

# Local Farmer Directs America's Farmers Grow Communities Donation to Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation

Each year, the America's Farmers Grow Communities program partners with local farmers to provide grants to local nonprofits.

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, the program provides farmers the opportunity to support and give back to nonprofit organizations they care about in their local communities by enrolling for a chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice.

Since 2010, the America's Farmers Grow Communities program has given more than \$33 million to over 8,000 nonprofits across rural America.

Tuscola, Illinois (4/4/19) - Douglas County farmer Larry Dallas, directed \$2,500 to the Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation through America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer. As part of their mission Douglas County Farm Bureau Foun-

datation will use the funds to "award scholarships to assist Douglas County individuals pursuing a degree and careers in agriculture" said Tyler Harvey, Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation Executive Director.

Celebrating its 10th year, America's Farmers Grow Communities partners with farmers to support nonprofit organizations strengthening rural communities. The program offers farmers the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice. It has awarded more than \$33 million to over 8,000 nonprofits across rural America.

"A better life is Bayer's goal. Farmers are invested in their communities, they root for their neighbors, and they know when and where there is a need," said Al Mitchell, Vice President Corporate Engagement, Bayer. "Farmers are one of America's best resources, which is why Grow

Communities partners with them to direct donations to the organizations they are passionate about and that make a positive impact and a better life in communities."

To learn more about the America's Farmers Grow Communities program, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.AmericasFarmers.com"](http://www.AmericasFarmers.com) or follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/AmericasFarmers](https://www.facebook.com/AmericasFarmers).

About America's Farmers Started in 2010, the America's Farmers programs, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, have been dedicated to partnering with farmers to strengthen rural communities. The programs provide funding for ag scholarships, nonprofit donations and school STEM grants. Since inception the fund has awarded over \$50 million to rural communities. For more information visit [AmericasFarmers.com](http://AmericasFarmers.com).



About the Monsanto Fund The Monsanto Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Bayer employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at [www.monsantofund.org](http://www.monsantofund.org).

## Illinois Legislature Votes in Favor of Wind Energy

(Springfield, IL) - April 4, 2019 - Today, with a vote of 43-7, the Illinois Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of House Bill (HB) 2988. HB 2988 clarifies existing law which enables counties and municipalities to enact wind energy zoning regulations. The Bill clarifies that townships do not have the authority to create zoning restrictions for wind farms.

"Legislators from across the state have recognized the importance of wind energy to our state's economy," said Representative Ann Williams, Chairman of the Energy & Environment Committee. "This bill clarifies the law regarding wind energy development - which is key to the success of the industry in the state."

With strong bi-partisan support, HB 2988 was previously passed by the Illinois House of Representatives with a vote of 95-12. The next step is for Governor Pritzker to sign the Bill into law.

"We are thrilled that the Illinois legislature has taken steps to clear up any confusion about which units of local government can enact wind energy zoning restrictions," said Ryan Brown, Executive Vice President at EDP Renewables. "This will help pave the way for major economic development opportunities in rural Illinois, including in Douglas County where we are planning on breaking ground on the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm later this year."

The Harvest Ridge Wind

Farm will create up to 250 jobs during construction and 8-10 permanent jobs to operate and maintain the wind farm. Once operational, the project is expected to bring more than \$50 million in tax revenue to Douglas County, its schools, townships, and other public services over the project's lifetime.

## Holding It All Together cont'd from pg. 4

named Stanley, so there's that. Whatever you decide to call your little bundle of joy, best of luck and blessings to all the new babies being

born this spring, and I wish them well. I also wish all the parents patience and wisdom, and understanding. May God keep you all safe.

## Pritzker Inks Tobacco 21: Calls Proponents "Heros" cont'd from pg. 1

publican Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed Tobacco in the previous session. In his message to lawmakers, he agreed smoking is "detrimental" to Illinoisans' health, but said that raising the age to purchase cigarettes would cause unintended economic consequences.

Because Illinois would become the first Midwestern state with such a law, Rauner wrote, it would "push residents to buy tobacco products from non-licensed vendors or in neighboring states."

At the signing ceremony Sunday, Pritzker seemed to respond to the former governor's criticism.

"This is about the health of our youth and the longevity of our citizens," he said, "and if there are young people who will travel over state lines to buy tobacco products because they can legally buy them there, then I urge the surrounding states to pass 'Tobacco 21,' too."



Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Sunday signs into law a bill that raises to 21 the minimum age people can legally buy tobacco products in Illinois. Pritzker signed the legislation at the Mile Square Health Center in Chicago. (Screen shot from BlueRoomStream)

Senate sponsor Julie Morrison, a Democrat from Deerfield; Senate President John Cullerton, a Democrat from Chicago, and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel also spoke at the event. All are longtime supporters of raising the

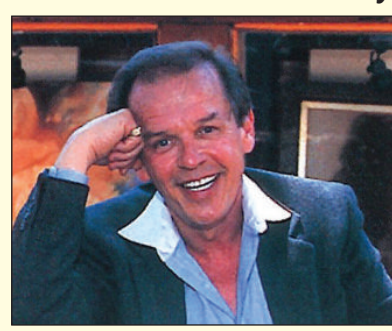
ceremony were Sens. Jacqueline Collins, Ann Gillespie, Terry Link, Patricia Van Pelt and John Mulroe, and Reps. Debbie Meyers-Martin, Mark Walker, Melissa Conyears-Ervin, La Shawn Ford and Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz.

Also present at the signing

### Arthur Folk Art Festival

Celebrating the resurgence of nostalgia in America  
- Calling all original art lovers -  
Beautiful, charming and joyful little stories -  
told in meticulous and colorful ways...  
by Arthur's favorite folk artist...

He's Good... He's Funny...



He's... *Jerry Winters*

He entertained you for years at a famous Cannery Row, California nightspot... and now he's at it again... with a refocused life and a refocused career... this time with paint brush and canvas. His work reflects his love of life...his pleasure in your happiness... his delight in the details. Joanie & Jerry and one or more of the "Stars of their Show" (5 teacup Poodles) are hidden in each of Jerry's paintings. "Monet Bouche", their tiny fluff of a teacup poodle, invite you to visit their remarkable gallery on Vine Street in Arthur, where the emphasis has always been on quality, luxury, attentive service and old fashioned courtesy.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE  
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...will be conducting live demonstrations daily. Closed on Sunday.

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## Local Talents Come Together for Cantata cont'd from pg. 1

rators is from the Murdock Methodist.

When will the performance take place?

It will be on Sunday April 14th, Palm Sunday, at the Christian church at 4 pm.

Will there be an admission charge?

No. There will be a free-will offering collected to help with expenses. We started with a zero budget <laughs> so anything we collect will go toward our expenses.

<vgn> People don't often realize the depth and breadth of talent in Villa Grove.

<JM> Absolutely! Having taught in the school for so many years, I was constantly amazed by how many really talented students I had.

Is there anything else that we need to talk about? It's obviously about the story of Easter, right?

Right. The composer and the librettist have composed it so it can be performed in a number of ways. If you're performing it during Holy week, you can leave off the first and last numbers, that deal with Palm Sunday and the Resurrection. We decided to perform it in a way that tells the whole story, because maybe there are some people there that aren't familiar with it. We decided that it was important to include the whole package.

It's really not about eggs

and bunnies and ham, right? Although I love all three of them! <laughs>

I love eggs, bunnies and ham as well! <chuckles>

Anything else that I might have missed?

Judy is really handling all the stuff that I'm not good at. She's taking care of the publicity, of emailing the performers to let them what they need to know for the next rehearsals or about the schedule. Of course, she was really the instigator behind this, so a huge shout out goes to her. For most of the singers, this is the first time they've ever sung with an orchestra. It's not a big orchestra, by any means, but a lot of times, in our small churches we don't get to perform with any instrumentalists. That's been an exciting thing for them. I would also like to give a shout out to the Christian church for opening their doors for this, for rehearsals, for everything. We've got people from both the Christian Church and the Methodist Church here in town who are taking care of a reception afterwards that everyone is invited to. There are a lot of people working behind the scenes to make this all happen.

# EASTER

## Prime Rib Buffet

Sat., April 20  
Starting at 4:30 p.m.

- Broasted Chicken
- Prime Rib
- Shrimp
- Turkey
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Baked Potato
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Chicken & Noodles
- Soup, Salad, Dessert Bar & so much more!

\$26<sup>95</sup>

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