

Clay County Republican

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

OFFICIAL CITY AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". John 14:6

Commander Lee Ryker Cancels Clay City American Legion Post 840 Memorial Services

The Clay City American Legion Post 840, along with the Sailor Springs American Legion Post 230, announces that there will be no Memorial Day Services May 24 at the Clay City, Mt. Zion, Dillman, Smith, or Ingraham Cemeteries.

We will still honor our Veterans by placing flags on the graves of our fallen Comrades. We will never forget them and the many sacrifices they, and their families, made when being called to defend our Country. May God bless them now and forever.

We encourage all families to relish their memories and to spend Memorial Day with each other.

County-Wide Services Cancelled For 2020

There will be no Memorial Service at the Oskaloosa Cemetery on May 24.

There will be flags placed on the graves of veterans, and everyone is encouraged to take the time to remember the sacrifices made by these men and women.

Clay County Once Again Center Stage For Trial With State-Wide Ramifications Judge Rules 'No Change of Venue' Friday's Trial Was Second Act In Three-Act Play

By Beth Fancher
Clay County Chief Judge Michael McHaney denied Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker's lawyer, Attorney General Tom Verticchio, call for a change of venue during the hearing on May 15, in the Clay County Courthouse.

This is the second lawsuit filed by Illinois State Representative Darren Bailey, who is questioning the legality of Governor Pritzker's "Stay at Home" executive order. Plaintiff Bailey challenged both the Governor's issuance of official proclamations that a COVID-19 disaster exists, and certain subsequent executive orders to combat the disaster and protect Illinois residents. These proclamations and orders give State and local officials the tools they need to effectively combat the ongoing spread of the virus. Rep. Bailey argued the emergency actions taken by Governor Pritzker since April 8, are unlawful, because, in his view, the Governor was entitled to issue only one proclamation that a disaster exists, and therefore his March 9, proclamation was "required to lapse on or before April 8," and could not be renewed even if the COVID-19 disaster continued to exist.

Verticchio immediately asked for change of venue, asking the case be moved to Sangamon County.

Clay County Board Tables 'Back To Business' Resolution

By Beth Fancher

The Clay County Courthouse was again the subject of much activity, as more than 40 county residents attended the May 12, Clay County board meeting. On the agenda was a resolution supporting the "Back to Business" phased reopening proposal for South Central Illinois. The board tabled voting for the resolution, after Board Member Brad Harris made a motion for the resolution, but no one seconded the motion, thus the motion failed. Board members organized a subcommittee to study how Clark County and other counties have determined they can reopen.

Harris and Board Member John Weidner were the only board members attending the meeting by teleconferencing, as they sat in their homes.

The Back to Business proposal is a plan presented by State Representatives Darren Bailey (Xenia) and Blaine Wilhour (Beecher City), in opposition to the "Restore Illinois" plan proposed by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker. The new proposal is a plan to reopen businesses much sooner than the governor's proposal, as the shutdown of Illinois continues because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jeff Workman, head of the Clay and Effingham Counties Health Department, stated he agrees with the state representatives efforts to reopen the county.

"We are doing all we can to push the plan ahead," Workman said. "There is definitely a difference in Covid-19 cases in the Chicago areas compared to downstate. There are 27 counties who have shown much interest in this proposal. Of course our biggest concerns is that, if the number of cases go up, then we would have to close things back down."

"This has been a terrible economic impact on businesses. We are recommending businesses wait to reopen until a higher legal ruling makes a decision. Liability attorneys strongly advise waiting."

Board Chairman Ted Whitehead stated the resolution is not a vote to open up the county.

"The county board doesn't have the authority to tell Flora, Louisville, Clay City and Xenia that they can reopen," Whitehead said. "Tonight, we are only presenting a resolution in support of the 'Back to Business' proposal. There was Cara Rinehart Offers Ways To Contend With Covid-19 Pandemic

My name is Cara Rinehart with Clay County Counseling Services and I have been in the Mental Health/Substance Abuse profession for more than 30 years. This is my 10th year of opening my private practice in Louisville.

Throughout the years of offering counseling, some of the major focal points that I have helped clients with are anxiety, depression and stress; which are becoming increasingly prominent with the current COVID-19 crisis.

During this "stay at home order," I have continued to see clients.

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never a proposal on the agenda tonight to reopen the county. I am sorry if there was a misunderstanding."

Representative Darren Bailey also addressed the board stating that further information would be forthcoming. By Wednesday morning, Fayette County board members amended the resolution, similar to Clay Counties, but adding all county businesses could reopen. The reopening resolution was passed in Fayette County, adding to Madison and Clark Counties reopening resolutions.

Representative Bailey stated the Governor's statements that businesses would be liable if someone contracted Covid-19 after being in their business, was not true.

"He can't do that. We thought that the Governor was going to pass something Monday, but it didn't happen. I ask the board not to pass the resolution tonight. It will only put a bad mark on the county's face in the Governor's eye. We just thought there would be a resolution from the Governor's office by tonight."

There were several people who asked to address the board.

"First thing I want to say is thank you for serving," Bill Atwood said to board members. "Our founding fathers wrote the constitution and we're not asking you to rewrite it. Men and women are asking to be allowed to work and restaurants will make adjustments. You know if you are making the wrong decision and liability would have to be proved. The real liability is not allowing people to work and the"

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Xenia Village Board Holds April, May Meetings

By Mary Anne Maxwell

The Xenia Village Board met last Tuesday for their April and May meetings. The April meeting was postponed due to COVID-19.

The meeting was held in the dining area of the Community Building/Village Hall for social distancing purposes.

Police Officer Jerry Burkett noted April was a slow month and had nothing more to add.

Engineer Mike Bridges updated the board on the Sewer Project. He said they began construction last week and added the sludge disposal probably wouldn't happen this spring. Since this won't be completed until fall a new permit will have to be applied for. Engineer Bridges said, although the contractor, Followell Construction, is not happy with this, he is willing to pay the \$2,500 fee for a new permit. The project was due to be completed in June.

Engineer Bridges also noted one manhole included in the project cannot be used so another manhole was added. He said the estimated cost of this is \$4,000. Several manholes are being relined and will be completed this summer.

The April meeting was adjourned 11 minutes after it began. Then the May meeting was called to order.

The ATV/golf cart ordinance was amended to include Diahatsu Hijet mini trucks.

During a discussion of Police Business, Officer Jerry Burkett said the Dodge Charger had been sold for \$2,500 and the insurance company had paid \$7,100 on the Impala totaled in a collision with a deer. He said the insurance company originally said they would pay \$4,700. He said the 2013 Ford Taurus should be "ready to go" by Thursday or Friday.

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Village of Louisville

May 14, 2020

The Village of Louisville Trustee's would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard the past few months to ensure the safety of our community.

The Village did not implement the "stay at home order", but we are concerned about the economic impact that the Corona virus and the Governor's Executive Orders are having on our local businesses, organizations, residents and our community. We would like everyone in Louisville to know that we support and stand behind our community and our local businesses.

We understand that there are various legal opinions of the Governor's Executive Orders and the enforcement of such. We also encourage everyone to be safe and use the guidelines put out by the CDC in regards to social distancing and hand washing. Please try to follow these guidelines and use good judgment.

Each individual business will have to continue to make the decision and be responsible for their own actions in regards to health risks to employees, legal liability, insurance risks, customers, etc.

Most importantly to the people or businesses that are State issued license holders, the Village of Louisville does NOT issue your State licenses so please contact either the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, your insurance carrier, or your Attorney to see how this might affect you.

The Village of Louisville 100% supports the "Illinois Back to Business Plan" and would encourage everyone to read it.

Thank you,
Village of Louisville President
Kim Adair

177 S. Main Street, PO Box 306, Louisville, Illinois ~ Phone 618-665-3348 Fax 618-665-3848

This letter was approved 4-1 by the Louisville Village Board this past Thursday. Voting in favor were Steve Stortzum, Steve Miller, Craig Clifton, and Joshua Yates with Board Member Nancy Byers voting against it, stating "she felt the village board should not take a stand on the advice of the village's legal counsel."

Sheriff Andy Myers Issues Statement On 'Shelter At Home' Enforcement

As Sheriff I feel that my time and energy needs to be focused on the daily operations of our office and the wellbeing of our county, therefore I have avoided making any statements relating to the Executive Order that the Governor has put in place. I want to make sure that I am available to the deputies and officers that have done a great job during these challenging times to continue to uphold the oath and the responsibilities that they took when they chose this profession. During these recent times, I along with the other sheriffs have continued to work with Illinois Sheriffs' Association to combat the ongoing issues that are being handed down from the state. One of the main issues being dealt with is the large number of inmates being turned loose from the Department of Corrections while at the same time refusing to accept parole violators and new inmates being sentenced to IDOC.

After the following statement made yesterday by the Governor, I felt the need to clarify where I stand. The Governor stated "Businesses and individual professionals that are licensed by state agencies will be held accountable for breaching public health orders. Counties that try to reopen in defiance may not be reimbursed by FEMA for damages they cause because they ignored the law. Local law enforcement and the Illinois State Police can and will take action." "I want to be clear that the Governor does not speak for me or this office!" Our office will continue to focus on criminal activity as we have in the past and will continue to do our part to keep our citizens safe. We will continue to help provide guidance to our citizens, businesses and our churches as to how we will make it through these challenging times. I took an oath when I was appointed and later elected as Sheriff of Clay County and I will continue to uphold that oath and work to protect all our rights.

Sincerely, Sheriff Andy Myers

Louisville Village Board Set Clean Up Date

By Beth Fancher
Using social distancing guidelines, Louisville Mayor Kim Adair chose to hold the May 14, village board meeting in the Community Center.

Number 11 on the board agenda, discussing the Governor's Rebuild Illinois Plan. The Village's public comment is published separately.

Village Attorney Darrin Rice attended the meeting by cell phone. He urged caution in trustees questioning whether to open the village up. He said there is no clear defined legal evidence and voiced liability concerns.

The date for town wide cleanup of heavy garbage pickup will be June 15, which is, the regular date of garbage pickup in the village. Residents are advised they cannot put out TVs, electronics, tires, paint and other items under EPA guidelines.

Trustees approved sending the entire bill of \$6,800 to Maschhoffs for cost of repair of a village owned pump and rental of a temporary pump by the Village. Maschhoffs neglected to clean the sewer drains and allowed wood shavings to back up the system.

Utilities Superintendent Troy Elwood requested trustees approve hiring four summer help employees. Elwood said he had several projects he could use

this many summer employees for, which included painting the gas system building, painting lines on the square, mowing and entering GPS computer information. Trustees asked if there was enough work for four employees. Elwood said there was plenty of work and the four summer employees have worked for the village before and he said they were all good workers. Trustees voted to employee all four at \$10 an hour. Trustee Nancy Byers voted against the request. She said she didn't feel they should hire that many summer employees.

Trustees voted to renew a three year contract with Kemper CPA, with a small percentage increase from the last contract.

Following a lengthy discussion and due to the fact that summer mowing is well under way, trustees voted to retain Larry Lange as the lawn mowing business to mow the village cemetery.

Sheriff Andy Myers spoke briefly to the board about the recent thefts of property in the village. He said there was a lot of items found that people didn't even realize had been stolen from their vehicles.



Where there was once a bridge, now is just two masses of land divided by a river with construction work rapidly moving ahead on the bridge leading east out of Louisville. (John Bayler Photo)

Clay County Land Transfers

Land Transfers for April 2020 were made by:

Billy C. Long et ux to E. Aldrich, Ivan L. Jones Subd, Flora, Lot 4,5
 George Allen Wood to Nicholas D. Wendling et ux, tracks in, sec 16, t5, r6
 Joseph E. Myers et ux to Gary V. Cooper et ux, tracks in, sec 34, t3, r5
 Leaann Burgener Runyon to Leaann Burgener Runyon, tracks in, block 7, 17, 18, t3, r8
 Joe E. Martin et ux to Logan M. E., tracks in, sec 33, t3, r6
 Sheryl D. Edwards to Donna S. Boyer, Charles C. Smith's 2nd add, Flora, lot2
 Debra A. Williams to Kyle Van Dyke et ux, tracks in, sec 15, t5, r6
 Darrell W. Schofield to Dave A. Meadows, tracks in, sec 15, t2, r8
 Sec. of Housing and Urban Development to Bridgett L. Caudle et al, M.L.A. subd, Flora, Lot 29
 Paige Kincaid et al to Douglas E. Phillips Jr., H.N. McElyeas Addn, lot 6-10, block1
 Coen Family Limited Partnership to Newt Investments LLC, tracks 1, sec 2,t2, r8
 Catherine Lee Z. to Carmen Rhea C., tracks in, sec 24, t3, r7
 Albert Fleeharty to Justin A. Warren et ux, tracks in, sec 15, t2, r7
 Village of Clay City to Sharon F. Foust, Sunset Acres, Clay City, lot 20, 21
 Bobby Berning to Robert Fuehne et ux, tracks in, sec 25, t3, r5
 Flora Bank and Trust to Mike Winka et al, tracks in sec 32, t4, r7
 Robert L. Seigel et ux to Vonnie L. Evans, tracks in, sec 29, t3, r5
 Scott D. Schell et ux to Rick Krumreich, tracks in, sec 28, t4, r6
 Tony E. Aldrich et ux to Larry W. Murphy Jr. et ux, tracks in, sec 15, t4, r7
 Michael Kent Pierson to Allen L. Pierson, Ben F. Cunningham subd, tracks in, lot 2, 3, sec 28, 29, 34, t3, r7
 Allen Pierson to Robert Allen Pierson, Ben F. Cunningham subd, tracks in, 2, 3, sec 21, 28, 29, 34, t3, r7
 Lisa Anne Glenn et al to Steven D. Lewis, original town of Flora, Samuel White's 2nd addn., lot 5, 6, block 8E
 Joseph D. Myers et ux to Jerry D. Griffith et al, tracks in, sec 34, t3, r5
 Libby E. Eastin to Joel Denton, Samuel C. James Addn., lot 11, 12
 Rick R. Poehler et ux to Ryan Anderson, tracks in, sec 22, t4, r6
 Nancy A. Travis to Dalton H. Hilmes et ux, tracks in, sec 13, t3, r6
 Dennis Collins to Mary Beth Welch Collins, Holly Addn. Flora, lot18
 Harol Grant to Harold Grant et al, Turner Subd. Louisville, tracks in, lot 23, sec 27, t4, r6
 David L. Owen et al to Angela L. Martin, D.D. Duff Addn. Clay City, lot 3, block 6
 James Free et ux to Shane T. Stortzum et al, tracks in, sec 3, t5, r6
 Billie R. Eckiss to Anthony Christopher et al, Duff and Dohertip Addn. Clay City, lot 11, 12
 David Bryden et ux to Jennifer Lynn Bryden et al, Durland's Addn. Flora, lot 12, block 2
 Nyal Dickey to Justin Rinehart, Kinnman's 2nd Addn, tracks in, lot 9, 10, sec 23, t3, r6
 Mark Tungate et al to Scott A. Stanford et al, Kinnaman's Subd, Flora, tracks in, lot 6, Block A, sec 23, t3, r3
 Joel D. Denton et ux to Barbara Brown, tracks in, sec 25, t3, r6
 Luke James Johnson et ux to Mary McCormick et ux, Allen McCuley's Subd, lot 8
 Shelley Nadine Dailey to Kevin Lash, tracks in sec 6, t5, r5
 Shelley Nadine Dailey to Shelley Nadine Dailey, tracks in, sec 21, t5, r5
 Shelley Nadine Dailey to Fred C. Lash, tracks in, sec 7, t5, r5
 Carlos E. Post to Carlos E. Post, tracks in, sec 8, 16, 17, 21, t5, r5
 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Lisa Simpson et al, Orinical Town of Ingraham, lot 3-6, block 1

Court Case Backdrop For Three Act Play

Continued From Page One

Judge Asbury might be a great judge but that he had no authority over him. The AG then went on to go through Bailey's objection to the motion for transfer. Stating that this isn't a local issue, but effects all citizens of Illinois and should be heard in Springfield. Which is more centralized for public health officials from Sangamon and Cook counties.

Rep. Bailey's attorneys replied they were not denying there is a health emergency, but a public health emergency is not a disaster. Because of this there would be no need for public health officials to testify. They also stated that there is an airport about "three miles" from here and if the Governor or his people need to be here they can fly down in one of the state's planes. (Of course the airport is about eight miles from Louisville.) They ended their reply stating that this is an issue of law.

After the AG had a short reply Judge McHenry started to issue his opinion. Citing Fennell vs. Illinois Central Railroad, that there is a private and public factor for ease of access; and that it wasn't right to move a case from one county, thus bogging down their courts. He went on to sight other cases and that the AG's motion did not include affidavits from witnesses, identify potential witnesses or indicate what their testimony would be as well as other issues. Without this list the motion was not valid. While Judge McHenry stated that he did not want to accuse the AG of "forum shopping" but he said, "if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck". Denying the AG's motion to transfer the case to Sangamon County.

Judge McHenry Rules Against Change Of Venue Request

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His argument was that a similar case was recently moved by a Peoria County Judge to Sangamon County for convenience to potential health experts and officials from the Governor's staff to be able to testify. Verticchio argued Sangamon County is the seat of government, since this suit impacts all of Illinois.

The motion read Governor Pritzker has exercised his legal authority under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/1 et seq., and the Illinois Constitution to issue a series of emergency disaster proclamations and executive orders.

Judge McHenry's ruled and referenced several court cases as precedence for not moving the case, including Fennell vs Illinois Central Railroad (2013) case, which was decided five to one with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Freeman writing the majority opinion.

"Convenience for who? The governor is in Chicago," Judge McHenry said. "No disrespect for the attorneys up north, but this sounds like judge shopping and not a good excuse. Sounds like if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. We are three miles from an airport where the governor could fly in."

Thomas G. DeVore of DeVore Law Office, LLC, Greenville, Rep. Bailey's attorney asked, "I would like to know who the witnesses are going to be and this is a public health emergency, so why would Sangamon County be more convenient."

Rep. Bailey's motion to file an amended complaint was granted and his attorney was told to file a Motion for Summary Judgment on Monday and Gov. Pritzker's attorney is to file an answer by next Thursday and the Summary Judgment Motion will be heard at 1 p.m., May 22, in Clay County Circuit Court.

"This isn't complicated," Judge McHenry said. "This is a very simple case. We don't need to hear from medical experts. This is just a case of whether the Governor has the authority, under Illinois laws, to extend the stay at home order past the May 1, deadline. This will end next Friday. We will have a resolution then."

"I am very pleased with the ruling of the judge today and look forward to a final judgement next Friday," Rep. Bailey commented. "We are just asking for a swift judgement. Justice will prevail."

Letter To The Editor

Why Unused Scholarship?

Being a graduate of Flora High School (and Clay County), my career in technology has served me well enough to be able to pay something back where it all started. Approximately 10 years ago I decided to offer a scholarship to a graduating senior at Flora High School.

Several years went by and I got no responses at all. Strange—surely some senior going on to a college or university could use "free" money. But, I took no replies meant no interest. A few more years went by where I stopped trying to give away money. Three years ago I decided to expand the offering to both Flora High School and North Clay High School. In that year I got one response -- and it was received a week after the deadline. A year went by where again I questioned, "Why am I offering money when no one wants it!"

This year, I corrected an oversight—I included Clay City High School this time. In December, 2019, the same letter went out to three high schools in Clay County, offering a nice scholarship to any senior willing to spend a little time to reply.

The results: Flora High School—no replies; Clay City High School—no replies; North Clay High School—replies! The scholarship was awarded this year to Kylie Zimdars of Mason.

But, I am gobsmacked as to why there is so little interest in seniors taking a little time to apply for my scholarship. Is it some breakdown within the schools themselves? Are the seniors really that busy to not take the time to write two or three pages (double spaced) and at least put their names in for consideration?

Whatever the answer, the scholarship will be offered again next year. (And for other graduates of a Clay County High School, if you can afford it, I challenge you to pay back to the county where it all started—help another get started in their future education.)

Best regards,
 Darrel VanDyke, Class of 1967

When asked about the lack of response at Flora High School, Guidance Administrator Kelli Massie offered this response:

This in every senior mailbox (Each senior has a mailbox in the guidance office!) I also sent a google doc with the below information to every senior and their parent in the class of 2020!

Placed in Senior Mailbox
 Louise and John VanDyke
 Scholarship for the pursuit of
 Computer and
 Technology Research
 1-\$600 winner for a Clay
 County Senior Student
 Due April 15

Keys Found Mother's Day At Orchard Hill Cemetery

A set of keys were found at Orchard Hill Cemetery on Mother's Day.

If you believe these keys are yours, call (618) 460-1017 to identify and reclaim them.

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Caleb Hill, a Floyd Henson Junior High seventh grade homebound student and his nurse, Janet Eagan, worked on face masks for the Iuka Fire Department. Caleb had a double lung transplant more than three years ago and wants to help "give back" while sheltering at home. Below, Caleb shows the results of his efforts, along with Iuka Fire Chief Kenny Eagan and Nurse Eagan, who is also a first responder. He and Janet plan to continue making 25 more masks.



CLAY COUNTY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CLINICS

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claycountyhospital.org

Clay County Board Tables 'Back To Business' Resolution

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changes of people losing their businesses."

"We own Iffert's Electric in Ingraham and I'm worried about my employees," Tara Bangert said. "If we could keep our business open, my employees could feed their families. Opening things up is the responsible thing to do."

"We need to assert ourselves and take back the authority, wrongly gained by one person," Bryan West said.

"I've been a cosmetologist for 35 years and on The Square for 35 years," Sonja Harrison said. "We were taught to be responsible and teach responsible healthy issues in this business."

Harrison has started her own lawsuit against Governor Pritzker. Johnathon Piperakis, 25, of Flora asked the board for clarification.

"There has been some miscommunication," Piperakis said. "Just what is this vote going to intel? The governor doesn't have the right to close the churches. Lots of churches have 50 or less in their congregation and some have more. What will happen if we have services? Will we be served with a cease and desist order? Do lawmakers have the right to keep us out, to prosecute us?"

"We are asking the Governor to accept the 'Back to Business' plan," State's Attorney Andrew Koester explained. "Two weeks ago Judge McHaney said it was unconstitutional to enact this order beyond 30 days. We ask that no one defy the executive order until the Appellate Court rulings are issued. The County Board doesn't have the power

to enact a reopening of the county."

State's Attorney Koester spent most of the meeting interpreting legal points of the proposed resolution and ones from other governmental bodies.

"I can't imagine them handcuffing hairdressers or preachers," Tina Winka said. "People will use common sense approaches in their businesses. Yes I could stay at home and live off the gravy train, but that's not right for me. The governor doesn't care. Is he in Florida? We need to do something and get these businesses and churches open. Think about fighting for us and how we can stand up for ourselves."

Others addressing the board included Steve Stortzum, John Riley, Jennifer Billingsley, Nancy Thompson, Scott Neff and a few others who addressed the board from the back of the room. One of the owners of Grandma's Kitchen, Flora, said if she wasn't open by the end of May, there would be a sign in front of her restaurant reading, "Thanks Governor Pritzker. Building for Sale."

"Friends, we don't want to live like this," Representative Bailey said. "I'm Clay County proud, Louisville proud. Our rogue governor and insurance agencies cannot take away licenses. If someone gets Covid-19, they can't say they got it from a specific location. This executive order is not the law. They had 30 days and that is past."

"You heard the State's Attorney say the supreme authority is with the IDPH and then it trickles down to local authorities," Chairman Whitehead said ending the public remarks part of the meeting.



Clay County Board Finishes May Meeting Following Residents Comments

By Beth Fancher

Once the crowd left the upstairs courtroom, Clay County board members continued with the monthly duties of the board, at the May 12 board meeting.

Clay County Hospital President Bob Sellers received approval for medical staff credentials. He then presented the hospital report, noting the hospital has been prepared for Covid-19 cases. Since that has not occurred, they are preparing for the return of normal patient activities. The hospital staff has created a plan called "Safe Spaces." They have done this by compartmentalizing hospital departments and using separate entrances so that patients can be assured their hospital visit is safe. Sellers said more information would be forthcoming.

Sheriff Andy Myers presented the Sheriff's monthly activity report. Sheriff Myers was asked if the department has seen different issues in the county since the Covid-19 pandemic started. He said, yes domestic and mental health issues.

"We are focused on serious crimes in the county and will keep up with the sheriff's business as usual," Sheriff Myers said. "We ask that you keep Steve Wood's

family in your prayers. Wood's died last week after 35 years with the department and continued part-time service."

Clay County Highway Engineer Darin Koelm said the MFT letting is planned for county road projects.

"The river bridge project is making progress but we would like for you to approve an as-needed contract with Rhutasel and Associates, Inc. Construction Observation and Testing Services," Koelm said and received the board's approval.

"So far the weather has cooperated but I am asking for the public's help. Please use common sense if people are using Panther Creek Road. This is a very narrow road and if it rains the creek rises and floods the roadway. The department's recommendation for the approved detours are Bible Grove Road and U.S. Route 50."

ESDA Coordinator Steve Lewis told the board he has received information the federal government will reimburse the county up to 75 percent of its Covid-19 related issues, once it meets the \$3,300 threshold which he didn't expect would be a problem meeting.

Executive Finance Chairman Chris Rinehart presented the usual

three percent pay raise for elected county officials. The board unanimously approved it.

Supervisor of Assessments Kindel Eastin received board approval for two re-appointments to the Board of Review. Davetta Dunningan and Jack Hastings were both appointed to two-year terms. Eastin also told the board there is an opening on the Board of Review and that she has learned this year's tax multiplier is one.

The April Clay County Claims Committee report was presented by board member Janice Brooks. The report included: \$1,656,393.38 Hospital paid claims and \$671,986.43 unpaid claims; \$58,523.69 County Highway paid claims and \$105.00

unpaid claims; \$371,572.69 Health Department paid claims and \$13,287.03 unpaid claims; \$41,608.43 Clay County paid claims and \$8,609.71 unpaid claims; \$6,792.52 - 911 paid claims; \$39,288.10 Public Safety paid claims and \$3,916.67 Animal Control paid claims.

The April Clay County Sheriff's Office activity report included 17 people processed through the jail, seven traffic arrests and one criminal arrest. Deputies serviced approximately nine various civil papers. The Sheriff's Office handled 430 complaints, conducted 21 criminal investigations and four accident investigations.

Yoga Stretches With Your Best Friend

By Trudy Lambird, President, Fur A Good Paws

Pet obesity continues to trend up. With social distancing practices in place, you may find yourself with a lot of extra time on your hands. How about putting that time and energy to good use by trying some new fitness activities with your dog? Yoga with dogs - yes, that's actually a thing, aka "doga" - has been around for a couple of decades.

Yoga, a sequence of stretches and balancing poses, promotes flexibility and mindfulness. Many people choose to involve their dogs in their yoga practice. In addition to getting stronger and reducing stress, yoga with your dog will undoubtedly strengthen the bond between you both. Once you get started, you can also incorporate yoga into your walks and playtime.

While practicing "doga" with your dog, remember this should be a fun and relaxing activity. There's no need to strive for perfection. One way to introduce Fido to yoga is by letting him/her watch you practice, which will likely pique their curiosity. Before getting your dog involved in yoga, be sure you understand which stretches can promote pet mobility. You can learn more by talking to your vet or carefully researching online. Don't ever force your dog into something he/she does not want - such as practicing yoga. If it's right for him/her, you will both know it.

You can learn more by doing a "yoga with dogs" google search and also searching on Rover.com. Go ahead! It will be fun.

The stay-at-home order has hit us all in one way or another; and like many businesses, nonprofits are also struggling. FAGP was forced to cancel key fundraisers that we count on for financial support to care for animals and pay our bills. If you are able, please consider making a donation either through Facebook, by snail mail at PO Box 294, Flora, IL 62839, or by using PayPal through our website at www.furagoodpaws.org. Another way you can help Fur A Good Paws is to use Amazon Smiles when you order online. Thank you for your continued support for our rescue and adoption center.




Meet Layla


Layla is a 2-year-old female brindle pit/boxer mix. She is a happy and affectionate dog, and absolutely loves to cuddle. She enjoys playing ball and walking around with her squeaky toys. Layla has some anxiety issues that can be worked with, and a bit of a jealous streak. She has been spayed, fully vaccinated, is heart worm negative and microchipped. If you are interested in adopting Layla or any of our cats/kittens or dogs, please contact us at 618.662.7297 or www.FurAGoodPaws.org to complete an adoption application and arrange a time to visit.

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