



## Dear Springfield Business Community,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve 11 years on the Springfield City Council. While I look forward to serving one final year, term limits are good for elected government officials. The next city council election will be in April 2023. We need more private sector representation on the council and I am prepared to help candidates who are willing to serve.

Please read the important information regarding our city pension debt in this month's Springfield Business Journal, and then help steer our mayor and next city council in a fiscally responsible direction.

Thank you,



Joe McMenamin Alderman Ward 7

#### **NEXT CITY ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE APRIL 2023**

#### 2023 CITY ELECTIONS TIMELINE

- Early Summer 2022 City Council approves new city ward boundaries
  - Late Summer 2022 Candidates circulate nominating petitions
    - Late Fall 2022 Candidates file their nominating petitions
      - February 28, 2023 Consolidated Primary
        - · April 4, 2023 Election

#### WE NEED MORE PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL

The present Council includes 7 active or retired career government/NFP employees.

During my 11 years on the Council, we have never had aldermanic representation from these private sector businesses/professions:

Banking
Investments
Engineering
Insurance

Accounting
Medical
Technology
Education
Builders

Manufacturing
Real Estate Contractors
Hotels

The City Council needs more participation from the business community to help guide the City towards a stronger fiscal position.

Please see the half page discussion of the City's pension debt problem - now \$439M - found later in this Business Journal.

Thanks, Joe McMenamin

Paid for by Friends of Joe McMenamin and in honor of Margot Kramer, Melvin Wing, and Kay MacKenzie

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#### Pick what brings you joy

I hope that after reading this month's issue of *SBJ* you feel inspired, and perhaps even motivated. This year's Women of Influence selectees have an exhaustive list of both professional and personal accomplishments, and showing the impact that one person can make on the community is the common denominator.

We had a record number of nominations this year, and the selection committee always looks for women who do more than what is required by their job. So while Betsy Dollar and Dr. Wendi Wills El-Amin are well-known for their work in art and medicine, respectively, both ladies serve on multiple nonprofit boards and champion a variety of other causes unrelated to their careers. Likewise, Emily Lewis is known for her business endeavors – three of them! – but has found many ways to use her companies and talents to give back to the community at large. Leslie Sgro and Sami Mander are full-time volunteers, using their education and expertise to promote causes they believe in, from fundraising and coordinating major projects and events to stocking micropantries around town.

And for those who think that only a select few have the ability to be influential, it is worth noting that four of the five Women of Influence are not Springfield-area natives; one is a first-generation immigrant. The exception is Emily Lewis, who grew up in the small town of Athens, and at age 28 is the youngest woman ever recognized for WOI.

This month's Q&A features another inspiring woman, Gina Lathan, who went from a teenage mother living in what is now known as Poplar Place to a business owner with a Ph.D. She now provides consulting services for the city and state for a variety of programs and has created an initiative to mentor young people, particularly minority youth, on their career paths.

Leslie Sgro said during her interview, "We can't do it all, it's overwhelming. Pick what brings you joy ... there are so many areas of need. But you have to do something. If we all do a little something in our area, great good happens."



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PHOTO COURTESY GINA LATHAN

& E A with Gina Lathan

By David Blanchette

Gina Lathan is a Springfield native who overcame obstacles of her own early in life and now seeks to inspire and motivate others. Being a teenage mother did not deter her from furthering her own education, eventually obtaining a doctorate in community health. She currently oversees a statewide COVID-response program but also has her own consulting business, LathanHarris, Inc. that provides project management and program evaluation

Lathan is currently working with the city of Springfield on the Restore, Reinvest and Renew program funded through cannabis legalization to reinvest in neighborhoods that have been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. Her company is also working with the Heartland Continuum of Care on a strategic plan to address homelessness. In addition, she is president of Route History, a museum where visitors can learn about the tragedy, resilience and excellence of Black people and Black-owned businesses along historic Route 66. The museum's nonprofit arm, Route History Institute, recently launched STEM UP, a program to give young adults the opportunity to learn about careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

#### What was life like for you while growing up?

I grew up in Springfield, and I have lived in several different places, but Springfield is truly home for me. One of my grandmothers lived at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Spruce streets, which is directly across from lles School, and my other grandmother lived three blocks away, so I'm very much connected to the east side of Springfield.

I attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and graduated from Springfield High School, so I'm a proud Springfield Senator. I have a master's degree in public health from the University of Illinois Springfield and a Ph.D. in community health with a specialization in public policy and program evaluation from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### What was your first job, and what did you learn from it?

I got my first job when I was 14 years old; I had to get a work permit, and I worked at a nursing home as a dietary aide. It was very natural for me to work with older people because of my close relationship with and high regard for my grandmothers. So it was second nature for me to be caring, considerate, respectful and listening to them tell me their stories and appreciate and learn from them.

#### How did you overcome obstacles in your life?

I was a teenage mother, and early on while raising my children I lived in Evergreen Terrace, which is now Poplar Place. But I also had a support system of my family, plus support from places that I wasn't necessarily familiar with. I always had a desire to learn and grow, and I knew if I wanted to get to where I was going, I had to educate myself and step outside of my comfort zone. It took a lot of self-discipline and hard work. I had to prioritize what I wanted, not only for myself but for my two sons. I sought out different types of internships, leadership programs and fellowships. I had some great mentors and created a support system that was invaluable.

#### How did you juggle being a single mother with all of your other obligations?

It was very natural; my two sons went where I went and they did what I did. They had a childhood that was built on service, and I think it has benefited them. My oldest son is a Springfield police officer, and going into that position he was familiar with people who had to go to the food bank, to clothing drives and giveaways. He had learned to be respectful of people who had less than he had, or were experiencing life challenges such as chemical dependency or mental health issues.

#### What is your current job?

I am very fortunate to be able to do a lot of the work that I'm very passionate about. I am currently overseeing a state COVID-response program that covers over 25 counties in Illinois. We are able to do health education work and provide resources for families that are impacted by COVID.

#### What was it like having former U.S. Surgeon General Jocelyn Elder as a mentor?

I was a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Health Disparities Research Institute Fellow and it gave me the opportunity to be mentored by Dr. Elders. She's a hard worker. I had read previously how she had worked in the fields and picked cotton in her family business and worked her way up through the public health leadership ranks. Because she worked so hard, her expectation was that all of those whom she mentored were to work as hard, if not harder, than she did.

#### How are you involved in the Restore, Reinvest and Renew project?

My company, Lathan Harris Inc., is spearheading the R-3 planning and assessment project for the city of Springfield, and that has allowed us to have a lot of one-on-one conversations with people who live in the area called "The Box" from 11th Street to Martin Luther King Drive and from Cook Street to South Grand. I've done a lot of walking those streets and knocking on doors and it's been a great experience, especially since I have family and a lot of childhood friends that grew up in that area. I am able to talk to residents old and new about what the community once was and what their hopes, expectations and desires are for the community. They have great ideas and a strong desire to reinvest in their community.

#### How do you feel about the work you are doing with the STEM-UP program?

There are a lot of unknowns in the

community regarding STEM education and career opportunities that can be lifechanging for individuals and their families. It's a great honor to be able to work with so many of our community partners to introduce or reintroduce the importance of STEM and build on the great work that has already been done in the community. It's our hope with STEM-UP to be able to collaborate and learn from those who have already done the work.

#### What have you learned as you work with the Heartland Continuum of Care on a strategic plan to address homelessness?

I used to live in Denver, and during that time I was a court diversion coordinator and worked with a program that was similar to drug court in Sangamon County. I'm very familiar with a lot of the challenges, experiences and programming around serving people who have experienced homelessness. What this experience has introduced me to is what happens when the dots are not connected early on for individuals who are traumatized, have been harmed and who have never received appropriate services. A lot of times we see people and we make assumptions, but many people are living with emotional pain and scars. I commend the Continuum for recognizing that there's a need for us to identify a better way of doing the work that needs to be done.

#### Why did you become involved in politics?

Early on I realized there were decisions being made at a local, state and national level that impacted the life I lived and people that I cared about. I knew that to have any type of power or influence in the process, I had to be a part of that process.

#### What advice would you give to young people today?

Use your voice for excellence. That excellence could be through yourself, your community, the world you live in, the projects you are working on. Never before have young people been able to reach the masses on an international level like they can today. Recognize the power and responsibility in that. Also recognize the power of financial literacy and financial intelligence. Understand at an early age that the dollars you spend matter, individually and collectively.





## LESLIE SGRO

By Carey Smith

"I've always tried to give to others all the positive things that I have received," says Leslie Sgro of her life's mission.

Sgro calls herself doubly blessed: first, by being raised in a tightknit and loving family, then marrying into the same kind of family. All the love, care and support she has received through the years, she puts into her service to her community.

Born near Washington, D.C., in Bethesda, Maryland, Sgro was first influenced by her mother, "who very modestly and quietly broke down barriers" by attending business school and law school, working with Ralph Nader's anti-trust group, then becoming a commercial real estate developer.

After attending graduate school, Sgro moved with her husband, Greg, back to his hometown of Springfield. It did not take long for her to "find a dynamic group of wonderful women who were definitely mentors to me as a group, and helped me," said Sgro. That left a lasting impression on Sgro who says she feels "very strongly that we should all help each other. We have to pass that on."

Sgro has been president of the Springfield Park District board of trustees since 1991. "I look at how much we've been able to accomplish and help change recreation as the need for that change has emerged. We're a dynamic and fluid organization. I'm very proud of that. As people have come to us with things they'd like to see in the community, we've been responsive."

Sheila Stocks-Smith, who nominated Sgro for this award, adds that during Sgro's tenure, Springfield has seen "a new ice rink, education buildings, a zoo building, a botanical gardens building and new infrastructure, systems and equipment throughout the park district. She has overseen a changing district, adding the first-ever park completely designed for citizens of all abilities, with a LEED platinum-certified building (LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership). Thanks to Leslie's strong leadership, we have new dog parks, accessible playgrounds, Frisbee golf, a second sheet of ice at the Nelson Center, skate parks, splash pads and much more.

"Recently she has championed, and received, a grant for a \$1 million project for Comer Cox Park in east Springfield and submitted a funding request to significantly improve Kiwanis Park for the hundreds of families residing in nearby apartments. She has literally given 30 years of her time to building a first-class park system available to every resident in and visitors to Springfield. It is important to note that Leslie receives no salary or compensation of any

kind for her service to the Park District," says Stocks-Smith.

For Sgro, the effort is worth it when she sees the results of her work. "When I go out there and see families enjoy it, kids playing there, people having events that may not otherwise be able to, I get an enormous sense of satisfaction. I helped with that. I don't think I did it – it's a team effort. We have a great board, terrific staff, a community that believes in us. I have made my community a little better place to live, a neighborhood a better place to live."

Sgro's accomplishments are not limited to the Park District. She is a regular volunteer with St. Martin de Porres Center, an organization which provides food and clothing to those in need. Sgro is gearing up for a capital campaign to renovate the existing structure, as well as build a storage unit behind it. Sgro says she has faith the campaign will succeed. "Springfield is an incredibly generous community. I've always been struck by that," she notes.

When the pandemic began, demand on places like St. Martin's rose dramatically. It was then that Sgro got involved in the micropantry scene, spearheaded by Lynn Ehmen. "I recognize a good idea when I see it. It struck a chord with me that this needed to happen," says Sgro, who is part of the support group of volunteers filling micropantries with food and toiletries on a regular basis.

"Helping was expected when I was growing up," states Sgro. "You were expected to do something to make a difference. Nobody told you what to do, but it was expected. I told my kids, we should all try to make the world a little better. We can't do it all, it's overwhelming. Pick what brings you joy, whether medicine, politics, helping people, educating people – there are so many areas of need. But you have to do something. If we all do a little something in our area, great good happens.

"I hope that I've made a difference, and made other peoples' lives a bit better. And that, to me, is plenty. That's a good legacy."



## EMILY LEWIS

By Holly A. Whisler

They now have a 5-month-old daughter, Elmah, and

a 2-year-old daughter, Esther. She says that family

At eight years of age, Emily Lewis showed up at school each day prepared for the moment someone might ask her about one of her three business plans, which is why she kept them in her back pocket. At home, she had vision boards that further illustrated her dreams of owning businesses where she would feed people, and one of those businesses would be dedicated to the enjoyment of ice cream.

Did this first grader have a business? Of course – the Flamingo Cafe in Athens. Lewis smiles as she recounts her first cafe located ever-so-conveniently in the home where she grew up. At the Flamingo, she served what every 8-year-old craves – chicken nuggets, pizza and macaroni and cheese. Her dad was the graphic designer for the pretend cafe owner and his job was to type the menu. Her father asked his young daughter if this was something she wanted to do when she got older. She answered without hesitation, as she already had a burning desire to do just that – to feed people.

As years went by, Lewis said visions of the future changed from what seemed to be corny to something more refined. While in high school, her father encouraged her consider a career that would provide stability, and she decided to become a doctor. Once her career path was declared, the focus for the remainder of high school was preparing specifically for college, no other options or avenues were discussed.

Lewis went to college and majored in biology. She was attending class and doing her best, but wasn't excited or passionate about her future career. "I was going the safe route," said Lewis. It wasn't exciting, not like the dream of owning a bakery, cafe or an ice cream shop. Careers in hospitality require a great deal of work and could be considered less predictable and less stable, but to Lewis they are exciting and provoke passion. and she had no doubt she could accomplish such a dream.

Fortunately, while in college Lewis met Tim, the man who would become her husband. He knew she could do it, and they decided to accomplish the dream together. They had an unwavering faith that they would do whatever it took to ensure this dream succeeded.

Lewis admits she left college against her father's wishes, but she felt God was leading her to this dream, that this was His plan for her life. She would feed people delicious food and He would feed them the sustenance they truly needed.

"My faith is important to me. It's at the heart of everything I do. Even if things get tough, I know something good is coming from it, and I will praise Him through the storm," said Lewis. "My favorite

comes first and balance happens because she and part about the business of feeding people is the Tim are in it together. They take turns being either good work that goes on behind it. If money wasn't a the primary parent or the primary business partner necessity, I would feed and the children go wherever she and Tim need to for free." Lewis said, "Tim and I know how to perform every position within each business so if a staff person cannot come in, one of us can perform that function." She admits that when two people at two different locations need to be gone at the same time that it can be a little cumbersome, but it's the way they planned it, and it's working for them. Lewis said her age usually catches people off guard, especially when she's asked by a customer if they can speak to a manager and she offers to help. She has accomplished a great deal at a young age, and if she could offer advice to young people, she would acknowledge that there is a heavy emphasis on going to college, often to the exclusion of the trades, including culinary arts. 'Baking is a trade," said Lewis. She encourages oung people to explore what speaks to them and to consider all options of education and training. Lewis said, "Let the expectations go, take the pressure off and you'll find what you enjoy. When you find joy in your job and it's something you're Lewis and her husband co-own and operate Three Twigs Bakery, Biscuits & Brunch and The Salted Lemon Market & Creamery. If three about, you'll find businesses aren't enough, she and Tim wanted to start their family young, and that's what they did. secure yourself, and you

short for regrets."

## SAMMIMANDER

By Karen Ackerman Witter

passing on."

Sammi Mander was born and raised in India and has made Springfield her home since 2005. She has dedicated her life to giving back to the community where she lives, as well as her home country, drawing inspiration from her family heritage. Mander is past president of the Asian Indian Women's Organization and a longtime leader in the organization which has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to local charities.

India Night is the most prominent activity of the AIWO. The event generates substantial funds while also raising awareness of Indian culture. Mander has chaired the gala multiple times, raising over \$315,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities, HSHS St. John's Hospital's Neonatal ICU renovation and M.E.R.C.Y. Communities.

The biennial gala was cancelled during the pandemic. Nevertheless, due to Mander and her colleagues' leadership, the AIWO raised more than \$40,000 for The Outlet, which provides mentoring and counseling programs for at-risk youth from fatherless homes. This funding helped The Outlet address the problem of food insecurity among families and ensure students had access to updated audiovisual technology for online learning. The AIWO also helped the community during the pandemic by sewing face masks, donating over 220 to Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach and the Mississippi River Valley Blood Center.

In 2021, the surge in COVID cases in India led to an acute shortage of oxygen supply units and basic medical supplies. Mander rallied the Springfield community and led a joint effort by the AIWO, India Association of Greater Springfield and the Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield in partnership with Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach to raise funds and dispatch muchneeded medical resources to rural and tribal areas in India. This "Breath for India" campaign generated over \$140,000, delivering essential oxygen equipment, PPE, home care kits and selfmonitoring devices such as oximeters to the poorest and most under-resourced areas of India.

Mander is a former marketing executive and public relations professional, having served as a communication manager for Nike's licensee in India, among other positions. She applies this expertise in all of her volunteer service. In addition to her leadership role with the AIWO, Mander has been an active community volunteer with other organizations for many years. She was vice president and a board member of the lles Elementary School PTO, raised \$50,000 for the American Diabetes Association in 2016 through the Kiss a Pig campaign and served on the Kidzeum of Health and Science Board of Directors. She also led a fundraising effort to benefit the America Nepal Medical Foundation's aid to earthquake victims in Nepalese villages.

Mander is a member of the advisory council for the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln and plays a leadership role with the Women for Women giving circle. She is a member of the steering committee and also chairs the grants committee. In this capacity, she helps lead a thoughtful and deliberative process to review applications and determine which worthy organizations will receive grants from the Women's Fund. Mander also serves as an ambassador of the Hope Institute, serving as an advocate and voice for children with developmental disabilities.

In 2020, Mander hosted HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital's first gala night, 'Miracule,' which was attended by over 500 of Springfield's medical specialists. The purpose of the event was to recognize hospital heroes and the families of pediatric patients who had been impacted by these medical specialists. Her nominee wrote, "A first-generation immigrant, Mander has embraced our community and taken advantage of every opportunity to help and serve. Drawing upon her experience as a marketing executive, she l used her skill sets to focus on helping those in need by reaching and engaging diverse stakeholders, helping them empathize and drawing their support for various causes. Being a strong social justice advocate, she has devoted endless hours, used her expertise and passionate voice to bring people together and affect change, one cause at a time." "Finding a purpose bigger than oneself and walking alongside people who have the heart to love, care and give of themselves, is an experience like no other," says Mander. "To think about the many causes being championed and just as many that have yet to find a voice, is to be open to opportunity where one can be a doer, a problemsolver and an investor in the larger good. That to me is a life welllived, and WOMEN of Influence a legacy worth

## DR. WENDI WILLS EL-AMIN

By Pamela Savage

Dr. Wendi Wills El-Amin did not always aspire to be a physician. Raised the daughter of a doctor and an educator in Houston, Texas, Wills El-Amin wondered whether it was even possible for a woman to be both a physician and a mother. Wishing to one day have a family, she started her freshman year at Virginia's Hampton University as a psychology major, hoping to perhaps go into social work or education.

During her time at Hampton, an insightful mentor told a young Wendi that her altruistic nature and diverse interests in social justice, psychology and education made her well-suited for a career in medicine, and so she jumped in and took it on faith that she could one day manage motherhood and medicine.

Fortunately, Wills El-Amin did make it to Georgetown University for medical training, and to Springfield, where in addition to being a practicing family physician and a mother to three daughters, she is the associate dean for equity, diversity and inclusion at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

Wills El-Amin credits SIU School of Medicine as being a workplace that champions female physicians, "I once reduced my time practicing medicine when my children were younger. I am here at SIU because they have created an environment for working moms to be able to practice medicine and be deans.

Previously, I didn't know there was a place where I could do this."

As a physician leader, Wills El-Amin uses her position and influence to make the invisible visible for both her patients and students here in Springfield. She believes deeply in peoples' potential, and she puts power and passion into her work each and every day.

Wills El-Amin says she works hard to make her patients' needs visible, citing that as a physician, "you have to be proximate to people's narratives and lived experiences." She believes that being a family physician allows her to see the continuum of the human experience, from babyhood to aging. It is this closeness that allows

Wills El-Amin the opportunity to be an advocate and healer for individuals and the community at large.

Says Willis El-Amin of her work, "We don't want patients to keep secrets about who they are. We can't heal when there are secrets.

for the needs of the community and to help others tap into their potential. Says Wills El-Amin, "There is a lot of missed talent out there, so I ask, 'How as a community do we really utilize all the resources that we have?""

One community-based project that Wills El-Amin is excited to help lead is the Health DEPOTS program (DEPOTS is an acronym for Delivering Equity Places Outside Traditional Settings). A collaboration between SIU School of Medicine's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and faithbased and community organizations like the

Springfield Urban League and the NAACP, Health DEPOTS places health care professionals into the greater community to provide screenings, services and information. Providers meet their patients where they are to monitor things like weight, blood pressure or blood sugars, allowing people to make honest and informed decisions about their own health practices.

"We saw the importance of being able to monitor patients outside of traditional settings during COVID. Our patients were asking about things like hypertension, diabetes and

obesity, so Health DEPOTS
allow us to connect with
patients in different ways
outside the walls of SIU and
to build trust within the
community we serve,"
she said.

Out of her many roles, Wills El-Amin's most important role is that of mother to her three daughters, who she calls her earth, wind and fire. "A lot of my decisions are based on thinking: What is the world that I want for

my girls to live in?' I want my daughters and other peoples' daughters to be leaders. I want them to have the same pay as everyone else. I want their voices not only to be heard, but to be translated into something meaningful."

That isn't to say it's always easy. Like so many working mothers, Wills El-Amin readily and humbly admits that wearing multiple hats can be hard, very hard in fact. When she is overwhelmed, she returns to her commitment to honesty and authenticity and asks herself: "Who were you before the world told you who you were supposed to be?" In doing so, she allows herself and others the space and grace to simply be who they are.

SIU MEDICINE

When people don't feel comfortable and don't trust, they won't bring their full story, and if you don't have the right diagnosis, you won't have the right treatment."

Wills El-Amin brings this same commitment to honesty into her work as an equity advocate and community leader for the greater Springfield region. Wills El-Amin is on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club, Springfield YMCA, Springfield Memorial Foundation and the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, all organizations that allow her to be a spokesperson

## BETSY DOLLAR

By Karen Ackerman Witter

Betsy Dollar is a tireless champion for the arts. She has raised the visibility of the arts throughout Springfield, made art more accessible to people of all ages and expanded the role of the Springfield Art Association as a community arts center. She has served as executive director of the SAA since 2009.

Growing up in a family of artists, Dollar has been an artist all her life. Her specialty is printmaking and handmade paper. Recently, she had a solo exhibition of her exquisite work at the UIS Visual Arts Gallery. She is also dedicated to creating opportunities for others to develop an appreciation of art and discover their own creativity. She has taught art to people of all ages, curated innumerable exhibitions and implemented creative initiatives to reach new audiences in engaging ways.

The SAA is a long-standing Springfield institution, founded in 1913. Dollar says the "founding mothers" believed everyone could be inspired and healed through art. "Their desire to improve society through the arts means very different things now, but the same idea rings true," says Dollar. "True invention and progress springs out of imagination and the arts. We are doing everything we can here to nurture a creative, supportive environment that values imagination and offers skill-building activities for people of all ages." Her intent is to embrace the philosophy of the founding mothers and reinterpret it in a 21st century model.

Current and former staff members sing Dollar's praises. She is a mentor to many, giving staff the freedom to work independently and try new things while providing a light, guiding hand when needed. She believes in teamwork, fosters a collaborative work environment and is quick to share credit with others. Staff members are encouraged to advance professionally and pursue other personal and professional ventures, including serving on boards of other organizations. Erika Holst, former curator of Edwards Place, describes Dollar as a mentor who celebrates creativity and gives her staff the freedom to come up with their own ideas and develop their strengths. "Under Betsy's mentorship, I developed from a novice curator to a leader of Springfield's history community and an accomplished historian," said Holst.

The community is the true beneficiary. Dollar's fingerprints are on virtually everything to do with the visual arts in Springfield – murals throughout the city, the annual Paint the Street event, an art gallery in the heart of downtown, renovation of the historic Edwards Place, summer art camps, art classes and events for youth and adults, expanded studio space, artist-in-residencies and creative collaborations with other organizations to make art enjoyable and

accessible to people of all ages and all walks of life.
Dollar laughingly describes her position as ringleader of a five-ring circus.

Dollar played a pivotal role with the Centennial Capital Campaign, launched to fulfill the SAA's vision for a successful second century. Results included interior restoration of Edwards Place, remodeling the M.G. Nelson Family Gallery, updating existing studios and constructing new studio space for classes and demonstrations in glass, ceramics and metals.

Dollar also led a highly successful merger of the Prairie Art Alliance and the Springfield Art Association. The SAA Collective is now located in the historic Broadwell Pharmacy building on Fifth and Washington streets and is both an exhibition and retail space for local artists.

Dollar believes in partnerships and has managed successful collaborations with the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, McClernand Elementary School, Hope School, Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts & Research Center and the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau. Some of her most notable accomplishments include the development of an ART AS THERAPY program for dementia and stroke survivors, partnering with the Garvey-Tubman Center to install murals on the east side of Springfield, renovating historic Edwards Place to its 19th century Lincoln-era appearance and expanding and diversifying art programs.

Dollar's leadership even extends to other nonprofit organizations. She served on the Dana-Thomas House Foundation board and Kidzeum board where she is currently board president. She is on the board of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and was a key player in developing the Creative Reuse Marketplace and securing a significant grant from the Women for Women Fund of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

Dollar delights in seeing children beam with pride when they show a parent something they created and also witnessing an adult having the nerve to try a new skill. She is especially gratified to hear positive comments from community members about art being more visible in Springfield. "People are noticing and appreciating the art," says Dollar.

We have Dollar to thank for that; she is truly a woman of influence.



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## 2022 Women of Influence

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6699 -

We continue to recognize women in our community who have not only made great strides in their career but have strengthened our community through their volunteerism year after year. Women are leaders everywhere you go; our country and our communities were built by strong women. We will continue to see great things from these individuals.

Stephan Paul Antonacci, President and CEO



Beverly Hicks-Gibson Chief Financial Officer Springfield Urban League



Sarah J. Delano Pavlik Attorney Delano Law Offices



Brenda Minder Chief Financial Officer



Mary Ann Dunn VP, Project Management Corporate Secretary



**Karen Hansen** VP, Human Resources



Rachel Johns VP, Retail



**Destiny Nance-Evans** VP, Sales & Marketing



Sheila Courville
VP, Mortgage Operations



Tammy Gilchrese AVP, Loan Servicing



Haley Fitzgerald Consumer and Mortgage Lender



**Olivia Hansel** Sr. Branch Operations Manager



**Chelsea Venable**Sr. Branch Operations Manager



**Katie Pinkston**Branch Operations Manager



Concetta Siciliano
Financial Advisor,
SB Financial



Security Bank is the founder and continuing sponsor of the Women of Influence program, which allows us to recognize area women for their outstanding contributions to our community. As a local bank with many female officers and directors, we are especially proud to recognize these women for their leadership, both in their professiona and personal lives. Congratulations to this year's Women of Influence recipients.



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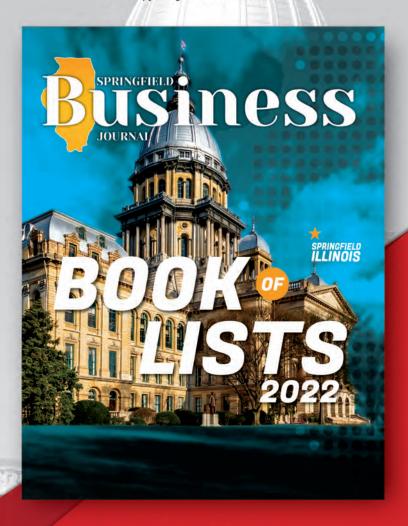


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#### Primo Designs and Gorham's Specialty Advertising join forces

By David Blanchette

A Springfield business that started decades ago in a duplex basement continues to grow, and recently merged with another local firm to provide a one-stop source for branded apparel and specialty items.

Primo Designs is based out of a 15,000-squarefoot facility on North Grand Avenue East, a far cry from its humble beginnings in 1985 when owner Len Naumovich moved the operation out of his garage. Primo's merger with Gorham's Specialty Advertising, effective March 30, is just the latest in the firm's tale of steady, adaptable growth.

"Gorham's is a highly respected, family-owned business that has been a leader in the advertising specialties field for 65 years," Naumovich said. "Because of the product lines they offer and their customer-focused approach, Gorham's is a tremendous fit for our team."

Rita Bushkill, vice president of sales at Gorham's, said the timing was ideal for the two companies to merge.

"Although we are in the same industry, we tend to complement one another rather than compete directly," Bushkill said. "We've broached the possibility informally over the years, but now with supply chain issues and how the dynamics of work have changed, the power of the two businesses together makes sense."

Primo had been a contract decorator for Gorham's apparel items for 25 years, Naumovich said, so the two firms were very familiar with each other prior

to the merger. Gorham's has closed its South Fifth Street location, and its operations and several of its employees have moved to Primo's headquarters.

"It's now a one-stop shop for branding," Naumovich said. "Our business card states, 'Be your own brand." Naumovich started screen printing T-shirts in the garage of his Springfield residence to make some extra money to help support his family. His first significant order came from a professional women's golf tournament at The Rail Golf Course when The Rail manager had Naumovich print 100 shirts that read, "Follow the world's greatest women drivers."

"It was very simple. I printed them and hung them out on the clothesline in my yard to dry, and I'd bring them in my garage if it started to rain," Naumovich said.



Top: A large screen printing machine an action as it produces hundreds of branded t-shirts. Left: The embroidery area at Primo Designs, with a row of hats being decorated for a customer. Right: A Primo Designs employee applies lettering to a small-run order of t-shirts. PHOTOS BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

But the side business turned into his primary business when Naumovich, who admits he "failed miserably" in the insurance business, went back to college, sold his house and ith a relative.

"I was looking for a way to make a few bucks to help support my family while I was in college," Naumovich said. "I bought a T-shirt press and put it in the basement of this duplex in Springfield. I imaged screens on a home-made grow light and washed them out in the shower stall in the basement."

The business grew by referrals and personal contacts through friends and relatives. Soon, Naumovich began to add employees. He moved the operation to an old grocery store and then to another building on North Grand Avenue, with each move adding more space and capacity. Primo's current location used to be Country Closeouts, and the large, open complex currently houses 21 employees.

"I don't know if there was ever this awakening that this is what I wanted to do with my life, it's just that I kept doing it and we kept growing," Naumovich said. "But like a lot of people, it was a craft. It was just something I knew how to do."

Primo specializes in branded apparel, items that Naumovich said help different businesses, schools or organizations to identify themselves. He said that the firm's "be your own brand" slogan means that you need to take credit for who and what you are.

"When you are successful, nobody else can share that with you. Nike loves to come in and attach to a state champion, but they don't do it until you're a state champ," Naumovich said. "They didn't make you a champion, your hard work and coaching and dedication made you one."

The only hiccup, and it was a big one, was COVID-19. The pandemic forced Primo to downsize, from 32 employees to 12 at the time, and to intensely focus on the mix of customers they wished to serve. Primo had been heavily involved with school and league athletics, and they remain so, but that business sector is very labor-intensive and not highly profitable.

"We started working with medical and health care, and they were some of the people who were working through the pandemic," Naumovich said. "(We printed) lab coats and scrubs for places like HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic and SIU School of Medicine. We decided this is a great market for us."

Primo also serviced other businesses that were fully operational during the pandemic, such as vital industries, contractors and trucking firms. The firm also beefed up its website sales and now on-line ordering is a major part of the business, even though

most customers are from the area.

The pandemic has also created supply chain issues that continue to plague businesses like Primo that depend on a lot of supplies to meet customer demands. Naumovich said costs for a shipping container of plain baseball-type hats have gone from a pre-pandemic price of \$3,500 to a current charge of \$30,000 per container, and many of those containers are still waiting to be unloaded off the coast of California.

Other international issues are affecting supplies of ink, particularly white ink, which is used in much of the printing that Primo does.

"A mineral component in white ink is only mined in two places, and one of them is Ukraine," Naumovich said. "So now they're saying, you'd better get white ink and bulk up your supply for the year because the shortage is coming."

The 65-year-old Naumovich said he's in no hurry to leave the business and that he has a good, young leadership team in place to ensure continuity for the future.

"I love the business, and to watch something work very well is rewarding," Naumovich said. "Our people are super-talented up and down the line. We have some really good people."

#### Job seekers (mostly) call the shots now

By Holly A. Whisler

In the spring of 2020, a pandemic forever changed the way America goes to work. A year later, some businesses had closed permanently, while others were surviving by working remotely. And in spite of a high unemployment rate, Springfield-area staffing agencies reported having a surplus of jobs and not enough applicants to fill them.

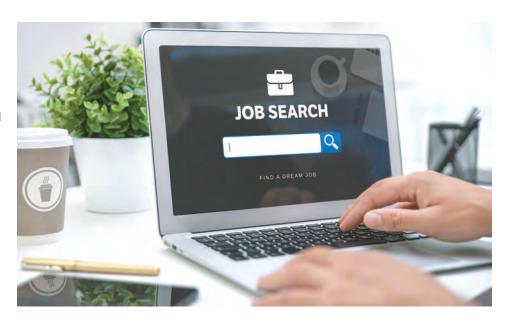
Now the economy is slowly recovering as the inflation rate — the highest it's been since 1981 — is putting the hurt on people's budgets, especially at the grocery store and gas station. Day-to-day life is looking more familiar as mask mandates have expired, office buildings have repopulated at least a portion of their employees and COVID cases have slowed, in part due to a 68% vaccination rate in Illinois. How has this progress impacted the job market trends of 2022?

Ginette Comstock, director of operations for Manpower of Central Illinois, said, "We are seeing more job seekers willing to look for work." Manpower primarily staffs manufacturing and clerical support positions, and Comstock was happy to say that hiring is strong in both sectors.

Dixie Ladd, president at StaffQuick, a full-service staffing agency serving Illinois, Missouri and Indiana, said when comparing job market trends of 2021 to 2022, things are looking up. "We're seeing an increase in job seekers this year. Applicants are not as wary to work side-by-side in a work environment now that COVID cases are significantly lower than years past." Ladd says this is a "job seekers' market" and noted there are plenty of jobs available, which allows job seekers to be selective.

This has resulted in a trend where employees are quick to resign and take a different job for better pay. Termed the Job Quits Rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been tracking it since 2001. According to tradingeconomics.com, the "Job Quits Rate in the United States averaged 1.96% from 2000 until 2022, reaching an all-time high of 3% in September of 2021."

Ladd said, "This has encouraged employers to raise pay, not only to attract new talent, but to retain the top performers they currently have." Comstock has seen pay rates increase significantly and candidates are "holding the



line for more pay and often getting it, even with entry-level positions. They won't take minimum wage if they bring enough skills to the table." For example, a manufacturing job in 2021 might have paid \$13 an hour; now that same job pays \$17.

Ladd attributes the current Job Quits Rate to people having a poor work ethic. Ladd said, "Work ethics are a problem everywhere, including Springfield. Employees can be very impatient and want it all before taking the time to prove themselves to the employer. It's very hard to coach employees who have no loyalty or desire to do better."

Comstock said the Job Quits Rate is one thing, but the pattern of behavior among job seekers last year created a whole new phenomena — ghosting. Ghosting is when a candidate has accepted a job offer, executed all necessary screenings and then does not show up on the first day of work. These people do not offer an explanation to the employer and they are no longer reachable by phone or email. She explained that ghosting is likely due to job seekers entertaining multiple offers, negotiating pay and then making a lastminute decision.

Looking at the trends among job seekers in 2022, there are more people actively seeking employment as compared to 2021, but there are still more positions than people to fill

them. What can be done to create a robust workforce in 2022 and beyond?

Ladd said, "Employees want job security, health benefits, paid time off and to be recognized as key members of the company. They value time at home with their families and weekends off." She continued, "Pay is big, and so is flexibility of time off to take care of sick children, family members or themselves. People understand that they need to take care of themselves."

Comstock said, "It used to be that not calling off for 30 years was a point of pride, but now we know the importance of taking care of ourselves."

Lack of available day care facilities was a big obstacle in 2021, and although there appears to be more access to day care options in 2022, it still presents a challenge for many. Camila Beiner of NPR reported in January 2022 that private industry was seeing employers providing on-site or near-site day care centers, along with expanded backup care and flexible work schedules, so parents could be gainfully employed while also taking care of their families.

Both Ladd and Comstock agree that employees want stability. Today, job seekers and those currently employed recognize stability in the companies that survived the pandemic lockdown.



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1	Express Employment Professionals 3000 Professional Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-3000 expresspros.com/springfieldil jobs.springfieldil@expresspros.com	29	1	Kayla Edwards, managing partner J.T. Britton, franchise partner Zachery Britton, director of learning	HR and workforce strategies. Specializing in administrative, accounting, engineering and industrial careers, skilled trades, temporary, contract and direct placement.	1980
2	<b>StaffQuick</b> 681 E. Linton Ave. Springfield, IL 62703	217-787-9400 staffquickjobs.com springfield@staffquickjobs.com	19	0	Morgan Edmiston, vice president Donna Hudson, regional manager	Full service staffing agency including temp and direct-hire, clerical, light industrial, professional and executive HR consulting and outplacement services.	2002
3	<b>Manpower</b> 2719 W. Monroe St., Suite A Springfield, IL 62704	217-528-2323 manpowerillinois.com springfield.il@manpower.com	12	0	Ginette Comstock, director of operations Angela Rhode, regional manager	Professional, administrative, industrial, accounting, customer service, HR services, direct-hire, on-site services, recruitment process outsourcing.	1948
4	<b>Kelly Services, Inc.</b> 3001 Montvale Drive, Suite B Springfield, IL 62704	217-793-1226 kellyservices.com 2442@kellyservices.com	3	0	LaManda Fox, account executive	Staffing solutions. Temporary, temporary-to -hire, direct placement, vendor on site, clerical, light industrial, Forklift University.	1946
4	Innovative Staff Solutions 1425 Stevenson Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-585-1620 www.staffsolutions.com	3	0	Derek Meinhart, owner Jamie Woodcock, branch manager	Workforce management company offering staffing solutions for temporary, temp-to-hire, direct-hire and on-site management. We place candidates for professional, administrative and light industrial positions.	1994

#### CITY of SPRINGFIELD

#### 27 YEARS OF UNBALANCED BUDGETS AND DEEPENING SPRINGFIELD PENSION DEBT

CITY FIRE and POLICE PENSION DEBT in SUMMARY per the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

1995 - \$15M

2008 - \$115M

2018 - \$331M

2021 - \$439M

COMMENTS - In 2019 Governor Pritzker signed reform legislation to transfer some 700 separate Police and Fire pension investment funds into two central investment pools (with sub accounting for each local fund). The purpose was to lower management costs and achieve higher rates of return. The transfer timetable was to end this June 2022.

However, some local Police Pension funds resisted and filed suit in Kane County where the assigned Circuit Judge has yet to rule despite briefs and oral arguments on the merits last year. As a result, only half of the local pension fund transfers have occurred.

If the Judge strikes down the reform legislation, the litigation then likely goes to the Illinois Supreme Court on direct appeal. In summary, these Police and Fire Pension reforms sit in legal jeopardy with messy unknown outcomes.

Our Mayors and City Councils for many years have let our City Pension debt escalate, while often looking for state level solutions. But the hard cold reality is that our City must find its own solutions through spending restraint and careful revenue enhancement. I voted NO last year to subsidizing the Scheels Sports Complex with \$30M of future City tax revenue. I also voted NO to this year's City budget, for the 11th time.

In my opinion we need more private sector participation on the City Council to achieve better fiscal and strategic planning. Please see SBJ inside front cover.

This report prepared and paid by Joe McMenamin, attorney and alderman, as a public service.



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# trends

## OFFICE DESIGN

These changes will affect how companies buy and use space

Trends in office space size and configuration undoubtedly will affect office leasing and sales. What will the office of the future look like and how will it affect commercial real estate? To find out, the Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute asked Steelcase, a manufacturer of office equipment, to predict into the year 2023 and beyond. The company foresees fewer, more flexible offices and an increase in shared space, allowing more amenities to be added.

#### 1. Collaboration Is the new work model.

Everybody has heard a story about an R&D company that started out as four people in the garage sitting around with folding chairs and tables. There was energy, a buzz. Something was happening. As the company grew bigger, it moved into larger, moretraditional office space. Employees ended up getting private offices with windows, but something happened — they lost the energy.

Essentially, every company reaches a point in its organizational maturity where it loses the original buzz. But when an R&D team goes into a space that similarly affects what it does, it will impact the output. Why not provide a space that is more collaborative and supports the need to balance both think time and team time?

#### 2. Say goodbye to big private offices.

Imagine an alternative work environment in which each team member has a smaller workstation, but all the workstations are put into a wagon train formation. Instead of having a conference room down the hall, the conference room is in the middle of the workstations. The team members are just close enough to overhear each other and they're buzzing with project ideas in each station and in the middle space. When privacy is needed, the smaller workstation offers a door.

#### 3. Say hello to shared private enclaves.

By applying some basic, simple knowledge about how people interact, space planning can restore that feeling of the entrepreneurial garage without sacrificing privacy. For instance, instead of everyone having an 8-by-9-foot workstation, what if they were designed as 8-by-8-foot stations? The saved 1-by-8-foot strips could be put together to create a pint-sized enclave with a door with two pieces of lounge furniture, a table, a laptop connection and a phone connection that is shared among five people.

That's where team members go when they need time to look through notes, write notes or do research on their laptop computers. To make private phone calls, employees move 20 feet out of their stations into this private space, shut the door and call. That privacy doesn't exist in the way buildings are built today. Employees moved out of offices into open plans, but they never got back the privacy that they lost.

#### 4. Today's workforce requires touchdown spaces.

People are beginning to accept the idea that employees don't have to be at their desks with their heads down to actually be productive. Instead, today some employees are much less tied to their office space. For instance, computer repair representatives are in their offices very little. But when they are using their spaces, it's critical that they be functional. If a repair rep has to crawl under the desk to plug in his laptop to get on the network, he's going to be upset. When these workers come into the office, they need a touchdown spot. There is a desk, but it's more open and a lot smaller, upward from 5-by-6 feet. The activities it supports are e-mail, voice mail, and basic filing touching down.

#### 5. Management must rethink technologies.

A shift in technologies has to happen, too: Laptops and cordless phones have disconnected the worker from having to be in one place all the time. Designing for the organization also must be rethought. If something is not within 10 to 15 feet of the employee looking for it, it's not useful. Immediate files must be separated from long-term files.

As an extreme, for an alternative work environment really to work, it takes a management team to say, "This is what we will be doing and I'm going to lead by example. I'm going to move out of my office, put my files in central storage, keep my immediate files with me, and untether myself with technology." If a company is not ready to do that, then its plan should be much more traditional. However, competitive pressures and rising real estate costs are forcing many to rethink how they provide space.

#### 6. Activity-based planning Is key to space design.

This line of thought addresses replanning buildings based on what people do. When employees come in during the day, the first thing they do is check e-mail and voice mail. After they've touched down, they might have a meeting. If it's not confidential, they can have it in the open conference space. If it is confidential, they can use a private enclave.

Despite the fact that workers have smaller spaces, they have more activities to choose from. There is now space for a coffee bar, a library, a resource center, maybe a cafe, as well as all the little private rooms. A client in London actually made one whole wall of these pint-sized enclaves. Each room had a sofa, a desk, a chair, a laptop connection and a phone connection.

#### 7. Those in the office get the biggest space.

In this country, 90% of real estate is allocated by title. A vice president gets X-amount, a salesperson gets Y-amount. In the future, this will shift the other way — the percentage of real estate that workers occupy actually will be based on how much time they spend in the building. An engineer working on a project who is there more than 60% of the day will get a bigger space than the president or salespeople who are there less time.

For example, an R&D facility was out of space. Management team members decided to give up their offices and move into smaller offices because they were physically only in the office 10% of the day. They gave up that space to the engineers who were working on a critical project for the team.

#### 8. One size does not fit all.

Some jobs are very tied to their spaces. For instance, an airlines reservation clerk is tied to the desk, answering the phone all day and often being measured on not interacting

with other individuals. But computer companies also have groups of people who answer the phone all day long, taking questions from dealers, customers and buyers. But after a caller describes a problem, the computer operators usually say, "Can you hold?" What they end up doing is talking to their neighbors across the hall: "Hey, Joe, have you ever heard of anybody messing up this file this way?" Interaction has to be taken into account in the way the space is built out.

#### 9. Less drywall Is more.

Take a look at a traditional client — highrise, center core, private offices all around the outside. Secretarial staff is in front of the private offices, open to clients and other people. The layout has 51 staff, 37 of them executives; 60% of the space is open and 40% is behind doors.

A lot of offices have kept two sides of this traditional floor plan and pulled out all the offices on the other two sides, allowing light to come in. They've used cubicles on the interior to get more people in. And they've shifted the amount of space behind doors to 17%.

The type of space being marketed is changing. Clients are looking for more flexibility, which translates into lower construction costs and lower tenant improvement costs. Forty percent of the space in private offices requires a lot of drywall. Going to fewer than 17% private offices cuts drywall by a third or a half.

#### 10. When the walls can talk, what will they say?

Eventually, the shell of a building and its infrastructure will link together. The walls will have technology that talks to the furniture, which talks to the post and beam system and the floor. The floor will be underlayed with modular electrical, which the furniture plugs into, which also powers the lights. The walls will be personal property that define private areas but can be taken down and moved.

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#### **OFFICE EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE AND SUPPLIES**

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1	<b>CDS Office Technologies</b> 612 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-8936 cdsot.com info@cdsot.com sales@cdsot.com	118	Mark Watson, president	Managed IT services, managed print solutions, copiers/printers, office supplies and business furniture.	Konica-Minolta, Lexmark, Sharp, HP, Panasonic Toughbooks, Cisco Meraki, Ubiquiti, Microsoft Gold Partner, Office 365, CDS cloud-based phone systems, HP Enterprise and more.	1971
2	<b>Watts Copy Systems, Inc.</b> 2860 Stanton Ave. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-6697 wattscopy.com watts@wattscopy.com	79	Carol Watts, president	Copiers /multifunctional devices (MFD), desktop multifunction printers (MFP), desktop printers, managed print services (MPS), interactive display systems/digital signage, software solutions, water filtration systems, scanners.	Authorized Sharp Dealer, Authorized Kyocera Dealer, HP	1981
3	Office Depot 3129 S. Veterans Parkway Springfield, IL 62704	217-698-4825 officedepot.com ods00323@officedepot.com	28	Kevin Pologruto	Office supplies, office furniture, office equipment, copy and print services, marketing services, tech services, IT services, shipping services and shredding services.	HP, Lenovo, Avery, Epson, Canon, Uni-ball, Dell, Brother, Serta, Swingline	1995
4	<b>Resource One</b> 321 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-753-5742 resourceoneoffice.com info@resourceoneoffice.com	18	Cindy Davis	Contract/commercial furniture, project management, delivery and installation, design and space planning, modular interior construction solutions, solar shades, acoustical solutions, sustainable design consulting, pre-owned furniture.	Knoll, DIRTT Prefab Walls, Muuto, OFS Brands, JSI, Kimball & National, Senator Group and Allermuir, SitOnlt, Global Brands, ESI Ergo, MDC, Springs Window Fashions, MechoShade	1987
5	<b>Wiley Interiors</b> 301 E. Laurel St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-2766 wileyinteriors.com springfield@wileyinteriors. com	16	Zachary Hoffman and Diane Beauchamp	A full-service contract furniture company, providing interior design, sales, project management and installation services.	Herman Miller, Knoll, Design Within Reach, Geiger, Nemschoff, Kimball Int'l, National, Lacasse, Via Seating, ESI, 9to5 Seating	1958
6	<b>GFI Digital, Inc.</b> 1846 W. Jefferson St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-303-6776 gfidigital.com jtrent@gfidigital.com	12	Bruce Gibbs	IT services and hardware, copiers, printers, document management, scanning, data backup.	Ricoh, Sharp, HP, Barracuda, Cisco, VMware, EMC, HP Enterprises, Datto, Meraki.	1999
7	<b>Tom Day Business Machines</b> 2125 Stevenson Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-8282 tomdaybusinessmachines. com	7	Dale Smith president	MPS (Manage Print Service), office solutions.	Lanier, HP and MBM	1981
8	CORinstallation Furniture & Supply LLC 2220 Yale Blvd. Springfield, IL 62703 (by appointment)	217-210-8808 corinstallation.com info@corinstallation.com	6	Corina (Cori) J. Williams-Blair	Office furniture, installation, reconfiguration, design and office supplies	KI, Kimball, Indiana Furniture, National, AIS, VIA Seating, Groupe Lacasse, Carolina	2018
9	<b>Work Space Solutions, Inc.</b> Springfield, IL 62704	217-553-0123 workspacesolutionsinc.net cjhrdh@sbcglobal.net	2	Robyn and Christie Hovey	Office, school, medical furniture – new and used – specification and sales, receiving, delivery, and installation of interior furnishings, floor-to-ceiling modular walls, window treatments, carpet, tile, interior accessories, reupholstering and refinishing of existing furniture.	Krueger International - KI Genius Wall, Lafayette Blinds, Pallas Textiles, HON, Tandus-Centiva, Xenali, Furniture Lab and Mayline	2004



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#### Southeast High gives teen court a try

#### A jury of peers may take interest in a kid's life

By Scott Reeder

Springfield's Southeast High School is experimenting with a program designed to divert students who misbehave away from the criminal justice system.

For example, if a student is caught stealing, the current approach is to have the police officer, who is assigned to the school, write a citation and the matter is referred to the Sangamon County State's Attorney.

But Southeast is beginning a diversion program called teen court, which will allow a jury of fellow students to ponder the transgression, question the students involved and develop an alternative punishment.

"We are trying to avoid that school-to-prison pipeline," Southeast Principal Cody Trigg said. "And we viewed it as an opportunity to still hold students accountable for a poor choice or mistake they made. But also limit the use of police interventions."

He said the current system doesn't always work well.

"Let's say a student steals something from another student and the matter is transferred over to the criminal court system. The student will likely be fined,"Trigg said. "Often the fines go unpaid or the student's parents pay it. Either way, it doesn't teach a student much of a lesson."

With the teen court, the matter may be pondered by a jury and the student may be ordered to perform community service, apologize to the person they harmed or perhaps perform some other form of restitution.

School Board Member Erica Austin added that a peer jury may take a greater interest in what is happening in a youngster's life.

"They can ask a student – or their parents – if there are problems at home that should be considered when deciding how to deal with a case," she said.

Trigg said no students will be referred to teen court without the participation of their parents. Parents are expected to be a part of the court proceeding and may also be asked questions.

"We may go to a student who is facing a 10-day suspension and tell them if they agree to participate in teen court their suspension may be reduced to two days. This encourages participation but has the added benefit of keeping him in



school learning."

The idea for teen court was presented to Springfield Public Schools by Assistant U.S. Attorney and Southeast alum Sierra Senor-Moore.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity for the school district," she said. "I did go to Southeast. Additionally, I knew people in the administration and their connections with Southeast. So, it just kind of made for an easier transition."

Senor-Moore said this will be an excellent experience for students serving as jurors.

"They will be learning to practice empathy and do away with biases," she said. "They are going to be hearing not only what the offense is that brought the student to teen court, but they will also potentially hear about other issues that the student may have. They can then assess what would be an appropriate remedy to make the victim whole as well as to ensure that the offender does not repeat that offense or any other offenses."

Senor-Moore said the goal is to eventually expand teen court to other Springfield high schools. She added the jury's responsibility is not to determine guilt or innocence – a student's culpability has already been decided before the matter is referred to teen court.

"The dean, the social worker, the principal,

those people can make the recommendation that a student participate in teen court. Obviously, the student and the student's guardian or parent would have to agree to allow the students to participate.

"The student would then go before the jury and the offense would be read. They would have to take responsibility for the actions and then they would have the opportunity to explain to the jury what happened and anything else that they might feel that the jury should know."

A victim of the crime may make a statement as well.

She added remedies may vary from performing community service to writing an apology letter. But much emphasis will be placed on having the offender learn the impact their transgression had on others.

"Let's say the offense was a small theft against a teacher. The small theft may have prevented the teacher from doing some sort of activity. So maybe the remedy would be for the student offender to not just apologize to the teacher but to apologize to the entire class."

Scott Reeder, an Illinois Times staff writer can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.













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#### **LAW FIRMS**

N.A	AME/ADDRESS I	PHONE / VEBSITE/EMAIL L	LOCAL AWYERS	PARTNERS	MANAGING PARTNER(S)	PARTIAL LIST OF PRIMARY AREAS OF PRACTICE	YEAR EST'D
1	Brown, Hay + Stephens, LLP 205 S. Fifth St., Suite 1000 Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-8491 bhslaw.com	26	13	Charles Y. Davis	General civil litigation and appellate practice, real estate, education, probate, estate planning, banking, family, employment, environmental, business and health care, traffic/criminal	1828
1	Sorling, Northrup, Hanna, Cullen & Cochran Ltd. 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-1144 sorlinglaw.com businessdevelopment@ sorlinglaw.com	26	15	John A. Kauerauf David A. Rolf E. Zach Dinardo Kirk W. Laudeman Joshua J. Watson	General business law, estate planning, litigation, health care, governmental relations, insurance, banking, utility regulation, environmental, family, employment	1945
2	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes PC 1 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 600 Springfield, IL 62701	217-525-1571 giffinwinning.com aknowski@giffinwinning.com	13	7	Creighton Castle	Litigation practice, legislative/governmental affairs, real estate development, business, commercial, banking, estate planning, probate, family law, election law	1911
3	<b>HeplerBroom LLC</b> 4340 Acer Grove Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-528-3674 heplerbroom.com tbozarth@heplerbroom.com	11	7	Troy Bozarth	Insurance defense, personal injury, corporate and business law, probate, utilities, banking, medical malpractice defense, employment, commercial litigation, environmental	1894
3	Kanoski Bresney 2730 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-7742 ucount2.com info@kanoski.com	11	1	Todd Bresney	Individual serious personal injury, truck collisions, motor- cycle collisions, workers' compensation, wrongful death, product liability, nursing home negligence	1979
4	Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C. 232 W. State St. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-6177 rblawyers.net info@rblawyers.net	9	5	Brad W. Wilson	Business and corporate, real estate, estate planning, probate, general litigation, insurance, employment, municipal, utilities, education	1895
5	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP 400 S. Ninth St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62701	217-528-7375 hinshawlaw.com	8	8	Charles Schmadeke	Business and corporate practice, governmental affairs, insurance litigation, real estate, estate and asset protection planning, trust and probate administration, business formation, financing and other transactions	1934
5	<b>Heyl, Royster, Voelker &amp; Allen, P.C.</b> 3731 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62711	217-522-8822 firm@heylroyster.com	8	6	Theresa M. Powell	Personal injury defense litigation, workers' compensation, employment law, medical and professional liability defense, insurance litigation, appellate practice, business and transactional law, civil rights, estate planning, elder law	1970
5	FeldmanWasser 1307 S. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-3403 feldman-wasser.com info@feldman-wasser.com	8	5	Howard Feldman	Civil litigation, criminal defense - state and federal courts, construction law, divorce, related family law, wills, estates, civil rights, employment law	1987
6	Stratton, Moran, Townsend, Reichert, Sronce and Appleton 725 S. Fourth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-2183	7	7	Bruce Stratton William F. Moran III Christopher Townsend Justin Reichert Greg Sronce August Appleton Paul Appleton	Family law, estate planning, criminal law, traffic, real estate, health care, appeals, corporate and business law, labor law, elder law, personal injury, municipal law, workers' compensation, DUI	1980
7	Barber, Segatto, Hoffee, Wilke & Cate, LLP 831 E. Monroe St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-4868 barberlaw.com	6	6	Matthew J. Cate	General civil litigation and appellate practice, estate plan- ning, probate, banking, corporate, business and family law, real estate, media, tax, bankruptcy, workers' compensation	1897
7	Gates, Wise, Schlosser & Goebel 1231 S. Eighth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-9010 gwspc.com gordon@gwspc.com	6	4	Gordon W. Gates	Commercial and real estate transactions, commercial litiga- tion, employment issues, business bankruptcies, criminal defense, drivers license reinstatement, personal injury and malpractice, DUI and traffic	1997

## TOP LAWYERS SPRINGFIELD AREA BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS



#### These LEADING LAWYERS have been recommended by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois.

Matthew J. Cate	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	217.544.4868	Commercial Litigation; Cred Rights/Comm Collect; RE: Commercial; RE:Residential
Randy S. Paswater	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	217.544.4868	Creditor Rights/Commercial Collection; Elder; Family
Bernard G. Segatto III	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	217.544.4868	Close/Private Held Bus; Commercial Lit; Land Use/Zone/Condemn; RE: Comm
Randall W. Segatto	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	217.544.4868	Close/Private Held Bus; Elder; RE: Commercial
R. Kurt Wilke	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	217.544.4868	Civil Appellate; Close/Private Held Business; Real Estate: Commercial
Barry Hines	Barry Hines — Attorney at Law	217.698.8444	AG; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael Glenn Barton	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White	217.793.9300	AG; Close/Private Held Business; RE: Commercial; Tax: Personal; Trust/Will/Estate
Mark S. Cochran	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White	217.793.9300	AG; Environmental; Public Utilities; Real Estate: Commercial
Andrew G. White	Bellatti Barton Cochran & White	217.793.9300	AG; Trust/Will/Estate
Claire A. Manning	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	217.544.8491	Employment: Management; Environmental; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
Amy K. Schmidt	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	217.544.8491	Family
Robert A. Stuart Jr.	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	217.544.8491	Association & Non-Profit; Trust/Will/Estate
Joseph N. Rupcich	Cassiday Schade LLP	217.993.5644	Civ Rights/Constitution; Med-Mal Defense; Pl Defense; General
Alan J. Jedlicka	Delano Law Offices LLC	217.544.2703	Close/Priv Held Bus; Emp Benefits; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Land Use/Zoning; Tax:Bus
Sarah Delano Pavlik	Delano Law Offices LLC	217.544.2703	Trust/Will/Estate
Thomas Chester Pavlik Jr.	Delano Law Offices LLC	217.544.2703	Close/Private Held Bus; Commercial Lit; Cred Rights/Comm Collect; RE: Commercial
Carl R. Draper	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee; False Claims/Whistle Blower
Howard W. Feldman	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Construction; Family; ADR:Family
Kelli Ellen Gordon	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Family
Roger L. Rutherford	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
Stuart H. Shiffman	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Civil Appellate; Criminal Appellate; Criminal Defense: Felony & Misdemeanors
Stanley N. Wasser	FeldmanWasser	217.544.3403	Construction
James R. Enlow	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Bankruptcy: Personal; Bankruptcy: Comm; Commercial Lit; Land Use/Zone/Condemn
Gordon W. Gates	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217,522,9010	Bankruptcy: Comm; Close/Private Held; Commercial Lit; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Comm
Todd M. Goebel	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies & Misdemeanors
Frederick J. Schlosser	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies & Misdemeanors
Bradley B. Wilson	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee
D. Peter Wise	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	217.522.9010	Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies/Misd; Criminal Defense: White Collar
Herman G. Bodewes	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Association & Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
Creighton R. Castle	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Close/Private Held Business; Real Estate: Commercial; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate
John M. Gabala Jr.	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; Copyright/Trademark; Pl Defense: General
David A. Herman	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Commercial Lit; Elect/Politic/Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
R. Mark Mifflin	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
Christopher E. Sherer	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Civ Appellate; Elect/Politic/Campaign; Family; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate
Matthew R. Trapp	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	217.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
Thomas G. Hamill	Harrison & Held LLP	217.546.6940	Trust/Will/Estate
Adrian E. Harless	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	Health; Med-Mal Defense; Pl Defense: General
Michael T. Kokal	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	Commercial Litigation; Copyright/Trademark; Patent
John O. Langfelder	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	PI Defense: General; Toxic Torts Defense; Workers' Comp Defense
Deanna Seward Mool	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Health
Theresa M. Powell	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	Employment; Management; Med-Mal Defense; Prof'l Malpractice Defense
Gary S. Schwab	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Defense
Daniel R. Simmons	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	217.522.8822	PI Defense: General; Workers' Compensation Defense
Larry A. Apfelbaum	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation
Todd A. Bresney	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
Charles N. Edmiston II	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation
William J. Harrington	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
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#### **LAW FIRMS**

	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE / WEBSITE/EMAIL	LOCAL LAWYERS	PARTNERS	MANAGING PARTNER(S)	PARTIAL LIST OF PRIMARY AREAS OF PRACTICE	YEAR EST'D
7	<b>Drake, Narup &amp; Mead, P.C.</b> 107 E. Allen St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-528-9776 dnmpc.com	6	3	Christian D. Biswell	Trial attorneys, personal injury, insurance defense, general practice, medical malpractice	1989
7	Bellatti, Fay, Bellatti & Beard, LLP 816 W. State St. Jacksonville, IL 62651	217-245-7111 bellattilaw.com	6	4	Daniel J. Beard	Business and commercial, estate planning, probate, real estate, family law, banking, municipal	1876
8	Cassiday Schade LLP 3100 Montvale Springfield, IL 62703	217-572-1714 cassiday.com jrupcich@cassiday.com	5	2	Joseph Rupcich	Personal injury defense litigation, transportation, premises, medical and professional liability defense, insurance defense litigation, appellate practice, civil rights	2014
8	Hart, Southworth & Witsman 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 501 Springfield, IL 62701	217-753-0055 N/A	5	Mike Southworth corporate, probate,		Business law, real estate, banking, corporate, probate, estate planning, special needs estate planning, municipal tax- exempt financing	1985
8	<b>Delano Law Offices, LLC</b> 1 SE Old State Capitol Plaza Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-2703 delanolaw.com delano@delanolaw.com	5	n/a	Sarah Delano Pavlik	Personal injury, workers' compensation, medical malpractice, estate planning and probate, business litigation, business planning and transactions, real estate, family law	1967
8	Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin & Reinbold, LLP 1119 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-1200 casevista.com greg@casevista.com	5	4	Gregory P. Sgro	A general practice law firm representing individuals and businesses	1999
8	Scott & Scott, P.C. 611 E. Monroe St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62701	217-753-8200 scottandscottlaw.com	5	R. Stephen Scott Gregory A. Scott Jared M. Scott Pamela Hart  R. Stephen Scott Gregory A. Scott Jared M. Scott Pamela Hart  Family, tax, commercial, bankruptcy, real estate, personal injury, estate planning, probate, corporate, general litigation, elde law		estate, personal injury, estate planning, probate, corporate, general litigation, elder	1947
8	<b>Graham &amp; Graham, Ltd.</b> 1201 S. Eighth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-4569 rjwilderson@ggltdlaw.com	5	3	Richard Wilderson Bradley Huff Nancy Eckert- Martin	General trial practice, medical-related litigation, business transactions, real estate, health law, probate	1897
9	Wolter, Beeman, Lynch & Londrigan, LLP 1001 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-753-4220 wbllawyers.com wbl@wbllawyers.com	4	3	Bruce Beeman Francis Lynch Brent Beeman	Personal injury, professional malpractice, workers' compensation	1997

John J. Waldman	Kanoski Bresney	217.523.7742	Workers' Compensation
D. Scott Murphy	Knell O'Connor Danielewicz	217.801.9733	Workers' Compensation Defense
Jonathan T. Nessler	Law Offices of Frederic W. Nessler	217.698.0202	Nursing Home Negligence; PI Defense: General
Stephen Scott Morrill	Morrill & Fiedler LLC	217.789.5411	Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
James E. Neville	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	618.277.0900	Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Prod Liability Def; Transport Def; Tox Torts Def
Timothy S. Richards	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	618.277.0900	Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Product Liability Defense; Tox Torts Def
Cheryl S. Neal	PNC Wealth Management	217.753.7130	Trust/Will/Estate
James A. Borland	Quinn Johnston	217.753.7133	PI Defense: General; Products Liability Defense
Betsy A. Wirth	Quinn Johnston	217.753.1133	Family: Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General
Pamela E. Hart	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.1133	Elder; Family; Real Estate: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate
Gregory A. Scott	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	
Jared M. Scott	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	Adoption/Reproductive Tech; Family Appellate; Family; Trust/Will/Estate
	Scott & Scott PC	217.753.8200	Family; Personal Injury; General
R. Stephen Scott Michael M. Durr		217.789.1200	Bankrupt: Comm; Close/Private Held Bus; Tax: Bus; Tax: Personal; Trust/Will/Estate
	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold		Real Estate: Assoc/Condo; Real Estate: Commercial; Real Estate: Residential
Gregory P. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold	217.789.1200	Land Use/Zone/Condemn; RE: Commercial; Workers' Compensation
Timothy M. Shay	Shay and Associates	217.523.5900	Personal Injury: General; Pl: Professional Malpractice; Workers' Compensation
Michelle L. Blackburn	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Family; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael C. Connelly	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held Business; RE: Commercial; RE:Tax; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate
E. Zachary Dinardo	Sorling Northrup	217,544,1144	Closely & Privately Held Business; Health
James G. Fahey	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Civ Appellate; Emp:Mgmnt; Pl Def
C. Clark Germann	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Close/PrivHeldBus; Mineral/Nat'l Resource; RE: Comm
Stephen F. Hedinger	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Animal; Environmental; Mineral/Natural Resource
Michael G. Horstman Jr.	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Association/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; RE: Comm; Tax: Personal; Trust/Will/Estate
Brian D. Jones	Sorling Northrup	217.544,1144	Banking; Close/Private Held Business; Employee Benefits; Real Estate: Commercial
John A. Kauerauf	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Close/Private Held Business; Employment: Management
Kirk W. Laudeman	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Defense; Transportation Def
James M. Morphew	Sorling Northrup	217.544,1144	Election, Political & Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
Lisa A. Petrilli	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Commercial Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Land Use/Zone/Condemn; RE: Commercial
David A. Rolf	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	AG; Commercial Lit; Land Use/Zone/Condemn; PI Defense: General; RE: Commercial
Peggy J. Ryan	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Family
John R. Simpson	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Tax: Personal; Trust/Will/Estate
Stephen A. Tagge	Sorling Northrup	217.544.1144	Banking; Close/Private Held Business; ADR:Commercial Lit; RE: Commercial; Tax:Bus

#### These EMERGING LAWYERS have been identified by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.

Brittany Kink Toigo	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	17.544.4868	Family
Ashley D. Davis	FeldmanWasser	17.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitution; Family
Samantha A. Bobor	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	17.525.1571	Employment: Management; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Labor: Management; School
Jason E. Brokaw	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes	17.525.1571	Civil Appellate; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
J. Tyler Robinson	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	17.522.8822	False Claims/Whistle Blower; Health; Med-Mal Defense
Gina Couri-Cyphers	Kanoski Bresney	17.523.7742	Personal Injury: General
Benjamin M. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Reinbold	17.789.1200	Personal Injury: General; Real Estate: Commercial; RE; Residential; Workers' Comp
Aaron D. Evans	Sorling Northrup	17.544.1144	Close/Private Held Bus; RE; Commercial; RE; Residential; RE; Finance; Trust/Will/Estate
Brian D. Lee	Sorling Northrup	17.544.1144	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; PI Defense: General
Gregory E. Moredock	Sorling Northrup	17.544.1144	Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin
Joshua J. Watson	Sorling Northrup	17.544.1144	Family
Matthew A. Brewer	Stephen P. Kelly, Atty at Law	17.544.8000	Workers' Compensation



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9	<b>Hennessy &amp; Roach, P.C.</b> 3940 Pintail Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-726-0037 hennessyroach.com	4	2	Emilie A. Miller	Workers' compensation, general liability and civil litigation, labor and employment	1993
9	The Law Offices of Frederick W. Nessler & Associates, Ltd. 536 N. Bruns Lane, Suite 1 Springfield, IL 627023	217-698-0202 nesslerlaw.com	4	1	Frederick W. Nessler	Personal injury, workers' compensation, medical malpractice, wrongful death, clergy misconduct, nursing home abuse, social security	1977
9	Shay & Associates Law Firm, LLC 1030 S. Durkin Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-5900 www.shayandassociates. com shayandassociates@ comcast.net	4	1	Timothy Shay	Civil litigation involving personal injury, medical malpractice and workers' compensation	1992
10	Cherry, Frazier & Sabin, LLP 1 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, Myers Building, Suite 800 Springfield, IL 62701	217-753-4242 springfieldlawfirm.com	3	3	Diana N. Cherry Richard D. Frazier Scott A. Sabin	Family, criminal defense, personal injury, workers' compensation, federal and state appeals, civil litigation, traffic defense	1983
10	<b>Kopec, White &amp; Spooner</b> 601 W. Monroe St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-7540 springfield-law.com mkopec@kws-law.com dwhite@kws-law.com sspooner@kws-law.com	3	3	A. Michael Kopec David V. White Scott D. Spooner	Civil litigation and trials, divorce and family law, personal injury, business planning, formation and transactions, franchise law, estate planning and probate, real estate	2008
10	Sheehan & Sheehan, Lawyers, P.C. 1215 S. Fourth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-0701 sheehanlaw.net jr@sheehanlaw.net pat@sheehanlaw.net wps@sheehanlaw.net	3	3	Patrick J. Sheehan Patrick J. Sheehan III William P. Sheehan	Adoption, agricultural law, business/commercial law, estate planning and administration, probate, real estate, taxation, traffic and minor criminal offenses, personal injury	1960
10	<b>Zack Stamp, Ltd.</b> 601 W. Monroe St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-525-0700 zackstamp.net kmcfadden@601w.com	3	2	Kevin J. McFadden	Government relations, insurance regulatory, civil litigation, business and corporate law, military law, tax law	1997

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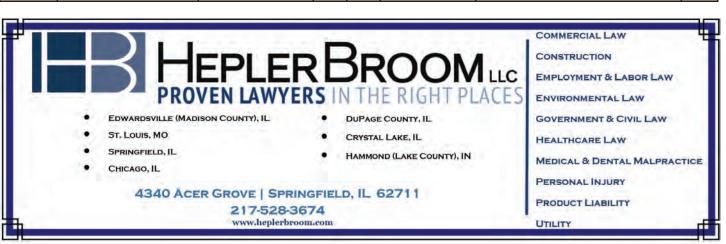
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	NAME/ADDRESS		LOCAL LAWYERS PARTNERS		S MANAGING PARTNER(S)	PARTIAL LIST OF PRIMARY AREAS OF PRACTICE	YEAR EST'D		
10	Koepke, Hiltabrand & Schutte 2341 W. White Oaks Drive, Suite A Springfield IL 62704	217-726-8646 www.kandhlawfirm.com	3 3 Kurt M. Koepke		Kurt M. Koepke	Civil litigation, insurance defense, personal injury, workers' compensation, professional liability and family law	2004		
10	Young Law Partners, P.C. f/k/a/ LaBarre Young & Behnke 1300 S. Eighth St. Springfield IL 62703	217-544-8500 lyblaw.com info@lyblaw.com	3	3	Duane D. Young Stephen Iden Cara Pratt-Fleming Michelle Coady Carter	Elder law, probate, estates, medicaid planning, wills, trusts, social security, disability	1995		
11	<b>Edwards Group, LLC</b> 3223 S. Meadowbrook, Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-726-9200 edwardsgroupllc.com david@edwardsgroupllc.com	2 1		David Edwards	Estate planning and elder law	2008		
11	Berg & Robeson PC 1217 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1917 bergandrobeson.com sberg@bergrobeson.com amueller@bergrobeson.com	2 1		Steve W. Berg Petitioner's workers' compensation and plain personal injury		1988		
11	Livingstone, Mueller, Bima & Davlin PC 620 E. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1070 lmobd@livingstonelaw.com	2	2	L. Robert Mueller Ken Bima	General litigation, workers' compensation law	1953		





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4	Encore Consulting PMB 204 3309 Robbins Road Springfield, IL 62704	217-816-5415 encoreconsulting@gmail. com	6	Terri Noel	Deb Sarsany Team, Levitt AMP/ DSI, Inc., Exciting Windows, IECU, Monarch Landscaping, Mosquito Joe, Peoples Bank & Trust, Premier Vision, Duff Realty Team, Treasures for Tails, Travel Shoppe, Vivacious Wellness	1	J	J	1	J	1	2003
5	Targeted Marketing Resources 3171 Greenhead Dr. Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-546-8194 targetedmarketing resources.com larissa@targeted marketingresources.com	5	Larissa Hansen	Local independent businesses	1	V		1	1	V	2009
6	Paszkiewicz Marketing 3161 W. White Oaks Dr. Suite 102 Springfield, IL 62704	217-302-6262 spcreativity.com	3	Mark Butler Ellen Marten	Paszkiewicz Litigation Services, Sensible Innovations, Illinois Green Industry Association, Central Illinois Builders, BJ Grand, Butler Funeral Homes, Lincoln Land Community College Foundation, USCA, Primo Designs, Illumine Transportation, Inner City Mission	J	1	V	1	J	<b>/</b>	2020
7	Gem PR & Media 2121 W. White Oaks Dr. Springfield, IL 62704	217-391-4302 gemprmedia.com hello@gemprmedia.com	2	Gemma Long Chris Long	Local independent businesses throughout Illinois and illinoislocal.org	1		1	1	1		2013
7	Fine Tune Creative 2228 Cloverfield Lane Springfield, IL 62711	217-622-6363 finetunecreative.net pzubeck@msn.com	2	Perry Zubeck Lori Zubeck	America Ambulance, Arizona Tile Company, The Real Estate Group, The Villas in Sherman, Knight's Action Park, The Creek, Curve Inn, Long Bridge Golf Course, Weebles	s	√	V	1	J	<b>√</b>	2013

## Storytelling? Not as Easy as it Seems.

Dennis Thread

"Storytelling" is the buzzword of the era, the "magical elixir" for communication, selling everything from cryptocurrency to political change. It sounds so simple. But like much jargon, its simplicity can be misleading. Telling stories can be complicated.

Bill Furry of the Illinois State Historical Society – historian, musician, polymath of Springfield – had a challenge. "No one had heard of John Hancock, the mysterious broken-hearted Bard of the Sangamon who arrived in Springfield from England in 1830," Furry relates.

"Hancock wrote poems of lost love, the mystic land of King Arthur, and the mundane aspects of frontier life: fierce winters, bare-knuckled local politics, boon-town schemes gone bust."

"He's a totally unknown part of our shared past. As a gift to all for the bicentennial of Sangamon County, we decided to make a film about Hancock."



Creating a long-form documentary or narrative film is daunting. As the producer and director, Furry knew he needed help to bring this fascinating story to life.

"Brian Crowdson and his team were the perfect partners." A bit mischievously he added, "I can even spell it out. They were Professional, Economical, Responsive, Focused, Enthusiastic, Creative, and Technology savvy.

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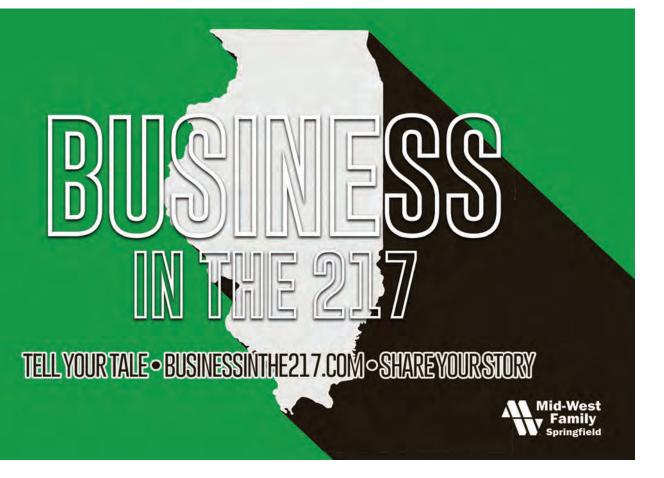
"At the climactic moment, with our poet gazing dreamily into a fireplace, they even created virtual fire out of thin air. It was astonishing."

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MEDICAL NEWS

#### IC receives Memorial grant to support nursing program

Illinois College has received a \$50,000 grant from the Springfield Memorial Foundation for equipment to support the College's nursing program and enhance student nurses' hands-on learning experience.

The grant was used to purchase a variety of items for the program, including IV infusion pumps, SimScreen Panels, ECG equipment and carts for medication and storage. Much of the equipment has enhanced simulation exercises in the nursing labs.

"Attracting and retaining quality healthcare professionals is vital to our mission to improve lives and build stronger communities through better health," said Melissa Hansen-Schmadeke, executive director for the Springfield Memorial Foundation. "This grant ensures future nurses, many of whom we hope join us someday at Memorial Health, will be trained on the latest simulation equipment in a hands-on environment."

Pre-clinical training in the lab offers students the opportunity to practice in a simulated clinical setting where they can strengthen critical-thinking skills, learn from mistakes and receive immediate feedback. Such experiences provide a safe and controlled environment for nursing students to practice technical skills and build upon lessons learned in the classroom.

"This grant will provide crucial support for the growth of the clinical nursing program at Illinois College," President Barbara A. Farley said. "We are thankful for our partners at Springfield Memorial Foundation and Memorial Health System. With their support and collaboration, this initiative will provide workforce development for well-qualified healthcare professionals in west-central Illinois." Illinois College announced the addition of a four-year clinical nursing degree program in April 2020. The program has quickly grown to enroll more than 100 nursing majors and pre-nursing students, and is expected to continue to expand. The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

In addition to the nursing major offered on the Jacksonville campus, Illinois College also offers a fully online RN to BSN program and master of science in nursing degree.

Springfield Memorial Foundation secures charitable gifts, identifies needs and provides funding through grants that support patient care, education and research throughout Memorial Health and the Springfield community. The Foundation's vision is to improve the health and well-being of the populations it serves.

#### **Springfield Memorial Hospital names new chief medical officer**

Dr. Akindele Adaramola was named the chief medical officer of Springfield Memorial Hospital. His first day was Feb. 28.

In this position, Adaramola will work closely with the medical staff at Springfield Memorial. He believes in the importance of active physician participation to achieve "increased access, reduced cost and improved care" by health care organizations. He will continue to practice hospital medicine at Springfield Memorial.

Adaramola, who had previously

served as a hospitalist and attending physician for Springfield Clinic, has been a member of the medical staff since 2012. He has held several leadership positions throughout his career, including as chair of the glycemic control committee, the pharmacy and therapeutics committee and the medical executive committee at Springfield Memorial.

Adaramola is an adjunct faculty member at SIU School of Medicine.

His wife, Dorcas, is a physician with SIU School of Medicine. They have three children and live in Springfield.





# Money for the medical district

#### Mid-Illinois Medical District receives state funding for first time since 2004

By Dean Olsen

Housing for Springfield medical professionals would be expanded with the help of \$250,000 tucked inside a state budget bill passed by the General Assembly and signed into law April 19 by Gov. JB Pritzker.

The money will come from the Build Illinois Bond Fund for a grant to the Mid-Illinois Medical District and is mentioned on page 2,104 of a bill with more than 3,400 pages. House Bill 900 is one of several passed in April that outlines the \$46.5 billion budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The appropriation marks the first time the one-square-mile section of Springfield has received state funding since 2004. That's when the district – created by the legislature to promote the city's medical-services industry and preserve residential neighborhoods – received a \$300,000 state grant for marketing and a master plan.

Ryan Croke, president of the 11-member, all-volunteer commission that oversees the Springfield medical district, said he was happy that \$250,000 in funding for the district was included in the final budget outline even though area lawmakers were advocating for as much as \$2 million.

"The medical district is a crown jewel of Springfield, and it is something that leaders – local and state – can agree that we should prioritize," Croke said.

Croke's full-time job is chief of staff for the Illinois Department of Human Services, an agency run by the Democratic governor's administration.

Croke credited state Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, and state Rep. Sue Scherer, D-Decatur, for ensuring that the \$250,000 was included during end-of-session budget negotiations for fiscal 2023. A bill introduced by Turner, but that didn't receive a vote in the Illinois Senate or House, would have appropriated up to \$2 million for the district's operating expenses.

The medical district commission hasn't yet decided on a specific use for the appropriation, Croke said. The commission currently has about \$200 in its bank account.

Croke said the \$250,000 will support efforts to expand quality, affordable housing in the district for "medical students, medical residents, medical fellows, nursing students and other health care

heroes in the community."

Housing for the health care workforce "was identified as a priority for all of the medical anchors in the district," he said. "It would be great to have more attractive housing options within the medical district so that medical professionals, if they wanted to, could walk to work."

The Springfield medical district – modeled after Chicago's Illinois Medical District, which began in the 1940s and received decades of regular state funding – is bounded by North Grand Avenue and by 11th, Walnut and Madison streets.

The district includes all of the Enos Park neighborhood as well as part of Oak Ridge neighborhood and is home to Springfield Memorial Hospital, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and other medical providers, including those affiliated with Springfield Clinic.

The commission is a governmental unit that doesn't have the power to tax but can borrow money, accept grants and buy, sell and improve land in the district.

The commission's members are appointed to multiyear terms by the governor, mayor of Springfield and Sangamon County Board.

According to the district's website, more than 13,000 people work in health care in the area just north of downtown Springfield. The district's residential neighborhoods are home to about 4,000 people.

Much of the district's growth since its inception has taken place at the two hospitals and at SIU, though district officials over the years have advocated for funds to help attract medical-related businesses and start up a business incubator in the district

Creation of the medical district was spear-headed by then-Springfield Mayor Karen Hasara and state Sen. Larry Bomke of Springfield – both Republicans.

Legislation creating the district was signed into law by former Gov. George Ryan, a Republican, and the initial \$300,000 state grant was from the administration of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat.

The idea for the district emerged in 1999 from a "visioning study" called "Springfield Strategy 2020" that city government conducted during

Hasara's administration, according to Norm Sims, a medical district commissioner.

Sims is a former planner and economic development director for the city, as well as a former executive director of the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission and former director of the state agency now known as the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

A lack of funding for such expenses, specifically to market the district, has hampered efforts in the past. The original marketing plan was only partly implemented, and the firm contracted to produce it in the 2000s, Chicago-based Hill & Knowlton, estimated that carrying it out would cost at least \$436,000 to \$613,000.

Whether the \$250,000 grant in the new state budget will lead to more predictable state funding for the district is unknown, Croke said.

"I think all of the advocates for the medical district would be happy to see that," he said. "We're hopeful this funding will generate the momentum everyone would love to see happen."

Croke, who has served on the medical district commission since 2019, said he has been encouraged by a "deepened partnership" in the past year "between the medical district and the other economic development engines of the community."

The Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance has worked to promote the district nationwide, he said.

The state funding dovetails with an effort between advocates for downtown Springfield development and the medical district to update the comprehensive plan for both areas and build upon the original master plan for the district, Croke said.

The organizations have received 11 proposals from various entities that want to work on the plan. Croke said a contract will be awarded to one of them in the coming days, and the update will be paid for with \$166,000 from the SSGA, Springfield city government and the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer for Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolsen@illinoistimes.com or 217-679-7810.



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# **Prenuptial agreements**

By Sarah Delano Pavlik

Now that COVID restrictions are "over," wedding bells are ringing again. If you intend to be married, you may want to consider a prenuptial or premarital agreement.

The requirements for a prenup are deceptively simple. Per Illinois statute, "A premarital agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties. It is enforceable without consideration." The difficulty comes in the enforcement section of the statute.

A premarital agreement is not enforceable if a spouse proves that he did not execute the agreement voluntarily. Many times, a person who is trying to avoid the consequences of a prenup will claim that he did not sign the agreement voluntarily. A simple refusal to marry a person if he does not sign a prenup does not make the agreement involuntary. However, it is always best to negotiate and sign a prenup well before the wedding date and to sign a ratification agreement after the wedding to further evidence the voluntary nature of the agreement.

"A premarital agreement is [also] not enforceable if the party against whom enforcement is sought proves that: the agreement was unconscionable when it was executed and, before execution of the agreement, that party: (i) was not provided a fair and reasonable disclosure of the property or financial obligations of the other party; (ii) did not voluntarily and expressly waive, in writing, any right to disclosure of the property or financial obligations of the other party beyond the disclosure provided; and (iii) did not have, or reasonably could not have had, an

adequate knowledge of the property or financial obligations of the other party."

The issue of unconscionability is a gray area. A judge, not a jury, determines if an agreement is unconscionable. Although the statute says the agreement must be unconscionable when it is executed, in reality the courts often look to whether or not an agreement is unconscionable at the time of the divorce.

Issues of support are further complicated. A prenup cannot waive or determine child support. A parent cannot waive child support on behalf of a child, and the amount of support is determined by the courts.

Regarding alimony (also called maintenance or spousal support), it can be waived in a prenup, but in addition to the issue of unconscionability, there is a standard of "undue hardship."

"If a provision of a premarital agreement modifies or eliminates spousal support and that modification or elimination causes one party to the agreement undue hardship in light of circumstances not reasonably foreseeable at the time of the execution of the agreement, a court, notwithstanding the terms of the agreement, may require the other party to provide support to the extent necessary to avoid such hardship." Again, the issue of "not reasonably foreseeable at the time" is a gray one.

In light of these gray areas and changes in circumstances, no prenup can be guaranteed to work at all times, but there are measures you can take to increase the likelihood of enforcement. First and foremost, each person must be represented by his or her own lawyer. The lawyers cannot be in the same firm. The

wife's lawyer should not have ever represented the husband and vice-versa. In addition, the wife's lawyer should not be in the husband's golfing foursome and vice-versa. One way to try to invalidate a prenup is to say that you did not understand what you were signing. If your future husband is represented by an independent lawyer who explains the prenup to him and negotiates changes to it, it is hard for your husband to argue that he did not know what he was signing.

Second, the agreement should be "reasonable" at death and divorce, giving a court less inclination to find holes in the agreement. Death-time provisions can often be handled through the purchase of life insurance. In addition, a prenup does not have to separate all of a couple's property. For example, the agreement can say that all of the wife's "family property" and the income from the property is hers alone, but that any other income or assets she acquires after the marriage are marital property.

Third, you must disclose all of your assets, liabilities and income to your future spouse in negotiating the agreement. Your future spouse cannot be determined to have waived her interest in assets that you did not disclose to her.

So, negotiate the agreement early on, have independent lawyers, provide full disclosure and be reasonable. Then your agreement will have the best chance of being enforced.

This article is for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.





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#### Tough conversations: How to discuss what matters most

By Kelly Gust

Ugh. Some days, people are the absolute worst. They do things at work that make them very difficult to deal with. Things that "someone" should really talk to them about. If you've ever found yourself grumbling about a co-worker, employee or even your boss, you're not alone. We often put up with interpersonal or behavioral issues at work for far too long, hoping that the person will magically see the error of their offending ways and improve on their own. When the behavior doesn't improve, we can feel like we're being held hostage.

Facing tough conversations at work can mean the difference in your team being successful and productive or dysfunctional and floundering. In the book, Conversational Capacity: The Secret to Building Successful Teams that Perform When the Pressure is On, author Craig Weber asserts that to navigate today's business challenges and the pace of constant change, teams need to build their ability to have constructive, learning-focused dialogue. Teams that practice and become skilled in talking about "the tough stuff" are smarter, stronger, productive and more resilient. They adapt sooner and fix problems faster because they dive right into the difficult issues.

With the right mindset, setup and approach, you can stop avoiding tough conversations and instead become skilled at navigating them efficiently and with confidence. You can build your own conversational capacity.

First, let's address mindset. The Oxford dictionary defines the word "conversation" as an "informal talk between two or more people in which information and ideas are exchanged." Unfortunately, many managers approach a difficult conversation as a one-way, persuasive

monologue that doesn't consider the other person.

Second, let's approach the setup. Some difficult talks are best served over coffee or lunch. So find a comfortable, even informal, place for the conversation. The change in scenery helps lower everyone's defenses and creates a sense of psychological safety, as opposed to sitting in the boss's office or a sterile conference room. While these more formal venues are appropriate for some personnel matters, for a first discussion they are overly formal, resulting in more of a confrontation than a two-way conversation between co-workers.

Finally, when planning the conversation, remain open-minded about the other person's perspective. Instead of planning a speech, plan instead for informal, two-way dialogue. How will you start the conversation? What questions will you ask? How do you want to end things? Is there a next step or certain outcome expected from this conversation?

To get the conversation started, I like to put the issue on the table and get permission to talk about it. It might sound something like this: "I'd like to talk to you today about \_\_\_\_\_\_. Are you open to conversation about this?" You can also try the straightforward and direct, "Can I give you some feedback?" or "I saw when \_\_\_\_\_ happened yesterday. Can I share my observations about it?"

These starters let the person know that you've got something important to say. Further, they require the other person to grant permission to discuss the topic. The act of giving permission lowers their defenses and opens their mind to possibilities by making them equal players in

the conversation, instead of feeling attacked in a confrontation.

If the conversation is going to be especially difficult or even awkward (insert dreaded workplace hygiene issue here), I will be even more direct: "There is something we need to talk about, and I will admit it's a little awkward / uncomfortable / personal, but it's important and I want to bring it to your attention. It's about

\_\_\_\_\_ (dress code, behavior, strange smells, etc). Are you open to having a conversation about this?" (Assuming they say yes, then....) "Whew thanks, so here's the situation..." and jump right in. Get in, get your point across and then get out. Assuming the issue gets corrected, make it clear it will never need to be discussed again.

If needed, keep difficult conversations flowing by asking open-ended questions such as, "What ideas do you have to improve this? What can you do differently? Who could you ask for help?" or "What are your next steps?"

End things on a positive note by reiterating any agreed-upon next steps or action items, and thank them for their time and for being open to discussing something difficult. By practicing these steps, you can increase your conversational capacity and get better at discussing what matters most in your business.





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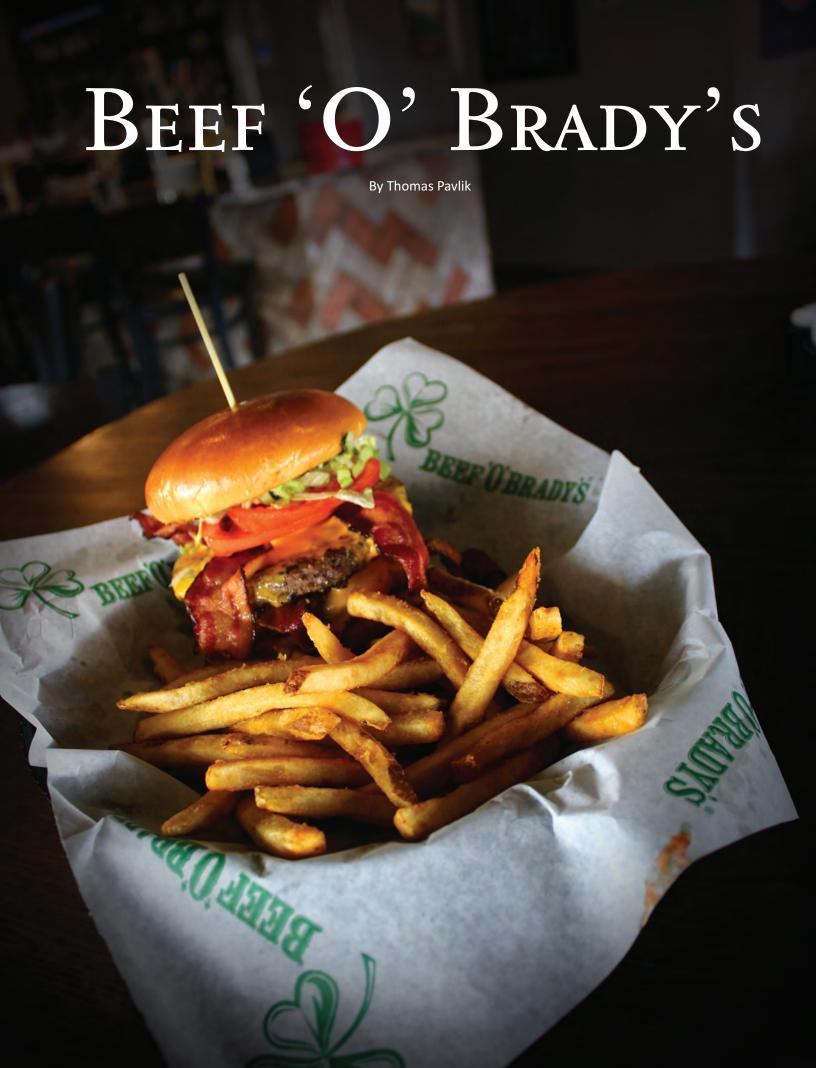
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oe Rupnik has long been a fixture in Springfield's dining scene. I remember fondly the original Pasta House he ran in Southwest Plaza that unfortunately closed in 2012. I never made it to Rupnik's second iteration of Pasta House at the corner of Wabash and Veterans, which he closed last December in order to transition the space to a Beef 'O' Brady's sports pub. It takes some guts to make a call like that, especially since it involved a revamp of the entire inside of the building. I think it was the right call,

Opposite page: The OMG Burger served with fries. Top: Trio Fajita with chicken, steak and shrimp. Left: Buffalo-style chicken wings. PHOTOS BY STACIE LEWIS

as Beef's (as it's affectionately known) is a family kind of place where I imagine grade schoolers or high schoolers coming after sporting events for food and frivolity.

Beef's is a franchise and (as one of my guests informed me) is quite popular in the Southern states. A handful, however, have popped up in the Midwest.

As a sports pub, Beef's has all the requisite TVs tuned to a variety of sporting events. Although the ceiling is exposed (a very industrial look), acoustics were just fine. Seating is split between booths and hightops, plus there's bar seating. We visited right at noon and were quickly seated. By the time we ordered, the place was full with a handful of groups waiting to be seated. Our fellow diners included retirees, business workers and several groups of friends obviously out for a social lunch with cocktails.

Beef's menu is pretty much what you would expect from a family sports pub – with one important twist. Unlike most of Beef's other franchisees, Rupnik has expanded the menu to include chili and horseshoes, the same that's served at Dublin Pub, another restaurant he runs. Some other fun items included the fried pickle chips (\$7.99), the Big Catch salad (\$15.29, blackened or salt-and-pepper fish filet and greens); a variety of rice bowls (\$11.29-\$13.89) and a variety of fajitas

(\$14.20-\$18.79).

All of us being chili devotees, my guests and I each decided to start with a bowl of chili. The one thing we agreed on was that club crackers don't belong in chili. Thanks to supply chain issues, however, Beef's was out of saltines that day, so we had to suffer. The portion was appropriate for the price. Comments included: good bean-to-meat ratio; spicy heat takes a bit to develop but is there; and good flavor on the back-end.

One of my guests then decided to go with the wing basket (eight wings and fries with coleslaw – \$15.99). He found the heat to be just right, and commented that the bleu cheese dressing was just the right consistency – thin enough to spread, yet thick enough to stick. I managed to snag one and was happy that they were cooked perfectly and not over-breaded. He was also very complimentary of the coleslaw – an item that usually seems to be skipped over. We also appreciated that our server brought plenty of napkins and a discard plate for the detritus.

Two of us decided to split the Five Cheese Burger (\$10.99). I'm typically a traditionalist when it comes to burgers, but I'm certainly glad I wasn't paying attention when I ordered. I didn't realize that this was a fusion of a burger and grilled cheese sandwich, so I was a bit surprised when it came out. But it tasted great, and we enjoyed the crunch of the grilled brioche slices against the softness of the cheese and patty. It was a fun dish, including a fried cheese stick garnish attached by a toothpick. The fries were well-cooked and seasoned. I'd certainly order it again.

Two of my other guests decided to split the Reuben (\$12.59). The sandwich had a generous amount of cheese and sauerkraut yet wasn't drowning in Thousand Island dressing – a flaw I see in too many Reubens. They both liked the sandwich and were quite complimentary of the fries.

I will admit that I saw another table get delivered Beef's prime rib garlic melt sandwich (\$16.89) and it made me salivate a little. It'll probably be my next order.

Service was efficient and staff backed each other up, with Rupnik keeping an eye over all operations.

All in all, we were pleased with our visit to Beef's and, when in the neighborhood, plan to swing by again.

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#### Springfield nonprofit provides hope and healing in Nicaragua

By Janet Seitz

A dark moment for a young child led to a ray of hope. According to co-founder Lynda Snodsmith, Helping Other People Excel (HOPE) began in 2014 on a return flight to the U.S. from a medical trip in Nicaragua. But the reason behind it starts before that.

Willie Ramirez, from the small village of El Viejo in Nicaragua, had suffered severe injuries at age 7 in a car accident and was brought to Springfield through a "Healing the Children" program with SIU School of Medicine in 1994. Lynda Snodsmith, a retired x-ray technician, and the now-late Dr. John Snodsmith took the boy into their home for what was initially expected to be weeks of recovery but became months of additional surgeries.

After Willie returned to El Viejo, the Snodsmiths visited him and his family and welcomed him back when he returned to Springfield for medical checks. Eventually, the Snodsmiths adopted Willie to ensure his health and well-being and ease his mother's financial woes. None of them ever forgot the birth mother and family, who remain in close contact.

Willie saw the poverty and despair women and children experienced in Nicaragua, inspiring him to help the people of his home village. He volunteered for many medical mission trips, and with the support of his adoptive parents, HOPE was born.

"Suffice it to say through our adoption (of Willie), John and I saw the need to help provide very deserving health care and education to these people," Lynda said. She recalls on that 2014 mission trip they saw about 500 patients in five days with problems like high blood pressure, kidney, lung and vascular diseases, pregnancies, ulcerations, skin and eye issues, and lack of daily vitamins for adults and children.

With the exception of the past two-plus years because of COVID-19 putting a halt on supplies and travel, they took numerous medical trips to El Viejo. "The places we go to are recommended by the local village governing body," said Lynda. "One day we may be in a rural area and the next in the local hospital clinic." HOPE enlists help from U.S. health care workers and volunteers. They also take local translators with them to these roaming clinics to ensure the patients understand their diagnosis and how to take provided medication.

"We have shared and witnessed many memorable moments throughout the years,"



HOPE has partnered with IAMM (International Assist Medical Mission) since 2014 to provide medical care to many people in El Viejo, Nicaragua, and the surrounding villages through mobile clinics. PHOTO COURTESY HOPE

said Lynda. "Many involve children who have been ill but lack funds to get to a doctor. We provide a diagnosis and the proper medication to heal the children. Other cases involve geriatric patients with arthritis, kidney and lung diseases. Diabetes is rampant in this part of the world, and the ramifications must be dealt with immediately, such as leg ulcerations that need to be kept clean and wrapped. Many of these types of cases need the medical supplies and meds to aid in healing. We can supply those things to the patients. All of these people have been very receptive and grateful for what we can provide for them. They always look forward to our next visit."

In the past, HOPE has relied on Springfield-area fundraisers and appeal letters to secure funding to purchase five acres of land and have utilities run to the future clinic site. Events such as the April 30 HOPE Springs Eternal Arts & Craft Fair assist with what HOPE has accomplished so far. With many government rules and regulations for non-citizens to purchase land and build in Nicaragua, HOPE has used Nicaraguan professionals. The clinic's architectural plans needed to pass through government committees for approvals, and HOPE had to pay for all of these steps to be processed before any building on the site begins.

"Securing the funding for building is our

biggest challenge right now," said Lynda, "and it is appropriate that we begin with grant searches. Ideally, we would like a person with some knowledge of grant writing to step forward and help us out."

For now, HOPE's vision is to build a clinic on the land they have secured and staff it with local health care providers. "So many people are ill and cannot work to supply their families with proper nutrition, housing, clothing and education," said Lynda. "We are looking forward to serving the people of Nicaragua with quality health care and education to help them maintain a healthy lifestyle for generations."

For more information visit www. clinicforhope.org. SBJ

Janet Seitz is a local communications professional, writer and artist. To share your story, contact her at janetseitz1@gmail.com.

#### Hope Springs Eternal Fine Arts & Craft Show

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Christ the King Parish Center, Springfield \$5 admission fee for those 18 years and up For more information: 217-741-0176 or serralady@att.net





# Calendar

# MAY 2022



First and third Tuesday of each month, 8:30-9:30 a.m. The Real Estate Group, 3701 W. Wabash Ave. sarsanysells@yahoo.com.

#### The Network Group

Second Tuesday of each month, 11:45 a.m. Sangamo Club, 227 E. Adams St. 217-652-3686.

#### **Capital City Toastmasters**

Wednesdays, 12 p.m. Temporarily meeting via Zoom. Email or call for information. admin-1313356@toastmastersclubs.org. 217-698-8767.

### Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)

Second Wednesday of each month. Meeting location varies. Email or call for more information. christine@baileyfamilyinfurnace.com. 217-441-2342.

#### McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Toastmasters Club

Thursdays, 6 p.m. The club is dedicated to the development of communication and leadership skills. Red School Mall, 1275 Wabash Ave. 217-546-8624.

#### The Association of Women in Communications

Second Thursday of each month. An organization for empowering women with the strength, support and tools for elevating their careers and becoming agents of change in the industry. Email

for meeting place and time. president@ awcspringfield.org.

#### League of Our Own Toastmasters Club

Second and fourth Friday of each month, 11:30 a.m. Support in developing communication and leadership skills in both personal and professional lives. Temporarily meeting via Zoom. Call 217-789-0830 ext.1301 or send an email to springfieldiltoastmasters@gmail.com if you would like to visit an online meeting.

#### **Ribbon cutting**

Wed., May 4, 12pm. The Orthopedic Center of Illinois (Midwest Rehab wing) is hosting a ribbon cutting and open house in celebration of the opening of their new Sports Performance Room. Orthopedic Center of Illinois, 1301 S. Koke Mill Road. orthocenterillinois.com. 217-290-1317.

#### **Good Morning, Springfield**

Tue., May 10, 7:30am. A casual atmosphere conducive to making connections that matter. Check out the event and network with other Chamber members. Midwest Mission Distribution Center, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee. 217-483-7911.

#### Ribbon cutting

Thu., May 12, 12pm. Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities is celebrating the new Fair Hills Apartments and Cottages. . Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities, 2101 W. Lawrence Ave. iphcommunities. org. 217-546-5622.



#### **Ribbon cutting**

Fri., May 13, 12pm. Trailers Direct of Springfield, 1925 E. Clear Lake Ave. trailers ersdirectspringfield.com. 217-280-4170.

#### **State of the City**

Thu., May 19, 11:30am. Hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Call 525.1173 x 207 or email mhorn@ gscc.org for registration information. President Abraham Lincoln Springfield - a Doubletree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St.

#### The Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA)

May 25, 12-1pm. via Zoom. Free. Hosted by the Illinois Small Business Development Center. A pre-award session will prepare you to act on Notice of Funding Opportunities. To submit a grant application to the State of Illinois, several prerequisites must be in place. Get help navigating the process and required risk assessments. Call 217-522-2772 or send an email to cisbdc@cisbdc for registration and link information.

#### **Business After Hours**

Thu., May 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Business After Hours is the Chamber's monthly evening mixer. Connect with other area professionals and gain exposure for your business. Members \$5 and nonmembers \$15. West Central Bank, 3600 Wabash Ave. 217-726-9600.

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# **Town & Country to be auctioned**

#### Alderman says it's good news for the neighborhood

By Dean Olsen

The scheduled auction of Town & Country Shopping Center in May could bring a revival of sorts to the 61-year-old retail site and more positive news for the west side neighborhood, Ward 7's alderman says.

"That site has got a lot of potential, and I'm sure the new buyer will maximize its use," alderman Joe McMenamim told *Illinois Times*. "I think this can be a very positive outcome. . . . It's extraordinarily important to MacArthur Boulevard."

Town & Country, in the 2300 to 2500 blocks of MacArthur, opened in 1961 and was the first outlying shopping center in Springfield as retail outlets across the country began opening in such centers instead of in urban cores of communities.

Covering almost 260,000 square feet, Town & Country is less than one-third the size of White Oaks Mall, which opened in 1977. But Town & Country is poised to benefit from pent-up demand from consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic, a busy, eight-year-old Hy-Vee supermarket next door and 20,000 vehicles passing by on MacArthur each day, McMenamin said.

"Hy-Vee has reenergized MacArthur," he said. Town & Country's auction is being handled by Ten-X on behalf of bond holders who own the assets, according to Paul Barile, a managing director for Transwestern, a company that assists in real estate sales.

The property previously was owned by a group that included Springfield developer Corky Joyner and city attorney Jim Zerkle.

JPMorgan Chase loaned \$13.6 million to Joyner and Zerkle's limited liability company in 2015 but filed a foreclosure claim when the ownership group didn't make required monthly payments on the loan in 2019, according to *The State Journal-Register*.

The foreclosure happened after Burlington Coat Factory, an anchor tenant since 1989, relocated in 2018 to the southeast corner of Veterans parkway and Wabash Avenue.

Ownership of Town & Country then transferred to JPMorgan and then to a corporate representative for owners of commercial-backed securities, Barile said.

The minimum opening bid is \$1.6 million in the online auction, scheduled for May 20-24. "That's a bargain price," McMenamin said.

The fair-market value of the property is more



than \$8 million, according to Sangamon County tax records.

A sale will be completed 30 days after the auction, Barile said.

Some of the first retail tenants of Town & Country in the 1960s were the Goldblatt's and S.S. Kresge. Current tenants include the Illinois State Board of Elections, Dollar Tree, Citi Trends, Chuck E. Cheese, Tuesday Morning, Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet and Underdog Sports, Memorabilia & Games.

Almost 60% of the center is vacant. The biggest empty space – 65,000 square feet – had been occupied by Burlington Coat Factory.

Paul Layton, a Chatham resident who owns Underdog Sports, said he is thrilled about the auction, which won't disrupt current leases at the center.

Having owners who are directly involved and focused on turning a profit likely will result in more aggressive marketing of the site, which covers 18 acres and includes 900 parking spaces, Layton said.

More tenants will lead to more foot traffic at Town & Country, which benefits all tenants, he said.

The current property manager is Cushman & Wakefield, a company with an office in St. Louis,

Layton said.

A reduction in COVID-19 cases has led to the restarting of youth sports, which has in turn resulted in a big uptick in business for Underdog Sports, he said. The business specializes in the purchase and sale of used sporting goods.

The scheduled redevelopment of MacArthur Boulevard will make the shopping center even more attractive for potential customers, McMenamin said.

"The convenience of that site is huge," he said. The improvements, between South Grand and Stanford avenues, are expected to cost the state \$28 million and begin sometime between this year and 2027, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The road will be reconstructed, traffic signals will be replaced and there will be other changes related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, IDOT officials said.

Whoever buys the site also could benefit from an existing tax-increment financing district and an enterprise zone to help finance improvements, McMenamin said.

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer for Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolsen@illinoistimes.com or 217-679-7810.



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# **New businesses**

Sangamon County new business registrations, March 16 – April 15, 2022

Kemetic Bling, 1521 S. Seventh St. 670-3584. Saxonina Ricketts.

Manetane Beauty, LLC, 217 Haekeye Way. 347-719-0435. Karveta Broussart, Tomeika Anderson.

Providence Spa, 1613 S. MacArthur Boulevard. 827-9627. Byron Dean Howie.

Sweets 4 Myles Catering & Desserts, 1512 Seven Pines road, Apt. 1. 386-456-7307. Marissa Miller.

Illinois Youth Foundation, 703 S. Eighth St. 960-5430. David Ridenour, Kendra Barlow-Johnson, Justin Dennis.

A & D Parking, 540 W. Mason St. 652-4341. DeAnne Potter, Angela Fox.

JT Welding and Fabrication, 103 Clear Creek Road, Dawson. 415-6876. Justin Thomas Tarr.

The Boss Boutique, 350 E. Madison St., Suite B. 220-5624. Debra D. Pool.

Common to Custom Contracting, 1620 N. 12th St. 671-9812. Jacob Call, Nicole Gee.

Cupcake Blossom, 701 Kirkwood Drive, #2. 761-4202. Valancia Joiner.

Cutting Etch Creations, 1700 Tern Place. 618-610-1163. Sarah Beth Morgan.

Total Pickup, 2011 E. Stuart St. 361-6756. David Bolden.

Joyful Skin Care Studio, 3800 Viking Blvd. 309-453-9424. Joseph Cabell, Patricia Cabell.

Capitol City Lawn & Snow Services, 4003 Color Plant road. 502-2466. Richard Smith, Haley Smith.

Haley Lyn Designs, 3008 E. Griffiths St. 553-1028. Haley L. Smith.

Krush-All Kuts and Styles, 905 S. Ninth St. 679-5063. Fontaine A. Krushall.

Mowing By Miles, 3305 Mars Ave. 652-5762. Trina Jennae Kellum.

LS & JM Jewels Limited, 2433 Yale Boulevard. 552-5127. Lori Lynn Smith.

Lucy Allen Unlimited, 4201 Cherry Grove School Lane, Auburn. 381-9441. Charles Williams, Halle Williams.

Big dog's Quilting, 9325 Lost Spring road, Dawson. 502-6686. Nicole copp.

CompleteCrete, 36 Midland Court. 791-1216. Michael Lesser.

Evolution Capoeira, 2721 Granada court. 415-1679. Sabrina Bell.

Royal Finery, 1853 S. 14th St. 717-5092. Marquisha Fields.

Brenda's Home Décor & Things, 1009 Lori Lane, Apt. D. 836-6895. Brenda Kay Letcher.

Central Illinois Remodeling, 102 E. Main St., Thayer. 415-8941. Shannon Strohkirch.

Magic Moon Crystals & Co., 2421 South 13th St. 891-6683. Dawn Diane Christensen.

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Entrance Apparel, 401 E. Jefferson St., Apt. 904. 720-9575.

Heisejason-png Giters, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

Behance, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

**Example Domain**, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

Careers Facebook, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

lana, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

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Linkedin, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise

Medium, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

Telegram, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

What's Happening, 2214 Lincolnshire Blvd. 416-8800. Jason Scott Heise.

**A&T Grocery**, 1200 E. Ash St. 416-0314. Ali Murshed.

J&A Logistics Transportation, 2528 Charlack Ave. 553-8339. Johnathan J. Dent, Anna Dent.

**Angeles Painting and Remodeling**, LLC, 704 Bruns Lane, Apt. I. 256-298-1708. Angeles Gloria.

**GB Cleaning**, 472 Parkway Drive, Sherman. 693-8493. Greg Bussen.

SheLovely, 800 Titan Blvd., Chatham. 606-1453. Jade D. Prather.

Image One digital, LLC, 1740 S. Douglas Ave. 650-7233. Erin Michael Winking.

Gorens Showtime Sports, 1405 E. Monroe St. 816-2491. Julian Gorens.

Irish Road Flower Farm, 13610 Irish Road, New Berlin. 617-7637. Alyssa Craven.

Homestyle Comfort Kitchen, LLC. 1420 E. Cook St. 481-1957. Delores Hill.

**Divine Treasures**, 2013 S. First St. 816-4439. Jovon D. Johnson.

Wiggly Bee Photography, 5221 S. sixth St. Frontage Road East. 416-5322. Ashley Earnest.

**Spivey Drywall**, 359 E. Spruce St., Chatham. 416-2467. John Spivey.

Willow Creek Designs, 801 Grove St., Chatham. 502-+0474. Crystal Lynne Cunningham.

Unique Cleaning Service, 819 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St. 553-3202. Crystal Ackerman.

Evolve Skincare, 2609 Montega Drive, Suite B. 971-2914. Sue Ellen Busby.

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