



# Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY  
APRIL 2024

# GOOD NEWS

## Golden Legacy

**Madison County recognizes Coroner Stephen P. Nonn with a proclamation for 50 years of service**

Madison County Board presented Coroner Stephen P. Nonn with a Proclamation on March 20 recognizing his 50 years as a public servant.

Nonn started his career in law enforcement in 1974 as a deputy with the Madison County Sheriff's Office and worked his way up through the ranks, serving 21 years in the detective division. served 20 years with the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis rising to the rank of deputy commander

Nonn retired in 2000 as a Sheriff's lieutenant and in the same year voters elected him as Madison County Coroner following the retirement of Coroner Dallas Burke (1972-2000.) His first order of business as coroner was opening the office 24 hours a day, 365 days per year and establishing professional standards for full-time investigators



*Nonn, circa 1980*



*Chairman Kurt Prenzler presents Coroner Stephen P. Nonn with proclamation for his 50 years of service to Madison County.*

Nonn earned certification from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He used his knowledge of law enforcement and death investigations to help create a required Homicide and Questionable Death Protocol that is followed by all police and fire departments throughout Madison County, as well as help to establish the Madison County Heroin Task Force, which later became the Partnership for Drug Free Communities and the Madison County Elder Abuse/Fatality Review Team.

Nonn's policy and professional development activities that effect death investigations and public safety within communities include various appointments to state and national committees and organizations such as: Madison County Child Advocacy Center, Illinois Terrorism Task Force, Southern Illinois Child Death Task Force, Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators (founding member) and more.

Nonn thanked the board for "such and honor" and said

## Agriculture Awareness



**Madison County presents the Madison County Farm Bureau with a resolution recognizing National Agriculture week March 17 to 24.**

## Grappling Greatness



**Madison County presents Civic Memorial wrestler with a Certificate of Recognition for Illinois High School Association Class 2A State Wrestling Championship in the 157-pound category with a 5-1 win.**

## Job Shadowing Justice



**Granite City High School students visited the State's Attorney's Office on March 12 for a Job Shadow program. The students met with State's Attorney Tom Haine, Assistant State's Attorneys, Associate Judge Andrew Carruthers and Associate Judge Emily Johnson Nielsen and got a first-hand look at how the Criminal Justice System works. Haine said he enjoyed showing the students around, who are wonderful ambassadors for their school.**





## Mentors needed for Madison County's youth

Do you have 30 minutes a week that you could give to a student to be a positive influence in their life?

The Madison County Regional Office of Education is asking individuals to consider donating 30 minutes of their time each week to help an "at-risk" student.

"It's nice to have somebody who is willing to give up 30 minutes a week to come in and talk to these students," Madison County Superintendent of Schools Robert Werden said.

The GIVE 30 mentoring program is intended to provide at-risk youth with positive support in their lives. The program is designed for students who have been identified in their school as someone who might benefit from a mentor based on need, and civic leaders are being sought to become GIVE 30 mentors.

According to Werden the Regional Office of Education started the GIVE 30 program in 2016, but saw a steep decline in participating mentors following the pandemic in 2020..

"We hare trying to build our mentor roster again," Werden said.

The program hopes to acquire new mentors during the summer in preparation for the 2024-2025.

"It's only 30 minutes a week to mentor someone," Werden said. "It means the world to a student. They are really looking for someone in their life that is successful and willing to take the time to spend with them."

GIVE 30 offers the opportunity to schools and students an alternative to traditional discipline. The program

- encourages suspensions be limited to severe cases
- encourages students to stay in school and be successful
- encourages students to become re-engaged in school
- foster positive relationships with law enforcement and the judicial system
- connects at-risk-youth with community mentors

The Regional Office of Education is currently soliciting civic leaders to identify/encourage interested individuals to become a GIVE 30 mentor. Individuals should contact the ROE to apply and must past a clean criminal background check (at no cost) is required.

Applicants complete an interest form to be shared with participating school districts. The mentor will be asked to give 30 minutes a week to meet with the student they will be asked to mentor. A guide will be provided to each mentor as an outline to engage in discussion with the student.

Upon the need of a mentor, the individual will be contacted and placed in communication with the respective principal. The principal will meet with the mentor and decide on an agreeable meeting time for the student and the mentor. Such an arrangement may be made around a typical lunch schedule. The duration of the mentoring experience may be short term or may continue. In either case, monitoring and progress reports on the relationships between will need to be reviewed.

For more information contact the ROE at (618) 296-4530 or visit <http://roe41.org/roe-services/give-30-mentoring-program>.

# Madison County Community Development offering Scholarships



Madison County Community Development is offering scholarships to students who will be attending college this fall.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) scholarships will be awarded to students who will be attending an accredited college, university, training program or vocational school in the State of Illinois in the fall 2024/spring 2025. The CSBG program will select five students to receive a \$4,000 scholarship for the upcoming academic year — \$2,000 per semester.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship should contact the college's financial aid offices, their high school guidance counselor or visit Community Development's website at [https://www.madisoncountyl.gov/departments/community\\_development/community\\_services.php](https://www.madisoncountyl.gov/departments/community_development/community_services.php).

To be eligible, students must meet the block grant income guidelines as well as the other requirements as follows:

- Candidates must provide proof of Madison County residency.
- Candidates must meet income criteria Candidates must provide proof of gross income for the last 30 days for all household members ages 18 and older.
- Candidates must complete the College Application and CSBG Intake form.
- Candidates must provide photo identification and a social security card.
- Candidates are required to submit a copy of college transcripts, or if just entering college, high school transcripts.
- Candidates are required to submit a letter of recommendation from a high school or college official at the institution they are attending or will be attending. Letters of recommendation must be submitted on official school letterhead.
- Candidates must submit a one-page essay describing themselves, their college plans, and career goals. The essays should communicate something that is not stated in the application, which sets apart their scholarship application from others. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Hobbies, special interests and unique skills.
  - Volunteer work and involvement with organizations in the community.
  - When and what type of awards or special recognition.
  - Goals and ambitions the scholarship committee should know about.
  - How would receiving this scholarship impact your life?

- Previous scholarship recipients may apply for the scholarship again.
- Scholarships will be awarded to the college.

Deadline to submit applications and support documents will be 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 21. The CSBG Advisory Council Scholarship Committee will review all applications; make final selections and announce the scholarship recipients in July.

Completed applications should be dropped off or mailed to Madison County Community Development, Attn: Amy Lyerla, 157 N. Main St., Suite 312, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Community Development offices are open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For questions, contact Amy Lyerla at [allyerla@madisoncountyl.gov](mailto:allyerla@madisoncountyl.gov) or (618) 296-4382 or Sherry Gross-Gremer at [smcross@madisoncountyl.gov](mailto:smcross@madisoncountyl.gov) or (618) 296-6177.

## INCOME GUIDELINES

Family size	30-day Income
1	\$2,510
2	\$3,407
3	\$4,303
4	\$5,200
5	\$6,097
6	\$6,993
7	\$7,890
8	\$8,787



For families with more than eight members, add \$897 for each additional member.



# Sherriff's Office announces registration now open for Youth Police Camp

Madison County Sheriff's Office recently announced teenagers can now register for the 17th annual Team Illinois Youth Police Camp.

The safe and structured environment puts law enforcement officers with youth between the ages of 13 and 17 to learn important life skills.

This camp, which will held at the week of July 14 to 20 at Principia College in Elsah, is hosted in collaboration with the Illinois State Police, local city and county police agencies, social service agencies and the military from across the region and state.

This program is a highly structured, week-long residency that aims to equip at-risk teenagers with skills to resist drugs, gangs, violence and other societal pressures. The program includes physical training exercises and classroom instruction, all of which are coordinated by police officers, military personnel, and social service agencies.

The philosophy of "Teamwork, Commitment and Pride" is introduced to the Cadets through activities that promote teamwork, goal setting, and esprit de corp. Upon completion of the camp, Cadets participate in a formal graduation ceremony and are provided with a certificate of completion and individual and group photos. Camp Schedule includes:

- Teen Suicide Awareness
- Alcohol, Opiate and other Drug Addiction
- Personal Hygiene, Dental Care, and Healthy Lifestyle Habits
- Dangers of Social Media
- First Aid and Hands Only CPR
- Bullying and Cyber Bullying
- Boys and Girls Scouts of America
- Flag Etiquette w/ the Illinois National Guard
- Teambuilding with the Illinois National Guard to include the Rock Climbing Wall, Ropes Confidence Course as well as other related exercises.
- Safety Days- local police department, fire department, rollover simulator, golf cart with DUI Goggles and texting while driving, K-9 Demonstration, ISP Motorcycles, and the Air Methods Medical Transport Helicopter
- Daily uniform and room inspections
- Fishing and Bowling



## Team Illinois Youth Police Camp

TEAMWORK\*COMMITMENT\*PRIDE

**WHAT?** A highly structured week-long residency camp for 13-17 year old males and females, emphasizing the principles of self-respect and service to others.

**WHEN?** July 14-20, 2024

**WHERE?** Principia College, Elsah, IL; Check-In: SIUE Campus;

**WHO?** CONDUCTED BY: Local Police & Sheriff Departments, Social Service Agencies, Illinois National Guard, Illinois State Police

### ACTIVITIES

Military Drill, Sports & Physical Training, Life Skills, Police & Military Procedures, Fishing Derby, Team Building, & much more...

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must be in good physical condition, capable of enduring strenuous physical training, including aerobic (running) and endurance activities requiring adequate air/breathing capabilities.
2. Cadets must reside at the camp facility for the duration of the camp.

### CAMP FEE

A \$20 fee is required for each applicant.

For more information Contact Sandy Voytas, Illinois State Police (618)420-2804

For additional information contact Sandy Voytas with the ISP at (618) 420-2804



# NATIONAL ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

## Appreciation Week



APRIL 14 TO 20



MAKE YOUR PETS 'SPAY'TACULAR  
FIND LOW-COST SPAY AND NEUTER CLINICS



IT BEGINS WITH A SINGLE SNIP



**APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**BUILDING TOGETHER: PREVENTION IN PARTNERSHIP**

**10 A.M. , FRIDAY. APRIL 5**

**RIVERBEND FAMILY MINISTRIES  
144 E FERGUSON AVE,  
WOOD RIVER, IL 62905**

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, in partnership with the Third Judicial Circuit Family Violence Prevention Council, and other community organizations, will be holding a press conference to launch April Child Abuse Prevention Month 2024.

Guest speakers include Judge Maureen Schuette; Erin Bickle, Executive Director, Refuge; Tarra Winters, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois; Stephanie Grigsby, Southern Regional Administrator- Child Protection, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Chief Judge Stephen Stobbs; and Senator Erica Harriss.



**We Wear BLUE**  
IN APRIL



IN RECOGNITION OF  
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

**WEAR BLUE DAY**  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

# Madison County Highway Department urges drivers to slow down, use caution during Work Zone Awareness Week



Improving work zone safety is a shared responsibility and the Madison County Highway Department wants to make sure drivers are paying attention.

“Every spring, Department of Transportation professionals across the country take part in the National Work Zone Awareness Week campaign,” County Engineer Adam Walden said.

He said the event, which will be held April 15-19, is a campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones.

“The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones,” Walden said.

THE NWZAW started in 1997 when a group of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff members, wanted to dedicate a week to raise awareness about work zone safety among all district employees before construction projects picked up during the warmer months. Following the successful promotion of this first event, VDOT brought the idea of raising awareness to other DOTs across the country.

In 1998, VDOT presented the idea to create a national campaign. In 2000, the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials launched the first NWZAW and in Springfield, Va.

The event now alternates each year from being hosted in Washington, D.C. to different locations across the country. This year, the Missouri Department of Transportation is hosting the event, which includes partnerships between state departments of transportation (DOT), national road safety organizations, government agencies, private companies and individuals.

The goals are:

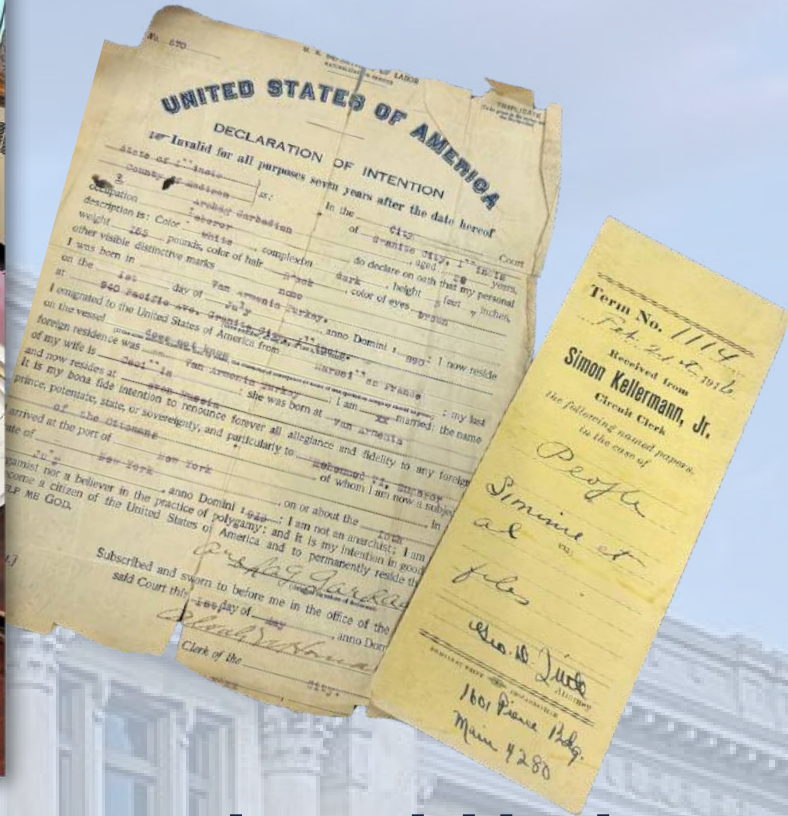
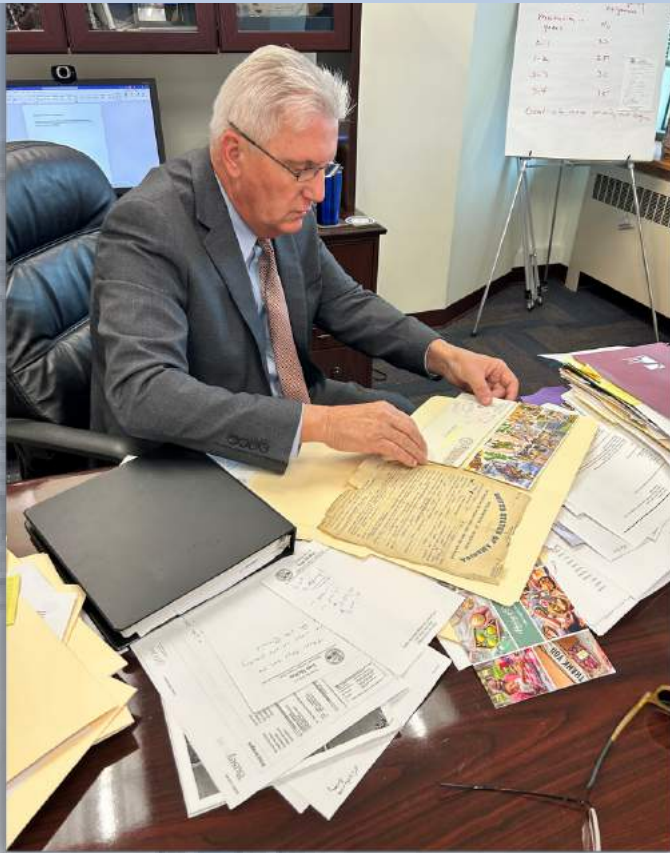
- Initiate efforts to raise awareness of the need for more caution when driving through work zones to decrease fatalities and injuries;
- Establish and promote a uniform set of safety tips;
- The value of training and importance of best practices in regard to work zone safety would be promoted among individuals in the private sector, industry, and roadway workers;
- Reach out to both roadway workers and contractors to communicate possible effects of motorists’ behavior in response to traffic delays, and advise on what steps might possibly be taken to lessen negative behavior; and
- Outreach efforts would be made to work with entities involved with work zone safety and to form partnerships.

This year’s theme is “Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever.” April 19 is a day dedicated to wearing orange in support of the families of victims who have lost their lives in work zones.

Visit [www.nwzaw.org](http://www.nwzaw.org) for more information or what you can do to participate.







## Madison County Circuit Clerk's Offices' digitization project uncovers fascinating documents

The Madison County Circuit Clerk's office discovered several "fascinating" and historic records during the completion of its first phase of a digitization project.

Circuit Clerk Tom McRae said he initiated the project more than a year ago to help streamline the process of court record searches and storage within the office. While completing the project, that included scanning more than 9 million documents, numerous historic records were discovered.

"We've been working on digitizing records for the past six months," Circuit Clerk Tom McRae said.

McRae, who is a self-proclaimed history buff said not only are the documents historical, but captivating as well.

One such record is that of Arshag Garbadian who applied for United States citizenship 1919. The document sheds a great deal of light on Garbadian's journey to become a naturalized citizen who eventually lived in Granite City.

He was born in Van Armenia, Turkey in 1890 and arrived in New York by ship through France in 1913. The 105-year-old yellowed and frayed document shows Garbadian's intention to "renounce all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly to Mehemed VI Emperor of the Ottomans of whom I am now a subject".

Other interesting items found include envelopes used in the office by former Circuit Clerk Willard V. "Butch" Portell in 1976. The front side of the envelopes are standard however the entire back is a scene highlighting the

United States Bi-Centennial including Paul Revere and George Washington and the Boston Tea Party.

The digitization project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, which McRae requested \$600,000 from the County Board. The first phase cost nearly \$200,000.

"I appreciate the support of the county board as this money will allow record searches and storage to be much less cumbersome", McRae said.

Alisa Adair, who is the Circuit Clerk's Office's manager of records and archives, described the digitization effort as a major step forward.

"Much of our records were stored on microfilm or microfiche," Adair said. "It had been degraded from so much use over the years and it was time consuming to locate needed records".

Court records will now be stored on the cloud and rather than cross-referencing paper documents and microfilm cases can be located on a computer.

McRae said that access to court documents is governed by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.

"I think people would be surprised that most records are open to the public," he said. "Our goal is to embrace technology that preserves the court records while making them as easily accessible as possible to all stakeholders."

# Madison County awards more than \$1.36 million in Park and Recreation Grants

**M**adison County is awarding \$1.36 million in funding for various park and recreational projects in communities throughout the county.

The County Board voted March 20 to authorize the \$1,366,573 in Park Enhancement Program (PEP) grant funding to municipalities, townships and park districts.

County Board member and Grants Committee Chair Denise Wiehardt of Pontoon Beach said since the establishment of PEP communities continue to benefit from the program.

“The PEP program is successful because of taxpayers,” Wiehardt said.

In 2000, voters approved a sales tax under the Illinois Metro-East Park and Recreation District Act that would go toward the improvements of parks and recreation facilities throughout the county. Madison County’s Community Development Department administers the PEP funding through Madison County Park and Recreation Grant Commission.

In 2024, PEP grants range between \$15,000 and \$152,000 and include funds for projects such ADA equipment, playground equipment, pickleball court and lights, fencing, landscaping, sporting equipment, solar lighting, picnic tables, tables and chairs, gazebos, mowers and more.

In the program’s 24 years, municipalities, townships and park districts received more than \$27 million in funding. The grants are applied on an annual basis.

“We have a vast network of parks and recreational facilities throughout the county,” County Board member and PEP Board Chair Dalton Gray of Troy said. “People in every community can go to their local park and point to something paid for with these grants.”

Both Wiehardt and Gray said not only do residents get to enjoy the county’s parks and recreational facilities, but so do visitors.

“This contributes and enhances the quality of life throughout the county,” Gray said.

## GRANTS FOR

### *Municipalities*

Alton	\$138,903
Bethalto	\$28,721
Collinsville	\$119,257
East Alton	\$32,065
Edwardsville	\$147,265
Glen Carbon	\$76,000
Godfrey	\$97,939
Hamel	\$15,000
Hartford	\$15,000
Highland	\$54,940
Livingston	\$13,000
Marine	\$15,000
Maryville	\$45,458
New Douglas	\$14,964
South Roxana	\$15,000
Williamson	\$15,000
Wood River	\$57,552
Worden	\$15,000

### *Townships*

Alhambra Township	\$15,000
Choteau Township	\$28,925
Collinsville Township	\$31,284
Foster Township	\$15,500
New Douglas Township	\$14,964
Wood River Township	\$26,804



### *Park Districts*

Granite City Park District	\$152,235
Roxana Community Park District	\$15,000
St. Jacob Park District	\$16,005
Tri-Township Park District	\$64,595
Venice Park District	\$15,000



# NEED HELP?

Housing  
Rental Assistance  
Mental Health Services  
Substance Abuse Treatment



MADISON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CAN HELP!

CALL or SCAN  
QR CODE  
(618) 296-5300



# JOB



# Openings

Visit [madisoncountyiil.gov](http://madisoncountyiil.gov) to search  
for job opportunities online

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS  
REGARDING YOUR COURT DATE AND TIME.



Thomas McRae  
Madison County Circuit Clerk



Simply scan QR Code to visit the website, click on the e-Notify link and enter the case number and phone number and/or e-mail address you would like notifications sent to.

[www.clericusmagnus.com/enotify\\_madison.htm](http://www.clericusmagnus.com/enotify_madison.htm)

- This is an optional service provided as a courtesy and is not a legal notice.
- It is not the responsibility of the Court to ensure the text message is received. This notification service does not serve as legal notice and failure to receive this notification does not excuse you from court appearances.
- It remains the defendant's/litigant's sole responsibility to keep track of court dates and times and to appear at all hearings set by the court.
- If you decide to opt-out of text reminders, you may respond at any time with Stop, Cancel, Quit, End or Unsubscribe.
- Canceling text messages does not cancel a court date.
- Message and/or data rates may apply.

NEED HELP LOOKING FOR A JOB?



Visit Madison County Employment & Training



FREE DROP OFF FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

\*APPOINTMENT REQUIRED\*

<https://RecycleResponsibly.as.me/hhwaste>



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SITE

OPEN EVERY MONTH - 1st Saturday & 3rd Friday



249 N. Old St. Louis Rd. Wood River, Illinois



# Madison County updates f o w l o r d i n a n c e

**M**adison County recently updated its zoning regulations on “urban” chickens, increasing the number of domestic fowl allowed on a property by one and hopefully reducing the number of requests for special use permits.

“During the past few years, we’ve seen a lot of special use permits go before the Zoning Board of Appeals and Building and Zoning Committee on chickens because residents are requesting to have more than five chickens,” Building and Zoning Administrator Chris Doucleff said. “By increasing the number of chickens. hens only, a property owner can have on an ‘urban’ acre it should reduce the number people applying for a special use permit.”

The board voted March 20 to update the ordinance within the county’s zoning regulation.

Doucleff said to keep regulations up to date with state and current zoning practices , ordinances are updated every few years.

Previously, homeowners were allowed up to five chickens on properties one acre or less, with a special use permit and could seek a variance to have more.

Homeowners will now be allowed up to six chickens on one acre or less with a special use permit. For properties larger than one acre, the permit would not be required but owners would be limited to six birds per acre.

Now homeowners will be allowed up to six chickens on one acre or less with a special use permit. For properties larger than one acre, the permit would not be required but owners would be limited to six birds per acre. For agriculturally-zoned land they would be limited to 10 “fowl,” including chickens, geese or ducks per acre, down from the current 12.

Because chickens are sold in pairs or flocks of six or more residents often expressed frustration about the need for a permit.

To ensure that the keeping of domestic fowl is done in a responsible manner that protects the public health, safety, and welfare and avoids conflicts with neighboring uses, Madison County Zoning enforces the following requirements:

- Roosters are prohibited.
- The slaughtering of chickens kept in residential areas as authorized by these regulations shall be done within an enclosed structure out of public view
- Fowl must have access to a covered enclosure.
- Fowl may not roam free and must be kept in a fenced enclosure at all times.
- Such enclosures must be clean, dry, and odor-free, and kept in a manner that will not disturb the use or enjoyment of adjacent lots.
- A metal sealable food container is required. Chicken feed shall be kept in a predator-proof/rodent-proof container.
- No person shall allow chickens to produce noise loud enough to disturb the peace of persons in surrounding properties.
- No chickens may be kept or maintained to be used for the purpose of fighting.
- Madison County Code Enforcement Officials and government health officials, or their designees, may inspect the conditions where the chickens are kept at any time during regular business hours.

For more information on the new ordinance visit [Building and Zoning Department's website](#).



**MADISON COUNTY  
EARTH DAY  
CLEAN UP**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 | 9 A.M. TO NOON**  
@ CORNER OF MADISON AVENUE AND WANDA ROAD, ROXANA (PARKING ON STREET IN FRONT OF WANDA CHURCH OR AT MCT BIKE TRAIL PARKING LOT. **DO NOT** PARK IN CHURCH PARKING LOT!)

**HELP COLLECT LITTER ALONG THE ROADS NEAR THE ROXANA LANDFILL**

SAFETY VESTS, GARBAGE BAGS, GLOVES AND LITTER GRABBERS PROVIDED

The poster features a globe icon at the top, a blue banner with event details, and an illustration of four people cleaning up litter on a globe. A yellow speech bubble indicates that safety vests, garbage bags, gloves, and litter grabbers are provided.



**E-WASTE  
RECYCLING EVENTS**

April 13  
June 15  
Sep. 14  
Oct. '12

8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**CJD Ecycling**  
5257 N State Route 157, Edwardsville, IL

The poster features the Madison County Illinois logo at the top, a background of e-waste, and two recycling symbols flanking the dates. The text provides details about the events, including the time and location.

FREE for Madison County Residents  
Registration required



Will take anything with a cord



**Free  
LITTER KITS  
AVAILABLE**

The poster features an illustration of a green garbage bag, an orange safety vest, and a pair of orange gloves. Below the illustration is a black litter grabber tool. A circular logo at the bottom left reads "BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE POLLUTION" and shows a person recycling. A QR code is located at the bottom right.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE POLLUTION

Scan the QR Code to find out more

Check out the Citizens Guide on the county's website to find out more on the operations of Madison County Government and its departments.



## Madison County Board Meetings



Check out the calendar to view upcoming County Board and Committee meetings.

The public is invited to attend County Board meetings, which are held in the Board Room at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, Ill.

Visit [www.madisoncountyil.gov](http://www.madisoncountyil.gov) for more information.



The Madison County Board Chairman appoints individuals to more than 70 boards and commissions with the advice and consent of the County Board. Click on the booklet to find out more.

