

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

RE: Illinois Department of Transportation State Fiscal year 2027 Section 5311 Rural/Downstate Public Transportation Operating Assistance Grant Application. Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held in Marshall County and Stark County. Please email your request for information, questions, or comments by March 30, 2025 to either Hannah Fuchs, Marshall County PCOM, at pcom@marshallcountyillinois.gov or Traci Dowell, MSW Projects of Henry Executive Director, at tracimswprojects@gmail.com

Date: March 20, 2026 **Time:** 11:00am **Place:** Toulon Nutrition Site, Toulon Methodist Church, 229 W. Main, Toulon, IL

Date: March 25, 2025 **Time:** 11:00am **Place:** Henry Nutrition Site, St. John's Community Center, 1301 Second Street, Henry, IL.

For the purpose of considering a project for which financial assistance is being sought from Illinois Department of Transportation, pursuant to the Illinois Department of Transportation's general authority to make such Grants.

I. Description of Project: Application for financial assistance to provide transportation services to the general public, elderly and individuals with disabilities in Marshall and Stark Counties.

II. At the Hearing: Marshall County will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with respect to the social, economic, and environmental aspects of the Project. Interested persons may submit orally or in writing evidence and recommendations with respect to said Project.

III. Marshall County requests that any hearing impaired person wishing to attend this Public Hearing notify Traci Dowell at 309-364-2287 at least one week prior to the scheduled hearing date so that arrangements can be made to provide an interpreter.

IV. Copy of the application for the state grant for the proposed project will be made available for public inspection at the MSW Projects office, 1013 Western Avenue, Henry, IL.

Traci Dowell
MSW Projects of Henry
P.O. Box 140
Henry, IL 61537

PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual Town Meeting

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Bell Plain in the County of Marshall and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on:

Tuesday April 14, 2026
Being the 2nd Tuesday of said month

At the hour of 6:00 pm at Bell Plain Town Shed, LaRose, IL for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

Set time and date of 2027 Annual Township Meeting and Reports on Agenda

Dated March 2, 2026
Diane DeRubeis, Town Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Vegetation Management Activities in

Adams, Brown, Bureau, Christian, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Jersey, LaSalle, Logan, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Peoria, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Sangamon, Schuyler, Shelby, St. Clair, Tazewell, Washington, Williamson and Woodford Counties

Please be advised that Ameren Illinois will perform vegetation management in your area in the near future. Our professional vegetation management specialists will be managing vegetation on transmission rights-of-way that could affect our electric lines. This vegetation management work is necessary to protect the integrity of the electric system and to prevent potential safety hazards.

This work might include: aerial or manual trimming, removal of vegetation, mowing, application of environmentally-safe herbicides, and inspections. Interested persons may call the Ameren toll free number 1-800-232-2477 or visit our website at www.ameren.com/transmission to understand any potential dispute resolution opportunities, processes, rights and/or remedies. Customers and property owners may appeal the particular vegetation work planned on their property by 1) calling the Ameren toll free number mentioned above referencing CODE TMT or 2) accessing the website mentioned above referencing CODE TMT or 3) contacting the Illinois Commerce Commission Consumer Services Division at 1-800-524-0795. Common addresses of properties affected by the planned vegetation management have been provided to the office of the mayor of any affected municipality and the office of the county board chairman of any affected county.

Sincerely,
Ameren Illinois

Illinois Valley Herb Guild To Meet Tues., March 17 In Standard

The Illinois Valley Herb Guild will have its next meeting on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 PM at the Putnam County Community Center, 1st Street in Standard, IL.

Get your cameras ready! Carl Ziegler will present an engaging program on Flower Photography, sharing tips and techniques to help you capture the beauty of blooms through the lens. For further information, please email herbguild2024@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing all our members and anyone interested in joining the Illinois Valley Herb Guild.

SOURCE: Susan Glassman, Illinois Valley Herb Guild Communications Chair

EDITOR: Karina Delgado, Marketing and Communications Program Coordinator, University of Illinois serving Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, and Putnam counties.

Report Outlines Premature Deaths, Chronic Health Problems Among Homeless In Illinois



Jacques Abou-Rizk/Medill Illinois News Bureau

Homeless people are much more likely to face emergency room visits, hospitalizations and premature death than the general population, and state officials are struggling to stem the crisis, according to a new report by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Underlying these efforts to end homelessness is the Home Illinois Plan, the IDPH's overarching multi-agency strategy to address housing instability, in which the Housing First model is a core pillar. The model emphasizes that homelessness is not driven by individual shortcomings but by housing costs and systemic inequities.

Still, in his 2026 budget address on Feb. 18, Gov. JB Pritzker proposed that funding for Home Illinois be reduced by \$7.6 million, bowing to headwinds from federal budget cuts and Illinois budget belt-tightening. It was the second

straight year seeing a cut in funding for housing programs, including Pritzker's signature program designed to eliminate homelessness in the state.

That means people who are homeless across Illinois and especially in urban areas will need to rely more on community-based programs.

Dr. Amanda Bradke, a physician at Rush University Medical Center, participates twice a week with a local nonprofit at a walk-in clinic in Chicago. While she can provide medical care, these centers often offer mental health services, laundry, showers, housing support, and career and legal resources.

"Our big overarching tenet of the work that we're doing with the center is meeting people where they're at," Bradke said. "So that's also, in terms of their needs, making sure that we have the right

Illinois Extension Offers Support For Farmers Experiencing Economic Stress

As farmers across the state face mounting economic pressures, University of Illinois Extension reminds agricultural producers, advisers, and families that free help is available wherever you are.

Assistance resources range from mental health vouchers and crisis support lines to comprehensive financial planning tools. Economic stress takes a personal toll. Financial uncertainty and farm-related stress can increase the risk of mental health challenges among producers and their families, with farmers experiencing suicide at over three times the rate of the general population.

"The farming and ag sector is facing many challenges when planning farm operations for 2026," says Travis Burke, assistant dean and program leader for agriculture and agribusiness at Illinois Extension. "These resources are here to help and support the individuals feeding our world."

Tight margins, unpredictable markets, and rising input costs can make it harder to carry on with day-to-day farming operations.

"We want farmers to know, you are not alone," says Emily Hansen, commercial agriculture educator with Illinois Extension. "Help is always available."

With 16 commercial agriculture educators and specialists working throughout the state, Illinois Extension is ready to help farmers, producers, landowners, researchers, advisers, and anyone who needs assistance navigating these challenging times. Visit go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice to find an Extension office near you.

Farmers dedicate so much of their livelihood to providing for others. Especially in these difficult times, remember to check on the people in your life and share these resources with those who call agriculture home.

Mental Health Resources

Farm Stress and Mental Health Website: The website provides resources and services to support farm stress and mental health in the agricultural community. Find helpful content and statistics, the mindfulness in agriculture video series, and the Mental Health

Vouchers for Ag Producers program. Explore resources at go.illinois.edu/FarmStressHealth.

Mental Health Vouchers for Ag Producers: The Illinois Agricultural Mental Health Voucher Program connects agricultural producers and their families with local mental health professionals. This program allows producers to access mental health services at no cost to themselves or their families. For more information, visit go.illinois.edu/MentalHealthVoucher.

North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center: The North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center Illinois provides resources, support, and helplines for producers. Experiencing a mental health crisis? Text HOME to 741741 or call 1-800-273-TALK.

Financial Planning Tools

farmdoc FAST Tools: The farmdoc website provides a suite of free resources designed to help producers make informed decisions and better manage their farm businesses. From cash flow projections and loan analysis to crop insurance calculators and rent evaluation tools, these resources provide clarity in uncertain times. Visit farmdoc.illinois.edu to explore the tools available.

Illinois Extension Farm Coach Blog: The Farm Coach blog features articles for both farmers and landowners, covering topics such as working with a farm lender, succession planning, how to use balance sheets, and cash rent lease tips. To view articles, visit go.illinois.edu/FarmCoachBlog.

Michigan State University Extension, University of Missouri Extension, and Farm Service Agency also provide accounting and financial resources for agricultural producers. If you are experiencing a major illness, injury, or natural disaster, Farm Rescue provides assistance with planting, harvesting, haying, hauling, and livestock feeding at no cost.

The following resources and informational websites are not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. If you are in crisis, please visit your local

staff and the right resources to do that, but also physically bringing care into the community."

Bradke's work is a piece of a much larger network of homeless services offered by nonprofits, but their challenge is immense.

The IDPH report found that 2,996 people died statewide from 2017 to 2023 while experiencing homelessness. Their average age at death was 20 years below the statewide average. More than 300 of those who died were veterans, and 30 had worked in the public sector, including as police officers, paramedics and correctional officers.

Those experiencing homelessness are far more likely than the public at large to die of drug overdoses, traumatic injuries and excessive cold - and three times more likely to be murdered.

The report has state and nonprofit leaders asking about the need to provide well-rounded services that proactively address the needs of homeless communities.

The state's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness will focus on interventions that "help close the gap on health care delivery to people experiencing housing insecurity," based on the report's data.

"People who experience homelessness tend to live 20 years less than people who are housed, and tracking how this gap changes over time can help assess how interventions are working," the Illinois Department of Human Services, which oversees OPEH, said in a statement.

The IDPH report found that from 2017 to 2023, approximately 10,000 people in Illinois experienced "literal homelessness" and more than 200,000 people were in unstable housing situations. During the same time period, more than 75,000 people experiencing homelessness in Illinois accounted for more than 1.8 million hospital visits.

Eugenia Olison, a senior policy advisor at OPEH and an author of the IDPH report, said the study can open more pathways for identifying people experiencing homelessness in hospital settings to provide social services. Pritzker established OPEH and appointed Christine Haley as Illinois' first chief homeless officer in 2021 through his Executive Order to Fight Homelessness in Illinois.

"My hope for this report is to not only bring awareness to the amount of individuals that are suffering while experiencing homelessness," Olison said, "but also different advocacy ways that we could highlight the need for additional resources, additional housing, additional health care access for people experiencing homelessness."



Lacon KC's To Host Bingo Night To Benefit St. Jude's Hospital

On Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 the Lacon Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Bingo Night to benefit St. Jude's Hospital for Children. There will be nine games of 50/50 split bingo. The final game will be a cover all take all game.

The cost will be \$1 per card for each game. It will take place at the Immaculate Conception Center at 418 N. Center St. Lacon, IL. The doors will open at 6 pm. Piz-za from Yargers and dessert will be served at 6:30 for a donation. There will also be Coke and Pepsi drinks and water for \$1.

Bingo will start at 7:00. Proceeds will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Tomorrow, anything could happen

It could be the best day ever or it could be a day of dark clouds. No one knows what tomorrow holds. Call today to get prepared for your future and protect what matters most.



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