



**BRIAN MOODY**, executive director of Tuscola Chamber and Economic Development, speaks to a group of local business people about the benefits of joining the Chamber of Commerce. *Photo by David Porter.*

## Honor Flight resumes mission

We are cleared for take-off! After being grounded for two years due to COVID restrictions and related health concerns, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight (LLHF) announced that current conditions allow them to resume flights to honor veterans. They have planned five flights for 2022 — June 14, July 19, Aug. 30, Sept. 27 and Nov. 1.

The mission of Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is to show gratitude for World War II, Korean era and Vietnam era veterans by taking them — free of charge — from Springfield to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to their service.

Joan Bortolon, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight President, issued the following statement:

“We are thrilled to be able to resume our flight schedule and start serving the over 700 veterans on our wait list. These veterans have been waiting patiently for the last two years for their day of honor and we are anxious to start filling our flights. We hope that current COVID-related positive trends continue so that we can complete our mission of taking five (5) flights this year and affording these American heroes the

day of honor and gratitude they have earned.”

They will start filling the June 14 flight in the next two weeks by contacting all WWII and Korean Era veterans on the wait list as well as the Vietnam Era veterans who were originally scheduled on the canceled April 2020 flight. The remaining Vietnam veterans on the wait list will be contacted for their flight in order of their date of application. LLHF hopes to serve at least 500 veterans by the end of this year.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and receives no federal, state or local government funds. The organization is run by an all-volunteer team that is committed to serving Veterans. A seven-member volunteer board of directors pro-

vides direction. There is no paid staff, office or utilities costs, etc., which keeps administrative costs to approximately 1% so virtually every dollar raised supports flight costs.

They are always accepting applications from World War II, Korean Era and Vietnam Era veterans who would like to participate on an upcoming flight. Applications can be obtained from their website ([www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org](http://www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org)) or by contacting them at [JMB4604@aol.com](mailto:JMB4604@aol.com) or 217-585-1219 or 217-652-4719. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 70 years who wish to serve as a guardian on an upcoming flight may download an application from the website of by contacting the group.

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## Extension seeks meat processors and hunters to help food banks

One in 10 people in Illinois struggle with hunger every day, including one in eight children. The Illinois Deer Donation Program, a new pilot project to expand community access to venison protein is coming this fall to twelve east-central Illinois counties.

University of Illinois Extension educators coordinating the program are on the hunt for meat processors, hunters and hunting organizations, and food pantries in and around Clay, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby counties to join them.

The project will engage hunters to donate their deer and meat processors to produce ground venison, which will go to area food pantry clients. Clients will receive

recipes and resources from Illinois Extension to help them prepare venison at home, which might be unfamiliar to some individuals and families.

“Increasing food access in our communities is our number one priority,” said Meredith Probst, Extension educator. “We are excited to bring this opportunity to central Illinois. While partnering with local businesses and hunters, we can expand the availability of lean protein.”

Organizations and community members are also encouraged to donate to the program. Donations will go toward reimbursing meat processors for their time and effort. For more about the program, to express your interest to be a partner, and to donate, visit [go.illinois.edu/deerdonation](http://go.illinois.edu/deerdonation).

The program is funded in part by the Health Equity Achieved Together Project, a multi-disciplinary collaboration with University of Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education.

For more information on University of Illinois Extension programming in Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie and Shelby county, visit our website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/ccdms/index.html> or call us at (217)849-3931. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs. The University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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4:30 – 7 p.m.

Featuring: Pollock, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Dessert

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All proceeds benefit the children of our community

## Rose sponsors legislation to provide relief at the pump

As gas prices continue to skyrocket, State Senator Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet) is sponsoring legislation to provide permanent tax relief to families at the pump.

“Gas prices are out of control,” said Rose. “While we can’t control what a barrel of oil sells for, we can stop politicians from trying to reap a windfall off of the price spikes.”

The legislation, Senate Bill 4159, would cap the state’s sales tax on motor fuel at last year’s level — before the gas prices went up. The plan could poten-

tially save drivers \$1 billion over the next fiscal year if gas prices reach \$5.50 per gallon as many experts are predicting.

The legislation works by targeting the sales tax on gas, so critical infrastructure dollars for road repairs would not be affected.

“The government shouldn’t gouge you at the same time the price at the pump goes through the roof,” said Rose.

The legislation was filed on March 10 and has already received over a dozen cospon-

sors.

## Shine Hope Illinois to light up in April

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Awareness and prevention of child abuse is one of the most important tools to fight future victimization and the stigma involved in reaching out for help.

Through this coordinated social media campaign, we will kick off Shine Hope Illinois and Light Up ALL 102 Counties Blue in April. Using an interactive map, each photo received will

earn their county a light bulb.

On April 1, the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI) will post the first video and challenge.

The Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI), a 501(c)3 agency, is a statewide membership organization dedicated to helping communities, through local child advocacy centers (40 CACs in Illinois, serving all 102 counties), respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient — and put the needs of child victims first.

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