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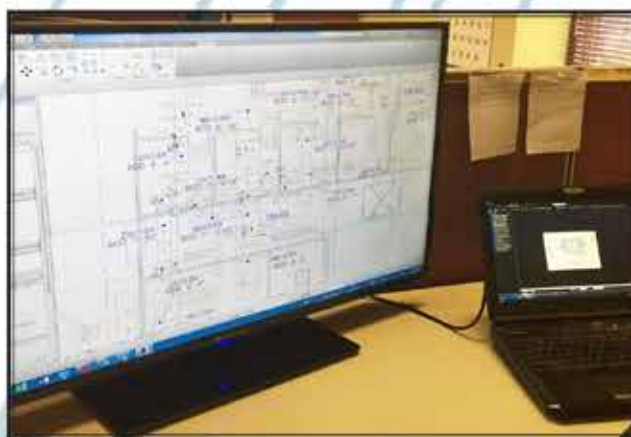
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Speaking life into boys

The Outlet's growing program to mentor fatherless males

BY JANET SEITZ

Approaching their 10th wedding anniversary, Rikeesha Phelon looks back to when she and husband Mike Phelon were dating and recognized there would always be others in Mike's life. But she was good with that.

Mike has helped many fatherless male youths ages 8-22 to become responsible men. Coming from a broken home, Mike says, "I had some older guys mentor and pour into my life, and I knew God wanted me to do the same thing in the community with young men missing a father figure in the home."

Mike found a calling and passion to see young men transform and grow into productive, caring adults. He started The Outlet in 2004 as an extension of a church in Jacksonville. Then the couple moved to Springfield "where the real foundation and growth was made," said Rikeesha, who also serves on the nonprofit's board of directors.

In addition to the Phelons' two young children, the couple finds an extended family connecting area youth with mentors. Known for its one-on-one mentoring approach, the organization connects youth with support people to ease emotional, educational and spiritual passage to adulthood. With involvement of caring adults, kids are saying no to drugs and gang violence, rejecting illiteracy and poverty as a way of life, and developing their talents through enriching opportunities.

Mentors come from all walks of life in the area — churches, businesses, friends and others in the community who meet with their mentees at least twice a month and connect weekly. Activities include tutoring, meeting during school lunch breaks or dinner or at The Outlet's 12th Street facility on Friday nights to play video games or spend quality time, and other events. In addition, group training and counseling addresses such topics as financial literacy and college readiness.

Supporter and mentor Beth Yokley, Hope Church pastor of community outreach, said that what appealed to her was "their focus on young men in light of Springfield's rash of gun violence. I loved the vision and opportunity to work one-on-one with young people." She, along with her



husband, Marcus, were involved in a pilot program providing homework help and mentoring to boys and girls from homes without men in them. They continue to host a family of three girls who once a week come to their home for dinner, crafts and mentoring.

Hope Church has partnered with The Outlet for service projects with volunteers and financial gifts. "At Hope, we are looking for ways for our members to serve in ways that are 'life-on-life,' making relationships with those that they serve and help," said Yokley.

The Outlet's other programs include MUZIC with a message — taking a positive message on topics impacting youth and communicating it through hip-hop music, dance, poetry and other

The Outlet emphasizes one-on-one male mentoring, outdoor activities, and group discussions. The group was recently a recipient of Channel 20's "weather guarantee" funding from Green Family Stores.

PHOTOS/ COURTESY THE OUTLET



arts-related efforts. The summer HOOP journey engages 80-100 area youth. Prior to basketball games, teams gather to hear professionals talk about leadership, career development, health issues and so on.

"These young people need us to step in and provide role models, worthwhile activities, support and encouragement," said Yokley. "With that, they have a good chance of becoming productive members of our community —citizens who will contribute to Springfield."

According to Carly Crawford, business development director with Green Family Stores and a volunteer with activities, classes and resources, "The Outlet is run by the most sincere and caring individuals who truly will make a difference in our communities. The objective is to teach life skills that these boys can use, regardless of their background or current environment. These boys want to participate... and better themselves but need the consistency and guidance that they get. I also try to find

activities and resources for the parents who want to improve their lives as well."

Crawford encourages others to help by providing Friday night meals, when the groups typically gather at the facility, or talk about topics to provide inspiration. "They need to know that they are loved and are cared for and won't fall through the cracks or be unable to break the negative cycles that have impacted their parents or those who are attempting to raise them. They need male mentors — someone to give them a good example, to listen to them and to be there for them to answer questions and give that extra push to reach goals. Creating a cycle of helping others and sticking to higher moral standards is the outlet these boys and many more just like them need."

The volunteer-driven Outlet has operated on a lean budget, supported by funds from friends, businesses, small fundraisers and local donors. Most recently the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln's Young Philanthropists granted the organization funds to provide a College Ready mentoring service to advise about high school courses to take, help navigate FAFSA and the college application process, and conduct college visits.

Michael Phelon sees the future of The Outlet to "recall our young boys and speak life into them" impacting thousands of young men with the community being transformed by the power of mentoring. ♦

Those interested in getting involved can contact Michael Phelon at 312-330-1240 or at info@theoutletillinois.org. For more information on the program visit www.theoutletillinois.org.

Find hidden treasures in downtown's bookstores

BY CINDA ACKERMAN KLINKNA

Whether you're on the hunt for a rare book, a Lincoln biography or maybe a great classic, or you just like to look for a hidden treasure by wandering around a bookstore, then a trip to downtown Springfield is in order.

Three unique bookstores, all within a few blocks of each other, attract visitors from all over.

Prairie Archives (522 E. Adams, on the south side of the Old Capitol Plaza) has been in existence the longest. Owner John Paul opened a bookstore at the corner of Sixth and Washington in 1988, and within four years he needed more space so relocated to the current location. His son, Robb, is now the owner. Robb had been a manager at Sebastian's Hideout restaurant and says, "I came here to work on a temporary basis – and stayed." John, now 79 years old, still comes to work every day.

The store is jam-packed with books – paperback and hardcover on about every subject imaginable. One can spend hours roaming around, venturing into separate rooms labeled Children, State and Local, World, Philosophy, Fine Arts, Paperbacks. Tags on shelves identify genres of books such as mystery, biography, etc. But the store is much more than books: maps, documents, prints and postcards fill shelves and cabinets. Used comic books, the largest collection in Springfield, are arranged in crates that fill an entire room. Books and other paper items spill over tops of shelves and boxes. Robb says, "We specialize in anything on paper. Anything a collector keeps, we try to keep in stock."

In 2018 the National Political Collectors Convention will be in Springfield, and Robb



Books on the Square located at 427 East Washington.

PHOTO/ BY STACIE LEWIS

says that is a draw for the collectors of political cartoons and other memorabilia that the shop tries to acquire. On a daily basis the store ships out items; over 25,000 items are listed on abebooks.com as well as 1,800 items on eBay.

Often patrons bring in their own used items to sell to the store.

Walking past the store requires one to slow down to check out the store windows that display interesting books and the outside bookcases, filled with deals. Two long tables of books stay out all night – some people take a book; others leave money in an envelope for John or Robb to find the next morning.

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-5. Phone: 522-9742. Email: books@prairiearchives.com.

A block and a half down the street at 413 E. Adams, **The Elf Shelf** provides another venue to find paperback and hardcover used books. Each wall of the store is lined with floor-to-ceiling

Professional Women's Calendar of Events

You play a key role and we thank you for your contributions to our community.

Association for Women in Communications (AWC)

AWC will host a lunch on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at the Sangamo Club from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The guest speaker will be state Rep. Sara Wojcicki Jimenez, who will discuss media relations and the government.

Rep. Jimenez spent nearly a decade in TV news journalism covering a wide variety of issues and topics. She concluded her career in journalism as the Statehouse Reporter for News Channel 20 in Springfield. Those experiences helped shape her time as a state employee working for the State Treasurer, Comptroller, House Republican Leader, and the First Lady of Illinois, before ultimately being appointed State Representative in 2015 and being elected to a full term in 2016.


Members and guests are welcome. To make reservations, visit www.awcspRINGfield.org.

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)


IWIL will host a lunch on Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Sangamo Club from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The guest speaker will be local author Cassandra Austin, speaking on the topic "Inspire & Empower: A Young Girl Who Finally Found Her Voice." After mentoring and counseling youth who had been detained in the juvenile detention center, Casandra realized she needed some mentoring and counseling herself; she was wearing a mask to cover up and hide what was on the inside. She bared her soul in her book *Unclothed: Memoir of a Naked Soul*. Casandra will inspire and empower all of us as she shares her story from being broken, suicidal and lost to a healed published author.


Registration is \$18 per person before January 12; \$23 after January 12 or at the door. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the luncheon, or if you prefer to read it ahead of time it is available online at barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.

Visit www.iwil.biz for more information or to register.



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www.llcc.edu/decision


to follow my passion.

As an aspiring organic farmer, I worked in LLCC's high tunnel gardens growing vegetables for the culinary program and campus farm stand. I've been awarded the National Black Farmers Association Scholarship three times. I've written columns for the State Journal-Register, served on student government, named homecoming queen and played point guard for the Loggers. Thanks to LLCC for these amazing opportunities! **Emmi Fisher**



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shelves, categorized by topic and author. The Elf Shelf has been downtown for 16 years but started on the west side of Springfield over 30 years ago. Buying and reselling is the store's specialty.

Two years ago John Combs bought the store after leaving employment at the state. Asked why he made the career change, he said, "I love books and music. And my job required reading a lot of documents which was taking the joy of reading out of me."

Combs says people come from all over, and tourists stop in to find something unique that they collect or that they have been trying to locate.

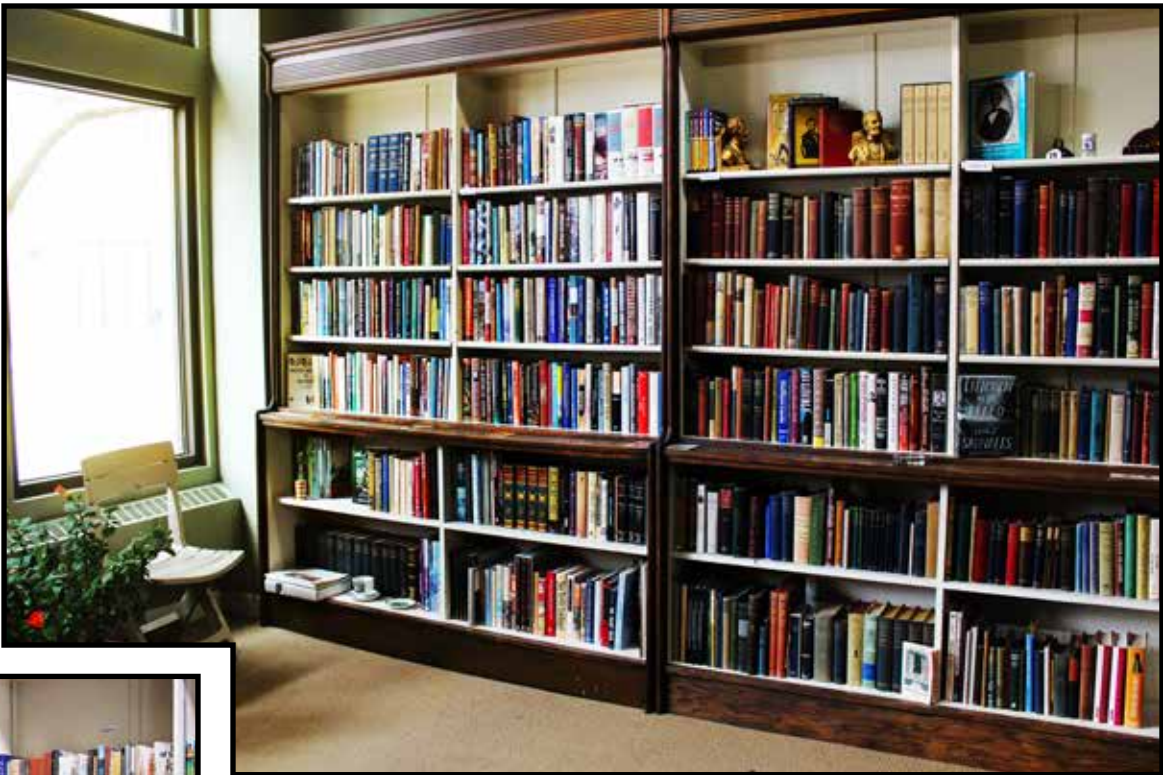
"We offer an eclectic mix of items, from hard-hitting history to romance novels. We have something to satisfy everyone."

This store, too, has more than books. The center section of the store is filled with bins of records (45s and 33s). More shelves and bins offer a large selection of CDs, DVDs, VHS and

cassette tapes.

Hours: Wednesday-Friday: 12-5:30; Saturday: 10-5, plus setting up at special events such as holiday walks and farmers markets. Phone: 527-1990. On Instagram.

The newest bookstore is **Books on the Square** (427 E. Washington). Jeannie and John Alexander recently opened in Springfield, after running a bookstore in Virden with the same name for over 25 years. The small front room is dedicated to old



Two of the many inviting nooks at Books on the Square.

PHOTOS/ BY STACIE LEWIS



and rare books, specifically history related to Lincoln, the Civil War and Illinois. Over 250 rare and used books on Lincoln draw Lincoln buffs from all over. Some are signed by the author.

The Alexanders were both teachers. John taught political science at the University of Illinois Springfield, and Jeannie taught public speaking at Lincoln Land Community College. Jeannie says, "Our Virden store fills three buildings and will stay open. Our son, who owns this building on Washington, always wanted books in the empty space."

At first the store appears to be one small room, but if you wander through a doorway, you'll be surprised at the space. Several rooms off the main room are filled with both fiction

and nonfiction books on a variety of subjects.

The owners buy and sell and ship items daily. Over 4,500 books are available at abebooks.com and on Amazon. They also will give talks on Lincoln, history and books. "We hope to host book signings or receptions later on," Jeannie says.

Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 10:30-5, Wednesday 10:30-7, Saturday 10:30-6. Phone: 965-5443 (for both the Virden and Springfield stores). Email: bksonsqr@royell.net ♦

Cinda Ackerman Klickna taught English in Springfield, is the immediate past president of the Illinois Education Association and loves books and bookstores.



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The original H.D. Smith warehouse at 435 N. Fourth Street in Springfield was in operation from 1954-1977.



Chris Smith, Henry Dale Smith and Dale Smith (left to right) working at the office in the company's distribution center south of Springfield.

Dale Smith, Henry Dale Smith and Chris Smith (left to right) at the ground-breaking ceremony for the company's national headquarters at 3063 Fiat in 2003.

PHOTOS/ COURTESY H.D. SMITH

Inside the sale of H.D. Smith

Founded in Springfield in 1954, the drug distribution company sells for \$815 million

BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

Most area residents may not realize that H.D. Smith is America's largest, privately held national wholesale distributor in the pharmaceutical industry. But it's no secret how the Springfield-based health care distribution business achieved that status.

"We have a focus throughout the company on providing an extraordinary customer experience in everything we do," said Dale Smith Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of H. D. Smith Holding Company. "So, whether you are customer service taking calls from pharmacists, interacting with one of our manufacturer partners, or you are on our finance team sending reports to fellow associates, you can still provide that extraordinary experience to whoever you are working with."

"Our associates are what make this company successful," said Smith, the son of founder H. Dale Smith Sr. "We've always taken pride in the talent we hire from central Illinois, or recruit to live and work in the area."

H. D. Smith is a health care distribution company with locations across the United States. It provides full-line distribution of brand, generic and specialty drugs, as well as other services for manufacturers and health care providers. H. D. Smith customers include retail and specialty pharmacies, long-term care facilities, institutional and hospital systems, and independent physicians and clinics.

The company's long-term growth and success is what led to the recent announcement that pharmaceutical product and service provider AmerisourceBergen will purchase H.D. Smith for \$815 million, a transaction that is expected to close, pending Federal Trade Commission review, in early 2018.

H.D. Smith's large distribution center in Springfield's Park South industrial park is part of a nationwide network that includes facilities in Carson, California; Pompano Beach, Florida; Carol Stream, Illinois; Louisville, Kentucky; Stratham, New Hampshire; Kearney, New Jersey; and Flower Mound and Los Indios, Texas. The Springfield distribution center, like the others, is packed floor to ceiling with shelves stocking every health care product imaginable, including prescription and specialty pharmaceuticals, consumer products, home health care supplies, durable medical equipment, prescription containers and seasonal merchandise. Like their fellow 1,000 employees nationwide, Springfield H.D. Smith associates can be seen busily sorting, moving and packing at all hours

of the day and night.

The company has come a long way from its founding in 1954.

"My father started in a small warehouse on Fourth Street with two employees, a very limited number of suppliers, very little knowledge of the business community and of course, no customers," Smith said. "But working in his father's drugstores, he knew what drugstores needed and had the desire to build a business that would meet those needs."

"Dad said once that there was a lot of luck in realizing the company's success, but he was quick to add that it didn't happen by accident either," Smith said. "The big advantage for my brother, Chris, and me was that we got to know Dad, not only as a father, but also as a boss, a coworker and a friend, and gained a better perspective on who he was as a man in the

medications, including plasma derivatives, oncology medicines, vaccines, women's health products, antibiotics, diabetic products and nicotine replacement therapy.

Valley Wholesale Drug Co. was acquired by H.D. Smith in 2012 and continues to serve more than 600 pharmacies from its Stockton, California, distribution center.

Triplefin is a leading pharmaceutical brand support company that coordinates benefit verification, patient reimbursement, co-pays, and other services that streamline the approval, payment and fulfillment process of name brand prescription products.

Arete Pharmacy Network supports the effective management of the financial, quality and operational aspects of more than 2,500 independent pharmacies.

CompleteCare Pharmacies are retail outlets

and expertise."

"For many years, H. D. Smith has been proudly independent. As a leader in wholesale distribution, we continually assess market trends and our business position," Chris Smith said. "Industry pressures have continued to challenge our customers, and we've seen firsthand the impact these pressures have had on them. We see this transaction as the right path forward, at the right time, with the right partner to ensure the future success of our customers and the patients they serve."

"We are confident AmerisourceBergen's aligned values will carry forward the H. D. Smith legacy and hallmark of extraordinary customer service," Chris Smith said.

AmerisourceBergen, based in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, provides pharmaceutical products and services to tens of thousands of health care providers, veterinary practices and livestock producers. The company has 20,000 employees, a presence in more than 50 countries, and is ranked number 11 on the Fortune 500 with more than \$150 billion in annual revenue.

AmerisourceBergen leaders are pleased to be adding H.D. Smith to the fold.

"H. D. Smith has always shared our passion for supporting its customers across community pharmacy, health systems, long-term care and specialty distribution," said Robert Mauch, group president, Pharmaceutical Distribution and Strategic Global Sourcing at AmerisourceBergen. "The established legacy of H. D. Smith in serving community pharmacies is strongly aligned with and complements the services AmerisourceBergen provides."

Steven Collis, who is AmerisourceBergen chairman, president and CEO, said the purchase will mean good things for health care providers and customers.

"The acquisition of H. D. Smith, a best-in-class private distributor with facilities across the country and a diversified customer base, strengthens our core business and expands and enhances our strategic scale in U.S. pharmaceutical distribution," Collis said. "We remain committed to building our business to meet the evolving needs of our customers, driving long-term value for the health care system and delivering compelling returns for our shareholders. Importantly, we are united in our responsibility to create healthier futures." ♦

David Blanchette is a freelance writer from Jacksonville and is also the co-owner of Studio 131 Photography in Springfield.



Conveyors help move orders through the H.D. Smith warehouse in Springfield.

PHOTO/ BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

process."

The family atmosphere of the business extends to the firm's employees, and Smith credits them with much of the company's success.

"We are deeply proud of and committed to our associates, the H. D. Smith 'family' that has created our success and made this journey fun," Smith said. "Throughout our company's history, it was this team who shouldered the workload and continued to put our customers first."

H. D. Smith isn't just in the wholesale distribution business. They also operate subsidiaries Smith Medical Partners, Valley Wholesale Drug, Triplefin, Arete Pharmacy Network and CompleteCare Pharmacy.

Smith Medical Partners delivers specialty

located in Springfield and Champaign.

Triplefin, CompleteCare Pharmacy and Arete Pharmacy Network are not part of the AmerisourceBergen purchase. But for H.D. Smith, Smith Medical Partners and Valley Wholesale Drug, the time was right to join forces with a larger international leader in the industry.

"The health care system has seen massive consolidations in the last few years. To best support and serve our customers, partners and ultimately, patients across the country, this is the right time for H. D. Smith to combine with a national partner," said Chris Smith, president and chief executive officer of H. D. Smith and son of the company's founder. "H. D. Smith is joining an organization with the same fundamental commitment to our associates and our customers, paired with unrivaled access, scale



EXIT INTERVIEW

Sims fears Springfield may have overdosed on Abe, so he wants to promote other "hometown heroes."

Planner Norm Sims, retiring, still has a lot of ideas

The former SSCRPC executive director reflects on a career in public administration

BY SCOTT FAINGOLD

When Norm Sims retired as executive director of Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission on Dec. 29, it capped off a public administration career that began in 1974 in the research program at the Kentucky Department of Education, "transferring the fruits of research," as he described it. "We tried to get teachers and principals to actually use some of the things that were being found."

Sims remained there until 1980, when he began a stint with the Council of State Governments, which at the time had its national headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky. "You've probably never heard of them but they're an interesting group," he said. "They do research in policy work for all states, all three branches of government, which was exciting." While working there, Sims made the acquaintance of the future Illinois governor, Jim Edgar, setting the trajectory for the remainder of his career. "Jim asked me

if he were to get elected would I be interested to come to Illinois," Sims said. "Well, he did get elected and I came here in the summer of '91."

He accepted a job as part of the Edgar administration in the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, first running the policy planning and research program and later as deputy director for community development, eventually becoming director of that program, near the end of Edgar's second term. Around that time, Sims was approached by Springfield mayor Karen Hasara who offered him a job as city planner. "I worked there through all of Karen's term and a couple of years of Davlin's," he said. Next, he spent some time working for the Illinois Tax Increment Association ("They deal with some TIF stuff but it's largely economic development.") before being hired as executive director for SSCRPC in August 2007.

Looking back on over 10 years as staff for the commission, Sims finds a lot to be proud of. "There were several exciting things we worked

on — some may be more mundane than others," he said. "We did a lot of work on high-speed rail, particularly the movement of the trains, getting them consolidated on the 10th Street line. That was an interesting time and we did a great amount of work on that."

Other achievements that stick out for Sims include work done on wind farms, as well as the commission's success in getting several communities in Sangamon County to adopt updated comprehensive plans. "Most of them didn't. So I think we've done seven, and that does include the city of Springfield's plan," he said. "That was a major effort. We're pretty proud of that work."

Some of the biggest changes Sims has seen over the past decade have been in terms of perceptions and culture surrounding the SSCRPC. "I kept being told when I came on with the planning commission that it was considered 'the communists on the second floor of the county building' and I think we've changed that orientation," he said with pride. "Elected officials and others now seek out our opinions. I tried to move the commission to a place where we are seen as doing work as good as big, expensive consulting firms out of Chicago. But we'll do it cheaper while knowing what the individual needs of the communities and the county here are."

Sims is also proud of having put together a regional strategic plan for Sangamon County and all of its communities in 2015. "We just finished some work the other day that's an outgrowth of that," he said. "We have all these small, rural communities that don't think of themselves

to do business here," said Sims.

Sims fears Springfield may be suffering from an Abraham Lincoln overdose, as there are other things for which the town should be proud. "I was working on a thing today called 'hometown heroes.' There are a lot of people here of all races and all sexes and everything else that have been pretty successful. Maybe we ought to start recognizing that and start putting some pictures up on buildings around town to show that."

Another long-term plan for the city that Sims has suggested relates to the Third Street rail corridor. "I don't know if you're familiar with San Antonio's River Walk," he said. "Well, we don't have a river running through Springfield but when that railroad track is gone and becomes a linear park we are going to have a Third Street rail corridor. Let's make that our River Walk and expand from that."

On a sobering note, Sims said the number one challenge facing Sangamon County over the course of time will be population growth. "All of the central Illinois counties are losing population, the state is losing population and part of that is we're losing our young people," he said. "The question becomes, how do you make a Springfield or a Sherman or a Virden or an Illiopolis more attractive for young people to live and work? If trends continue, we don't have enough young people coming into the labor pool to fill the jobs we have now. I think there's a lot that this whole county and region has to offer."

Sims seemed only to be partially joking when he pointed out that planners do not have a pa-

Sims proposes a "River Walk without a river" for the Third Street rail corridor.



The Regional Planning Commission developed its own plans and renderings for the proposed downtown transit center.

as part of a region and so we wanted to work with them to actually develop things that could help them be identified that way." In 2016, the planning commission received a grant from IDOT which allowed them to hire Springfield landscape architects Massie Massie and Associates as consultants to draw up designs for four small, rural communities. The architects suggested that as most of these communities have grain silos, art could be painted directly on the silos to create a rural tourist attraction. "That brings people to these communities and they can look at it and see, well, I might want to live here, I might want

tron saint. "I've sent letters to the Pope suggesting that they have one. One that I suggested was St. Jude, who is the patron saint of lost causes. But I've had no success in getting the Pope to give us one. If we were Greek, it'd probably be Cassandra, who could tell the future but she was condemned and nobody would ever believe her. We try to give everybody fair warning — then at least we can say, 'We told ya it's happening. Get ready for it!'" ♦

Scott Faingold can be reached at sfaingold@illinoistimes.com

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The water control structure, with its sluice gates, now allows the Emiquon, a 5,500-acre wetland area, to be reconnected to the Illinois River, providing environmental benefits to both the river and the wetland.

PHOTO/ BY JUNE STRICKER, HANSON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Hanson wins award for Emiquon water control project

BY ZACH ROTH

LEWISTOWN—Those with a keen sense of Illinois’ buried Native American history recall the word “ashapa.” In one of the old Miami-Illini languages, “ashapa” means web, something that connects various strands into a whole.

The meaning is not lost on those who helped build a new way to preserve the wildlife and the environment that those Native Americans helped cultivate along the Illinois River.

Springfield-based Hanson Professional Services, in association with other groups, helped design a new water control system for the Emiquon Nature Preserve in Lewistown, just outside Havana. Emiquon is one of the largest floodplain restoration projects in the Midwest. Former crop fields have been converted back to wetlands, where they support wildlife. According to Scott Arends, the project manager for Hanson, the Nature Conservancy of Illinois needed a company with the know-how to design such a system. Considering Hanson’s involvement in every lock and dam along the Illinois River, they were just

the professionals the Nature Conservancy was looking for.

“What Hanson brought to the table was some additional expertise with large river construction projects,” Arends said. “Since this was on the Illinois River, that was a good fit.”

Before the involvement of Hanson and Maurer-Stutz, an engineering firm based in Peoria, the system at Emiquon was completely unusable. The new system began operation in September 2016, and now it is a state-of-the-art feat of design and ingenuity, allowing the preserve to begin the process of restoring itself to its past beauty.

Doug Blodgett of the Nature Conservancy of Illinois is the caretaker of the land and water of Emiquon. He explains how the Hanson-designed system works, doing so with a little bit of help from tiny fishnets and plywood, comprising a small-scale model of the project.

“The water control structure consists of two concrete culverts that are seven feet high each and eight feet wide,” Blodgett said.

The system allows for water from the Illinois River to cross on through into the nature preserve, providing for a suitable habitat for the plant and animal life situated there.

“The water flows out of Emiquon [wetlands] into the river, and it can also flow back from the river into Emiquon,” Blodgett said. “To regulate the flow, we have these things that are called ‘sluice gates’ that open and close, so they just slide open and can be adjusted to slide closed. We also use something called ‘stop logs’ that stops the water from coming in.”

Hanson’s work on the Emiquon project has received several awards over the past year, including one from the Association of Conservation Engineers (ACE). The ACE gave Hanson the Carl V. Anderson Conservation Project Award, the highest award ACE can bestow on a firm.

“It’s really an honor,” Arends said. “It’s humbling, to be honest with you, to be selected out of a nationwide competition of these kinds of projects. It’s very humbling to be recognized in that fashion.”

This isn’t the first time Hanson has received awards for its work in central Illinois. Ten years prior, Hanson received a runner-up award from ACE for their work on the Jim Edgar Panther Creek Fish and Wildlife Area.

“When we got this [award], I looked on the wall and, sure enough, there was a plaque on the wall from ACE,” Arends said. “Now having this award (first place) here in our office for the first time is really a special thing.”

The main goal of the restoration of Emiquon was to restore the wetlands to the state that it had been in centuries past, before Europeans and Americans alike affected its natural state. When the time came to create a name for the water control system, they came upon one obvious choice, “ashapa,” or web, emphasizing the connection between the rapids of the Illinois River and the tranquil peace of the Emiquon Nature Preserve.

An appropriate choice, considering the work done to live up to the standards of Illinois’ Native Americans. ♦



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City Planning Examiner Eric Shuler thinks the Kidzeum will be a great addition to downtown. As an architect, he appreciates repurposing older buildings. “This is another reuse of an existing building,” he said of the former Schnepf and Barnes Printing at 412 E. Adams.

PHOTO/ BY RACHEL JOHNSON

The people’s new architect

Eric Shuler, back home, now reviews plans as a public servant

BY RACHEL JOHNSON

After a six-month search, city of Springfield Planning Coordinator Matt Wolf had found his new city plans examiner. As the previous plans examiner, Wolf had a pretty good idea of the qualifications he was looking for to fill the position. Architect Eric Shuler was both familiar with the 2012 international building code the city uses and the general layout of the city itself. “It helps to have someone familiar with the city,” Wolf said. “Everything we do is tied to addresses and locations.”

For Shuler, it was a homecoming of sorts. The 40-year-old grew up in Buffalo just outside Springfield and graduated from Tri-City High School. He was in Springfield regularly growing up. One of his first jobs was working at the Wyndham hotel, which was then a Hilton hotel. “It’s directly across from the municipal building where I work now,” Shuler said.

For Shuler, the biggest learning curve has been switching from the private sector to the public sector.

“Architecture is a broad term. To be an architect, one almost needs to be a generalist and know a little bit about a lot. This is a more focused area of architecture. Essentially, you need to know a lot about a little in that context,” he said. “Building code is my purview.”

Rather than focus on a specific style of architecture as he did when working for Sam A. Winn and Associates in Springfield, Missouri, he now works with any project in the city limits. This includes houses, buildings, hospitals, additions, remodelings, corporate and historical renovations, such as the conversion of the former and longtime vacant Schnepf and Barnes Printing building on East Adams to a children’s museum.

He’s no longer in the drafting side of it. He works closely with others in his department and even the townships within the city limits because townships have their own inspectors.

“I review new construction, both commercial and residential,” Shuler said. “I’m looking for compliance on paper and they (the trade inspectors) are looking for compliance in the field.”

It’s been 20 years since Shuler lived just outside Springfield and he feels it has changed a lot. “I still get lost in the city that I grew up near,” he laughed.

Commercial construction is up from last year, according to Shuler. “We definitely see construction throughout. It’s not just new construction,” he said.

Springfield has a plethora of historic buildings and Shuler enjoys seeing them repurposed. He and his wife, Julie, bought a home in a historical district and he enjoys working on his own home when he’s not playing racquetball at

the YMCA or working.

The new Kidzeum should be opening in June and Shuler is optimistic it will prove yet another draw for people to come downtown. Along with the rest of Springfield, he’s anticipating an announcement on the Y-block development. “I’m very excited for something there,” he said.

Shuler spent a lot of years becoming an experienced, licensed architect. He knew from a young age that he wanted to become an architect. “I had a friend who showed me how to draft. I begged my father for a drafting table that Christmas I was 12,” Shuler said. “I said then that I wanted to be an architect, not knowing that later I would become one.”

Shuler followed through on that plan by applying to Southern Illinois University’s Architectural Studies Program. Then, it was a four-year program, but now takes five years to complete. Despite graduating with his B.S. in Architectural Studies in 2004, he didn’t obtain his license until 2014. “It’s a lengthy process for professional development,” Shuler said.

It’s a little different for everyone because they have to take multiple tests over a period of time after obtaining a degree and several years of an internship. “We buy houses, we marry, we take on family. It really is up to the individual and how ambitious they are in pursuing that,” Shuler said.

On average, it takes 14 years including the 4-5 years of school. By comparison, most doctors have eight years of school before starting a 3-8-year residency in their specialty. Architecture is complicated and a structure must be safe as well as functional. Shuler’s priorities are to look for life safety issues, a means of egress, and fire protection.

Shuler sees as many as a dozen plans a week come across his desk. For him, it’s not how many, but how complicated. An elevated walkway or hospital addition are far more complicated to read through than a basic building plan. And always, he has to keep codes and safety at the forefront. “I’m very much a public servant,” Shuler said. ♦

Rachel Johnson was a stay-at-home mom for several years before returning to school to get her master’s in journalism at Marquette University. She then wrote freelance feature stories for the Green Bay Press Gazette and the Wrightstown Spirit until her two daughters were old enough to drive. Finally free of her chauffeur duties, she stepped up as full-time editor of the weekly Spirit where she stayed for seven years. Her husband’s job brought her to Springfield a few months ago and she’s enjoying once again writing freelance feature stories and getting to know the people of Springfield.

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MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

Sources: The architectural firms.
Ranked by number of local registered architects.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE / FAX (=) WEBSITE / EMAIL	NUMBER OF LOCAL REGISTERED ARCHITECTS	NUMBER OF LOCAL FULL-TIME/ EMPLOYEES	PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	FWAI Architects Inc. 1 NW Old Capitol Plaza Springfield, IL 62701	217-528-3661 217-528=4717 fwai.com admin@fwai.com	5	13	Carl Fischer, Paul Wheeler, Forrest Hoffman	Springfield, Ill.: Ronald McDonald House; Blessed Sacrament School Expansion, Central Illinois Community Blood Center, LLCC A. Lincoln Commons, University of Illinois Springfield – various projects, H. D. Smith Corporate Campus, Sangamon County Building, Camp Lincoln – CSMS & Allied Trades, Crowne Plaza Hotel, INB Branches, St. Joseph's Home Dementia Wing, The Hope Institute – Learning Center & Master Planning, Memorial Medical Center – various clinics, Springfield Clinic – various clinics; Urbana/Champaign, Ill.: UIUC English Building Renovations, UIUC McKinley Health Center Remodel, UIUC Assembly Hall Remodel & Addition; Waukegan, Ill.: Regional Corporate Data Center; Texas: Corporate Data Center.	1976
1	Graham & Hyde Architects, Inc. 1010 Clocktower Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-9380 217-793=6465 grahamandhyde.com info@grahamandhyde.com	5	10	Jamie Cosgriff, Kevin Handy, Mike Zellers	Springfield, Ill.: Vachel Lindsay Elementary School; St. Agnes Church; Hoogland Center for the Arts; First United Methodist Church; Blessed Sacrament Church; Carrollton Bank; St. John's Lutheran Church expansion; Christ the King Parish Center; Cathedral of Immaculate Conception renovation; Ridgely Elementary School; Ball Charter Elementary School; Cherry Hills Baptist Church; Ben-Gil Elementary School, Gillespie, IL; Panhandle Elementary School addition, Raymond, IL; Ball-Chatham Community Schools additions and renovations; Campus improvements, Benedictine University.	1968
2	Evan Lloyd Associates, Inc. 1630 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-7011 217-789=7101 evanlloydarchitects.com tsmith@evanlloyd.com	4	13	Timothy B. Smith, Gregory T. Frazier	Springfield: PCCC renovation and expansion, Old First United Methodist Church renovation, IL State Police Credit Union, Waterways Building renovation (4th District Appellate Court), Engrained Brewery, Obed & Isaacs/Wm. Van's Coffee Shop, Prairie State Bank (Wabash branch), Friar Tuck, County Market (Carpenter Street), The Outlets of Springfield, Sangamon County Health Department renovation, Connor Co. Distribution/Sales Facility, Horace Mann interior renovations. Sherman: Illini Bank, New Park and Amphitheater. Jacksonville: Pathway Services renovation. Carlinville: Bothwell Auditorium and Woodward Athletic Center renovations at Blackburn College. Taylorville: St. Mary School Addition. Eldorado: Legence Bank Corporate Headquarters. Litchfield National Bank branch.	1969
2	J.H. Petty and Associates, Ltd. Architects 3220 Executive Park Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-787-2844 217-787=2855 jhp@jhpa.biz	4	8	Joseph H. Petty	LLCC Aviation classroom addition at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport New office building for Springfield Psychological Center Loukinen's on Fourth Street Remodel.	1994
2	Steckel-Parker Architects, Inc. 2941 Happy Landing Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-6444 217-793=5434 steckelparker.com dave@steckelparker.com	4	5	David E. Steckel	Levi, Ray & Shoup office complex Brandt Consolidated offices, Illinois Primary Health Care Association office, Taylorville School District gymnasium addition and remodeling, Prairie Eye & Lasik building, Pepsi Distribution Center and office, United Community Bank – various locations, La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries – multiple locations, Darcy's Pint, Springfield School District 186 – multiple projects.	1964
3	Allied Design Consultants, Inc. 405 1/2 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-3355 217-522=5570 alliedarch.com alliedsn@tgi.net	3	6	Bruce M. Bollero, Todd R. Hannah	Illinois: John F. Kennedy Middle School, Spring Valley; Public Library, Rushville; New Berlin Elementary School, New Berlin; Eureka School additions; ISU, LLCC, UIS and SIU renovation projects; Security Bank renovations and new construction; Casey-Westfield High School addition and renovations; Springfield School District 186 renovation projects.	1984
3	John Shafer & Associates 1230 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-744-9036 217-744=9039 shafer-arch.com john@shafer-arch.com	3	4	John Shafer	Heartland Credit Union, Bunn Corporate Office, LLCC Taylorville, Illinois Education Association, Midwest Technical Institute, various locations, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Terry Farmer Photography, Illinois Baptist State Association, Yellowstone Shopping Center, Shelter Insurance State Headquarters, Novanis Building, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Gone for Good Document Destruction, Springfield Clinic Administrative Offices, Illinois Times, Bunn Corporate Office Building and Salvation Army.	1992
3	Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker, Ltd. 213 1/2 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-9515 217-789=9518 mmlpltd.com architect@mmlpltd.com	3	9	Ralls C. Melotte, David J. Leonatti, T. David Parker	Tinsley Dry Goods Shop Historic Exterior Reconstruction, Springfield; New Alternative School building, Morton; Jaenke Hall Renovation, Blackburn College; The Abbey Mausoleum Renovation, Springfield; 22,000 SF interior design for professional business, Springfield; New Affordable Housing, Alton; Mt. Pulaski Courthouse Historic Site Renovation; Adaptive Reuse for 16 bed youth residential facility, Morton; 1st Presbyterian Church Geothermal and Building Renovation, Jacksonville; Renovation of 140 Apartments, Taylorville; Renovation of Triopia K-12 School Campus.	1978
4	Cowdrey and German dESIGNED aRCHITECTURE inc 1305 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-5730 217-546=5739 designed-architecture.com cg@designed-architecture.com	2	3	Scott Cowdrey	Rolling Meadows Brewery, Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary, Nehemiah Expansion, Downtown Streetscape Enhancement - Litchfield, IL, Rexx Battery - Springfield and Jacksonville, Macoupin County Animal Shelter - Carlinville, IL, Nature's Grace and Wellness Center-Vermont, IL.	2007
4	Square Root Architecture + Design 1601 Holmes Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-903-5908 squarerootarch.com info@squarerootarch.com	2	1	Jeff Sommers	Caisley Residence - C3Prefab v1.0, Schulze Residence - C3Prefab v2.0, Huang Residence - C3Prefab v3.0, Leiman Residence - C3Prefab v1.1, 99k House, Eco Prototype Residence, Bridgeport Residence, Edgewater Residence, Andersonville Residence, Glencoe Residence, Lincoln Park Residence, Jefferson Park Residence, Sylvan Melloul Salons, Cut Up & Dye Salon, SalonBlonde Hair Salon, OnShore Consulting Offices.	2004



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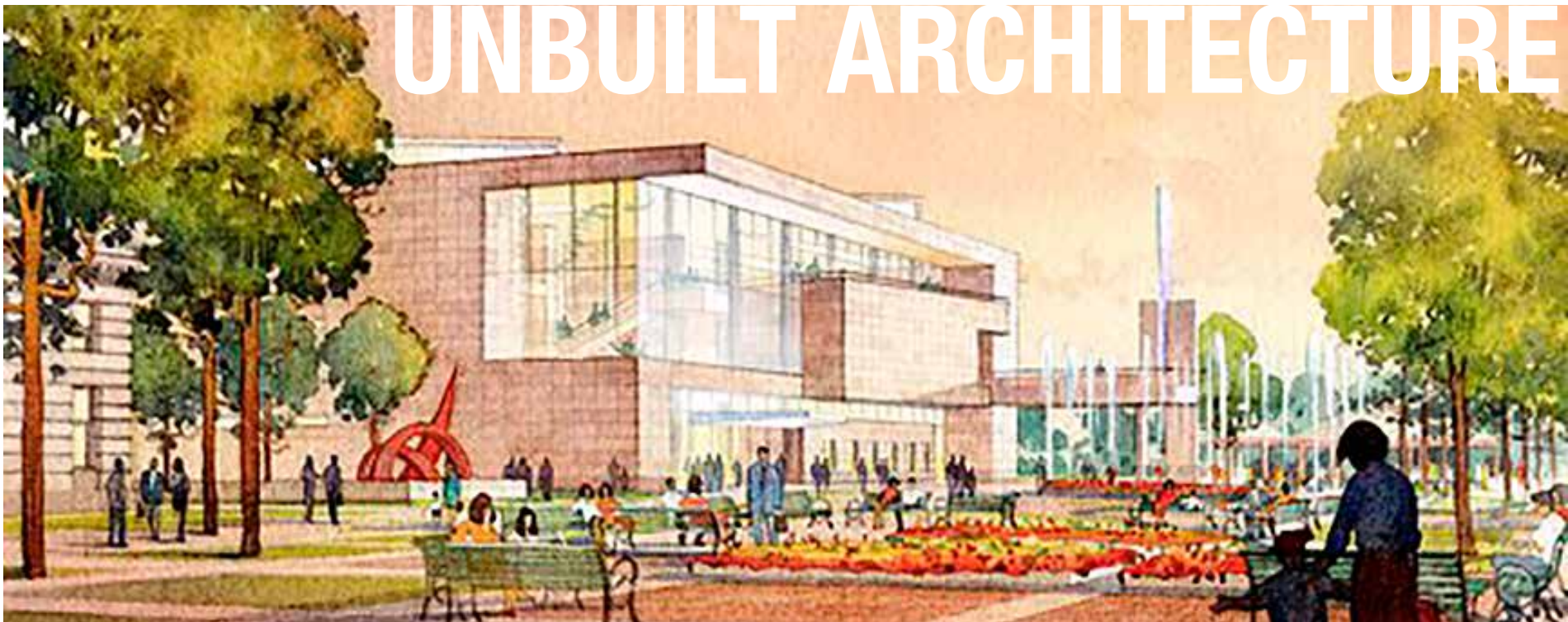
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A 2001 concept drawing from the international architectural firm of Pei Cobb Freed and Partners showed an “open and inviting” building, to be built west of the current ISM and connected to it with a walkway.

A museum for the 21st century

A world-famous architectural firm designed a grand new Illinois State Museum that was never built

BY KAREN ACKERMAN WITTER

The Illinois State Museum, founded in 1877, was first housed in the west wing of the third floor of the State Capitol, which was still under construction. From 1903-1923 it was located in the State Arsenal on Second and Monroe streets (which later burned and was replaced by the Illinois State Armory). The museum was on the fifth floor of the Centennial Building (now named the Michael J. Howlett Building) from 1923-1962. A grand new museum was proposed in the 1940s, but was never built. Eventually a new museum was constructed on the corner of Spring and Edwards Streets, which has been the museum’s home since 1962. Built at half the scale needed at the time, expansion plans have been proposed but never completed.

Museum included in postwar building program

The Illinois State Museum dramatically expanded its exhibits, programs, scope and outreach during the nearly 40 years it was located in the Centennial Building. With this came competition for space, and plans for a new museum building were developed. With support from Gov. Dwight Green, the building was included in the state’s postwar building program and proposed to be located north of the State Capitol on the

corner of Monroe and First streets. A Special Bulletin of The Living Museum newsletter presented the concept for the new museum. “The Museum is dedicated to ideas, not to things, but it uses things to illustrate the ideas. No longer is it a storage place for specimens, but a living source of inspiration and enlightenment. The new Illinois State Museum building has been designed to present ideas and to simulate pride in our state, to reveal its background and its present-day accomplishments, and to stand as a dramatic display room of the best in Illinois.”

A model of the building, along with complete floor plans, was published in the Living Museum Special New Building Edition in July 1946. “This new building will ... be interesting, entertaining, educational. ... It will be indeed a living museum. It will tell the story of the past, display the present, and always keep attuned to the future.” The multistory building included a children’s museum on the ground floor, exhibits telling “The Illinois Story” on the first floor, “Science and the World” on the second floor, a mezzanine with laboratories for visiting students, and art galleries on the third floor. Key players included Thorne Deuel, museum director; John McGregor, acting museum director while Deuel was on military leave; V.Y. Dallman, editor of the *Illinois State Register* and member of the Museum Board of Advisors; Frank Thompson, director of

the Department of Registration and Education, the State Planning Commission and other state officials and members of the General Assembly.

In the aftermath of World War II, the plan never made it to fruition. Other projects took priority as the planning was delayed once Deuel returned from the war and funds were taken from the capital building program for a bonus bill for veterans. After four years of planning and campaigning for a new building, the project was essentially dead by 1948 when there was a transition in governors.

It took another 15 years before a new building was constructed for the Illinois State Museum. As a result of compromise it was built at half the scale needed at the time. A museum built in the 1960s also has its limitations to meet the needs and expectations of museum visitors in the 21st century. In the ensuing decades as the museum’s collections and programming continued to grow, a variety of options were considered to expand the museum.


A museum for the 21st century

The State Museum is administratively part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which was formed in 1995 by merging several state agencies. The Edgar administration committed to build a new DNR headquarters on

the State Fairgrounds for this new agency and began the planning process for a new State Museum in the Capitol Complex. For the first time since the 1960s, state funding was appropriated for conceptual planning for a new museum. The formal process began in 1999 with the selection of a world-class planning team.

The state of Illinois selected Pei Cobb Freed and Partners, New York, as the lead architect and Ralph Appelbaum Associates as the lead exhibit designer. The Illinois-based coordinating architectural/engineering firm was Phillips Swager Associates of Peoria. Pei Cobb Freed Partners are known internationally for projects such as the Grand Louvre Modernization, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, National Constitution Center, and U.S. Air Force Memorial. Ralph Appelbaum Associates is one of the most well-known exhibit designers, with projects such as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Clinton Presidential Library and American Museum of Natural History Rose Center for Earth and Space.


The planning process began in the Edgar administration, continued during Gov. George Ryan’s administration, and the conceptual plans were released in 2001. Planning involved in-depth evaluations of alternative locations, space needs, programming and community needs. The conceptual design featured a 135,000-square-foot building due west of the current museum and connected to the existing building at the second level by a “river walk.” In contrast to the 1940s fortress-looking design, the museum for the 21st century was designed to be much more open and inviting, with panoramic views of the State Capitol and an outdoor terrace on the third floor for public events. A major




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consideration was linking the new Illinois State Museum with the Jackson Street corridor and Lincoln's Home.

Components of the new building included a Grand Assembly Hall, outdoor educational area and children's discovery center, large space for transitional exhibitions, innovative ways to showcase Illinois' unique collections, dramatic spaces for cultural and community events, current information on science and hot topics, interactive exhibits and new technologies, new exhibits on Illinois agriculture, permanent space for fine art exhibits, displays on the people of Illinois, a museum store, restaurant and auditorium. The plans also involved major renovation of exhibits in the current building to tie in seamlessly with the new building. The architects envisioned the new Illinois State Museum as a catalyst for making the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol a community gathering space.

The FY 2002 state budget included \$3.6 million for additional planning and detailed

The proposed new museum featured dramatic spaces and innovative ways to showcase Illinois collections, as featured in "Impressions," the Summer/Fall 2001 newsletter of the Illinois State Museum Society.



design and blueprints. Ultimately, the project was put on hold during the transition from the Ryan to the Blagojevich administrations and was never completed. During and since this time there have been other discussions about plans for the Capitol Complex, the Stratton Building and the Armory. One option mentioned by some would move the State Museum into the Armory building. Ironically, this site is where the museum was once located in the former State Arsenal and is adjacent to the proposed location for a new museum building in the 1940s. ♦

Karen Ackerman Witter is retired from the State of Illinois. She served as associate director of the Illinois State Museum, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Analysis at DNR, and director of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. She was deeply involved in the new museum planning process with Pei Cobb Freed and Partners.



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Sustainability award, 2016.

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the Year, environmental
category for projects under
\$5 million, 2016.



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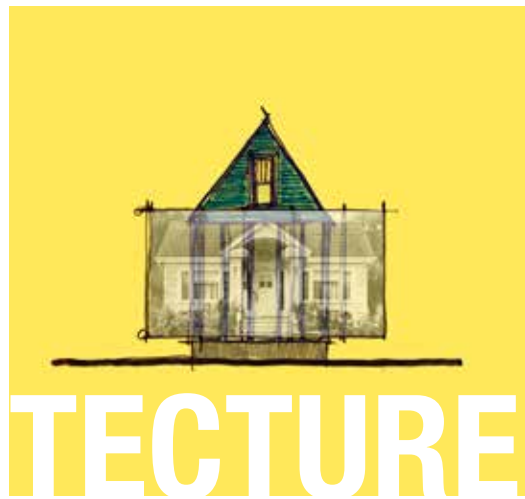
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1	Hanson Professional Services, Inc. 1525 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-788-2450 217-788=2503 hanson-inc.com marketing@hanson-inc.com	55	443	Jeff Ball, P.E. President Sergio Pecori, P.E., CEO; John Coombe, P.E., S.E., COO; Robert Cusick, P.E., S.E., CTO; Jo Ellen Keim, CFO, CPA	Stratton Lock & Dam design for IDNR, McHenry, IL; Emiquon water control structure, Havana, IL; Commissioning for Sandy Grove Middle School commissioning (Cx), first net-positive school, N.C.; CWLP Spaulding Dam Spillway Gate Rehabilitation; IL High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis program Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement; Springfield Rail Improvements Project; IL Tollway Interstate 90 (Jane Addams Memorial Tollway) widening and reconstruction; Kennedy Expressway reconstruction in Chicago; Indianapolis International Airport runway and taxiway rehab.; Alaska Railroad Corp.'s Northern Rail Extension Project; U.S. Dept. of State, Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) prof. commissioning (Cx) services on diplomatic facilities projects worldwide.	1954
2	Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. 2750 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-8050 217-787=4183 cmtengr.com questions@cmtengr.com	49	102	Dan Meckes, P.E., pres., CEO; Michael Doerfler, P.E., sr. vice pres., COO; Lou Dixon, P.E., sr. vice pres.	St. Louis Park Over the Highway at Gateway Arch; Peoria Stormwater Program and Utility Development; Sangamon County Water Reclamation District Sugar Creek Plant Expansion; O'Hare Modernization Projects; Midway Airport Planning; Barrington Road Interchange on I-90, Hoffman Estates, IL; West Florissant Avenue Great Street project, St. Louis County; UIS Student Union; CWLP Waterworks Improvements; Downtown Historic Streetscape Branson, MO; Airfield Rehabilitation at Dulles and Reagan National Washington Airports; Jackson Street and Illinois Realtors Association Plaza, Springfield, IL.	1946
3	Fuhrmann Engineering, Inc. 2852 S. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-5577 217-529=5575 www.fuhrmann-eng.com gfuhrmann@fuhrmann-eng.com	25	60	Pete Dombrowski, P.E., S.E.; Gina Marie Cianferri-Fuhrmann, P.E.; Michael Dean Curtis, P.L.S.; Peter Wagner, P.E., P.L.S.	University of Illinois Civil Engineering Retainer, Elgin O'Hare I-490 IL 19 Construction Inspection, IDOT Phase I and Phase II Replacement of US 51 over Sugar Creek, Macomb Armory, IDOT I-74/I-57 Interchange, Meredosia Bridge Const. Layout, 9th & Dodge St. Bridges HSR Tier III., Illinois State Fairgrounds 8th St. Rehabilitation, 11th St. Extension Const. Layout, Harrah's Casino Expansion - Metropolis.	2002
4	Hutchison Engineering, Inc. 1801 W. Lafayette Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-7164 217-243=0468 hutchisoneng.com ghutchison@hutchisoneng.com	23	57	Gary L. Hutchison, pres.; Michael V. Meier, exec. v. pres.	Macomb Bypass - Phase II McDonough County; I-80 reconstruction - Phase I & II, Henry and Rock Island Counties; I-57/6000N inter-change - Phase III, Kankakee County, US 34 reconstruction - Phase III Kendall County; I-74 corridor expansion - Phase III, Quad Cities; US 50 expressway - Phase I, Lawrence and Richland Counties; US 30 - Phase I, Kane and Kendall Counties; I-155/I-74 interchange - Phase III, Tazewell County.	1945
5	Quigg Engineering, Inc. 2351 S. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62703	217-670-0563 217-679=2204 quiggengineering.com lquigg@quiggengineering.com	20	60	Lori L. Quigg, P.E., pres.; Rebecca L. Stocker, vice pres.	I-74 Mississippi River crossing, Moline, IL to Davenport, IA; Chicago to St. Louis high speed rail, various locations, IDOT Bureau of Railroads; Tri-State toll way, roadway reconstruction, EW connector to Roosevelt Road, Illinois toll way; Route 94 bridges, Warren County, MO, MoDOT.	2006
6	Benton & Associates, Inc. 1970 West Lafayette Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-4146 217-245=4149 bentonassociates.com info@bentonassociates.com	15	40	Reginald H. Benton, P.E., S.E.; Jamie L. Headen, P.E.; William J. Sleeman, P.E.	Illinois: new Jacksonville WTP; Taylorville water system improvements; new Taylorville WTP; US 67 Jerseyville Bypass; SNAWS rural water Round Prairie rural water Beardstown Sanitary District WWTP improvements; Jacksonville WWTP CSO; various IDOT projects; I-64 bridges - St. Clair county; I-55 Bridges - Madison county; McDonough county transit facility; subsurface engineering services for high speed rail; North Morgan rural water system; SMG Rural Water System; Beardstown flood damage improvements; Hayes residential/commercial development Jacksonville.	1970
7	WHKS & Co. 7018 Kingsmill Court Springfield, IL 62711	217-483-9457 217-483=9458 whks.com springfield@whks.com	13	25	Fouad K. Daoud, P.E., S.E., pres., CEO; Michael A. Zelinskias, PE., vice pres.; William K. Angerman, P.E., COO.; Scott D. Sanford, P.E., S.E., vice pres.; Scott Sweet, P.E., vice pres	Illinois: I-72 resurfacing from Chatham Rd. to Morgan County Line in Springfield, Old McCluggage truss bridge repair in Peoria, Safe Routes to School project for Illiopolis, US 20 over the Mississippi River Approaches and Local Road Improvements, IBEW Union Hall in Springfield - civil & structural, IL Route 10 over Prairie Creek bridge replacement in Logan Co., Farmington Road re-alignment in West Peoria, Pawnee Road bridge rehab, IL 84 over the Apple River bridge replacement - phase I and II, Seismic analysis for the I-70 Tri-level interchange analysis near St. Louis, Cedar Street gusset plate strengthening in Peoria, Historic truss relocation in Bureau Co.	1948
8	Cummins Engineering Corporation 135 West Lake Shore Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-726-8570 cumminsengineering.com kim@cumminsengineering.com	9	19	Kimberly S. Cummins, P.E. CEO, Michael D. Cummins, P.E., S.E. pres., Michael E. Rapler, P.L.S.	Fayette Avenue Bridge Replacement near Washington Park, Restoration of the Vachel Lindsay Bridge, Sangamon Valley Trail from Centennial Park to Stuart Park in Springfield (and Phase 2 underway from Stuart Park to Irwin Bridge Road near Menard County Line), Veterans Parkway Intersection Improvements (dual turn lanes) at Old Jacksonville Road and Southwest Plaza Drive, Interstate 55 Bridge Improve-ments near Lincoln, Sangamon County bridges on Old Jacksonville Road, Farmingdale Road, Waverly Road, Roadway Improvements to Pleasant Plains Road and Waverly Road.	1998
9	Andrews Engineering, Inc. 3300 Ginger Creek Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-787-2334 217-787=9495 andrews-eng.com marketing@andrews-eng.com	8	35	Kenneth W. Liss L.P.G. pres., Douglas W. Mauntel P.E. exec. vice-pres., Bradley J. Hunsberger, L.P.G. vice-pres	IDOT-Statewide Hazardous Contractor; IDOT-High Speed Rail corridor Carlinville to Dwight (construction inspection, health and safety, environmental); US Dept. of Veteran Affairs; US D.O.E.; multi-state landfill design, remediation compliance; Utility Ash management; RCRA, CERCLA, TSCA permits/corrective action.	1974
10	Patrick Engineering, Inc. 300 W. Edwards St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62704	217-391-3500 217-391=3501 patrickco.com cburger@patrickco.com	7	7	Daniel P. Dietzler, P.E., CEO; Jeff Schuh, P.E., president; and Chris Burger, P.E., vice president	Amtrak site modifications; Veterans Admin metering project; Smart Energy Design Assistance Center energy efficiency studies throughout Illinois; Solar Energy assessments; Livingston County wind farm evaluations; FutureGen Alliance carbon dioxide sequester project siting and environmental assistance; Edison Mission Energy Wind Farm construction assistance; Powerton powerplant rail and infrastructure upgrades; Tazewell County landfill evaluation and design; ICG coal mine infrastructure design and subsidence monitoring.	1979
10	Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. 907 S. Fourth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-544-8033 217-544=3965 v-k.net mhenderson@v-k.net	7	15	Bob Veenstra, pres.; Mark Henderson, P.E., S.E.; Christopher Kohlrus, P.E.; Gene Arnold, P.E., S.E; Leo Foley, P.E.	Springfield, IL: Chatham Road over Jacksonville Branch Creek, Drainage Improvements at Wabash Ave. and I-72, Central Illinois Community Blood Center, White Oaks Mall Renovation, Legacy Point Outlet Mall, Blessed Sacrament School Addition. Peoria, IL: IL 116 over Kickapoo Creek, UP Railroad, and Kickapoo Creek Road. Chatham, IL: IL 4 over Polecat Creek. Putnam County, IL: Curved Girder Bridge on IL 26 over Coffee Creek. East Moline, IL: WTP (Ultraviolet Disinfection Process), East Moline WWTP Improvements. Burlington, IA: Flood Mitigation Project. Davenport, IA: WWTP Improvements, Large Diameter Interceptor Sewer Improvements. West Liberty, IA: Water Treatment Plant (Reverse Osmosis Process). Cambridge, IL: Cambridge Commercial Park - East Oak Street.	1961
11	Fehr Graham & Associates 2060 W. Iles Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8477 217-544=8483 fehr-graham.com mbloxdorf@fehr-graham.com	6	14	R. Todd Weegens, P.E., Michael W. Gronewold, P.E., Ken R. Thompson, Adam G. Holder, P.E., Joel P. Zirkle, P.G., Noah J. Carmichael, P.E.	Civil/Structural Design: UIS Public Safety Building, ISU Watterson Dining Expansion, Normal, IL.; Civil Design: Lincoln Challenge Academy, Rantoul, IL; Mill Creek Estates, Phase 2; Kreston Place Subdivision; Springfield YMCA Site Development; Meadowbrook Road Extension; Structural Design: Lincoln Tomb Receiving Vault Rehabilitation; IDOT Hanley Building Plaza Waterproofing; Springfield Housing Authority Office Addition; Galesburg East Main Street Retaining Walls; IL 97 over Little Haw Creek. IDOT prel. eng. to rehabilitate 9 bridges on I-55 near Pontiac.	1973
11	HDR Engineering, Inc. 5201 S. Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703-5143	217-585-8300 217-585=1890 hdrinc.com springfieldinfo@hdrinc.com	6	20	Matthew Cochran, marketing; Lawrence Bellingier, real estate services section manager	Land Acquisition, Utility Relocation, and Encroachments, including the current Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail Project; Freshwater and Marine Fisheries Production and Research Facilities, including Armstrong State Fish Hatchery, North Carolina; Wells Dam Hatchery, Washington State; and NOAA Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, Maryland.	1984
12	Feezor Engineering, Inc. 406 East Walnut St. Chatham, IL 62629	217-483-3118 dfeezor@feezorengineering.com	5	15	Daniel Feezor, P.E. - Jenny Feezor (Owners), Aaron Karias, P.E. Principal	Prairie State Energy Campus - Residuals Management, Bridgeton Landfill Heat Extraction System, West Lake Landfill Remedial Investigation.	1982
12	Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick, Inc. 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 201 Springfield, IL 62703	217-546-3400 217-546=8116 hlrengineering.com hlrspfld@hlreng.com	5	12	Steven W. Megginson, P.E., S.E.	Tazewell County Manito Rd and Towerline Rd bridges over the Mackinaw River; Kane County bridge inspections and bridge management system; IDOT BB&S Bridge Load rating assistance; Sangamon County - Multiple bridge replacements; IDOT D9 and D3 multiple bridge replacements; Kendall County Eldamain Rd bridge over Fox River; US 61 bridge inspection over Mississippi River; Hamilton County - CH 3 reconstruction to White Oak Resources; IDOT D7 - US 51 Corridor hydraulic review of 50 structures; IDOT-Peoria Cedar Street bridge inspection and rating.	1965
12	Knight E/A, Inc. 3200 Pleasant Run, Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-546-7455 312-577=3526 knightea.com	5	11	Jim Wolfe, CEO Kevin Lentz, PE, president Christine Reed, PE, senior vice pres.	UP Railroad High Speed Rail construction inspection, Springfield Park District Washington Park lagoon structures (design and construction inspection), IDNR Mazonia Braidwood reclamation, Vandalia Levee District Pecon Island assessment. Sangamon County Logan County Road Bridge, Springfield signal warrant assessment.	1945
12	Prairie Engineers, P.C. 6405 Canadian Cross Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-605-0403 217-718=4764 prairieengineers.com lkramer@prairieengineers.com	5	15	Lisa Kramer, PE; Darren Forgy, PE, PLS	All-Hazards Transportation System Vulnerability Assessment & Response Plan - Statewide; Ducks Unlimited Various Projects - Statewide; Shawnee Expressway Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Corridor Design - Southern Illinois; Pavement Testing - Statewide; Land acquisition services and construction engineering services for the High Speed Rail corridor; Hydrogeomorphic study of the Lower Missouri River; Construction engineering services for the Interstate 74 Knoxville Interchange; Phase I services for the central Tri-State Tollway; Land Acquisition services for Ameren electric transmission lines - central Illinois.	2010
13	Kuhn & Trello Consulting Engineers, LLC 109 N. 7th St., 3rd Floor Springfield, IL 62701	217-679-0044 ktengr.com kkuhn@ktengr.com	4	10	Kevin L. Kuhn, PE Michael J. Trello, PE, SE	Railroad Overpass - Williamsville, IL; Municipal Park - Sherman, IL; Birch Lane Reconstruction - Williamsville, IL; 5th Street Reconstruction - Riverton, IL; Multi Purpose Arena - CDB; Statewide Sign Structure Inspection - IDOT; Multi Use Trail - Williamsville, IL; Colt Road Industrial Park Phase II, Springfield, IL.	2013
13	Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI-Intertek) 480 North St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-6663 217-544=6148 psiusa.com bill.pongracz@psiusa.com	4	17	William Pongracz, P.E., vice pres.; Daniel Bilbrey, P.E., materials testing dept. mgr.; Eram Iqbal, P.E., geotechnical dept. mgr.	Springfield Metro Sanitary District Spring Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Enbridge SAX Crude Oil Pipeline and Pump Stations, Springfield Clinic First North and Parking Ramp, St. John's Main Surgery and Patient Tower Renovation, Clinton Nuclear Power Station-Dry Cask Storage, Memorial Medical Center for Learning and Innovation, CWLP Dallman Unit 4 Coal Power Plant, Springfield High Speed Rail, SMSD Sugar Creek WWTP.	1961
14	TRC Worldwide Engineering, Inc. 975 South Durkin Dr., Suite 205 Springfield, IL 62704	217-793-2299 217-793=3311 trcww.com	3	7	Robert Boellner PE, vice pres.	University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana - various projects including housing life safety improvements, veterinary medicine building renovations, Newmark civil engineering building HVAC renovations, horticulture field lab HVAC remediation; Eastern Illinois University - various projects including the Center for Clean Energy Research and Education; University of Illinois in Springfield - various projects including the new student union, student housing renovations, cooling towers replacement, Sangamon Auditorium lighting controls; University of Chicago - various housing, HVAC and research laboratory projects; Illinois State University Capen Auditorium.	1985
14	Hurst-Rosche, Inc. 531 East Washington St., 5th Floor Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-4660 hurst-rosche.com dpool@hurst-rosche.com	3	5	Jeff Meyer, PLS, James Roth PE, David Pool AIA, David Kimmle, PE, Scott Hunt, PE	Structural evaluation of the Coliseum @ Illinois state Fairgrounds, State-wide condition survey of rest areas for IDOT, Vinegar Hills apartments for Springfield Housing Authority, Capaha Field renovation for Southeast Missouri State University, Construction Administration for 2016; '17&'18 for Springfield Mass Transit District, New Marion High School, New Collinsville Water Treatment Plant, and New Park & Ride Terminal for Rides Mass Transit District.	1937
15	Martin Engineering Company of Illinois 3695 S. 6th St. Frontage Road West Springfield, IL 62703	217-698-8900 217-698=8922 martinengineeringco.com mecmail@martinengineeringco.com	2	11	Philip G. Martin, PE, pres.; Steven R. Walker, PLS, vice pres.	Springfield: Hospital Sisters - Motherhouse, Jerome mini mall, Panther Creek West 6th Addition, Cedarhurst of Springfield, Ash Grove apartments, Calvary Temple soccer field, Sky Zone retail strip; Village of Curran sanitary sewer system; Hindu Temple of Greater Spring-field (Chatham); Oak Mill Estates 3rd Addition (Rochester); Cerro Gordo school district new addition.	1982



"Flashback Houses" by CJP Architects are among several "paper architecture" projects displayed on the firm's website, cjparchitects.com.

PHOTO/ COURTESY CJP ARCHITECTS

Modern homes inside an old façade

Architect Chuck Pell's idea for Enos Park became the victim of time and money

BY ZACH ROTH

The city of Springfield has gone through many drastic architectural changes in its illustrious history. Through two Capitol buildings, western expansion and two different libraries dedicated to Abraham Lincoln, the evolution of Springfield is a source of design fascination.

How would the city look different if certain proposed projects had become a part of the Springfield landscape? Chuck Pell is someone who asks that question every day. Pell is a local architect who comes up with bold ideas for new or existing buildings. Sometimes they work. Other times, something else happens.

Pell came up with an interesting idea to fill empty space in the rapidly expanding Enos Park neighborhood just north of downtown. He would build houses with an exterior inspired by late 19th or early 20th century architecture

of Springfield, while furbishing the home with modern features.

"I am drawn to residential projects," Pell said. "I think many good architects are, and we're drawn to them for lots of reasons. One, housing people is just an important thing, and when you work on a residential project, you get to know a client a little bit more intimately than you do on a commercial project. That sort of unique relationship often leads to some good design because you're having some quality back and forth with the client."

It's the kind of house that one would imagine in a magazine or a brochure, an example of something so remarkable, many would think that it's too good to be true.

"The homes were me envisioning what could be in a place like Enos Park," Pell said, "which is doing its best to become a more viable neighborhood than it has been in the last 20 years."

Pell considers the design of the houses to be artwork of sorts, more along the lines of a fancy painting than a normal residence. He intended for the houses to fit in with the other houses in Enos Park.

"They are not meant to remove anything from Enos Park at all," Pell said. "This is meant for the empty lots that exist in that space. These are new houses that will have the flavor of the neighborhood and in effect, be themselves artwork, the kind of house that people will want to drive by, study and look at as they're examining the neighborhood."

While the idea is still technically alive, no one has been able to take Pell's idea and bring it to life, which is slightly disappointing to Pell.

"I only have two adversaries in life, which are time and money," Pell said.

Pell does have other reasons as to why projects like his don't get built. He refers to

projects like the Enos Park houses and the other unbuilt projects listed on his website as "paper architecture."

Pell's website contains many examples of work that came to fruition, work that the people of Springfield consume and enjoy. From Conservation World to the State Capitol to Butler Elementary School, Pell has built and renovated buildings and landscapes that have become part of the heart of Springfield.

But for every elementary school renovation that gets a clean energy grant, there are proposed houses that may never see the light of day. Success and failure go hand in hand in the world of architecture. Sometimes, money and time come together to create magic. Other times, a project vanishes without a trace. ♦

Zach Roth of Springfield is a journalism graduate of Bradley University in Peoria.

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Above: Separate seating in the bar area allows diners to enjoy a cocktail before dinner.
Right: Subway tile on the back bar reflects a modern austerity style.
Top right: One of the seating areas in the dining room.

PHOTOS/ BY MATT LARISON



VELE enlivens Springfield food scene

New occupant of former Café Brio space is full of possibilities

BY THOMAS C. PAVLIK JR.

It's an exciting time for foodies in Springfield, especially in terms of new downtown eateries. And VELE is one that I've been particularly excited about, since Justin Richardson from New Berlin's The Garden is in charge of the kitchen. VELE, which is located in the former Café Brio space, is Italian for "blank canvas." It holds itself out as a blank canvas of "possibilities" from an "ever-changing menu" inspired by Italian heritage, classical French cuisine and "modern Italian influences." That's a tall order, but VELE delivers.

The food can best be described as modern coastal Italian, with a focus on small plates designed to be shared among diners and a limited selection of entrees from southern Italy.

VELE's décor, like its menu, is clean, tight and focused. We appreciated the separate seating area where diners can enjoy a cocktail before dinner or an aperitif afterwards. The designer managed to deftly reflect a sense of modern austerity coupled with just enough comfort. Like the subway tile in the bar, it all works together in harmony.

My guest and I arrived on a Friday night shortly after VELE opened. (Note, VELE is only open for dinner, Wednesdays through Saturdays.) Reservations were a good idea.

We were quickly shown our table, opting for a high top along VELE's exterior glass wall. We recognized quite a few of our fellow diners, and were pleased to see that VELE drew almost equally between the older and more established citizens of Springfield and the younger (and obviously much more trendy) crowd. It was a good vibe.

The menu is slanted toward small plates. While fine for two people, it's more fun with a larger crew due to the ability to sample more of the offerings. The entrees are more limited and consist of a handful of pastas, seafood and

chops. There's also a strong wine list and a host of eclectic, and more traditional, cocktails.

We had a hard time narrowing down our selection of small plates (priced between \$8 and \$12). It was with some regret that we passed on the polpettes (slow-roasted meatballs, tayzaki and feta - \$8) and the porchetta eggplant (herb-roasted pork belly, crispy eggplant, herb cream sugo, red cabbage and Italian verde -



One of the many small plate offerings on the menu.

PHOTO/ BY MATT LARISON

\$10). But trying to avoid gluttony, we zeroed in on the spicy calamari (calamari, Calabrian chili hot sauce, and buttermilk and dill aioli - \$10) and the flatbread (focaccia, basil pesto, tomato sugo and burrata - \$9).

Before our small plates arrived, one of the owners came by to make sure that things were going well. Turns out that the kitchen had cranked out some cioppino (an Italian-American seafood stew, allegedly originating from

San Francisco) the night before, and without even asking, he brought by a cup for us. It was, probably, the best dish of the night – loaded with seafood and popping with flavor. If it's on the menu again, make a point of ordering. I should have asked for some to take home.

The calamari was slightly overcooked (it's notoriously hard to cook) but the creaminess of the aioli worked well with the chili hot sauce. Think of more sophisticated and subtle hot wing sauce and you've got the idea.

The flatbread, perfectly cooked, was basically an elevated pizza – with sugo (a slow-cooked tomato sauce), burrata (Italian milk cheese made from mozzarella and cream) and basil pesto. Flavors were spot on and well balanced such that none overpowered the others. The dish managed to showcase restraint, tradition and modern touches.

For entrees, we were tempted by the scallops (smoked pancetta aioli, butternut squash, crispy artichokes and gremolata - \$29) and the pork chop (bone in, center cut chop with whipped bleu cheese and caramelized onions and rainbow carrots - \$26). However, we couldn't pass on the filet (9 oz. dry-aged filet, creamy horseradish, beef bordelaise and garlic mashed potatoes - \$32) and the lamb shank pappardelle (red wine braised lamb, roasted tomato sugo, and pecorino reggiano - \$18).

My guest reported that the filet came out cooked medium rare, exactly as ordered, and was so tender that it could have been cut with a fork. She found the horseradish a bit overpowering (I disagreed) but was pleased with the depth of the bordelaise and the creaminess and garlic flavor of the potatoes. No doggy bag was required for this one.

The pappardelle was a simple dish – and I mean that in a positive way. It takes guts to put something like this on a menu because each element has to be close to perfect. And VELE nailed this one. The highlight was the braised

lamb. The kitchen managed to coax out a ton of flavor from the braise without drying out the lamb. The sugo combined an earthiness and brightness that managed to cut through the richness of the lamb, and also coated the pappardelle pasta without being too heavy. This was a perfect dish for a cold winter day.

There are three desserts on the menu (two from Bunn Gourmet), but by that point we were too full to partake.

VELE's prices, while on the higher end for Springfield, are in line with its peers and the quality of the offerings.

VELE has certainly helped escalate Springfield's culinary scene, and it's definitely worth a visit. ♦

Thomas Pavlik is an attorney at Delano Law Offices, LLC. Contact him at tpavlik@delanolaw.com.

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MEDICAL NEWS

Prairie Heart uses smartphones to enhance recovery after surgery

Prairie Heart Institute at HSHS St. John's Hospital is the first cardiac center in the United States to implement SeamlessMD's patient engagement and quality improvement technology to improve the patient experience and health outcomes. SeamlessMD standardizes the cardiac enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathway, and helps with future bundled payment initiatives by reducing mortality, readmission rates and costs.

Prairie chose to partner with SeamlessMD to deliver and manage its cardiac ERAS program for major heart surgery. With SeamlessMD, patients are guided from preparation through recovery via their smartphone, tablet and computer. Patients receive reminders,

access interactive education, track compliance with ERAS milestones and report warning signs (i.e. pain scores, signs of infection, etc.).

The SeamlessMD platform keeps patients on track with their care plan, collects patient-reported outcomes for compliance tracking, provides remote monitoring solutions for an integrated, proactive workflow, and generates reports in real-time for quality improvement.

So far more than 100 patients at Prairie have used SeamlessMD with outstanding results.

"This was a very good learning tool," said patient Allan Hopper. "If there was a concern, you got an immediate response. That took all of the anxiety right out of it." ♦



Stress reduction class offered at SIU

Is stress affecting your health? Is pain causing you stress? A new class at Southern Illinois University Neuroscience Institute aims to use mindfulness-based meditation techniques to complement traditional medical and psychological treatments.

SIU Psychiatry is offering an eight-week class on Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, starting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, at Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU, 315 W. Carpenter St. in Springfield. The public is invited to attend a free orientation set for 5:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Centrum Building, 319 E. Madison St., Springfield.

"Physical and emotional stress is taking its toll on our health," said program leader Ruta

Kulys, LCSW. Pain complaints are a leading reason for medical visits in the United States. Chronic pain can lead to depression and anxiety or both.

Mindfulness based stress reduction has been shown to help treat many physical and emotional problems, including anxiety and panic attacks, fatigue, fibromyalgia, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, high blood pressure and more.

"Stress weakens our immune system and makes it harder for us to do the things we need and want to do," Kulys said.

Cost for the class is \$400, covering eight weekly classes, a half-day retreat and materials. For more information or to register, contact Kulys at 217-545-7663 or rkulys@siumed.edu. ♦

St. John's provides 'Stop the Bleed' training

HSHS St. John's Hospital recently provided St. John's College of Nursing (CON) faculty and staff "Stop the Bleed" training. This course is designed to provide first aid to trauma victims and stop a fatal bleed at the scene before emergency medical providers arrive. Over the past year, St. John's hospital provided "Stop the Bleed" kits and training to area police and fire departments.

It only takes five minutes for a person to die from blood loss. "Stop the Bleed" is a nationwide

campaign to empower individuals to act quickly and save lives. There is an increased need for civilians to be taught basic life-saving techniques until fire and police responders can arrive. This training is being motivated by tragedies such as the 2012 incident in Sandy Hook and the most recent in Las Vegas.

CON faculty and staff received the "Stop the Bleed" course Dec. 13. This was the first college in Springfield to receive training. ♦

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Can politicians do that?

Let’s look at the law on campaign finance and open meetings.

BY THOMAS C. PAVLIK JR.

If you haven’t heard the recent talk about campaign donations and open meetings, you’ve likely been living under a rock. It certainly all sounds scandalous and nefarious – what with allegations of corporate greed and political corruption.

Believe it or not, what you’ve heard is going on is not a blatant display of shady dealings. Rather, it is perfectly legal and is a showcasing of the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.

With a new year comes new election campaigns. It is important, then, for Springfield businesses to know that it’s perfectly okay to give money to a candidate of their choosing -- even openly and with multiple elected officials present -- subject to certain limitations, of course. Here’s a helpful guide on political campaign contributions and the Open Meetings Act.

Campaign contributions are constitutionally protected speech

The United States Supreme Court classifies campaign contributions as a protected form of speech under the First Amendment. The limitations on these donations has ranged all over the place throughout the years. Rather than provide a lengthy explanation of the various eras, let’s cut to the chase and explore the current status of the law. Thanks to recent developments, we currently find ourselves in an era in which this freedom has been greatly expanded and where campaign contribution limits are very broad in scope.

The modern landscape of campaign contributions has most recently been shaped by two Supreme Court cases known as Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission. Decided in 2010, Citizens United allowed for unlimited corporate, union and individual donations to go to super Political Action Committees (“PACs”) and nonprofits, which, in turn, could spend the

money either blasting or hyping candidates. The Supreme Court determined that because PACs are banned from coordinating their spending with the candidates, the unlimited financing is not considered to be a corrupting influence. Citizens United was further extended in 2014 by McCutcheon, whereby the Supreme Court abrogated aggregate contribution caps and instead held that private citizens are permitted to make campaign contributions to as many different candidates and political parties as they want -- because doing so is an exercise of free speech.

In general, the right to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment allows citizens to donate to politicians who might be deciding issues of direct or indirect financial interest to those citizens. So unless you’re a federal contractor, there’s nothing improper or illegal about that.

Limits to federal campaign contributions

In federal elections, individual contributions

are permitted, but contributions from corporations (for profit or not-for-profit) and labor unions are not. Shareholders in small businesses (think a mom and pop company) can’t use their corporate accounts to write checks – just their personal accounts. Corporate employees are allowed to make contributions through so-called drawing accounts, which allow them to draw personal funds against salary, profits or other compensation.

According to the Federal Election Commission, the individual contribution limits for the 2017-2018 federal elections are as follows:

- \$2,700 per election per candidate or the candidate’s committee. This limit applies separately to each election. Primaries, runoffs and general elections are considered separate elections.
- \$5,000 per calendar year to a PAC supporting federal candidates.
- \$10,000 per calendar year to a State or local party committee.
- \$33,900 per calendar year to a national party committee. This limit applies separately to

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a party's national committee, House campaign committee and Senate campaign committee.

- \$100 in currency (cash) to any political committee. (Anonymous cash contributions may not exceed \$50.) Contributions exceeding \$100 must be made by check, money order or other written instrument.

Limits to state and local campaign contributions

Unlike the federal system, Illinois permits campaign contributions from corporations and labor unions. According to the Illinois State Board of Elections, the contribution limits for corporate/labor unions in 2017-2018 elections are:

- \$11,100 per election cycle per candidate or the candidate's committee.
 - \$22,200 per calendar year to a PAC supporting state or local candidates.
 - \$22,200 per calendar year to a political party committee.
- Contribution limits for individuals are:
- \$5,600 per election cycle per candidate or the candidate's committee.
 - \$11,100 per calendar year to a PAC supporting state or local candidates.
 - \$11,100 per calendar year to a political party committee.

Elected officials may assemble in public to collect campaign contributions

"It is the public policy of this state that... the actions of public bodies be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly."

This is the very first sentence of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, which was first enacted in 1957 to shine a brighter light on state and local government activities. Noting that the language of the Act strikes a fair balance of

the public official's First Amendment rights of speech and assembly with the public's right of access to information, the Supreme Court of Illinois observes that "the Act is designed to prohibit secret deliberation and action on business which properly should be discussed in a public forum due to its potential impact on the public."

Unless otherwise excepted, the Act states that "[a]ll meetings of public bodies should be open to the public," defining "meeting" to mean "any gathering of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business." As interpreted by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, the phrase "discussing public business" does not refer to casual remarks, but to discussions that are deliberately made to reach a decision on a matter of concern to the general public. In other words, what truly controls is why the public officials gather and what they discuss once they have gathered.

Causal comments among elected officials related to matters of general public business generally won't run afoul of the Open Meetings Act. Why? Because our Supreme Court has stated that it is "designed to prohibit secret deliberation and action on business which properly should be discussed in a public forum due to its potential impact on the public." Therefore, a gathering of public officials shouldn't violate the Act if there is "no examining or weighing of reasons for or against a course of action, no exchange of facts preliminary to a decision, no attempt to reach accord on a specific matter of [public] business."

Said another way, a group of elected officials discussing current topics of interest in a general matter shouldn't amount to a violation of the Act. ♦

Thomas Pavlik is an attorney at Delano Law Offices, LLC. Contact him at tpavlik@delano-law.com.

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Daniela Triana Design Studio, 5405 White-marsh Ct. 816-0627. Daniela Triana Mayorga.

Dropped Mobile, 1531 W. Jefferson St. 883-1380. Joshua C. Lewis.

Look Lovely with Linda, 2800 Via Rosso St., Unit 65. 652-8404. Linda S. Logan.

The Toy Shop, 407 E. Adams St. 414-7422. H&P Enterprises, Sharon Havey, Nancy Peterson.

Capital City Event Planning, 601 Rainbow Dr., Athens. 741-4841. Sarah L. Croft.

Crickett's Lawn Service, 5580 E. State Route 54, Spaulding. 638-8193. Janice S. Smith.

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The proud history of architecture in Illinois

For the bicentennial, recognizing 200 great places

BY MIKE WALDINGER

Illinois could use a reminder of what we are capable of as well as something to look forward to. The bicentennial taking place in 2018 is the perfect occasion to find perspective and purpose. From an architectural point of view, there's a lot to be proud of, because some of the world's greatest projects and the people who designed them are rooted here.

Architecture practice as we know it today was first written into law by the state legislature in 1897. Illinois is where world-renowned architects Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Daniel Burnham, Mies van der Rohe and Buckminster Fuller lived and produced their best work. Chicago firms like Holabird and Root, Perkins and Will, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill grew from a handful of founding partners to have a global presence.

From past to present, there's an incredible Illinois legacy of impact on the built world. Abraham Lincoln said, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." As we head into the bicentennial celebration, we will be taking stock of projects we are most proud of and the people whose work makes their communities proud of them.

For 200 years of statehood, AIA Illinois will identify 200 great places. And we will ask residents for their favorites, with a People's Choice list of the best of the best. The point isn't to simply remember where we've been but to shape where we want to go.

According to the president of the American Institute of Architects, Carl Elefante, "You can't imagine the modern American city without the influence of Chicago. What started with ►



One of the nation's earliest schools of architecture began at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

PHOTO/ COURTESY ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



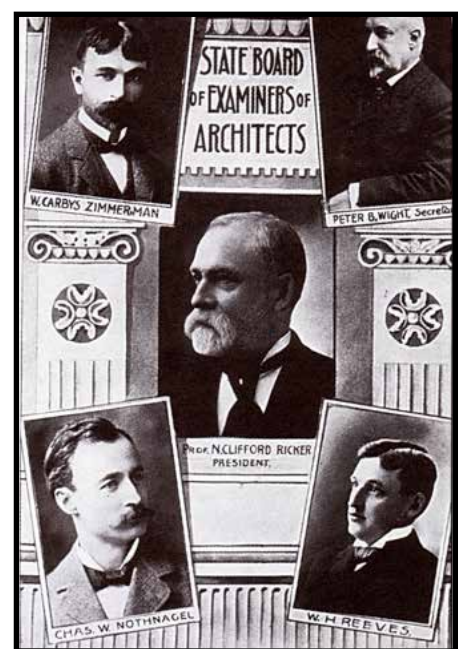
Iconic architecture like the Dana-Thomas House draws visitors from around the world.

PHOTO/ BY JENNIFER CALDWELL



New projects like the Chinatown Public Library combine high performance with community engagement

PHOTO/ COURTESY JON MILLER, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



Illinois had the country's first architecture practice act, licensing board and examination process.

► the Columbian Exposition showcasing the vision of architects for the 20th century turned into the city beautiful movement. We are living in a moment when the challenges of a new century require an even bigger movement and a more comprehensive vision. Putting the well-being of people first, our cities must be more than beautiful; they must also be sustainable, resilient,

equitable, affordable and accessible.”

The architecture profession in Illinois today is broad, diverse and strong. Today’s projects are every bit as innovative and exciting as their predecessors. Over 5,600 architects work in 1,000 firms of all sizes. They are currently designing 45 million square feet of space with a value exceeding \$14 billion. And their work is influenced by what we ask of them.

According to Thomas Vonier, president of the International Union of Architects, “The way we build reflects our values as a culture. If we invest for the long term, and for durability, that is reflected in the cities and towns around us. They show our faith in the future.”

In every town from the top of the state to the bottom, AIA is asking, “What will be our blueprint for better? What makes our communities vibrant

and attainable?” That’s the agenda for the 21st century and we hope you will ask those questions too.

When you find buildings that elevate the community, thank the architect, engineer, builder and developer who brought them to life along with the maintenance and custodial staff who keep them vibrant. If you can’t find examples then let’s encourage mayors, planners, realtors and investors to raise the standard. That’s the only way to keep building places worthy of remembering at the next centennial. ♦

Mike Waldinger is executive vice president of AIA Illinois, the state office of the American Institute of Architects. Contact him at mwaldinger@aiaill.org or stop by 201 East Adams Street.



Evocative architecture like the Chinatown Public Library challenges the community to think differently.

PHOTO/ COURTESY JON MILLER, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

ILLINOIS FIRSTS AND BESTS

Our state is a place of first and bests. Did you know that Illinois is where you could find the:

1st Graduate of an architecture school in the United States: Nathan Clifford Ricker from the University of Illinois in 1873.

1st Woman graduate of an architecture school: Mary Louisa Page in 1879.

1st African-American woman licensed as an architect in the United States: Beverly Geene in 1942.

1st Most ambitious company town: Pullman, named for the railroad car magnate who developed 4,000 acres on the south side of Chicago in 1880.

1st Skyscraper: the Home Insurance Building by William Le Baron Jenney who pioneered a steel frame in 1884.

1st Tallest load-bearing brick building in the world: the Monadnock Building by Burnham and Root in 1891.

1st Architecture Practice Act, licensing board and examination

process: passed by the Illinois Legislature in 1897. The first licensed architect anywhere was a state representative named Charles Nothnagel who had worked for Louis Sullivan.

1st Founder of American architecture: Louis Sullivan, who turned America’s attention away from classical European styles at the dawning of a new century with the motto of “form follows function.”

1st Creator of the Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright, who formed his own firm in 1893 and went on to design iconic houses and offices around the world, making Illinois home to more Wright masterpieces than any other state.

1st Comprehensive requirements for safer building exits: fire codes were reformed nationwide after the Iroquois Theater fire of 1903.

1st Most popular mail order homes: over 70,000 sold by Sears Roebuck and Company between 1908 and 1940.

1st Father of modern city planning: Daniel Burnham who authored the 1909 Plan of Chicago and urged citizens to “make no little plans.”

1st The largest building in the world: All 4 million square feet of The Merchandise Mart, erected in 1930.

1st Leader of the International Style: Mies van der Rohe who came to America from Germany in 1937 to head the architecture school at the Illinois Institute of Technology and whose modern designs represented the concept of “less is more.”

1st Prolific architect-inventor R. Buckminster Fuller, who came to Carbondale in 1956 to teach architecture at Southern Illinois University.

1st Use of bundled tube structure: Sears Tower, which held the record for world’s tallest building for 25 years, starting in 1973.

1st Building code for accessibility: The Illinois Environmental Barriers Act of 1985 was a precursor to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act five years later.

1st State to promote 2030 Challenge: The Illinois General Assembly set a goal to make new buildings carbon-neutral by 2030, via legislation in 2007, and followed it up with early adoption of energy-efficient codes and measurement tools.

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Legal Notice

If You Were an Illinois Resident Who Bought a TV or Monitor Containing a Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) between March 1, 1995, and November 25, 2007 A Lawsuit And Settlements May Affect You.

What is the lawsuit about?

There is a lawsuit involving cathode ray tubes ("CRTs"). A CRT is a display technology used in televisions in computers before LCD, Plasma and LED display technologies became popular. The lawsuit was brought by the Illinois Attorney General ("Plaintiff"). The lawsuit claims that Defendants conspired to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize prices of CRTs, which resulted in overcharges to consumers who bought products containing the CRTs. The Plaintiff is asking for money damages. The Defendants deny Plaintiff's allegations or that consumers suffered any overcharge. The Court has not decided who is right.

Settlements have been reached with four Defendants (Hitachi Ltd., LG Electronics, Inc., Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V., Samsung Display Device Co., and certain affiliates). Two Defendants (Toshiba Corp. and Panasonic Corp., and certain affiliates) have not agreed to settle so the lawsuit continues against them. Any future settlements will be posted at www.illinoisCRTsettlement.com.

Who is included in the lawsuit?

The lawsuit involves CRTs purchased indirectly from the Defendants. "Indirectly" means that you purchased products containing the CRT from someone other than the company that manufactured the component CRT. The case is proceeding to recover money damages that the State alleges were incurred by any Illinois resident (person or business) that purchased a CRT television or monitor between March 1, 1995 and November 25, 2007, while residing in Illinois and for their own use in Illinois **and not for resale**.

If you are a governmental entity, you may not participate in this settlement. The State has not brought this lawsuit on behalf of any political subdivision. Therefore, you may not file a claim and recover damages if you are an Illinois county, municipality, township or other political subdivision.

Plaintiff has also settled potential claims on behalf of the State of Illinois and its agencies. However, this notice does not relate to those settlements and Illinois state agencies are not eligible to participate in this claims process.

What do the settlements provide?

There are four settlements, totaling approximately \$36 million. More details are in Settlement Agreements and other documents available at www.illinoisCRTsettlement.com. The cost to administer the Settlements and the Illinois Attorney General's fees and costs will come out of the Settlement Fund. Plaintiff will request attorney's fees and costs amounting to 10% of the Settlement Fund.

The maximum amount you could potentially recover is \$20 for a CRT television and \$60 for a CRT monitor. **If there is not enough money recovered to pay the maximum amount, your recovery will depend on the number of claims per device submitted by July 12, 2018 and the total recovery.** We expect that such a *pro rata* distribution will allow for at least \$20 per claim and will increase if there are additional settlements or the State prevails at trial against the remaining Defendants.

How can I get a payment?

You must submit a Claim Form to get a payment. You can submit a Claim Form online or by mail. The deadline to submit a Claim Form is **July 12, 2018. Any claims filed after July 12, 2018 will be considered for payment only if settlement funds remain after all valid claims filed by that date have been paid in full.** Claim forms are available at the website or by calling 1-866-652-8226. No money will be distributed yet. Plaintiff will pursue the lawsuits against the Non-Settling Defendants. All funds received in this case will be distributed together at the conclusion of the lawsuit or as ordered by the Court.

Claims filed by someone else on behalf of or as assignee of the person or entity who actually purchased the CRT television or monitor will not be accepted or paid. For individuals, the name of the person verifying the claim must match that of the person making the claim. For businesses, the individual verifying the claim must be a duly authorized officer of the business. Verification provided by anyone else will be invalid.

What are my rights?

If you do nothing, your rights will be affected. If you do not want to be legally bound by the lawsuit, you must exclude yourself from the lawsuit. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any benefit as a result of the settlements, trial, or judgment in this case. If you do not exclude yourself you will not be able to sue the Defendants for any claim relating to the lawsuit. The deadline to exclude yourself is **March 12, 2018. Any request for exclusion or objection must be mailed to: Illinois CRT Indirect Exclusions, PO Box 404041, Louisville, KY 40233-4041.**

For More Information: 1-866-652-8226 or www.illinoisCRTsettlement.com

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