



# Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY  
NOVEMBER 2024

# Celebrating Madison County



*Join Us For The*

## **Official Swearing in Ceremony of the Newly Elected Officials in Madison County**

10 a.m.  
Monday, Dec. 2  
County-wide Elected Officials



Chairman Chris Slusser  
State's Attorney Tom Haine  
Auditor David Michael  
Circuit Clerk Patrick McRae  
Coroner Nick Novacich



5 p.m.  
County Board Members

Madison County Administration Building  
157 N. Main St..  
Edwardsville, Ill.



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SMALLL BUSINESS SATURDAY

## How to Address the County Board or Committees

Citizens can now address the County Board at their regularly scheduled meetings (3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm in the County Board room), and at special meetings.

Fifteen minutes shall be set aside at the beginning of each County Board meeting and each speaker shall be allowed 3 minutes to address the board.

Although not required, anyone wishing to address the Board may pre-register by filing a completed "[Request To Address The Madison County Board and Committees](#)" form, with the County Clerk's Office no earlier than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

For more information on addressing the Board of Committees visit the [County Clerk's website](#).

Scan QR Code to Register to Speak



## IN REMEMBRANCE

# MADISON COUNTY REMEMBERS BOARD MEMBER CHARLES “SKIP” SCHMIDT

*Schmidt died after battling a lengthy illness*



**M**adison County honored Charles “Skip” Schmidt with a moment of silence before its October board meeting.

Schmidt, 75, died on Oct. 3, following an eight-year battle with kidney disease. Prior to being elected in November 2022 to represent District 24 in Edwardsville, he served as an Edwardsville Township trustee for more than five years.

Schmidt was a retired school teacher and coach in the Ferguson Florissant School district for more than 25 years. He coached various sports through the years to include football, volleyball and tennis, which he was an avid player.

In 1989, Schmidt and his wife, Cynthia, moved to Edwardsville where he got involved in the community and served on various boards and organizations to include Faith in Action, Metro East Humane Society, YMCA, Edwardsville’s Recreation, Arts and Special Event’s (RASE) and Edwardsville Rotary.

Schmidt lived by the Rotary moto, “Service above self!” The City of Edwardsville honored Skip for his contributions to the community while serving as a volunteer with RASE for 14 years.

Schmidt was a patron of the arts and spent four years as the head usher at the Wildey Theatre and fundraising for Edwardsville High School Drama thespians. He also enjoyed golfing, trout fishing and making walking sticks.

Schmidt and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2023 and he leaves behind his two daughters and four grandchildren.



## RECOGNITION

# MADISON COUNTY RECOGNIZES 4-H MONTH



**M**adison County Chairman Kurt Prenzler presented a proclamation to Meghan Cope, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator with University of Illinois Extension Office proclaiming October as 4-H Month in Madison County. Alyssa Elliott from the St. Jacob's 4-H Club (right) and Willa Kampwerth from the Good Producers 4-H Club spoke to the board about the benefits they get from being a part of the national organization.



## MADISON COUNTY ACCOUNTING CLERK FINISHES ULTRAMARATHON



**N**ikki Crader recently celebrated her 50th birthday by running a 50-mile ultramarathon.

Crader, who works as an accounting clerk in the Madison County Treasurer's Office, completed the milestone two days prior to her Oct. 7 birthday.

The 50-mile event took place along the Hennepin Canal State Trail. The race takes part on the first day of the Hennepin Hundred, which is the only ultra marathon in the state of Illinois and includes a 100-mile, 50-mile and 50K race.

Participants run through locks and lift bridges, picturesque farms and towns. It goes between Sterling and Colona, Ill. Crader's race ended in Wyanet.

She completed the race just under the 15-hour time limit allotted for the 50-mile runners with a time of 14:52:43.

Crader started running in 2017 when a friend asked her to run in a race their gym was putting on. She said she was unsure, however if they didn't get enough participants the race would be canceled. So she decided to run with her friend.

She said after that after that race she started running other races. In March 2018, she trained for her first 5k.

"After that I just kind of kept going," she said. "I went from the 5K to a 10K, and then a 15K and then a half-marathon. I mean I just kept going to the next thing and I kept thinking, I can do it."

Crader signed up for her first 50K, which is just a little more than 31 miles.

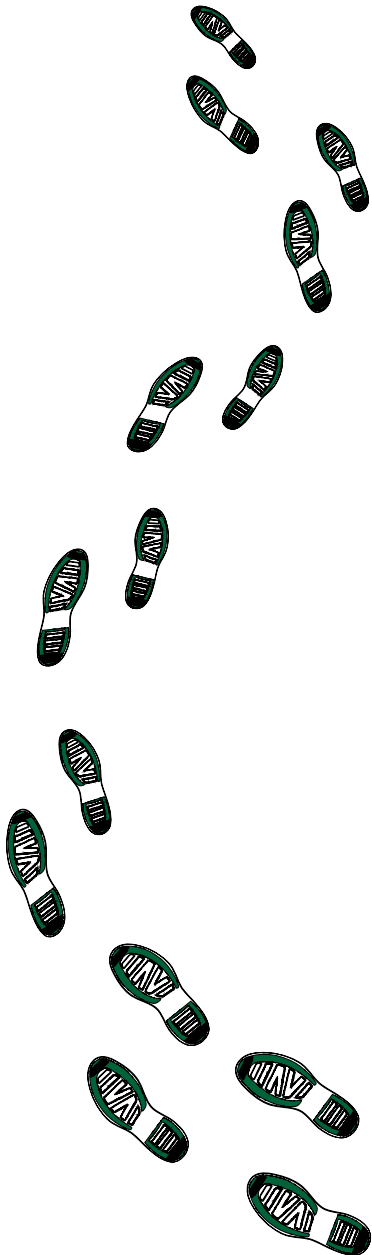
"I actually got hurt right before it," she said. "I finished it, however, it did not turn out like I wanted, but I did finish."

She said she planned her redemption for the following year, and COVID halted those plans, but in October 2023 she decided to attempt the 50k again.

"It turned out well," she said.

After that she thought, "What's next?"

She felt like the next step would be the 50-mile race at the same course she ran her 50K in Hennepin.







## “I had been thinking about it for the last several years,” she said. “Could I get that 50-mile mark?”

“I had been thinking about it for the last several years,” she said. “Could I get that 50-mile mark?”

Crader doesn’t run alone, she has a group of friends, mostly women, she trains and runs races with on a regular basis. She brought the idea up with her group, and of course two of them were on board and trained with her for the race.

“They went along for the ride,” she said.

She said the race was brutal, especially with temperatures in high 80s.

“There was absolutely no shade,” Crader said. “I got to the point where I turned to my friend and said, ‘I don’t think I can run this out. If I don’t finish, I just don’t.’”

However, she didn’t run the race not to finish. At times when she didn’t think she would make it she kept pushing herself and crossed the finish line with a few minutes to spare.

“When it was over I had nothing left,” she said.

She finished the race 42nd place for her division and 91st in the overall race.

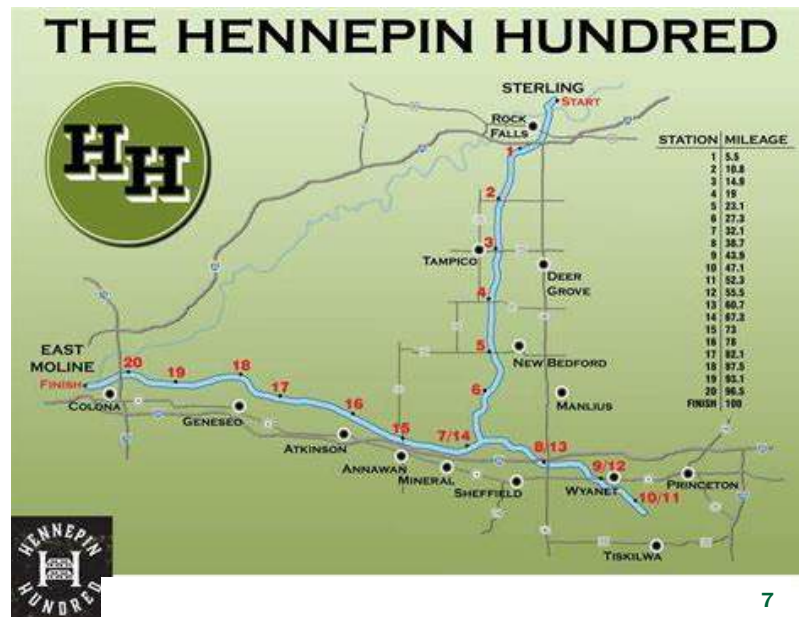
Crader said with the race over she won’t need to train as hard. She said the 50-mile is likely the last ultramarathon she would run, however she plans to continue do half- marathons and other races in her future

Previous races include the Warrior Dash, Indy Mini, Go St. Louis Marathon along with countless 5 and 10Ks.

Crader will continue running with her friends, and on occasion with her husband, who serves in the U.S. Army Reserves. The Granite City woman said it’s not likely her sons will.

She said when she began running her boys didn’t show much interest and now her 19-year-old son is in the Army and stationed in Bulgaria and her youngest, who is 15 shows more interest in learning to drive.

Crader said she’s not sure when she will run her next race, but for now she said “I just want to keep enjoying it.”



# SERVICES

# GET YOUR VOTE ON



Early voting continues throughout  
Madison County until Nov. 4.

**Early Voting Hours for Alton, Edwardsville and Granite City:**  
Nov. 1 and 4 -Hours: 8:30 a.m. -7:00 p.m.

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**Other Early Voting Sites (dates and times vary)**

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| ★ Bethalto     | ★ SIUE       |
| ★ Collinsville | ★ Troy       |
| ★ Godfrey      | ★ Madison    |
| ★ Highland     | ★ Wood River |

*For a complete address list of early voting sites  
visit the County Clerk's website.*



## CANDIDATES ARE FILING FOR 2025 ELECTIONS

As the General Election ends others are gearing up for the spring elections.

Candidates for the April 1 Consolidated Election can start filing on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Next year's races include municipal, township, village, library and park districts, school districts and other local offices. Those seeking office are for the positions of mayor, village presidents, supervisor, highway commissioner, township assessor, clerk, alderman, council member, trustee and commissioner.

Candidates running for office, other than school boards, file with local election officials. Those running for school board positions can start filing at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the County Clerk's Office, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville or by mail and received no earlier than Nov. 12 and no later than Nov. 18. Petitions received in the mail prior to Nov. 12 will be returned.

Visit the County Clerk's website or call (618) 692-6290 for more information







## Madison County collecting for U.S. Marines and local veterans' organizations

Madison County is collaborating with local veteran service organizations and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves to collect items for those in need this holiday season.

The Veterans' Assistance Commission will be collecting items for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Program, as well as basic clothing and personal hygiene items for hospitalized veterans at the VA Medical Centers in St. Louis.

"This is a joint effort between the VAC, the County and local veterans organizations," VAC Superintendent Brad Lavite said. "These items will be a big impact on the recipients, whether it's a toy for a child or a pair of socks for a veteran."

Now through Dec. 20, individuals are invited to donate new, unwrapped items at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 N. Main Street, Edwardsville, and the Wood River Facility, 101 E. Edwardsville Road, Wood River. Items needed for veterans include socks, underwear, t-shirts, gloves, caps, slippers, throws and basic hygiene.

"Please keep in mind that there is also a need female related items as well," Lavite said.

The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to assist the U. S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. Toys are for children between the ages of newborn and 14.

For more information visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org). Select "request a toy" and from the dropdown menu, select "family and individual request form." Toys for tots stops accepting application on Dec. 15.

For more information or assistance on the veterans' collection contact the VAC at (618) 296-4554.





**Madison County Administration Building  
and Courthouse will be closed Nov. 11 in  
honor of Veterans Day**





Madison County Homeless Liaison Tim Rhymer, Regional Superintendent Dr. Robert Werden and Homeless Coordinator David Kerr

# November is National Homeless Awareness Month

Visitors at the Madison County Administration Building can check out the latest display case in the Administration Building lobby highlighting November as “National Homeless Awareness Month.”

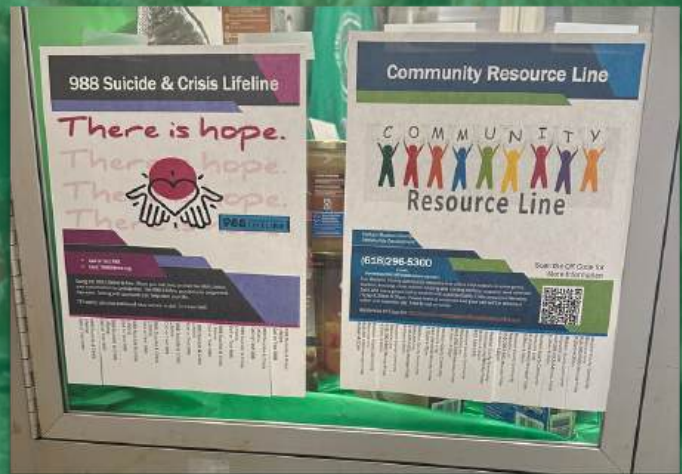
Madison County Regional Office of Education and Madison County Community Development put together a display for the month as a reminder that not everyone has a home.

Madison County wants to remind the public that homelessness is more than just statistics — it’s real people, real lives and real struggles.

Do you know about the homeless resources in Madison County? Do you know about Project Homeless Connect?

Learn more about it by visiting [Madison County’s website at Community Development>Homeless Programs\) Project Homeless Connect/Continuum of Care of](#)

To find out more about Madison County’s Homeless Program scan the QR Code





# Happy THANKSGIVING

Madison County buildings and courthouses will be **CLOSED** on Nov. 28 and 29.

We will **OPEN** again on Monday Dec. 2

*Enjoy your holiday!*





# CORONER

## CLOSING THE DOOR ON CAREER

**F**or 24 years, Stephen P. Nonn has stood at the forefront of justice, serving as coroner through many families' darkest moments.

Behind every case, there is a story — a narrative of a life lost, a family in mourning and a community seeking closure.

Nonn didn't just step into the role without the knowledge needed to do the job. He walked into it with 26 years of law enforcement experience and made it his mission to change the way the public viewed the position.

Nonn said the idea to run for office came from his former colleague and friend, retired Sheriff John Lakin, as he was getting ready to retire from the Madison County Sheriff's Office. He made

the decision only because Coroner Dallas Burke, who held the position for 28 years, decided not to run again.

In November 2000, voters elected Nonn as the county's 33rd coroner. Soon after he started making changes to better serve the public.

"The first thing I did when I took office was man the office 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," Nonn said. "Instead of calling for somebody and getting them out of bed, you could now call the coroner's office at 2 a.m. without having to wait."

He said gone were the days of calling the Sheriff's office, who would then contact a deputy coroner who was likely sleeping in early morning hours.

In order to achieve the new working conditions, Nonn worked with the county board to increase his budget and hire more personnel.

"I was blessed with a great county board that saw what I was trying to do," he said.

Nonn also continued with the work that Burke started, which was moving the





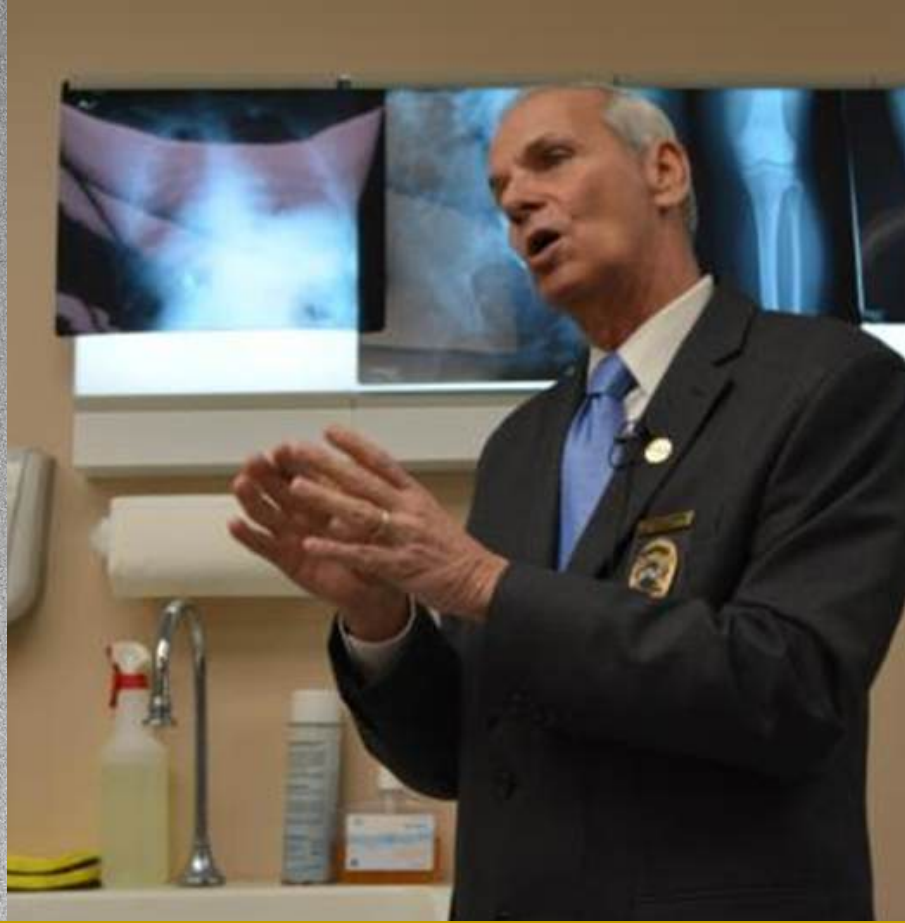
office from being one whose existence in government operations fulfilling a statutory requirement, to that of professional death investigators.

“In the past it was usually a funeral director’s job,” Nonn said. “No one really dealt with dead bodies back then the same way they do now.”

The office of the coroner in Illinois holds significant responsibilities, including investigating sudden, violent, or unexplained deaths. Coroners are empowered to take charge of bodies and determine the cause of death, often working in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies.

Nonn said in Illinois, there is no requirement for a death investigator. It is up to each coroner to determine qualifications for his/her county, he said.

However, Nonn expected more from his death investigators and made changes in hiring to reflect that professionalism. Anyone who is now hired must hold at minimum of an associate’s degree in law enforcement,



*“In the past it was usually a funeral director’s job,” Nonn said. “No one really dealt with dead bodies back then the same way they do now.”*



nursing or related field and/or have three years’ experience in medical technology, emergency medical service, law enforcement, fire service, nursing or field employment in a medico legal investigative office.

Nonn himself earned certification from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He also used his knowledge of law enforcement and death investigations to help create a required Homicide and Questionable Death Protocol that is followed by all law

enforcement and fire departments throughout Madison County,

“The coroner’s office is a law enforcement agency,” Nonn said.

Nonn took the department up a notch and so did his investigators.

He noticed one of those changes was with nursing home calls. He said previously a deputy coroner would take a phone call, often in the middle of the night, notifying them of a death at a nursing home and typically would not respond to the scene, they would just take the information by phone.

Once deputy coroners started working 24/7 they would respond and be able to observe the body and ask the staff questions based on those observations.

“(Staff) no longer had this thing about protecting the nursing home when they knew these guys are going to start showing up,” Nonn said. “The (deputy coroners) didn’t show up at all of (the calls,) but (nursing homes) knew they might. Which made the way they responded to the questions that were asked a lot different than had it been by the phone.”





The staff started being more honest about what happened to the person who died, such as a fall. Some of what Nonn learned through this helped in establishing the Madison County Elder Abuse/Fatality Task Force.

Nonn said death investigations play an important role in the justice process. He is a founding member of the Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators, as well serving on various professional boards to include American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association, Southern Illinois Child Death Task Force and more.

Nonn said being able to not only provide comfort to a family member who died, but to be able to answer how that person died is one of the reason the coroner's office does what it does.

"We give a voice to those who can no longer speak," he said.



*"We're here to serve the public," he said. "My philosophy is simple — the only thing you have to do is the right thing."*

He said morally, as a society we can be judged on how we treat those that are dead. He said it doesn't matter if we are dealing with someone who was found under a bridge or in a \$5 million house.

Nonn recognizes that empathy, integrity, and respect for the deceased and their families is needed in the role.

"We must embody these qualities in every aspect of our work," he said. "We approach each case with the utmost professionalism. We treat every individual with the respect and dignity they deserve."

As Nonn gets ready to close the door on his career, everyone is reminded of the countless lives he has touched and the profound legacy he leaves behind. His tireless dedication to the pursuit of justice has set a standard of excellence for future generations to follow, inspiring all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

His skill and talent exceed those of his official duties. He has been a pillar of support for colleagues, a trusted confidant for families in this community and a mentor to aspiring coroners.

Nonn spent the past five decades serving the people of Madison County and will serve his last day on Nov. 30.

Although he may be retiring from his official duties, his influence, the pursuit of truth and

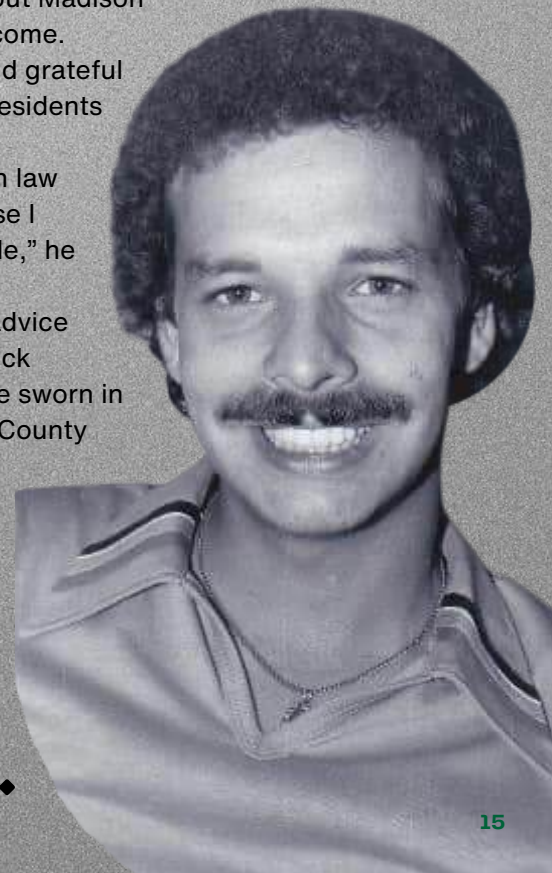
justice for those who no longer have a voice, will continue to resonate throughout Madison County for years to come.

Nonn is humble and grateful to have served the residents of Madison County

"I chose a career in law enforcement because I wanted to help people," he said.

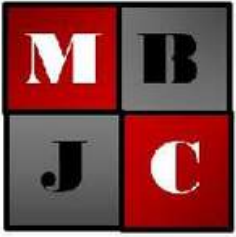
Nonn shares this advice for his successor, Nick Novacich, who will be sworn in as the new Madison County Coroner on Dec. 2.

"We're here to serve the public," he said. "My philosophy is simple — the only thing you have to do is the right thing."





# FEATURES



## MADISON COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PRESENTS WORK FORCE AWARDS

**M**adison County Employment and Training presented its Workforce Awards on Oct. 10, including honoring last year's winner who died in February.

"This is the first time that we've held this event locally," Paul Wellhausen, chairman of the Madison-Bond-Jersey- Calhoun Workforce Innovation Board.

Wellhausen said in years past one individual and one business were recognized at a statewide luncheon.

"That event was not held this year, so we decided to honor our recipients here in Edwardsville," he said. "Since this is an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our local participants, we've expanded the program."

Those honored included: a high school student, Devin McDonough, and a Holly's House of Hope Participant, Kyle Osterbur, who received their U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates; a Mentor Award; along with the recipient of the Illinois Workforce Partnership Business Leadership Award; and individual achievement awards for outstanding program graduates.

Director of Employment and Training Tony Fuhrmann recognized the apprenticeship completers. He said McDonough, of Bethalto, successfully completed his apprenticeships in housekeeping at West Star Aviation, which is located at St. Louis Regional Airport in Bethalto. Osterbur, from Highland, completed his at the Highland Police Department.

Fuhrmann said West Star became the first private employer to partner with Madison County Employment and Training, the Madison County Regional Office of Education and the Bethalto School District and the U.S. Department of Labor to begin a program for high school students in the STEP Program.

He said the apprenticeship certificates are recognized on the same level as any of the more than 1,000 apprenticeship occupations the Department of Labor recognizes across the country. McDonough was the eighth high school student to receive an apprenticeship certificate in Madison County, Fuhrmann said and a ninth was presented their certificate later the same day.

"This is a major accomplishment, and these ceremonies are treated that way," Fuhrmann said.







A number of dignitaries attended the event including: Illinois State Senator Erica Harris, Illinois State Representatives Amy Elik and Katie Stuart, Regional Superintendent of Schools Robert Werden, Kevin Brooks, a representative from U.S. Congressman Nikki Budzinski's Office and Bruce Hallam with the U.S. Department of Labor; along with other state, county and local leaders.

Employment and Training Assistant Director Darlene Ladd presented the Theresa Rasp Mentor Award to Highland Police Chief Carole Widman. Rasp was a special education teacher in Collinsville for 28 years.

Widman was nominated due to her enthusiasm to take on the apprenticeship program at the police department and for mentoring Osterbur.

Fuhrmann presented Dennis Wilmsmeyer, the Executive Director of America's Central Port in Granite City, with the Illinois Workforce Partnership Business Leadership Award.

"America's Central Port is business leader in that it understands the value and the importance of their community," Fuhrmann said.

Individual achievement awards were presented to:

- John Boneau, Welder: Gateway Bronco Business Nominated Employee
- Emily Galore, Registered Medical Assistant
- Destiny Johnson, License Practical Nursing
- Dondre Leflore Jr., CDL training



The ceremony also paid tribute posthumously to Andere Jerrell "AJ" Millender.

"Andere' was a very special person," Fuhrmann said.

Fuhrmann said Millender was a success, not only because of what he achieved, but because of his spirit and the impact it left on staff at Employment and Training.

Ladd added that Millender overcame many obstacles and barriers after walking into Employment and Training in late 2022 and taking a CDL class and earning his commercial driver's license. When Millender first visited the office, he was barely getting by — he was unemployed, living in his truck and separated from his family.

She said Millender's career specialist, Tina Leonard helped to put him on the right path, however he was the person who worked hard to achieve his own success.

Fuhrmann said after he was selected for last year's award, which he could not attend because he had to work, he wrote that he greatly appreciated the chance he was given.

"When I was helpless, needing a helping hand, and not just the chance, they were there. I am truly grateful for everything they've done and all that we've accomplished together."

Millender died on Feb. 4 following a motorcycle crash.







***PUTTING  
SAFETY  
FIRST:***

**Madison County  
upgrades  
First Responder's  
Emergency Radio  
Systems**



**M**adison County recently approved more than \$5.7 million in funding to upgrade its emergency radio system for first responders.

In October, the County Board approved the purchase of 803 radios for \$5.18 million and 705 pagers at \$564,509.

The County is using approximately \$4.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for the project and the remaining funds are being supplied by the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB.)

“This system will allow agencies from all across Madison County to communicate with one another,” 911 Administrator Arron Weber said. “Every police department, every fire department, regardless of any kind of situation we will be able to communicate.”

For the past five years, 911 worked with emergency responders throughout the county to integrate their communications equipment. Once complete, first responders across the county will be using the state’s STARCOM communications system.

STARCOM is a communications system used by state agencies and many local police and fire departments.

Currently there are two operating systems in the county for fire and police radios — Starcomm and VHF. The Sheriff’s Office, along with five other Public Safety Answering Points — Collinsville, Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Granite City and Pontoon Beach — all operate on the Starcom system. Alton and Wood River currently operate on VHF and will be converted to the new system.

“The systems cannot connect with one another at all,” Weber said.

The system will also allow interoperability with agencies in other counties as well. The new system will provide two-way radio services.

Because they use different communications systems,

there are sometimes issues during an emergency.

The project is expected to take approximately one year to complete.





# GOOD NEWS



## Work Force Champion Madison County Employment and Training recognizes one of its own

Madison County Employment and Training recognized one of their own employees as a champion in their field.

Employment and Training Director Tony Fuhrmann, along with Madison-Bond-Jersey-Calhoun Workforce Innovation Board chairman Paul Wellhausen surprised Employment and Training Assistant Director Darlene Ladd with Madison County's Workforce Champion Award.

"What is a champion?" Fuhrmann asked. "There are two definitions of a champion, most of us think of a champion as a person that goes to battle, the Olympics or team winning on the sports field, but the definition I want you all to think is a different definition of the champion — a person who fights or argues for a cause on behalf of someone else."

Fuhrman said the past year the department got involved with several national organizations, and they've said to him they love working with Southwestern Illinois because of its "Champions."

"These are people who will take things, lead the

charge and get things done," he said. "(Today) we are going to recognize one of those champions."

He said Employment and Training reached a milestone with its apprenticeship program for individuals with disabilities. He said there have been 10 individuals who completed the Department of Labor apprenticeship certificate program, and Ladd led the changes and improvements that have kept the program going.

Fuhrmann said Ladd was selected as one of 60 Workforce Heroes across the country by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals in September 2023.

The award reads, "For recognizing the potential in all individuals and championing their opportunities for success. For compassion, for expertise, for fighting for others."

"She's a champion with compassion and a giant heart," Fuhrmann said.



# GOOD NEWS



## Superior Supervisor

### Madison County PSAP manager recognized at state conference



**A** Madison County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) manager is honored as “Supervisor of the Year” by the Illinois Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials.

Collinsville Police Department PSAP Manager Andrea Lindauer received the award on Oct. 22 during the annual banquet dinner of the Illinois Public Safety Telecommunications Association Conference in Springfield.

“The award is presented to someone who demonstrates outstanding service and commitment to 911, specifically in a supervisory role,” Madison County 911 Administrator Arron Weber said.

Weber said Collinsville Police Lt. Keith Jackson and Madison County 911 Training Administrator Tonya Beasley nominated Lindauer, who has worked in the City of Collinsville for the past 16 years, due to her continuous efforts to promote 911 across the county, her ability to run a PSAP like a well-oiled machine and her compassion for her employees and citizens of Collinsville.

“Andrea is a ‘go to’ person within her department, as well with other PSAP managers within the county,” Weber said.

Weber said no one from Madison County has ever received this award.

Weber said through the years there have been plenty of Madison County telecommunicators to be nominated for an award, but no one has ever received one.

“Andrea is the first!” he said.

Weber said on a special note that members of all of the county’s eight PSAPs, along with 911 staff attended the conference.

“We are very proud of Andrea and her accomplishments,” he said. “She is deserving of this award.”



*Emergency Telephone System Board Chair Joey Petrokovich, Collinsville PSAP Manager Andrea Lindauer and 911 Administrator Arron Weber.*

*Telecommunicators from Madison County’s eight PSAPs and 911 Office.*





# GOOD NEWS

## Commitment to Community

### Madison County Sheriff's Deputy honored for her work in Court Security



**A** Madison County Sheriff's deputy was recognized for her service with the Circuit Court.

Deputy Stephanie McSparin was honored with the Judge Barbara Crowder Champion Award for her exemplary service during the Third Judicial Circuit Pro Bono luncheon on Oct. 22

McSparin has dedicated 18 years to her role as a court security officer, where she has consistently gone beyond her official responsibilities to ensure the safety and respectful treatment of all individuals entering the courthouse. Her commitment is reflected in her willingness to assist those in need, including helping them navigate court forms and providing essential information.

"Stephanie is always helping people who need assistance," a representative from the court said. "She takes the time to ensure everyone feels supported during their visit."

The Judge Barbara Crowder Champion Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment to public service and community support within the judicial system.



*Sheriff Jeff Connor (left) and Judge Barbara Crowder with Deputy Stephanie McSparin*



## Terrific Teamwork

### Madison County Sheriff's Office and Major Case Squad of St. Louis recognized by IAAI



*Major Case Executive Director Rick Knox, Investigator Dennis Pinero, Madison County Chief of Detectives, Lt. Tim Lawrence and IAAI Arson Investigator Greg Vespa*

**T**he Madison County Sheriff's Office along with the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis were recently recognized by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Illinois Chapter for their teamwork on a double homicide/arson case.

On Feb. 1, 2022, the Sheriff's Office and Major Case Squad investigated the double homicide/arson in the 2300 block of Wedgewood Drive in Godfrey. The Illinois State Fire Marshals, Illinois State Police Crime Scene, Madison County Coroner's Office, Godfrey Fire Department and others assisted in the investigation.

The IAAI recently presented the "Distinguished Team Award" to the Major Case Squad during the Illinois Chapters annual banquet.





# MADISON COUNTY SUPPORTS SMALL BUSINESSES

THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITIES

**S**mall Business Saturday is right around the corner.

Madison County wants to remind the public that Nov. 30 is Small Business Saturday, a nationwide initiative that promotes local business.

Madison County wants to emphasize the importance of small businesses to the local economy and remind the public to celebrate and support them and all they do for their communities.

Small Business Saturday presents a opportunity for community members to understand the broad spectrum of businesses throughout the county. Hundreds of businesses will be offering up holiday gifts this season. From Highland to Holiday Shores, there is a bit of something for everyone.

There are antiques, boutiques, local brewery's, distillery's, wine and more.

Please join Small Business Association (SBA) and organizations across the country in supporting your local small businesses by shopping at them in the dozens of communities across the county.

Founded by American Express in 2010 and officially cosponsored by SBA since 2011, Small Business Saturday has become an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season.

Visit [Great Rivers and Routes](#) to find a list of some of the unique places to go throughout Madison County.

Small Business Saturday is more than just a day of transactions; it's a celebration of dreams, hard work, and aspiration.



SMALL BUSINESS

SATURDAY®

NOVEMBER 30





PARTNERSHIP FOR DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES  
**NEW BEGINNINGS**

*You're Invited*

**HOLIDAY MEET & GREET**

*Food and Refreshments  
Ugly Sweater Contest*

**Get to Know Us**

The Partnership is extending an invitation to the "New Beginnings" Holiday Meet & Greet as an opportunity for individuals to get to know us and learn why you should belong.

**Who We Are**

The Partnership for Drug-Free Communities was established in 2006 and is a community-based coalition addressing substance use in Madison, St. Clair and the surrounding Illinois counties. It brings together partners, stakeholders, groups and organizations from various sectors present in our community. We are looking for members who are interested in joining us in assessing local drug trends and creating a comprehensive strategic plan to address local issues.



**10 a.m. to Noon**



Wednesday  
**4 December 2024**



**R. P. Lumber Center**  
6289 Tiger Drive, Edwardsville

Scan the QR Code or click the Ling Button to Register



**12 Core Sectors**

Healthcare Professionals, Businesses, Schools, Youth, Civic/Volunteers, Religious or Fraternal Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government, Law Enforcement, Parents, Media, Youth-Serving Organizations, Other organizations involved in prevention efforts

Sponsored by:



**MADISON COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**



Partnership for Drug-Free Communities





**FREE DROP OFF FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS**

\* APPOINTMENT REQUIRED\*

<https://RecycleResponsibly.as.me/hhwaste>



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SITE

OPEN EVERY MONTH - 1st Saturday & 3rd Friday



249 N. Old St. Louis Rd. Wood River, Illinois

*Free*  
**LITTER KITS AVAILABLE**

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. NOT THE POLLUTION.

Scan the QR Code to find out more

# NEED HELP?

Housing  
Rental Assistance  
Mental Health Services  
Substance Abuse Treatment

**MADISON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CAN HELP!**

CALL or SCAN  
QR CODE  
(618) 296-5300

# JOB

Openings

Visit [madisoncountyiil.gov](http://madisoncountyiil.gov) to search for job opportunities online





# ADOPT A HIGHWAY

KEEP IT CLEAN, MAKE IT GREEN

WANT TO HELP KEEP  
MADISON COUNTY BEAUTIFUL?

## Volunteer Program

for BUSINESSES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Visit Madison County  
Highway Department  
for more information





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



## Madison County Board Meetings



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

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

Visit [www.madisoncountyl.gov](http://www.madisoncountyl.gov) for more information.



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

