



# County Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 9:00 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

*This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube using the web address below*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3AptZAOBLO>

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Jack Skrogstad.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jack Skrogstad, Vice Chair Ali Huss, Dean Freil, Katie White, Ron Gascoigne, Reed Akre

After calling the meeting to order, Jack Skrogstad appointed Board Member Keane Hudson to the committee to satisfy quorum. Jack Skrogstad, Dean Freil, Reed Akre, and Keane Hudson attended in person. Ali Huss attended via Zoom. Katie White and Ron Gascoigne were absent.

Also present: Mike Koppien and Angie Shippert (Board Members), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jennifer Boyd (Assessor), Sami Elarifi (GIS Coordinator), Jim Gorman (Veterans Administration), Paul Gorski (IT Director), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Jonathan Henrikson (IT Technician), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Chris Tennyson (Regional Office of Education Superintendent), Jared Yater (Zoning Office Code Enforcement Officer), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

III. Public Attendees

Greg Gates (Executive Director at RMTD (Reagan Mass Transit District))

A. Reagan Mass Transit Report

Greg Gates attended the meeting in person and provided the committee with a detailed report from the Reagan Mass Transit District. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (November 12, 2024)

Minutes from the November 12, 2024, County Services Committee Meeting were accepted as presented without modification.

V. Transportation/Solid Waste

A. Monthly Report

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the Highway Department and Solid Waste Management. This report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

B. Highway Department

1. MFT Maintenance Appropriations Resolution

Dave Anderson explained that the MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) Maintenance Appropriations Resolution reflected the amount that was approved during the FY2025 budget process. The Highway Department is not able to expend any of

these funds until the resolution is approved by the County Board and authorized by IDOT.

**Motion** to move the MFT Maintenance Appropriations Resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the December County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. MFT Estimate of Cost - Information Only

Dave Anderson provided the committee with the MFT estimated costs so the committee would know how the County arrived at the budgeted number.

C. *Solid Waste Management*

Dave Anderson reported that the Highway Department would not be accepting items for electronic recycling again until April 2025.

VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

A. *Assessor's Office*

1. Monthly Report

Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted from the Assessor's Office. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

B. *GIS Department (Geographic Information System)*

1. Monthly Report

Sami Elarifi walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the GIS Department. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

There was no report from the County Board.

VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

A. *Monthly Report*

Nancy Petersen walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

IX. IT Department (Information Technology)

A. *Monthly Report*

Paul Gorski walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

X. ROE (Regional Office of Education #47)

A. *Monthly Report*

Chris Tennyson walked the Committee through the detailed report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

XI. Veterans Assistance

A. *Additional Full Time Veterans Service Officer (VSO) - Discussion Only*

Jim Gorman shared his background with the VA and Lee County and provided information regarding the future ask for a Veterans Service Office (VSO).

- Jim explained that he had been the Veterans Assistant Commission Superintendent in Lee County for going on ten (10) years. He is considered a part-time employee that works four (4) days a week for four (4) hours a day in the New Courts Building, on the first floor.
- The office is state mandated and funded by real estate taxes.
- 80% of his job is providing transportation for veterans to hospital and clinic appointments.
- Before COVID the office had 16 (sixteen) volunteer drivers. The number has dwindled to five (5).
- The office provides rental and food assistance to veterans that were honorably discharged with an income of less than \$25,000 per year.
- Additions to the Military Veteran's Act in the last couple years include the placement of one Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) per County. There are 102 counties in Illinois and currently only 62 counties have a VSO in office.
- For the last three (3) years Lee County has been using the VSO in Ogle County. In the last two (2) years the VSO in Ogle County has seen 119 Veterans from Lee County.
- There is an Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Office in Sterling.
- Having a VSO in Lee County would mean that Veterans could file claims and get help with appeals in Lee County instead of having to travel to a nearby county.
- The act that spells out the changes is 33 ILCS 45 - Military Veterans Assistance Act.
- The new VSO position would have to be certified and work a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Discussion on this topic has started so the position could potentially be included in the FY2025 Budget Ordinance.

## XII. Zoning / Planning

### A. *Monthly Report*

Alice Henkel walked the Committee through the detailed report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the December County Board agenda packet.

After the monthly report from Zoning, Alice asked Jared Yater to bring the committee up to speed on compliance enforcement. Following are highlights from Jared's report:

- He is working with several property owners to remove recreational vehicles.
- He has coordinated with a group of individuals that are helping to strip useable items off boats and RVs to reduce the amount of weight taken to the landfill.
- Through the junk title process, property owners are getting money from the salvage yards for relinquishing their inoperable or junk vehicles.
- The Zoning Office continues to work with property owners to remedy non-compliant issues.
- Four individuals have been cited for non-compliance.

### B. *Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals - 2 Petitions*

1. Petition No. 24-P-1634 by Georgios Karountzos, as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 12-14-16-300-001. See attachment for details.  
**Motion** to move Petition 24-P-1634 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the December County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.
2. Petition No. 24-P-1635 by Jake R. Kastner, as owner of certain real properties identified as PINs 07-02-34-300-022, 07-02-34-300-017, 07-02-34-300-035 and 07-02-34-300-018. See attachment for details.  
**Motion** to move Petition 24-P-1635 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the December County Board agenda. **Moved** by Reed Akre. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. *Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals*

There were no petitions coming from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

D. *Petitions Going To the Planning Commission*

There were no petitions going to the Planning Commission.

E. *Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission*

There were no petitions coming from the Planning Commission.

F. *Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium*

**Motion** to move the Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the December County Board agenda. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

XIII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XV. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVI. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:51 a.m. **Moved** by Reed Akre. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next County Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department  
Report to the County Services Committee – DECEMBER 2024

The following represents a report of notable Highway Department activities and explanations of requested board actions:

**Status of Current Projects**

- 2024 Construction projects are complete.
- Efforts are ongoing to set up and design 2025 projects for both the County and the Townships. Bid lettings for these projects will likely take place from January through May.

**Other:**

- Maintenance crews have all the equipment prepared for the snow and ice removal season.
- Maintenance crews will cut brush/trees and clean/grade ditches throughout the winter as the weather and ground conditions permit.
- Phase I engineering has begun on the recent property under option for a new Highway Department facility. The County has engaged Willett Hoffmann and Associates to assist as necessary.

**Discussion Items:**

**Board Action Items:**

- *Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Appropriation Resolution*  
This resolution appropriates Motor Fuel Tax funds for the basic materials and general maintenance work for 2025. This must be in place by the first of the year to expend MFT funds.

**Solid Waste**

Electronics collection is now closed for the season. It will re-open in April of 2025.



**MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT**  
**December 10, 2024 – County Services Committee**

- Publication of the 2024 general reassessment townships and any properties with changes in their 2024 assessments was published on Wednesday December 4, 2024. Change of Assessment Notices were also mailed out that day to those parcels. The deadline to file a Board of Review Appeal is January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. If anyone has any questions about their assessment or the appeal process, please refer them to our office.
- Congratulations to Mary Ackerson in our office who completed her Certified Illinois Assessment Officer training in the fall and has received her certification. In 2023 only one other employee besides myself had the certification. In 2024 it was our goal for two more employees to receive certification, which we accomplished. This certification gives our employees education and tools to perform their duties more accurately, efficiently and confidently.
- After FOIA discussion at our last department head meeting and receiving the reminder from Co Admin Jeremy Englund that updated FOIA notices are due by January 1, 2025, I decided to delegate the FOIA Officer designation to Carmella Zigler in our office. Carmella has completed the FOIA and OMA training and our notice has been updated.
- Our office has also been filling in the gap for field inspections as our primary field inspector has moved into more of a zoning inspections role. Office staff have been out in the field taking photos in Palmyra Township for the 2025 general reassessment year. Our GIS Department has been working with them on a new QuickCapture app to be used with a tablet that will enhance accuracy of photo placement and save time identifying/labeling pictures for upload back at the office. While our office has been able to do some of the fieldwork, we will not be able to carry the entire load. I am looking at some options for a contractual field person for the spring.
- Our GIS Department is always researching new and existing technologies to increase efficiency and accuracy in our workflows in the most cost-effective ways. In addition to QuickCapture that we have recently implemented, we are currently exploring options for replacing our FARMS and Parcel Administrator tools with applications that have more advanced capabilities and could also save on annual maintenance fees going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO  
Chief County Assessment Officer/GIS Supervisor



**Monthly GIS Department Report**  
**December 5, 2024**

- Processed parcel split and combination requests for October.
- Maintained and updated land use, zoning, and other GIS layers.
- Updated and uploaded NG911 and 911 GIS layers to the public safety mapping systems.
- Continued configuring the damage assessment dashboard for Lee County EMA.
- Created detailed subdivision maps for Dixon Rural Fire Department.
- Conducted a training session on the ArcGIS QuickCapture application for field data collection.
- Responded to GIS data requests and map printing tasks.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sami Elarifi  
GIS Coordinator



**COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**  
**REPORT FOR DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING**

- **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION APRIL 1, 2025**
- Ballot Certification Deadline for this election is January 23, 2025
- Early Voting and Voting by Mail Begins on February 20, 2025
- Tax Extension Process is under way in my 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Petersen  
Lee County Clerk & Recorder





*IT Department*  
*Paul Gorski, IT Director*  
[www.leecountyil.com](http://www.leecountyil.com)

December 9, 2024

## IT Board Report – December 2024

1. Welcome to a new fiscal year! I remind the board that your IT Department is comprised of Jonathan Henrikson, Travis Null and myself. We partner with Syndeo Networks for network and server Infrastructure services, and the Illinois State Department of Innovation and Technology provides us with security software, audits and advice as needed. I'd also like to thank Mike McBride of the 911/ETSB for his support on a variety of projects throughout the year.
2. Probation - Travis Null is wrapping new computer deployments in the Probation Department and applying security updates to a variety of servers.
- 3 Courts/Circuit Clerk - Jonathan Henrikson is deploying some new laptops in New Courts and will soon be working with Syndeo Networks on some server upgrades
4. LEC – I'm a wrapping up some tablet and laptop software updates in advance of a Flex software update coming in January 2025.
5. County-wide – Migrating user PCs to Windows 11 in advance of Microsoft planned retirement of Windows 10 in October 2025.
6. Animal Control – IT temporarily relocated Animal Control computers during a new flooring installation and we should be returning the remainder of computer equipment to its original locations by December 17. (Hopefully before then.)
7. Upcoming projects include:
  - More new computer deployments in New Courts and LEC.
  - County-wide – reorganize, consolidate on-site login, domain servers.
  - Organize Cybersecurity response team and response team plan.

Contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Paul Gorski  
IT Director  
Lee County, IL  
815-285-8166  
[pgorski@countyoflee.org](mailto:pgorski@countyoflee.org)



## Report to County Services Committee / Lee County Board

December 10, 2024 | 9:00 AM

### 1) RIDERSHIP DATA (September 1 – November 30, 2024)

	September, 2024	October, 2024	November, 2024	FY 25 Trend
<b>RIDES</b>	<b>7,433</b>	<b>8,714</b>	<b>7,172</b>	<b>95,100</b>
<b>SERVICE HOURS</b>	<b>3,271</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>31,076</b>
<b>MILES OF SERVICE</b>	<b>67,403</b>	<b>75,482</b>	<b>63,387</b>	<b>759,388</b>
<b>FUEL COST</b>	<b>\$19,289.85</b>	<b>\$19,632.67</b>	<b>\$18,460.22</b>	<b>\$268,852.32</b>

### 2) DEVELOPMENTS

#### a) Service Contract Discussions

- i) Initial discussions on potential service contracts have been had with Rochelle Community Hospital as well as KSB Hospital. Both of these are in the very preliminary stages, with good content from the initial meetings.

#### b) Transit Desert Grant / IDOT State Planning and Research

- i) The Transit Desert Study is moving forward with NIU Center on Governmental Studies as the project lead. NIU is working on setting up the first meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee.
- ii) Components of this study will include surveys, review of baseline data, focus groups and a Technical Advisory Committee. The timeline for this project will provide for a wrap up of all activities by the end of FY 2025 (June 30, 2025).
- iii) This project will look at the general “transportation needs” of residents in Lee and Ogle Counties, specifically those areas of the counties more remote in nature

#### c) Feasibility Studies: Dixon and Rochelle

- i) RMTD and RLS and Associates held an initial meeting with IDOT leadership about potential funding (operational and capital) for the initiation of the fixed routes in Dixon and Rochelle.
- ii) The Dixon Study wrapped up at the end of November, while the Rochelle Study will be completed by the end of December.
- iii) RLS will provide a presentation to the Ogle County Board during its December 17, 2024 meeting.

#### d) Auditing Services

- i) Wipfli, LLC has been awarded successful bidder to the Request for Proposals for “Auditing” services, a three-year contract with two option years.
  - (1) Admin is working with Wipfli staff on the transportation audit, which is due into IDOT by December 31, 2024.
  - (2) This audit assesses the Downstate Operating Assistance Program funding as well as 5311, 5311F and CARES (Covid) funding received in FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

#### e) IT Services

- i) Pre-Award Concurrence for the awarding the successful bid of Information Technology services is pending with IDOT.
  - (1) Awarding should be made this week (12/9/24).
  - (2) The chosen IT Firm will have a three-year contract with two (2) additional one-year options.
  - (3) A total of four (4) IT Firms responded to the RFP publicized by RMTD.

#### f) Pending Request for Bids / Intercity Bus

- i) An upcoming bid opportunity to operate Intercity Bus services on I-88 and I-39 will be forthcoming in the next six (6) months, with the selected operator beginning on July 1, 2025.

#### g) Request for Bids / Replacement Vehicles

- i) RMTD has an initial draft of a Request for Proposals for two (2) (possibly three) Ford Transit type vehicles, and which has been shared with IDOT for their initial review. This RFP will allow for the use of REBUILD 1 funding.

**h) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction**

- i) Pre-bid Concurrence paperwork is being finalized by Larson and Darby, our architects for the Oregon office construction, and will be submitted to Illinois Department of Transportation. Once concurred will allow for going out for the hiring of a General Contractor.
- ii) Larson and Darby, architectural firm out of Rockford, is the architect/engineering firm hired for the Oregon Construction project. This project is part of RMTD application under REBUILD 1

**i) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services**

- i) Working on Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County to provide rural transit.
- ii) Separate agreement being finalized for the contractual hiring of a person to be the PCOM (oversight) of the rural transit services being provided.
- iii) The contractual budget proposed by IDOT for this new rural service is as follows:
  - (i) 5311 Contract: \$207,864
  - (ii) DOAP Contract: \$798,728

**j) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**

- i) IDOT State Planning and Research Program is finalizing the execution of its agreement with RMTD.
- ii) RMTD has been awarded funding from the State Planning and Research Program of IDOT for a total of \$300,000 to assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen fuel in rural Illinois.
- iii) Once a contract has been executed, RMTD will broadcast a Request for Proposals for a Project Lead for the initiative.

**k) Budget/Contracts for FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)**

- (1) RMTD has executed all three (3) of its contracts for FY 2025.
- (2) Contractual amounts for State Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows:
  - (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
  - (b) DOAP Contract: \$1,867,008
  - (c) 5311F Contract (I-88 and I-39): \$2,029,606

**l) Vehicle Procurement**

- (1) Pending transfer of two (2) buses from an area non-profit.
- (2) Pending transfer of two (2) 5310 vehicles from local non-profit here in Dixon.
- (3) RMTD received was awarded 6 vehicles (2 minivans, 4 light duty buses) via IDOT's 2022 CVP Application. Delivery in 2025.
- (4) RMTD collaboration with IDOT on a federal proposal to the Low/No Emission Grants.
  - (a) RMTD will procure two (2) electric buses via this proposal.

**3) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Capital Funding / Community Project Funding | Representative Darin LaHood**

- i) Funding includes construction of additional administrative space at Dixon Transit Center

**b) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 1**

- i) Funding provides for construction of new Oregon location
- ii) Furnishings and equipment for Oregon facility
- iii) Implementation of video surveillance cameras in 17 of RMTD's buses and minivans (completed)
- iv) Three (3) new buses (Ford transit type vehicles)

**c) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 2**

- (1) RMTD Proposal will allow for the following:
  - (a) Two electric vehicles for use in the RMTD system
  - (b) Three (3) new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room
  - (c) Develop new Conference Room between Reagan Transit Center and Mechanical Bay
  - (d) Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex

**d) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 3**

- i) RMTD will receive \$62,500 for the purchase of 2 service vehicles

## Regional Office of Education Report

December 2024

It is hard to believe but the end of first semester is approaching quickly. December provides our staff the opportunity to summarize all the work we have been doing so we can report our progress to the state and federal agencies that administer our grants. It also provides us with a few days to recharge while our school districts are on winter break. This will end up providing us some time to prepare to hit the ground running when the second semester starts. We will again combine our shortened January report with our normal February report. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year!

### Professional Learning & Educational Services

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
Induction & Mentoring
Community Partnership Grant/IDPH Trauma Grant
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing, Health Science & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)
Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A
Early Childhood Professional Learning
Family Education & Engagement

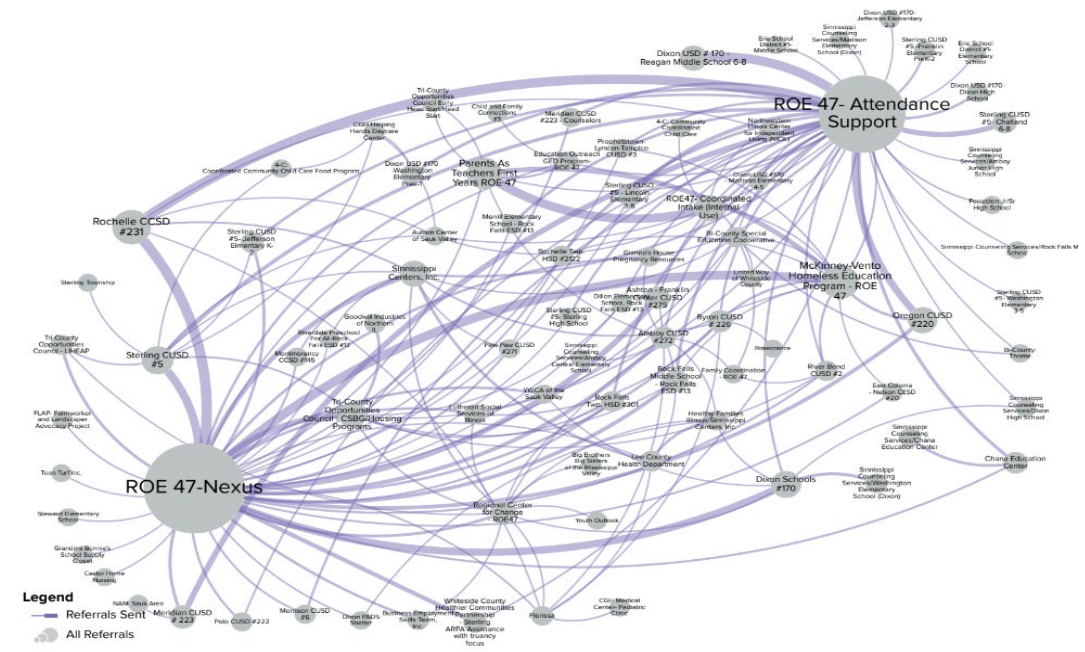
NEXUS Family Support Services
Student Attendance
Computer Science Capacity Building
Afterschool Program
Preschool for ALL Expansion

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning & School Improvement**

- The Office Professional Learning & Educational Services is excited to announce that we have been awarded a Preschool for ALL Expansion grant through the Illinois State Board of Education. The grant proposed partnering with Dixon YMCA and Dreaming Tree preschool in Dixon to open four full day preschool classrooms serving 80 children ages 3-4.
- ROE 47 is partnering with the Illinois and National Science Teacher Association and the Illinois State Board of Education to provide statewide professional learning to support the implementation of the Illinois Science Standards in Fy 25.
- Active school with TRS-IA or RSSI plans to support trauma responsive schools include: Amboy Central Elementary, Amboy Jr High School, Amboy High School, Center for Change, Chana Educ Center, Southside School (Morrison), Polo High School, Rock Falls Middle School, Dillon Elementary (RF), Merrill Elementary (RF), Riverdale (RF), Lincoln Elementary (Sterling), Paw Paw Elementary & Jr High, Monroe Center, Sauk Valley Deanery.
- ROE 47 has launched a year-long social media campaign to raise awareness of trauma, reduce stigma, and promote resilience. Posts are available each Monday on Facebook.
  - *Childhood trauma leaves a lasting impact, affecting not only individuals but also generations to come. By raising awareness about the complexities of childhood trauma and promoting understanding, we can foster a more compassionate and supportive environment for children who have experienced these challenging events. Join us as we embark on a journey to create a resilient community where every child feels safe, seen, and heard. Together, we can break the cycle of trauma and empower individuals to heal and thrive.*

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach**

- Over 20 families joined our November Parent University session on “Cracking the Code: Understanding Your Child’s Behavior”. Parent University sessions are held monthly on zoom at no cost to families.
- To date, ROE 47 has 142 partners on its IRIS referral platform. There have been 2,960 referrals and 1632 families served. IRIS is an Integrated Referral and Intake System that works to connect local agencies with one another to streamline online client referrals. IRIS supports warm hand-offs for families, closes the communication loop for referring organizations, tracks outcomes, and provides a clear data-driven picture of partner capacity to improve the process over time. The image below is called a kumu and demonstrates the interconnected nature of referrals made in the IRIS platform to date. ROE 47 is currently looking for sector champions (health care, childcare, etc.) and additional businesses to engage in a partnership pilot.



## Office of Professional Learning &amp; Ed Services: Social Media

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47 Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube! We have an extensive library of 153 videos (and growing) in our collection!

## Upcoming Events



ROE 47 Presents

# 3RD ANNUAL TRANSITIONAL ENGLISH STATEWIDE SUMMIT

DECEMBER 13TH, 2024  
8:30 - 12:00 P.M.  
ZOOM

**Keynote**  
Keynote John Warner will provide strategies for developing writing habits of mind and rethinking the 5 paragraph essay.

**Breakout Sessions**  
Sessions on the Implementation of Transitional English, developing teacher leaders, support ELs and diverse learners, the Illinois Literacy Plan, and more!

**Strategic Planning**  
Learn about resources to help build partnerships, develop Transitional ELA courses, and enroll students!

To register, scan the QR Code or visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)

SCAN ME



## Battelle for Kids CCR Summit



## CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN AGRICULTURE



### Learn About:

- Why your FFA members are missing school again
- A year in the life of an Ag Teacher
- Partnerships for work-based learning opportunities
- Agriculture classes are more than electives
- And much more! View full agenda [Here](#)

### Chapter Showcase:

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| • Rochelle        | • Oregon       |
| • Geneseo         | • Sterling     |
| • Amboy           | • Kewanee      |
| • West Carroll    | • Stark County |
| • Fulton          | • Cambridge    |
| • Polo            | • Eastland     |
| • Stillman Valley | • Forrester    |
| • Scales Mound    |                |

### Date

February 28, 2025  
9:00am - 1:00pm

### Location

Tettens Grain  
1684 Nachusa Rd  
Dixon, IL

### RSVP Info

By February 21  
[Register Here](#)



## TEAM-BASED CHALLENGE DAY

Work with local industry partners in Manufacturing, Health Science, and Education to solve problems that people encounter in everyday professional practice.

Thursday, March 6th

8:30-2:30 at Sauk Valley Community College



REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!



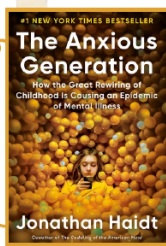
The Pathway Team at ROE 47 has developed a team-based challenge day for your health science, education, and manufacturing students. Tenth-grade to twelfth-grade students who are working on earning an endorsement in these areas are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.

This event will allow students to complete one of their required team-based challenges. Pre-work may be required.

Childhood was rewired between 2010-2015.

Our kids are capable of doing more.

Social media harms girls more than boys.



Reengage boys in REAL LIFE!

Ban phones in schools.

Play-based childhood - not phone-based.

## BOOK STUDY DETAILS

### 10 Weeks

Starts: January 13, 2025  
Ends: March 21, 2025

### Zoom Meetings

Tues., January 21, 3:30-4:30 PM  
Wed., February 19, 3:30-4:30 PM  
Wed., March 19, 3:30-4:30 PM



**"Experience, not information, is the key to emotional development."**

Join us for a thought-provoking book study of Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*. This groundbreaking work explores the factors contributing to the epidemic of teen anxiety and depression, providing insights into the profound impact of technology on childhood development.

In this book study, we will:

- **Delve into the research:** Understand the science behind the decline in youth mental health.
- **Explore the causes:** Discuss the role of social media, smartphones, and other factors.
- **Discover solutions:** Learn practical strategies to promote well-being and resilience in students.
- **Engage in discussion:** Share insights, experiences, and ideas with fellow educators.

Whether you're a teacher, counselor, or simply concerned about the future of our youth, this book study offers a valuable opportunity to learn, connect, and make a difference.

Questions, contact Grace Heimerdingen-Baile at [gheimerdingenbaile@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingenbaile@roe47.org)



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47

2214 E 4th Street, Suite 8 | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495



[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)



[facebook.com/roe47](https://www.facebook.com/roe47)



[@roe47](https://twitter.com/roe47)



[instagram.com/roe47](https://www.instagram.com/roe47)



[linkedin.com/company/roe47](https://www.linkedin.com/company/roe47)



## ROE 47 Computer Science Teacher Leader Program



### Session One

The training emphasizes building a strong foundation in computer science education, covering topics like computational thinking, algorithms, programming, and integrating CS into different content areas. Participants will explore resources for teaching CS concepts and collaborative practices like pair programming and debugging.



### Session Two

The training delves deeper into integrating computer science (CS) across the curriculum. Participants will explore connections between CS and various content areas for both K-5 and 6-12 grade levels. Practical application will be emphasized through hands-on experience with microbits for grades 6-12. The K-5 session will feature participants designing cross-curricular lessons incorporating unplugged, plugged, and robotic activities for K-5 students.



### Session Three

The training deepens CS integration, focusing on physical computing, project-based learning, and AI connections for middle and high schoolers. Elementary teachers will explore microbit basics and designed cross-curricular lessons.



### Session Four

This final year 1 session will focus on reflecting on the learning journey and developing actionable plans for integrating computer science into classrooms. Participants will share their experiences, challenges, and successes. We will collaboratively develop strategies for overcoming obstacles and sustaining CS initiatives. Participants will leave equipped with a personalized action plan to implement in their classrooms.



### Session Dates

- Session One: MS/HS: September 26  
K-5: September 27
- Session Two: MS/HS: January 30  
K-5: January 31
- Session Three: MS/HS: March 13  
K-5: March 14
- Session Four: MS/HS: June 16  
K-5: June 17

### Benefits of Participation

- ISTE membership access
- Comprehensive LTC training aligned with new IL CS standards
- Comprehensive 2-year program
- Scholarships for technology conferences
- Access to ROE 47 technology lending library
- Ready-to-use classroom resources and lesson plans
- Networking opportunities with fellow educators
- Professional learning hours
- Support for building an IT pathway endorsement program
- Access to student engagement events (e.g., hackathons)
- And more!

To register, visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)  
Space is limited in K-5 and 6-12 programs.

Please contact Anji Garza ([agarza@roe47.org](mailto:agarza@roe47.org)) with questions or for more information.



**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR CHILDREN**

**SEL CAPACITY BUILDERS**

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #B47  
2014 S. 4th Street, Suite B | Portland, IL | (815) 525-1499  
@selcapacitybuilders f @selcapacitybuilders @selcapacitybuilders @selcapacitybuilders

SEPTEMBER 30TH 4PM - 6PM  
NOVEMBER 16TH 4PM - 6PM  
FEBRUARY 07TH 4PM - 6PM  
MARCH 21ST 4PM - 6PM  
JUNE 05TH 4PM - 6PM

**Sep Trauma & Attachment**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Understand how trauma and attachment affect child development and behavior.  
*Presented by The Knowledge Center at Chaddock.*

**Nov Youth Mental Health First-Aid**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Learn to recognize and respond to mental health issues in youth. This session has a pre-work component.

**Feb The School of Hope**  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Learn how the science of hope can improve academic outcomes, decrease anxiety, and change your life. Presented by Cathleen Beachboard.

**Mar SEL Summit**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Dive into a transformative summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools. Keynote by Tom Tony.

**Jun Building a Tool-Kit**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College  
Build a toolkit of strategies to support children's behavior regulation and resilience and explore the importance of self-care. Presented by Jamie Stuart Taylor, LCSW

Please contact Grace Heimerdinger-Boake at gheimerdingerboake@roe47.org with any questions.

SCAN ME

# COUNSELOR & SOCIAL WORKER NETWORKING

Connect with colleagues to stay informed about state updates, share best practices, and find support within our professional community.

## SESSION DETAILS

**September 5**

**November 7**

**January 9**

**April 3**

**ROE 47**  
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B, Sterling

**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[@regionoffice47](https://twitter.com/regionoffice47)
[@LOWRCE47](https://facebook.com/regionoffice47)
[@ROE4731](https://instagram.com/regionoffice47)



## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKING

Calling all educators in instructional support roles (instructional coaches, interventionists, etc.). These networking sessions are designed to explore data, reflect on current systems and practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development and refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support all learners, and your loved ones.

### Session Dates

- ✓ **August 28**
- ✓ **October 30**
- ✓ **January 29**
- ✓ **April 30**

### More Information

**ROE 47**  
2214 E. 4th St., Suite B, Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

**8:30 – 11:30 AM**



**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[f @regionaloffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionaloffice47)
[@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47)
[@ROE473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC473)



**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[f @regionaloffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionaloffice47)
[@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47)
[@ROE473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC473)



# NEW TEACHER CADRE

If you are a new teacher, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, or a teacher in a new teaching area, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, we have several options of support designed to help you grow professionally and network with other teachers to share ideas, support and build a network both in your district and outside with other schools to share strategies--instructional, classroom management, remote learning, special education and SEL.

For questions, please contact Gail Wright at [gwright@roe47.org](mailto:gwright@roe47.org)

Date	Format	Time
Tue., September 24	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., October 22	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., November 19	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., December 17	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., January 28	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., February 18	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., March 11	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., April 29	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., May 13	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER







### 7th Annual Social Emotional Learning Summit

# Tug of War

## The Power of Pulling Together






Are you feeling pulled in a million directions? Overwhelmed by the demands of education? As educators, we often find ourselves in a constant battle, striving to create the best possible learning environments for our students. But the pressures can be immense, leaving us feeling exhausted and defeated.


**It's time to change the game.**

In this summit, we will explore the concept of Tug of War and how it relates to our daily experiences as educators. We'll delve into the energy-sapping habits that can hinder our progress and discover strategies to overcome these challenges.


**Tom Toney**  
Keynote Speaker




**Understanding the Tug-of-War Mentality:** Recognize the common patterns that can lead to feelings of exhaustion and frustration.




**Building Positive Relationships:** Learn how to foster collaboration and cooperation with colleagues, students, and parents.





**Cultivating Resilience:** Develop strategies to cope with stress and maintain a positive outlook.




**Embracing the Power of Teamwork:** Discover how to harness the collective strength of your team to achieve common goals.


 **Friday, March 21, 2025**

 **8:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

 **Sauk Valley Community College**


Scan QR Code






**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
[f @regionaloffice47](https://www.facebook.com/regionaloffice47)
[@roec47](https://www.instagram.com/roec47)
[@ROE473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC473)






## Administrator Academy

### Literacies of the Digital World: Teaching Technology Skills for Success in the 21st Century

This workshop aims to educate participants on the significance of computer literacy, digital literacy, and digital citizenship for student success in school and life. Attendees will learn to differentiate between these concepts, identify essential skills for each, and understand the appropriate timing for student exposure. Ultimately, participants will create an actionable plan for implementation in their school or district.




**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18**  
**8:30 – 2:30 P.M.**  
**SAUK VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**173 IL RTE 2; DIXON**



To register, scan code or visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)






**Be Bold**

Student Leadership Summit

**Step Up.  
Stand Out.**




**Tom Toney**  
Keynote Speaker

Are you ready to break free from the ordinary and make a difference?

Join us for the Student Leadership Summit and discover the power of boldness.


*Don't let your dreams stay just dreams.  
Join us and ignite your leadership spark.*



Step outside your comfort zone: Embrace change and unlock your full potential.



Discover your unique strengths: Identify your talents and use them to make a positive impact.



Develop essential leadership skills: Learn the habits and attitudes that drive successful leaders.



Set Clear Goals & Achieve Them: Create a roadmap to success and overcome obstacles along the way.

**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**McCormick Event Center, Rock Falls**

**Questions**

Contact Michelle Sanders at [msanders@roe47.org](mailto:msanders@roe47.org)

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
224 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [@roe47](#) [#roe47](#)

**NOON**

**YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

**A COUNTDOWN FOR FAMILIES!**

Join us for kids activities, a photo op, snacks, and sparkling grape juice!

**TUESDAY, DEC. 31**  
**10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Elevate Youth Center**  
505 W Lynn Blvd, Sterling, IL

In partnership with  
**ELEVATE**  
YOUTH TRANSITION CENTER

Help us get a head count, RSVP today!

Scan the QR code  
Text (815) 764-1194  
Email [gheimderingerbaakesroe47.org](mailto:gheimderingerbaakesroe47.org)

**Balloon Drop**  
right at noon!

In partnership with **Bank of America**

**Money Matters**

**A Family Finance Workshop**

**A Parent University Event**

Learn practical strategies to strengthen your family's financial well-being and teach your children about money to set them up for financial success.

**THURS. JANUARY 9**  
**7:00-8:30 PM**  
**VIRTUAL**

Scan the QR code to register or text/call (815) 764-1194

**KEY TOPICS**

- Money Smart Kids:** Teach kids about money at their age level.
- Budgeting Basics:** Learn to save and spend wisely.
- Saving and Investing:** Build a strong financial future.
- Family Financial Goals:** Work together to achieve your family's money goals.

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
224 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [@roe47](#) [#roe47](#)

**A Parent University Event**

**Parenting Beyond the Screen**





**Learn to Navigate the Digital World**

Gain insights into the potential risks and benefits of social media.



**Protect Your Child's Mental Health**

Discover strategies to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, and the negative impact of social media on mental health.



**Foster Open Communication**

Learn how to have open and honest conversations with your child about social media and online safety.

**TUES. FEBRUARY 4**  
**7:00-8:30 PM**  
**VIRTUAL**

Scan the QR code to register or text/call (815) 764-1194

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
224 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

[www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org) [@roe47](#) [#roe47](#)

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events

November 2024 Participants - 166

Wednesday, November 6

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training @ SVCC

Thursday, November 7

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ ROE 47

Monday, November 11

Amplify ELA Networking Session @ 3:15 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12

LETRS Cohort 2 @ 3:30 p.m.

Pathway Quarterly Cohort Networking @ 3:15 p.m.

Friday, November 15

Early Childhood Summit @ SVCC

Tuesday, November 19

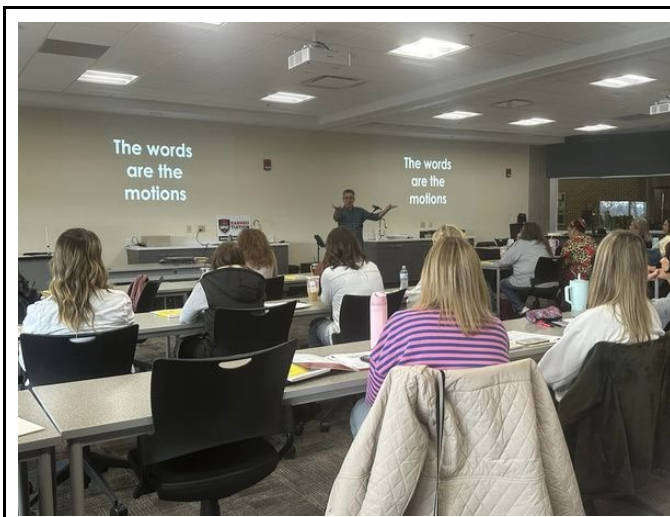
Math for ALL Cohort @ ROE #47

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21

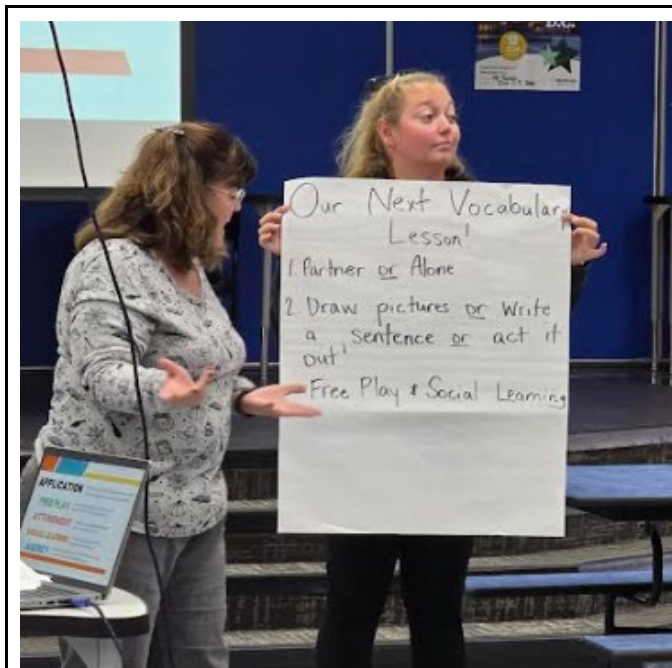
Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

**November 2024 in Photos:**









### Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

Our Nexus team has been working hard, this month, to get all of our families connected to support for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, as those holidays are quickly approaching and the need in our area can be overwhelming.



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

## ***HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT***

Nexus Program

November 2024 - FY25

**140**

Families Supported

**348**

Children Supported

**51**

McKinney Vinto

**508**

Goals Met

**4,745**

Family Contacts

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support**



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

## ***HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR DISTRICT***

Attendance Program

November 2024 - FY25

**97**

Families Supported

**199**

Children Supported

**13**

McKinney Vinto

**147**

Goals Met

**3,376**

Family Contacts

**Parents as Teachers First Years**



November brought news of an upcoming monitoring visit from our funder, the Illinois State Board of Education. Although this is an opportunity for growth, staff are always somewhat stressed by their visits. Part of the visit includes videotapes of home visits that the monitors then evaluate and recommend areas for improvement. The hardest part (besides staff worrying that everything has to be perfect) is convincing families to be willing to tape a home visit. Families often share very personal information and family stressors during their visits that they may not feel comfortable having on a videotape. We appreciate the family volunteers who are willing to let us videotape a visit so that we can use them as a tool to improve our services.

The program coordinator, Lois Meisenheimer, has been selected to serve on the Illinois Parents as Teachers State Office Advisory Council, which comprises 12 advisory board members from across the state. Members included 4 representatives from the state office, a representative from each of the two home-visiting funding agencies (the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services), and 6 program supervisors. The inaugural meeting was held in November. Data was shared with the advisory board about statewide PAT affiliate programs which were quite notable. Across Illinois, 7,749 families were served by PAT programs last year, including 8,988 children. The Illinois state PAT office also provides more training annually than the PAT National office does, and overall, Illinois PAT programs meet quality standards and have more blue ribbon affiliates at a higher percentage rate than PAT programs nationally. The representative from IDHS was also impressed with the family retention rate and longevity of the families enrolled in PAT programs across the state which speaks volumes to the strength of relationships that are being developed and the opportunities for change and strengthening of families enrolled in PAT programs. We are thrilled to be able to represent this section of the state on this council and also to be part of such an impressive network of programs that are supporting families in this state.

## **Education Outreach Program**

As November comes to an end and we prepare for the Winter season, the Education Outreach Program wants to take this time to be thankful for what we have and have worked hard for. For many of our students, they are setting and achieving their goals by coming to class regularly! We can officially say that we have consistent attendance and participation from our students. Due to this, testing is at an all time high. We had 5 students pass GED tests in November and already have 5 more scheduled for the first week of December! The students' are meeting their academic and personal goals, and our program is fulfilling grant requirements.



Also with the colder season ahead, the Education Outreach Program and the supportive staff have developed "Giving Trees" for our classrooms in Sterling and Oregon. We have had generous donations of hygiene supplies and hats so far and they are absolutely needed and used! It is a wonderful time of the year and we want to make sure all of our students get to feel cheerful and supported.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

November is the National McKinney Vento Homeless Conference. It was held in Orlando and attended by over 2000 people. Great wealth of information and other State experiences makes this a great opportunity to learn more about this program and steps that others take to reach and support the children in their educational travels. I feel very fortunate that I was able to attend this year. Resources will be shared with our districts to help them better understand and serve our children.

## **Center For Change**

## December

As we close out the year and move into the winter months, we are excited to reflect on the progress we've made and share our plans for continued growth and engagement into the second semester.

This semester has been one of growth, connection, and success. Our October outing to Selmi's Pumpkin Patch was a wonderful experience for our students, providing them with an opportunity to connect with the community while enjoying hands-on, seasonal activities. The event was well-received by students and staff, reinforcing the importance of providing opportunities outside the classroom that promote social and emotional learning.

As we prepare for the second semester, we are introducing *monthly themes* centered on student growth and performance. These themes will focus on essential values such as:

- **Rewards for Attendance:** Encouraging consistent participation and recognizing students for their commitment to learning.
- **Showing Respect:** Reinforcing positive interactions and respect towards peers, staff, and the community.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Promoting compassion and teamwork within our school and beyond.

These monthly themes will help us build a stronger culture of achievement and positivity while recognizing and celebrating individual student successes.

Thank you for your continued support of the Center for Change. Together, we are fostering an environment where students can thrive both academically and personally.





## **MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT**

December 10, 2024 – County Services Committee

### **ACTIONS COMING FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – None**

### **ACTIONS GOING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –**

1. Petition No. 24-P-1634 by Georgios Karountzos, as owner of certain real property identified as PIN 12-14-16-300-001 and commonly known as 823 Sterling Road, Dixon, Illinois, located on the south side of Sterling Road, approximately one-tenth of a mile east of Dutch Road and one-quarter mile west of Halligan Road, in Marion Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for the purpose of operating an auto repair business under the “Auto Repair – Minor” use classification as set forth in the Lee County Code . The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District and is 5 acres in size.
2. Petition No. 24-P-1635 by Jake R. Kastner, as owner of certain real properties identified as PINs 07-02-34-300-022, 07-02-34-300-017, 07-02-34-300-035 and 07-02-34-300-018, located on the south side of Stony Point Road, in Dixon Township, Dixon, Illinois, filed a Petition for Map Amendment with the Lee County zoning Office requesting to amend the zoning map from R-2, Single Family Residential District to Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District for the purpose of raising and keeping farm animals, more specifically, chickens.

### **ACTIONS COMING FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION - None**

### **ACTIONS GOING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION - None**

### **OTHER ACTIONS FROM THE ZONING OFFICE**

Following the November 7, 2024 meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, longtime member, Mike Pratt, submitted his resignation. Mr. Pratt was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals in December of 1994, and dutifully served Lee County for almost 30 years.

With the loss of yet another ZBA member and the agreement of the County Board, the Zoning Office has begun working with the State’s Attorney’s office on a text amendment to amend the zoning code to allow for a Zoning Hearing Officer in place of the Zoning Board of Appeals. We will be bringing a Petition for Text Amendment for public hearing before the Regional Planning Commission in February 2025.



At the request of the County Board, the Zoning Office is submitting with this report, a proposed moratorium on accepting zoning petitions for battery energy storage system and/or battery storage power stations until March 31, 2025. I am asking that this proposed moratorium be moved to the Executive Committee to be added the County Board's agenda this month.

Last month, the Zoning Office issued a building permit to Ameresco Lee County RNG, LLC for the installation of approximately 4.4 miles of pipeline in Lee County. This pipeline will carry renewable natural gas from the biogas facility located on Corregidor Road to a Kinder Morgan interconnection site located on Dutch Road.

The Zoning Office continues to work with the Maples Road Solar, LLC project for its application for building permit for a 5 MW community solar project. The issue of decommissioning financial surety needs to be resolved before the permit can be issued.

During the month of November 2024, the Zoning Office processed seventeen (17) building permits. Permit fees in the amount of \$2,711.50 were collected.