

# FREE

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# BOONE COUNTY

LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY

# JOURNAL

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## THE BELVIDERE OASIS

by *Charles Herbst*

Ask someone from Chicago, Madison or just about any other place in the Midwest what they associate with Belvidere, Illinois. For those that know anything of Belvidere, two images come to mind: Oasis and Chrysler Plant. These folks will freely admit they have only driven by and have never been to Belvidere proper. They haven't the faintest idea that Jeeps are made in Belvidere, and they generally have no idea where "Boone County" is, although they know it is "out there somewhere, maybe near Grundy" because they've heard both referred to on the weather reports. They have never heard of the Boone County Fair, nor is it a place they would likely attend. They have no animus toward us, but Belvidere and Boone County are as completely foreign to them as Timbuktu.

Conversely, the Belvidere Oasis, the county's most famous asset, is a black box for most of Belvidere and Boone County. The Oasis is the number one local source of fuel tax revenue and one of the largest generators of local sales tax. But it's not a place that anyone from Boone County even thinks about, let alone visits. When comprehensive plans are drawn and tourism is promoted, the number one stop in Boone County for travelers is ignored.

We discussed making the Belvidere Oasis a transportation hub in our last issue. Beyond that, we think the Oasis is an underutilized resource that can be something much better than it currently is. In this issue, we'll present our vision of the Belvidere Oasis as both a hub and principal gateway to modern Belvidere.

### Bridge restaurants

In 1957, the world's first "bridge restaurant" was opened in Vinita, Oklahoma, about midway between Tulsa and Joplin, Missouri. The restaurant straddles Interstate 44, formerly US Route 66. Known for its restaurant, going to the Glass House was a real treat. An Oklahoma welcome center employee fondly recalled cajoling her parents to stop at the Glass House on family trips from Muskogee to visit relatives in Kansas.

The story was similar in Belvidere. When the Belvidere Oasis opened, it was the talk of the town and a treat to visit. Fred Harvey offered four different dining options and frequently advertised to attract local guests. A 1960 Methodist Church State Sunday School convention held in Belvidere had its capstone banquet at the Oasis. Publisher David Larson can remember hanging out at the Oasis as a teenager for soft drinks and plenty of late-night people watching.

Yours truly recalls looking forward to stopping at the identical-to-Belvidere Lake Forest Oasis for snacks on the way to Door County vacations. It was a treat.

Bridge restaurants were only built in Oklahoma and Illinois. American development of the concept was stopped in 1960 by a federal law that forbade commercial development in the right of way of interstate highways. But bridge restaurants became popular in Italy and spread throughout Europe. Today there are a total of about 60 bridge restaurants throughout



*Fred Harvey at the Illinois Tollway Oasis*



*The Belvidere Oasis*



*The Glass House Bride Restaurant, Vinita, Oklahoma bridge restaurant*

the world in such far-flung places as Chile and Malaysia.

With tear-downs to widen the highways, there are only four bridge restaurants left in America. Vinita, Belvidere, Lake Forest, and the Lincoln Oasis in South Holland. Belvidere is the only one on the long stretch of Interstate 90 between Seattle and Boston. The Oasis operators have

changed many times, and the crisp service of Fred Harvey and Standard Oil service stations is a distant memory.

The *Journal* has taken a look at some of those bridge restaurants and what made them special. We wanted to know what could be learned from the other bridge restaurants and how those

*Continued on Page 3*



# OP-ED

## What Do Terms Conservative and Liberal Mean Today?

by Jim Nowlan

As a broken-down prof of American politics, I was asked this question recently: What do the terms conservative and liberal mean today in American political life? I think the question is important because: 1) the human animal craves context to help him or her navigate the world; 2) the terms tend somewhat to track Republican and Democratic party identification and “right- and left-leaning,” respectively, and 3) I sense there is some confusion among the public about the terms.

As shorthand, I have told my college students over the years that conservatives tend to see the world as it is, while liberals see the world as they wish it to be. These perspectives tend to drive their respective operating philosophies. That is, conservatives see strong value in tradition, and

resist change, at least until persuaded that such is absolutely necessary to preserve order and stability.

In contrast, liberals are more open to change, to achieve what they see as social and economic justice for all.

Conservatives favor free market capitalism and balanced budgets, whereas liberals think it important to regulate economic forces and spend through government in order to achieve their goals.

By the way, if you hear the term “classical liberal,” you are hearing a 19th Century English term for one who favors a market economy, among much else. A classical liberal would be close to a present-day intellectual conservative. I told you the terms morph over time.

When I entered college in 1959, the nation had been led by Big Government liberals, from Franklin Roosevelt (1933-44) and Harry Truman (1944-53) and continued by Republican Dwight Eisenhower (1953-61).

While liberals dominated college campuses in my undergraduate days, there was also a lively, burgeoning ferment of intellectual conservative thinking when I arrived at Urbana-Champaign. We young conservatives bruted around the names of classical liberal economists Friederich von Hayek and Ludwig von Mises as if we understood what they were writing (I only vaguely did, at best).

Columnists William Buckley in New York City and M. Stanton Evans nearby in Indianapolis were then young, conservative firebrands; they wrote in terms we students could more easily understand. They called for a rollback of Big Government, heavy regulation and the high taxation they felt intruded on freedom of individual action.

And yet, to distinguish intellectual from practical conservatives, I don’t recall any elected officials who identified as conservative ever calling for the elimination of Social Security, obviously

a Big Government program, but one that was popular broadly.

This intellectual movement captivated Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan, though the latter was never a purist, for example, having raised taxes significantly as governor of California. By the 1980s, most Republican identifiers had largely rejected the liberal sympathies of Ike, Nixon and Eastern governors such as Nelson Rockefeller.

When I entered the Illinois House in 1969, conservative issues were still largely economic as opposed to social. Then came the abortion decision of Roe v. Wade, in 1973. While the Southern Baptist Convention initially

hailed the pro-choice decision, evangelicals and most economic conservatives have subsequently come to embrace the pro-life position with passion.

Gun control was becoming of more interest in 1969, seen by gun advocates as a matter of personal freedom. A prominent pollster told me back then that 3 percent of voters would vote for or against a candidate solely on the basis of his stand on guns. I’ll bet that figure is even higher today, but even 3 percent (a 6 percent change in an election outcome) would scare the bejesus out of elected officials, as it does today.

Former President Donald Trump is what I would call a “nationalist,” who thinks America should come before international concerns. Trump is not an economic conservative; for example, as president he increased deficit spending big time, though not so much as Joe Biden is doing. And Trump’s heavy use of tariffs goes against the grain of free trade, a key plank in the world of most conservatives.

Liberals seem to have abandoned use of their own term, for, maybe, sounding too liberal. Instead, they call themselves “progressives,” even though they are, in my mind, still liberal in philosophy.

I think a practical conservative in America today is a bit of an ideological muddle, which is not necessarily bad, but leads to the confusion I sense. For example, the practical conservative espouses small government, balanced budgets, and a market economy generally, yet he is comfortable with Medicare and maybe farm subsidies (both Big Government). He also has mixed views on personal liberty issues, that is, for gun freedom, yet opposed to choice on abortion.

If there is anything useful and valid to my explication above, what might you be — practical conservative, liberal (progressive), or something else?

### Quidnunc



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**Oasis**

*Continued from page 1*

lessons could be applied in Belvidere.

Recently, we took a trip to Tulsa and toured what is now the Will Rogers Arch in Vinita. We were also particularly interested in the Swedish bridge restaurant in Gävle, Sweden, known as Gävlebro (Gävle bridge).

Most bridge restaurants are built with the parking lot at highway level. Customers enter the pavilion and take stairs or elevators to the restaurant level on the bridge. But in both Illinois and Scandinavia, the site is conveniently graded so that the parking lot is above the road on the same elevated level as the bridge restaurant.

In Belvidere, the gasoline stations are located at some distance away from the bridge in their own freestanding structures. Conversely, in both Vinita and Gävle, the gas stations are attached to the bridge restaurant. Vinita had Kum-N-Go convenience stores in the same building as the bridge restaurant on the highway level. Restrooms were available on both floors. We were impressed with the much more accessible convenience stores and the more attractive selections on offer at Kum-N-Go than the 7 Elevens at Belvidere.

At Vinita, the upper level featured a McDonald's at one end and a Subway at the other. There was a small gift shop and a small exhibit honoring Will Rogers and the history of the Vinita Bridge Restaurant.

Gävlebro interested us for several reasons. Like Belvidere, it has convenient, restaurant-level parking. It is about the same distance to Stockholm as we are to Chicago. Gävlebro is also about the same distance to Uppsala (a college town and commercial center) as we are to Schaumburg. Built in 1987, it is one of the most recently built bridge restaurants. Pictures of the Dinners Restaurant located there looked attractive, although many of the online reviews were critical of the food quality.

Gävle has positioned itself as a commutable, cheaper living alternative. There is rail service from the center of Gävle and bus service from Gävlebro to Stockholm. Gävlebro straddles the E4, a motorway that runs the length of Sweden. Lacking toll barriers, Gävlebro parking areas have direct access to the local community.

**To be a must-stop service center for travelers, the Oasis must be a treat.** Interstate 90 motorists have many choices where they can stop, including Beloit and Hampshire. Why should a Minnesotan headed for Chicago stop in Belvidere? Would a truck driver based in Manitoba look forward to stopping at Belvidere? Would a couple from Toledo mention the Belvidere Oasis favorably to their friends back home? To compete, the Oasis must offer something more than a free toilet.

- We believe that an outstanding convenience store attached to the bridge would help distinguish Belvidere. Those who travel know Wawa, QT and comparable chains that inspire customer loyalty. Similarly, Japanese convenience stores are legendary for providing great take-away food, outstanding selection and incredibly reasonable prices.

- The Oasis needs to add electric vehicle charging and it should be convenient to the

bridge restaurant. While a motorist is getting a 20–30-minute vehicle charge, a latte or lunch should be available for purchase.

- A winter garden might be the ideal setting in which to pass the time. Given our climate and the dreary landscape of Interstate 90, wouldn't stopping at an indoor garden be very appealing—after all, it's called an oasis!

- A room with slot machines might attract out-of-town gamblers and bring additional revenue to Belvidere. Why should all the local gambling revenue go to Rockford?

- There must be interesting places to eat. Something more than the same chain restaurants that are available in a hundred places down the road.

- Positioned on either side of the bridge restaurant, bus rapid transit will add additional foot traffic to support a greater selection of shops and restaurants.

- The Tollway customer service center needs a facelift and should be expanded to provide helpful travel information for both bus riders and motorists. Limited hours at a 24-hour facility are not helpful.

To make the Oasis viable as a transportation hub and inviting for local commerce, a park and ride lot would have to be built at the Oasis, presumably to the north. Given the topography, we believe a pedestrian tunnel could be built from the north end of the bridge restaurant and could come out at ground level just north of the eastbound Tollway parking lot. This would provide pedestrians with safer, weather-controlled access to local parking, drop off, and possibly local transit boarding. It would also maintain toll integrity by keeping Tollway vehicle traffic from using the Oasis as an entrance and exit.

There is no reason to reserve the Oasis facilities

for travelers on the Tollway. Local as well as interstate patrons patronize restaurants and other businesses at the Beloit and Hampshire exits without apparent conflict. We think what makes the Oasis a unique opportunity is the commercial synergy from reformatting the Oasis as a multi-purpose facility.

Successful development of the Oasis is how Belvidere can begin to attract the creative class.

One of the trends in transport planning is to consider integrated station development. Simply put, such development recommends clustering housing and commercial development at transit stations. With the existing and enhanced dining options at the Oasis and plenty of open land surrounding the Oasis, the area would be ripe for additional higher-quality commercial and residential development.

Building a bus stop, a park and ride lot, and local access would be an appropriate use of state and Federal Urban Mass Transportation funds. It is also possible that the proposed Federal infrastructure legislation may provide funding for electric vehicle chargers at the Oasis.

Some of the other reformatting costs would not be applicable to bus rapid transit and should probably be funded from other sources. The more commercial elements of a reformatting the Oasis should probably fall on the Oasis' owner, the Illinois Tollway, or its tenants. It would result in an improvement to their property and fall squarely within the Toll Highway Authority's economic development mission. Such an expense would represent a negligible element in the Tollway's multi-billion-dollar annual budget.

We hope that this series inspires our community and leaders to focus on these opportunities. Instead of dreaming, it's time for doing.



*Gävle bridge restaurant Gävlebro, Sweden*



*Original Belvidere Oasis*

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# Pritzker Now Says Budget Can Include \$350 Million for K-12

*Governor originally proposed flat spending for education earlier this year*

*by Jerry Nowicki and Tim Kirsininkas  
Capitol News Illinois*

Citing an “improved” economic outlook, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Thursday his support to increase evidence-based education funding in the state by \$350 million in fiscal year 2022 which begins July 1.

In his February budget proposal, Pritzker originally proposed flat spending for education, citing “financial uncertainty” amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

It would have been the second consecutive year in which the state failed to add \$350 million to the funding formula – a number written into state statute as a goal aimed at driving new money to the districts that are furthest from funding “adequacy.”

Adequacy is based on a number of factors, including class size and local capacity to fund a school district.

“Parents, students and educators can breathe a sigh of relief,” Pritzker said in an unrelated news conference Thursday. “As an education advocate myself, I am really all too happy that our improved economic and fiscal condition allows us to increase educational funding.”

The announcement comes following the latest report from the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, which cited improved revenue numbers for the current fiscal year as the state works toward a full economic recovery from the pandemic.

Per that report, after revenues fell by \$2.74 billion last April, base general fund revenues in April 2021 grew \$1.779 billion, in part because April income tax payments were delayed one year ago.

“While the full story of FY 2021 revenues has yet to be written, given the onset of the pandemic, receipts clearly have performed much better than any prognosticator could have foretold one year earlier,” the COGFA report stated.

“Despite periodic upward revisions in the revenue projections throughout the course of the fiscal year, each time those updated expectations have been met and exceeded,” the report continued.

The Illinois State Board of Education, in appropriations hearings in the House and Senate earlier this year, pushed back on the governor’s initial proposal to keep funding flat. Leaders in the General Assembly from both parties have done the same.

ISBE requested a 4.6 percent funding increase for FY 2022, including asking for an added \$362.1 million to the evidence-based funding formula and \$50 million in added early childhood education grants.

Their request would put their state general revenue funding – which is the state’s main discretionary spending account – at about \$9.3 billion.

Pritzker did not give details on the proposed ISBE budget, aside from giving his support to the \$350 million in added funding.

Per the budgeting process, both Houses of the General Assembly must approve a spending plan, then Pritzker would have the opportunity to sign or veto it.

House Majority Leader Greg Harris, D-Chicago, in a news conference that occurred in Springfield at the same time Pritzker’s was going

on in Chicago, said lawmakers are well into the process of planning a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He said he was optimistic about the latest COGFA report, but the state’s financial picture is still somewhat bleak.

“Revenue has continued to perform very, very well,” Harris said. “The economy of the state of Illinois has been performing better than we had expected. And to be honest, we initially planned for this year very conservatively, not knowing what COVID would bring.”

Federal stimulus packages, including the recent American Rescue Plan signed by President Joe Biden, have aided the state’s recovery, Harris said.

“It’s given families some disposable income, that has allowed them to go out and spend, you know, to support their families,” he said. “And that has in turn, raised our income taxes and our sales taxes in the state.”

Lawmakers will have to project whether the rosy revenue projections for the end of this fiscal year will carry on into the next fiscal year.

“We’re seeing some very good numbers in the state,” he said. “That being said, we still are looking at next year, a budget deficit of about \$1.4 billion that we’ll have to solve for, and some new revenue could certainly help that. But it’s not going to solve the entire problem.”

One key part of the governor’s proposal to balance the budget is to make several changes to the corporate tax structure – changes he calls closing corporate tax “loopholes,” which Republicans call important business “incentives.”

While Pritzker signed off on a number of those corporate tax cuts or credits in his first year, Harris said budgets are “dynamic things,” and changing revenue pictures mean cutting expenditures.

“But the most important thing is we’ve got to protect the state budget, we’ve got to protect our core functions,” he said. “We’re happy to sit down and negotiate with the Republicans and the Democrats in the Senate, and if it’s a will of folks to keep those in, I think that’s what all of us would be willing to do.”

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## Bill Proposes Standardized Election Procedures

*GOP senators call for uniformity across all counties*

*by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

Two Republican senators have introduced legislation to standardize the way local election authorities across Illinois handle elections, from the training of election judges to posting information about delays in election night ballot counting.

Sens. Sally Turner, of the Logan County town of Beason, and Sue Rezin, of Morris,

said during a virtual news conference Thursday their bill is intended to provide more transparency and give voters more confidence in how elections in Illinois are conducted.

“The more we let the individuals know, the voters know, how these processes work, the better educated they are, the more helpful that is to county clerks,” Turner said. “It’s important ... when you go from one county to another, that your processes are the same.”

The proposal, introduced last month as an amendment to Senate Bill 1326, dubbed the Election Standardization Act, addresses four areas of election practices.

First, it would require each county and county clerk to establish training courses for election judges that incorporate material developed by the Illinois State Board of Elections. Currently, ISBE is required to develop those materials but counties are not required to use them.

Those training materials would cover such topics as voter verification, campaign-free zones, electioneering, vote-by-mail procedures, provisional voting, and ballot handling and processing.

Second, whenever there is a delay of delivering precinct tallies to a county clerk’s office, it would require the election judges in that precinct to submit an affidavit explaining the delay, and it would require the county clerk to post that information on the clerk’s website.

Third, after each election, it would require the State Board of Elections to audit 5 percent of all election authorities, selected at random, to verify that they properly handled mail ballots that were received after the close of polls on Election Day.

And finally, it would require election authorities to post on their public websites the processes and procedures they use for handling mail-in ballots.

Turner, a former Logan County clerk who was appointed to a Senate seat in January to replace former Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, said those elements of the bill came out of a working group she formed that received input from county clerks, the State Board of Elections and the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

She said the goal of the bill is to make sure all county clerks are following the same procedures.

“And I think standardization is a key,” she said. “We have new new clerks come in and out, we have new elections, and, frankly, we don’t get to train them individually. We hope to have an Illinois Association of County Clerks and Records meeting in order to train people, but a lot of times we just have to seek out a fellow clerk to mentor one another.”

Since the November 2020 elections, Republicans in state legislatures around the country have been proposing new election laws, many aimed at limiting access to mail ballots and shortening the windows for casting advance ballots. Many of those proposals have been based on unfounded allegations of widespread election fraud around the country.

But Rezin insisted their legislation has nothing to do with those controversies. Rezin and Turner in April both voted in favor of a bill to expand mail voting in Illinois.

“I would just say that these reforms have nothing to do with previous elections, and are only meant to create standardized practices among our election authorities and to increase transparency for the average voter,” Rezin said. “We have heard after all of the elections about

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the challenges, and everyone has a story after the election. This bill is a comprehensive bill, taking all of the feedback from our experts, the county clerks, and now our new Sen. Turner's input in addressing them."

The bill, which currently has no Democratic cosponsors, has been assigned to the Senate Executive Committee's subcommittee on elections, but no hearings on it have yet been scheduled.

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## An Invitation to All Illinoisans to Nominate a Statesman or Stateswoman

By Jim Edgar and John Shaw

We announced last fall that we established the Paul Simon-Jim Edgar award to celebrate statesmanship in Illinois. While we have no formula to offer that magically ends partisanship in Illinois, quiets rancor, and forges a sense of shared destiny, we believe this award will affirm and honor the Prairie State's best traditions.

Given our current political climate, it is easy to forget that statesmanship, while unusual, has been a critical feature of the Prairie State's politics and history and has been demonstrated by Republicans, Democrats, and independents alike.

Illinois has been blessed with statesmen and stateswomen over the decades: governors who risked their careers to solve critical problems and prepare the state for the future; mayors who crafted bold and imaginative plans for their cities and took political gambles to bring their dreams to fruition; city council members who prepared creative and constructive long-term strategies for their communities; and state legislators and constitutional officers who broke from party orthodoxy and political comfort zones to advance solutions to improve the lives of fellow Illinoisans.

The annual Simon-Edgar Statesmanship Award will be presented to an elected state or local government official in Illinois who has demonstrated a pattern of public service characterized by vision, courage, compassion, effectiveness, civility, and bipartisanship.

As we prepare to present our inaugural award, we seek guidance from fellow Illinoisans. We urge citizens from the Prairie State to nominate someone from state or local government in Illinois who has displayed exceptional leadership. We are not seeking the perfect public servant, but a leader who has consistently endeavored to serve the public good and prepare his or her constituents for future challenges and opportunities.

To nominate a candidate or candidates, please send us a letter at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, Southern Illinois University, Attn: Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Statesmanship Award, Mail Code 4429, 1231 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901-4304. You may also go

to [PaulSimonInstitute.org/SimonEdgarAward](http://PaulSimonInstitute.org/SimonEdgarAward) to complete and submit your nomination through an electronic form. Please submit your nominations by June 15.

An advisory committee will review the nominations and recommend finalists for our consideration. The award will be announced at the August meeting of the Edgar Fellows Program. The recipient will be recognized and invited to give remarks there as well as at an event hosted later in the year by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

It is our hope that the award will shine a spotlight on remarkable leadership that is taking place in our communities and state. We believe this award will inspire current and future public servants to act in the best traditions of Illinois. We invite your help in selecting the first recipient of the Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Statesmanship award.

the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

## Illinois Attorney General Responds to Cybersecurity Attack, Audit Warning

*Raoul gave testimony during a hearing before a state House committee*

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul on Wednesday addressed the recent cyber breach of his office's online network, as well as an audit of his office released earlier this year that warned of weaknesses in its cybersecurity programs.

Raoul told a House committee his office has implemented new safeguards since the April 10 ransomware attack that compromised the office's network and affected office employee's email accounts.

Ransomware is a malicious software that collects the victim's personal data and threatens to publish it unless a ransom is paid to the hacker.

Raoul said his office is working with federal law enforcement to evaluate the extent to which the network was compromised, what information may have been exposed, how it happened, and what can be done to prevent future breaches.

"These efforts are ongoing," Raoul said during a House Appropriations General Services Committee hearing Wednesday.

Since the attack, Raoul said his office has set up multiple layers of security, and put in place application-level security and monitoring, network authentication requirements, and firewalls. In addition, his office has implemented "continuous vulnerability scanning," and intrusion detection and response protocols for their network, he said.

Raoul said his office has also set up a hotline for residents who may have concerns about the breach to receive answers to their questions while the investigation is ongoing. The hotline can be reached by calling 1-833-688-1949

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rep. Brad Halbrook, a Pana Republican, asked Raoul why his agency wasn't properly prepared for and had not anticipated such a cybersecurity attack.

"I'm just curious what we're doing, why we didn't anticipate this, why we didn't have redundant systems in place to be ready to roll in case something happened like this?" Halbrook asked.

Raoul said, moving forward, his office has reached out to "internal IT experts" to improve its network and technology.

"I don't know what the satisfactory answer that you'd want to your question. But our staff, and I'm proud of my staff, have continued to work hard during a very difficult circumstance," Raoul said.

Raoul was also asked about a state auditor general's report released in February that found the attorney general's office had not implemented adequate internal controls related to cybersecurity programs and practices.

It recommended that the office perform a comprehensive formal risk assessment to identify information most susceptible to attack. It also recommended the office classify its data to establish the types of information most susceptible to attack.

Raoul said his office has begun the comprehensive risk assessment that was suggested in the audit report.

"And in our response to the audit, we indicated that because of the nature of our agency and the nature of our work, we consider all of our data high-security data," he said.

The attorney general's office also created a new information systems security analyst position, which is tasked with spearheading the "formalization of the (o)ffice's risk assessment and security efforts into a comprehensive, well-documented cybersecurity program."

Raoul said that position was created in August 2020.

## Senate Passes Medicare, Tax Zone Legislation

*Creates tax credits for green energy, new enrollment period for Medicare*

by Raymon Troncoso Capitol News Illinois

Capping off a slow legislative week as the General Assembly grapples with drawing redistricting maps, the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year and massive energy overhaul legislation, the Senate passed 14 bills Thursday, most of them unanimously.

Senate Bill 1747, introduced by Grayslake Democratic Sen. Melinda Bush as the Illinois

*Continued on Page 7*

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**815-547-3345**      [jackoftrade81@mchsi.com](mailto:jackoftrade81@mchsi.com)

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  
THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICTORIA ODARCZENKO,  
Deceased CASE NO. 2021 P 24

**CLAIM NOTICE**

NOTICE is given of the death of VICTORIA ODARCZENKO, who died on October 9, 2020. Letters of Office were issued on April 23, 2021 to GEORGE ODARCZENKO, 5049 N. Octavia Ave., Harwood Heights, IL 60706, who is the Independent Administrator of the estate. The attorney for the estate is (6196543) Tarick Loutfi, of Tarick Loutfi & Associates, P.C., 33 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before November 19, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 183 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the Estate Executor, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the Estate Executor and to his attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: May 10, 2021

/s/ George Odarczenko, Independent Administrator

Tarick Loutfi #6196543

Tarick Loutfi & Associates, P.C.

33 N. LaSalle Street

Suite 1400

Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 5511105

TarickL@cs.com

Published in The Boone County Journal May 14, 21, 28

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
BOONE COUNTY  
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF  
Sirena Angelique Bradley Case No.21-MR-47  
NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)  
- There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: Sirena Angelique Bradley to the new name of Sirena Angelique Gomez. The court date will be held on 06/01/2021 10:15a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3  
Published in the Boone County Journal April 30, May 7, 14

TAX DEED NO.: 2018TX1(15)  
FILED: 4/27/2021 4/27/2021

**TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 25, 2018

Certificate No.: 2017-00042

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2017

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES  
Property Located at: 2212 Candlewick Drive Southeast, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-26-304-014

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on October 22, 2021.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before October 22, 2021.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, on November 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

**YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY**

Redemption can be made at any time on or before October 22, 2021 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Equity One Investment Fund, LLC

Purchaser or Assignee

April 29, 2021

Tracy Duran

Tracy Duran

Tracy Duran

Occupant

Steven Johnson

Sierra Rasmussen

Patrick Rasmussen

Stella Rasmussen

State of Illinois Department of Revenue

Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Revenue

Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

Theresa Balk as R/A for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

Theresa Balk as R/A for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

David Wiltse as President for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

Benito Duran

Benito Duran

Benito Duran

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois

Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as

"Unknown Owners"

"Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots"

6088-914405

Published in The Boone County Journal May 7, 14, 21

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT  
BOONE COUNTY  
PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

Case No. 2021MR42

REQUEST OF: CAITLIN MARIE SHARKEY There will be a court date to change my name from: CAITLIN MARIE SHARKEY to the new name of: MAXWELL JOSEPH SHARKEY. The court date will be held: on MAY 25th, 2021, at 10:00a.m., at 601 N. MAIN STREET, BELVIDERE, IL BOONE COUNTY in Courtroom #3  
Published in the Boone County Journal 5/7, 14, 21 - C

TAX DEED NO.: 2018TX1(16)  
FILED: 4/27/2021

**TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 25, 2018

Certificate No.: 2017-00077

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2017

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES  
Property Located at: 110 Falcon Way Southwest, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-28-229-029

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on October 22, 2021.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before October 22, 2021.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, on November 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

**YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY**

Redemption can be made at any time on or before October 22, 2021 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Titan Capital LLC

Purchaser or Assignee

April 29, 2021

Tracy Duran

Tracy Duran

Tracy Duran

Occupant

Shannon Hartmann

Benito Duran

State of Illinois Department of Revenue

Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Revenue

Benito Duran

Benito Duran

Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

Theresa Balk as R/A for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

Theresa Balk as R/A for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

David Wiltse as President for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois

Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as

"Unknown Owners"

"Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots"

6088-914407

Published in The Boone County Journal May 7, 14, 21

TAX DEED NO.: 2018TX1(17)  
FILED: 4/27/2021

**TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 25, 2018

Certificate No.: 2017-00120

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2017

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at: 2116 Lake Shore Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-22-478-014

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on October 22, 2021.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before October 22, 2021.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, on November 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

**YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY**

Redemption can be made at any time on or before October 22, 2021 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Firm Assets, LLC

Purchaser or Assignee

April 29, 2021

Dolores Zepeda

M. Dolores Zepeda

Mayra Rojas Zepeda

Occupant

Mayra Rojas

Serafin Casas

Antonio Zepeda

Maria G. Zepeda

Juan Rojas Zepeda

Jose L. Zepeda

Cornerstone Restoration, Inc.

Alice Chi as R/A for Cornerstone Restoration, Inc.

Cornerstone Restoration c/o Mail Venter

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois

Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as

"Unknown Owners"

"Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots"

6088-914406

Published in The Boone County Journal May 7, 14, 21

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  
THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE  
PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of HAROLD B. MCLARTY, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE 2021-P-30

Notice is given of the death of HAROLD B. MCLARTY. Letters of Office were issued on April 30, 2021, to JULIE DIETERMAN, 9832 Prairie Lane, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008, and CYNTHIA ENOS, 12800 Reginald Drive, Poplar Grove, Illinois, 61065, who are the Independent Co-Executors of the Estate. The attorneys for the Estate are PHILIP R. FRANKFORT and MICHAEL J. SCHAPPERT, HolmstromKennedyPC, 800 North Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, 61103.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before November 15, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first

publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division, at 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008, or with the Estate legal representatives, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office - Probate Division must be mailed or delivered to the Estate legal representatives and to their attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: May 6, 2021

JULIE DIETERMAN and CYNTHIA ENOS

Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Harold B. McLarty, Deceased

HolmstromKennedyPC, Their Attorneys

By: Philip R. Frankfort

PHILIP R. FRANKFORT

Attorney Philip R. Frankfort - #0863734

Attorney Michael J. Schappert - #3128183

HolmstromKennedyPC

Attorneys for Estate

800 N. Church Street

Rockford, IL 61103

Telephone (815) 962-7071

pfrankfort@hkrockford.com; Mjs@hkrockford.com

Published in The Boone County Journal May 14, 21, 28

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, Plaintiff,

vs. No. 2020CH61

UNKNOWN HEIRS and LEGATEES OF PATRICK R. WILLIAMS; CYNTHIA SUTHERIN, Special Representative for the Estate of Patrick R. WILLIAMS; SARAH SCHNEEMAN; JAMIE BLOOM, as Guardian of ALEXIS WILLIAMS; HOMEOWNERS=ASSOCIATION, if any; UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON- RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure heretofore entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Dave Ernest, Sheriff of Boone County, Illinois will on the 8th day of June, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash and all singular, the following described premises and real estate in said judgment mentioned, situated in the County and State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment to wit:

PARCEL 1: PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 2 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF AFORESAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER, 208.72 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER 208.72 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH, PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER 208.72 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 208.72 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. PARCEL 2: THAT PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES, 01 MINUTES, 26 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE THEREOF, A DISTANCE OF 208.72 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES, 37 MINUTES, 30 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23, A DISTANCE OF 408.06 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES, 01 MINUTES, 26 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23, A DISTANCE OF 640.51 FEET THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES, 37 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 23, A DISTANCE OF 408.06 FEET TO THE WEST LINE, THEREOF THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES, 01 MINUTES, 26 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 640.51 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PROPERTY INDEX NUMBERS: 06-23-200-004 & 06-23-200-011

Together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

This property is commonly known as 10714 Marengo Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038, Boone County, Illinois, and is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY

Attorney for Plaintiff

File No: 15020.542

19333 E. Grant Highway

Marengo, Illinois 60152

(815) 923-2107

Email: pleadings@fgpglaw.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* on May 7, 14, 21, 2021.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,

-v.-20 CH 35

LINDA BARNES, CITY OF BELVIDERE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

**NOTICE OF SALE**



below, the following described real estate:

THAT PART OF LOT 16 IN MAPLE RANGE EXTENDED AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEGINNING AT AN IRON STAKE IN THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 16 IN MAPLE RANGE EXTENDED, AS THE SAME IS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AT A POINT 56.0 FEET NORTH FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID WEST LOT LINE, 76.0 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 16; THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT, 50.0 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE EASTERLY LOT LINE 71.0 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE WESTERLY IN A DIRECT LINE, 73.0 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 604 GARDNER STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-25-102-019  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
The judgment amount was \$41,756.67.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, EGAN & ALAILY LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 321 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 1430, Chicago, IL, 60654 (312) 253-8640.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

EGAN & ALAILY LLC  
321 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 1430  
Chicago IL, 60654  
312-253-8640  
E-Mail: [clerk@ea-atty.com](mailto:clerk@ea-atty.com)  
Case Number: 20 CH 35  
TJSC#: 41-700

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Published In *The Boone County Journal* May 14, 21, 28

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

May 11, 2021

Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 is requesting bids for sealcoating, patching and striping at various buildings and playgrounds. Contractors are required to survey the existing conditions prior to bidding.

All bids are due by 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 28, 2021 at the Business Office, Administration Building, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008. Bids are to be sealed in an envelope titled "Sealcoating Project". The bids will be opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m. Bids are to be submitted on the form provided and signed by an authorized representative of the company.

Specifications may be obtained electronically. Please email Greg Brown at [gbrown@district100.com](mailto:gbrown@district100.com) for plans and a bid sheet.

Each craft, type of worker and mechanic needed to execute the Contract shall be paid the prevailing wage rate for the locality in which the work is performed, in accordance with all federal laws and laws of the State as well as local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder and having force of law.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or reject any or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the opening of bids without written consent of the Owner.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Holly Houk, Secretary

Board of Education

Published In *The Boone County Journal* May 14



**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a high end tattoo studio for body art business in said County and State under the name of Ambitious Ink II at the following post office address: 109B Buchanan Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Justin Rednour, 2880 Hanford Drive, Rockford, IL 61114; phone #815-721-2134.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 23rd day of April, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal April 30, May 7, 14

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of J.O.M. Landscaping at the following post office address: 528 East Lincoln Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Manuel Aguilar, 528 East Lincoln Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-621-3479.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 28th day of April, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal April 30, May 7, 14

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a transportation business in said County and State under the name of Fast Shipping Today LLC at the following post office address: 1728 Foxfield Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Faustino Gallegos, 1728 Foxfield Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-329-8926.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 29th day of April, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal May 7, 14, 21

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a craft business in said County and State under the name of The Purple Poppy at the following post office address: 1727 Huntington Court, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Rebecca Flores, 1727 Huntington Court, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-621-0001.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 30th day of April, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal May 7, 14, 21

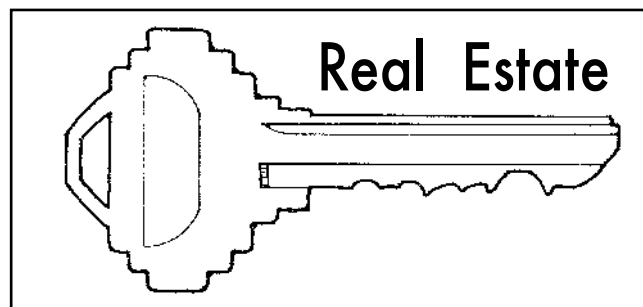
**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of MC's Lawn & Landscaping at the following post office address: 225 Highline Street #10, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Fermin Estrada Ramos, 225 Highline Street #10, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-764-4893.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 12th day of May, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal May 14, 21, 28



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, Plaintiff,  
vs. No. 2020CH61  
UNKNOWN HEIRS and LEGATEES OF PATRICK R. WILLIAMS;  
CYNTHIA SUTHERIN, Special Representative for the Estate of Patrick R. WILLIAMS; SARAH SCHNEEMAN; JAMIE BLOOM, as Guardian of ALEXIS WILLIAMS; HOMEOWNERS=ASSOCIATION, if any;  
UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON- RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure herein entered, the Sheriff of Boone County, Belvidere, Illinois, or his deputy, will on the 8th day of June, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder the property commonly known as 10714 Marengo Road, Boone County, Illinois.

The property is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

Dave Ernest, Sheriff of Boone County

FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY

Attorney for Plaintiff

File No: 15020.542

P.O. Box 5

Marengo, IL 60152

815-923-2107

Email: [pleadings@fgpglaw.com](mailto:pleadings@fgpglaw.com)

Published: in *The Boone County Journal* May 7, 14, 21, 2021

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF**  
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,  
-v.-20 CH 35  
LINDA BARNES, CITY OF BELVIDERE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND  
NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 27, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 10, 2021, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 604 GARDNER STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-25-102-019  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$41,756.67.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation

as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, EGAN & ALAILY LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 321 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 1430, Chicago, IL, 60654 (312) 253-8640.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

EGAN & ALAILY LLC  
321 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 1430  
Chicago IL, 60654  
312-253-8640  
E-Mail: [clerk@ea-atty.com](mailto:clerk@ea-atty.com)  
Case Number: 20 CH 35  
TJSC#: 41-700

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Published In *The Boone County Journal* May 14, 21, 28

**Senate** *Continued page 5*

Energy Transition Zone Act, creates tax advantaged districts to incentivize "green energy enterprises" in areas previously reliant on coal and nuclear energy.

"To protect our environment and stop global warming, we need to close coal plants – that's not up for debate," Bush said in a statement released Thursday. "But, as we make strides toward green energy, we can't forget about the families who rely on these plants to put food on the table or the communities that need their tax dollars to function."

Areas that contained a coal or nuclear energy plant, coal mine, or nuclear waste storage facility are eligible to become one of these energy transition zones.

Companies involved in the production of green energy, defined in the statute as solar, wind, water, geothermal, bioenergy or hydrogen fuel, qualify as businesses that can benefit from the zones. These businesses gain a number of tax advantages from working in these areas, including exemption from state and local taxes on gas and electricity, as well as being exempt from use and occupation taxes when they purchase buildings in the zone for energy production.

The bill was one of the few which saw opposition Thursday, passing 46-11. It will head to the House.

The Senate also passed Senate Bill 147, amending the state's insurance code regarding the subject of Medicare. The legislation would create a new Medicare enrollment period for Illinois residents between ages 65 and 75, coinciding with their birthday.

Each year, residents will be entitled to an open enrollment period of 45 days starting on their birthday that allows them to buy a Medicare supplement policy with equal or less benefits than their current Medicare plan.

During this enrollment period, companies that offer those supplemental policies would be unable to deny or change the pricing of coverage due to health status, previous claims or medical conditions. Those companies also would be required to give notice of this enrollment period annually to policy holders, overseen by the Illinois Department of Insurance.

The measure passed 54-0 and will head to the House for further consideration.

Other bills passed by the Senate included legislation affecting home-ownership insurance and vicious dogs, life insurance and debris from demolished buildings.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

# COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

**Laurent House Opens Tour Season:** Frank Lloyd Wright's Laurent House opens its 8th tour season Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Tours are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays from April through November and on Fridays from May through October. All tours follow COVID restrictions of distancing and masks.

The Laurent House partners with Anderson Japanese Gardens in offering tours Wednesdays and Fridays. Other specialty tours include holiday events in December and Twilight Tours in summer, depending on COVID restrictions in Winnebago County. Private group tours are available at any time.

All tours are by reservation and can be made online at <https://www.Laurenthouse.com/tours/book-a-tour> or by calling 815/877-2952

**Tour of Duty: World War I Re-enactment Weekend:**

Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23  
Session Times: 9:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 9:45 A.M. 1:30 P.M. 1:45 P.M. 2 P.M.

Go on your own tour of duty as a visitor to this new immersive experience depicting 1914-1918. Visitors will be guided in small groups through history displays including authentic and replica vehicles, artifact exhibits, and presentations by more than 100 World War I re-enactors.

Visitors must follow social distancing protocols in place at the time of this special event. Everyone visiting the museum campus must wear a mask. Light refreshments and snacks will be available for purchase. \$14 Adult, \$8 Children (ages 3-17), Infants (ages 0-2) are Free, Museum Members are Free.

Members may call the museum and talk to a Front Desk representative to reserve your ticket(s) or email [store@midwayvillage.com](mailto:store@midwayvillage.com) with your name and ticket quantity.

As this is a timed special event it is important to arrive on time. Wear walking shoes for the tour and dress for the weather. This is a rain or shine event. Parking is free. The museum is taking advance reservation for this timed re-enactment and limited reservations are available. Call 815-397-9112 for more information.

**2021 Rockford Midtown Market:**  
June 3, 2021 through September 30, 2021. Open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Held in the Rockford Public School District 205 Administration parking lot. Go to [www.Rockfordmidtownmarket.com](http://www.Rockfordmidtownmarket.com) for more information.

**Learn to Ride A Horse at Lockwood Park:**  
Make this the year you learn to ride a horse or improve your riding skills! Registration is open for group horse riding lessons and camps this season at Rockford Park District's Lockwood Park and Trailside Equestrian Centre. A variety of lesson programs are offered throughout the spring, summer, and fall for all skill levels ages seven through adult, including: for children ages 3-6, the My Little Pony program provides an introductory riding experience, with weekly four -week sessions beginning May 3 through September 30, 2021.

More information about Lockwood Park can be found at [www.rockfordparkdistrict.org/lockwood](http://www.rockfordparkdistrict.org/lockwood).

## Mendoza Suggests Illinois Due for Credit Upgrade

*Says State will work with Treasury for permission to spend federal aid to repay COVID borrowing*

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza is asking the nation's three major credit rating agencies to reconsider the state's credit rating with an eye toward a possible upgrade.

In an April 28 letter to executives at Moody's Investors Service, S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings, Mendoza argued that Illinois has virtually eliminated its backlog of past-due bills while keeping current on its bond payments and pension obligations, all in the midst of a global pandemic.

"Please be assured that my office is doing everything possible in managing the current backlog of bills and addressing Illinois' finances head on," Mendoza wrote. "The Office of Comptroller urges your agencies to consider these positive factors and progress made paying down the backlog when evaluating Illinois' credit worthiness."

Illinois currently has the lowest investment-grade credit rating available from all three rating agencies, one notch above what is considered "junk bond" status.

Mendoza wrote that letter on the same day her office announced that the state's bill backlog – actually, the sum total of all outstanding vouchers waiting to be paid – had been decreased to just \$3.5 billion.

According to the letter, the oldest outstanding commercial voucher at that time was just two days old. The backlog was within the 30-day billing cycle that is common in the business world, Mendoza's office said.

In fact, Mendoza said during an interview Tuesday that she believes the state now needs to come up with another word besides "backlog."

"The key statistic here is that right now we are up to date with all of our commercial vouchers," Mendoza said. "So there is no one waiting to get paid in my office. There could still potentially be some people that are waiting to get paid because their invoices might be at the agency level and they just haven't sent them to us. But you're talking about a minute group of people."

Since Mendoza announced that the backlog had been paid down, the amount of outstanding vouchers has fluctuated daily, roughly between \$3.5 and \$4.5 billion. But she said the bulk of that is the result of interfund borrowing – when the state transfers money from other funds into the general revenue fund to meet short-term cash flow needs – as well as the normal "ebb and flow" of daily business in state government.

Apart from those expenses, though, the state does have significant short-term obligations coming due, including roughly \$3.2 billion the state borrowed from the Federal Reserve during the pandemic, plus another \$400 million borrowed from the state treasurer's office.

Both Mendoza and Gov. JB Pritzker had said in

earlier interviews that they wanted to use a portion of the roughly \$8 billion in federal relief funds that Illinois expects to receive through the recently-passed American Rescue Plan to pay off the Federal Reserve loans. But new guidelines from the U.S. Treasury Department that were released on Tuesday specifically prohibit using those funds for "payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments, including, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or other debt service costs."

State Rep. Michael Zalewski, D-Riverside, who chairs the House Revenue Committee, said in an interview Wednesday that he does not believe the relief funds can be used to repay the Federal Reserve and that any repayment plan will have to be "part of a broader budget conversation."

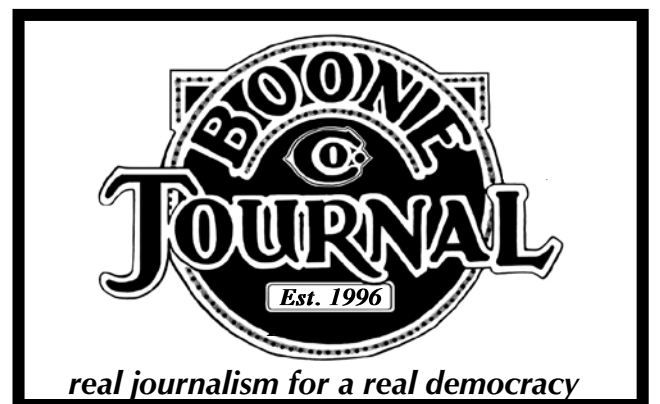
But Mendoza said in a statement Wednesday that she believes there may be room to negotiate with Treasury on the use of those funds.

"The Dept. of the Treasury said it welcomes feedback to the interim guidance on permitted uses of the stimulus funds," she said in an email statement. "(The Governor's Office of Management and Budget) and our office will be seeking to clarify with the Treasury that guidance against using these funds to pay debts unrelated to COVID-19 does not prevent their use for paying debts accrued for spending related to COVID expenses. Our office has made clear that stimulus funds will not be used to pay legacy costs such as pensions."

During a separate news conference Wednesday, Pritzker insisted the state is committed to repaying the Federal Reserve loans one way or another, but said he believes the state should be allowed to use the relief funds for that purpose.

"Look, the federal government is sending us dollars and then telling us that we can't then send those dollars back to the federal government to pay for the borrowing we took out last year. Clearly it doesn't make a lot of sense and so we've talked to the Treasury Department about that," he said.

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