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Story on page 8



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NOTICES

• The Marine Historical Society will meet on Monday, March 11th at 7 p.m.. It will be at the Marine Citizens Center located at 101 West Silver Street in Marine. The meeting as well as membership is open to the public.

• The Glen Carbon Planning and Zoning Commission plans to hold a special meeting for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5.

INSIDE LOOK

Kurt Prenzler Fires Back About Censure **Pg. 3**

CUSD set up programs for at-risk children, zero-rate-change initiative on ballot **Pg. 4**

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OBITUARIES

O'Neill, Parker, Timms

WEEKEND WEATHER

Fri., Mar. 1	46°/37°	☁
Sat., Mar. 2	63°/48°	☁
Sun., Mar. 3	70°/59°	☁

Haine announces 50-year sentence for man who murdered Troy woman

By Josh Jones
Times Tribune Editor
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TROY — A Troy man who murdered a woman by dousing her with gasoline and setting her home ablaze has been sentenced to 50 years in prison, Madison County State's Attorney Tom Haine announced Monday.

According to a news release from Haine's office, Michael E. Sloan Jr., 41, pleaded guilty in January to a charge of first-degree murder. He admitted that he set fire to the home of 69-year-old Susanne Tomlinson in the 500 block of Wood Thrush in Troy on Sept. 22, 2022, knowing that she was inside. The fire resulted in the death of Tomlinson.

The defendant is required to serve 100 percent of the sentence, meaning he would be 91 before he is eligible for parole.

"This sentence, which is effectively a life sentence, brings accountability for the heinous and cruel actions committed by the defendant against an innocent life," Haine said. "This sentence reflects the gravity of the crime, the impact it had on the victim's family, and the unwavering commitment of the State's Attorney's Office to protect the innocent. Our prayer is that this sentence helps the victim's family navigate the difficult path of healing after their profound loss."

The release continues stating that the fire was preceded by a domestic disturbance involving Sloan and

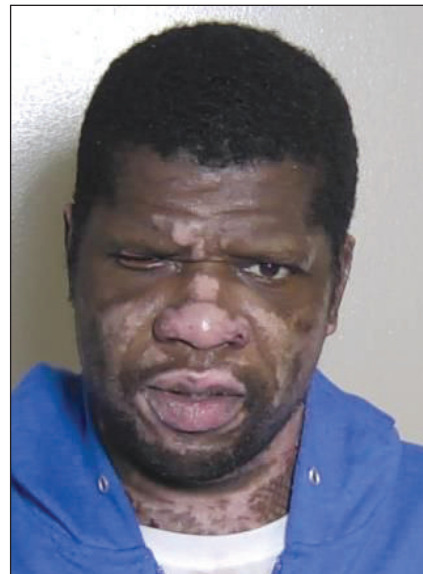
Tomlinson's daughter, Courtney Tomlinson. Sloan attacked and threw gasoline onto Courtney Tomlinson, but she managed to escape and seek help. Sloan then went to the home of Susanne Tomlinson and dumped gasoline onto her. When police arrived, they saw Sloan hold a cigarette lighter above his head and flick the lighter, resulting in a fire. Sloan had yelled to police that he intended to kill everyone.

At Sloan's sentencing Monday, Assistant State's Attorney Lauren Maricle, chief of the Violent Crimes Unit for the State's Attorney's Office, asked Associate Judge Neil Schroeder to impose the 50-year sentence.

Maricle argued that, after Courtney Tomlinson escaped from Sloan, he "decided to hurt her in another way." Maricle told the judge that Sloan "burned Susanne Tomlinson alive."

Flames and heavy smoke hindered attempts to get into the burning home. Susanne Tomlinson died of smoke inhalation and burn injuries. Sloan was rescued from the fire and taken into custody after receiving medical treatment at a hospital.

Haine thanked Troy Police, Troy Fire Protection District, Madison County Coroner, Illinois State Police and Illinois State Fire Marshal for their diligent work on the case. He also commended Maricle and Assistant State's Attorney Mike Stewart, who also serves on the Violent Crimes Unit of the State's Attorney's Office.



MICHAEL E. SLOAN JR.

"Our prosecution team worked diligently to ensure that truth and justice prevailed," Haine said. "The victim, a loving mother, lost her life in a senseless act of violence that shocked our community. Today's sentence sends a message that such acts will not be tolerated, and those responsible will face severe consequences."

Courtney Tomlinson, in a victim-impact statement, called Sloan an "absolute monster." She thanked the police officers and rescue personnel, prosecutors Maricle and Stewart, the victim advocates at the State's Attorney's Office and her family, friends and church members for their support. ■

Collinsville and 10 other communities receive over \$140,000 for environmental projects

By Devese "Dee" Ursery
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COLLINSVILLE — The city of Collinsville is one of 11 communities to receive over \$140,000 grant funds from Madison County.

The Madison County Grants Committee approved the funding for the Environmental Projects initiative on Feb. 6 and the County Board voted for its approval the following day.

The Building and Zoning Department has allocated 11 taxing districts grants in the amount of \$143,020 to support environmental projects throughout the county. Chris Doucleff, building and zoning administrator, explained the program was established over 20 years ago and typically awards 10 grants for environmental-based projects.

"It's part of our solid waste management plan with the state, so every year we typically give out about 10 grants ranging from water quality to riprap (rocks) for stormwater to entire energy efficiency projects," Doucleff said. "You also need lighting in a building and stuff like that or even heating and charging conditions as well."

See ENVIRONMENTAL Pg. 3

County Board Passes Censure Resolution

By Randy Pierce

Editor's Note: Two sidebars going into further aspects of the situation titled "Reactions About Censure Widely Varied" and "Kurt Prenzler Fires Back About Censure" can be found in this edition of the Times Tribune.

MADISON COUNTY — With six members voting against it, another four not present and two abstaining, the remaining 14 members of the Madison County Board, at its regular monthly meeting held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, passed a resolution calling for a censure of its chairman, Kurt Prenzler, for, according to the legislation, "committing multiple instances of problematic political activity."

As introduced by the board's executive committee, which met earlier that same evening, the resolution was loaded with "whereas" statements spelling out the actions involving Prenzler which led to this legislation being brought forward.

Michael "Mick" Madison of Bethalto, acting as chairman of the county board executive committee in the absence of Chris Guy of Maryville, brought the resolution forward with an explanation that the definition of a censure is a "harsh public rebuke" while adding, "If an employee did the same thing, they could have a minimum of a \$1,000 penalty up to \$2,500 and up to 64 days in jail. Elected officials, for some reason, are held to different standards."

In further laying the groundwork for the vote on the censure, Madison referred to a report from the county's ethics advisor, Bruce Mattea, who has a law office in Collinsville, concerning the actions by Prenzler that was a major factor leading to the resolution approval by the majority of the board.

Those findings, Madison said, left

no doubt that the ethics violations were committed with Prenzler admitting to what had occurred as related by Mattea and offering an apology after admitting to the incidents that prompted all of this.

Prenzler, according to Madison, "says it was a mistake and I appreciate that. However, he's gone out in the public to say it's his political opponent that's doing this to him, it's a witch hunt, it's the Madison County Board doing this and that's what has led me to want to vote for censure on the chairman."

Madison was asked by Prenzler to read the resolution because, the chairman said, it had not been received by the majority of the board members until after 12:20 p.m. the same day as the meeting with some not seeing it until a couple of hours prior to the meeting start time.

As stated by Madison in that reading, Prenzler had, on two separate occasions, according to Mattea's findings, handed "his own campaign promotional materials" to a county vendor representing the Pinkerton agency and an employee of the county state's attorney's office named Paul Evans, acts that the executive committee acting chairman said were in "clear violation" of existing ethics regulations, noting also this occurred on county property.

An orange card given by Prenzler to the two individuals named in the resolution "unequivocally appears to be political campaign promotional material," as Madison read on.

Alleged also in the resolution is that the act of giving the card to the vendor constitutes "the concept of political quid pro quo," a Latin legal term basically implying, in this instance, that if someone does something for another person, they will be rewarded.

See CENSURE Pg. 3

Chamber gives presentation/makes annual funding request

By Josh Jones
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TROY — The Troy City Council heard a presentation as well as a request for funds from the Troy/Maryville/St. Jacob/Marine Chamber of Commerce during its recent meeting.

Chamber Executive Director Dawn Mushill gave the presentation. She began on what the Chamber and the City have accomplished for Troy residents through their collaboration.

"As you know the most requested event of the year is the Troy City Wide Garage Sale. In 2023, 258 chamber garage sales registered online. The event is in May and September, the same for 2024," Mushill said. "Restaurants and convenience stores are alerted... Advertisements go out 50 miles and we will be purchasing new promotional event signs in 2024."

Mushill said the e-cycling/shredding event is held in the spring.

"In the spring we do two because we have so much, the same for e-cycle we do two as well," Mushill said.

Mushill also noted the importance of promoting non-chamber events as



Troy/Maryville/St. Jacob/Marine Chamber Executive Director Dawn Mushill gave a presentation about the collaboration between the Chamber and the City of Troy during a recent Troy City Council meeting. (Photo by Josh Jones)

they have worked with the City of Troy for July 4 fireworks and has also worked with the Troy Lions Club, the Troy Police Department, the Troy Fire Protection District, Troy-Edwardsville Shriners, Troy VFW, Triad School District and various other agencies.

Mushill said that the chamber produces and mails 15,000 community postcards that go to all businesses and residents of Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob and Marine as well as chamber member businesses outside of the four communities and all Triad School District staff.

See CHAMBER Pg. 3

CUSD 10 places a zero-rate-change initiative on the March 19 ballot

Devese "Dee" Ursery
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COLLINSVILLE — The Collinsville Community Unit School District 10 has placed a proposal on the March 19, 2024 general primary election that will not change the tax rate for homeowners in the district.

CUSD 10 added a zero-rate-change ballot initiative on this year's general primary election ballot to address critical facility needs throughout the District. If approved the proposal will fund approximately \$2.3 million yearly in facility improvements and will not change the tax rate. The initiative would allow the district to replace exterior and interior doors to improve safety, upgrade heating and cooling systems to improve efficiency, according to Collins.

Other facility renovations would allow students, staff and community members with disabilities to have independent access throughout the district. More facility upgrades will update dated and worn school interiors to improve the learning environment.

The Board of Education has proposed a financial strategy known as a tax transfer, which involves reallocating existing funds without raising overall taxes, according to Kimberly Collins, public relations liaison, CUSD 10.

"This plan would retire bonds from the early 2000s to provide funding for an increase in the Operations and Maintenance Fund rate from 50 cents to 72 cents. Essentially, the money previously used to pay off the old bonds would be redirected to the O&M Fund," Collins said.

"This shift allows the district to invest in critical facility needs without incurring new debt or paying additional interest, as the total tax rate remains unchanged. This method leverages existing resources more efficiently to address the district's requirements."

Collins said although the ballot language reads a tax rate increase, because of this transfer, the total tax rate paid to the district does not change.

The ballot proposal, along with additional funds from the Health/Life/Safety funding and accumulated reserves will fund \$35 million in improvements over the next seven years without changing the tax rate, per official documents.

"Over the past year, we've conducted extensive evaluation of our district facilities with staff, architects and engineers to identify our most critical needs throughout our schools," said CUSD 10 Superintendent Dr. Mark B. Skertich. "We also sought feedback from our community members through the Kahoks

Connect engagement program. Together, with the information from all groups, a plan to improve our schools without changing the tax rate was developed, and is now on the March ballot."

Skertich explained that by implementing this funding plan, the district can leverage existing resources efficiently to address CUSD needed improvements.

"This allows the district to invest more resources in critical facility needs without incurring new debt or paying additional interest, as the total tax rate remains unchanged. Money generated by this proposal will go directly to facility improvements," Skertich said. "In total, nearly \$35 million in improvements over the next seven years will be made to district facilities with zero change to the tax rate."

According to Collins an estimated \$3 million worth of work will be done each summer. The work will consist of safety enhancements to include door replacement, heating and cooling upgrades and restroom renovations. "The district has worked with the architect, engineer and maintenance staff to identify the areas of greatest need that will serve as the starting point for the facility improvements," Collins continued.

See BALLOT Pg. 3



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Environmental

(Continued from pg. 1)

According to Doucleff the purpose of the program is to provide financial support for projects that align with the county's environmental goals and initiatives. Since the program's inception 23 years ago, the County has been allocating funds from the landfill "host" or "tipping" fee fund to pay for more than 170 projects.

This year, projects include stormwater improvements, lighting upgrades, greenhouse projects, solar projects and more.

Doucleff said Collinsville was awarded a grant of \$15,000 this year for the natural gas generator at City Hall. He continued by saying that in general the grants are reimbursement funding for local units of government and their environmental projects.

City Manager Derek Jackson took time to weigh in and explain the City's project and its cost. He said the \$15,000 Madison County Environmental Grant will be applied to the cost of the installation of a natural gas-powered emergency generator at City Hall.

"The Natural gas-powered generator was specified for the project because they require less maintenance and produce less carbon emissions than diesel powered generators which is consistent with the city's sustainability plan. The project has been awarded to JF Electric for \$212,450," Jackson said.

"Total budgeted cost of the project, including engineering and contingencies, is \$350,000. The city fully expects to be under

budget on the project. Project completion is expected to be mid-summer due to the long lead time on the generator."

According to an official report from Dennis Kress, public works director, the scope of work also includes the consolidation of two metered electrical services into one metered service at City Hall. He stated that City Hall currently has no backup generator and is vulnerable to service disruptions during severe weather and other catastrophic events.

"Installation of the emergency back-up generator will ensure continuous operations of city services," Kress said. "Especially the City's information technologies service, which is critical to public safety operations during prolonged service interruptions."

To control project cost, the Request for Proposals required bidders to provide a base price for all labor, equipment, and materials for the installation of a 150kW natural gas-powered generator, per documents. An alternate bid for a 150kW diesel-powered generator was also required. Natural gas-powered generators require less maintenance and produce less carbon emissions but are typically more expensive than diesel powered generators.

Ineligible projects include recreation equipment, transportation, mileage, labor, education, disposal fees, tractors and/or wheeled vehicles, generators powered by gas, diesel, or propane unless upgrading to more efficient models, per official County documents.

According to Doucleff each year municipalities are chosen through a scoring system that he and Madison County Resource Coordinator Brandon Banks designed.

"We use a rubric that is typically on a 16-point scale system. It takes all kinds of factors into consideration, like if they've done funding in the last five years or have gotten funding the year previous," Banks said. "Also the viability of the project is taken into consideration and there's about six or seven various factors that we go over to find the best appropriate projects for funding."

Doucleff explained that municipalities, townships and parks districts would come up with a project and submit it to Madison County Building and Zoning Department via their online portal or a hard copy of their Environmental grant paperwork.

"They would submit a request for up to \$15,000 for that specific project. Now the project itself can be \$20,000, \$100,000, or \$5 million," Doucleff said. "There's really no limit on how big a project is, but through our Environmental grant funding we can fund up to \$15,000 with a 20% match from that municipality. Some of the grants are below that threshold too, so they don't have to do the whole \$15,000."

According to chair of the Grants Committee and County Board member Denise Wiehardt these grants benefit 11 taxing districts. They also provide funding for upgrades or the replacement of older,

non-environmentally friendly infrastructure.

Below is a list of other grant recipients along with their projects to include Glen Carbon receiving a \$15,000 grant for their Energy Master Plan Assessment. Troy, St. Jacob Township and the Tri-Township Park District each received \$15,000 for their specific projects which are Streambank restoration and Harbor Mill Driver; engineering/design of stormwater culvert and a Community Garden Phase III Greenhouse. Jarvis Township was also awarded a \$15,000 grant for their Township office solar project.

Alton was granted \$4,140 for Greenhouse gas inventory. Godfrey and Highland both received \$15,000 for Storeyland stormwater improvements and for the City reservoir sediment basin improvements. HoliShores Sanitary District was awarded \$3,880 for lighting upgrade and Nameoki Township was granted \$15,000 for cold planner, recycle millings for roadways.

All grant recipients are expected to undergo site visits upon project completion as well as submit a final report upon their funding reimbursement request.

"Special thanks to Brandon Banks, Chris Doucleff, and the Madison County Grants Committee for their continued support to municipalities on environmental projects," Jackson said. "These grants are a win-win by helping municipalities become more energy efficient, which translates into operational savings in the long run." ■

Kurt Prenzler Fires Back About Censure

By Randy Pierce

Editor's Note: this is the second of two sidebars connected to the "County Board Passes Censure Resolution" story found earlier in this edition of the Times Tribune.

MADISON COUNTY — Following the reading of a resolution brought before the Madison County Board at its meeting held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, calling for a censure of its chairman, Kurt Prenzler, citing his handing out political campaign materials on government property and while on duty, he delivered a statement related to it.

"Since I'm the subject of this," Prenzler opened, "I would like to make a five or six-minute statement before we begin discussion."

Prenzler then reviewed what he said was an explanation during a meeting of the board's government relations committee, chaired by Stacey Pace of Troy, held earlier this month, the circumstances leading to the ethics violation cited in the censure resolution including his giving a business card to "a man from Ohio" in the conference room outside the chairman's office.

Pulling the orange card, which he had printed personally, from his pocket and writing his phone number on it, Prenzler said, "I should have used another piece of paper. I made a mistake and I've apologized for that."

"I had no intent to campaign, as the man admitted, because I knew he was from Ohio. I did not plan to meet that man that day. As I left my office, I saw a man in the conference room who I didn't know, I introduced myself to him."

For the county board executive committee to bring this matter up again, Prenzler went on, after discussing it in January, leading him to think "it was over," is something he reacted to from the standpoint of its members' and others' motives.

This matter's resurfacing, Prenzler continued, "just underscores the intent of some to indeed make a mountain out of a molehill."

"My second point," Prenzler added, "is it's not fair. Let me give you an example. When it became clear that some people were determined to make a mountain out of a molehill, both county board member Paul Nicolussi and I submitted another issue to the ethics advisor, Bruce Mattea."

(It was the result of Mattea's investigation into the circumstances regarding Prenzler's "prohibited political activity" that led to the introduction of the censure resolution.)

That issue, as explained by Prenzler, concerned Madison County Treasurer Chris Slusser, who is running against the incumbent chairman in the March 19 primary election, allegedly using employees from his office in a photo taken in that office "in his political web site."

Board member Michael "Mick" Madison, who was acting chairman of the executive committee, filling in for Chris Guy of Maryville who was absent, then interjected, "That is not the issue" to which Prenzler replied, "Since I'm the subject, I get to speak. I was shut down in your committee, Mr. Madison."

(That executive committee had convened an hour prior to the start of the evening's county board meeting.)

Prenzler added that, "Slusser's own conduct is similar to that" of the former county treasurer, Fred Bathon, an ex-elected official whose situation the chairman referenced in more detail a bit later.

"On Slusser's political campaign website," Prenzler elaborated, "he was showing a photograph showing county property, two employees on compensated work time, a taxpayer check with a confidential bank account visible and the photo was taken from a location not available to the public." ■



This is a photo that Madison County Treasurer Chris Slusser, according to County Board Chairman Kurt Prenzler, used on his campaign website. Prenzler believes the photo, which no longer appears on that site, represents a violation of the county's ethics ordinance in that it was taken on government-owned property and shows employees apparently while they are on duty. Slusser is running against Prenzler for the county board chairman position in the March 19 primary election.

Prenzler said he and Nicolussi then followed up on their concern over this photo with Mattea. Prenzler stated that Mattea "told me the state's attorney told him not to answer the questions posed by me and Paul Nicolussi even though the fact-finding was not necessary."

"This is not fair and that's my second point. Slusser's actions were far worse than mine. Planning - I did not plan to meet that man from Ohio that day but the photograph in the treasurer's office was staged."

The photo on Slusser's campaign website, Prenzler alleged, "was visible for over a year. My meeting lasted minutes."

"How many people were involved?" Prenzler asked. "One man from Ohio. On the other hand, thousands of people saw the photo on the (Slusser) campaign site," adding it was accompanied by a line that said, "Donate now."

"I didn't ask the man from Ohio for anything, nothing," the board chairman carried on. "Certainly not campaign contributions and everyone knows it. I did not make the first complaint. Mr. Nicolussi and I only brought up this issue to Ethics Advisor Mattea after it became clear that some people were absolutely determined to make the orange card molehill into a mountain."

"Most people do not understand all the legal details regarding the prosecutors who are filing charges against President Trump," Prenzler added. "But they know one thing, it's not fair and this is not fair."

In noting, "It was always my goal to do the opposite of Fred Bathon," Prenzler delved into the history of that individual's alleged use of county property and employees on his campaign website, money for pens with his name and title on them, promoting "a significant home building business" while working as county treasurer and conducting "unethical" tax sales.

Although taxpayers submitted written complaints to the state's attorney in Madison County about Bathon's actions, that elected legal official "did nothing," according to Prenzler, then a federal investigation eventually brought the former treasurer down and he was sent to prison.

"Why was Fred Bathon so careless?" Prenzler asked. "Because he knew the state's attorney's office would do nothing. Do we have the same situation today?"

"State's Attorney Tom Haine's campaign committee," Prenzler said, "has made the largest contribution to Chris Slusser's campaign, \$10,000. Tom Haine should have recused himself from this matter long ago." ■

Censure

(Continued from pg. 1)

The resolution further states that with Prenzler giving the card to others twice, it sheds doubt on the possibility that the act of handing it to the vendor was done inadvertently.

Yet another in the series of "whereas" paragraphs notes that Mattea concluded it was "plainly apparent that any fair evaluation of this matter would lead any reasonable person to conclude that there's no doubt an ethics violation

has occurred and any argument to the contrary is unpersuasive."

Continuing, Madison shared that the resolution says the county board views Prenzler's actions as "highly inappropriate, unethical and problematic."

While additionally considering a public apology by Prenzler as "insufficient," the resolution further states "elected officials should be held to a higher, not lower, standard of conduct than that of employees."

Those voting along with Madison to approve the censure resolution included Stacey Pace of Troy, Ryan Kneeder of Collinsville, Jason Palmero of Glen Carbon, Mike Babcock and Terry Eaker, both of Bethalto, Fred Michael of Highland, Michael "Doc" Holliday and Bill Stoutenborough, both of Alton, Robert Pollard and Matt King, both of East Alton, Victor Valentine and Alison Lamothe, both of Edwardsville, and Denise Wiehardt of Granite City.

Voting no were Frank Dickerson of Worden, Valerie Doucleff and Michael Turner, both of Godfrey, Bob Meyer and John Janek, both of Granite City, and Paul Nicolussi of Collinsville. The abstentions came from Bobby Ross of St. Jacob and Shawndell Wilson of Granite City while Dalton Gray of Troy, Nick Petrillo of Granite City, Charles "Skip" Schmidt of Edwardsville and Guy, as previously mentioned, were not present. ■

Chamber

(Continued from pg. 1)

"We now have 20 investors, so that whole postcard will have investors on it," Mushill said. "Every week we had a different discount."

Also during her presentation Mushill highlighted the highway digital billboards, the Chamber's partnership with Great Rivers & Routes, Chamber Gift Certificates, various Chamber Partners, the Chambermobile as well as the Chamber's website and calendar. The Chamber was also recognized as the 10 largest Chamber of Commerces in the St. Louis area.

"The job opportunities page is the most popular. At one time in the summer we had 805 jobs posted and searches for the website were 33,000," Mushill said. "Facebook stats, we have 8,723 followers and 22% are from Troy."

Mushill said that The City of Troy and the Chamber can build an even bigger partnership for our businesses as she explained how the Chamber is helping.

"We are helping them find and retain good staff, promoting job openings, increasing business and providing educational opportunities that will assist both the owners and staff," Mushill said.

Mushill said that movement should start soon regarding the Troy Downtown Hero Banner program. She said a total of 60 banners will be hung in downtown Troy in Spring of 2024.

"Some will be coming down because they bought a year and we will replace those with upcoming ones," Mushill said. "Very proud of this project."

Mushill said something new this year is a map for downtown businesses similar to the garage

sale map.

"All of the downtown businesses are going to be able to put in their information, their address, hours, phone number, website address, upcoming sales and people will have the same ability to click on it and find out what is going on downtown," Mushill said.

Also new is the Tourism Grant Applicant Marketing Plan, which the Chamber created for non-profits who receive tourism funding from the City of Troy.

"They have a budgeting page, a marketing plan page, social media page and volunteers," Mushill said. "I have also made some videos."

The Chamber started in 1984 and the organization will be celebrating 40 years this year. Last year the Chamber won the Emerging Women Leaders award from State Representative

are facility needs that must be addressed as soon as possible and those needs should be addressed without a tax rate increase."

Beginning in the fall of 2023, KAHOKS CONNECT was created to gather input from a broad base of parents, employees and residents of the Collinsville Community Unit School District #10. The team received its official charge from the Collinsville Board of Education.

KAHOKS CONNECT is a team of parents, community members and district staff who went out seeking input on current challenges the school district faces regarding necessary upgrades.

The team hosted a series of 11 tours at separate CUSD 10 school buildings in October 2023. During these community engagement events, nearly 200 participants visited Collinsville schools and provided feedback on priorities and recommendations to improve District facilities. Participants shared their thoughts on the current condition of CUSD 10 facilities, critical facility needs and upgrades, as well as priorities for additional facility needs.

According to ideas and sug-

gestions collected at each building tour provided important information for KAHOKS CONNECT's final recommendations, per documents. Data from the building tours is available to be viewed on the ballot initiative webpage.

The findings from the facilities evaluation and the Kahoks Connect community engagement project were presented to the board of education in November of 2023. During their December meeting, Board members voted to place a zero-rate-change proposal on this year's general primary election ballot to address critical facility needs throughout Collinsville CUSD 10. The proposed ballot initiative will impact each school in CUSD 10. Below is a list of the schools and they will be impacted. Each CUSD 10 building will have safety and security updates done to them including entryways and the installation of bullet resistant film on doors and windows.

Collinsville High School, Dorris Intermediate School along with Jefferson, Kreitner, Summit, Renfro, Twin Echo, Webster, Hollywood Heights and

Maryville Elementary schools will all be replacing identified exterior and interior doors, making them ADA compliant.

CHS, DIS, Collinsville Middle, Hollywood Heights, Maryville, Kreitner and Webster will be also updating their HVAC systems, replacing ceiling tiles and LED lights as well as updating paint in those buildings.

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 comprises 13 schools, serving 6,100+ students PreK-12 in Madison & St. Clair Counties.

For more information, including a complete list of identified work compiled through the Kahoks Connect community engagement process, visit <https://www.kahoks.org/schools/ballot-initiative>.

Skertich stated that it is important for all registered voters that reside within Unit 10 exercise their right to vote on Mar. 19. He also said a Community Forum will be held at 6 p.m. on

Feb. 29, in the Oak Room at the VFW hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, at 6:00 PM.

Skertich will present the facts of the initiative and answer questions from those in attendance. ■



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