

Sidney

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ments and all trustees in attendance agreed to have their names put on the list.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Community Development Chair Leroy Schluter reported that he will have the Village of Sidney IT guy look in to a new computer when he is back in the area.

Village of Sidney Attorney Marc Miller was not in attendance.

Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts entertained discussion concerning weed management for the Sidney Community Building lawn and fertilization and weed management for the Sidney Witt Park Ball Park.

A motion from Trustee Dan Gadeken seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent for

the Village of Sidney to spend up to \$2,300.00 with Spring Green of St. Joseph, Illinois to take care of the weed management and lawns at the community building and weed management and fertilization of lawns out at Sidney's Witt Park Ball Park carried.

Drainage on Austin Drive in the Knox Point Subdivision and storm tile repair in the alley next to 208 West Byron Street were discussed under Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts' comments. A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to spend up to \$16,000.00 with Fenter Machinery to fix both problems carried.

Mr. Butts reported that he is looking at benches and possible grants for Village of Sidney sidewalks.

Maintenance Supervisor

Butts entertained discussion of possibly trading in the village back hoe to purchase a skid-steer. Discussion concerning this will be put on the Monday, May 4 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Finance Chair Donna Hooker gave the finance report. She asked Village of Sidney Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Reinhart if there were any additional bills and was told that there were no additions. A motion from Trustee Donna Hooker seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to pay all of the monthly bills for March as presented with no additions carried.

Village of Sidney Trustee and Finance Chair Donna Hooker reported that one Village of Sidney six-month CD is maturing on April 19 and that they needed to do something with it. A mo-

tion from Trustee Hooker seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken to put the six-month CD back in for another six months at 3.99 percent interest carried.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Streets and Alleys Chair Dan Gadeken reported that his report had been given earlier in the meeting.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Water and Drainage Chair Bret Harris had nothing to report about water and drainage, but asked if he could invite a solar company to attend the next meeting to make a presentation to the village about putting solar on the Sidney Community Building and was given permission to invite them to the Monday, May 4 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees meeting.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Public Proper-

ty Chair Tyler Bickers was not in attendance at the meeting. Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart reported that there had been no building permits issued.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Parks and Recreation Chair Matt Laurent reported that he would like to work on power outlets for Witt Park and asked if he could get a bid for them. A motion from Trustee Laurent seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken to spend up to \$1,500.00 from Sidney Ball Park funds on ball park power outlets carried.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Community Development Chair Leroy Schluter had nothing to report.

Village of Sidney President John Finn asked if there was any New and Old Business.

The board discussed

properties located at 220 South David Street, 313 East Byron Street, 202 East Main Street, and 205 East Byron Street. Village of Sidney President Finn reported that work on them is moving.

Village of Sidney President John Finn brought the meeting to adjournment at 8:44 p.m. following a motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Gadeken.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

Catch a glimpse of American history at these historic trust sites

America's semiquincentennial marks a great time to explore 250 years of United States history. Following are places for those interested in engaging with American history can visit.

· **Fioli, Woodside, California:** This estate situated on the unceded ancestral lands of the Ramaytush Ohlone serves as a community cultural center featuring 654 acres of stunning landscape. The National Trust

notes the estate was originally built as a private residence in 1917 but was opened to the public in 1975. The site features 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens, a roughly seven-acre orchard, and a nature preserve with eight miles of hiking trails.

· **Acoma Sky City, Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico:** The National Trust notes Acoma Sky City is the oldest continuously inhabited community in the

United States. A tour of Sky city may include a visit to San Esteban del Rey, a seventeenth century church. Visitors also may view pueblo dwellings located along the 367-foot-tall mesa that's been inhabited for nearly 1,000 years.

· **Brucemore, Cedar Rapids, Iowa:** Iowa's only National Trust site is among the most significant cultural landscapes in the midwestern United States.

Brucemore was constructed in the late nineteenth century and is a must-see locale for anyone interested in the stories of industrialists, artisans, architects, and others during a point in American history that has become synonymous with innovation. Visitors to Brucemore can explore the 26-acre estate and some of its more unique and notable features, including the Tahitian Room and Grizzly

Bar added to the estate when Margaret and Howard Hall, the last residents of the mansion at Brucemore, called the grounds home.

· **The Shadows, New Iberia, Louisiana:** The Shadows was built nearly 200 years ago along the banks of the Bayou Teche. More than 200 men, women and children were enslaved at this site before the start of the American Civil War, and a visit

to the site today provides a balanced and nuanced take on what life on a sugar cane plantation was like for property owners and enslaved individuals. A trunk in the attic of the property preserved thousands of letters, photographs, and receipts, which are continuously researched and utilized to provide unique insight into a much-studied period in American history.

150,000 households may lose federal food assistance beginning May 1

Advocates rallied at the state Capitol to support bills aimed at replacing lost benefits

By **JENNA SCHWEIKERT**
Capitol News Illinois
jschweikert@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — When the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" passed last July, millions of U.S. residents were put at risk of losing access to federal food assistance, including hundreds of thousands of Illinoisians.

Because of eligibility and work requirement changes President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, also known as H.R. 1, made to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, certain groups of immigrants and some households without dependents have already lost, or are at risk of losing, access to their SNAP benefits this spring.

Among those at risk is Chicago resident Tatiana, a mother of three children aged 6, 3 and 1. She's been on SNAP for about six years, since her first child, her son Jashua, was born. She requested to be identified by only her first name.

Tatiana briefly lost access to her SNAP benefits when her son was an infant and struggled before she was able to re-enter the program. Even now, balancing work and SNAP eligibility is a catch-22, she said.

"When I do start work-

ing, now I have to turn in my paychecks, and if I make too much, then I have to figure out if they're going to cut me off or not because I'm making too much," Tatiana said. But she has to work at least enough to afford necessities outside of food — things like child care and housing.

Currently, Tatiana receives about \$975 a month from SNAP for her and her three children. The average grocery trip is a "very stressful" experience, and she doesn't have much support outside of herself, she said.

And if she were to lose access to SNAP again? "I don't know," Tatiana said. "It's stressful. ... I'm more anxious now."

Save our SNAP rally

H.R. 1's new work requirements went into effect Feb. 1. Recipients who can't meet the requirements can only receive up to three months of SNAP benefits in a three-year period. May will be the first month that some households will lose those benefits.

And as of April 1, the only immigrants who can receive SNAP benefits are lawful permanent residents, certain immigrants from Cuba and Haiti, and people living in the United States under a Compact of Free Association, a work and trade agreement between the U.S. and The Marshall Islands,

Micronesia and Palau. This removes eligibility from refugees, asylum-seekers, certain trafficking and domestic violence survivors, and other location-specific groups of immigrants.

Save our SNAP, a new Illinois-based coalition of more than 85 religious and social groups, food-assistance providers and health and human services organizations, rallied on Tuesday, April 14, at the Illinois Capitol to ask lawmakers to support three bills that would provide support to those who've lost access to their benefits.

"I know what this means because I've lived close to it. I've been on SNAP. I've watched my mother stretch meals for seven people," Sen. Graciela Guzmán, D-Chicago, said at the rally. "SNAP was not abstract in my life. It was not a talking point. ... I get to stand here as a senator because I had SNAP."

Tatiana was one of hundreds who attended the rally, and she brought her three children with her from Chicago.

"It's important to me," she said of the initiative. "I feel like the goal was to be heard. ... It's very helpful to be able to go out there and rally."

Nearly 1 million Illinois households received SNAP benefits in February 2026,

down from just over 1 million in February 2025. According to the coalition, over 250,000 households are affected by the changes H.R. 1 made. And 150,000 of those have not yet submitted documentation of work, training, volunteering or exemption to keep their benefits, according to a news release from Gov. JB Pritzker. Recipients can check their status here.

"Too many of our neighbors are struggling to feed themselves and their families. Too many are having to make really impossible decisions about paying for shelter, paying for medicine, putting food on the table," Kate Maehr, executive director and CEO of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, said at the rally. "We have to come here and lift our voice, because we cannot stand by."

SNAP recipients looking for a way to earn hours and remain eligible can visit Job Ready Illinois to earn SNAP training hours or Serve.Illinois.gov to find volunteer hours. Additional work-related resources from the state are also available here.

Bills to offset lost benefits "Not feeding people is a choice," Guzmán said at the rally. "This is not about waste. This is not about fraud, and this is not about responsibility. This is about cruelty. This

is about power."

Guzmán is a sponsor on Senate Bills 3277, 3276 and 3167, the three bills that Save our SNAP is championing. The House versions have all missed the committee deadline, although that doesn't mean they won't come back later. The Senate bills are still being considered in committee. The measures call for funding but don't provide funding sources, meaning lawmakers would have to separately allocate money in the budget process.

SB3277 would establish a program — Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger — that would give out one-time \$600 payments to families who experienced a complete or partial loss of SNAP funding due to the new work requirements. That's roughly equivalent to three months of the average SNAP benefit.

To address the other group of SNAP recipients at risk, SB3167 would extend eligibility of Illinois's Victims of Trafficking, Torture and Other Serious Crimes program to certain immigrants if they are not eligible for SNAP benefits due to H.R. 1's new citizenship or immigration status requirements.

The trafficking victim program provides medical, housing, cash and food assistance

to non-U.S. citizen victims of human trafficking and other serious crimes. In 2024, the law was narrowed to exclude certain visa seekers, asylum seekers, individuals and those in institutions that cover 50% or more of their daily meals.

Last, SB3276 would create a SNAP response working group to measure the impacts of H.R. 1 on Illinois recipients, gather data on the state's error rate and issue a report to the General Assembly with recommendations on mitigating the effects of losing federal funding to the program.

"This marks the beginning of a unified statewide effort to ensure that no one in Illinois, the greatest state in this great country, has to worry about where their next meal is going to come from," Maehr said. "We do this work not alone, not as a community organization in one neighborhood or as a food bank that serves one part of the state. We do this together as volunteers, as service providers, as advocates, as neighbors."

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