



# MEDP NewsFlash

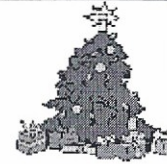
Macoupin Economic Development Partnership

Shari Albrecht, Executive Director

November 18, 2009



## **Special Holiday Edition**



*Dear Friends & Partners,*

*MAY THE HOLIDAYS BRING YOU WARMTH AND JOY THAT WILL  
LAST THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.  
PLEASE TAKE TIME TO VISIT ONE OF OUR MANY WONDERFUL  
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS IN  
MACOUPIN COUNTY!*

*Happy Holidays,*

*The MEDP Members & Board of Directors*

Macoupin County Board  
City of Staunton  
Karmak, Inc.  
Brianza Sales & Marketing  
Verticchio Law Firm  
City of Mt. Olive  
Frontier Communications

Watson Law Office  
H&H Construction Service  
Shipman Elevator Co.  
Carlinville Area Hospital  
City of Gillespie  
Madison Communications  
New Wave Communications

City of Carlinville  
Ameren  
NBS Systems  
Prairie Farms  
City of Bunker Hill  
Village of Modesto  
Lee Lobue

United Community Bank  
Macoupin County Housing Authority  
Lewis & Clark Community College  
West Central Development Council  
Shari Albrecht, Executive Director

Carlinville National Bank  
M.J.M. Electric Cooperative  
Community Memorial Hospital  
The Village at Morse Farm

### **Carlinville Business Owner will Decorate the White House for the Holidays**

Debbie Zilm, owner of Main Street Florist and Main Street Bridal Shop has been selected to be on the team that will decorate the White House for Christmas. Zilm will travel to Washing, DC, in late November and spend the next week assembling and installing decorations.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE ZILM!**

### **Snack with Santa in Downtown Gillespie on December 5**

The Coal Country Chamber of Commerce will host the Eleventh Annual Snack with Santa and the Coal Country Choo Choo Train at the Gillespie Civic Center from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 Noon on Saturday, December 5. Santa will arrive at 8:30 in a District 7 fire truck at the Civic Center across from Subway in Downtown Gillespie. He will stay until 12 p.m. to visit with each of the children attending and hear their special requests for Christmas. At Snack with Santa, for \$5 each child will eat a snack and have time to sit on Santa's lap to whisper his wishes and wants. Each child will be given a ticket for a ride on the CCCC Choo Choo. Photos will be available. The CCCC Choo Choo will be providing free rides from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The train leaves from the Train Depot in front of City Hall.

Also on December 5, the Gillespie Downtown Beautification Committee is holding a Business Window Decorating Contest. Visitors can enjoy beautiful window displays and caroling from various church choirs.

### **Enjoy a Country Christmas in Virden**

The Annual Virden Country Christmas will be held on December 11 & 12. Festivities get underway on Friday evening, December 11 with the lighted Christmas parade at 6 pm around the downtown square. Food, shopping and horse drawn rides will be available

Saturday, Dec 12 will bring Breakfast with Santa, 9 to 11 a.m., with kids eating & doing crafts free! Breakfast will be served at the Virden Community Building. In addition, there will be storytelling, cookie decorating, horse drawn rides, and food,

Visitors can enjoy the Virden Christmas Market on the downtown square all weekend. Many beautifully decorated Christmas trees, shopping and food will be available.

For more information visit [www.virdenonline.org](http://www.virdenonline.org).



### Girard Will Light Up for Christmas

Girard welcomes friends and visitors to “*The Songs of Christmas*” lighted Christmas parade in downtown Girard, beginning at 6 pm on Sat the 12<sup>th</sup>. Come to see the many lighted parade entries and enjoy a soup dinner. Be sure to plan on the kids seeing Santa Claus in his house! For more information, visit [www.girardilusa.com](http://www.girardilusa.com)

### The Christmas Market Returns to Carlinville’s Historic Town Square

Centered in Carlinville’s picturesque town square, the Christmas Market features large, heated tents that enclose arts and craft booths and yummy goodies. It is a bustling, holiday atmosphere where you are likely to find friends old and new.

The historic town square offers an array of Christmas lights and decorations. The gazebo in the center of the square, surrounding trees and cozy shops that line the square are alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas.

Hop on the trolley for a narrated tour of the community’s historic sites. A horse-drawn carriage takes its passengers on a quiet holiday ride. Strolling musicians play and carolers sing the songs of the season. For young children, there are pony rides and a visit to Santa’s house. Quaint shops offer arts, crafts, clothing, jewelry, furniture, flowers and holiday gifts. Restaurants provide many dining choices and local churches host holiday presentations.

For the heritage visitor, the Macoupin County Courthouse invites visitors to step back in time for a fascinating tour. A drive-thru tour of the historic Sears homes is less than a mile away, as well as the beautiful Blackburn College campus. You will also want to stop by the Macoupin County Historic Society Anderson Mansion for a historic glimpse into the Christmas past.

Christmas Market hours are:                      Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 9:00 PM  
   Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
   Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

For more information visit, [www.carlinvillechristmasmarket.com](http://www.carlinvillechristmasmarket.com)



Letter to the Editor

November 24, 2009

## Historic Route 66 Recreational Trail

Macoupin and Montgomery Counties

Recently, the League of Illinois Bicyclists had a promotional Route 66 Bike Ride from the Chain of Rocks Bridge, through Edwardsville, Staunton, Carlinville, Springfield, and on to Chicago. The purpose was to promote a safe route from St. Louis to Chicago along the Historic Route 66 Corridor.

For a number of years now, various individuals, organizations, and groups have discussed an Historic Route 66 Trail from Staunton, through Mt.Olive to Litchfield utilizing the Northbound Lane of Old Route 66, which has been abandoned and unused for many years.

Our government officials and medical professionals are all encouraging people to exercise more and this section of pavement could be the place for many citizens to start on a path to better health. Moreover, trails encourage business development that could certainly benefit this region of Illinois.

The roadway belongs to the State of Illinois is still in place, so there is no Right Of Way cost. All that must to be done is to remove some guardrail and dirt, repair any defects in the pavement and mark the alignment. This type of work can be done by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The Trail, which would be almost 17 miles long, would benefit the region, each community along the way, as well as new businesses moving into this area. When this trail segment becomes a reality, a rider could safely travel from Litchfield, IL to the St.Louis Arch by utilizing the Madison County and St Louis trail systems from Staunton south.

Right now this valuable section of what was once the "Mother Road" is abandoned and lying idle, providing no benefit to its owner, the citizens of the State of Illinois.

If you would like to have this section of abandoned history developed into a trail for all of us, talk to your family, friends and neighbors. Let them know how you feel and encourage them to call or write their elected officials for their support. Please, no more excuses! Let's get it done this time!

John Fritsche  
618-656-0700  
Glen Carbon, IL

# ILLINOIS VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY*

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

223 South Macoupin Street ~ P.O. Box 88

Gillespie, Illinois 62033-0088

Phone: (217) 839-4431

Fax: (217) 839-3647

FRANK J. SCHWAB

Executive Director

*"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."*

LINDA DAVIDSON

Board Chairperson

November 10, 2009

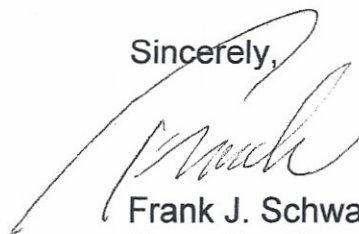
The Honorable Andy Manar  
Macoupin County Board Chair  
129 East 1<sup>st</sup> South  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Dear Andy:

We are pleased to provide you our 2009-10 Annual Report and hope that your busy schedule will allow time for you to peruse this overview of our past year's programs and activities.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Schwab  
Executive Director

FJS/alw

405 Mound Street  
JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052  
Phone: 618-498-9521

200 C South County Road  
HARDIN, IL 62047  
Phone: 618-576-2218

320 Fifth Street  
CARROLLTON, IL 62016  
Phone: 217-942-6824





# Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

Suite 500 2211 York Road Oak Brook IL 60523-2337

Member Services Representatives 1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673)

[www.imrf.org](http://www.imrf.org)

November 12, 2009

Mr. Vince Moreth  
State's Attorney  
Macoupin County  
201 East Main Street  
Carlinville, IL 62626

**Re: IMRF Costs**

Dear Mr. Moreth:

It was a pleasure to meet you on November 6, 2009. I appreciate the difficult situation you were in. I also understand the motivation of you and Senator Haine was to save the County cash over the short term due to the poor economy and drop in revenues.

There is a way to accomplish that goal while preserving your income. Under the original Elected County Official (ECO) plan, you are able to opt out and freeze your salary at its current rate. You would remain in IMRF albeit in the regular plan. Your contributions would drop from 7.5% to 4.5%. The County's contributions on your salary (\$166,500) would drop from \$61,405.20 to \$14,152.50 in 2010. The savings to the County over that twelve-month period would be \$47,252.70. The ECO rate would climb higher in 2011 due to the smaller ECO payroll and because it did not contribute that \$47,000 amount to fund its ECO obligations. Nonetheless, because you did not retire early at a \$10,000 higher salary, the \$116,000 cost referred to in my November 5, 2009 letter has been avoided.

Please find enclosed the appropriate form for opting out of the ECO plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 630-368-5355.

Very truly yours,

Louis W. Kosiba  
Executive Director

LWK/mte

cc: Mandy Beedie  
Andy Manar ✓  
Honorable Bill Haine



# REVOCATION OF ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIAL PLAN

IMRF Form 6.28 (Revised 1/02)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- If you joined ECO before January 26, 2000, **the revocation is effective on the last day of the month**, e.g., if the form is signed on March 2nd, the revocation is effective on March 31st.
  - After filing this form, the Authorized Agent should promptly notify its payroll unit to deduct the appropriate member IMRF contributions (Regular IMRF or SLEP) from the member's payroll earnings **beginning with next month's Monthly Deposit Report** (e.g., if this form is dated March, deduct Regular IMRF or SLEP contributions starting in April).
- If you joined ECO on or after January 26, 2000, **the revocation is effective on the date this form is signed**.
  - After filing this form, the Authorized Agent should promptly notify its payroll unit to deduct the appropriate member IMRF contributions (Regular IMRF or SLEP) from the member's payroll earnings **beginning with the next payroll**. Because the member's IMRF contribution changes with the next payroll, you may need to report member's wages and contributions under two plans (Regular IMRF or SLEP and ECO) for next month's Monthly Deposit Report. Wages paid *before* this form was signed will be reported under ECO; wages paid *after* this form is signed will be reported under Regular IMRF or SLEP.
- If you choose to stop participating in the ECO plan, **your decision is irrevocable. You may not re-enroll in the ECO plan at a later date.**

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE — USE BLACK INK**

Member's First name	Middle Initial	Last	Jr., Sr., II, etc.	Social Security Number
Current Office Title				Current Office Expires on:

Employer name	Employer IMRF I.D. Number
Street (mailing) address	City, State and Zip + 4

## CERTIFICATION BY ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIAL

I hereby revoke my previous election to participate in the IMRF Elected County Official (ECO) plan. My participation in IMRF will continue. I understand that by revoking my election in the ECO Plan, I will:

- **freeze my ECO final rate of earnings**
- **continue to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund in the Regular IMRF or SLEP plan (as appropriate); and**
- **NOT be eligible to elect to participate in the ECO plan at a future date.**

I further understand and agree that this **revocation of participation in the ECO plan MAY NOT BE RESCINDED**. I will not be eligible to earn IMRF ECO service credit now nor in the future.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Elected County Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## CERTIFICATION BY AUTHORIZED AGENT

*Information required only for those members who joined ECO prior to January 26, 2000.*

*Do NOT complete if member joined ECO on or after January 26, 2000.*

I certify that the above named member currently participates in IMRF through the employer listed above and that he/she occupies a qualifying position.

1. Please enter the member's final annual salary earned as a member of the ECO Plan...\$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please enter the member's annual stipend as a member of the ECO Plan: .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

Suite 500, 2211 York Road, Oak Brook Illinois 60523-2337 630/368-1010

IMRF Form 6.28 (1/02) Service Representatives 1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.)

To the Bunker Hill Fire Protection Board,

It is with regret that I write this resignation as treasurer of the Bunker Hill Fire Protection District. Due to my increased business involvement I will not have the time to dedicate to the job as treasurer. This resignation will take effect on November 30, 2009.

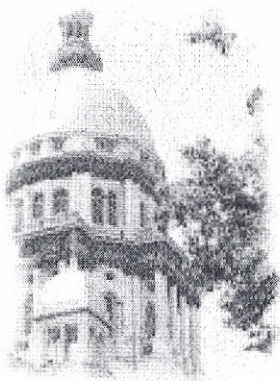
I will pay November bills, complete the accounting and have everything up to date. I will also be willing to assist whoever takes this position with any information so that the transition will be a smooth one for the district.

I have enjoyed working with the Board Members, Fire Chiefs, and Fire Fighters.

I thank each one of you.

*James C. Kiffmeyer*





# Counties *at the* Capitol

Published by the  
Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners

President Mike McLaughlin, Adams County  
Kelly J. Murray, Executive Director • Letitia and Taylor Anderson, Legislative Consultants

413 West Monroe • Springfield, Illinois 62704 • 217/528-5331 • [www.ilcounty.org](http://www.ilcounty.org)

November 24, 2009

## SPECIAL EDITION IACBMC Fall Conference • Chicago, Illinois

### Major bills passed by the Illinois General Assembly:

**SB 54 (P.A. 96-0555)** – Strengthens the Governmental Ethics Act. It forbids the promise of state jobs and contracts or political favors in exchange for campaign contributions and increases scrutiny of officials, state workers and lobbyists. Requires state employees responsible for procuring goods or services to fill out an economic disclosure form, including detailing relationships with outside entities that may create a conflict of interest. This bill also expands the duties and investigative powers of the Executive Inspectors General.

A measure to change Illinois' campaign finance law was the most anticipated legislation to be considered during the fall Veto Session. **SB 1466** would impose Illinois' first-ever contribution limits on individuals, businesses and special interest groups. Political leaders and their political committees' donations would only be limited during primary elections—allowing for unlimited spending during the general election. Senate Republicans were disappointed with the measure. They said that without capping contributions limits for legislative leaders and political parties during the General Election, the measure will have limited impact. **SB 1466 awaits Governor's action.**

**SB 1602 (P.A. 96-0543)** – Establishes strict ethics requirements and restrictions for current and prospective members of state boards and commissions appointed by the Governor and calls for the creation of a website ([www.appointments.illinois.gov](http://www.appointments.illinois.gov)) that provides information about board and commission membership. In addition, the Governor also launched the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal to provide Illinoisans with access to state government spending information. The website makes the State's expenditures and employee pay data available through a single, searchable portal: [www.accountability.illinois.gov](http://www.accountability.illinois.gov).

**SB 1906 (Public Act 96-0103)** – Provides a statebacked guarantee supporting construction of energy efficiency projects. Clarifies the Illinois Finance Authority's (IFA) existing bonding authority for renewable energy and clean coal projects. Senate Bill 0390 adds energy efficiency projects to those covered by the original bill. Allows the State and IFA to work in partnership to make up to \$3 billion in guaranteed energy project financing available for qualified renewable energy and clean coal efforts. In addition, the law increased the State and IFA's loan guarantee from \$75 million to \$225 million for agricultural businesses. It also provided guarantees to back qualified renewable energy projects such as wind, biodiesel or biomass initiatives that are related to agriculture.

**HJRCA 31** – Enables Illinois residents to vote on a constitutional amendment for the power to remove a governor from office. The proposal now goes on the November 2010 ballot and 60 percent of voters must approve the measure for the Illinois Constitution to be amended to allow recall.



### House exempts local owned cemeteries from controversial bill

During Veto Session the House approved an amendment to **Senate Bill 1471**, a rewrite of state cemetery regulations, to exempt cemeteries owned by local governments and religious institutions from provisions that require cemetery staff members to be licensed.

This legislation was introduced in response to the tragedy at Burr Oak Cemetery near Chicago in which (staff) were reselling burial plots already occupied.

Without the amendment, every local government employee who did any kind of work in a cemetery would have had to be registered with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and receive continuing education. Unquestionably, this bill in its original form would have created an onerous obligation on elected officials and county, municipal and township employees.

**Senate Bill 1471** passed the House 89-27-0. The Senate is expected to take action on this bill when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

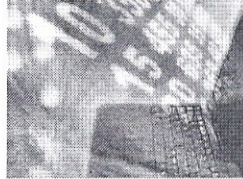


## HOUSE BILLS: New Public Acts

### Counties must comply with identity protection law

#### HB 547 – IDENTITY PROTECTION ACT

On July 1, 2010, state and local agencies will be banned from including people's Social Security numbers (SSNs) in materials mailed or e-mailed to them (unless state or federal law requires it or exceptions apply). Starting next January, state and local governments will be prohibited from encoding or embedding SSNs in cards, documents, and electronic storage devices from which the Act requires them to be removed. By Jan. 1, 2011, each unit of local government must draft an identity-protection policy requiring training in use of SSNs; restricting access to them; and requiring disclosure of planned uses when collecting them.



#### HB 146 (P.A. 96-0227)

##### COUNTY LAW LIBRARY FEE

Provides that a county board may authorize a county law library fee of not to exceed \$18 in 2009, \$19 in 2010, and \$21 in 2011 and thereafter.

#### HB 347 (P.A. 96-0237)

##### COUNTY DETENTION HOMES

Provides that, if the county board of any county has levied a tax for a detention home and cannot adequately support the facility, the county board may expend the tax receipts for detention services purchased through agreements with other governmental units.

#### HB 379 (P.A. 96-0588)

##### REVERSE AUCTION

Allows local government to use an electronic reverse auction method for procurements of supplies and services other than professional & artistic services and contracts for construction projects.

#### HB 585 (P.A. 96-0170)

##### COMPETITIVE BIDS

Provides that in a county with fewer than 2,000,000 inhabitants that certain contracts in excess of \$30,000 (instead of \$20,000) must be let by competitive bidding.

#### HB 704 (P.A. 96-0175)

##### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Provides that in "Calhoun County, Edwards County, and Union County",

registered voters may, upon referendum initiated by the adoption of a resolution by the board of county commissioners or a petition signed by not less than 10% of the registered voters in the county, establish a 5-member board of county commissioners.

#### HB 883 (P.A. 96-0566)

##### TEST WIND TOWERS

Amends the Counties Code. Deletes the requirement that test wind towers be dismantled within 3 years of installation.

#### HB 952 (P.A. 96-0186)

##### PREVAILING WAGE ACT

Provides that the Act applies to the demolition of public works.

#### HB 1003 (P.A. 96-0188)

##### ANNEXATION

Provides that, except for property located in certain counties, if property that is the subject of an annexation agreement is located more than 1.5 miles from the corporate boundaries of the annexing municipality, that property is subject to the ordinances, control, and jurisdiction of the annexing municipality unless the county board retains jurisdiction by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members (now, the county board may retain jurisdiction in Boone, DeKalb, Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Ogle, or Winnebago County).

#### HB 1332 (P.A. 96-0513)

##### U.S. FLAG DISPLAY

Requires each unit of local government to ensure that each U.S. flag that is flown at each building, structure, or facility owned or occupied entirely by the unit of local government is manufactured in the United States.

#### HB 2535 (P.A. 96-0281)

##### ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Vehicles with diesel engines, if owned by state or local governments, must get 5% biodiesel fuel (formerly at least 2%) at central fueling facilities.

#### HB 3630 (P.A. 96-0295)

##### COUNTY CARE DISABILITY BOARD

The county board of any county with a 3-member county board for care and treatment of persons with a developmental disability may provide that that board shall consist of 5 members.

#### HB 4625 (P.A. 96-0816)

##### COOK COUNTY BOARD

The Cook County Board of may override a veto by the County Board President by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of its members (instead of four-fifths).

#### HB 3717 (P.A. 96-0495)

##### COUNTY JAIL GOOD BEHAVIOR

The County Sheriff or his or her designee may revoke the good behavior allowance of an inmate who is sentenced to the Illinois Dept. of Corrections for misconduct committed by the inmate while in custody of the County Sheriff.

#### HB 3718 (P.A. 96-0696)

##### ZONING TOWERS

Authorizes any county to impose a minimum lot line set back distance of 300 feet for a telecommunication carrier facility or an AM broadcast facility from a residentially zoned lot.

#### HB 3746 (P.A. 96-0306)

##### WIND TOWERS

Provides that a county may not require a wind tower or other renewable energy system that is used exclusively by an end user to be setback more than 1.1 times the height of the system from the end user's property line.



## SENATE BILLS: New Public Acts

### SB 133 (P.A. 96-0650)

#### PUBLISH ADA COORDINATOR

Requires counties, townships, and municipalities to post or publish specified information pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator employed by the respective unit of local government. Requires each local government to publish specified information pertaining to the grievance procedures adopted by the respective unit of local government to resolve complaints alleging a violation of Title II of the ADA.

### SB 138 (P.A. 96-0704)

#### CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Specifies the requirements that must be met concerning building codes and inspections before a person may occupy a newly constructed commercial building in certain counties and municipalities after July 1, 2011. Requires notice to the Capital Development Board of certain county and municipal building codes. Redefines the term "building code".

### SB 148 (P.A. 96-0478)

#### RAIL CROSSINGS – AUTO FINE

Any county or municipality may establish an automated rail crossing enforcement system in cooperation with the Illinois Commerce Commission. The penalty for crossing violations will be a civil fine of \$250 for a first crossing or \$500 for a repeat crossing. Local authorities desiring the establishment of an automated railroad crossing enforcement system must initiate the process by enacting a local ordinance requesting the creation of such a system.

### SB 189 (P.A. 96-0542)

#### OPEN MEETINGS ACT / FOIA

Creates a Public Access Counselor in the Office of Attorney General. Makes major changes to the FOIA concerning the Act's purpose, policy, and presumptions; defined terms; procedures for responding to requests for disclosure of public records; fees; public body freedom of information officers; denial of requests; exemptions from disclosure; and civil penalties. Many exemptions from FOIA disclosure are narrowed. This law will take effect January 1, 2010.

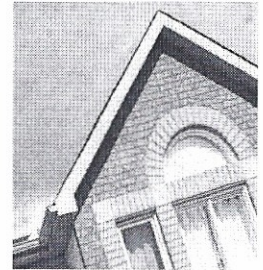
## Two important Senate bills still pending

### SB 43 – PREVAILING WAGE ACT

Provides that "public works" includes all projects located in an enterprise zone as defined in the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act or located in an economic development project area as defined in the Economic Development Project Area Tax Increment Allocation Act of 1995, but does not include projects at an owner-occupied single family residence or owner-occupied multi-family residence located in an enterprise zone or economic development project area. **Held on order of Second Reading in the House.**

### SB 78 – MANUFACTURED HOMES

Provides that mobile homes, as defined in the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act, are included in the definition of real property. **Held on order of Second Reading in the House while negotiations continue.**



### SB 207 (P.A. 96-0122)

#### NOTICE OF APPEALS

For counties under 3,000,000, inhabitants sets forth specific items that must be included in the notice sent to taxpayers whose assessment has changed. Requires disclosure of information concerning access to databases containing physical characteristics of the property.

### SB 230 (P.A. 96-0124)

#### OCCUPATION TAX PROCEEDS

Allows counties to share tax proceeds received for public safety purposes, including proceeds received before the effective date of this amendatory Act, with any fire protection district located in the county.

### SB 1462 (P.A. 96-0098)

#### VETERAN BURIAL

Counties must pay to bury indigent veterans of Congressionally sanctioned conflicts since the Vietnam war and their families (added to conflicts through Vietnam). The limit on county payment is increased by \$300 to \$900.

### SB 1511 (P.A. 96-0721)

#### OCCUPANCY PERMIT

Provides that the county board can require occupancy permits for new resi-

dential buildings in unincorporated areas, but can require no more than one such permit per "dwelling." A county may charge for the permits only if it was doing so before this new act takes effect.

### SB 1894

#### MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

Aims to help municipalities deal with the problematic issue of foreclosures, helping in the identification of the actual owners of the foreclosed upon property. Provides that a predatory lending database program shall be established within Cook, Kane and Will counties.

### SB 2095 (P.A. 96-0432)

#### COUNTY JAIL DEDUCTION

Provides that upon notification from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of an outstanding fine, restitution, or costs imposed by the court on a jail inmate, the warden of the jail may, at any time prior to release of the inmate, deduct from money credited to any account of the inmate an amount to pay or reduce the outstanding balance. Provides that the inmate shall be provided with written notice of the amount of any deduction.



## Lake County appeals to Governor to restore funding for probation services

The Lake County officials are calling on Governor Quinn and members of the Illinois Legislature to fully restore funding for the County's Probation and Court Services. Over the past several years, the State of Illinois has continuously cut funding for this program, shifting the burden to county taxpayers.

Lake County's cost for operating these services is \$6.5 million. The State is required to fully fund that amount, but the State has historically only provided the County \$4.2 million. Earlier this year, the State cut funding for these services to \$1.8 million, and recently restored some of the funds, bringing the total amount paid to the County to \$2.9 million.

Lake County Board Chairman Suzi Schmidt said, "It's the State's statutory obligation to fund Probation and Court services in every county. Yet, the State has failed to meet this obligation for years, continually increasing the burden on county government and, ultimately, county taxpayers to make-up the cost difference."

Counties across the State are appealing to Governor Quinn to utilize the authority granted by the state legislature to transfer available State funds to probation services statewide. The State, which is mandated by statute to subsidize probation and detention services statewide, is already underfunding these departments by approximately \$30 million per year. The 2010 budget eclipses that amount by another \$12 million.

Chief Judge James K. Booras of the 19th Judicial Circuit said inadequate funding and subsequent layoffs would have significant, negative impact on the criminal justice system in Lake County, potentially resulting in jail overcrowding and greater expense to the County's taxpayers.

State's Attorney Mike Waller addressed the essential support his office receives from Probation and Court Services staff. "Probation officers research the criminal histories of every felony defendant so prosecutors can make informed sentencing decisions. Delays in obtaining those criminal histories could cause the county jail population to increase dramatically and will deny victims the right to speedy justice."



Suzi Schmidt, Chairman  
Lake County Board

## Revenue & Taxes

**Lawmakers passed three new laws that create or expand state revenue to fund capital projects.**

**Sales and Alcohol Taxes:** Effective September 1, state taxes on alcohol rise: beer from 18.1¢ to 23.1¢ per gallon; wine from 73¢ to \$1.39 per gallon, and distilled liquor, from \$4.50 to \$8.55 per gallon. All proceeds of these increases will go to the Capital Projects Fund. Candy, and grooming and hygiene products will be taxed at 6.25%. Dept. of Revenue must pay into the Capital Projects Fund 80% of net revenue from these taxes.

**Gambling at video terminals** will be allowed at liquor establishments, fraternal and veteran's posts, and truck stops with liquor licenses. The state will take 30% of net terminal income (revenue minus prizes), with five-sixths (25% of the net) going to the Capital Projects Fund. The rest will go to the Local Government Video Gaming Distributive Fund for localities with video gambling.

**Vehicle fees:** On October 11, the annual registration fee for passenger vehicles and light trucks rose from \$78 to \$98. The fee for a certificate of title rises from \$65 to \$95; for transferring registration from \$15 to \$25; and for a driver's license from \$10 to \$30. Allowable truck weights on some roads are increased, but overweight fines are doubled. All proceeds of these increases go to the Capital Projects Funds.

## Deadlines in the Year 2009 for the 96th General Assembly

February 6, 2009	Final day to request House Bills from Legislative Reference Bureau
February 27, 2009	Final day for introduction of House Substantive Bills
March 12, 2009	Final day for Standing and Special Committees of the House to report out House Substantive Bills
April 3, 2009	Final day for Third Reading and passage of House Substantive Bills
May 8, 2009	Final day for Standing and Special Committees of the House to report out Senate Substantive Bills
May 22, 2009	Final Day for Third Reading and passage of Senate Substantive Bills
May 31, 2009	Final Day for Consideration of Joint Action Motions and Conference Committee Reports

