help reduce litter and maintain cleanliness throughout its communities.

The county's Building and Zoning Department is offering residents a free resource tool kit, which includes trash bags, reflective vests, gloves and litter grabbers to go out and pick up trash.

"We are focused on ways to reduce the amount of litter in the county and this resource helps battle that problem," Building and Zoning Administrator Chris Doucleff said. "Providing free resources for residents can impact change."

Doucleff said since the inception of the program — Clean Communities — two years ago, residents picked up more than 3,300 tool kits to tackle the litter in their communities. He said the county regularly receives complaints about litter along the county's roads and ditches.


"We have made trash pickup a priority," he said. "It's not always easy, but this is something we did for those who want to go out and pick up trash themselves."

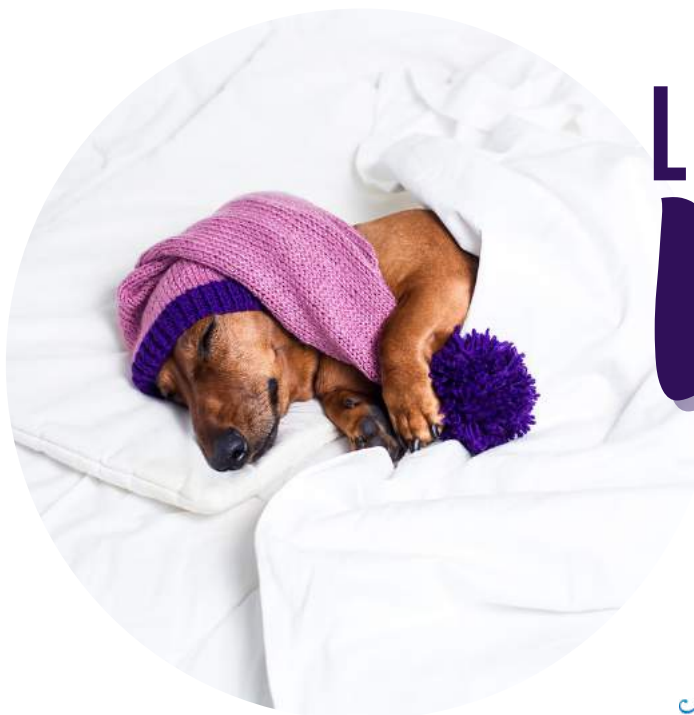
Doucleff said his department county offers the free tool kits so residents do not have to buy materials themselves. The tool kits are available for individual households, small groups, and even larger scheduled clean-ups and organization

To request a tool kit volunteers are asked to fill out a online form to request the number of tool kits needed. Visit www.madisoncountymbz.com or call (618) 296-4468 for questions or more information about the program.

Volunteers can pick up their resource tool kit at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 N. Main St., Suite 254, Edwardsville.

"We want to keep our streets, roads and highways clean," Doucleff said. "It's not always easy, especially with two landfills in the county. However, we will keep working to find solutions when residents do complain about the trash."

Find us on 



LET'S Pawty



Greater St. Louis Area Shelter Slumber Pawty

Date: Saturday, March 25 - Sunday, March 26

Time: 12 p.m. to 12 p.m.

Fundraising goal: \$1000/person



Ain't no "pawty" like the "pawty" that'll be going on at Madison County Animal Care and Control this month.

Animal Care and Control is set to join Metro East Humane Society and other St. Louis area animal shelters for the annual "Shelter Slumber Party" to help homeless dogs and cats in finding their forever homes.

Animal Care and Control Manager Katherine Conder said more than a dozen area animal welfare organizations will take part in the annual event to be held from 12 p.m., Saturday, March 25 to 12 p.m. Sunday, March 26.

Conder said participants taking part in the event host a "slumber pawty" at home with their animals, fosters or with a shelter dog for the 24 hours.

"The goal of the event is to help raise much needed funds to continue the work in saving as many animals as possible," Conder said. "Our goal is to recruit 10 participants to raise a total of \$10,000 for Madison County Animal Care and Control."

Gateway Pet Guardians (GPG), located near St. Louis, Missouri, hosted the first Shelter Slumber Pawty in 2017. In an effort to raise awareness and money for shelter animals, GPG asked staff and volunteers to spend 24 hours in kennels living side-by-side with shelter dogs while asking for donations. The entire event was live-streamed on social media, giving the

public a glimpse into the lives of shelter animals. By the time the 24-hour Pawty was over, the team had raised over \$30,000!

In 2018, another area organization, Belleville Area Humane Society, joined the Pawty and the two shelters raised over \$50,000. The Pawty exploded in 2019 when 17 organizations came together raise much-needed funds for community's animals.

Since 2017, the Shelter Slumber Pawty has raised more \$600,000.

"We ask each participant to set a fundraising goal of \$1,000," Conder said. "We don't want you to be intimidated either because we will help come up with different ways for participants to reach their goal."

All participants raise money through the A Mighty Cause (www.mightycause.com) website, which is a platform that tracks fundraising progress, including offline donations

During the event Animal Care and Control will go "live" with the participating shelters and post photos/videos on social media throughout the 24 hours.

Visit [Shelter Slumber Pawty](#) for more information or contact any of the participating no-kill shelters or Madison County Animal Care and Control for more details.

Madison County accepting RFP'S for opioid remediation settlement grant

Madison County is offering grant opportunities to non-profit and local government providers in an effort to combat the opioid epidemic.

The Madison County Mental Health Board is accepting request for proposals until March 17 on its opioid remediation settling funding.

"This is a part of monies that are flowing from settlements with big drug companies," Mental Health Board Director Deborah Humphrey said.

In November 2022, State's Attorney Tom Haine announced that Madison County would receive an estimated \$3.7 million in funding as its share of the settlement on behalf of local governments across the country in litigation against three distributors of opioids — AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson — and one manufacturer of opioids, Janssen.

Haine said the companies agreed to pay \$26 billion to litigants over 18 years. In 2022, Madison County received its first two installments, totaling \$243,323.

"Pursuant to the settlement agreements, Madison County is obligated to use the settlement funds to support opioid remediation programs in the community," Haine said.

Each year, the county must outline how it will spend its share of that money to combat the opioid epidemic. The settlement terms allow the funds to be used for a range of programs that includes training for first responders, youth education, treatment and support services, support to those involved in the criminal justice system and research.

The county will be required to provide documentation to the Illinois Attorney General that the funds support opioid remediation programs.

Humphrey said that the RFA for the Opioid Settlement Funding is available for Madison County providers to submit for funding consideration.

"This funding will bring an opportunity to address and alleviate some of the effects Madison County has experienced with this ongoing opioid epidemic," she said.

Funding applications can be found on the Mental Health Boards website at:

https://www.madisoncountyil.gov/departments/mental_health/index.php under the "news" section.

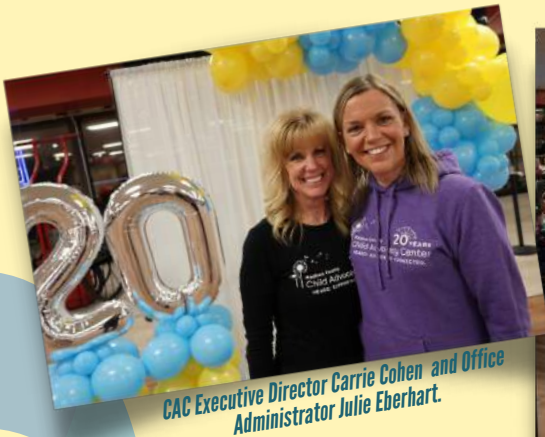


Madison County
Mental Health Board



Madison County
Child Advocacy Center
HEARD. SUPPORTED. CONNECTED.

Trivia Night promotes Child Advocacy Center's 20th anniversary



CAC Executive Director Carrie Cohen and Office Administrator Julie Eberhart.



The Child Advocacy Center held its 20th Anniversary Celebration Trivia Night on Feb. 25 at the Collinsville Firemen's Hall.

"It was a great success," CAC Executive Director Carrie Cohen said. "We were back together in person after three years."

Cohen said more than 450 people attended the event and raised more than \$24,000.

"We had a 20s theme to honor our 20th anniversary and rewarded the best dressed!," Cohen said.

See said the Madison County Regional Office of Education was the winning table for the night!

Cohan and Office Administrator Julie Eberhart are the longest employed at the CAC with Julie at 19 years this year and Carrie with 16.



CAC Staff



Winning Team - Madison County Regional Office of Education.



Winning Team for Costume

RISE UP WITH THE CAC

SHINING LIGHT ON CHILD ABUSE EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Come tour our child-focused facility, meet our team of forensic interviewers and case managers, step inside the forensic interview and waiting rooms, and learn first-hand how the Madison County Child Advocacy Center fights to end child abuse in our community every day.

Rise UP is hosted monthly at the Madison County Child Advocacy Center on the 4th Friday of the month. Registration is required and can be found on our website, madco-cac.org.

2023 Tours will be held from 8-9am on the fourth Friday of the month:

- January 27
- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 26
- June 23
- July 28
- August 25
- September 22
- October 27
- November 17
(week early due to holiday)
- December 22



Please reach out to Fund Development Specialist, Caroline Livingstone, with any questions you may have about our Rise UP tours:
celivingstone@madisoncountyl.gov
 618.296.5398



SAVE THE DATE



Proceeds from this event will go toward a scholarship fund supporting women seeking higher education in our community.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



SAT., MARCH 25
9:00 a.m.
 Ray M. Schon Park
 Glen Carbon, IL



Sign Up Using the
 QR Code or Link:
register.chronotrack.com/r/71400



Interested in becoming a sponsor or donating to the race? Email 5k@gorilaw.com.

WE ARE ALL WONDERWOMEN!



WE ARE HIRING

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 search for job opportunities online

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 ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE

www.madisoncountyl.gov/jobs

- Entry Level State's Attorney
- Child Support Division
- Felony Division



Madison County
 State's Attorney's Office
 Thomas A. Haine



NEED HELP LOOKING FOR A JOB?



Visit Madison County Employment & Training



Madison County Employment and Training recognizes youth for his U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificate



KeShawn Thomas, a Collinsville High School student who participated in the Madison County STEP program, earned his Department of Labor certification.

The City of Collinsville honored him during a recent city council meeting for becoming the first individual to complete a year-long apprenticeship for students with disabilities. The program is the result of efforts by the City of Collinsville, the U.S. Department of Labor, **Madison County Employment and Training**, and Collinsville Community Unit School District 10.

“This is the beginning of this program,” Director of Madison County Employment and Training Tony Fuhrmann said. “We’re talking to other school districts to see how we can bring this program to their school districts. We hope to take it nationally at some point.”

Thomas is now a Parks and Recreation employee for Collinsville and does landscaping and groundskeeping work. Four more students are currently enrolled in the apprenticeship program.

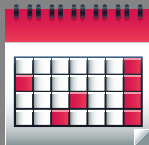
Officials said they have seen amazing growth and independence from those who participate.

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



Madison County Board Meeting Update

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



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

To listen to past meetings, or read approved minutes, visit

https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/county_clerk/county_board_records/board_agendas_and_minutes.php for more information.



The Madison County Board Chairman appoints individuals to more than 70 boards and commissions with the advice and consent of the County Board. Click on the booklet to find out more.

MADISON COUNTY CITIZENS GUIDE 2022-2024



Kurt Prenzler, CPA

County Board Chair

Mick Madison

Chair Pro-Term

Linda Andrea

County Clerk

Stacey Pace

Vice Chair Pro-Term

Tom Haine

State's Attorney

Dave Tanzus

County Administrator

Prepared by the Office of the Madison County Board
www.co.madison.il.us

MADISON COUNTY



APPOINTED
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS



Madison County Board —



618-296-4341 —



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