



# Talk around Town

MADISON COUNTY NEWSLETTER



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT MADISON COUNTY  
MAY 2024



# National Peace Officers' Memorial Day



*Please join us to honor law enforcement officers  
who have died in the line of duty,  
and to commemorate  
National Peace Officers' Memorial Day.*



**Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 1 p.m.  
Calvary Life Church  
4650 Maryville Road, Granite City, IL**

**Hosted by Sheriff Connor  
and the Madison County Sheriff's Office**



*The public is invited to attend.*

*The names of Madison County Law Enforcement that have died in the line of duty will be read.*

# Talking Trash



Madison County Board member Mike Babcock, Treasurer Chris Slusser and elected state leaders took part in an Earth Day Event on April 20 where they picked up litter along the roadways near the Roxana Landfill.



## Out & About in Madison County

# Prevent Event



Officials and community members gathered in April at Riverbend Family Ministries in Wood River for the annual Child Abuse Prevention Month event.

Madison County Judge Maureen Schutte served as the guest speaker. Other officials in attendance included Chief Judge Stephen Stobbs, Circuit Clerk Tom McRae, Treasurer Chris Slusser and State Senator Erica Harriss were also in attendance.

“We plant pinwheels, we tie ribbons, we organize trainings, and we host fundraisers and other activities to celebrate healthy, happy childhoods and raise awareness that all children deserve to grow up in nurturing and safe homes,”



Schutte said there were 749 kids in foster or other care placement in the Third Judicial Circuit, which comprises Madison County and Bond County, as of the end of March 2024.

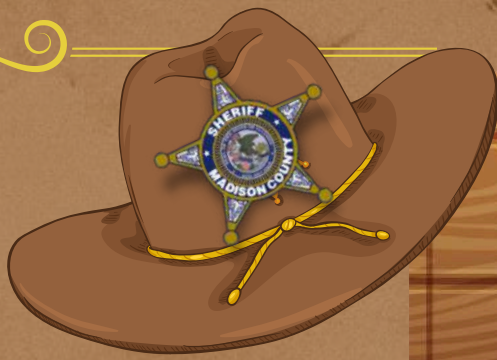


# Dirty Work

Madison County State's Attorney Tom Haine took part in the Tough Mudder at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison on April 27 and 28.







# THERE IS A NEW SHERIFF <sup>7 or two</sup> IN TOWN

**T**wo brothers recently served as Madison County "Sheriff for the Day."

On April 24, Sheriff Jeff Connor welcomed Maryville Christian School second and third graders, Brooks and Graham Obstein, to serve as honorary sheriffs for the day. The event was held to assist with the school's annual fund raiser.

The boys, ages 7 and 9, started their day being picked up by Connor and then going to the station for some donuts. They were then sworn into office by Chief Judge Stephen Stobbs as members of the "detective's squad" and other sheriff personnel watched.

"We visited many of the county's elected officials and other offices before taking a tour of the jail facilities," Connor said.

Connor said the boys also attended a media/press briefing and answered questions and offered insight to the new "duties and responsibilities."

The boys inspected the ongoing construction site for the new sally port location. They also took advantage of being able to sit inside the Rhino Armored Rescue Vehicle, a squad car and checking out the all-terrain vehicles and electric bicycles.

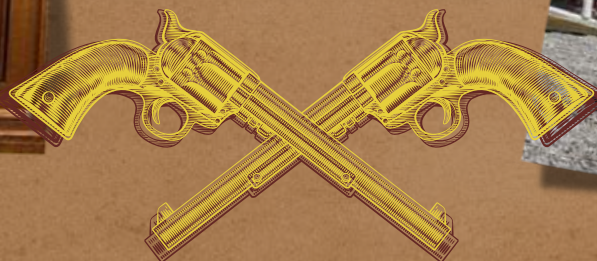
The boys received lessons on various patrol techniques, including the utilization of stop sticks.

The Sheriff's Office ended the day attending a staff meeting with the captains of the department.

"They made some recommendations in the policy manual at the meeting," Connor said. "They recommended we should install an up-to-date playground with an obstacle course that Deputies should run while wearing their duty belt followed by a nap time. Their input will be taken under consideration."



Brooks and Graham Obstein with Sheriff Jeff Connor and Judge Stephen Stobbs.







Brooks and Graham Obstein with Sheriff Jeff Connor and Court House Security



Brooks and Graham Obstein with Madison County Jailers



Brooks and Graham Obstein with Sheriff Jeff Connor, Deputies and Detectives and Sheriff's Office personnel after swearing-in ceremony.

You have a right to remain awesome.  
**CARRY ON**



Brooks and Graham Obstein checking on patrol equipment with Sheriff Jeff Connor.



EST. 1938

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

FRANK HOLMES  
GRANITE CITY ED.

TOM BALLANCE  
GRANITE CITY ED.

WILLIAM HUNT  
GRANITE CITY ED.

FRANK SMITH  
GRANITE CITY ED.

S. T. THOMPSON  
WOOD RIVER RD.

P. J. NALTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

DAVID MC CAIN  
HIGHLAND RD.

CHARLES CHANDLER  
VANDERBILT

A. P. GOETTING  
U.S. STATE POLICE

JAMES H. WYSS  
CASA ALTOH RD.

AUGUST MAYFORD  
ALTOH ED.

FRANK SIMIERAL  
GRANITE CITY ED.

JOHN PHIPPS  
WOOD RIVER RD.

R. BOLIN  
GRANITE CITY ED.

GEORGE LEWIS  
GRANITE CITY ED.

JERRY ODUM  
GRANITE CITY ED.

GEORGE ERIKS  
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

ADDIS MILLER  
ALTOH RD.

OSMER HOCKETT  
TOWNSHIP

JAMES ABEL  
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

JOHN GRIFFIN  
VANDERBILT

JOSEPH ZENTGRAF  
MADISON RD.

TYLER N. TIMMINS  
FISHHOOK BEACH RD.

BRIAN B. PIERCE JR.  
BRADLEEN P.D.



# GOOD NEWS



## Talk the Talk

### Madison County Board Recognizes National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

**M**adison County Board member and Public Safety Committee Chair, Terry Eaker, presented presented 911 Coordinator Arron Weber with a proclamation on April 17 recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (April 14 to 20.)

In 2023, there were 74 Telecommunicators that answered 124,898 911 call in the the county's eight public safety answering points (PSAPs) -- Alton, Collinsville, Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Granite City, Pontoon Beach, Wood River and the Madison County Sheriff's Office. The telecommunicators are responsible in providing emergency information to the county's estimated 540 law enforcement officers and 540 firefighter/paramedics.

Telecommunicators provide a critical communication link between the residents and police, fire, and emergency medical services providers across Madison County.

Weber said the State of Illinois recognizes Telecommunicators as emergency responders because they are the first in line when responding to traumatic and life-saving incidents by answering the call, then dispatching fire, police or emergency medical service providers across the county to an event.



**“When you become a telecommunicator you don’t just answer the phone and talk on the radio. You effect the lives of the people you deal with every day.”**

*911 Coordinator Arron Weber*

“Telecommunicators are the first, first responders,” Weber said. “They are the ones that have the eyes and ears to any calls to the center before police, firefighters and medics even know wha’s going on.,”



# GOOD NEWS

## Life of Excellence

### Madison County Sheriff's Captain honored



**M**adison County Sheriff's Capt. Brian Koberna received the Robert G. Lowery Award of Excellence during the 59th annual Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis re-trainer event.

The award is named for Maj. (retired) Robert G. Lowery, Sr., who is the former Florissant police chief and mayor (its first). Lowery was the fifth police official to serve as the commander of the Major Case Squad and served on various Missouri state boards and commissions.

As a police officer Lowery was the departments first detective and formed the departments detective bureau. As a police officer, Lowery received more than two hundred awards of excellence.

Major Case is activated to investigate some of the most heinous murders in our area. During 2023 there were 23 activations and they had an unprecedented 87% clearance rate.



## Canine Cuddles

### Madison County Sheriff hires some support



**M**adison County Sheriff's Office welcomed its newest employee in April.

Meet Doug. The department's new "support pup" at the Madison County Jail.

Got Your Six in Maryville helped in the "hiring" of Doug.



## In Remembrance

### Madison County Sheriff's Captain honored

**M**adison County Sheriff's Office K9 Deputy (Retired) Jada passed away peacefully on April 7. Jada would have celebrated her 11th birthday this month.



# GOOD NEWS

## Child Care CAC Director to receive national award

Child Advocacy Center Director Carrie Cohan was selected to receive the Horowitz-Barker Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Children's Alliance on June 3 in Washington D.C.

Cohan was selected from hundreds of nominations. The award recognizes a professional who has demonstrated, over the course of a career, a dedication to the Children's Advocacy Center movement and a strengthening of the CAC model.

Cohan's last day as the executive director was May 2. Cohan announced in January that she would be taking a new position with the state chapter of the Children's Advocacy Center of Illinois as their Director of Growth and Development.

Congratulations to Carrie for both her award selection and for taking on her new position.



# Madison County TRIAD to host free Senior Fair

**M**adison County TRIAD is set to host its first Senior Fair this month.

The fair is being held May 24, during Older Americans Month and will provide seniors with a one-stop shop for available resources from noon to 3 p.m. at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 N. Main St., Edwardsville.

"There are a wide variety of resources available for seniors, but not everyone may be aware of them," Sheriff's Capt. William Marconi said. "Our goal is to help connect seniors with Madison County's resources and other information to help them stay safe, informed and healthy."

Marconi, who is also president of Madison County TRIAD, said the event is an opportunity for seniors, their families and their caregivers to learn about services that are available across the county as well.

"If you are a senior, care for a senior, or love a senior, you won't want to this event," he said .

Madison County offices participating in the event include: Sheriff, State's Attorney, Chief County Assessment Office, Board of Review, Community Development, County Clerk/Recorder, Circuit Clerk, Veterans Assistance Commission, 911, Mental Health Board and Health Department. Other local organizations and state offices will also be on hand to provide information.

Officials and representatives will be available to answer questions on everything from senior scams to tax breaks for seniors.

"This event is going to be a win-win partnership for seniors and our entire community," Marconi said.

The event is free to the public to attend.





**MAY**  
**24**  
Noon to 3 p.m.

**FREE EVENT**  
**SENIOR FAIR**

Madison County Administration Building  
157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Find out how Madison County offices serves seniors.

Learn About :

**TAXES | MENTAL HEALTH CARE | VETERANS ASSISTANCE | 911 ASSISTANCE | FILING WILLS AND OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENTS | WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM | AND MORE.**

Other local organizations and state offices will also be on hand to provide information.

**DRAWINGS • GIVEAWAYS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT US ON:





# MADISON COUNTY JOINS ILLINOIS PURCHASING GROUP TO IMPROVE IS ELECTRONIC BIDDING SYSTEM

**M**adison County recently joined Bidnet Direct Service's Illinois Purchasing Group to improve its services and provide a new electronic bidding system.

In December 2023, the County Board approved a five-year contract with MDF Commerce, Inc. (Bidnet) for \$114,059 to join the purchasing group. The system will provide an easy and accessible way to submit bid documents and quotes to the county.

"Madison County wanted to find ways to bring more companies in to bid on projects," Madison County Board member and Chairman Pro-tem Mick Madison said.

Madison said the new bidding procedure provides an opportunity for more vendors and puts the county in the position to keep costs down with more bid solicitations coming in.

"I think it simplifies the bidding process in a way that also allows more competition and timely response from vendors," Purchasing Director Abdul Malik Fazil said.

The county published its first bid with the purchasing group in March and received more than 20 questions before the bid opening, which Fazil said was unprecedented.

"We have never had this many questions about a bid before," Fazil said.



**"Madison County wanted to find ways to bring more companies in to bid on projects,"**

**Madison County Board member and Chairman Pro-tem Mick Madison said.**

In total the county received 23 bids for an IT project. Two committees approved the bid and the County Board will take action on the resolution on Wednesday.

Fazil said by joining the Illinois Purchasing Group it connects local governments with vendors looking to do business with public agencies across the state. The group connects more than 300 participating agencies.

The purchasing group provides a transparent bid process through which the bid is available to all vendors at the same time.

"We can provide all the necessary information instantly to our vendors where everything they need is in one spot," Fazil said.

Registered vendors can access open bids, related documents, and files, additional addendum, and available award information from all participating agencies. The online portal allows vendors to log in and



view everything in real time too.

“This allows us to create a more seamless bid process and provide more participation from vendors across the state,” Fazil said.

In addition, Bidnet offers a value-added service to notify vendors of new bids targeted to their business, including all addenda and advance notification of expiring term contracts.

With one click, Madison County can now see how many vendors match a specific opportunity, how many have downloaded documents, responded and more. Madison County has its own, branded page on the public side of the Illinois Purchasing Group in which taxpayers can view all closed bids and any awarded

information.

Vendors of goods and services interested in obtaining information regarding specific solicitations and/or intending to submit a response will be required to register online at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/illinois/madisoncounty/>.

There is no cost to register or to submit responses to Madison County solicitation

Madison said this new procedure will include all the county’s invitations for bids, requests for quotes, requests for proposals and requests for qualifications that are open to the public and will be posted and administered via Bidnet direct.



## CHECK OUT MADISON COUNTY BID OPPORTUNITIES

**bidnet direct**  
powered by mdm commerce

# E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENTS



June 15  
Sep. 14  
Oct. 12



8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

CJD Ecycling

5257 N State Route 157, Edwardsville, IL

FREE for Madison County Residents  
Registration required



Will take anything with a cord



*Free*  
**LITTER KITS  
AVAILABLE**



Scan the QR Code to find out more



# Madison County assists Godfrey Fire Protection District with communications project

**G**odfrey Fire Protection District gets a \$60,000 boost in communication from Madison County ARPA funding.

Madison County assisted the fire district in building a new 80-foot communication tower at its newly built fire station on Godfrey Road.

In April, Madison County Board member Val Doucleff of Godfrey presented a ceremonial check to Godfrey Fire Chief Eric Cranmer, Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Wills and Godfrey Fire District Trustee Gerard Fischer.

Fire Chief Eric Cranmer said the new station sits down in a small valley and the radio tower will allow firefighters to communicate with one another, but also other emergency responders and agencies including those in Jersey and Macoupin counties, both of which border on the fire protection district and Village of Godfrey.

The new tower provides support for cellular, pcs and two-way communications towers. The total project cost was \$61,000.

The new tower not only ensures communications for first responders in Godfrey, but will connect to the planned radio system — StarCom21— the Madison County Sheriff's Office will be installing. The StarCom system is a interoperable, digital, trunked statewide voice radio communications network.



*Godfrey Fire Chief Eric Cranmer, Madison County Board member Val Doucleff, Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Wills and First District Trustee Gerard Fischer stand in front of the new communication tower at the new Godfrey Fire Station of Godfrey Road.*

“The county was happy to be able to provide the fire district with the funding for its new tower,” Doucleff said. “This new tower will provide clear and concise communications between public safety agencies.”

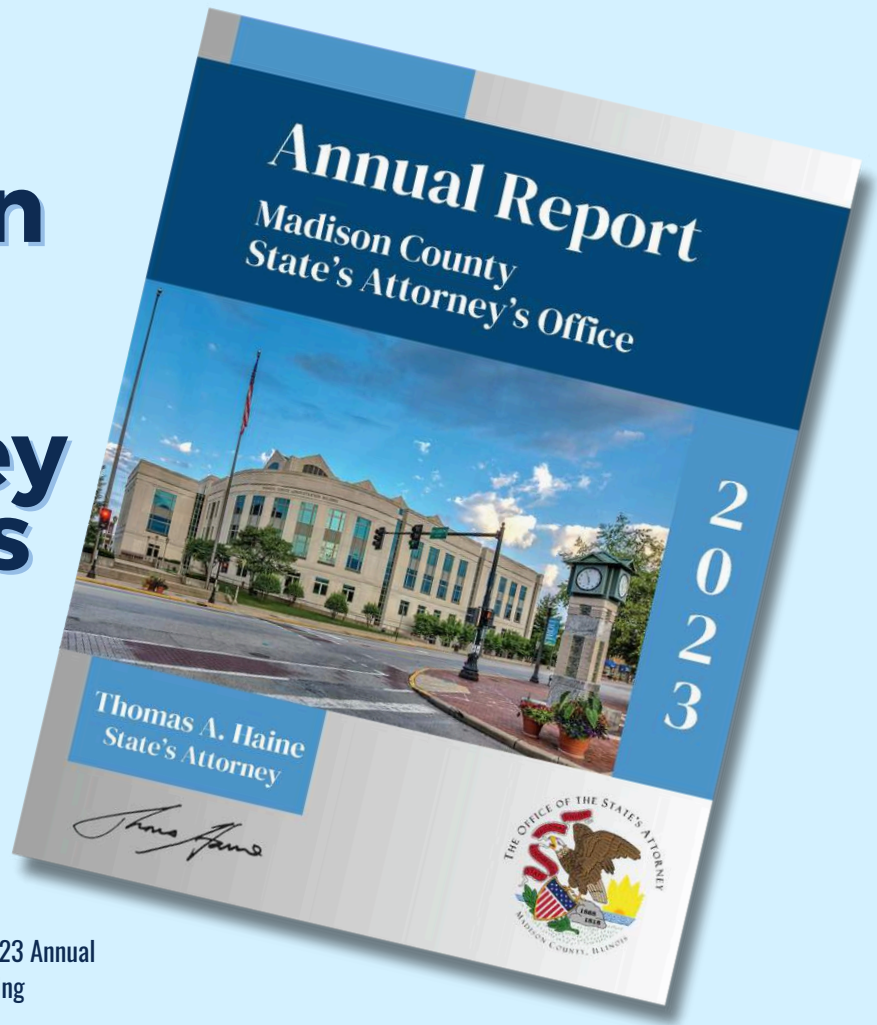
The county provided \$1.5 million in funding to community fire districts for revenue replacement. Fire districts can received up to \$60,000 in costs submitted to the county under eligible ARPA revenue replacement for expenditures.

Godfrey Fire celebrated the opening of their new firehouse/administration center in April. The district combined its previous two stations into the new facility, bringing all the firefighters under one roof.





# Madison County State's Attorney releases annual report



The Madison County State's Attorney's Office released its 2023 Annual Report last month as part of his ongoing commitment to being accountable and transparent.

State's Attorney Tom Haine presented the report during the monthly County Board meeting and highlighted his office's "stellar accomplishments" in upholding the law and advocating for justice.

"The State's Attorney's Office consists of an energetic and devoted team of public servants and professionals, who pursue the ends of justice under law in a variety of ways, touching every facet of Madison County government and every community in Madison County," Haine said. "However, many members of the community and even our leaders in County Government don't interact with the justice system on a day-to-day basis, and therefore do not get an opportunity to see the tremendous work of our team. Our hope is that this report provides insight into how your hard-earned tax dollars are put to work in the cause of justice.

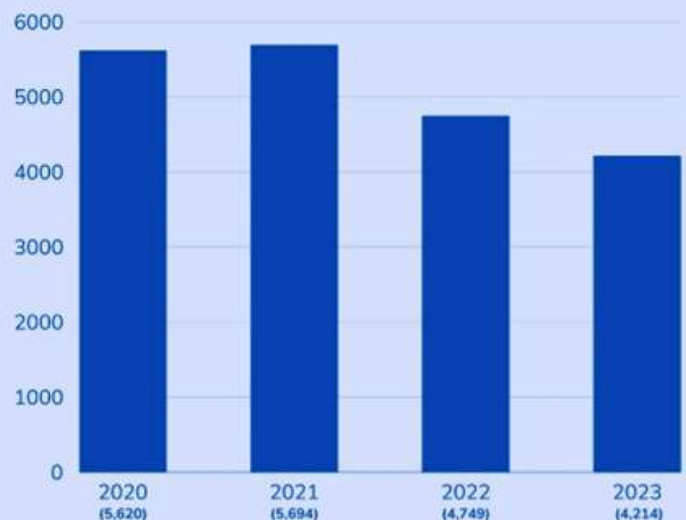
Haine said the office's efforts depend upon the support and cooperation of the County Board

"We're grateful for this vital support, which demonstrates that our elected leaders - and the voters of Madison County - see public safety as an important key to our future," he said. "Hopefully, our efforts will continue to have a major impact in fighting the scourge of crime so our families and businesses can thrive in safety."

The report states that in 2023, the office had a \$5.53 million budget and came in \$196,024 under budget.

Haine highlighted the office's efforts to prosecute and reduce a backlog of cases that developed during the COVID lockdown and restrictions. In December 2020, there were 5,620 cases open and by the end of 2023 the number of open cases was reduced to 4,214.

FELONY CASES OPEN AT END OF YEAR





In 2023, the State's Attorney's Office prosecuted a total of 3,769 felonies to conclusion through trial convictions, guilty pleas and other dispositions. There were 2,996 new felony charges filed.

"Our goal is to have no more open felony cases than we charge in a given year," Haine said. "We are almost there. This is important because for the victims of crime, justice delayed is justice denied."

Haine said the efforts became more complicated due to the implementation of the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act, or SAFE-T Act. SAFE-T Act, approximately two-thirds of the way through the year.

The SAFE-T Act eliminated cash bail and only allows for pretrial detention of criminal suspects if they are charged with certain high-level offenses. Even in those cases, the State's Attorney's Office must persuade a judge that the defendant meets additional criteria, such as being a 'real and present threat' to others before pretrial detention can be granted.

The SAFE-T Act was originally set to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023, but was delayed after Haine, Madison County Sheriff Jeff Connor and dozens of other state's attorneys throughout Illinois filed a lawsuit challenging the new law. A last-minute amendment was then passed, alleviating some of the problems with the SAFE-T Act and giving communities more time to prepare.

"Though we didn't ask for this change (in fact we vigorously opposed it), we have worked hard to keep our community safe under the new constraints of the SAFE-T Act," the report states. "As the SAFE-T Act was being introduced, we challenged it in court and, in response to the public outcry, were very happy that a major amendment was passed at the last minute, modifying many of the most egregious portions of the original bill."

"We believe our efforts made this Act less harmful to law-abiding citizens as it went into effect," it continues.

The State's Attorney's Office launched the Warrant Division last year in part to meet new requirements under the SAFE-T Act. The Warrant Division evaluates investigations presented by law enforcement agencies and determines what, if any, charges should be issued. The Division also prepares detention petitions and presents arguments in support of those petitions during detention hearings. It is staffed primarily by two assistant state's attorneys as well as support personnel.

According to the report, there were a total of 93 detention hearings resulting in 59 defendants ordered to remain in custody pending trial, which amounts to 63 percent. The other 34 defendants were granted pretrial release, or 37 percent.

"We will continue to aggressively seek detention where local law enforcement agencies see merit to such a request, in order to zealously protect crime victims and the public," the report states.

The report also addresses a new case management software system for felony cases, called Prosecutor By Karpel. The new system is expected to improve the office's efficiency, especially with the volume of digital data

# 2023

## *By the Numbers*

**\$5,539,952**

Total budget (including state grants)

**\$196,024**

Amount under budget (general fund)

**25,445**

New Misdemeanor, Traffic, DUI charges filed (increase of 5,096 from 2022)

**3,769**

Felonies prosecuted to conclusion

**2,996**

New Felony charges filed

**4,214**

Felony cases open at end of year (lowest number in 5 years)

**290**

Average jail population for first 6 months of 2022 (prior to SAFE-T Act)

**178**

Average jail population for last 4 months of 2023 (after SAFE-T Act)

**93**

Court hearings held on detention petitions filed under SAFE-T Act

**60**

Consecutive years under budget

**32**

Assistant State's Attorneys (full-time)

**19**

Murder, Attempted Murder or Involuntary Manslaughter cases prosecuted to conclusion

**3**

Jury trials held for First-Degree Murder or Attempted First-Degree Murder (guilty verdict on each)

**3**

Consecutive years under budget

associated with criminal prosecution continuing to grow due to mandates under the SAFE-T Act. The report states that the system has the ability to streamline workflows, cut costs and increase the capabilities and speed of prosecutors.

“For the Madison County State’s Attorney’s Office, 2023 marked a year of significant change,” the report states. “Some of these changes — such as implementation of a new case-management software system — were undertaken as part of our ongoing effort to utilize the best and most efficient tools to handle our cases and thereby keep our neighborhoods safe, better serve the citizens of Madison County and pursue justice for victims of crime.”

Other changes were made in order to better situate the county for the implementation of the SAFE-T Act.



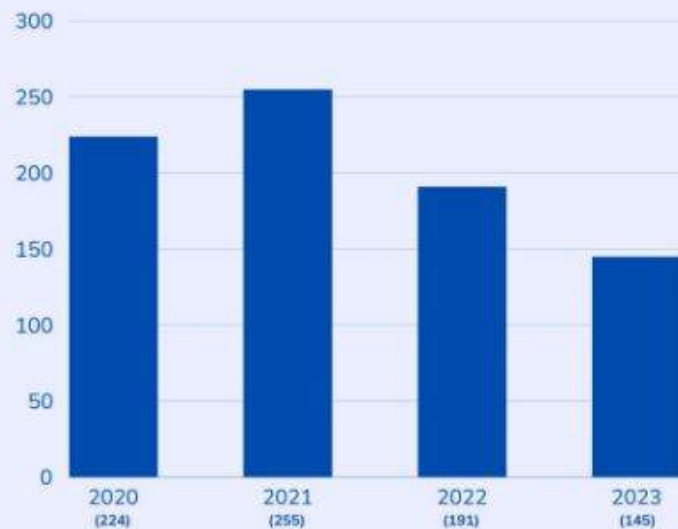
The annual report also includes the efforts and impacts of the **Cross-River Crime Task Force**. The task force completed four patrols in 2023, apprehending fugitives, recovering stolen vehicles, confiscating illegal drugs, and seizing illegally possessed weapons.

“Just as importantly, the task force’s highly-visible presence in targeted areas continued to send a clear message to would-be criminals,” the report states.

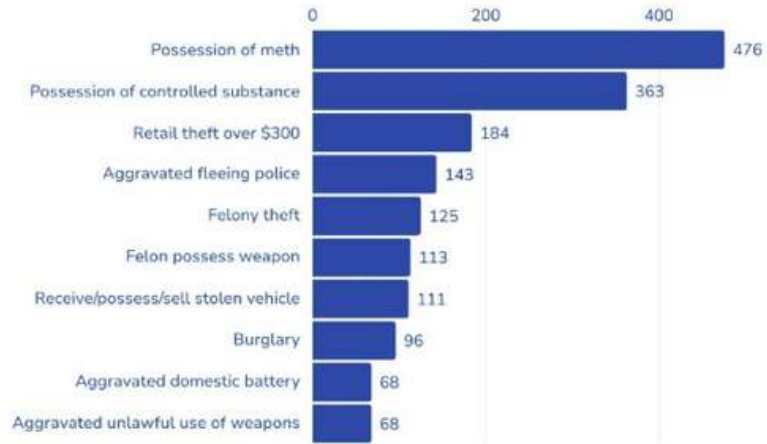
Founded in 2021, the Cross-River Crime Task Force employs real-time data from automated license plate readers and techniques such as saturation patrols to discourage criminal activity in the county.

Since its inception, vehicle theft cases have declined from a record high of 255 charges for offenses related to motor vehicles in 2021 to 145 charges in 2023.

### OFFENSES RELATED TO MOTOR VEHICLES (RECEIVE/POSSESS/SELL STOLEN VEHICLES AND RELATED FELONIES)



### 2023 Top felony charges



The report also lists the top felony charges filed in 2023, which is led by 476 charges for possession of methamphetamine. Madison County also saw 363 charges filed for possession of a controlled substance; 184 charges for retail theft over \$300; 143 charges for aggravated fleeing police; 125 charges for felony theft; 113 charges for felon in possession of a weapon; 111 charges for receiving, possessing, or selling a stolen vehicle; 96 charges for burglary; 68 charges for aggravated domestic battery; and 68 charges for aggravated unlawful use of weapons.

The report provides county residents, community organizations, elected officials, County Board members and law enforcement agencies with insights into the office’s operations over the past year. He encourages the public to review the annual reports and provide feedback on the efforts of the State’s Attorney’s Office.

“Accountability and transparency are essential components of effective governance,” he said. “We remain committed to serving the needs of our community and working collaboratively to address challenges and promote public safety, and we appreciate everyone’s feedback so we can continue to improve and keep Madison County a wonderful and safe place for all of us in the future.”

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# NEED HELP?

Housing  
Rental Assistance  
Mental Health Services  
Substance Abuse Treatment



MADISON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CAN HELP!

CALL or SCAN  
QR CODE  
(618) 296-5300



# JOB



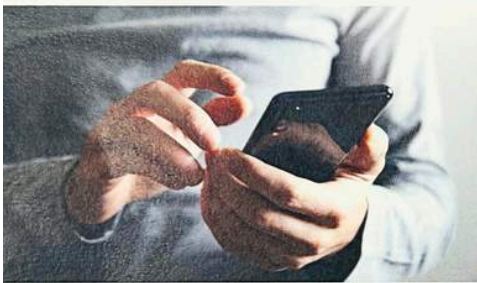
# Openings

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

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



Thomas McRae  
Madison County Circuit Clerk



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

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

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

NEED HELP LOOKING FOR A JOB?



Visit Madison County Employment & Training



FREE DROP OFF FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

\*APPOINTMENT REQUIRED\*

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



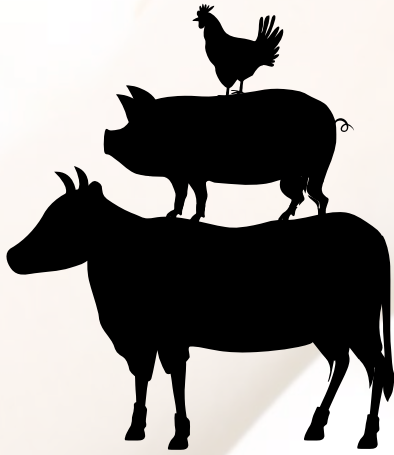
## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SITE

OPEN EVERY MONTH - 1st Saturday & 3rd Friday



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





# FARMER'S MARKET

## List



### Alton Farmers' and Artisans' Market

<https://downtownalton.com/events/alton-farmers-artisans-market/>

### Bethalto Market in Park

<https://www.bethaltomarketinthepark.org/>



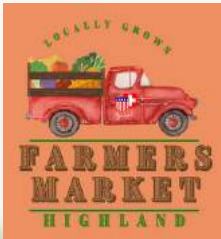
### East Alton Farmer's Market

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263875910291318/>



### Land of Goshen Community Market

<https://www.goshenmarket.org/>



### Highland Farmer's Market

### Maryville Farmer's Market

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket/>



### New Douglas Farmer's Market



### Wood River Farmers' Market

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wood%20River%20Farmers%20Market/383876235001597/>



### Granite City Melting Pot Market

[https://www.facebook.com/MeltingPotMarket/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/MeltingPotMarket/?ref=page_internal)

# EAT FRESH, EAT LOCAL



# National **BIKE** Month

## Madison County Transit Celebrates Bike Month

**N**othing brings joy as much as learning to ride a bicycle. As a child it's your first taste of adventure and freedom.

There is the thrill of turning the pedal and unlocking the joy of movement and speed. Madison County, is criss-crossed with more than 135 miles of scenic, Class I bikeways/trails thanks to Madison County Transit (MCT) and what better way to celebrate them that during National Bike Month (May).

MCT is celebrating all month long along with a variety of activities. This year, MCT is introducing a new activity book, a Trail Critter Challenge, hosting Trail Adventures After School, and will attend community events as well.

New this year, MCT has produced original Trail Critters Adventure Books; small activity books inspired by the "Trail Critters" art collection found on the MCT Trails. The book is full of activities for all ages, including coloring sheets, critter profiles, and more.

MCT recently installed plaques at the base of each Trail Critter with a raised outline. The new Adventure Books provide blank pages for adventurous trail goers to place over the raised outlines and make a pencil or crayon rubbing of each Trail Critter.

While there is a limited number of books available, those interested can pick them up at several locations throughout the county, including libraries and local businesses, or by attending an MCT Trails event. Visit [www.mcttrails.org/calendar](http://www.mcttrails.org/calendar) for a complete list of locations.





## TRAIL CRITTER CHALLENGE

Building on the success of previous scavenger hunts, MCT is once again facilitating an interactive challenge through the “GooseChase” app.

The missions for this year’s challenge are focused on the new MCT Trail Critters and include a mix of activities you can complete at home, and challenges that will take you to the MCT Trails.

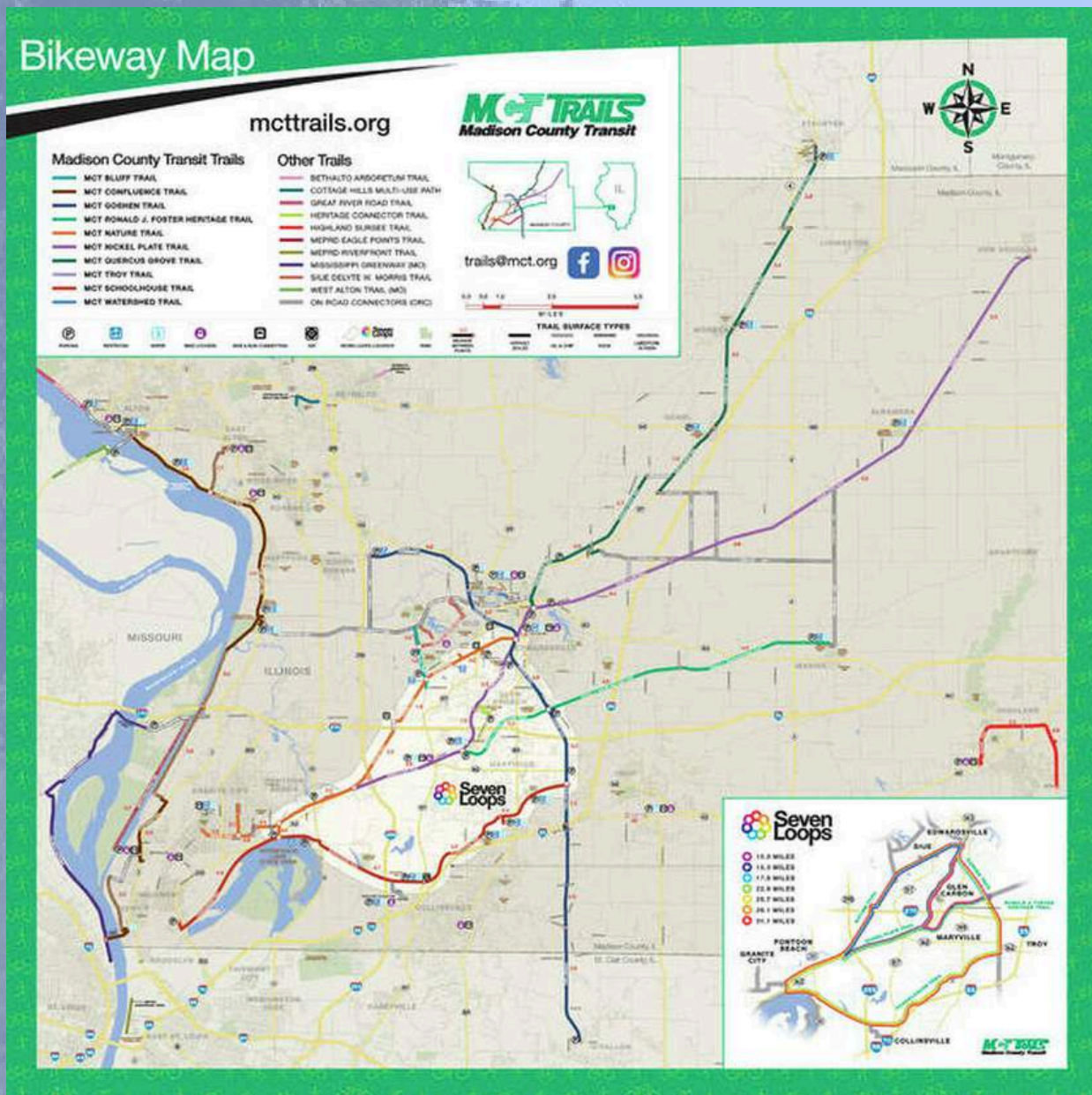
Individuals who complete all of the missions before the Challenge ends on May 31 will be entered to win MCT Trails-themed prizes. Follow the steps below to participate:

1. Download the free GooseChase app and search for the “MCT Trails GooseChase Trail Critters Challenge” or the game code “LP9V8L,” and join the game as a guest or create a free account.
2. Obtain an MCT Trails “Trail Critters Adventure Book” (you’ll need one to complete missions).
3. Complete all of the missions correctly by 8 p.m. on May 31 to be entered to win a variety of prizes!

The mission went live May 1 and participants have until 8 p.m. on May 31 to complete the challenges.



“Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike.”  
– John F. Kennedy





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



## Madison County Board Meetings



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

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

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



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

