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Wednesday, January 20, 2021

## Dwight Reviews GLCEDC Annexation Request

### January 11 Board of Trustee Meeting Summary

by Madelyn Fogarty  
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

The Dwight Village Board of Trustees met January 11 following a holiday recess. The board is currently conducting meetings via teleconference calls to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those in attendance and as allowed by an edict from Governor Pritzker. Village Administrator Kevin McNamara noted that the governor has extended the order through February 6.

In new business, Adam Dontz, CEO of the Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council, was on hand with an application request for the annexation of approximately 365 acres of land situated east of town known as the McPart L.L.C. parcels (Parcel Index Numbers (PIN) 05-03-400-011 and 05-03-400-010.

Mayor Jared Anderson explained that, as this property is presented to prospective clients, it is helpful if there are facilitated agreements with the Village of Dwight for water and sewer should the property be developed. According to Dontz, proposals have been submitted to the GLCEDC from national brokerage companies and their recommendation is that the annexation and zoning be done before they move forward with a national marketing campaign.

The GLCEDC has negotiated a five year purchase option for the property and has done its due diligence with regard to inspections and property studies at an investment of approximately \$100,000. The board approved sending the McPart annexation petition to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

In a communication notice, the Village of Dwight has been selected as a recipient of an Illinois Housing Development Authority \$60,000 grant through the Strong Communities Program. The grant is to be used for improvements through tear downs of decayed property. At this time, no guidelines had been made available.

In reports to the board, Mayor Jared Anderson gave a shout out to the Dwight Public Works for their efforts following the recent snow and ice that covered the area for several days. Cory Scoles with DPW asked the community for patience as they work to clean up all of the downed branches.

Chief of Police Tim Henson called on citizens to be aware

of Illinois House Bill 163 and Senate Bill 1188 pointing out that there are unfunded police mandates in the bill, among other things, which he called “detrimental” to current and future police officers. Chief Henson encouraged everyone to write their senators and representatives to make their voices heard.

“There is a lot of traction with these bills and, the more people that are heard, the better,” stated Chief Henson.

Representing the Dwight Economic Alliance, Jane Anderson reported that great community support was shown for local businesses during the DEA Buck sales leading up to the holidays. According to Jane, December sales were \$2,735.

“DEA Bucks are a great way to put your money back in to the community,” said Anderson.

Plans for the 2021 Route 66 Smoke Out are underway with the event slated for Saturday, May 1. This year’s event will feature two competitions – a Backyard BBQ competition and a regular Smoke Out contest. Both events are KCBS sanctioned. Organizer Rodney Connor is planning the event downtown this year and in conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor. Pending COVID restrictions, if DEA’s Springfest event does take place this year, it will also be held downtown.

Anderson encouraged everyone to visit Emling Florist during its close out sale to wish Linda Emling a happy retirement and thank her for the many years of business service to the community. It was also noted that hair and beauty salon Studio 134 has moved to its new downtown location at 146 E. Main Street.

Also approved by the board were:

- payment of December 22, 2020 bills totaling \$169,175.87.
- payment of January 11, 2021 bills totaling \$57,528.63.

Present for the January 11 session were Mayor Anderson, Trustees Randy Irvin, Jerry Curtis, Marla Kinkade, Chuck Butterbort, Jennifer Johnson and Justin Eggenberger.

The next meeting of the Dwight Village Board of Trustees will take place at 6:30 p.m., Monday, January 25. Please check prior for meeting location meeting / access information.

## Third Quarter Sales Taxes Are Mixed

by Tom Tock

Sales tax receipts for Dwight in the third quarter of 2020 were down from the pre-Covid year of 2019, while other communities showed some gains.

Third quarter 2020 results for Dwight were \$252,865.

The third quarter of 2019 provided Dwight with sales tax of \$286,984. The first quarter of 2020 produced \$222,699; second quarter \$229,141.

All the sales tax numbers include the non home rule additional sales tax of 1¢ that was added to certain Dwight sales after July 1 of 2016 and was dedicated to infrastructure improvements.

The 1¢ tax was worth \$109,018 in the third quarter of 2019. It brought in \$93,121 in the third quarter of 2020.

Dwight had 140 sales taxpayers in 2019; 126 in 2020.

### 3rd Quarter Sales Tax

	2019	2020
Dwight	286,984	252,865
Fairbury	175,782	203,685
Pontiac	683,085	740,198
Odell	14,285	10,843
Saunemin	3,873	3,749
Gardner	50,425	54,548
Mazon	12,432	14,040
Morris	1,750,597	1,646,664
So. Wil.	7,457	6,749
Herschler	78,291	106,618



photo by J7 Images

The stripes represent the original 13 Colonies and the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well; red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

## DCS Approves Blue Sky Solar Energy Tax Abatement January BOE Actions

by Madelyn Fogarty  
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

Dwight Common School District #232 Board of Education met via a virtual meeting on January 13 where it approved a tax abatement request from Blue Sky Solar Energy, LLC.

The Blue Sky Solar Project, impacting 2,700 acres of farm land in Grundy County between Dwight and Gardner as the largest proposed solar farm in Illinois, is expected to bring substantial new money to the Dwight Common School District each year after agreed upon tax abatement incentives are gone.

Last week, DCS Board members approved a Resolution authorizing District 232 to execute the tax abatement agreement for Blue Sky Solar Energy, LLC, allowing a two-year, eighty-percent (80%) first year abatement, and twenty percent (20%) second year abatement, not to exceed \$2 million in total. Blue Sky Solar Energy, LLC had previously requested a 75% tax abatement for two years with a maximum \$4

million abatement. The application requires that it result in a final agreement signed and delivered on or before 90 days after the resolution adoption. There are a total of 15 taxing bodies involved. Once fully up and running, Dr. Jancek estimated a \$12 million increased EAV with an approximate \$300,000 of potential revenue each year.

In other financial business, it was reported that the State of Illinois currently owes the district \$34,580.40 in mandated categorical payments for 2021.

In reports to the Board, Principal Julie Schultz reported that, with current enrollment numbers at 477 total students, 79 percent of students have chosen the hybrid learning platform with 21 percent remote. Mrs. Shultz thanked teachers and families for all of their effort during the first semester and noted that “everyone is thrilled to be back in the building.”

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jeremy Jenkins reported that the IESA and IHSA have, again, pushed out the potential start date for school sports with a plan to revisit in late January. It was noted that Scholastic Bowl has a team and will be moving forward with virtual meets.

Administrators reported that creative ways to build skills and prevent retentions as the need for after school and possible evening study programs increase due to COVID circumstances.

“Ultimately, we want to give everyone as many opportunities as possible for success,” stated Principal Schultz.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Jancek reported that there will be two new board members with Tara Hansen and Lori Bowman running unopposed for two opening seats on the board. Current BOE members Bo Partney and Cathy Ferguson will not be seeking re-election to retain their seats. Also on the April consolidated election ballot will be incumbent board members Nick Stepanovich and Marc Ellis looking to retain their board seats.

In maintenance, Dr. Jancek reported that bleacher inspections will be taking place to ensure these are up to code with any repairs noted and fixed. In addition, the 1960’s walk-in freezer/cooler is in need of repair as well as the cafeteria dishwasher. Significant food service revenues from the federal government due to COVID may be used to fund these projects.

In other business, Dr. Jancek reported on government COVID relief funding, and possible expenditure of these funds with the District’s portion totaling approximately \$350,000. This one time lump sum stimulus payment must be expended by September 2022 and can only be used in three categories: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including building and cleaning supplies

necessary to keep the building open; loss of learning options; and mental health. Some options being considered for use of the relief funding include afterschool programs; Saturday morning sessions; evening resources; summer school options, snacks and a late bus rider option for the after school programs; PPE; and a fulltime social worker.

In another matter, the board reviewed a crop and income report on the nine acres of farm ground leased out by the district. The district’s net income from the 2020 corn crop was \$865.40. Proceeds are designated for outside playground / activity projects

The board also:

- approved IASB Press Plus Board Policy Issue 106 Updates (second reading).

- approved hiring Allison Schantz, Health Aide, with the Dwight High School District assuming 50 percent of the salary / benefits.

All board members were present at the January virtual session. The next regular meeting of the Dwight Common School Board of Education will be 6 p.m., Wednesday, February 10. Please check the school’s website for location / virtual access information prior to the meeting. Since October 2020, members of the Redbird and Trojan community have been able to virtually login and watch regularly scheduled monthly board meetings.

## 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW - PAGES 4 AND 6

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FOR THE RECORD

**Tickets Issued by Dwight Police**

January 8: Jessyca N. Randolph, 42, Richton Park, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.  
January 13: Joy I. Anele, 40, Chicago, head/tail/sidelight/1st, 2nd.

*Persons in the police report are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**1 Written Warning**  
Improper lane use – 1.

**Accident Report**


Friday, January 8, 12:56 a.m., an accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. involving a 2015 Frei., driven by Kevin Bliss, Bolivar, MO, which clipped a parked 2019 Pete., owned by Scott Kaley, Winter Haven, FL, when driving out from a parking space.

**Dwight Police Blotter**

January 7: Dwight Police took two reports of Unemployment Fraud; 4:23 p.m., Dwight Police arrested Robert Crocker, 24, of Kankakee, on an In-State Warrant; 10:58 p.m., Arrested for Domestic Battery was Shelby Moore, 29, of Dwight. She was taken to Livingston Cty. Jail.  
January 8: Dwight Police took a report of Unemployment Fraud.  
January 11: Dwight Police took two reports of Unemployment Fraud.

**Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS**

January 7: Old Rt. 66, medical, Morris.  
January 8: Mazon, medical, Morris.  
January 10: Seminole, medical, St. James.  
January 12: Mazon, fire; Seminole, medical, Morris; Northbrook, medical, refusal; Philmar, refusal, refusal; South, medical, Morris; I-55, medical, St. James; Spencer, medical, Morris.  
January 13: South St., medical, Morris.  
January 14: Mazon, medical, Morris.



**Temps - 2021**

Jan. 7 – high 37°, low 22°  
Jan. 8 – high 33°, low 26°  
Jan. 9 – high 32°, low 24°  
Jan. 10 – high 27°, low 20°  
Jan. 11 – high 29°, low 23°  
Jan. 12 – high 36°, low 26°  
Jan. 13 – high 39°, low 32°

**One Year Ago – Jan. 20, 2020**  
high 37°, low 1°  
trace snow

**Free Food to Be Distributed January 27**

Free food will be distributed to qualifying households in Dwight Township Wednesday, January 27, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St., Dwight.

The pantry is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October. The November Food Pantry is held on the third Wednesday, while Love Boxes distribute food in December.



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**Grundy County SWCD Pond Seminar March 11**

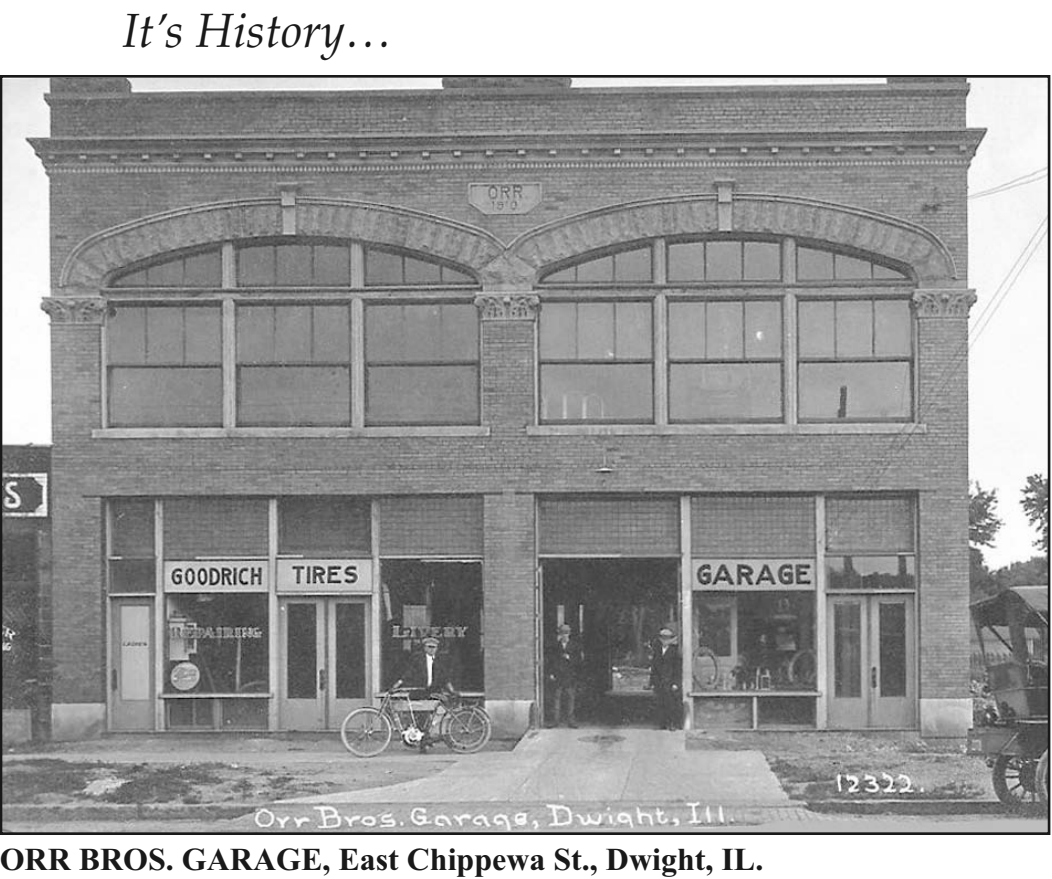
The Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District, along with the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District, will be holding its annual Pond Seminar Thursday, March 11, at 6:00 p.m.

It will be held virtually this year.

Their featured speaker will be Seth Love, who is the District Fisheries Biologist from Silver Springs State Park in Yorkville. Love is very informative about fish and pond care and will answer any questions someone may have about their personal pond. He will also cover maintenance of retention/detention ponds for subdivisions or businesses.

The seminar is opened to everyone and is free of charge. If you plan to attend, call their office to let them know at 815-942-0359, ext. 3, or e-mail Brooke at brooke.baker@il.na.cdnet.net by Tuesday, March 9, so that they can send you the link to the virtual Zoom meeting.

**"hi."**  
(how it all started)



ORR BROS. GARAGE, East Chippewa St., Dwight, IL.

State Rep. Tom Bennett, 106th District

New General Assembly, Speaker

I was honored on Wednesday to once again take the oath of office as the representative from the 106th district. It is a privilege to represent the people of our area, and I remain grateful to you for your trust.

This year we face many challenges as a state, and there is much the General Assembly needs to do to meet those challenges. We have to get serious about reforming our ethical culture in state government. We must fix our broken pension system and reform our property taxes as well. This should be the year we work together to pass a realistic, balanced budget based on an honest assessment of what our fiscal condition is.

The state of Illinois also has some administrative challenges that we have to overcome soon. The problems in the Department of Employment Security continue to make things hard for those who have become unemployed due to the pandemic, or those who have had fraudulent applications filed in their names. And we must straighten out the backlog of FOID card applications.

When we reach the end of the spring session in May, we as legislators will have to come back and ask ourselves some important questions. What have we really done to help all of Illinois? What have we done to help our constituents protect themselves and recover from Covid-19? What have we done to improve the process at IDES? What have we done to help our local businesses that have lost millions due to the pandemic?

What have we done to help our neighbors who no longer have jobs? What have we done to improve the ethical tone and culture of the House? What have we done to take some of the governmental burden off of businesses? What have we done to improve our schools and roads? What have we done to improve our budget, our debt and our pension situation? Who have we helped?

There is much to do, but if we are willing to work together and make tough choices, we can meet the challenges we face.

**Madigan Out as Speaker**  
The Illinois House of Representatives got its first new Speaker of the 21st century this week, as Representative Chris Welch of Hillside was chosen to lead the body for the upcoming term. Welch replaces longtime Speaker Michael Madigan of Chicago, who was first elected Speaker in 1983.

Speaker Welch joined the House in 2013 after serving on his local school board. Before becoming Speaker he was chairman of the House Executive Committee.

Former Speaker Madigan was a longtime impediment to reform and amassed far too much power for any one individual in government, I hope that Speaker Welch will seize the opportunity to improve the climate in the General Assembly on everything from ethics and civility to including both parties in passing legislation. This can be a real turning point for the state if we can change things for the better in the Illinois House.

**Voting No on law enforcement bill**  
I voted no on a law enforcement bill, House Bill 3653 (formerly known as House Bill 163), which was opposed almost universally by law enforcement and prosecutors from every part of the state because it harms law enforcement and makes our state less safe. Unfortunately it passed by a vote of 60-50.

**Disappointing end to 101st General Assembly**  
Before the inauguration on Wednesday, the House returned for five days of session to finish the outgoing 101st General Assembly. It was a chance to wrap up bills before the new members of the House were sworn in. It could have been a chance to act on ethics reform and property tax reform, to look into the failures at the Department of Employment Security, or reduce the wait time for FOID card applications, or to re-assert the legislature's role in state government after months of Governor Pritzker's governing by executive order.

What we got was a hyper-partisan session that seemed at times to have more to do with internal Democratic Party politics than it did with governing the state of Illinois. Not a single Republican bill was even called for a vote during the entire session. It was a serious disappointment.


Among the other bills passed were a well-intentioned but flawed education bill. It was laden with unfunded mandates which will force property taxes to be raised while decreasing the qualifications for obtaining quality educators by removing the minimum grade point average of 3.0 to obtain an alternative Educator License. The House also continued its frustrating pattern of passing legislation that will hurt small businesses and job creators in Illinois.

There were a few bright spots. There was a great amount of concern that the lame duck session would see an income tax increase rushed through, but that did not occur. We also saw a few good pieces of legislation, like a bill to crack down on payday lenders, but overall it was a sad end to the outgoing General Assembly.

**VA Director steps down**  
On Monday morning the House held a hearing to look into what went wrong at the LaSalle Veterans Home where a coronavirus outbreak sickened many veterans and staff. Numerous shortcomings in the state's response to the outbreak have come to light in the aftermath.

Monday afternoon the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Linda Chapa LaVia, announced she was stepping down from her post. She will be replaced by Major General Peter Nezamis, who will serve as interim director of the agency until a new director can be appointed.

**How much do we owe?**  
As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$5,295,045,572 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$6.7 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment. It does not include debts that can only be estimated, such as our unfunded pension liability which is subject to a wide range of factors and has been estimated to be more than \$141 billion.



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**Pre-Retirees: Plan Now for Health Care Costs**

If you're close to retirement, you'll have several financial issues to consider. But you'll want to pay attention to one of the most important of these issues: health care costs. How can you prepare yourself for these expenses? First, get an early start on estimating health care costs. More than two-thirds of those planning to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their health and long-term care costs will be in retirement, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And some people don't worry much about these costs, which may be considerable, thinking that Medicare will pay for most of them.

While Medicare does cover many medical expenses, it also has its own costs. You probably won't pay a premium for Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage), since you likely had this cost deducted from your paycheck when you were working. But if you are hospitalized, you'll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance (the percentage of costs you pay after you've paid your deductible). Part B (doctor's visits) requires a premium, deducted from your Social Security checks, and you must pay an out-of-pocket deductible. After you meet this deductible for the year, you typically pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor's services. And when you enroll in Part D (prescription drug plan), you will likely also have to pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible and coinsurance or copays.

To help pay for the Medicare deductible, coinsurance and copayments, you may want to get supplemental insurance, known as Medigap. Premiums for Medigap vary, depending on the plan you choose.

As an alternative to original Medicare, you could select Medicare Advantage (sometimes called Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are offered by private companies approved by Medicare, but the benefits and costs vary by plan. These plans generally will incorporate Medicare Parts A and B and will provide additional medical coverage, such as prescription drugs.

When you incorporate all the above, the annual out-of-pocket costs for traditional medical expenses likely will be about \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person – not insignificant, but certainly a number that can be addressed by careful planning.

But there's one more expense to keep in mind: long-term care. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare typically pays few of these expenses.

Clearly, between regular medical costs associated with Medicare or those not covered by it, and costs resulting from the possible need for long-term care, your health care bills can mount. To meet these costs, you need to plan ahead – and take action.

For example, it's essential that you incorporate health care expenses into your overall financial strategy. You can also work with a financial professional to run some "what-if" analyses to see if your strategy would be derailed by a potential long-term care stay. And the professional you work with may be able to suggest specific protection vehicles that can help you meet the costs of long-term care.

The best time to prepare for your health care costs during retirement is well before you retire. So, if you haven't already started, now is the time to do so. When it comes to paying for health care, the fewer surprises, the better.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.  
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the corner

by Tom Tock

Okay, Tock, two weeks ago you reflected on Trump and his mischievousness with the pandemic subsidy money and with the media -- and you wrote "this guy rocks."

Then last week you wrote, "Donald, you're fired!" You sound confused.

I am.

Although "disappointed" would be a better word. Very disappointed.

Mary Schmich, columnist for the Chicago Trib, tried to list all the words used by commentators to describe the abortive takeover of the U.S. Capitol. Words like "shocking" and "inevitable," 13 words altogether.

Then she listed 14 words such as "attack" and "stunt" to describe the event itself. Fourteen more words classified the attackers: "mob" and "dupes" among them.

All the words she listed were appropriate. It was, without a doubt, a very bad happening.

Just think, Trump could have retired knowing he received 74 million votes, although in a losing effort, and made a graceful exit.

Now he may well be impeached by both the House and Senate, he has fractured his own party, people died needlessly, and the inauguration will look like a military encampment.

It's going to take a long time for Republicans to regroup.

\*\*\*\*\*

Closer to home, we can try to enjoy the demise of Mike Madigan's reign as Speaker of the Illinois House, though his shadow will remain. And the Governor still has to come to grips with the financial difficulties that exist in a very sick state.

Pritzker seems to ignore spending reforms put forward by such organizations as the Illinois Policy Institute. He has his hat hung on the prospect of a federal bailout, and officials predict he may get one after the new president is seated in Washington.

Meanwhile Crain's reported that Illinois lost population for the seventh straight year. As of July 1, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated Illinois' population dropped by 79,487 in the last year and is now estimated to be 12,587,530.

Illinois has lost 250,000 residents since the last census in 2010, which could mean the state would lose two Congressional seats.

\*\*\*\*\*

A friend loaned us a box of memorabilia from the time of R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co.'s 1968 arrival in Dwight. I am old enough to remember many of the Dwight officials and local businessmen and women who met a number of times with Donnelley people prior to the official announcement of the company coming to Dwight.

The atmosphere was electric. It was a different world.

(continued from Jan. 13, 2021)

October

Positive COVID-19 Tests Close DTHS, DCS for Two Weeks

Due to positive test results reported by Dwight Public Schools staff members, Dwight Public Schools went full remote learning through October 23.

After consulting the Livingston County Health Department about CDC guidelines and COVID protocols, the decision was made that all DPS students will remain at home for remote learning for two weeks -- returning to school for in-person instruction October 26.

Veterans Day Ceremonies Cancelled, Halloween Happenings Continue

Due to restrictions placed on businesses and organizations by the state, and the limitation on the size of gatherings, Veterans Day ceremonies around the area were cancelled.

Halloween happenings, however, continued in area communities -- in a socially distanced manner.

Fire Chief Paul Johnson Receives CFO Designation

Paul Johnson received the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) in the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Dwight Fire Chief Johnson became one of only 1,498 CFO designees worldwide.

Abby Beck, GSW, Named DAR Good Citizen

Abby Beck was honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award for Gardner-South Wilmington High School.

The selection, voted on by faculty and staff, honors an outstanding senior who ex-

hibits the qualities of dependability, leadership, service, and patriotism.

She is the daughter of Jennifer and Mike Campbell and Kevin Beck.

Old Route 66 Restaurant Reopens

After closing March 21, 2020, due to COVID-19, then following a huge renovation, Old Route 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight reopened its doors to its loyal customers -- holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 12.

Maria Ahmed, owner, said the reaction was one of complete surprise and disbelief. "It blows their mind at how immaculate it is, and [they] can't believe it is the same restaurant."

November

Oly Farms Opens In Emington

Oly Farms, located in Emington, decided to open its doors in October -- delighting visitors with a wide range of activities.

Stemming from the family farm Kris and Lena Olson have grown through hard work and love, the farm is home to a multitude of animals, offering a wide variety for children and adults to pet, enjoy, and experience.

Oly Farms plan to reopen when the fair weather and spring returns, and will post its hours on their Facebook page.

Dwight Author Marshall Harris Receives Book Contract

Marshall Harris, a young writer from Dwight, got a contract for her newest book, *An Ember's Touch*, through Dream -- and is hopeful for a 2021 release date.

"To do what you love doing would be awesome," Harris said. "But to do what you love, and watch it move your life toward the success you dreamed of, that's what I want to do."

Hudson Beier Earns DAR Good Citizen Award

Dwight Township High School senior Hudson Beier

was selected as the DAR Good Citizen Award winner for the 2020-21 school year.

Hudson, the son of Gary Beier and Shawn Beier, was selected by the DTHS faculty for this distinction.

Graduated Tax 'No' in Livingston; Trump 'Yes'

Despite losing his Presidency, Donald Trump prevailed 1,340 to 662 votes for Joe Biden in Dwight's four precincts November 3.

Livingston county-wide, Trump had a 12,134 vote total, Biden 4,568.

The total Livingston county-wide vote on the graduated income tax proposal was 3,737 "yes" and 12,937 "no".

GSW Panther Hall of Fame Class of 2021 Announced

The Gardner-South Wilmington Panther Hall of Fame committee announced the Class of 2021 -- which featured Mr. Leroy Brandt and Mr. David Doglio.

This award recognizes and honors outstanding alumni or other persons who have distinguished themselves through service to GSW High School or the community.

Simantels Celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary

Bertie and Clarence Simantel planned to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary November 23 with a family Zoom party, in honor of their lifelong commitment.

The couple was married November 23, 1950, by Reverend E. W. Swartz at Trinity Lutheran Church in Goodfarm.

The couple has six children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

R. Eich & Sons, Plumbing & Heating, To Close

Since 1973, R. Eich & Sons, Plumbing & Heating, had been a staple in Herscher. But owner Bob Eich announced his plans to retire in November, which involved the closing of his business.

Eich, retiring from plumbing after 70 years, closed his Herscher business November 30.

December

Kimberly's Kupboard Remodels Silo for Storefront

Kimberly Bouk and her husband repurposed an ordinary silo to update their shop in Cabery, and the couple held an Open House for the business December 4 and 5.

Senate Committeee Grills Veterans' Affairs Officials on LaSalle Home Outbreak

Members of the state Senate Veterans Affairs Committee had pointed questions for officials with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs about the agency's response to an outbreak at the LaSalle Veterans' Home that resulted in at least 28 resident deaths from COVID-19-related complications.

A total of 105 residents and 100 staff at LaSalle tested positive for COVID-19 since the outbreak began. As of press time, there were 40 residents and 24 staff who were actively positive for the virus.

Project Blue Sky Enters Development Phase

The Blue Sky Solar Project proposes more than 1 million solar panels over 2,670 acres between Dwight and Gardner.

The power from the project will be delivered into the local electrical grid, helping to diversify the regional energy portfolio.

Schools in Dwight and Gardner could see a significant financial impact when the project reaches fruition, but the project is looking for a three-year tax abatement, meaning districts won't see any revenue until at least 2026-27. The project is estimated to pay over \$36 million in property taxes to local taxing jurisdictions over the life of the project.

DEA Backwards Parade

Dwight Economic Alliance put on a Backwards Parade December 5 to celebrate the holiday season, with area businesses and homes showing off their decorations and over 200 cars participating in the parade.

Dwight Novelist Published in the Universe of Sherlock Holmes

Bob Madia, a Dwight resident, had his first book, "Inspector Lestrade," published by Orange Pip Books in London, England.

The book takes place in the Sherlock Holmes universe, and features a riveting mystery explored and uncovered by Dr. Watson after Sherlock Holmes' apparent death.

In addition to his novel, Madia has also had several screenplays produced, to what he called, "mixed reviews." Madia enjoyed writing the book more because of the creative license it afforded him.

Louise Davis Turns 105!

On December 11, Louise Davis turned 105. Her family was unable to go inside of Heritage Health, Dwight, to help her celebrate, but sent an enormous birthday cake and gifts, while braving the cold to cele-

(continued on page 6)

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'09 F150 Crew FX4, 124K, 4WD  
\$13,900

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'19 F250 Crew XL, 31K, 4WD, Flat Bed.....\$45,900  
'19 F150 Reg. Cab XL, 12K, 2WD.....\$25,900  
'19 F150 Crew XLT, 25K, 4WD, Special Ed.....\$38,900  
'19 F150 Crew XLT, 25K, 4WD.....\$37,900  
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 18K, 4WD.....\$36,900  
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 21K, 4WD, NAV, Sport Pkg...\$39,900  
'17 F150 S/C STX, 49K, 4WD.....\$29,900  
'16 F150 S/C XL, 41K, 4WD.....\$28,900  
'16 F150 S/C XLT, 64K, 4WD, 8' Bed.....\$26,900  
'16 F150 S/C XL, 121K, 4WD, New Tires.....\$19,900  
'15 F150 Crew Lariat, 52K, 4WD.....\$33,900  
'14 Ram 1500 Crew Tradesman, 40K, 4WD, Diesel...\$24,900  
'12 Avalanche LTZ, 117K, 4WD.....\$21,900  
'09 F150 Crew FX4, 124K, 4WD.....\$13,900  
'08 F250 S/C Lariat, 235K, 4WD, Diesel.....\$11,900

VANS and SUVS

'20 Explorer XLT, 13K, 4WD.....\$36,900  
'20 T350 XLT, 24K, 15 Passenger.....Just In  
'20 Explorer XLT, 13K, 4WD.....\$35,900  
'20 EcoSport Titanium, 4K, 4WD.....\$19,900  
'20 EcoSport Titanium, 5K, 4WD.....\$19,900  
'20 Escape Titanium, 8K, AWD.....\$28,900  
'19 Transit Connect XLT, 7K, Leather.....\$26,900  
'19 Flex LTD, 18K, AWD.....\$29,900  
'19 EcoSport Titanium, 15K, 4WD.....\$19,900  
'19 Grand Caravan SXT, 40K.....\$18,900  
'19 Escape Titanium, 8K, 4WD.....\$26,900  
'19 Edge Titanium, 11K, AWD.....\$32,900  
'18 Escape S, 50K, FWD.....\$13,900  
'18 Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon, 9K, 4WD.....\$44,900  
'18 Escape Titanium, 30K, 4WD.....Just In  
'18 Edge SEL, 14K, AWD.....\$26,900  
'18 Escape SE, 12K, 4WD.....\$19,900  
'18 Escape SE, 13K, FWD.....\$18,900  
'16 Escape SE, 41K, 4WD.....\$16,900  
'15 Escape SE, 97K, 4WD.....\$12,900  
'14 Edge SEL, 122K, AWD.....\$10,900  
'12 Ram Cargo Van, 137K.....\$7,900  
'12 Edge SEL, 133K, AWD.....\$7,900

CARS

'19 Fusion Hybrid Titanium, 12K.....\$22,900  
'16 Fusion SE, 86K.....\$11,900  
'15 Taurus SEL, 72K.....\$14,900  
'02 Corvette Convertible, 32K.....\$19,900

Gas Prices For  
This Week

The national average for a gallon of gas has increased by 7 cents. Pump prices have increased while gas demand remains low. Crude prices continue to increase due to optimism that the coronavirus vaccines will help crude demand recover. However, drivers should expect to see pump prices continue to climb.

City/Village	January 18	January 11
Dwight	\$2.34	\$2.33
Kankakee	\$2.37	\$2.47
Streator	\$2.41	\$2.37
Pontiac	\$2.21	\$2.25
Gardner	\$2.47	\$2.47
Braceville	\$2.49	\$2.49
Morris	\$2.44	\$2.41
Herscher	\$2.49	\$2.46
Chicago	\$2.59	\$2.52
Illinois	\$2.51	\$2.46
U.S.	\$2.39	\$2.32

Sources: GasBuddy.com and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Gasoline price data collected by The Paper and brought to you by Steve's Tire.

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7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We Service National Accounts

Godley Park District will be conducting developmental  
Preschool Screenings March 2 & 3

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The screenings are for any children in any surrounding communities that will be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2021. The park district offers a state funded Preschool For All, in which children must be screened to determine if they qualify, and also has tuition based preschool for both 3 and 4 year old students.

GODLEY PARK DISTRICT

Godley Park District

500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley, IL 60407

www.godleypark.com or call 815-458-6129

For more information or to set up an appointment, call Jill @ 815-458-6129 or email: jill@godleypark.com





Nancy and Richard Sulzberger

### Richard and Nancy Sulzberger Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Richard and Nancy Sulzberger of Verona celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 19. Richard and the former Nancy Willard were married at St. Patrick Church in Dwight on December 19, 1970. They were joined on their golden anniversary by their immediate family at Mass, followed by a dinner at the couple's home. A celebration with family and friends has been postponed until later in 2021 when it is safe to do so.

The couple has four children and ten grandchildren: Guy and Lindsey Sulzberger, Jake, Sam, and Alex of Lemont, Brent and Carrie Sulzberger, Tyler, Zack, and Ava of Verona, Kyle and Amanda Sulzberger, Livia and Reed of Coal City, and Max and Brooke Sulzberger, Addison and Shaley of Dwight.

### Museums in Pontiac Now Open

With the recent announcement of the latest mitigations for the area, museums have been allowed to reopen. The Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Pontiac Oakland Auto Museum, both in Pontiac, have reopened as of Wednesday, January 20.

Hours of operation will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

### Livingston County HCE Holds January Board Meeting

The Livingston County Home and Community Education Board met January 11 in Pontiac. Members made plans to send delegates to the Illinois Association Home and Community Education annual conference in Effingham March 9-11. Several items made by county HCE members will be entered in the Cultural Arts Show at the conference. Livingston County HCE will support the conference by placing an ad in the conference program book and donating an item for the silent auction.

Shirley Meenen, scholarship chairman, announced that information will be sent to all Livingston County high schools near the first of March on the \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior or a college student from Livingston County. Applications are due May 31 and may be obtained from school guidance counselors or the Livingston County University of Illinois Extension Office by calling 815-842-1776 after March 1.

Plans are being made for a program and three lessons on Super Saturday on March 20. Topics will include Gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies, Current Diet Trends, Modern Trends in Textiles and Clothing, and What is Chronic Pain? The event is open to the public. The Livingston County HCE annual meeting, to be held April 19, was also discussed.

Because the December meeting had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, the Christmas community service project was extended into the new year. The board and HCE members throughout Livingston County are collecting snacks to be delivered to the Livingston County Sheriff's Office to show appreciation for the services they provide to the citizens of Livingston County.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15.

### Katelyn Schultz Graduates, Accepts Morris Hospital Job

Katelyn Schultz graduated May 17, 2020, from Lewis University, Romeoville, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Her graduation was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, and re-scheduled for December 19, 2020, as a virtual graduation.

Katelyn was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and was a member of the Student Nurses Association.

She has accepted a position at Morris Hospital.

Katelyn is the daughter of David and Maureen Schultz, of Dwight.



Katelyn Schultz



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5 Minutes with Boma

Hours of Operation



This week’s column is a complaint/PSA/gripe, whatever phrase you want to use, that’s what this one is.

Last week, I left the fine village of Dwight in pursuit of a somewhat particular food item, one that a certain place may specialize in. I will not go into details on the type of food or the restaurants in question, but just know they were not in Dwight.

I had not had what I was looking for in a while, so I thought it would be good to mix it up and have it for the first time in a while.

The first place I went to get said item had a sign outside their establishment that stated they were open every day until 9 pm, every day. I went on a Thursday, unless things have changed in the definition of “every day” I think Thursday falls under that umbrella.

I arrived there around 8:15 p.m., and to my disappointment as I walked up to the door, it was locked and the employees inside told me they were closed for the night. Interesting, I thought, as it was not 9 p.m. and that’s what the sign clearly stated. I may not be the most intelligent, but I can read numbers on a sign.

Alas, I left, disgruntled, but realized that in this town there was another restaurant with similar menu items. I, naturally, looked up this establishment’s time of operation as well, as luck would have it, it said they were also open until 9 p.m. Perfect, I could still get my food item I desired.

I drove to this next restaurant, it’s now 8:20-8:25 roughly, as I’m walking up, the employee who was working shut off the open sign and locked the door.

Now, I understand that Covid has made it difficult on business and things are not normal per se, but in my opinion that’s inexcusable. You can’t have times listed, places, especially online where it’s very easy to update the time. Also, at both places, there were other cars who were also trying to get food, so it was not just me who was looking to get some food. It’s incredibly disheartening to have to guess hours of operation, if you’re stating you’re open to a certain time, be open to that time, don’t be arbitrary about it.

The old man is now done yelling at the clouds. Have a wonderful week.

Aaron J. Boma

2016 ISU Grad

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VILLAGE OF CAMPUS, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

KATHLEEN EMMONS, a/k/a KATHLEEN BENSON, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, as Trustee for the Taxing District,

Defendants.

No. 20-CH-43

NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is given you, KATHLEEN EMMONS, a/k/a KATHLEEN BENSON, Defendant in the above entitled action, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, praying that an order may be entered declaring the property commonly known as 207 County Highway 1, Campus, IL 60920 to be abandoned, and granting Title to said property to the Plaintiff, VILLAGE OF CAMPUS, an Illinois Municipal Corporation. Summons was issued out of the court against you as provided by law, and the action is still pending.

Consequently, unless you, KATHLEEN EMMONS, a/k/a KATHLEEN BENSON, Defendant, file your answer to the Petition in this action or otherwise make your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois on or before February 25, 2021, a default may be entered against you at any time after that date and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of the complaint.

LEANN DIXON  
Clerk of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
Pontiac, Illinois

OBITUARY

Peggy J. Leonard Drake



Peggy J. Leonard Drake, 73, of Bonita Springs, Florida and formerly of Dwight, passed away Thursday, January 14, 2021 at Carle BroMenn Medical Center in Normal.

Her funeral will be private. There will be no visitation. Cremation rites have been accorded by Carmody-Flynn Funeral Home, Bloomington.

She was born November 8, 1947 in Streator, a daughter of James and Lillian Mathisen Scott. She married Kenneth H. Drake on October 10, 2010.

Surviving are her husband, Ken, and her daughter, Kjersten Woodward of Normal. Peggy also leaves her step-children whom she loved dearly; many grandchildren; one brother, James (Lorraine) Scott of Aurora; and one sister, Nancy Olsen of Moline.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one son-in-law, James Woodward.

Peggy retired after a long career with R.R. Donnelley in Dwight.

Peggy very much loved her family and friends. She found happiness being on the go and spoiling her grandkids with shopping spree. Peggy enjoyed doing puzzles in the solitude of her home in Canada, as much as she loved playing cards and dominoes with a couple of cocktails while in Citrus Park.

Peggy loved to travel and soak up as much sunshine as she could find. She was an amazing wife, mother and grandmother, and will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Midwest Affiliate.

To express condolences online, please visit [www.carmodyflynn.com](http://www.carmodyflynn.com)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*‘I Will Gladly Take My Chances...’*

Ironically, I was reading “the corner” about “mischievous Donald” and the “reign by the gang of four...you know, Kamala, Barack, Hillary, and Joe,” when I heard the Capitol of the United States had been breached by Trump supporters who were unhappy Trump had lost the 2020 election.

How could this disrespect occur during a joint session of Congress doing the people’s work as stipulated by our Con-

Carol Coulter

Dwight

South Wilmington Grade School Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

Eighth Grade:

Tess Brooks, Cheyenne Jett.

Seventh Grade:

Gabi Harvey.

Sixth Grade:

Carmela D’Amico, Landyn Phillips.

Fifth Grade:

Lily Buck, Ella Fiddle.

Fourth Grade:

Lyla Cacello,

Leah Olson, Grady Phillips.

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2021, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Livingston County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons owning, conducting and transacting business known as Under The Water Tower Antiques, located at 120 E. Chippewa St., Dwight, IL 60420.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2021.

Kristy A. Masching

Livingston County Clerk

Family members of the deceased, please instruct the Funeral Home to send information to:

The Paper

fax: 815-584-2196

email: [thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

*The Paper* welcomes letters to the editor on topics of current local interest. All letters must be signed and include your name, address and phone number. No letters will be published with fictitious names or if unsigned. All letters should be typed or neatly printed and should not exceed 250 words. Letters are limited to one every 60 days per household. Political letters will not run the week prior to an election.

*The Paper* reserves the right to edit or reject any or all submitted items. Address letters to: Editor, *The Paper*, P.O. Box 245, 204 E. Chippewa, Dwight, IL 60420.

*We welcome your thoughts.*

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2020 - Year in Review - Continued

(continued from page 4)

brate Louise’s birthday from outside her window.

Family visited from all over to help her celebrate.

Morris Hospital Administrators First COVID Vaccines

An unexpected supply of 100 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine arrived at Morris Hospital December 19, and less than 12 hours later, physicians and staff were lining up to receive the vaccine that is key to bringing an end to the pandemic.

Dwight ALDI Seeks Power from the Wind

A 41-meter (134.5 feet) tall wind turbine was erected at the ALDI warehouse in Dwight. It will become operational in early 2021 and provide up to 40% of the company’s electrical power.

The Dwight wind turbine is the first in the ALDI system in the United States, where the

company has some 2,000 stores and plans to grow to 2,500 stores by 2022.

The ALDI warehouse has been a part of the Dwight community for 17 years. It currently has 275 warehouse employees.

Livingston County Receives First Doses of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

The Livingston County Health Department was notified December 23 that the first limited doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine would be arriving that same day.

On that day, 54 eligible Livingston County residents received the vaccine at the LCHD.

Livingston County Family Care Center Closing After 27 Years

After 27 years of serving Livingston County residents, the Livingston Family Care Center closed its doors December 31.

MVK Kindergarten Pre-Registration Feb. 18-25

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman District 2C will be holding Kindergarten Pre-Registration Thursday, February 18, through Thursday, February 25, between the hours of 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Elementary School office.

Your child must be five years old on or before September 1 of 2021 and reside in the MVK School District to be eligible to attend for the 2021-2022 school year.

The child’s certified birth certificate and two proofs

of residency. If you are a homeowner, this could be your property tax bill. If you are a renter, you could take your rental agreement. Other options are any utility bill or your voter registration card with your name and your correct physical address on it.

Physical, dental, and vision forms will be available. If you are unable to enroll your child at this time, call the Elementary School office at 448-2471 to make other arrangements.

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School Honor Roll

At the end of each quarter, the academic accomplishments of Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School students are recognized through the posting of the Honor Roll.

The first is the “High” Honor Roll, in which students must have all “A’s” in core subject areas. The second is the Honor Roll, in which students must have only “A’s” and “B’s” in core subject areas.

Certificates were awarded to the following students:

High Honor Roll

Eighth Grade:

Cecilia Bingheim, Jacob Hasselbring, Madison Kozbiel, Audry McNabb, Thomas Milton, Natalie Misener, Chris Smith, Shelby Welsh, Maison Yard.

Seventh Grade:

Michael Breisch, Lexie Buis, Cody Clennon, Madison DeGrush, Jaxson Finch, Tessa Krull, Lilly Pfeifer, Avery Phillips, Izzy Salinas, Cameron Shriey, Lauren Thomas.

Sixth Grade:

Ethan Hasselbring, Kendall Jones, Tori Skelton, Gracie Smith, Aurora

Weber.

Fifth Grade:

Breckin Anderson, Mark Brookman, Brynlee Hunt, Addison Kilmer, Hunter Milton, Brooklyn Sheedy, Morgan Starwalt, Kaydynce Wardlow, Leah Willis.

Honor Roll

Eighth Grade:

Kellen Arnold, Carter Clouse, John Farcus, Kiley Francisco, Torryn Hahn, Brianna Nicholson, Jackson Petro, Jillian Pizano.

Seventh Grade:

MaryLou Acosta, Wyatt Coop, Devon Daemicke, Clinton Darling, Evan Epling, Jocelyn Linder, Jonah Rogers, Brady Sheedy, Ruthie Steffes.

Sixth Grade:

Joey Arnold, Rayce Aukland, Liliana Conn, Vivienne Cronkrite, Pierce Gilbertson, Daniel Isham, Kaylee Klinker, Zach Naines, Hayden Pfeifer, Brant Roe, Payton Turner.

Fifth Grade:

Vivianna Barrera, Colton Baudino, Matthew Bauerly, Grace Biros, Isac Garcia, Marissa Marcellis, Kolten Pfeifer, Alex Spear, Ximena Valenciano, Rylan West, Tucker Yard.

\$1,500 to CASA of River Valley

Their meeting may have looked different, but the impact remained the same – as 100+ Women Who Care of Grundy County were able to provide \$1,500 to CASA of River Valley at their most recent meeting.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) began their work in Grundy County last January and are currently the

voice for 24 abused or neglected children in the court system. For more information, visit [casaofrivervalley.org](http://casaofrivervalley.org).

The next 100+ Women Who Care gathering will take place on April 13. Get more information on the group by visiting [www.cfgrundycounty.com/100-women-who-care-of-grundy-county](http://www.cfgrundycounty.com/100-women-who-care-of-grundy-county).

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# Senior Lifestyles



## How to confront the potential onset of memory loss



No two individuals are the same, but many men and women encounter similar changes as they approach their golden years. As adults get closer to retirement, their eye-glass prescriptions may need to get a little stronger and their workouts may need to be a little less intense as their bodies adjust to the physical challenges of aging.

Many changes associated with aging don't affect seniors' ability to live independently. However, one common concern for older adults is the potential decline of their cognitive health, which can compromise their ability to get through their daily lives without some form of assistance.

According to the National Institute on Aging, many older adults worry about memory loss as they age. The Alzheimer's Association notes that voicing concerns about memory loss can make those worries seem more real. That fear may compel some aging men and women to write off memory loss as a minor side effect of getting older. And in many instances, memory loss is not severe and not indicative of the onset of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. However, the Alzheimer's Association notes how important it is for aging men and women to seek support if they are concerned about their memory or any changes in the way they're thinking or behaving. Doctors can be invaluable resources for aging men and women, offering tips on how to confront memory loss and recommending strategies that can improve cognitive function.

The Alzheimer's Association recommends aging adults take a three-pronged approach to memory loss the moment they notice any changes in their memory or behaviors.

1. Assess the situation.
- Start making a list of any changes you notice each day. Changes could be related to memory, thought patterns or behaviors. Note anything that feels abnormal or is causing you concern.
- A good assessment also will involve careful consideration of any and all potential factors that may be behind your concerns. Is something other than aging going on? Family stress or a recently diagnosed medical condition can lead to the same

not be ignored.

2. Have a conversation.
- The Alzheimer's Association notes that many people find it helpful to discuss their concerns with a loved one rather than going it alone. Don't delay such conversations, but try to figure out how you will approach them in advance.

After discussing your concerns with a trusted loved one, ask this person to accompany you when you discuss these concerns with your doctor. Having a loved one accompany you when visiting the doctor can calm your nerves, and this person can serve as a backup who can ask the doctor any questions or share any concerns you may forget to ask or bring up.

If a loved one says your concerns sound like normal aging but you still want to seek more support, don't hesitate to contact another friend or family member.

3. Reach out for help.
- The Alzheimer's Association is a reliable source of information that can be accessed online at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) and over the phone at 800.272.3900. Individuals also can find local resources by visiting [www.alz.org/CRF](http://www.alz.org/CRF).

Many individuals are scared to confront the potential onset of memory loss. But no one has to make such a journey alone.



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# Senior Lifestyles

## Seniors: Get Your Flu Shot – It’s Important!



Getting vaccinated for the flu is more important than ever. Not only will a flu shot help keep you and your family healthy, it can help reduce the strain on the healthcare system and keep hospital beds and other medical resources available for people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

This is no ordinary flu season; it's a flu season amid a pandemic. With two dangerous viruses going around at once,

it's time for people to protect their communities by getting the vaccine already available: the flu vaccine.

And people with Medicare are at greater risk for serious complications from flu. A flu shot is an important preventive tool for individuals with asthma, diabetes, and heart and lung disease - chronic conditions that can increase the risk for serious flu-related health complications or even death. It's the best protection from get-

ting and spreading this flu virus, and it's covered by Medicare at no cost. Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season per beneficiary. You pay nothing for a flu shot if your doctor or other qualified healthcare provider accepts Medicare payment for giving the shot.

A flu shot won't protect you against COVID-19, but it has many other important benefits. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there's no evidence that a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes COVID-19.

Those at high risk for flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people 65 years and older, and people with certain chronic health conditions. Anyone who is six months old or older should get a yearly flu vaccine.

The CDC recommends getting vaccinated in September or October, but a flu shot anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

Flu season in North America rarely begins before early October and usually lasts from December to March. In the past two years, the peak activity has occurred around mid-to-late February. Your body needs two weeks after a shot to develop a protective response to the influenza virus, so your best bet is to get vaccinated before the flu rate begins to climb.

Workplaces and other settings that usually provide flu shots may not do so this season because of the challenges of maintaining social distancing. For more information on where you can get a flu vaccine, visit [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org).

When going to get a flu shot, please practice everyday preventive actions and follow the CDC's recommendations

for running essential errands. Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or health department if they are following CDC's vaccination pandemic guidance. Any vaccination location following CDC's guidance should be a safe place for you to get a flu vaccine.

If you have a child over six months old who qualifies for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), you may also qualify for a flu vaccination at no cost to you.

What's the difference between flu and COVID-19? Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they're caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

It is possible to have flu and COVID-19 at the same time. Health experts are still studying how common this can be.

The CDC has developed a test that will check for A- and B-type seasonal flu viruses and SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This test will be used by U.S. public health laboratories. Testing for these viruses at the same time will give public health officials important information about how flu and COVID-19 are spreading and what preventive steps should be taken.

So please protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting a flu shot. Visit the doctor, pharmacy, or other local providers to get a flu shot today.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



## Retirement Travel Tips That Won’t Break the Bank

Retirement ushers in a new stage in life, one in which adults have ample free time to pursue their interests and hobbies.

When eight or more hours per day are no longer allocated for work, those hours can be devoted to other pursuits. Retirees have the time to travel, and such exploration need not break the bank.

A 2014 MassMutual survey found that 72 percent of respondents reported feeling quite happy or extremely happy in retirement. Being able to travel when and where they desire may be a big component of this happiness. A study by Virtuoso found that travel factors significantly into the lives of today's seniors. They spend more on travel than any other generation — an average of \$11,077 a year. Travel spending is at the highest among people between the ages of 75 and 79.

Learning how to get the most bang for your traveling buck can help retirees make travel more affordable.

- Avoid peak travel seasons. Many working families are restricted by school and work schedules, often limiting travel to summer and holiday breaks. The hospitality industry tends to raise their prices during these times of year. Retirees can travel any time they want. Booking trips during less busy times of year for tourism is a great way to save money.
- Consider a rental agreement. Retirees who want to travel for many weeks or even months out of the year may want to

think about renting their homes while they are gone. The money earned in rent can help offset the costs of travel.

- Think about alternative living situations. Seeing the country and traveling most of the time may be more doable if retirees forego the house entirely and opt for different residences. Many recreational vehicles are large enough to be full-time homes. Simply park the RV in a new spot each month for a different perspective. House boats can be an option for the marine-minded.
- Try a repositioning cruise. Cruising is a popular form of travel for seniors. Investopedia says cruise lines offer discount repositioning cruise trips when they need to move ships from one port to another, usually during the off-season. Unlike typical cruises where a ship will return to the port of origin, a repositioning cruise stops at several ports on the way and ultimately docks in a new end destination.
- Find an inexpensive destination. For the cost of staying at a popular family resort for a week, you may be able to stay for double or triple the amount of time for about the same amount of money elsewhere. Weigh destinations carefully and compare costs. Think beyond the “popular” destinations around the world.

Travel is a favorite pastime for retirees. Cost-saving strategies can make travel more budget-friendly for seniors who want to spend more time exploring.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Many people plan to retire by a certain age, but few may actually still be working at their targeted retirement age. In the United States, the age at which working Americans expect to retire has risen to 66. But a Gallup poll showed that most don't stay on the job that long, instead retiring when they're about 60 or 61. In addition, according to a 2018 Employee Benefit Research Institute survey, 48 percent of workers wanted to retire after age 65, but only 19 percent of retirees stayed on the job that long. The reasons vary, but one positive outcome is having enough money to live comfortably during retirement. Still, early retirement largely involves unexpected scenarios. These may include poor health, having to care for an aging parent, downsizing, new skills required for the job, or other work-related reasons.

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Healthy eating options for seniors

“Let food be thy medicine” is a quote attributed to Hippocrates, the ancient scholar considered to be the father of modern medicine. The saying relates to the notion that what people put in their bodies can heal and/or prevent certain conditions.

For seniors with medicine cabinets full of over-the-counter and prescription medications, the idea of relying predominantly on food to promote optimal health may be tempting, and various foods can be particularly useful to the 50-and-over demographic.

According to the World Health Organization, poor diet is a major contributor to many of the diseases that affect older people. Certain foods may be particularly helpful.

- **Brain-friendly foods:** Foods such as avocado, leafy vegetables, sunflower seeds, blueberries, and salmon are good sources of vitamin E, antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and other nutrients that may help ward off dementias like Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Anti-inflammatory foods:** Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids may help prevent inflammation that can cause cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Fruits and vegetables:** Fresh, canned or frozen produce tend to be high in micronutrients, including a

variety of important vitamins that are essential for all components of health. Eating dark green vegetables, such as leafy greens or broccoli, and orange vegetables is advised.

- **Energy-boosters:** Choose whole grains that can provide sustained energy by way of healthy carbohydrates over processed grains.
- **Bone-friendly foods:** Calcium-rich foods, such as milk, yogurt and cheese, can prevent calcium from being leached from the bones, which contributes to conditions like osteoporosis.
- **Digestive system-friendly foods:** The digestive system slows down as the body ages, as the walls of the gastrointestinal tract thicken and digestive contractions that push waste along may slow down and become fewer. Foods rich in fiber can promote proper digestion by moving food through the digestive tract more easily.
- **High-iron foods:** Without enough iron in the body, a person may feel tired and lethargic from a reduced production of hemoglobin, which carries oxygen in the blood from the lungs to the rest of the body. Tofu, spinach, lentils, pumpkin seeds, and fortified breads and cereals are high in iron.

Smart food choices can help seniors live long and healthy lives.

Senior Lifestyles

Improve Your Financial Situation with Let’s Talk Money Webinar Series

Let’s Talk Money is a free, online webinar series to help you move forward with your personal finances. The current economic situation has provided unexpected financial opportunities for some and financial challenges for others. No matter where you are today, you can improve your financial situation in 2021.

Let’s Talk Money is an eight-week series to help gain financial knowledge and the confidence to talk with family, friends, and financial professionals about money. You may sign up for one or all of the webinar series’ sessions. Webinars are Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. Central Time, beginning February 2. Register for connecting information at <http://go.illinois.edu/TalkMoney>.

When asked, previous webinar participants reported the most important things they learned included:

- There are a lot of places where you can make small changes that will together improve your finances in a big way.
- Do not be afraid of your financial situation.
- There are a lot of great and free resources out there to help everyone to learn to be better with money (including these webinars).

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- Who are You with Money?
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- Credit Scores
- Credit Scores Revealed
- Secrets for Financial Success
- Framing Biases, Overcoming Hurdles
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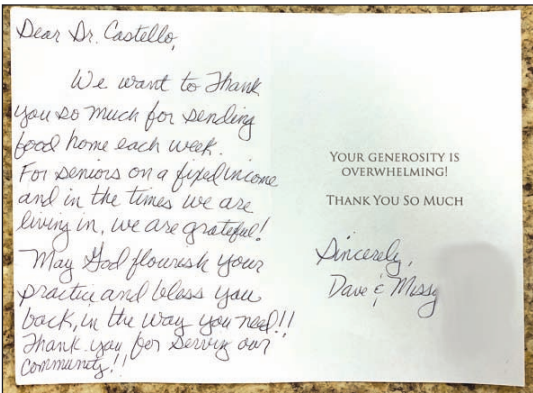
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# Senior Lifestyles

## How to Help Aging Adults Adapt to Technology



Children, adolescents and young adults likely cannot imagine a life without modern technology. Technology may have pervaded every part of life in the 21st century, but it wasn't so long ago that phones were still attached to walls and people had to watch their favorite shows and films exclusively on televisions instead of having the option to watch them on devices like smartphones and tablets.

The transition to life in the age of technology went smoothly for most segments of the population, but some aging adults have had a more difficult time making the adjustment. That difficulty was apparent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,

when public health agencies like the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged aging adults to limit interactions with people outside their homes. Such recommendations forced many seniors to communicate with their families exclusively over the phone or via video conferencing apps like Zoom.

If seniors have had a hard time adapting to technology, their families can try these strategies to make that transition go more smoothly.

- Go over product manuals with seniors. The senior caregiving experts at Home Care Assistance note that older adults are less likely to learn

through experimentation than they are by reading instructions in the manual. When helping seniors learn to use new devices, go over the owner's manual with them as you set up the device. Mark important pages in the manual so seniors know where to go for quick answers if they experience any issues logging in or using certain apps.

- Look for senior-specific devices and guidebooks. Seniors make up an enormous segment of the population, and tech companies have long since recognized that there's a market for products designed specifically for aging men and women. When shopping for devices for seniors, look for those that have been designed to help them overcome issues that have proven problematic for

aging adults in the past. Devices that feature touchscreens with large menus, easily accessible navigation tools and simplified features can help seniors as they learn to use new technology.

- Be patient. Some seniors are excited by the prospect of learning to use new technology, while others may be hesitant. Patience is essential when working with an aging loved one who's intimidated by technology. Take the time to explain apps and features and don't take it for granted that seniors will know how to use a device or recognize what a device can do.

Today's seniors may not have grown up with technology at their fingertips, but they can still learn to use devices to their advantage.

## How Expenses Can Change During Retirement

Work is a major component of daily life, so much so that Andrew Naber, an industrial and organizational psychologist and an associate behavioral scientist at RAND Corp., determined that the average person spends 90,000 hours at work over the course of his or her lifetime. According to a 2014 Gallup poll, the average American retires at age 62, but roughly 64 percent of professionals bid farewell to the workplace between ages 55 and 65.

Retirees must make a number of adjustments once they call it a career. No such adjustment is as significant as the financial one. Most people find their post-retirement income is considerably less than when they were working full-time. That is why financial planners often recommend saving and investing enough during working years to be able to replace 80 percent of preretirement income. Certain expenses get lower after retirement, but

some will rise. Here's a look at what to expect when the bills come due during retirement.

- Food costs: Food costs may go down in retirement because shopping and preparing meals for one or two people is much less costly than feeding a family of four or more. However, dining out may increase as you have more free time to visit local eateries.

- Automotive costs: According to data from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the average commuter spends 25.8 minutes behind the wheel twice a day, and the average driver puts in 13,474 miles behind the wheel each year—with people between the ages of 35 and 54 clocking close to 15,000 miles. Less time spent in the car means fewer gasoline fill-ups and longer durations between oil changes and other services. Without commuting, that cash stays in your pocket.

- Taxes: Many people can expect to be done paying federal income taxes when they are retired and no longer earning an income. If the majority of retirement savings were in Roth IRA accounts, contributions are available for withdrawal tax- and penalty-free at any age.
- Housing: Your mortgage may be paid off before or soon after retirement. That eliminates the single largest expense in many people's budgets. If your home will not be paid off, it's possible to downsize to reduce monthly payments.

- Travel: While many other expenses can go down, travel is one expense that can shoot up during retirement. But many people are happy to bear this cost. With more time for travel, retirees may allocate more funds toward vacations and other great escapes.
- Health care: Seniors often see their health care needs and costs go up after retirement. It's important to understand what is covered by health plans, and it's equally important to set money aside for unforeseen medical expenses.

Many costs of living decrease after retirement. However, it is wise to take in the whole picture to understand how to budget for retirement.

## Area COVID-19 Stats as of January 18

Town	Tested	Cases	
Dwight	7,412	439	
Herscher	1,937	188	
Gardner	1,422	158	
Odell	1,461	130	
Mazon	1,074	120	
Essex	779	103	
Braceville	1,072	103	
S. Wilmington	539	71	
Cullom	698	61	
Reddick	605	54	
Buckingham	525	53	
Saunemin	697	40	
Verona	392	36	
Ransom	466	33	
Emington	258	29	
Cabery	368	27	
Kempton	297	23	
Blackstone	167	19	
Campus	239	14	
Union Hill	81	12	
Kinsman	136	8	
			<b>Numbers as of 01/18/21</b>
			<b>Statistics via: dph.illinois.gov</b>
County	Tested	Cases	Deaths
Kankakee	152,941	11,431	171
LaSalle	107,009	9,392	196
Grundy	35,471	4,339	50
Livingston	55,911	3,624	58
Iroquois	33,624	2,577	54
Ford	20,030	1,380	42

**Illinois - Confirmed Cases:** 1,068,829; **Deaths:** 18,208; **Probable Deaths:** 1,842; **Total Tests Performed:** 14,763,993; **Recovery Rate:** 98%.

*Probable cases are individuals who have been tested and are found to have a positive test result by a local clinic using "rapid" tests that are not, at this time, IDPH-approved tests.*



## League Bowling Results

### victory lanes bowling

#### Sportsman League Bowlers

HSG: Chris Cook, 300; Larry Shaffer, 289; Bob Whicker, 277; Roger Hoegger, 277; Brandon Petry, 267. HSS: Bob Whicker, 692; Chris Cook, 692; Brandon Petry, 683; Crazy Hallam, 679; Ken Benson, 673. HHG: Larry Shaffer, 321. HHS: Larry Shaffer, 724. HSG: Rocky's Pub, 1083. HHG: Rury's Tap, 1093. HSS: Victory Lanes, 3068. HHS: Rury's Tap, 3139.

League Standings	W	L
Star Trucking	9	3
Victory Lanes	8	4
Rockey's Pub	8	4
Rury's Tap	8	4
Rambo Construct.	8	4
Willy's Pub	8	4
Jensen BP II	6	6
Hallam Elect.	5	7
DeLong Ford	5	7
Jensens	3	9
Jeremy's Barber	3	9

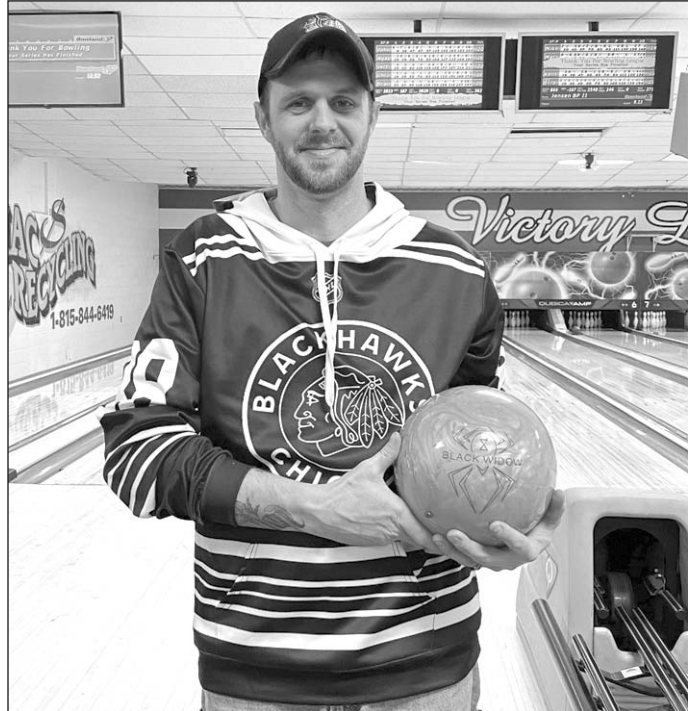
#### Commercial League Bowlers

HSG: **Men** – Loe Lehner, 255; Doug Gassman, 250; Terry Wilkey, 245; Brian Scott, 235; Blain Wilkey, 222; **Women** – Brandi Farcus, 182; Kathy Howard, 176; Sheri Colebank, 175; Paula Watts, 162; Stacey Banks, 160. HSS: **Men** – Joe Lehner, 675; Terry Wilkey, 664; Doug Gassman, 618; Paul Seabert, 574; Blain Wilkey, 554; **Women** – Kathy Howard, 509; Brandi Farcus, 498; Sheri Colebank, 467; Paula Watts, 457; Anne Sporer, 426. HHG: Blain Wilkey, 256 – Kathy Howard, 233. HHS: Terry Wilkey, 670 – Kathy Howard, 680. HSG: Big Run WolfRanch, 910. HHG: Willy's Pub, 956. HSS: Big Run WolfRanch, 2556. HHS: Willy's Pub, 2669.

League Standings	W	L
Willy's Pub	21	11
Whiskey Cav.	18	14
Victory Lanes	16	16
Agritile	16	16
Dairy Queen	15	17
Gaston Construct.	15	17
Pinkie's Out	14	18
Big Run Ranch	11	21
Pumpkin Patch	10	22
Coleman/Son	8	24



## A Perfect 300 Game



**Chris Cook rolled a perfect 300 game on Wednesday, January 13 at Victory Lanes Bowling in Dwight. He bowled a 692 series.**

**Congratulations, Chris!**

## What's Retirement All About?



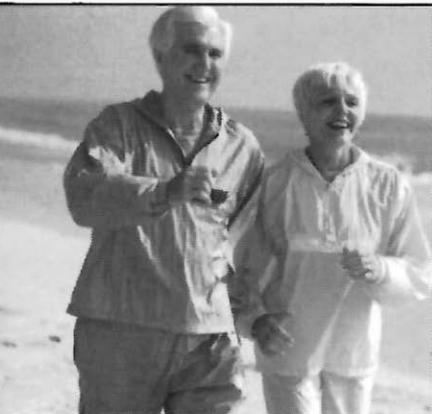
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## Plan to Enjoy Yourself



Whether you plan to play golf, travel the world, or spend more time with your family, determining your retirement needs is the first step to defining how the assets you've worked hard to build, keep working for you.

Planning for your retirement can be a daunting task. If you're nearing retirement, we can work with you to evaluate your needs and develop a sound strategy that helps to pursue your goals and provide greater satisfaction.

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## AT THE CHURCHES

Contact your respective places of worship for more up-to-the-minute information regarding changes or cancellations.

**DWIGHT**  
**Dwight United Methodist Church**  
701 S. Columbia  
584-3420 church  
[Dwightumc.org](http://Dwightumc.org)  
Pastor: Mary Arnold

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church LCMS**  
325 E. Mazon Ave.  
584-3433 church  
584-1291 fax  
Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor

**First Baptist Church**  
401 N. Clinton St.  
815-584-3182  
*Home of Dwight's Christian Radio Station WGVD 97.3 FM*  
Pastor Dan Woodward  
Wednesday Evening Service & King's Kids Children's Program, 7 p.m.  
Sunday School for All Ages, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
200 W. Delaware St.  
584-1260 church  
Rev. Grant Speece  
JAN. 24: Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20; “The Call of Jonah”

**New Life Assembly of God**  
903 S. Old Route 66  
Victor J. Randle Jr., Pastor

**St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
Mazon Ave. at Prairie  
815-584-3522 Office  
Father Chris Haake, Pastor

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**  
326 W. Chippewa St.  
815-584-1199  
Pastor Chrissy Salser  
email: [chrissytherev@att.net](mailto:chrissytherev@att.net)

**Trinity Lutheran Church “Goodfarm” LCMS**  
515 E. Stonewall Rd.  
Rev. William Mitschke  
815-725-1341

**BRACEVILLE**  
**Braceville United Methodist Church**  
106 W. Goolld St.  
815-237-8512 Church  
815-483-9343 Cell  
[bracevilleumc.com](http://bracevilleumc.com)  
Pastor Donald Batz  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church LCMS**  
255 E. Third St.  
P.O. Box 414  
815-426-2262  
email: [trinityher1@cast.net](mailto:trinityher1@cast.net)  
Rev. Eric J. Brown, Pastor

**St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church**  
Main Street  
Fr. Ron Neitzke  
815-426-2153

**KEMPTON**  
**Kempton United Methodist Church**  
305 Main Street  
815-253-6373  
Pastor John Lyons  
815-257-5751 cell

**Kempton Church of the Nazarene**  
105 E. Main St.  
815-253-6250  
Rev. John A. Mohler, Pastor

**KINSMAN**  
**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
219 W. Emmett Street  
Rev. Stanley Dreniak, [swkrcatholics.org](mailto:swkrcatholics.org)

**MAZON**  
**Mazon United Methodist Church**  
509 7th Street  
815-448-5677 Church  
815-483-9343 Cell  
[mazonmethodist.com](mailto:mazonmethodist.com)  
Pastor Donald Batz  
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

**Park Street Congregational United Church of Christ**  
806 Park Street  
Pastor Tyler Carrell  
Phone 448-5514

**ODELL**  
**St. Paul Catholic Church**  
200 S. West St.  
Father Chris Haake, Pastor

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Morgan Street  
Phone 815-998-2271  
Rev. Janeen Trone

**SAUNEMIN**  
**Saunemin United Methodist Church**  
90 North Street  
815-832-4935  
Pastor Jane Bradford

**RANSOM**  
**St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
110 Wallace Street  
Pastor, Fr. Alexander Millar; Parochial Vicar, Fr. Ghislain Inai, SMA; Deacon Ron Wackerlin  
Parish Office: 815-795-2240 (Marseilles)  
Email: [parishgroup3@gmail.com](mailto:parishgroup3@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2:30  
Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.

**Ransom United Methodist Church**  
*Worship Service Sunday 10 a.m. and live on Facebook*  
102 E. Plumb St.  
Phone: 815-587-0488  
Email: [RansomUMC@gmail.com](mailto:RansomUMC@gmail.com)  
Pastor Andrew King  
Pastor cell: 815-257-4657

**REDDICK**  
**Reddick United Methodist Church**  
35900 E 3200 N Road  
Pastor Kevin Boesen  
815-426-6169

**Zoar Community Church**  
18172 W. Route 17  
P.O. Box 87  
Reddick, IL 60961  
Pastor Andrea Boggs  
Email: [Zoarcommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:Zoarcommunity@yahoo.com)  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
216 E. Lincoln Street  
Rev. Stanley Dreniak  
815-237-2230  
[swkrcatholics.org](mailto:swkrcatholics.org)

**SOUTH WILMINGTON**  
**South Wilmington United Methodist Church**  
225 Rice Street  
Pastor Kevin Boesen  
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**St. Lawrence Catholic Church**  
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Rev. Stanley Dreniak  
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**VERONA**  
**Verona United Methodist Church**  
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Dwight Township High School

1st Semester Honor Roll

Gardner-South Wilmington High School

1st Semester Honor Roll

**Honor Roll 1 (3.50 and Higher)**  
**Senior:** Camden Beier, Eden Beier\*, Hudson Beier\*, Eileen Betsworth\*, Elizabeth Brown\*, Isabella Burkhardt\*, Brandon Ceylor\*, Kallista Cox, Alexis Cuaya, Natalia Cuaya, Kelly Deterding\*, Destinie Drapeau\*, Rylee Farris\*, Jack Gallet\*, Randall Groves\*, Andrew Harsh, Dustin Hauert\*, Mary Hilt\*, Lauryn Hoegger\*, Jarrett Jancek\*, Lucas Kisner\*, Kayla Kodat\*, Emmalyn Legner, Abe Rieke\*, Nellie Rieke\*, Abby Rodosky\*, Isabelle Schultz\*, Meghan Scott, Emily Weissmann\*.  
**Junior:** Alayna Airgood\*, Landon Brown\*, Ashton Burkhardt, Carter Butterbrodt\*, Leticia DeLara, Kaleb Duden, Kortney Dyer\*, Emmett Emmons, Darien Guyer, Rachel Heath\*, Ella Kargle\*, Kyle Kosek, Daniel Petree\*, Shawn Romanetto\*, Jordan Schultz,

Emily Scott\*, Bryson Scroggins, Justin Seabert, Alexis Thetard\*, Ryan Turner.  
**Sophomore:** Erin Anderson\*, Sophia Anderson, Kira Bean, Iris Beier\*, Olivia Bond, Harlie Boucher\*, Cheyanne Condreay\*, John Duffy\*, Emelia Eitenmiller, Lola Furbee\*, Jace Gall, Maya Green\*, Hailey Heath\*, Ava Kargle\*, Jace Kern, Desirae Kerr, Brianna Kosek, Deidre Miiller\*, Parker Miner, Clayton Peck, Tyler Pugh, Dylan Ramsey\*, Noah Scott, Dawson Sulaica\*, Wyatt Thompson, Christopher Tutterow.  
**Freshmen:** Nj o m z a Asllani\*, Milana Bradley, Mia Buck, Murphy Connolly, Sarah Dolan\*, Andrew Gartke, Kaedyn Gonzalez, John Groves\*, Ryan Hilt\*, Jerry Jiang\*, Kassy Kodat\*, Megan Livingston\*, Kathryn Parker\*, Evan Sandeno, Kaitlyn Thetard, Jacob Weissmann.

**\* = denotes Board Scholar (4.0 or Higher GPA)**  
**Honor Roll (3.0-3.499 GPA)**  
**Senior:** Max Bean, Carson Crouch, Andrew Kapper, Faith McInerney, Ethan Olson, Taylor Peck, Kylie Shelton, Isaac Telford, Cameran Tilley, Trent Tilley.  
**Junior:** John Chronister, Samuel Edwards, Nathanael Granby, Scott Harkenrider, Jeremy Kapper, Orren Webster.  
**Sophomore:** Timothy Ellis, Ashlyn Heikkila, Alyson Kincade, Reid Legner, Amber Moore, Xander Pempe, David Soto, Kye Suarez.  
**Freshmen:** Reid Gall, Steven Kincade, James Leach, Sabashgin Masters, Lilian McKelvey, Domingo Ramirez, Kyler Starks, Kaitlynn Streit, William Trainor, Terry Wilkey.

**Summa Cum Laude**  
**Senior:** Mya Anderson, Abby Beck, Chris Bexson, Koli Croy, Marissa Dragovan, Grace Halpin, Kylie Hawks, Nathan Hoffman, Ashley Holloway, Jonathan Hooks, Avery Lenzie, Dustin Manietta, Abigail Ozee, Mia Schofield, Ashlyn Wallerich, Nathan Weese.  
**Junior:** Easton Ashley, Alexander Clayton, Taylor Conger, Cristina Dominguez, Ashley Frideres, Claire Hennessey, Blake Huston, Ambiance Krahll, Ethan Mack, Jacob Mammosser, Bethani Nicoletti, Edith Ochoa, Alaina Reader.  
**Sophomore:** Amelia Brock, Dylan Carpenter, Brody Fatlan, Tanner Fisher, Colby Grieff, Hailey Johnston, Taeryn Lardi,

Ethan Maxard, Delaney Platt, Tobias Riley, Jacob Shaughnessy, Avery Williams, Emma Wilson.  
**Freshmen:** Jessica Dominguez, Addison Fair, Eva Henderson, Allston Latimer, Mia Ledlow, Brianna Nelson, Miguel Ochoa, Madalyn Olsen, Rianna Platt, Hunter Purdy, Ava Schultz, Robert Shutes, Bella Vyce.  
**Magna Cum Laude**  
**Senior:** Aiddan Daughterty, Kevin Ferrari, Jr., Lucas Maurisak, Austin Niccum, Lee Veverka-Cardwell.  
**Junior:** Kaden Grivetti, Braeden Hirsch, Riley Klingler, Adrian Mena, Trey Schweitzer.  
**Sophomore:** Hannah Frescura,

Payton Leonard, Kaytlyn Wallerich.  
**Freshmen:** Cree Croy.  
**Cum Laude**  
**Senior:** Elizabeth Fortier, Reganne Patrick, Kyle Spalliero, Aaron Tramutolo.  
**Junior:** Elaina Brandon, Olivia Cerutti, Molly Conger, Paige Dvorak, Katelyn Farris, Logan Malacina, Melissa Traver.  
**Sophomore:** Jayden Buchanan, Cade Croy, Kevin Frideres, Abigail Granger, Staiton Latimer, Jacob Ozee.  
**Freshmen:** Ava Brassard, Cale Halpin, Aspen Lardi, Makaila McDaniel, Hayden Partilla, Mary Clare Phillips, Alexis Riggs, Nathan States, Grace Wright.

More Honor Rolls in the 1.27.21 edition

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The theme of the contest is “Art Surrounds Us.” Illinois students from kindergarten through high school can let their imaginations run wild to create original works of art reflecting what the theme means to them.

Judging will occur across four levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In each level, a winner and three runners-up will be selected, and one piece will be selected as “Best in Show.”

The 16 top designs will be displayed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and

Lincoln Presidential Library Joins with State Board of Education for Art Contest

ages. More details are available at [bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest](https://bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest).

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, at 212 N. Sixth St. in Springfield, is dedicated to telling the story of America’s 16th president through old-fashioned scholarship and modern technology.

The library holds an unparalleled collection of Lincoln books, documents, photographs, artifacts and art, as well as millions of other items pertaining to Illinois history. Meanwhile, the museum uses traditional exhibits, eye-catching special effects, and innovative story-telling techniques to educate visitors.

For more information, visit [presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov) or follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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## Dwight Reviews GLCEDC Annexation Request January 11 Board of Trustee Meeting Summary

by Madelyn Fogarty  
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

The Dwight Village Board of Trustees met January 11 following a holiday recess. The board is currently conducting meetings via teleconference calls to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those in attendance and as allowed by an edict from Governor Pritzker. Village Administrator Kevin McNamara noted that the governor has extended the order through February 6.

In new business, Adam Dontz, CEO of the Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council, was on hand with an application request for the annexation of approximately 365 acres of land situated east of town known as the McPart L.L.C. parcels (Parcel Index Numbers (PIN) 05-03-400-011 and 05-03-400-010.

Mayor Jared Anderson explained that, as this property is presented to prospective clients, it is helpful if there are facilitated agreements with the Village of Dwight for water and sewer should the property be developed. According to Dontz, proposals have been submitted to the GLCEDC from national brokerage companies and their recommendation is that the annexation and zoning be done before they move forward with a national marketing campaign.

The GLCEDC has negotiated a five year purchase option for the property and has done its due diligence with regard to inspections and property studies at an investment of approximately \$100,000. The board approved sending the McPart annexation petition to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

In a communication notice, the Village of Dwight has been selected as a recipient of an Illinois Housing Development Authority \$60,000 grant through the Strong Communities Program. The grant is to be used for improvements through tear downs of decayed property. At this time, no guidelines had been made available.

In reports to the board, Mayor Jared Anderson gave a shout out to the Dwight Public Works for their efforts following the recent snow and ice that covered the area for several days. Cory Scoles with DPW asked the community for patience as they work to clean up all of the downed branches.

Chief of Police Tim Henson called on citizens to be aware

of Illinois House Bill 163 and Senate Bill 1188 pointing out that there are unfunded police mandates in the bill, among other things, which he called “detrimental” to current and future police officers. Chief Henson encouraged everyone to write their senators and representatives to make their voices heard.

“There is a lot of traction with these bills and, the more people that are heard, the better,” stated Chief Henson.

Representing the Dwight Economic Alliance, Jane Anderson reported that great community support was shown for local businesses during the DEA Buck sales leading up to the holidays. According to Jane, December sales were \$2,735.

“DEA Bucks are a great way to put your money back in to the community,” said Anderson.

Plans for the 2021 Route 66 Smoke Out are underway with the event slated for Saturday, May 1. This year’s event will feature two competitions – a Backyard BBQ competition and a regular Smoke Out contest. Both events are KCBS sanctioned. Organizer Rodney Connor is planning the event downtown this year and in conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor. Pending COVID restrictions, if DEA’s Springfest event does take place this year, it will also be held downtown.

Anderson encouraged everyone to visit Emling Florist during its close out sale to wish Linda Emling a happy retirement and thank her for the many years of business service to the community. It was also noted that hair and beauty salon Studio 134 has moved to its new downtown location at 146 E. Main Street.

Also approved by the board were:

- payment of December 22, 2020 bills totaling \$169,175.87.
- payment of January 11, 2021 bills totaling \$57,528.63.

Present for the January 11 session were Mayor Anderson, Trustees Randy Irvin, Jerry Curtis, Marla Kinkade, Chuck Butterbort, Jennifer Johnson and Justin Eggenberger.

The next meeting of the Dwight Village Board of Trustees will take place at 6:30 p.m., Monday, January 25. Please check prior for meeting location meeting / access information.

## Third Quarter Sales Taxes Are Mixed

by Tom Tock

Sales tax receipts for Dwight in the third quarter of 2020 were down from the pre-Covid year of 2019, while other communities showed some gains.

Third quarter 2020 results for Dwight were \$252,865.

The third quarter of 2019 provided Dwight with sales tax of \$286,984. The first quarter of 2020 produced \$222,699; second quarter \$229,141.

All the sales tax numbers include the non home rule additional sales tax of 1¢ that was added to certain Dwight sales after July 1 of 2016 and was dedicated to infrastructure improvements.

The 1¢ tax was worth \$109,018 in the third quarter of 2019. It brought in \$93,121 in the third quarter of 2020.

Dwight had 140 sales taxpayers in 2019; 126 in 2020.

### 3rd Quarter Sales Tax

	2019	2020
Dwight	286,984	252,865
Fairbury	175,782	203,685
Pontiac	683,085	740,198
Odell	14,285	10,843
Saunemin	3,873	3,749
Gardner	50,425	54,548
Mazon	12,432	14,040
Morris	1,750,597	1,646,664
So. Wil.	7,457	6,749
Herschler	78,291	106,618

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FINAL PRICE WITH DIGITAL COUPON	88¢ LB

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Berkot's Mild Italian Sausage

SALE PRICE	\$1.99 LB
DIGITAL COUPON	-\$1.00 LB
FINAL PRICE WITH DIGITAL COUPON	99¢ LB

Limit one package per loyalty member

Tide Laundry Detergent 92 oz Select Varieties

SALE PRICE	\$10.99
DIGITAL COUPON	-\$3.00
FINAL PRICE WITH DIGITAL COUPON	\$7.99

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DIGITAL COUPON	-\$1.00
FINAL PRICE WITH DIGITAL COUPON	\$1.99

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photo by J7 Images

The stripes represent the original 13 Colonies and the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well; red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

## DCS Approves Blue Sky Solar Energy Tax Abatement January BOE Actions

by Madelyn Fogarty  
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

Dwight Common School District #232 Board of Education met via a virtual meeting on January 13 where it approved a tax abatement request from Blue Sky Solar Energy, LLC.

The Blue Sky Solar Project, impacting 2,700 acres of farm land in Grundy County between Dwight and Gardner as the largest proposed solar farm in Illinois, is expected to bring substantial new money to the Dwight Common School District each year after agreed upon tax abatement incentives are gone.

Last week, DCS Board members approved a Resolution authorizing District 232 to execute the tax abatement agreement for Blue Sky Solar Energy, LLC, allowing a two-year, eighty-percent (80%) first year abatement, and twenty percent (20%) second year abatement, not to exceed \$2 million in total. Blue Sky Solar Energy, LLC had previously requested a 75% tax abatement for two years with a maximum \$4

million abatement. The application requires that it result in a final agreement signed and delivered on or before 90 days after the resolution adoption. There are a total of 15 taxing bodies involved. Once fully up and running, Dr. Jancek estimated a \$12 million increased EAV with an approximate \$300,000 of potential revenue each year.

In other financial business, it was reported that the State of Illinois currently owes the district \$34,580.40 in mandated categorical payments for 2021.

In reports to the Board, Principal Julie Schultz reported that, with current enrollment numbers at 477 total students, 79 percent of students have chosen the hybrid learning platform with 21 percent remote. Mrs. Shultz thanked teachers and families for all of their effort during the first semester and noted that “everyone is thrilled to be back in the building.”

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jeremy Jenkins reported that the IESA and IHSA have, again, pushed out the potential start date for school sports with a plan to revisit in late January. It was noted that Scholastic Bowl has a team and will be moving forward with virtual meets.

Administrators reported that creative ways to build skills and prevent retentions as the need for after school and possible evening study programs increase due to COVID circumstances.

“Ultimately, we want to give everyone as many opportunities as possible for success,” stated Principal Schultz.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Jancek reported that there will be two new board members with Tara Hansen and Lori Bowman running unopposed for two opening seats on the board. Current BOE members Bo Partney and Cathy Ferguson will not be seeking re-election to retain their seats. Also on the April consolidated election ballot will be incumbent board members Nick Stepanovich and Marc Ellis looking to retain their board seats.

In maintenance, Dr. Jancek reported that bleacher inspections will be taking place to ensure these are up to code with any repairs noted and fixed. In addition, the 1960’s walk-in freezer/cooler is in need of repair as well as the cafeteria dishwasher. Significant food service revenues from the federal government due to COVID may be used to fund these projects.

In other business, Dr. Jancek reported on government COVID relief funding, and possible expenditure of these funds with the District’s portion totaling approximately \$350,000. This one time lump sum stimulus payment must be expended by September 2022 and can only be used in three categories: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including building and cleaning supplies

necessary to keep the building open; loss of learning options; and mental health. Some options being considered for use of the relief funding include afterschool programs; Saturday morning sessions; evening resources; summer school options, snacks and a late bus rider option for the after school programs; PPE; and a fulltime social worker.

In another matter, the board reviewed a crop and income report on the nine acres of farm ground leased out by the district. The district’s net income from the 2020 corn crop was \$865.40. Proceeds are designated for outside playground / activity projects

The board also:

- approved IASB Press Plus Board Policy Issue 106 Updates (second reading).

- approved hiring Allison Schantz, Health Aide, with the Dwight High School District assuming 50 percent of the salary / benefits.

All board members were present at the January virtual session. The next regular meeting of the Dwight Common School Board of Education will be 6 p.m., Wednesday, February 10. Please check the school’s website for location / virtual access information prior to the meeting. Since October 2020, members of the Redbird and Trojan community have been able to virtually login and watch regularly scheduled monthly board meetings.



FOR THE RECORD

**Tickets Issued by Dwight Police**

January 8: Jessyca N. Randolph, 42, Richton Park, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.  
January 13: Joy I. Anele, 40, Chicago, head/tail/sidelight/1st, 2nd.

*Persons in the police report are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**1 Written Warning**  
Improper lane use – 1.

**Accident Report**

Friday, January 8, 12:56 a.m., an accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. involving a 2015 Frei., driven by Kevin Bliss, Bolivar, MO, which clipped a parked 2019 Pete., owned by Scott Kaley, Winter Haven, FL, when driving out from a parking space.

**Dwight Police Blotter**

January 7: Dwight Police took two reports of Unemployment Fraud; 4:23 p.m., Dwight Police arrested Robert Crocker, 24, of Kankakee, on an In-State Warrant; 10:58 p.m., Arrested for Domestic Battery was Shelby Moore, 29, of Dwight. She was taken to Livingston Cty. Jail.  
January 8: Dwight Police took a report of Unemployment Fraud.  
January 11: Dwight Police took two reports of Unemployment Fraud.

**Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS**

January 7: Old Rt. 66, medical, Morris.  
January 8: Mazon, medical, Morris.  
January 10: Seminole, medical, St. James.  
January 12: Mazon, fire; Seminole, medical, Morris; Northbrook, medical, refusal; Philmar, refusal, refusal; South, medical, Morris; I-55, medical, St. James; Spencer, medical, Morris.  
January 13: South St., medical, Morris.  
January 14: Mazon, medical, Morris.

**Temps - 2021**

Jan. 7 – high 37°, low 22°  
Jan. 8 – high 33°, low 26°  
Jan. 9 – high 32°, low 24°  
Jan. 10 – high 27°, low 20°  
Jan. 11 – high 29°, low 23°  
Jan. 12 – high 36°, low 26°  
Jan. 13 – high 39°, low 32°  
**One Year Ago – Jan. 20, 2020**  
high 37°, low 1°  
trace snow

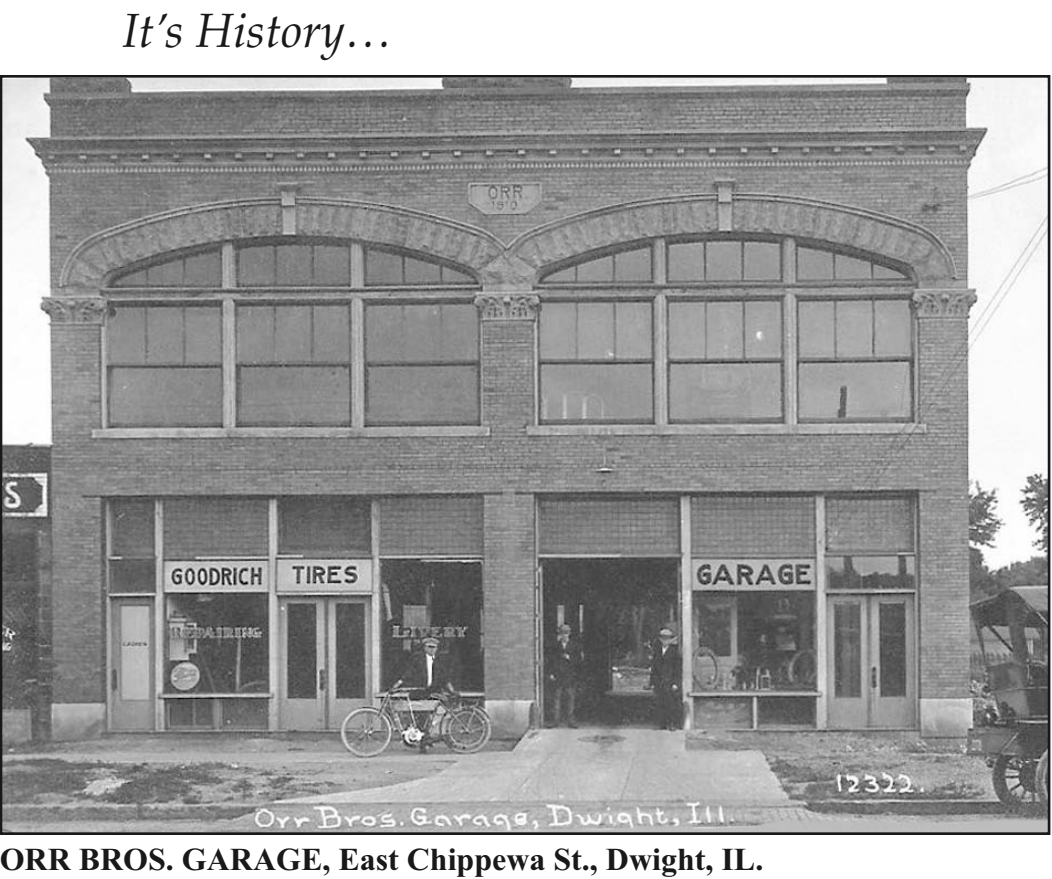
**Free Food to Be Distributed January 27**

Free food will be distributed to qualifying households in Dwight Township Wednesday, January 27, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St., Dwight.  
The pantry is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October. The November Food Pantry is held on the third Wednesday, while Love Boxes distribute food in December.

**Grundy County SWCD Pond Seminar March 11**

The Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District, along with the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District, will be holding its annual Pond Seminar Thursday, March 11, at 6:00 p.m.  
It will be held virtually this year.  
Their featured speaker will be Seth Love, who is the District Fisheries Biologist from Silver Springs State Park in Yorkville. Love is very informative about fish and pond care and will answer any questions someone may have about their personal pond. He will also cover maintenance of retention/detention ponds for subdivisions or businesses.  
The seminar is opened to everyone and is free of charge. If you plan to attend, call their office to let them know at 815-942-0359, ext. 3, or e-mail Brooke at brooke.baker@il.na.cdnet.net by Tuesday, March 9, so that they can send you the link to the virtual Zoom meeting.

**“hi.”**  
(how it all started)



ORR BROS. GARAGE, East Chippewa St., Dwight, IL.

State Rep. Tom Bennett, 106th District

New General Assembly, Speaker

I was honored on Wednesday to once again take the oath of office as the representative from the 106th district. It is a privilege to represent the people of our area, and I remain grateful to you for your trust.

This year we face many challenges as a state, and there is much the General Assembly needs to do to meet those challenges. We have to get serious about reforming our ethical culture in state government. We must fix our broken pension system and reform our property taxes as well. This should be the year we work together to pass a realistic, balanced budget based on an honest assessment of what our fiscal condition is.

The state of Illinois also has some administrative challenges that we have to overcome soon. The problems in the Department of Employment Security continue to make things hard for those who have become unemployed due to the pandemic, or those who have had fraudulent applications filed in their names. And we must straighten out the backlog of FOID card applications.

When we reach the end of the spring session in May, we as legislators will have to come back and ask ourselves some important questions. What have we really done to help all of Illinois? What have we done to help our constituents protect themselves and recover from Covid-19? What have we done to improve the process at IDES? What have we done to help our local businesses that have lost millions due to the pandemic?

What have we done to help our neighbors who no longer have jobs? What have we done to improve the ethical tone and culture of the House? What have we done to take some of the governmental burden off of businesses? What have we done to improve our schools and roads? What have we done to improve our budget, our debt and our pension situation? Who have we helped?

There is much to do, but if we are willing to work together and make tough choices, we can meet the challenges we face.

**Madigan Out as Speaker**

The Illinois House of Representatives got its first new Speaker of the 21st century this week, as Representative Chris Welch of Hillside was chosen to lead the body for the upcoming term. Welch replaces longtime Speaker Michael Madigan of Chicago, who was first elected Speaker in 1983.

**Speaker Welch joined the House in 2013**

after serving on his local school board. Before becoming Speaker he was chairman of the House Executive Committee.

**Former Speaker Madigan was a longtime impediment to reform**

and amassed far too much power for any one individual in government, I hope that Speaker Welch will seize the opportunity to improve the climate in the General Assembly on everything from ethics and civility to including both parties in passing legislation. This can be a real turning point for the state if we can change things for the better in the Illinois House.

**Voting No on law enforcement bill**

I voted no on a law enforcement bill, House Bill 3653 (formerly known as House Bill 163), which was opposed almost universally by law enforcement and prosecutors from every part of the state because it harms law enforcement and makes our state less safe. Unfortunately it passed by a vote of 60-50.

**Disappointing end to 101st General Assembly**

Before the inauguration on Wednesday, the House returned for five days of session to finish the outgoing 101st General Assembly. It was a chance to wrap up bills before the new members of the House were sworn in. It could have been a chance to act on ethics reform and property tax reform, to look into the failures at the Department of Employment Security, or reduce the wait time for FOID card applications, or to re-assert the legislature's role in state government after months of Governor Pritzker's governing by executive order.

**What we got was a hyper-partisan session**

that seemed at times to have more to do with internal Democratic Party politics than it did with governing the state of Illinois. Not a single Republican bill was even called for a vote during the entire session. It was a serious disappointment.

**Among the other bills passed**

were a well-intentioned but flawed education bill. It was laden with unfunded mandates which will force property taxes to be raised while decreasing the qualifications for obtaining quality educators by removing the minimum grade point average of 3.0 to obtain an alternative Educator License. The House also continued its frustrating pattern of passing legislation that will hurt small businesses and job creators in Illinois.

**There were a few bright spots.**

There was a great amount of concern that the lame duck session would see an income tax increase rushed through, but that did not occur. We also saw a few good pieces of legislation, like a bill to crack down on payday lenders, but overall it was a sad end to the outgoing General Assembly.

**VA Director steps down**

On Monday morning the House held a hearing to look into what went wrong at the LaSalle Veterans Home where a coronavirus outbreak sickened many veterans and staff. Numerous shortcomings in the state's response to the outbreak have come to light in the aftermath.

**Monday afternoon the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Linda Chapa LaVia, announced**

she was stepping down from her post. She will be replaced by Major General Peter Nezamis, who will serve as interim director of the agency until a new director can be appointed.

**How much do we owe?**

As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$5,295,045,572 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$6.7 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment. It does not include debts that can only be estimated, such as our unfunded pension liability which is subject to a wide range of factors and has been estimated to be more than \$141 billion.

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**Pre-Retirees: Plan Now for Health Care Costs**

If you're close to retirement, you'll have several financial issues to consider. But you'll want to pay attention to one of the most important of these issues: health care costs. How can you prepare yourself for these expenses? First, get an early start on estimating health care costs. More than two-thirds of those planning to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their health and long-term care costs will be in retirement, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And some people don't worry much about these costs, which may be considerable, thinking that Medicare will pay for most of them.  
While Medicare does cover many medical expenses, it also has its own costs. You probably won't pay a premium for Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage), since you likely had this cost deducted from your paycheck when you were working. But if you are hospitalized, you'll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance (the percentage of costs you pay after you've paid your deductible). Part B (doctor's visits) requires a premium, deducted from your Social Security checks, and you must pay an out-of-pocket deductible. After you meet this deductible for the year, you typically pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor's services. And when you enroll in Part D (prescription drug plan), you will likely also have to pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible and coinsurance or copays.  
To help pay for the Medicare deductible, coinsurance and copayments, you may want to get supplemental insurance, known as Medigap. Premiums for Medigap vary, depending on the plan you choose.  
As an alternative to original Medicare, you could select Medicare Advantage (sometimes called Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are offered by private companies approved by Medicare, but the benefits and costs vary by plan. These plans generally will incorporate Medicare Parts A and B and will provide additional medical coverage, such as prescription drugs.  
When you incorporate all the above, the annual out-of-pocket costs for traditional medical expenses likely will be about \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person – not insignificant, but certainly a number that can be addressed by careful planning.  
But there's one more expense to keep in mind: long-term care. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare typically pays few of these expenses.  
Clearly, between regular medical costs associated with Medicare or those not covered by it, and costs resulting from the possible need for long-term care, your health care bills can mount. To meet these costs, you need to plan ahead – and take action.  
For example, it's essential that you incorporate health care expenses into your overall financial strategy. You can also work with a financial professional to run some "what-if" analyses to see if your strategy would be derailed by a potential long-term care stay. And the professional you work with may be able to suggest specific protection vehicles that can help you meet the costs of long-term care.  
The best time to prepare for your health care costs during retirement is well before you retire. So, if you haven't already started, now is the time to do so. When it comes to paying for health care, the fewer surprises, the better.  
This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.  
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\$2.99 LB

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\$1.99 LB

\$2.99 LB

Berkot's Favorite Farm Fresh Premium Chicken Tenders

Edy's Ice Cream 1.5 Qt

2/\$5

22 oz

Johnsonville Deluxe Hot Dog or Hamburger Buns 8 pk

\$1.79

2/\$5

\$1.88

LIMIT 2

99¢

\$17.99

Palermo's Neighborhood Pizzeria 21.4-25.2 oz

Home Run Inn Thin Crust 16-19.5 oz

Edward's Thin Crust 23-24.8 oz

Home Run Inn

Edward's

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the corner

by Tom Tock

Okay, Tock, two weeks ago you reflected on Trump and his mischievousness with the pandemic subsidy money and with the media -- and you wrote "this guy rocks."

Then last week you wrote, "Donald, you're fired!" You sound confused.

I am.

Although "disappointed" would be a better word. Very disappointed.

Mary Schmich, columnist for the Chicago Trib, tried to list all the words used by commentators to describe the abortive takeover of the U.S. Capitol. Words like "shocking" and "inevitable," 13 words altogether.

Then she listed 14 words such as "attack" and "stunt" to describe the event itself. Fourteen more words classified the attackers: "mob" and "dupes" among them.

All the words she listed were appropriate. It was, without a doubt, a very bad happening.

Just think, Trump could have retired knowing he received 74 million votes, although in a losing effort, and made a graceful exit.

Now he may well be impeached by both the House and Senate, he has fractured his own party, people died needlessly, and the inauguration will look like a military encampment.

It's going to take a long time for Republicans to regroup.

\*\*\*\*\*

Closer to home, we can try to enjoy the demise of Mike Madigan's reign as Speaker of the Illinois House, though his shadow will remain. And the Governor still has to come to grips with the financial difficulties that exist in a very sick state.

Pritzker seems to ignore spending reforms put forward by such organizations as the Illinois Policy Institute. He has his hat hung on the prospect of a federal bailout, and officials predict he may get one after the new president is seated in Washington.

Meanwhile Crain's reported that Illinois lost population for the seventh straight year. As of July 1, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated Illinois' population dropped by 79,487 in the last year and is now estimated to be 12,587,530.

Illinois has lost 250,000 residents since the last census in 2010, which could mean the state would lose two Congressional seats.

\*\*\*\*\*

A friend loaned us a box of memorabilia from the time of R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co.'s 1968 arrival in Dwight. I am old enough to remember many of the Dwight officials and local businessmen and women who met a number of times with Donnelley people prior to the official announcement of the company coming to Dwight.

The atmosphere was electric. It was a different world.

(continued from Jan. 13, 2021)

October

Positive COVID-19 Tests Close DTHS, DCS for Two Weeks

Due to positive test results reported by Dwight Public Schools staff members, Dwight Public Schools went full remote learning through October 23.

After consulting the Livingston County Health Department about CDC guidelines and COVID protocols, the decision was made that all DPS students will remain at home for remote learning for two weeks -- returning to school for in-person instruction October 26.

Veterans Day Ceremonies Cancelled, Halloween Happenings Continue

Due to restrictions placed on businesses and organizations by the state, and the limitation on the size of gatherings, Veterans Day ceremonies around the area were cancelled.

Halloween happenings, however, continued in area communities -- in a socially distanced manner.

Fire Chief Paul Johnson Receives CFO Designation

Paul Johnson received the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) in the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Dwight Fire Chief Johnson became one of only 1,498 CFO designees worldwide.

Abby Beck, GSW, Named DAR Good Citizen

Abby Beck was honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award for Gardner-South Wilmington High School.

The selection, voted on by faculty and staff, honors an outstanding senior who ex-

hibits the qualities of dependability, leadership, service, and patriotism.

She is the daughter of Jennifer and Mike Campbell and Kevin Beck.

Old Route 66 Restaurant Reopens

After closing March 21, 2020, due to COVID-19, then following a huge renovation, Old Route 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight reopened its doors to its loyal customers -- holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 12.

Maria Ahmedi, owner, said the reaction was one of complete surprise and disbelief. "It blows their mind at how immaculate it is, and [they] can't believe it is the same restaurant."

November

Oly Farms Opens In Emington

Oly Farms, located in Emington, decided to open its doors in October -- delighting visitors with a wide range of activities.

Stemming from the family farm Kris and Lena Olson have grown through hard work and love, the farm is home to a multitude of animals, offering a wide variety for children and adults to pet, enjoy, and experience.

Oly Farms plan to reopen when the fair weather and spring returns, and will post its hours on their Facebook page.

Dwight Author Marshall Harris Receives Book Contract

Marshall Harris, a young writer from Dwight, got a contract for her newest book, *An Ember's Touch*, through Dream -- and is hopeful for a 2021 release date.

"To do what you love doing would be awesome," Harris said. "But to do what you love, and watch it move your life toward the success you dreamed of, that's what I want to do."

Hudson Beier Earns DAR Good Citizen Award

Dwight Township High School senior Hudson Beier

was selected as the DAR Good Citizen Award winner for the 2020-21 school year.

Hudson, the son of Gary Beier and Shawn Beier, was selected by the DTHS faculty for this distinction.

Graduated Tax 'No' in Livingston; Trump 'Yes'

Despite losing his Presidency, Donald Trump prevailed 1,340 to 662 votes for Joe Biden in Dwight's four precincts November 3.

Livingston county-wide, Trump had a 12,134 vote total, Biden 4,568.

The total Livingston county-wide vote on the graduated income tax proposal was 3,737 "yes" and 12,937 "no".

GSW Panther Hall of Fame Class of 2021 Announced

The Gardner-South Wilmington Panther Hall of Fame committee announced the Class of 2021 -- which featured Mr. Leroy Brandt and Mr. David Doglio.

This award recognizes and honors outstanding alumni or other persons who have distinguished themselves through service to GSW High School or the community.

Simantels Celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary

Bertie and Clarence Simantel planned to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary November 23 with a family Zoom party, in honor of their lifelong commitment.

The couple was married November 23, 1950, by Reverend E. W. Swartz at Trinity Lutheran Church in Goodfarm.

The couple has six children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

R. Eich & Sons, Plumbing & Heating, To Close

Since 1973, R. Eich & Sons, Plumbing & Heating, had been a staple in Herscher. But owner Bob Eich announced his plans to retire in November, which involved the closing of his business.

Eich, retiring from plumbing after 70 years, closed his Herscher business November 30.

December

Kimberly's Kupboard Remodels Silo for Storefront

Kimberly Bouk and her husband repurposed an ordinary silo to update their shop in Cabery, and the couple held an Open House for the business December 4 and 5.

Senate Committeee Grills Veterans' Affairs Officials on LaSalle Home Outbreak

Members of the state Senate Veterans Affairs Committee had pointed questions for officials with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs about the agency's response to an outbreak at the LaSalle Veterans' Home that resulted in at least 28 resident deaths from COVID-19-related complications.

A total of 105 residents and 100 staff at LaSalle tested positive for COVID-19 since the outbreak began. As of press time, there were 40 residents and 24 staff who were actively positive for the virus.

Project Blue Sky Enters Development Phase

The Blue Sky Solar Project proposes more than 1 million solar panels over 2,670 acres between Dwight and Gardner.

The power from the project will be delivered into the local electrical grid, helping to diversify the regional energy portfolio.

Schools in Dwight and Gardner could see a significant financial impact when the project reaches fruition, but the project is looking for a three-year tax abatement, meaning districts won't see any revenue until at least 2026-27. The project is estimated to pay over \$36 million in property taxes to local taxing jurisdictions over the life of the project.

DEA Backwards Parade

Dwight Economic Alliance put on a Backwards Parade December 5 to celebrate the holiday season, with area businesses and homes showing off their decorations and over 200 cars participating in the parade.

Dwight Novelist Published in the Universe of Sherlock Holmes

Bob Madia, a Dwight resident, had his first book, "Inspector Lestrade," published by Orange Pip Books in London, England.

The book takes place in the Sherlock Holmes universe, and features a riveting mystery explored and uncovered by Dr. Watson after Sherlock Holmes' apparent death.

In addition to his novel, Madia has also had several screenplays produced, to what he called, "mixed reviews." Madia enjoyed writing the book more because of the creative license it afforded him.

Louise Davis Turns 105!

On December 11, Louise Davis turned 105. Her family was unable to go inside of Heritage Health, Dwight, to help her celebrate, but sent an enormous birthday cake and gifts, while braving the cold to cele-

(continued on page 6)

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Gas Prices For  
This Week

The national average for a gallon of gas has increased by 7 cents. Pump prices have increased while gas demand remains low. Crude prices continue to increase due to optimism that the coronavirus vaccines will help crude demand recover. However, drivers should expect to see pump prices continue to climb.

City/Village	January 18	January 11
Dwight	\$2.34	\$2.33
Kankakee	\$2.37	\$2.47
Streator	\$2.41	\$2.37
Pontiac	\$2.21	\$2.25
Gardner	\$2.47	\$2.47
Braceville	\$2.49	\$2.49
Morris	\$2.44	\$2.41
Herscher	\$2.49	\$2.46
Chicago	\$2.59	\$2.52
Illinois	\$2.51	\$2.46
U.S.	\$2.39	\$2.32

Sources: GasBuddy.com and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Gasoline price data collected by The Paper and brought to you by Steve's Tire.

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Godley Park District will be conducting developmental  
Preschool Screenings March 2 & 3  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.



The screenings are for any children in any surrounding communities that will be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2021. The park district offers a state funded Preschool For All, in which children must be screened to determine if they qualify, and also has tuition based preschool for both 3 and 4 year old students.



Godley Park District

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For more information or to set up an appointment, call Jill @ 815-458-6129 or email: jill@godleypark.com

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'18 F150 Crew XLT, 18K, 4WD.....\$36,900  
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 21K, 4WD, NAV, Sport Pkg...\$39,900  
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'16 F150 S/C XL, 41K, 4WD.....\$28,900  
'16 F150 S/C XLT, 64K, 4WD, 8' Bed.....\$26,900  
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'14 Ram 1500 Crew Tradesman, 40K, 4WD, Diesel...\$24,900  
'12 Avalanche LTZ, 117K, 4WD.....\$21,900  
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'08 F250 S/C Lariat, 235K, 4WD, Diesel.....\$11,900

CARS

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Nancy and Richard Sulzberger

### Richard and Nancy Sulzberger Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Richard and Nancy Sulzberger of Verona celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 19. Richard and the former Nancy Willard were married at St. Patrick Church in Dwight on December 19, 1970. They were joined on their golden anniversary by their immediate family at Mass, followed by a dinner at the couple's home. A celebration with family and friends has been postponed until later in 2021 when it is safe to do so.

The couple has four children and ten grandchildren: Guy and Lindsey Sulzberger, Jake, Sam, and Alex of Lemont, Brent and Carrie Sulzberger, Tyler, Zack, and Ava of Verona, Kyle and Amanda Sulzberger, Livia and Reed of Coal City, and Max and Brooke Sulzberger, Addison and Shaley of Dwight.

### Museums in Pontiac Now Open

With the recent announcement of the latest mitigations for the area, museums have been allowed to reopen. The Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Pontiac Oakland Auto Museum, both in Pontiac, have reopened as of Wednesday, January 20. Hours of operation will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

### Livingston County HCE Holds January Board Meeting

The Livingston County Home and Community Education Board met January 11 in Pontiac. Members made plans to send delegates to the Illinois Association Home and Community Education annual conference in Effingham March 9-11. Several items made by county HCE members will be entered in the Cultural Arts Show at the conference. Livingston County HCE will support the conference by placing an ad in the conference program book and donating an item for the silent auction.

Shirley Meenen, scholarship chairman, announced that information will be sent to all Livingston County high schools near the first of March on the \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior or a college student from Livingston County. Applications are due May 31 and may be obtained from school guidance counselors or the Livingston County University of Illinois Extension Office by calling 815-842-1776 after March 1.

Plans are being made for a program and three lessons on Super Saturday on March 20. Topics will include Gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies, Current Diet Trends, Modern Trends in Textiles and Clothing, and What is Chronic Pain? The event is open to the public. The Livingston County HCE annual meeting, to be held April 19, was also discussed.

Because the December meeting had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, the Christmas community service project was extended into the new year. The board and HCE members throughout Livingston County are collecting snacks to be delivered to the Livingston County Sheriff's Office to show appreciation for the services they provide to the citizens of Livingston County.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15.

### Katelyn Schultz Graduates, Accepts Morris Hospital Job

Katelyn Schultz graduated May 17, 2020, from Lewis University, Romeoville, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Her graduation was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, and re-scheduled for December 19, 2020, as a virtual graduation.

Katelyn was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and was a member of the Student Nurses Association.

She has accepted a position at Morris Hospital.

Katelyn is the daughter of David and Maureen Schultz, of Dwight.



Katelyn Schultz



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# Senior Lifestyles



## How to confront the potential onset of memory loss



No two individuals are the same, but many men and women encounter similar changes as they approach their golden years. As adults get closer to retirement, their eye-glass prescriptions may need to get a little stronger and their workouts may need to be a little less intense as their bodies adjust to the physical challenges of aging.

Many changes associated with aging don't affect seniors' ability to live independently. However, one common concern for older adults is the potential decline of their cognitive health, which can compromise their ability to get through their daily lives without some form of assistance.

According to the National Institute on Aging, many older adults worry about memory loss as they age. The Alzheimer's Association notes that voicing concerns about memory loss can make those worries seem more real. That fear may compel some aging men and women to write off memory loss as a minor side effect of getting older. And in many instances, memory loss is not severe and not indicative of the onset of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. However, the Alzheimer's Association notes how important it is for aging men and women to seek support if they are concerned about their memory or any changes in the way they're thinking or behaving. Doctors can be invaluable resources for aging men and women, offering tips on how to confront memory loss and recommending strategies that can improve cognitive function.

The Alzheimer's Association recommends aging adults take a three-pronged approach to memory loss the moment they notice any changes in their memory or behaviors.

### 1. Assess the situation.

Start making a list of any changes you notice each day. Changes could be related to memory, thought patterns or behaviors. Note anything that feels abnormal or is causing you concern.

A good assessment also will involve careful consideration of any and all potential factors that may be behind your concerns. Is something other than aging going on? Family stress or a recently diagnosed medical condition can lead to the same

not be ignored.

### 2. Have a conversation.

The Alzheimer's Association notes that many people find it helpful to discuss their concerns with a loved one rather than going it alone. Don't delay such conversations, but try to figure out how you will approach them in advance.

After discussing your concerns with a trusted loved one, ask this person to accompany you when you discuss these concerns with your doctor. Having a loved one accompany you when visiting the doctor can calm your nerves, and this person can serve as a backup who can ask the doctor any questions or share any concerns you may forget to ask or bring up.

If a loved one says your concerns sound like normal aging but you still want to seek more support, don't hesitate to contact another friend or family member.

### 3. Reach out for help.

The Alzheimer's Association is a reliable source of information that can be accessed online at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) and over the phone at 800.272.3900. Individuals also can find local resources by visiting [www.alz.org/CRF](http://www.alz.org/CRF).

Many individuals are scared to confront the potential onset of memory loss. But no one has to make such a journey alone.



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*Martin Luther King Jr.*

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# Senior Lifestyles

## Seniors: Get Your Flu Shot – It’s Important!



Getting vaccinated for the flu is more important than ever. Not only will a flu shot help keep you and your family healthy, it can help reduce the strain on the healthcare system and keep hospital beds and other medical resources available for people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

This is no ordinary flu season; it's a flu season amid a pandemic. With two dangerous viruses going around at once,

it's time for people to protect their communities by getting the vaccine already available: the flu vaccine.

And people with Medicare are at greater risk for serious complications from flu. A flu shot is an important preventive tool for individuals with asthma, diabetes, and heart and lung disease - chronic conditions that can increase the risk for serious flu-related health complications or even death. It's the best protection from get-

ting and spreading this flu virus, and it's covered by Medicare at no cost. Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season per beneficiary. You pay nothing for a flu shot if your doctor or other qualified healthcare provider accepts Medicare payment for giving the shot.

A flu shot won't protect you against COVID-19, but it has many other important benefits. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there's no evidence that a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes COVID-19.

Those at high risk for flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people 65 years and older, and people with certain chronic health conditions. Anyone who is six months old or older should get a yearly flu vaccine.

The CDC recommends getting vaccinated in September or October, but a flu shot anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

Flu season in North America rarely begins before early October and usually lasts from December to March. In the past two years, the peak activity has occurred around mid-to-late February. Your body needs two weeks after a shot to develop a protective response to the influenza virus, so your best bet is to get vaccinated before the flu rate begins to climb.

Workplaces and other settings that usually provide flu shots may not do so this season because of the challenges of maintaining social distancing. For more information on where you can get a flu vaccine, visit [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org).

When going to get a flu shot, please practice everyday preventive actions and follow the CDC's recommendations

for running essential errands. Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or health department if they are following CDC's vaccination pandemic guidance. Any vaccination location following CDC's guidance should be a safe place for you to get a flu vaccine.

If you have a child over six months old who qualifies for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), you may also qualify for a flu vaccination at no cost to you.

What's the difference between flu and COVID-19? Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they're caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

It is possible to have flu and COVID-19 at the same time. Health experts are still studying how common this can be.

The CDC has developed a test that will check for A- and B-type seasonal flu viruses and SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This test will be used by U.S. public health laboratories. Testing for these viruses at the same time will give public health officials important information about how flu and COVID-19 are spreading and what preventive steps should be taken.

So please protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting a flu shot. Visit the doctor, pharmacy, or other local providers to get a flu shot today.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



## Retirement Travel Tips That Won’t Break the Bank

Retirement ushers in a new stage in life, one in which adults have ample free time to pursue their interests and hobbies.

When eight or more hours per day are no longer allocated for work, those hours can be devoted to other pursuits. Retirees have the time to travel, and such exploration need not break the bank.

A 2014 MassMutual survey found that 72 percent of respondents reported feeling quite happy or extremely happy in retirement. Being able to travel when and where they desire may be a big component of this happiness. A study by Virtuoso found that travel factors significantly into the lives of today's seniors. They spend more on travel than any other generation — an average of \$11,077 a year. Travel spending is at the highest among people between the ages of 75 and 79.

Learning how to get the most bang for your traveling buck can help retirees make travel more affordable.

- Avoid peak travel seasons. Many working families are restricted by school and work schedules, often limiting travel to summer and holiday breaks. The hospitality industry tends to raise their prices during these times of year. Retirees can travel any time they want. Booking trips during less busy times of year for tourism is a great way to save money.
- Consider a rental agreement. Retirees who want to travel for many weeks or even months out of the year may want to

think about renting their homes while they are gone. The money earned in rent can help offset the costs of travel.

- Think about alternative living situations. Seeing the country and traveling most of the time may be more doable if retirees forego the house entirely and opt for different residences. Many recreational vehicles are large enough to be full-time homes. Simply park the RV in a new spot each month for a different perspective. House boats can be an option for the marine-minded.
- Try a repositioning cruise. Cruising is a popular form of travel for seniors. Investopedia says cruise lines offer discount repositioning cruise trips when they need to move ships from one port to another, usually during the off-season. Unlike typical cruises where a ship will return to the port of origin, a repositioning cruise stops at several ports on the way and ultimately docks in a new end destination.
- Find an inexpensive destination. For the cost of staying at a popular family resort for a week, you may be able to stay for double or triple the amount of time for about the same amount of money elsewhere. Weigh destinations carefully and compare costs. Think beyond the “popular” destinations around the world.

Travel is a favorite pastime for retirees. Cost-saving strategies can make travel more budget-friendly for seniors who want to spend more time exploring.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Many people plan to retire by a certain age, but few may actually still be working at their targeted retirement age. In the United States, the age at which working Americans expect to retire has risen to 66. But a Gallup poll showed that most don't stay on the job that long, instead retiring when they're about 60 or 61. In addition, according to a 2018 Employee Benefit Research Institute survey, 48 percent of workers wanted to retire after age 65, but only 19 percent of retirees stayed on the job that long. The reasons vary, but one positive outcome is having enough money to live comfortably during retirement. Still, early retirement largely involves unexpected scenarios. These may include poor health, having to care for an aging parent, downsizing, new skills required for the job, or other work-related reasons.

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Healthy eating options for seniors

“Let food be thy medicine” is a quote attributed to Hippocrates, the ancient scholar considered to be the father of modern medicine. The saying relates to the notion that what people put in their bodies can heal and/or prevent certain conditions.

For seniors with medicine cabinets full of over-the-counter and prescription medications, the idea of relying predominantly on food to promote optimal health may be tempting, and various foods can be particularly useful to the 50-and-over demographic.

According to the World Health Organization, poor diet is a major contributor to many of the diseases that affect older people. Certain foods may be particularly helpful.

- **Brain-friendly foods:** Foods such as avocado, leafy vegetables, sunflower seeds, blueberries, and salmon are good sources of vitamin E, antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and other nutrients that may help ward off dementias like Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Anti-inflammatory foods:** Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids may help prevent inflammation that can cause cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Fruits and vegetables:** Fresh, canned or frozen produce tend to be high in micronutrients, including a

variety of important vitamins that are essential for all components of health. Eating dark green vegetables, such as leafy greens or broccoli, and orange vegetables is advised.

- **Energy-boosters:** Choose whole grains that can provide sustained energy by way of healthy carbohydrates over processed grains.
- **Bone-friendly foods:** Calcium-rich foods, such as milk, yogurt and cheese, can prevent calcium from being leached from the bones, which contributes to conditions like osteoporosis.
- **Digestive system-friendly foods:** The digestive system slows down as the body ages, as the walls of the gastrointestinal tract thicken and digestive contractions that push waste along may slow down and become fewer. Foods rich in fiber can promote proper digestion by moving food through the digestive tract more easily.
- **High-iron foods:** Without enough iron in the body, a person may feel tired and lethargic from a reduced production of hemoglobin, which carries oxygen in the blood from the lungs to the rest of the body. Tofu, spinach, lentils, pumpkin seeds, and fortified breads and cereals are high in iron.

Smart food choices can help seniors live long and healthy lives.

Senior Lifestyles

Improve Your Financial Situation with Let’s Talk Money Webinar Series

Let’s Talk Money is a free, online webinar series to help you move forward with your personal finances. The current economic situation has provided unexpected financial opportunities for some and financial challenges for others. No matter where you are today, you can improve your financial situation in 2021.

Let’s Talk Money is an eight-week series to help gain financial knowledge and the confidence to talk with family, friends, and financial professionals about money. You may sign up for one or all of the webinar series’ sessions. Webinars are Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. Central Time, beginning February 2. Register for connecting information at <http://go.illinois.edu/TalkMoney>.

When asked, previous webinar participants reported the most important things they learned included:

- There are a lot of places where you can make small changes that will together improve your finances in a big way.
- Do not be afraid of your financial situation.
- There are a lot of great and free resources out there to help everyone to learn to be better with money (including these webinars).

Weekly session topics include:

- Who are You with Money?
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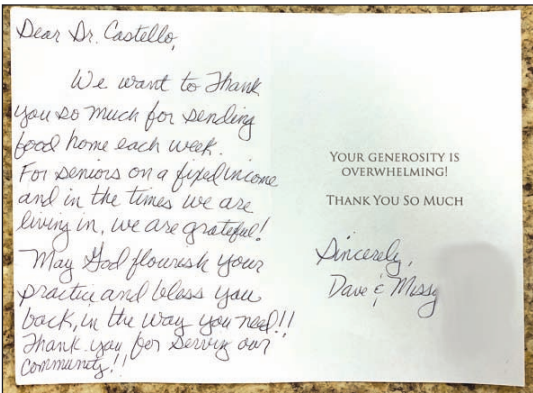
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# Senior Lifestyles

## How to Help Aging Adults Adapt to Technology



Children, adolescents and young adults likely cannot imagine a life without modern technology. Technology may have pervaded every part of life in the 21st century, but it wasn't so long ago that phones were still attached to walls and people had to watch their favorite shows and films exclusively on televisions instead of having the option to watch them on devices like smartphones and tablets.

The transition to life in the age of technology went smoothly for most segments of the population, but some aging adults have had a more difficult time making the adjustment. That difficulty was apparent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,

when public health agencies like the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged aging adults to limit interactions with people outside their homes. Such recommendations forced many seniors to communicate with their families exclusively over the phone or via video conferencing apps like Zoom.

If seniors have had a hard time adapting to technology, their families can try these strategies to make that transition go more smoothly.

- Go over product manuals with seniors. The senior caregiving experts at Home Care Assistance note that older adults are less likely to learn

through experimentation than they are by reading instructions in the manual. When helping seniors learn to use new devices, go over the owner's manual with them as you set up the device. Mark important pages in the manual so seniors know where to go for quick answers if they experience any issues logging in or using certain apps.

- Look for senior-specific devices and guidebooks. Seniors make up an enormous segment of the population, and tech companies have long since recognized that there's a market for products designed specifically for aging men and women. When shopping for devices for seniors, look for those that have been designed to help them overcome issues that have proven problematic for

aging adults in the past. Devices that feature touchscreens with large menus, easily accessible navigation tools and simplified features can help seniors as they learn to use new technology.

- Be patient. Some seniors are excited by the prospect of learning to use new technology, while others may be hesitant. Patience is essential when working with an aging loved one who's intimidated by technology. Take the time to explain apps and features and don't take it for granted that seniors will know how to use a device or recognize what a device can do.

Today's seniors may not have grown up with technology at their fingertips, but they can still learn to use devices to their advantage.

## How Expenses Can Change During Retirement

Work is a major component of daily life, so much so that Andrew Naber, an industrial and organizational psychologist and an associate behavioral scientist at RAND Corp., determined that the average person spends 90,000 hours at work over the course of his or her lifetime. According to a 2014 Gallup poll, the average American retires at age 62, but roughly 64 percent of professionals bid farewell to the workplace between ages 55 and 65.

Retirees must make a number of adjustments once they call it a career. No such adjustment is as significant as the financial one. Most people find their post-retirement income is considerably less than when they were working full-time. That is why financial planners often recommend saving and investing enough during working years to be able to replace 80 percent of preretirement income. Certain expenses get lower after retirement, but

some will rise. Here's a look at what to expect when the bills come due during retirement.

- Food costs: Food costs may go down in retirement because shopping and preparing meals for one or two people is much less costly than feeding a family of four or more. However, dining out may increase as you have more free time to visit local eateries.
- Automotive costs: According to data from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the average commuter spends 25.8 minutes behind the wheel twice a day, and the average driver puts in 13,474 miles behind the wheel each year—with people between the ages of 35 and 54 clocking close to 15,000 miles. Less time spent in the car means fewer gasoline fill-ups and longer durations between oil changes and other services. Without commuting, that cash stays in your pocket.
- Taxes: Many people can expect to be done paying federal income taxes when they are retired and no longer earning an income. If the majority of retirement savings were in Roth IRA accounts, contributions are available for withdrawal tax- and penalty-free at any age.
- Housing: Your mortgage may be paid off before or soon after retirement. That eliminates the single largest expense in many people's budgets. If your home will not be paid off, it's possible to downsize to reduce monthly payments.
- Travel: While many other expenses can go down, travel is one expense that can shoot up during retirement. But many people are happy to bear this cost. With more time for travel, retirees may allocate more funds toward vacations and other great escapes.
- Health care: Seniors often see their health care needs and costs go up after retirement. It's important to understand what is covered by health plans, and it's equally important to set money aside for unforeseen medical expenses.

Many costs of living decrease after retirement. However, it is wise to take in the whole picture to understand how to budget for retirement.

## Area COVID-19 Stats as of January 18

Town	Tested	Cases	
Dwight	7,412	439	
Herscher	1,937	188	
Gardner	1,422	158	
Odell	1,461	130	
Mazon	1,074	120	
Essex	779	103	
Braceville	1,072	103	
S. Wilmington	539	71	
Cullom	698	61	
Reddick	605	54	
Buckingham	525	53	
Saunemin	697	40	
Verona	392	36	
Ransom	466	33	
Emington	258	29	
Cabery	368	27	
Kempton	297	23	
Blackstone	167	19	
Campus	239	14	
Union Hill	81	12	
Kinsman	136	8	

Numbers as of 01/18/21

Statistics via: dph.illinois.gov

County	Tested	Cases	Deaths
Kankakee	152,941	11,431	171
LaSalle	107,009	9,392	196
Grundy	35,471	4,339	50
Livingston	55,911	3,624	58
Iroquois	33,624	2,577	54
Ford	20,030	1,380	42

**Illinois - Confirmed Cases:** 1,068,829; **Deaths:** 18,208; **Probable Deaths:** 1,842; **Total Tests Performed:** 14,763,993; **Recovery Rate:** 98%.

Probable cases are individuals who have been tested and are found to have a positive test result by a local clinic using "rapid" tests that are not, at this time, IDPH-approved tests.



## League Bowling Results

### victory lanes bowling

#### Sportsman League Bowlers

HSG: Chris Cook, 300; Larry Shaffer, 289; Bob Whicker, 277; Roger Hoegger, 277; Brandon Petry, 267. HSS: Bob Whicker, 692; Chris Cook, 692; Brandon Petry, 683; Crazy Hallam, 679; Ken Benson, 673. HHG: Larry Shaffer, 321. HHS: Larry Shaffer, 724. HSG: Rocky's Pub, 1083. HHG: Rury's Tap, 1093. HSS: Victory Lanes, 3068. HHS: Rury's Tap, 3139.

League Standings	W	L
Star Trucking	9	3
Victory Lanes	8	4
Rockey's Pub	8	4
Rury's Tap	8	4
Rambo Construct.	8	4
Willy's Pub	8	4
Jensen BP II	6	6
Hallam Elect.	5	7
DeLong Ford	5	7
Jensens	3	9
Jeremy's Barber	3	9

#### Commercial League Bowlers

HSG: **Men** – Loe Lehner, 255; Doug Gassman, 250; Terry Wilkey, 245; Brian Scott, 235; Blain Wilkey, 222; **Women** – Brandi Farcus, 182; Kathy Howard, 176; Sheri Colebank, 175; Paula Watts, 162; Stacey Banks, 160. HSS: **Men** – Joe Lehner, 675; Terry Wilkey, 664; Doug Gassman, 618; Paul Seabert, 574; Blain Wilkey, 554; **Women** – Kathy Howard, 509; Brandi Farcus, 498; Sheri Colebank, 467; Paula Watts, 457; Anne Sporer, 426. HHG: Blain Wilkey, 256 – Kathy Howard, 233. HHS: Terry Wilkey, 670 – Kathy Howard, 680. HSG: Big Run WolfRanch, 910. HHG: Willy's Pub, 956. HSS: Big Run WolfRanch, 2556. HHS: Willy's Pub, 2669.

League Standings	W	L
Willy's Pub	21	11
Whiskey Cav.	18	14
Victory Lanes	16	16
Agritile	16	16
Dairy Queen	15	17
Gaston Construct.	15	17
Pinkie's Out	14	18
Big Run Ranch	11	21
Pumpkin Patch	10	22
Coleman/Son	8	24



## A Perfect 300 Game



Chris Cook rolled a perfect 300 game on Wednesday, January 13 at Victory Lanes Bowling in Dwight. He bowled a 692 series.

Congratulations, Chris!

## What's Retirement All About?



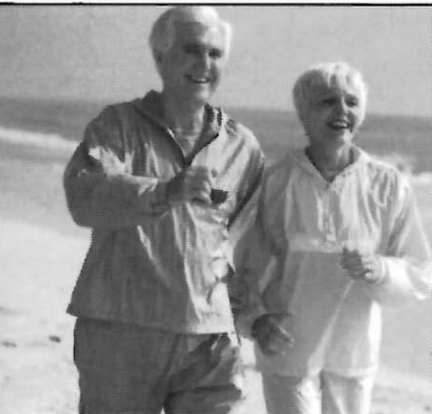
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## Plan to Enjoy Yourself



Whether you plan to play golf, travel the world, or spend more time with your family, determining your retirement needs is the first step to defining how the assets you've worked hard to build, keep working for you.

Planning for your retirement can be a daunting task. If you're nearing retirement, we can work with you to evaluate your needs and develop a sound strategy that helps to pursue your goals and provide greater satisfaction.

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<b>BANKS</b> <b>Dwight Bank</b> Branch of Bank of Pontiac <a href="http://www.bankofpontiac.com">www.bankofpontiac.com</a> <b>Peoples National Bank</b> <b>Dwight Banking Center</b> <a href="http://www.pnb-kevanee.com">www.pnb-kevanee.com</a>	<b>PHYSICIANS</b> <b>Dr. Mark Passerman</b> Family Medicine <a href="http://www.morrisrhospital.org/dwight">www.morrisrhospital.org/dwight</a> <b>Dr. Jennifer Thomas</b> Family Medicine <a href="http://www.morrisrhospital.org/gardner">www.morrisrhospital.org/gardner</a> <b>Dr. Athar Saeed</b> Cardiologist <a href="http://www.morrisrhospital.org">www.morrisrhospital.org</a> <b>Dr. Jaynee Pendergast</b> <a href="http://www.morrisrhospital.org/dwight">www.morrisrhospital.org/dwight</a>
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Contact your respective places of worship for more up-to-the-minute information regarding changes or cancellations.

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**Dwight United Methodist Church**  
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584-3420 church  
[Dwightumc.org](http://Dwightumc.org)  
Pastor: Mary Arnold

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church LCMS**  
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584-3433 church  
584-1291 fax  
Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor

**First Baptist Church**  
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Sunday School for All Ages, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
200 W. Delaware St.  
584-1260 church  
Rev. Grant Speece  
JAN. 24: Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20; “The Call of Jonah”

**New Life Assembly of God**  
903 S. Old Route 66  
Victor J. Randle Jr., Pastor

**St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
Mazon Ave. at Prairie  
815-584-3522 Office  
Father Chris Haake, Pastor

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**  
326 W. Chippewa St.  
815-584-1199  
Pastor Chrissy Salser  
email: [chrissytherev@att.net](mailto:chrissytherev@att.net)

**Trinity Lutheran Church “Goodfarm” LCMS**  
515 E. Stonewall Rd.  
Rev. William Mitschke  
815-725-1341

**BRACEVILLE**  
**Braceville United Methodist Church**  
106 W. Goolid St.  
815-237-8512 Church  
815-483-9343 Cell  
[bracevilleumc.com](http://bracevilleumc.com)  
Pastor Donald Batz  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

**CABERY**  
**Cabery United Methodist Church**  
Ames & Chester  
815-949-1681  
Pastor John Lyons  
815-257-5751 cell

**CHATSWORTH**  
**Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church**  
406 N. 7th St.  
815.635.3127  
Father David Sabel

**CULLOM**  
**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*NALC*  
511 W. Jackson  
815.689.2120  
[st.johns@frontiernet.net](mailto:st.johns@frontiernet.net)  
Pastor: Gabriel Baumgardner  
JAN. 21: Text Study  
Livestream on FB, 10 a.m.  
JAN. 24: Worship, 10 a.m.  
JAN. 25: Friendship Day, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;

**Cullom United Methodist Church**  
103 E. Van Alstyne St.  
815-689-2484  
Pastor John Lyons  
815-257-5751 cell

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**ESSEX**  
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Pastor Greg Olson

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Pastor Kevin Boesen

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**Kempton Church of the Nazarene**  
105 E. Main St.  
815-253-6250  
Rev. John A. Mohler, Pastor

**KINSMAN**  
**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
219 W. Emmett Street  
Rev. Stanley Dreniak, [swkrcatholics.org](mailto:swkrcatholics.org)

**MAZON**  
**Mazon United Methodist Church**  
509 7th Street  
815-448-5677 Church  
815-483-9343 Cell  
[mazonmethodist.com](mailto:mazonmethodist.com)  
Pastor Donald Batz  
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

**Park Street Congregational United Church of Christ**  
806 Park Street  
Pastor Tyler Carrell  
Phone 448-5514

**ODELL**  
**St. Paul Catholic Church**  
200 S. West St.  
Father Chris Haake, Pastor

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Morgan Street  
Phone 815-998-2271  
Rev. Janeen Trone

**SAUNEMIN**  
**Saunemin United Methodist Church**  
90 North Street  
815-832-4935  
Pastor Jane Bradford

## PUBLIC SALE

**- PUBLIC SALE -**

To be Held at 1720 N. Aurora St., Pontiac, IL  
(Watch for auction signs)

**Sunday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m.**

Please visit our website: [www.hartyauction.com](http://www.hartyauction.com)

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**BOB HARTY AUCTION CO.**  
IL License #440.000765 Pontiac, IL  
**Ph: 815-842-2384 Cell: 815-674-7254**

**Dwight Peace Meals**

**Home delivery**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**60 and up home-bound- Must make reservations -**

Wed., Jan. 20: Chili mac, mixed lettuce salad w/ dressing, dinner roll, warm fruit cobbler.  
Thurs., Jan. 21: Roast beef in gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, whole grain wheat, fruited gelatin.  
Fri., Jan. 22: Chicken salad sandwich, vegetable soup, bun or bread & crackers, Mandarin oranges.  
Mon., Jan. 25: Breakfast casserole, warm fruit compote,

fruit juice, cinnamon roll, craisins.  
Tues., Jan. 26: Shepherd's pie, Harvard beets, dinner roll, fresh fruit.  
Wed., Jan. 27: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, spinach, whole grain wheat, pears.  
Thurs., Jan. 28: Beef stew w/ potatoes, carrots & onions, tangy cole slaw, dinner roll, warm bread pudding w/ fruit.  
Milk served each day.  
For reservation, call: 815-374-0411 or 1-800-543-1770;  
For information, call the 800 number.

**RANSOM**  
**St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
110 Wallace Street  
Pastor, Fr. Alexander Millar; Parochial Vicar, Fr. Ghislain Inai, SMA; Deacon Ron Wackerlin  
Parish Office: 815-795-2240 (Marseilles)  
Email: [parishgroup3@gmail.com](mailto:parishgroup3@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2:30  
Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.

**Ransom United Methodist Church**  
*Worship Service*  
*Sunday 10 a.m. and live on Facebook*  
102 E. Plumb St.  
Phone: 815-587-0488  
Email: [RansomUMC@gmail.com](mailto:RansomUMC@gmail.com)  
Pastor Andrew King  
Pastor cell: 815-257-4657

**REDDICK**  
**Reddick United Methodist Church**  
35900 E 3200 N Road  
Pastor Kevin Boesen  
815-426-6169

**Zoar Community Church**  
18172 W. Route 17  
P.O. Box 87  
Reddick, IL 60961  
Pastor Andrea Boggs  
Email: [Zoarcommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:Zoarcommunity@yahoo.com)  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
216 E. Lincoln Street  
Rev. Stanley Dreniak  
815-237-2230  
[swkrcatholics.org](mailto:swkrcatholics.org)

**SOUTH WILMINGTON**  
**South Wilmington United Methodist Church**  
225 Rice Street  
Pastor Kevin Boesen  
815-426-6169

**St. Lawrence Catholic Church**  
135 Rice Street  
Rev. Stanley Dreniak  
815-237-2230  
[swkrcatholics.org](mailto:swkrcatholics.org)

**VERONA**  
**Verona United Methodist Church**  
*The Wayside Chapel with a Warm Heart*  
433 Anne St.  
Phone: 815-287-2491  
Pastor Andrew King

**The Paper**  
is located at  
204 E. Chippewa St.,  
Dwight  
**Office hours are:**  
Monday - Friday,  
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Dwight Township High School

1st Semester Honor Roll

Gardner-South Wilmington High School

1st Semester Honor Roll

**Honor Roll 1 (3.50 and Higher)**  
**Senior:** Camden Beier, Eden Beier\*, Hudson Beier\*, Eileen Betsworth\*, Elizabeth Brown\*, Isabella Burkhardt\*, Brandon Ceylor\*, Kallista Cox, Alexis Cuaya, Natalia Cuaya, Kelly Deterding\*, Destinie Drapeau\*, Rylee Farris\*, Jack Gallet\*, Randall Groves\*, Andrew Harsh, Dustin Hauert\*, Mary Hilt\*, Lauryn Hoegger\*, Jarrett Jancek\*, Lucas Kisner\*, Kayla Kodat\*, Emmalyn Legner, Abe Rieke\*, Nellie Rieke\*, Abby Rodosky\*, Isabelle Schultz\*, Meghan Scott, Emily Weissmann\*.  
**Junior:** Alayna Airgood\*, Landon Brown\*, Ashton Burkhardt, Carter Butterbrodt\*, Leticia DeLara, Kaleb Duden, Kortney Dyer\*, Emmett Emmons, Darien Guyer, Rachel Heath\*, Ella Kargle\*, Kyle Kosek, Daniel Petree\*, Shawn Romanetto\*, Jordan Schultz,

Emily Scott\*, Bryson Scroggins, Justin Seabert, Alexis Thetard\*, Ryan Turner.  
**Sophomore:** Erin Anderson\*, Sophia Anderson, Kira Bean, Iris Beier\*, Olivia Bond, Harlie Boucher\*, Cheyanne Condreay\*, John Duffy\*, Emelia Eitenmiller, Lola Furbee\*, Jace Gall, Maya Green\*, Hailey Heath\*, Ava Kargle\*, Jace Kern, Desirae Kerr, Brianna Kosek, Deidre Miiller\*, Parker Miner, Clayton Peck, Tyler Pugh, Dylan Ramsey\*, Noah Scott, Dawson Sulaica\*, Wyatt Thompson, Christopher Tutterow.  
**Freshmen:** N j o m z a Asllani\*, Milana Bradley, Mia Buck, Murphy Connolly, Sarah Dolan\*, Andrew Gartke, Kaedyn Gonzalez, John Groves\*, Ryan Hilt\*, Jerry Jiang\*, Kassy Kodat\*, Megan Livingston\*, Kathryn Parker\*, Evan Sandeno, Kaitlyn Thetard, Jacob Weissmann.

**\* = denotes Board Scholar (4.0 or Higher GPA)**  
**Honor Roll (3.0-3.499 GPA)**  
**Senior:** Max Bean, Carson Crouch, Andrew Kapper, Faith McInerney, Ethan Olson, Taylor Peck, Kylie Shelton, Isaac Telford, Cameran Tilley, Trent Tilley.  
**Junior:** John Chronister, Samuel Edwards, Nathanael Granby, Scott Harkenrider, Jeremy Kapper, Orren Webster.  
**Sophomore:** Timothy Ellis, Ashlyn Heikkila, Alyson Kincaide, Reid Legner, Amber Moore, Xander Pempe, David Soto, Kye Suarez.  
**Freshmen:** Reid Gall, Steven Kincaide, James Leach, Sabashgin Masters, Lilian McKelvey, Domingo Ramirez, Kyler Starks, Kaitlynn Streit, William Trainor, Terry Wilkey.

**Summa Cum Laude**  
**Senior:** Mya Anderson, Abby Beck, Chris Bexson, Koli Croy, Marissa Dragovan, Grace Halpin, Kylie Hawks, Nathan Hoffman, Ashley Holloway, Jonathan Hooks, Avery Lenzie, Dustin Manietta, Abigail Ozee, Mia Schofield, Ashlyn Wallerich, Nathan Weese.  
**Junior:** Easton Ashley, Alexander Clayton, Taylor Conger, Cristina Dominguez, Ashley Frideres, Claire Hennessey, Blake Huston, Ambiance Krahll, Ethan Mack, Jacob Mammosser, Bethani Nicoletti, Edith Ochoa, Alaina Reader.  
**Sophomore:** Amelia Brock, Dylan Carpenter, Brody Fatlan, Tanner Fisher, Colby Grieff, Hailey Johnston, Taeryn Lardi,

Ethan Maxard, Delaney Platt, Tobias Riley, Jacob Shaughnessy, Avery Williams, Emma Wilson.  
**Freshmen:** Jessica Dominguez, Addison Fair, Eva Henderson, Allston Latimer, Mia Ledlow, Brianna Nelson, Miguel Ochoa, Madalyn Olsen, Rianna Platt, Hunter Purdy, Ava Schultz, Robert Shutes, Bella Vyce.  
**Magna Cum Laude**  
**Senior:** Aiddan Daughterty, Kevin Ferrari, Jr., Lucas Maurisak, Austin Niccum, Lee Veverka-Cardwell.  
**Junior:** Kaden Grivetti, Braeden Hirsch, Riley Klingler, Adrian Mena, Trey Schweitzer.  
**Sophomore:** Hannah Frescura,

Payton Leonard, Kaytlyn Wallerich.  
**Freshmen:** Cree Croy.  
**Cum Laude**  
**Senior:** Elizabeth Fortier, Reganne Patrick, Kyle Spalliero, Aaron Tramutolo.  
**Junior:** Elaina Brandon, Olivia Cerutti, Molly Conger, Paige Dvorak, Katelyn Farris, Logan Malacina, Melissa Traver.  
**Sophomore:** Jayden Buchanan, Cade Croy, Kevin Frideres, Abigail Granger, Staiton Latimer, Jacob Ozee.  
**Freshmen:** Ava Brassard, Cale Halpin, Aspen Lardi, Makaila McDaniel, Hayden Partilla, Mary Clare Phillips, Alexis Riggs, Nathan States, Grace Wright.

More Honor Rolls in the 1.27.21 edition

Livingston County's #1 Family Entertainment Center

SUNDAY

3-6 P.M.

\$2 shoes

\$2 bowling

\$2 domestic beer

Victory Lanes

815-584-2724

victorylanesbowl.com

Illinois children can showcase their artistic talents and consider the importance of art in our lives, thanks to a statewide art contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The theme of the contest is “Art Surrounds Us.” Illinois students from kindergarten through high school can let their imaginations run wild to create original works of art reflecting what the theme means to them.

Judging will occur across four levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In each level, a winner and three runners-up will be selected, and one piece will be selected as “Best in Show.”

The 16 top designs will be displayed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and

Lincoln Presidential Library Joins with State Board of Education for Art Contest

ages. More details are available at [bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest](https://bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest).

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, at 212 N. Sixth St. in Springfield, is dedicated to telling the story of America’s 16th president through old-fashioned scholarship and modern technology.

The library holds an unparalleled collection of Lincoln books, documents, photographs, artifacts and art, as well as millions of other items pertaining to Illinois history. Meanwhile, the museum uses traditional exhibits, eye-catching special effects, and innovative story-telling techniques to educate visitors.

For more information, visit [presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov) or follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

LIQUORS

WINES

BEERS

Tito's Handmade VODKA

\$29.95

1.75 liter

Western Son Vodka

1.75 liter

\$17.99

Skol Vodka

1.75 liter

\$11.99

Canadian Mist

1.75 liter

\$14.99

Fireball Whiskey

1.75 liter

\$19.99

Bird Dog Whiskey

750 ml.

\$16.99

Seagrams 7-Crown

1.75 liter

\$17.99

Admiral Nelson's RUM

\$12.99

1.75 liter

Crown ROYAL

750 ml.

\$21.95

Great Prices!

Great Selection!

Old Style, Coors, MGD, Miller 64, Lite or BUDWEISER

\$14.99

24-pack cans

Icehouse, High Life or Busch

30-pack cans

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24-pack bottles

\$16.63

Miller Lite or Coors Light

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\$8.99

Goose Island or Blue Moon

(12-pack bottles or 15-pack cans)

\$12.99

Liberty Creek WINES

\$5.99

1.5 liter

Red Truck Wines

750 ml.

\$5.99

Hahn Wines

750 ml.

\$9.99

Louis Martini Sonoma Cabernet

750 ml.

\$12.99

Relax Riesling

750 ml.

\$7.99

Funf Wines

750 ml.

\$6.99

Bota Box Wines

3-liter box

\$14.99

Jack Daniel's COUNTRY COCKTAILS

\$5.99

6-pack bottles

Fireball BUCKETS

20-50 ml.

\$14.99

Ad Prices Effective 1-20-21 through 1-26-21

Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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