

Mt. Zion Village Board January Meeting

On Monday, January 21st the Village Board Trustees and Mayor gathered for the January Village Board Meeting. The meeting started with the public forum, but with no one from the public with questions or statements, the meeting moved forward with the items on the agenda.

First up was the discussion and approval of the annexing and rezoning land for the Mt. Zion Medical addition. Board unanimously approved the ordinance. The Board also approved of a sealed bid process for the empty lot 835 Crestview Drive. The village had condemned and torn down the abandoned house that once stood on the property. County assessor valued the property at \$11,000 and the Village hopes to get a bid close to that amount in the coming months. Details about the bidding process will be coming to the public soon.

Budget items were also on the agenda tonight. The first was a minor 2018 adjustment, something that regularly occurs at the end of a fiscal year. Next was a budget amendment for the police pension fund. This had to be done because a police officer left Mt. Zion and the budget had to be balanced after the pension fund was impacted. Both ordinances were passed and approved by all the members present.

Next big item on the agenda was the amendment of the Chapter 153 Building Code within the Village of Mt. Zion. The Village wanted to update them to reflect the ones recently adopted by Macon County and the city of Decatur. Additionally, it also increases the building permit fees, which helps cover the time and expenses the department uses to provide services. The

proposed increase would go from \$0.10 per square foot to \$0.15. Also in the fee adjustments, the Village is doubling the cost for building permits if the builder begins the project before applying for one. The board approved of this ordinance.

Next, the approval of the Mayoral Appointment to the Mt. Zion Police Commission - Robert Kistenfeger. Robert was on the commission previously, and was open to another term. Board unanimously approved of the candidate.

Following that topic, the board also was asked to approve a resolution authorizing and approving the execution of an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller regarding the access to the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program. This would help in the cases where someone would move away and not pay their final utility bill. Board approved this resolution. This also ties in the ordinance the board also approved during the meeting that increases the fee for shut off service for non-payment. Fee would increase to \$50, but this would not affect local snow birds (the fee for them will remain at \$30).

Last items on the agenda was the establishment of an administrative procedure for assessing and determining claims under PSEBA and the approval of Coz's as a preferred caterer.

The meeting concluded and when asked about upcoming items that might be on the agenda in the coming months, it was mentioned that water contract negotiations will be happening soon.

Next meeting will be on February 19th.

The Employees of Land of Lincoln Credit Union Donated 2,489 Hours of Their Time to Volunteer Program in 2018

Decatur, Illinois, January 15th, 2019—Land of Lincoln Credit Union (LLCU) is pleased to announce that they have achieved a company-wide goal of exceeding 2,000 hours of employee volunteerism in the communities served by LLCU. As of December 31st, LLCU had a total of 2,489 hours volunteered by staff, which is the equivalent of more than 62 work weeks. This was achieved by a staff of around 120 employees.

“Before I officially joined LLCU, this existing volunteerism program was, to me, one of the most appealing facts about LLCU. I’ve never quite seen anything like it. There is no personal agenda, nor is anything expected in return. This spirit of servitude is straight from the heart of each and every one of our employees,” stated Robert Ares, CEO of Land of Lincoln Credit Union.

—The Board of Directors at LLCU challenge the staff each year with exceeding 2,000 hours of volunteerism. This goal to important part of the LLCU

mission which is founded within the national credit union movement of “People Helping People”.

The attached document is a list of the 130+ agencies and events in Central Illinois that were direct beneficiaries in 2018 from the LLCU Employee Volunteerism Program. If an area organization is interested in submitting information regarding any events or programs in 2019 that will be in need of volunteers, please send information to Cayla Hittmeier at chittmeier@llcu.org.

Land of Lincoln Credit Union was founded in 1947. As a full-service financial institution, LLCU serves over 30,000 members. Membership in LLCU is open to anyone who lives or works in 26 Illinois counties and their immediate family members. Land of Lincoln Credit Union offers 11 convenient locations in 8 cities to best serve the needs of its membership. As a part of the CO-OP shared branching network, members also have access to over 5,000 branches and 30,000 ATM locations nationwide. For more information, visit us online at llcu.org.

SNAP Benefits will Continue Through February During Federal Shutdown but will be Issued Earlier Than Usual

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced today that February Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be funded through the end of February, but they will be issued to Illinois customers on or before January 20th. Typically, benefits are issued in the first few days of the month.

“We want to reassure our customers that SNAP benefits are funded through the end of February,” IDHS Secretary James Dimas said. “However, we need to spread the word as quickly and widely as possible that these benefits will be issued earlier than usual.”

SNAP is a federal program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and distributed through IDHS in Illinois. January and February SNAP

benefits will not be affected by the current lack of federal appropriations. Because of the way the USDA has funded February SNAP benefits, they must be issued on or before January 20th. This is about a week and half earlier than usual for customers.

There is no need for customers to visit the local IDHS offices or call their caseworkers. IDHS staff will be working in the upcoming days to implement the necessary changes so customers see no disruption in their benefits. SNAP customers will receive the normal amount of monthly SNAP benefits on their Link cards, the debit-like cards used to spend SNAP benefits and other cash assistance.

IDHS will be working to communicate the early issuance to SNAP customers in the upcoming days through the IDHS website, Link website and customer service phone line, a social media campaign and community outreach.

Asking for a Friend

All submissions will remain anonymous. If you want to submit your question or situation to the paper, you can send it to mtzionregionnews@comcast.net ; send a private message to the new Facebook page; or send a letter to 433 N. State Highway 121 Mt. Zion, IL 62549.

Asking for a friend...

Electronics are a big issue in my home. I don't want to sound like a cranky old person when I ask they be put down, but at the same time I can't stand that the few moments we get together as a family for dinner is really just silent staring at tablets and phones.

Part of the fault lies with me and my partner because we gave them to the kids and we as the parents should set a good example. My partner and I both have times where we should be interacting less with a screen and more with the kids and each other. Its just so easy after a long day to slip into brainless scrolling. I know studies say its addicting which makes it even harder to put them down.

What can we do to set a better example for my kids and is there any way to help promote some unplugged moments during family time?

Sincerely,
Scrolling for Sanity

Dear Scrolling for Sanity,
Having information right at our finger tips is a hard thing to pass up. Everyone with a tablet or smart phone is guilty of the mindless scrolling, whether it be social media or news stories. We go through our work day staring at a

computer screen and then stare at another one until we go to bed. Its bad for our eyes and sleeping habits, not just family functions and meals.

Many internet service providers have the option to turn off the wifi at certain times, or you can just unplug the router. Another option is to place tablets and phones in a basket at meal time to promote the whole out of sight out of mind tactic. But my personal favorites are the following:

- 1st: habit tracker competition. You can do this with other little resolutions you want to accomplish in the new year, but works great with promoting some unplugged time in the family. Family members each get a color and fill in the square if they have "survived" the agreed upon unplugged times. Works if you want dinner time, homework time, and a period before bedtime free of electronic interference. Winner at the end of the week gets a prize or a treat. Works for kids as well as adults trying to kick the screen time habits.

- 2nd: use the basket method but before they go in, have everyone scroll through social media and credible news outlets to find talking points or find things they want to ask questions about. Makes for great dinner time discussions, especially when the kids feel like they can really contribute and feel like they've been heard.

It is a hard habit to beat, but doing it as a family might make it a little bit easier. Sometimes it takes small steps to reach the bigger goal.

Good luck!

Easy Eats

The weekend snow storm part two ended up being a lot less than expected. But the wind and the cold sure made it hard to leave a warm bed. On weekends like that, a big warm breakfast makes all the difference.

I was fortunate enough growing up to have two grandmothers that are excellent cooks. Many of the meals I make are ones that come from them or the family cookbook that has been collecting recipes for generations.

My grandmother in Kentucky makes a very simple dish that is, to me, the best comfort food when the weather is cold and snowy. Her mother and grandmother made this when she was young as a treat.

Baked eggs are super

simple to make and very filling.

Baked Eggs

Ingredients:
Eggs (I usually make 2 for each person)
Heavy whipping Cream (4 eggs usually need a cup of cream to completely cover them)
Butter (or if you want to avoid using it, PAM cooking spray or anything like it work just as well)

Directions
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Lightly spray shallow baking dish with non-stick spray and put a couple of pats of butter or margarine in the bottom
- Place in oven, briefly, to melt the butter (this step isn't needed if you are using cooking spray)
- Crack and pour whole raw eggs into dish
- Pour whipping cream all

around the eggs and a thin layer on top of the yolks.

- Usually it takes about 30 minutes to bake. I check after 20 minutes just to see what it's doing. It will be bubbly and slightly brown on top.
- When the yolks are set and the cream is thickened, then it's done.

The eggs taste great on toast or with sausage and biscuits.

Pro-tip: when I started making the baked eggs for my little family and friends that stay over, I found out that they taste amazing with cinnamon rolls.

To save on time and effort (I am not a morning person) I bake the eggs and cinnamon rolls together. Oven is set to 400 instead of 350. I usually put in the eggs as the oven is preheating. Cinnamon rolls usually cook for around 15 minutes. I pull those out and

ice them while the eggs get another 5 minutes or so. Again just do the yolk test to gauge whether or not they're done. I recommend 3 cinnamon rolls to 2 baked eggs for the perfect cinnamon to egg ratio.

I would love to hear from you! How did the recipe turn out when you tried it? Maybe you tried it with a fun twist?

If you want to feature your own recipe in the Mt. Zion Region News, email me at mtzionregionnews.comcast.net

First General Baptist

2825 S. Baltimore, Decatur
423-8359

Schedule of Services

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Evening Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. for all ages
Wednesday Bible Study/Children's Choir 6:30

Child Care Provided

Antioch Christian Church

5409 E. Route 36 Decatur, IL 62521
864-3444



Classic Worship Service at 8:45 am
Sunday School at 10:00 am
Contemporary Worship Service at 11:00 am

www.accdecatur.org

antiohc@comcast.net

Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church

345 Main St., 864-2528
Rev. Mike Wakeland

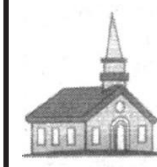
Sunday Worship -
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



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www.mtzpresbychurch.net

Mt. Zion Assembly of God

634 Woodland Dr. • Mt. Zion
864-2701



Schedule of services

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Service 10:45 • Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Power Night 7:00 p.m. • Children's Service 7:00 p.m.

www.mzchurch.com