

# Clay County Republican

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VOLUME 135 LOUISVILLE, ILLINOIS 62858 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020 OFFICIAL CITY AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER

## Bulletin Board

**The Clay County Republican will also be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.**

**New Years closings: CC Courthouse and CC Farm Bureau Dec. 31 & Jan. 1, Village of Louisville, Wabash Telephone, Louisville Post Office at noon on 31st and all day Jan 1.**

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The Village of Sailor Springs monthly board meeting will be at 7 p.m., Jan. 4 at the Village Office.

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Jan. 4, Louisville American Legion Post 914 and Ladies Auxiliary will meet at the Legion Home, 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Bible Grove Township officials are meeting on Jan. 6, 6 p.m., at their township building.

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The Village of Iola meets Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Civic Center.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Jan. 7 will be the monthly meeting for Louisville Twp. officials, 6 p.m., at their township building.

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).**

## Flora City Council Approves Several Agreements At Dec. 21 Meeting

By Mary Anne Maxwell

The Flora City Council met the afternoon of Dec. 21 to consider several agenda items. Council approval was given to a resolution approving an agreement with JW Heating and Air for replacement of heating and air conditioning units at City Hall and Public Works. A grant will help offset the cost of this.

An ordinance was approved with Justin Cook Management, LLC for lighting at Library Park for five years. Mayor Mike Stanford said Cook promises next year's light display will be "bigger and better".

Approval was given for bucket truck repairs in the estimated amount of \$13,320.29 to Drake-Scruggs. An ordinance was also approved for an extension of a lease agreement with Bill's Machine and Power Transmission, Inc.

The council approved a resolution regarding the Intermediary Relending Program and Community Development Assistance Program.

They approved an IRP (Intermediary Relending Program) loan to Common Grounds Coffee, LLC Devon and Destiny Dannels for a coffee shop in the former Hair Garage Building.

Approval was given to retain C.J. Schlosser and Company LLC as auditor. City Attorney Bob Coble noted Schlosser and Company is the auditor for several cities in the Metro East and this move should also save the City some money.

An ordinance for the Levy and Assessment Taxes for the current fiscal year beginning May 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 was also approved. An ordinance levying taxes for corporate purposes for the same time period was also approved.

The Consent Agenda consisted of routine housekeeping items. Mayor Stanford thanked City Treasurer Jeremy Henderson for his work with businesses to obtain utility grants. He also thanked Commissioner Linda Spicer for helping with this project.

The Police Report for November submitted by Chief of Police Guye Durre contained the following statistics: nine accidents; 11 criminal arrests; one drug arrest; five local ordinance arrest; 24 traffic arrests; 10 warrant arrests; five warning tickets; 13 alarms; 1,297 calls for service; two juvenile contacts; 1,466 miles driven; 68 investigations; 330 911 calls; and 71 verbal warnings.

The Building and Zoning Report for November showed there were eight residential permits and two commercial permits issued during the month for a total of 10 permits. The value totaled \$980,298.58. Fees collected totaled \$1,375.

Commissioner Rick Slaughter did not attend Monday afternoon's meeting.

The next meeting of the Flora City Council will be Jan. 4, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at Flora City Hall.



Amy Britton raised her hand Monday morning to be sworn in as Clay County's new Clerk/Recorder, replacing Brenda Britton, who has served in the Clerk's office for 26 years, the last 14 as the County Clerk. Holding the Bible is Amy's husband, Terry "Homer" Britton. The couple have been married since 1989 and have two children, Amanda Troyer, living in Richland County and Reese Britton, in college. Amy was the Clay City Village Clerk for four and a half years before being selected to complete the remainder of Brenda's term, who is leaving to chase grandchildren beginning Jan. 1. (John Bayler Photo)



## Santa & Clay City Go Together Like Milk & Cookies

By Mary Anne Maxwell

It was the week before Christmas when Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves came to Clay City, and sat down for a chat about past Christmases and Village history.

Harold Wells, age 80 something, has been a Santa's helper in Clay City since the 1980s. He's also not sure about when Santa began arriving in the Village via fire truck.

"My favorite memories are those dealing with the little kids," Santa (Wells) related.

He recalled a young lady, either three or four years old who eagerly climbed onto his lap. She said, "Now Santa, I've gotta tell ya, I'm this big."

He worked for Jim Sulsberger during his first stint as Clay County Sheriff.

One of Santa's elves, Gene Hall, at the age of 94, has resided in Clay City since 1937.

"My dad worked for Pure Oil and was transferred to Clay

City from Bridgeport," Gene the elf replied. "I was 11 years old."

He worked at the old bank location for five years, and in 1952 went to work for the funeral home in Clay City. His wife, Mary, worked at the bank for 30 or 35 years. Hall was also Clay City Village Clerk for 12 years.

Hall and his late wife, Mary, worked with the Clay City Methodist youth group as youth sponsors for several years with kids aged 12 to 18 years of age.

"I even took a former youth group member to the hospital when she was going to have a baby," he recalled.

He also noted he has always been active in the community.

Mrs. Claus (Kay Reynolds) came to Clay City when her father's sister wanted his family to come to Clay City and even said she would find them a house.

"I've never regretted coming to Clay City," she said.

The house the family purchased was the Brissenden house, built in 1912.

"We were the fourth family to live in that house," she said.

No matter how many years Santa has been coming to Clay City many donations have been made to help with Santa's visit.

Elves helping Santa in Clay City include, left to right, Gene Hall, Kay Reynolds, Harold Wells, and Kathy Lauderback.

## Clay City School Board approves Tax Levy

The Clay City School Board met last Monday evening to approve the Tax Levy. A Public Hearing was held prior to the regularly scheduled business meeting and there were no public comments made during that hearing. Later in the meeting, the Tax Levy was approved at an increase of 4.98 percent increase.

## Mandated Minimum Wage Increase Continues To Fuel Unfriendly Business Climate & Puts Pressure On Struggling Economy

State Rep. Darren Bailey (R-Xenia) is informing constituents of the newest laws to take effect at the beginning of the New Year and reminding everyone of the continuing mandated Illinois minimum wage law increases another dollar an hour starting January 1, 2021.

One of the new laws (HB 2708) amends the Missing Persons Identification Act to require law enforcement to report relevant information and DNA data about missing person's cases to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons (NamUs) System. Another (HB 2818) expands the 'Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence Act' to include sexual assault and stalking as reasons a victim may also apply for the address confidentiality program. The third new law (SB 667) limits the cost of insulin 30-day supply to just \$100 whether or not that is the actual cost of providing this medicine.

"Generally there are hundreds of new laws that take effect every January in Illinois. One silver lining of a shortened legislative session this year seems to be fewer laws being imposed on Illinois residents," commented Rep. Bailey. "There are a couple that are intended to help missing persons and victims of domestic violence which I supported and one that sounds good on the surface but is not good public policy. When you artificially keep the cost of anything low, the actual cost of the ingredients, processing, and delivery of the product is charged somewhere else in the process, like in the rates of your insurance premiums."

In addition to the three new laws taking effect January 1, there is a previous law that continues to ramp up the minimum wage in Illinois to \$11 an hour. The rate will continue to increase an additional \$1 an hour each January 1 until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025. Workers who are under 18 years old and work fewer than 650 hours in a year will earn a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour beginning January 1. The youth minimum wage rate will gradually rise to \$13 an hour by 2025.

Please Turn To Page Two

The First Reading of PRESS Policies was approved. Superintendent Croy informed the board the District had received their Tuition Waiver approval.

Principal Ben Borries went over a few things regarding sports. Following a Closed Session, the board announced the following action:

- Acknowledged the maternity leave of Jada Phillips.
- Acknowledged the maternity leave of Emily Peters.
- Accepted discipline as presented during closed session.

The next meeting of the Clay City School Board will be Jan. 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. in the District Library.

## Clay County COVID-19 Update

Clay County Health Department reported 16 new cases of COVID-19 from Dec. 24-Dec. 27. Case demographics for new cases are:

Age	Male	Female
Under Age 10	1	-
10-19	-	2
20's	3	2
30's	-	2
40's	3	2
50's	-	-
60's	-	1

Illinois Region 6 test positivity 7-day rolling average is 8.7 % through December 24 and Clay County is 11.7% for the same period. There is concern of a possible surge in cases from holiday gatherings and travel.

Symptoms may appear two-14 days after exposure to the virus and may include one or more of the following symptoms: Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, or Diarrhea

If you experience any of these symptoms, isolate yourself from others to prevent spread and seek a COVID test. Local testing options this week include the CCH Medical Clinic and Clay Medical Center.

For more information on COVID, visit [www.dph.illinois.gov/COVID-19](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/COVID-19) or [www.healthdept.org](http://www.healthdept.org)



## Illinois Minimum Wage Increases Jan. 1

Minimum wage workers in Illinois will be getting a raise on Jan. 1. The current state minimum wage is \$10 an hour. That will be increasing to \$11 an hour in the New Year according to the Illinois Department of Labor. The minimum wage for teenagers working less than 650 hours a year rises to \$8.50 an hour on the 1st, and the minimum wage for teenagers eventually goes up to \$13 an hour.

**Illinois Secretary Of State Awards Grants To Library, Unit No. 35**  
Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded over \$750,000 in grants to 187 libraries across the state. Grants ranged from \$465 to \$4,900. The Flora school district received the maximum \$4,900 award, as did the Flora Public Library.



# *John Goes For A Walk In The Woods*



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