

A woman with short grey hair and glasses stands on a set of railroad tracks that recede into the distance. She is wearing a red, black, and white striped cardigan over a dark top and dark pants. The background is a blurred landscape with trees and a blue tarp.

# SPRINGFIELD **Business** JOURNAL

JANUARY 2021

Businesses adjust to  
railway corridor expansion

Q&A Sergio “Satch” Pecori

Architects and engineers  
respond to COVID-19





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COVER PHOTO BY NORMA ZUNIGA

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# What did we learn in 2020?

Despite the complete lack of New Year's Eve festivities, it's safe to say that many of us are anxiously anticipating the arrival of Dec. 31, if only to bid good riddance to what has been a challenging year for all and a devastating year for some.

In many ways, this year has been a series of social experiments conducted with almost no time to prepare. Can employees be as productive working from home as they are in the office? What does work/life balance look like when you're trying to work from home and your family is there with you? How can your business continue to function without allowing customers or clients inside, or drastically changing the way you do business to accommodate a limited number of people at a time?

We know that the winter will be even harder in many ways, but now that the first vaccine doses are being administered it's easier to see the end in sight. However, while we're all eager for life to get back to normal, there may be some lessons we can take away from the terrible challenges of 2020.

Businesses that don't change don't survive, and Springfield Reprographics has made it to the century mark by adapting to change, whether by adopting new technology or expanding its services (pg. 22). The businesses that survive COVID-19 will be the ones that found a way to connect with their customers when options were limited, and the improved websites and delivery services that kept them going may prove to still be useful tools post-pandemic.

Companies are rethinking what office spaces and common areas will look like when workers return (pg. 18), and even employees who used to dream about working from home in their pajamas may find that they are ultimately more productive when there are opportunities to informally collaborate in a breakroom or shared workspace. However, a greater blending of home and office is also likely, as companies that were previously resistant to allowing employees to work from home may have discovered it's feasible after all.

There are some aspects of 2020 that we will have no desire to repeat. But other adaptations that were initially forced upon us may prove to be useful tools as we move forward with plans for a new year.



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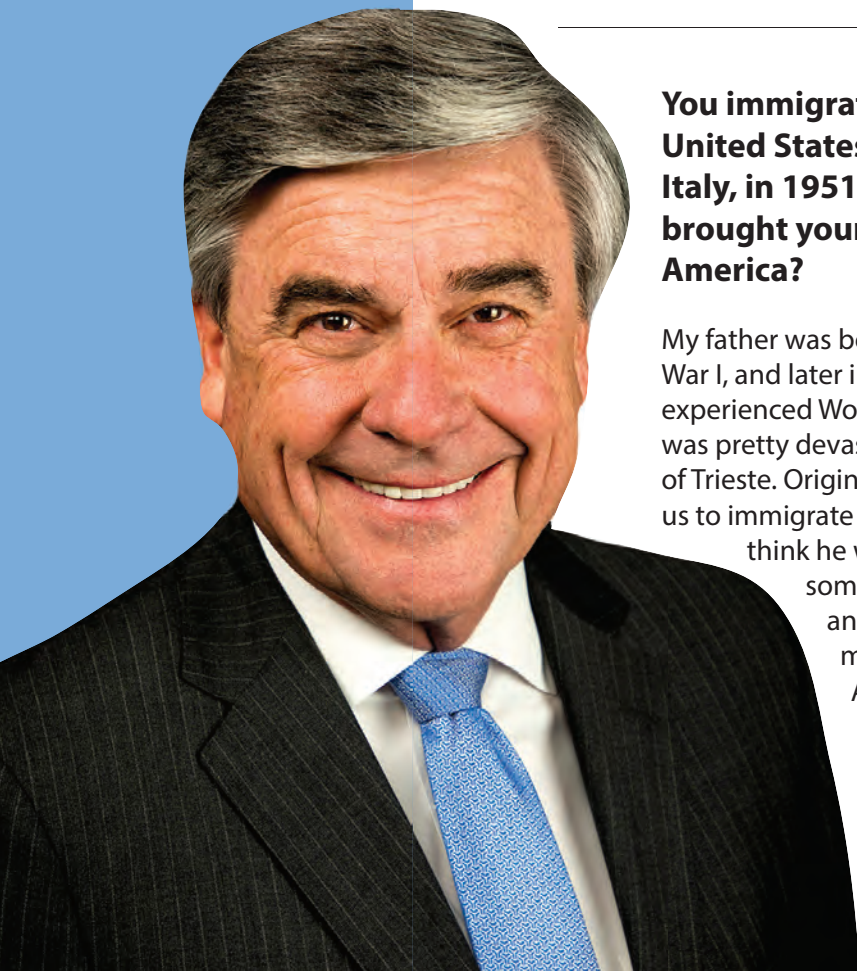
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# Q & A with Sergio "Satch" Pecori

By Lana Shovlin

Sergio Pecori serves as the chairman and CEO of Hanson Professional Services, an engineering firm founded in 1954. The company is still headquartered in Springfield, but now has offices throughout the U.S. and approximately 450 employees who consult on projects worldwide. Pecori emigrated to the U.S. as a child along with his parents, non-English speaking Italian immigrants, and older brother. Last year, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, recognizing both native-born and naturalized U.S. citizens for accomplishments in their field and service to the United States.



## You immigrated to the United States from Trieste, Italy, in 1951. What brought your family to America?

My father was born during World War I, and later in his life he experienced World War II, which was pretty devastating to parts of Trieste. Originally, he wanted us to immigrate to Australia. I think he wanted to start somewhere fresh, and I believe in his mind he thought Australia would be peaceful and a place of

opportunity. However, back then, a boat trip from Italy to Australia took 30 days. When he found that out, he decided to apply to come to the United States.

## How did you end up in Springfield?

After the war, Catholic Charities was sponsoring immigrants to come to America, and my family was a recipient of one of those sponsorships. We came to the United States by boat and landed on Ellis Island. When we got off the boat, we immediately boarded a train that took us to Springfield. After my mother

(Top) Pecori speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of the Carpenter Underpass, part of Hanson's involvement in the Springfield Rail Corridor Project.



passed away, I found a jacket of hers that had all of our immigration documents inside of it, including the train schedule we used to get from New York to Chicago, then Chicago to Springfield.

## How did you become involved in Hanson Professional Services?

During the summer between my junior and senior year of high school, I was working as a janitor at Ursuline Academy. My older brother, Claudio, was working in the materials laboratory at Hanson and he told me that they needed someone to run errands. I went to talk to Walt Hanson, the founder, at his house and he hired me. From then on, I worked there during the summer, if they needed me over winter break, and all the way up to graduate school.

## What made you want to become an engineer?

I was a pretty good student, and I probably would have discovered engineering eventually, but not in a way that was really laid out for me. The folks at Hanson took me under their wing and watching

them work really opened my eyes and made me hungry. After high school graduation, I went to University of Illinois and earned both my undergrad and master's degree in civil engineering. The environment exposed me to a lot



Pecori visited China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with General Aviation Research Center in Beijing.

of international students and many other engineering companies, but at the end of the day, I came back to Hanson.

## Why do you think Hanson is such a special place to work?

It's always been a very encouraging environment and the people who work here want to help each other

succeed, which is an aspect of our business that I've always liked. Walt Hanson was big into employee stock ownership plans and trusts before they were developed, and we've continued that legacy. Our business was set up in a way that allows its employees to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

## What's something that makes you happy?

I love to cook! In fact, a close friend of mine and I recently started the Mike Aiello and Sergio Pecori Scholarship at the Lincoln Land Community College Culinary Institute. With the help of chef Sean Keely and his associates, we've hosted about five fundraiser dinners for the scholarship. We provide all the food and wine for the events, and we plan the menus. It's really fulfilling to be able to help young folks experience their passion and help them along financially if they need it.

## If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Push yourself out of your comfort zone a little at a time. If you continue to do that, you'll vastly expand your horizons.



Left: Hanson received an award for work on the Tanana Bridge in Alaska, a 3,000-foot-long crossing that was constructed in a harsh environment.

Right: Pecori speaking to students from the LLCC Open Doors program, an offshoot of the company's Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program.

# Best Places to Work alumni spotlight: Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

By Carey Smith

Selected as one of the best places to work in 2008 by Springfield Business Journal and United Community Bank, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. (CMT) began in 1946 with the idea that engineering could significantly improve our country's post-war infrastructure.

Friends and civil engineers Len Crawford, Pat Murphy and Ray Tilly began CMT in the aftermath of World War II. Though the business has expanded throughout the Midwest and Southeast, it is still headquartered in Springfield with its original name.

Currently, the engineering consulting firm focuses its planning, engineering, design and construction expertise in the areas of aviation, rail, environmental and wetlands services, surface transportation and municipal and civil architecture and construction, as well as leveraging technology for the benefit of its clients.

Roger Austin, senior vice president and director of marketing, notes that CMT has a rich history, including "a strong legacy of stability and longevity as a company. We look forward to what that means for the future of the company." CMT continues to work from its strategic plan, which focuses on geographic growth and services.

Since its recognition in 2008, CMT has grown from 260 employees to 370 employees and has expanded into 22 offices.

"In 2008, we were mostly in Illinois, with one office each in Missouri, Indiana and Ohio," notes Austin. "We've continued to grow in the Midwest, but we've also expanded to the Southeast. We now have offices in Nashville, Cleveland, Lexington, Kansas City, Atlanta and three offices in Florida. For a firm that's been around for 75 years to grow that quickly, it's a faster pace than we've done in the past."

Austin has been with the company for 34 years and attributes his long tenure to CMT's efforts to be a company "that values people very highly and does a good job of providing op-



A recent video session with four generations of leadership included (left to right) current president Bill Bailey, Brian Whiston (CEO from 2005-2012), Cliff Baxter (CEO from 1995-2004) and Dan Meckes (CEO from 2013 to present).  
PHOTO COURTESY OF CMT

portunities for people to grow and explore their strengths and talents. It's a company where we provide challenging and rewarding work."

In 2018, CMT was recognized by the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) as the "Best Large Firm To Work For." ISPE recognizes firms that strive for continuous innovation, not only on its projects, but also on the environment created for its employees, with winners being determined by anonymous survey responses from firm employees. Retention rates at CMT above the industry average reflect employee satisfaction.

"It's about developing our people," says Austin, "and one of our major initiatives in our strategic plan is making CMT a great place to work. We feel we do a pretty decent job at that."

"We've continued to expand services," remarks Austin. "We've grown our architectural capabilities, and we've expanded in the area of environmental services, a new service we're providing. Another service we've developed in

the past few years is air service development." In November 2020, CMT acquired KB Environmental Services, located in St. Petersburg, Florida, expanding CMT's capabilities for air quality and noise analysis for transportation.

CMT will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2021, with events held throughout the year and culminating in a gala in the fall, bringing together employees from all its offices.

Since Len Crawford served as the original CEO, CMT is now in its fifth generation of leadership. The four successors are still living and have provided a stable transition of leadership. Austin remarks, "The people who've led our firms are those who have grown up in the firm and know the company, and they continue to maintain the values of the company. All are just incredible leaders. They all brought their distinct talents and skills to leading the firm and helped make it a better company." **SBJ**

Carey Smith is a freelance writer based in Springfield.

**Nominate your company for this year's Best Places to Work, sponsored by United Community Bank and Springfield Business Journal. The winning companies will be profiled in the March issue of SBJ and all employees will be invited to a reception and awards ceremony.**

## Criteria to nominate your company:

- **Must have been in business at least two years**
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- **Have 16 or more employees (those with 15 or fewer are eligible for our small business awards program, 15 Under Fifteen)**

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- When and where to use video (versus other marketing tactics)
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Josh is an Emmy-nominated video producer with 20 years of experience creating compelling corporate films, television commercials and online marketing video for business and causes. Visit [awcspringfield.org](http://awcspringfield.org) to register.



To have your event added to the Women's Calendar of Events, please email your information to [info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com](mailto:info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com)

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The four attorneys from Decatur law firm Kehart, Peckert, Wise & Lewis: (Left to right) James Peckert, Lindsey Wise, Michael Kehart and Regan Lewis.

## Brown, Hay & Stephens to merge with Decatur law firm

By Lana Shovlin

In 1828, an attorney named John Todd Stuart opened a law firm in downtown Springfield. The practice was a success, and over the years it has employed some of Springfield's finest attorneys, including our beloved Abraham Lincoln. In 1921, the firm underwent a name change and evolved into Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP, as it is still known today.

For almost 100 years, the firm has offered a wide range of diversified legal services from its office building at 205 S. Fifth St. in downtown Springfield. The location has been a great benefit to its lawyers, who often need quick access to the Sangamon County courthouse, the federal courthouse and other government offices that are located nearby. According to managing partner Charles Davis, it's made sense for the firm to stay downtown, even as other businesses have left the area, and being in the same building for almost a century brings the people who work there a deep sense of pride. However, Brown, Hay & Stephens has a much broader reach than simply Springfield and the new year will bring an expansion for the historic law firm.

"Even though downtown is our home base, our work takes us all over Illinois. One of the places we've really enjoyed working is Decatur," said Davis. "While working there, we've built a great relationship with the attorneys at Kehart, Peckert, Wise & Lewis, which also happens to be the oldest law firm in Decatur. In them, we found a perfect partnership, so when talk of a merger began, it felt natural and very exciting."

According to Davis, the merger between the two firms will only strengthen both of the practices and allow them to better serve central Illinois. When asked why it took more than 100 years for Brown, Hay & Stephens to seriously consider a partnership with another firm, Davis said that until recently, nothing ever felt quite right. Not only did the two firms have their longevity in common, but they also share the same mission and professional core values.

"Professional liability defense, things like medical malpractice and representing health care institutions and doctors, that is a big part of both of our practices," said Davis, who said the attorneys at Kehart, Peckert, Wise & Lewis will

be great assets to the team. "Bringing all of us together professionally will only strengthen our litigation, defense work and our ability to help our communities and build our practices."

Davis noted that Kehart, Peckert, Wise & Lewis has been just as involved in Decatur as Brown, Hay & Stephens has in Springfield. "The fact that they've been around since 1879 shows their commitment to their hometown. We like to say that we depend on the community just as much as the community depends on us," said Davis.

The merger of the two firms will be effective Jan. 1, 2021 and both firms are excited about expanding their expertise into new areas of law and continuing their philanthropic endeavors.

"Between the pandemic and the merger, this has been a crazy year for all of us and we didn't have a playbook for it," said Davis. "Both of our firms are trying something we've never done before, and from a business standpoint, I think we're all really looking forward to it." **SBJ**

*Lana Shovlin is a freelance writer based in Springfield.*





The empty bar at Dew Chilli Pub & Grill on North Grand. PHOTO BY JOHN LESKOVISEK

# Avoiding last call

Bars and restaurants struggle to survive

By Jay Wheeler

There's no sugarcoating it. COVID-19 has been the catalyst for a nightmare year. Bars and restaurants were and continue to be among the hardest hit. In the second month of new mitigations, many voiced their concerns at a rally on Dec. 19.

## Too soon?

A prevailing attitude among Springfield bar and restaurant owners is that the first shutdown came too early for central Illinois. "We followed all the rules at the beginning," said Ryan Bandy, owner of Win, Lose, or Draught in Springfield

and vice president of CILBA (Central Illinois Licensed Beverage Association). "It got really frustrating in early April into May and June, because we didn't really have any big outbreaks in our area but were still shut down. The governor decided to be overly cautious, which was his prerogative, but it didn't work."

"This all started after the governor put out all these warnings not to go out on St. Patrick's weekend, and then all these pictures and videos came out showing people partying in the street and at bars in Chicago," Bandy continued. "Then he closed everything down the day before St. Patrick's Day. To me, it felt like he was punishing

the whole class."

The first shutdown was rough, but state and federal aid provided sustainability for owners and employees. Rent, utilities and other bills weren't going anywhere, but there was a support system. Businesses closed and waited.

## Attempting a comeback

Outdoor service was permitted beginning May 29. Businesses adapted. At the end of June, customers were allowed back indoors at 50% capacity.

Restrictions were frequently frustrating.



"The rules and regulations, they change every week. You figure out a way to work with them, and then they change again," said Brian Shirley, owner of Harry's Adult Daycare in Springfield. "It's like, where does it stop?"

There was a gradual return to something like normality. Employees were happy to be back at work, especially after enhanced unemployment benefits expired at the end of July.

Chris Hanken, owner of several businesses in Sangamon County, was amazed by the outpouring of support upon reopening at the end of May. "Our customers? Wow! Talk about a community," he recalled. "We had people at Public House 29 and Lake Pointe Grill who used to come in once a week coming in three or four times a week, and people who used to come in once a month were coming three or four times a month."

## Round two

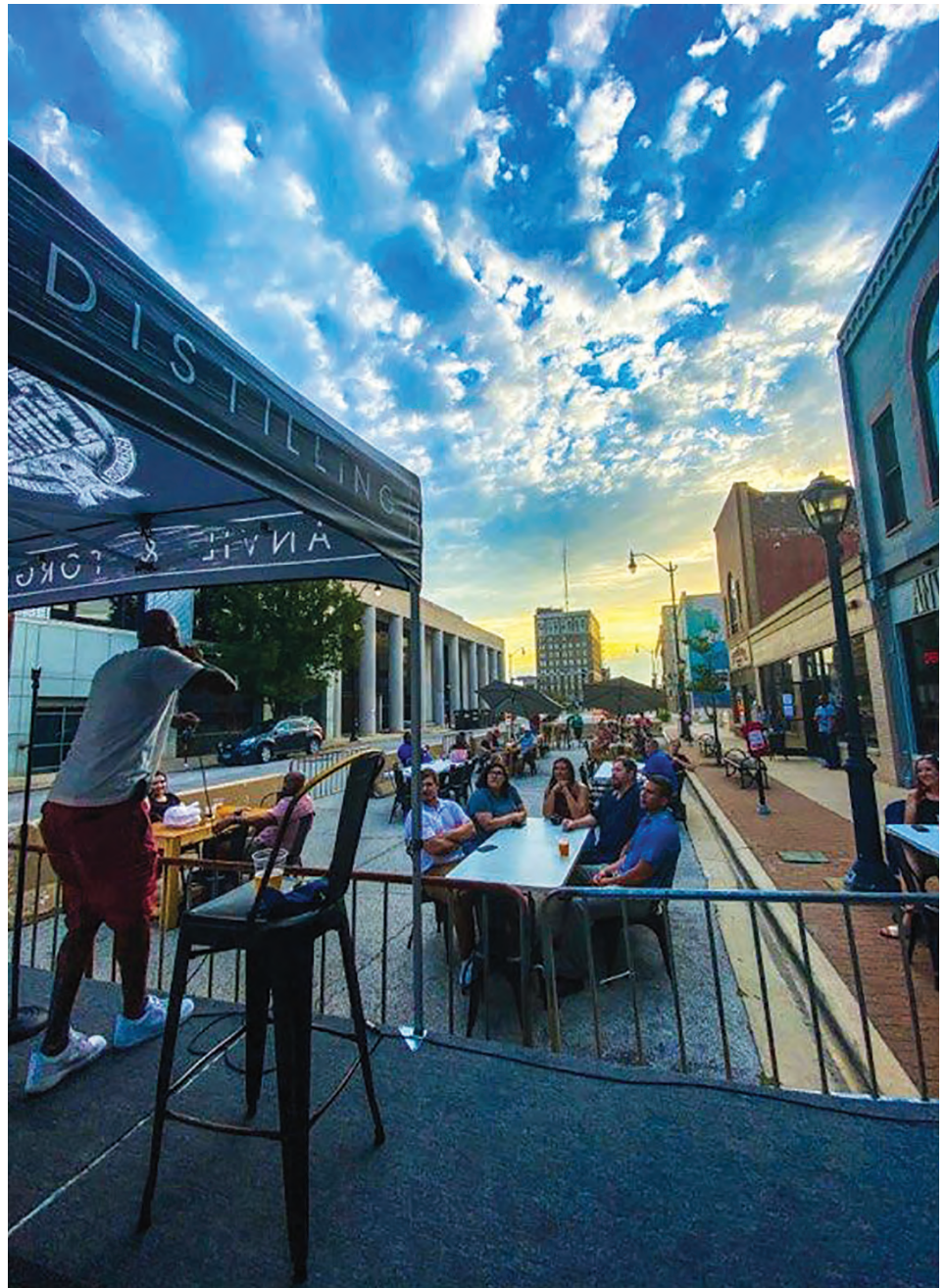
Nov. 1, Gov. Pritzker announced new mitigations, banning indoor service. Despite Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder's attempt to find a way to circumvent the gubernatorial order, the majority of businesses complied.

Owners felt like scapegoats. "That's what the frustrating thing is on this," said Mike Monseur, co-owner of nine DEW Chili Parlor and Godfather's Pizza locations and president of CILBA. "COVID is real. We get it. We understand, and that's why we've spent a fortune on keeping customers and employees safe, and yet we're told that we're to blame for all this."

Ebben Moore, owner of Arlington's in downtown Springfield, thinks it unreasonable that bars and restaurants be in the spotlight: "When you walk into a bar or restaurant, everything you touch has been sanitized, and you've got staff staying on top of that. There's no one in aisle 17 doing that. Nobody's constantly cleaning the gas pump handles."

While owners capitulated during the first shutdown, this second round of mitigations was harder to swallow. They feel blamed for the spread of the virus but want to be part of the solution.

"During the first shutdown, bars and restaurants were with it," said Monseur. "We didn't like it, but we were with it. When you shut things down, you drive people to other avenues like private parties and house gatherings. That's where spikes are happening. Why not let us be part of the solution by giving people an option to go someplace that's sanitized by professional staff who have been trained in safety aspects, instead of spreading to these other large gatherings where it's unsupervised?"



Bars and restaurants got creative during the summer when the governor and the weather allowed outdoor events. Pictured here, "The Pop! Does Comedy," a socially distanced outdoor standup event by Stauztastic Art outside Anvil & Forge. PHOTO CREDIT MIKE ZERKLE

Bandy cited statistics released by the Illinois Department of Public Health to support Monseur's assertions: "Bars and restaurants are 6.52% (of Illinois Region 3 COVID exposure locations as of Dec. 5). That's our exposure contribution, and we deal with 100% of the mitigation." The breakdown of these statistics can be found at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/location-exposure?regionID=3>

Among the disheartening impacts owners face during this second round of mitigations is the absence of enhanced unemployment benefits for their employees.

"I get calls from my staff daily, and I try to tell them things will be OK, but I just don't know," Monseur said. "Elected officials are fighting a PR war, and they're trying to show the general public that they are doing something – that





Anvil & Forge co-owner Mike Zerkle: "We will get through this thing together." Here co-owner John Zerkle transfers 18-month barrel-aged porter to a brite tank to carbonate it.

they are taking action and shutting these places down. And that's frustrating, because it feels like we're being used. I don't know what the end-game is. It seems like everyone is so dug in that they won't look at it in a different way. It's their way or no way, and it's the workers who suffer."

"It's not about making money right now," Moore explained. "It's about having the money to pay your staff, and that's what they don't think about. The people I had to let go have kids and families and mortgages. I don't know why one job is more important than the other, but it certainly seems to be."

Some see hope in vaccine availability. Mike Zerkle, co-owner of Anvil & Forge Brewing & Distilling Company in Springfield said, "I think

[the vaccine] will be a large step forward in combating the pandemic. I've always had faith in our community. We will get through this thing together."

Frustration endures. "Bars and restaurants have been singled out," said Josh Flanders, co-owner of Buzz Bomb Brewing Co. in Springfield. "They are a potential source of virus spread, but so are schools and churches and other places where people gather together. I think the real reason is it's easier to get people to accept bars and restaurants being shut down."

Harry's owner Brian Shirley agrees: "I feel like there are people that are getting tested and are asked, 'Well, where have you been?' And they're more likely to say they went to such-and-such

bar the other day than they would to say, 'Well, I went to all these other places,' where they go all the time. We get the backlash from that more than the others."

### Trying to find a balance

Owners see a silver lining. "I feel like we as an industry have come together more now than we ever have before," said Bandy. "There's such camaraderie between local businesses. I actually feel less alone than I ever have before, being a small business owner here in central Illinois." This sense of unity is ubiquitous in the Central Illinois Licensed Beverage Association. "We've brought the industry together," explained Monseur. "If there's one good thing that came from all this, it's that now one of the biggest industries in our area has a voice. All too often, I'd talk to elected officials, and I'd be so frustrated. The comment I got back a lot was, 'If you guys would get your act together, you would be listened to. But we know you're not united, so you're not listened to that much.'"

"My biggest thing is that there's two sides to every story," said Will Hoecker, owner of multiple Springfield restaurants. "I just wanna get our side out. I'm not asking to go full-fledged 100%. At some point, the cure becomes worse than the disease...it's having massive catastrophic effects on people."

CILBA planned a peaceful "Save Our Jobs Rally" outside the Governor's Mansion for Dec. 19. An "Eat-In" at 1 p.m., in which they urged supporters to bring food bought at local businesses to eat on the sidewalk surrounding the mansion, followed with a rally on the Y-block in front.

"We're asking for the community to come support us and to stand with us and to help us save jobs in these small businesses," said Monseur. "We're the same people who have been helping in our community for years, and we were happy to do it. Lately, though, a lot of us have felt like we're standing alone, and we're asking people not to forget us."

Ebben Moore summarized the argument for reopening: "I get it. You get 300 people together (inside a bar), and they're not wearing masks? That's gonna be a problem. We're not asking for 300. We're asking for 30. Then we can survive it until the vaccine comes out or the numbers drop. Places have to have something, or they're gonna close permanently. Once everybody's closed, it's gonna just be a bunch of people coming off unemployment and no jobs." SBJ

*Jay Wheeler is a Springfield transplant from the Chicago suburbs. He is a freelance writer and bar manager. Contact him at [jaywheeler882@gmail.com](mailto:jaywheeler882@gmail.com).*



Eve Blackwell-Lewis, a retired attorney, has served as the ombudsman for the Springfield Railway Improvements Project since 2015. PHOTO BY NORMA ZUNIGA

## Businesses adjust to railway corridor expansion

By Carey Smith

As the Springfield Railway Improvements Project moves toward completion, an increasing number of businesses have been impacted, with more to come. Benmar Sunrooms was the first business to be displaced in 2014, and since then, an additional 18 businesses have had to relocate as a result of work taking place along the rail corridors. Another 15 companies will be impacted as part of the project, in addition to the residential properties that have been acquired.

The Springfield Railway Improvements Project is a \$356 million federally-supported part of the Illinois High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis program that will consolidate and streamline rail traffic through Springfield by relocating the Third Street rail traffic to the 10th Street corridor, with several underpasses constructed throughout the city along the six-mile improvement zone, as well as the 19th Street corridor. Scheduled to be completed in late 2025, the project aims to increase safety, enhance livability by decreasing noise and pollution and diminish barriers in neighborhoods throughout the city.

A Springfield-Sangamon County Transportation Center will be constructed downtown, as an intermodal facility that will combine Springfield Mass Transit District buses, Amtrak, taxis, intercity buses and paratransit vehicles under one roof, with an adjacent parking garage. Hanson Professional Services is coordinating all aspects of the project, from property acquisition to construction of underpasses and overpasses, rail lines and the transportation hub.

Eve Blackwell-Lewis has served as the ombudsperson for the project since 2015, helping to facilitate communication and to advocate for residential and business owners whose properties are acquired through eminent domain. Blackwell-Lewis is an attorney who retired from the state of Illinois and a Springfield resident who lives along the 10th Street corridor.

"I am a watchdog," says Blackwell-Lewis, "making sure that the people being relocated or moved are treated fairly and in accordance with the law and regulations."

Some business owners have expressed

dissatisfaction with the purchase offers from the City of Springfield, and Blackwell-Lewis says there is good reason for this, as business owners do not enjoy the same regulatory benefits as home owners. When residential housing is acquired, homeowners must be moved to a home of similar size and value, regardless of whether the cost is significantly more.

This is not the case with businesses. Rather, business owners are offered the appraised value of their property. As Blackwell-Lewis explains, "They appraise the building, but the building isn't worth as much as the business as a whole. It can cost them a lot to move into a new building that is comparable. Sometimes they have to go back into debt to do so."

### Evans-Mason, Inc.

Lester Mason is president and CEO of Evans-Mason, Inc., a family-owned and operated business for over 55 years that focuses on concrete, brickwork and stone masonry. He says



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it took him a year to negotiate a purchase price for his property at 1021 S. Grand Avenue East, and he held off on pursuing a new location until he knew how much he would be receiving for his current building. Once he had that information, he coordinated a move within two weeks of learning about an available property at 2200 Clearlake Ave.

"Eminent domain is something that I wouldn't wish on anybody. It's not something that is welcome," he said. Mason describes the hardship of having to move his established business when his compensation was significantly less than the cost of purchasing a suitable similar-sized building. Unwilling to go into debt, he held an auction to sell equipment that would not fit into the new location. "The negotiations for businesses are just not a fair process," says Mason. "Everything was paid for. I don't have an overhead cost here (at South Grand)."

Adding to the strain of moving is the inability to bid work during the process. "It's been a full year of trying to do this thing," remarks Mason. "I didn't know where I could move until I knew the value. How we arrived at where we're at was very contentious." Mason plans to be fully operational in the new location by late December 2020.

### Kwik-Wall Company

Kwik-Wall Company moved operations from 1010 E. Edwards to the former H.D. Smith warehouse at 4650 Industrial Avenue in July 2020. Kwik-Wall, maker of portable aluminum and glass partitions, was founded in Springfield in 1961, and current owner Mike Hoyle purchased the company in 2006.

According to Hoyle, the process of eminent domain was fraught with frustrating and difficult moments, starting in 2017 when he was originally told funding was in place. He moved ahead with purchasing the former Altorfer building at 4200 Rodger St. in Industrial Park as he felt his options for finding an available and suitable 80,000-square-foot building were limited. However, Hoyle said, "After I bought it, months later I was informed they didn't really have the funding for it, and wouldn't have the money for many more years."

Concerned about how long he would have to cover the mortgages on his newly purchased building and East Edwards location, Hoyle decided to lease out the Industrial Park property. He negotiated with Hanson Professional Services and the city for the purchase of his building on Edwards, which he ultimately feels was fairly valued. "Hanson has been really good in helping to facilitate and guide me through the process in as much as they can," he said. "Dealing with

Hanson was a good experience. Dealing with the city was frustrating."

After then purchasing the former H.D. Smith warehouse in December 2019, Hoyle spent an estimated \$1.5-2 million to get the building ready for use by Kwik-Wall.

"It's taken 3000-4000 manpower hours on trying to lay out the building. It's a lot of pressure and stress," remarks Hoyle, with the business completely shut down for several weeks



Mason Evans, Inc. is in the process of relocating to 2200 E. Clearlake but owner Lester Mason said he had to auction off some of his equipment in order to make the smaller location work.



Kirk Jefferies, Dave Matthews and Chip Kennedy (not pictured) are partnering on a new food court venue called The Railyard.

during the move and 75 employees still on the payroll, which he notes is not a reimbursable expense. "We've had a significant financial strain on the company."

Hoyle says he is pleased with the new location, though trying to get permits to build additional warehouse space to house materials has been difficult. "The building is nicer and

newer, but I didn't ask for it, and it's been a painful process."

### The Railyard

Kirk Jefferis, a real estate broker and owner of CityScape Real Estate at 2160 S. Sixth, has helped two businesses, Persian Rug Center and Murphy Rug and Furniture Cleaners, relocate from Ash and Ninth streets to the present location at 2222 S. Sixth. "That went fairly smoothly," remarks Jefferis, "with Hanson handling transactions for the city. They seem to be – maybe not all the time – but usually fairly good in their pricing in what they offer."

Jefferis bought the property at 2242 S. Sixth near his office for parking and also to control the view for the businesses he owns nearby. The former Gallagher's Steakhouse and later Charlie R's was being remodeled to become Black Ox Steakhouse when a fire consumed the buildings on the site earlier this year.

Teaming up with Dave Matthews, a California transplant with 15 years of experience as a chef, and Chip Kennedy, a local restaurateur and chef, both with a variety of business venture experience, Jefferis plans to open The Railyard in April 2021. Matthews describes The Railyard as "a really cool outdoor dining establishment that will have a variety of cuisines to appeal to a lot of people."

The remaining building on the property will be remodeled to become a taqueria, with a limited amount of indoor seating, plus restrooms. Outside, in a transformed green space, three shipping containers will provide a variety of food options. "One of my hobbies is making ice cream," says Jefferis, "so one of the shipping containers will be a creamery. One will feature Texas-style barbeque. One will have ramen bowls and sushi."

Jefferis personally owned two properties that the city acquired and feels fairly compensated, though he empathizes with business owners who believe they were not given a fair price for their property.

"We all have an opinion of what our property is worth. Sometimes we're emotionally invested and sometimes not, and we all want to be treated fairly," he said.

As far as the long-term benefits of the rail project, Jefferis remarks, "I think that the collateral damage is probably minimal compared to the potential benefit. It improves the image of Springfield, improves the livability and it's a nice place to live." **SBJ**

*Carey Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Springfield and can hear the train traffic on both the Third Street and 10th Street corridors.*



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# Architects and engineers respond to COVID-19

By Karen Ackerman Witter

The line between work and home blurred in 2020 as COVID-19 forced many people to work from home. Offices, apartment complexes, home environments and HVAC systems are now being modified in response to COVID-19. Architects, engineers, office supply companies and developers are reimagining spaces, adapting existing technologies and developing new technologies. Spaces are being considered differently, with greater blending of home and office. Cindy Davis, president and CEO of Resource One, helps clients create attractive, functional and productive office environments. She anticipates working from home won't go away entirely, but people will still need to come together in offices.

"People can't be innovative unless they are collaborative," says Davis. That often happens when they run into each other or chat over a cup of coffee. Davis says "we" spaces will be more important than "me" spaces. Individuals may be able to do their "me" work equally well at home or at the office. She anticipates people will spend less time at the office overall.

Davis is an advocate for green building design, which includes connecting with the outside and bringing in more natural light. These trends are already underway and will likely accelerate in response to COVID. Davis says work spaces need to look more like home to draw people back, and office furniture at home needs to be attractive and effective in a home setting. As an example, she noted that individuals who receive an equipment allowance to work at home are frequently choosing height adjustable desks.

These same trends are also at play in large apartment complexes. Common areas and amenities, such as rooftop decks, outdoor spaces, game rooms and spaces with big TVs have become increasingly important. Now the challenge is to ensure those areas are comfortable and safe. Apartments are being designed to have a better-defined space to work from home instead of plopping a laptop on the kitchen counter. People want a place where they can they can work from home easily and walk into a common space where separation feels deliberative and well-planned.

In addition to design features, technology will play an important role in safety. Using a cellphone for touch-free access to elevators and rooms is one example.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) is a professional association for the HVAC industry



Darren Johnson, president of Johnson Engineering in Springfield, is incorporating bipolar ionization technology into HVAC systems to help combat COVID-19. PHOTO BY NORMA ZUNIGA

which has concluded that transmission of COVID-19 through the air is sufficiently likely that airborne exposure to the virus should be controlled. Changes to building operations, including HVAC systems, can reduce airborne exposure to COVID-19.

Johnson Engineering in Springfield specializes in mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering design and consulting services. President Darren Johnson is working with a number of building owners to determine what they can do with HVAC or electrical systems to combat COVID-19. His company is currently incorporating bipolar ionization technology in HVAC systems, which has been proven to kill coronavirus. The technology is installed inside the ductwork and produces a high concentration of positive and negative ions, delivered through the ventilation system. Ions attach to particles, making them more easily filtered from the air. The ions also disrupt the surface proteins of pathogens, making them inactive.

Indoor air quality is a significant issue and can often be worse than outdoor air quality due to dust, pollen, smoke and pathogens. Building codes have requirements for the amount of fresh air that needs to be brought into a building, but improving indoor air quality can reduce the amount of fresh air that is needed, thereby increasing efficiency. Bipolar ionization has been recognized for several years as a way to improve indoor air quality and now is receiving even more attention since it is proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Bipolar ionization has been installed in the HVAC systems at Lincoln Land Community College's campuses. It is also being incorporated into building projects at DuBois and Butler Elementary Schools in Springfield. Johnson predicts an increase in the use of bipolar ionization technology at hospitals and schools.

UV radiation is another technology receiving attention in response to COVID. UV radiation is a known disinfectant for air, water and non-porous surfaces and has been used for decades to reduce the spread of bacteria, such as tuberculosis. Studies are underway about its effectiveness with regards to COVID-19. Exposure to UV light can damage skin and eyes, so there are many issues associated with how it is used. It is most commonly used inside air ducts to disinfect the air. David Parker, a partner at Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker, Inc., has installed UV lamps in the return air ducts at his church, Hope Presbyterian in Springfield.

People are social animals, and the desire to congregate – at work, home, church and community – will prevail, even if work and home will likely be a hybrid in the future. One bright spot may be that COVID-19 is helping to advance green building design, improvements to indoor air quality and the development of new technologies and innovation. **SBJ**

*Karen Ackerman Witter worked in environmental agencies in state government for many years. Her father, brother and son are all engineers. She is now a freelance writer, working from home.*





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# MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

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

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	NUMBER OF LOCAL REGISTERED ARCHITECTS	NUMBER OF LOCAL FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Graham &amp; Hyde Architects</b> 1010 Clocktower Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-9380 grahamandhyde.com info@grahamandhyde.com	6	11	Jamie Cosgriff Kevin Handy	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, Christ the King Parish Center, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Ridgely Elementary School, Ball Charter Elementary School, Cherry Hills Baptist Church, Benedictine University, Ben-Gil Elementary School, Gillespie. Panhandle Elementary School, Raymond. Ball-Chatham Community Schools, Chatham.	1968
2	<b>Farnsworth Group</b> 1 NW Old Capitol Plaza Springfield, IL 62701	217-528-3661 f-w.com mbray@f-w.com	5	12	Paul Wheeler Forrest Hoffman	Ronald McDonald House, Blessed Sacrament School Expansion, Central Illinois Community Blood Center, LLCC A. Lincoln Commons, University of Illinois Springfield, H. D. Smith Corporate Campus, Sangamon County Building, Camp Lincoln, Crowne Plaza Hotel, INB, St. Joseph's Home Dementia Wing, The Hope Institute - Learning Center & Master Planning, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield Clinic, YMCA of Springfield-Downtown, UIUC English Building Renovations, UIUC McKinley Health Center Remodel, UIUC Assembly Hall, Urbana/Champaign. Regional Corporate Data Center, Waukegan.	1976
3	<b>Crawford, Murphy &amp; Tilly</b> 2750 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-8050 cmtengr.com questions@cmtengr.com	4	119	Dan Meckes Bill Bailey George Cain Roger A. Austin	Pace Pedestrian Overpass Bridge and Bridge Access Buildings, Illinois I-90 Tollway, Barrington Road Interchange, Hoffman Estates; Central Illinois Gas Utility Operation and Control Facilities, Peoria and Decatur; Sangamon County Water Reclamation District, Sugar and Spring Creek Wastewater Plants, Springfield; Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) Storage Buildings International Airport, Peoria; Fiducial Office Renovation, Sorling Northrup, Ltd. Office Building Renovation, CWLP New Filter Building Addition Sangamon Auditorium - Performing Arts Center Entrance, University of Illinois Springfield, Pace Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility Renovation, Wheeling; Purdue University Airport Terminal Improvements, MidAmerica St. Louis Airport terminal improvements.	1946
4	<b>Evan Lloyd Associates</b> 1630 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-7011 evanlloydarchitects.com tsmith@evanlloyd.com	3	12	Timothy B. Smith	BOS Center renovation and expansion, Altorfer Catepillar facility, Illinois State Police Credit Union, Waterways Building renovation, Engrained Brewery, Obed & Isaacs and Wm. Van's Coffee Shop, Prairie State Bank, Friar Tuck, County Market, Sangamon County Health Department renovation, Connor Co. Distribution/Sales Facility, Horace Mann interior renovations, Springfield. Illini Bank, new park and amphitheater, County Market, Sherman. Pathway Services renovation, Jacksonville. Bothwell Auditorium and Woodward Athletic Center renovations at Blackburn College, Carlinville. St. Mary School addition. Taylorville. Legence Bank corporate headquarters, Eldorado. National Bank and public library, Litchfield.	1969
4	<b>Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker</b> 213 1/2 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-9515 mmlpltd.com architect@mmlpltd.com	3	9	David J. Leonatti T. David Parker	New senior housing, Gillespie; Renovation of 100 apartments, Alton; Interior design for PFA Financial & MMLP offices, Springfield; Housing Authority upgrade and renovation projects, Carlinville, Springfield, Petersburg, Bunker Hill and others; Village public works complex, Mundelein; Mt. Pulaski courthouse historic site; Bushnell-Prairie City Elementary School renovation, Bushnell; Oak Ridge Cemetery mausoleum restoration; Concord Triopia schools; Additions and renovation to Franklin and Grant Middle Schools, Springfield; Security upgrades to 20 elementary schools, Springfield; Replacement housing, 46 units, Alton, 27 units Virden; Village of Mt. Pulaski downtown streetscape; Lincoln's Original Home Building Study, Springfield.	1978
4	<b>J.H. Petty and Associates,</b> 3220 Executive Park Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-787-2844 jhp@jhpa.biz	3	6	Joseph H. Petty	Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport terminal expansion, LLCC Aviation Center classroom addition at ALCA. OSF clinics in Peoria, Urbana, Danville, Pekin, Rantoul, Morton Office building for Psychological Center. Elevate trampoline parks in Champaign, Milan and East Peoria. Blessing Hospital pharmacy, Pittsfield. New gymnasium and classroom addition for Villa Grove USD #302. Lake Land College president's office, conference center, new Alumni Center and new Work Force Building. New security entrance addition for Harmony-Emge School District 75. Numerous projects for Waverly School District #6. New secured entrance at Pike County Courthouse, Pittsfield.	1969
4	<b>Steckel-Parker Architects</b> 2941 Happy Landing Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-6444 steckelparker.com dave@steckelparker.com	3	5	David E. Steckel	Levi Ray & Shoup office complex, Brandt Consolidated, Taylorville school district gymnasium, Dick Van Dyke Appliance World, Prairie Eye Lasik building, Pepsi distribution center and office, United Community Bank, La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries, D'Arcy's Pint, Springfield District 186 projects, Pasta House, Jennings Auto Sales. Country Lane Memory Care, Riverton. Prairie Power, Jacksonville.	1964
4	<b>John Shafer &amp; Associates</b> 1230 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-744-9036 shafer-arch.com john@shafer-arch.com	3	4	John Shafer	Henderson Eye Center, Anderson Electric, ISD Jacksonville, Heartland Credit Union, Bunn Corporate Office, Illinois Education Assn., Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Illinois Baptist State Assn., Shelter Insurance, Novanis Building, Illinois Assn. of School Administrators, Illinois Times, Midwest Technical Institute - various locations, LLCC Taylorville, Tri-City Public Library, Springfield Priority Care, LLCC Montgomery Hall.	1992
5	<b>Allied Design Consultants</b> 1413 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-3355 217-522-5570 alliedarch.com adc@alliedarch.com	2	5	Todd R. Hannah	Adjutant General's Office Building Renovation and Building 20 Renovation at Camp Lincoln, SASD Office Renovation, Illinois State University Roofing Replacements at Horton Fieldhouse, Felmley Hall, Cardinal Court, Science Lab, Ropp Ag Bldg. and Turner Hall, Cahokia Mounds Historic Site Roof Replacement, IDOT Various Site Improvements in Springfield, Riggston, Mt. Sterling and Mason City. Public Housing renovations for Jersey County Housing Authority and Logan County Housing Authority. LLCC Water Infiltration Remediation Work, Dept. of Agriculture projects Illinois State Fairgrounds at Emmerson Bldg., Exposition Bldg., Illinois Bldg., Logan Correctional Center Window Replacement, Rushville Treatment and Detention Center Roofing Replacement, Shelbyville High School Auditorium Renovations, IRS/ICE Building Renovation.	1984
5	<b>Cowdrey and German</b> DESIGNED aRCHITECTURE 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, Rexx Battery in Springfield and Jacksonville, Macoupin County Animal Shelter, Carlinville, Nature's Grace and Wellness Center, Vermont.	2007



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# Signs of the times

Springfield Reprographics marks a century of adaptation

By David Blanchette

It started as a blueprint firm, but the plan for success 100 years later is still the same – adapt to change and maintain great customer service.

Springfield Reprographics was founded in 1920 as Springfield Blueprint by contractor S.J. Hanes, whose sons included an architect and engineer. The firm started in the 200 block of South Sixth Street was passed down to another family member before Eugene Hanson bought the business in 1969. Hanson's son-in-law and daughter, Steve and Trudy Wakefield, took over the business in 1985.

Springfield Reprographics is now located at 1620 S. Fifth St. in a 7,500-square-foot facility with five full-time and two part-time employees.

Steve Wakefield has seen a lot of changes in his 38 years in the business, including 35 as the owner.

"When I started in 1982, blueprints were mainly still done by draftsmen. Computer aided design (CAD) systems were not in play yet, so we had a lot of supplies for pen-and-ink drafting," Wakefield said. "In the mid-1980s, CAD systems started to come into play and we evolved in those directions. During the late 1990s we got out of the supply business for the most part because people weren't drafting anymore, they were doing everything on computers."

Reprographics still copies blueprints but has expanded with the times to do commercial printing, signs and wide format graphics, including vehicle wraps and trade show materials. The company also supplies toner for office desktop printers as the result of a business acquisition seven years ago.

"Five years ago, we got into the wide-format color business – big graphics, big prints – which has been the most dynamic part of the business during those five years," Wakefield said. "It was kind of a natural extension of what we were already doing because we had a wide-format printer, we

just hadn't moved into that part of the business with authority."

An HP PageWide printer purchased in October 2019 allows Springfield Reprographics to quickly print massive amounts of blueprints and also quickly produce large-format color work.

"It does down-and-dirty color pieces in case somebody wants something for promotion, like 'bananas 29 cents a pound,'" Wakefield said. "That piece of equipment has been gold."

"We hope to get a flat-bed printer delivered around the first of the year," Wakefield said. "It can print directly to substrates like foam core, yard signs, metal, glass, plexiglass, acrylic and wood. The gap on the machine is two inches, so I can print on most any material that will fit in there."

Wakefield works with his daughter, Jennifer, and his son, Kevin, to run the daily business while keeping an eye toward thinking of new ways to meet customer needs and desires while staying true to its roots as a printing company.

"We install graphics in buildings, windows, walls, floors and on buses and vehicles so we are considering starting a separate graphics installation company," Wakefield said. "We already have the print equipment, we already have the personnel that can install it. That's another example of taking the company in a direction that makes sense."

"I'm 68 and I've had to change, too. If you don't, you die, it's just how it is," Wakefield said. "If you don't move with or change with the times, you're not going to be as successful as you want to be. The business is 100 years old, and I do not intend to let this thing die because of stubbornness."

Springfield Reprographics' main customers are businesses and organizations, with firms involved in the construction trade being their biggest clients. Chances are you've seen Reprographics' work on







Top: (left to right) Jennifer Walsh, Angie Carey, Vince Roemer, Steve Wakefield, Jim Kuchar and Kevin Wakefield. Bottom left: Jim Kuchar and Kevin Wakefield applying graphics an HSHS vehicle. Bottom right: Owner Steve Wakefield with daughter Jennifer Walsh and son Kevin Wakefield. *PHOTOS BY TERRY FARMER*

construction site fences, including banners that depict what is being built on site, and on the graphics adorning construction company vehicles.

The COVID pandemic has reduced Springfield Reprographics' business a bit in 2020 but Wakefield said work has been steady since June, and a Paycheck Protection Program loan meant there were no layoffs at the firm. He added that the company's "very loyal client base" has remained constant throughout what has been a tough year for everyone.

One of those loyal customers is the Henson Robinson Zoo, where Springfield Reprographics is working on some new signs for the upcoming season.

"I feel like if I can dream it up, Steve and his team can figure out a way to make it happen and come to life," said interim zoo director Lynn Saputo. "The staff at Reprographics are great people to work with."

Hanson Professional Services is also a long-time Springfield Reprographics customer.

"The team at Reprographics provides exceptional, dependable service for crucial projects that serve our clients throughout the country," said Adam Perschbacher, assistant marketing manager at Hanson. "They're an indispensable part of our team, and we congratulate them on 100 years of amazing work." **SBJ**



# MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

Sources: The engineering firms.  
Ranked by number of licensed engineers in Springfield/Jacksonville.  
Number of full-time employees in engineering division may vary from total employee count.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	EMPLOYEES LIC. ENG.	ENG. DIV.1	PARTNERS/ PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Crawford, Murphy &amp; Tilly</b> 2750 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-8050 cmtengr.com questions@cmtengr.com	57	119	Dan Meckes Bill Bailey Roger Austin Brad Hamilton Stan Hanson	Archer Elevator Road Improvements; IDOT Sixth Street Improvements; Sangamon County Water Reclamation District combined sewer overflow improvements; Peoria Stormwater Program and Utility Development; New Interstate-69, Indiana DOT; Master Plan, St. Louis Lambert International Airport; Barrington Road/I-90 Tollway Interchange and Pace Bus In-line Transit station, Hoffman Estates; Ongoing Airfield Program at Dulles International Airport Washington DC; Jackson Street and Illinois Realtors Association Plaza, Springfield; Plummer Sports Park, Edwardsville, IL; Joliet Illinois Alternative Water Source Program.	1946
2	<b>Hanson Professional Services</b> 1525 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-788-2450 hanson-inc.com marketing@hanson-inc.com	55	183	Sergio Pecori Jeff Ball Ronda Folkerts Dennis Hollahan	Springfield Rail Improvement Project; Springfield Sangamon Transportation Center; Illinois State Fairgrounds Coliseum Rehab; Emiquon water control structure, Havana; Commissioning for Sandy Grove Middle School commissioning (Cx), first net-positive school, N.C.; CWLP Spaulding Dam Spillway Gate Rehabilitation; High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis program Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement; Kennedy Expressway reconstruction in Chicago.	1954
3	<b>Fuhrmann Engineering</b> 2852 S. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-5577 fuhrmann-eng.com gfuhrmann@fuhrmann-eng.com	25	65	Gina Marie Cianferri Fuhrmann	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	<b>Hutchison Engineering, Inc.</b> 1801 W. Lafayette Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-7164 hutchisoneng.com hutchison@hutchisoneng.com	18	44	Gregg Mounts Joe Hutchison Jim Burke Gary Hutchison Mike Meier	US 34 reconstruction, Kendall County. I-74 corridor expansion, Quad Cities. II 9 reconstruction, Bloomington. Old Galena Road, Peoria County. Briggs St. reconstruction, Will County. CH20 over Quiver Creek, Mason County. Macomb Bypass, McDonough County, Historic State Street reconstruction, Jacksonville. CH10 reconstruction, Scott County.	1945
5	<b>Quigg Engineering</b> 2351 S. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703	217-670-0563 quiggengineering.com msaleem@quiggengineering.com	16	41	Mohammed Saleem Lori L. Quigg	I-74 Mississippi River Crossing between Moline and Bettendorf, IA, IowaDOT, Chicago to St. Louis high speed rail, IDOT Bureau of Railroads I-294 (Tri-State Tollway) Mile Long Bridge Reconstruction, Illinois Tollway.	2006
6	<b>WHKS &amp; Co.</b> 3695 S. Sixth St. Frontage Rd. West, Suite A Springfield, IL 62703	217-483-9457 whks.com springfield@whks.com	14	26	Fouad K. Daoud William K. Angerman Scott D. Sanford Scott Sweet Derek Thomas Tim Hrushka	I-72 resurfacing from Chatham Road to Morgan County line, Taylor Road bridge replacement in Decatur, Brush College Road realignment in Decatur, Farmington Road realignment in West Peoria 84 over Apple River bridge replacement in Hanover, I-74 over the Mississippi River, US 20 over the Mississippi, IL 17 over the Illinois River in Lacon, Drawbridge Road bridge replacement and Churchill Road replacement in Springfield.	1948
7	<b>Benton &amp; Associates</b> 1970 W. Lafayette Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-4146 bentonassociates.com info@bentonassociates.com	13	37	Reginald H. Benton Jamie L. Headen William J. Sleeman	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; I-64 bridges - St. Clair county; I-55 Bridges - Madison county; McDonough county transit facility; North Morgan rural water system; SMG Rural Water System; Beardstown flood damage improvements; Hayes residential/commercial development Jacksonville.	1970
8	<b>Veenstra &amp; Kimm, Inc.</b> 2417 W. White Oaks Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8033 v-k.net vk@v-k.net	11	24	Mark Henderson Christopher Kohlrus Gene Arnold Mark Vasconcelles Shalya Praffe	Central IL: Chatham Road over Jacksonville Branch Creek, I-55/I-72 Interchange Bridge Rehabilitation, Drainage Improvements at Wabash Ave. and I-72, Springfield Clinic - Main Campus East, West and West Wabash ADA and parking lot improvements, Blessed Sacrament School Addition, Stone Creek Subdivision, White Oaks Mall/LA Fitness, Mt. Pulaski High School Addition, IL Route 125 Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements. Peoria IL: IL 116 over Kickapoo Creek, UP Railroad, and Kickapoo Creek Road; US-24 and IL 116 Interchange Bridge Rehabilitation, Main Street over Farm Creek Bridge Rehabilitation. Northern IL: Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park Roadway Improvements, Rock Cut State Park Site Improvements, East Moline Water Treatment Plant (Ultraviolet Disinfection Process), East Moline WWTP Improvements, US 150 over BNSF RR Bridge Replacement and Roadway Realignment (Galesburg), Cambridge Commercial Park - East Oak Street (Cambridge). Southern IL: I-57 over Pond Creek, I-57 over Middle Fork of Big Muddy River, IL 148 over Wolf Creek.	1961
9	<b>MECO Engineering Company</b> 60 Adloff St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-670-1445 mecoeengineering.com	10	12	Scott Vogler Max Middendorf James Bensman	Pittsfield New Water Treatment Plant, Wells and Transmission Main; Pittsfield Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements; Griggsville Water Treatment Plant Improvements; Griggsville Sewer Lining; Griggsville New Wells; Pittsfield Road Improvements, US-54 Turn Lane; Curran-Gardner Township Public Water Treatment Facility.	2018





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# MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

Sources: The engineering firms.  
Ranked by number of licensed engineers in Springfield/Jacksonville.  
Number of full-time employees in engineering division may vary from total employee count.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	EMPLOYEES LIC. ENG.	ENG. DIV.1	PARTNERS/ PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
10	<b>Cummins Engineering Corporation</b> 135 W. Lake Shore Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-726-8570 cumminsenineering.com kim@cumminsenineering.com	9	19	Kimberly S. Cummins Michael D. Cummins Michael E. Rapier	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 Improvements near Lincoln, Sangamon County bridges on Old Jacksonville Road, Farmingdale Road, Waverly Road, Roadway Improvements to Pleasant Plains Road and Waverly Road.	1998
11	<b>Andrews Engineering</b> 3300 Ginger Creek Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-787-2334 andrews-eng.com marketing@andrews-eng.com	8	35	Kenneth W. Liss Douglas W. Mauntel Bradley J. Hunsberger	Illinois DOT-Statewide Hazardous Contractor; US Dept. of Veteran Affairs; US D.O.E.; Commercial/Industrial remediation planning and implementation Riverwoods, IL; utility ash management Springfield; RCRA, CERCLA, TSCA permits/corrective action south-side Chicago; IDOT-High Speed Rail corridor (construction inspection, health and safety, environmental).	1974
12	<b>Kuhn &amp; Trello Consulting Engineers</b> 109 N. Seventh St. Third Floor Springfield, IL 62701	217-679-0044 ktengr.com kkuhn@ktengr.com	7	17	Kevin L. Kuhn Michael J. Trello	New Railroad Overpass - Williamsville, IL; Repair Multi-Purpose Arena - Illinois State Fairgrounds; Repair and Resurface Roadways - Illinois State Fairgrounds; Multi Use Trail - Williamsville to Sherman; New Rest Area - Trail Of Tears North and South Bound - Anna, IL; New Spider Monkey Exhibit - Henson Robinson Zoo; New Health Sciences Building - SIUE; Replace Cooling Towers and Chillers - Illinois Capitol Complex; New Dog Run - Springfield Park District; New Public Works Facility - Mundelein, IL; Various District 186 School Additions - Grant, Franklin, Blackhawk, Sandburg, Jefferson, Washington; Department of Military Affairs New Readiness Center - East Alton, IL; New Water Tower - Choate Mental Health; Water Tower Renovation - Robinson Correctional Center.	2013
12	<b>Hampton, Lenzini &amp; Renwick</b> 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 201 Springfield, IL 62703	217-546-3400 hlengineering.com hlr@hlengr.com	7	14	ReJena Lyon Steven W. Megginson	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.	1965
13	<b>Fehr Graham</b> 2060 W. Iles Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8477 fehr-graham.com jsawyer@fehr-graham.com	6	12	Michael W. Gronewold Ken R. Thompson Adam G. Holder Joel P. Zirkle Noah J. Carmichael Matthew A. Johnson Nathan P. Kass Jason T. Stoll	Bus pad reconstruction, Lincoln Correctional Center, Kennay Farms Distillery Rickhouse (structural), Rochelle, IL, Well House No. 11 (structural), Freeport, IL, US 34 over OVER TR 162 bridge replacements, Warren County, I-74 over French Creek bridge replacements, Knox County, Dixon I/EP bike path boardwalks/retaining walls; Springfield; Mill Creek Estates, Phase II; Kreston Place Subdivision; YMCA of Springfield-Downtown site development; Meadowbrook Road extension; Structural design: Lincoln Tomb Receiving Vault rehabilitation; IDOT Hanley Building Plaza waterproofing; Springfield Housing Authority Office addition.	1973
13	<b>HDR Engineering</b> 5201 S. Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-585-8300 hdrinc.com springfieldinfo@hdrinc.com	6	10	Matthew Cochran	Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail Project, Ameren/Robinson Transmission Line Reroute, Freshwater and Marine Fisheries Production and Research Facilities including the Little Manistee River Weir and Thompson State Fish Hatchery, Michigan; Roxbury State Fish Hatchery, Vermont; Lanesboro State Fish Hatchery, Minnesota and Fish Hatchery Improvements, State of Maine.	1984
14	<b>Feezor Engineering</b> 406 E. Walnut St. Chatham, IL 62629	217-483-3118 dfeezor@feezorengineering.com	5	18	Daniel Feezor Jenny Feezor Aaron Karlas	Prairie State Energy Campus - Residuals Management, Bridgeton Landfill Heat Extraction System, West Lake Landfill Remedial Investigation.	2000
14	<b>Knight E/A</b> 3200 Pleasant Run, Suite A Springfield, IL 62711	217-546-7455 knightea.com	5	11	Jim Wolfe Kevin Lentz Christine Reed	Interstate 64 Wabash River Bridge, Mazonia Braidwood mine reclamation, Springfield downtown one-way to two-way street conversion analysis, Logan county bridge, Springfield Airport complex improvements, Illinois State Police Memorial Park, Sinnissippi Dam redesign.	1945
14	<b>Greene &amp; Bradford</b> 3501 Constitution Drive Springfield, IL 62711	217-793-8844 www.gnbil.com kashifs@greeneandbradford.com	5	9	Kashif Syed Joseph Greene	Sanitary sewer connection in Springfield, water main in Pawnee; Construction staking of various projects; Site Development for Mekong Café; Solar panel installation permit; Three sided culvert design for Pana Bridge No. 35 over TR 303; Construction Engineering for Structural retrofit of Sunset Lake Dam in Girard; Structural retrofit of Howard Johnsons in Springfield.	1972
14	<b>Patrick Engineering</b> 300 W. Edwards St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62704	217-391-3500 patrickengineering.com cburger@patrickco.com	5	9	Daniel P. Dietzler Patrick Cassidy Chris Burger	Future Gen 2 pipeline and surface facilities (Jacksonville), ADM electrical projects in Decatur, CSX Railroad 14 bridges in East Central Illinois, wind farm siting assistance for Logan, Mason, Morgan, Livingston, Pike and Woodford counties; solid waste facility siting in Pike, Macon and DeWitt counties; mine subsidence monitoring near Williamsville.	1954



# MAJOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

Sources: The engineering firms.  
Ranked by number of licensed engineers in Springfield/Jacksonville.  
Number of full-time employees in engineering division may vary from total employee count.

	NAME / ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE / EMAIL	EMPLOYEES LIC. ENG.	ENG. DIV.1	PARTNERS/ PRINCIPALS	NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
14	<b>Bacon Farmer Workman</b> Engineering & Testing 421 South Grand Ave. West Suite 1A Springfield, IL 62704	217-679-6254 bfwengineers.com brotherham@bfwengineers.com	5	3	Ron Bacon Chris Farmer Mark Workman	I-55 Rehabilitation, north of Litchfield; IL 71 Widening & Reconstruction in Yorkville; IL 37 Shoulder Widening & Resurfacing north of Benton; I-64 Reconstruction, west of Mt. Vernon; I-70 Reconstruction/Rubblization, east of Effingham; I-57/I-74 Interchange Reconstruction.	1996
15	<b>Professional Service Industries</b> 480 North St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-6663 psiusa.com eram.iqbal@intertek.com daniel.bilbrey@intertek.com	4	17	James Becco Daniel Bilbrey Eram Iqbal	YMCA of Springfield-Downtown, Springfield High Speed Rail, St. John's NICU Renovation, LRS Office Building and Garage, Sugar Creek Wind Farm, Hilltopper Wind Farm, Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport - Various Projects, CWLP Filter Addition and Renovation, Springfield Clinic - Wabash, New Pleasant Plains High School Gym Addition, Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield, Memorial Medical Center OR Renovations.	1961
16	<b>Prairie Engineers</b> 6405 Canadian Cross Dr. Springfield, IL 62711	217-605-0403 prairieengineers.com info@prairieengineers.com	3	13	Lisa Kramer Darren Forgy	Paris Armory HVAC & Plumbing Upgrades; Mississippi & Illinois River hydrographic surveys; Missouri River levee inspections; I-270 North noise study and soundwall design; Chicago to Quad Cities passenger rail improvements drainage design and surveys.	2010
16	<b>TRC Worldwide Engineering</b> 975 S. Durkin Dr., Suite 205 Springfield, IL 62704	217-725-6262 trcw.com	3	7	Robert Boellner	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
17	<b>Martin Engineering Company</b> 3695 S. Sixth St. Frontage Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-698-8900 martinengineeringco.com mecmail@martinengineeringco.com	2	13	Philip G. Martin Steven R. Walker	YMCA of Springfield-Downtown, Ash Grove Apartments, U-Haul, Oak Park Estates. Village of Curran sanitary sewer system. Chatham: Hindu Temple of Greater Springfield, Cardinal Ridge Subdivision. Rochester: Coe Commons, Cardinal Hill Crossing. North Mac High School. Stahlhut Drive. Riverton: Riverton Interstate Park.	1982



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# Renewable energy faces a funding cliff

## Trying to find a path forward for Path to 100 reforms

By Jerry Nowicki

While advocates in Illinois were optimistic that a series of measures reforming the state's energy landscape could pass in 2019, various factors caused the legislative package to stall while most of Gov. JB Pritzker's first-year agenda eventually became law. At the time, advocates behind the Path to 100 Act warned of an impending "funding cliff" for renewable energy projects if the General Assembly did not act to increase the rate cap on ratepayer bills, which is the funding source of the renewable energy fund overseen by the Illinois Power Agency.

Now, amid a backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing scandal ensnaring the state's largest utility and a potential upheaval of leadership in the Illinois House, the lawmakers pushing for that bill say the funding cliff has arrived.

"The Illinois Power Agency announced the close of the state renewable energy incentives for residents in central and southern Illinois just this last Friday [Dec. 4] and incentives in Chicago and the rest of Northern Illinois are going to be gone in a matter of weeks as well," state Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, said in a virtual news conference Dec. 8. "This is a problem we've been talking about for years and we've been predicting and it's here now. Without new legislation, renewable energy programs will be shut down. It's going to be shut down for years to come."

There are solar and wind projects with existing commitments from the Illinois Power Agency that will continue to be funded, but applicants for new incentives will be waitlisted indefinitely.

Dawn Heid, who is CEO of the residential solar panel installation company Rethink Electric, said that's going to mean layoffs for her sales force as the waitlist grows. Her installation crews, she said, will likely be employed through April 2021 as they finish installations for projects with currently committed funding.

"Beyond that we do not have any revenue sources coming in from renewable energy," Heid said.

The fund overseen by the Illinois Power Agency is replenished through a charge on the supply portion of ratepayer electric bills, which is currently capped at about 2 percent.

The Path to 100 Act would lift that cap to 4 percent over a period of years, allowing for more money in the fund to be granted for new investments in wind and solar energy.

Illinois State University economics professor David Loomis estimated the impact of passing the Path to 100 Act would number in the billions of dollars from 2021 to 2033.

He authored a report showing the legislation would create or support 53,298 jobs during construction periods and 3,215 jobs during operations. That would create \$8.27 billion in increased economic output during construction and \$571 million per year in increased economic output during operations, per the report.

Rep. Will Davis, a Hazel Crest Democrat and the bill's House sponsor, also noted the report showed existing renewable energy projects have generated \$306 million in local property taxes, including \$41.4 million paid out in 2019.

"As a firm advocate for school funding and knowing that a lot of local school funding is derived from property taxes, these resources are going to go a long way," Davis said.

According to Davis, part of the purpose of the virtual news conference Tuesday was to build support for the Path to 100 Act in the General Assembly. While he said the bill is straightforward enough to pass on its own, he acknowledged it may be difficult without being tied to a larger legislative package.

Cunningham, the bill's Senate sponsor, said he was "not opposed" to attaching it to an omnibus bill, but said the funding cliff necessitates quicker action, "or we're going to really fall behind when it comes to generating renewable energy in Illinois."

"We've kind of gotten used to the practice as legislators of making big energy policy changes all at once. And unfortunately that's one of the reasons why this legislation has been tied up," he said.

There are various interests in play as the state tries to enter a carbon-free future while keeping energy costs low and ensuring the state has enough available energy producers to keep the lights on at peak usage hours, according to Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort. As chair of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, Hastings has been

taking part in energy reform discussions for months.

He said it may be difficult to pass a bill in a "lame duck" session of the General Assembly before those recently elected in November are seated, due to the complexity of the various energy bills and an unclear leadership situation in the House.


The other major initiative before lawmakers, which is far more sweeping than the Path to 100 Act, is the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). That bill deals with electrification of the state's transportation sector and overhauls the way energy capacity is procured among other initiatives.

It's backed by a number of labor unions that are part of the Climate Jobs Illinois coalition, the Illinois Environmental Council and a number of other advocates.

One of CEJA's key measures would remove Illinois from the multistate PJM capacity auction, putting the power to procure guarantees of future energy production in the hands of the state in order to give Illinois more authority to focus on renewables instead of carbon producers. PJM, according to its website, is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia.

But Hastings said one difficulty that arises from such an approach is that the PJM market serves northern Illinois, essentially north of Interstate-80, while the rest of the state is on the MISO grid. He said working groups are currently exploring the possibility for a statewide solution on capacity procurements, rather than one that affects just the PJM market.

But there are also a number of coal-to-solar initiatives and other lower key energy measures to be considered, Hastings said.

"We have to have a diverse energy portfolio that's clean, and that includes nuclear, wind and solar and then you also have to have some offset capability in the natural gas world," he said. "You have to look at it globally." 

Contact Jerry Nowicki at [jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com](mailto:jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com).



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# New projects and renovations take shape in 2020

By Catherine O'Connor

## New YMCA supports community resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant restrictive safety precautions, but also provided unique opportunities for innovation at the YMCA of Springfield.

In the midst of closures and uncertainty about when and how health and fitness facilities would be allowed to operate, the YMCA of Springfield, led by executive director Angie Sowle, stayed on schedule to unveil a new 88,000-square-foot facility at the corner of Fourth and Carpenter streets on Nov. 30.

Under the principal leadership

of Paul Wheeler with Farnsworth Group, the new two-story facility was designed to help rejuvenate and connect Springfield's medical district to the Enos Park neighborhood north of downtown and beyond. Along with major partner Memorial Health System, the Y leadership had envisioned urban core community health to be a major focal point for the new facility. It replaces the outdated YMCA on Fourth Street, complimenting the recreation, fitness and youth competition programming of the Kerasotes YMCA at 4550 W. Iles Ave.

Based on needs assessments,

the new building was originally set to offer an expanded hot meal program, after-school and weekend activities targeted to neighborhood families, according to Sowle. With the advent of COVID restrictions, however, the need for safe childcare and remote learning education assistance for students became the priority for the new facility. Project completion came at a good time to shift and re-center youth programming from the former downtown building, the Kerasotes facility, and the Y's outdoor day camp at Lake Springfield, Sowle said.

"COVID 19 helped us to redefine what we are doing, which is a little different than what we thought we'd be doing," Sowle said. Structured to house safe in-person services for youth, the Y currently uses its new gym, child watch and community center spaces downtown, in addition to off-campus sites in Sherman and Chatham, to provide distance and after-school programming to 120 students each week.

Before the COVID pandemic there were 18,000 active Y members in the community, a number that has fallen to 14,500, with current usage almost evenly

*continued on pg. 24* ▶



The Y offers a gymnastics center, that along with the child watch facilities, has become a vital resource for families during school closures.

PHOTOS BY MUCHOW PHOTOGRAPHY



split between the west-side and new downtown buildings. At this point, Sowle is extremely hopeful about the potential the new downtown Y can offer to the community.

"We know we will get people back, once health restrictions are lifted, because people love the benefits of the Y," she said.

### Chris Nickel tackles new project

Impressive 16-foot ceilings and original 8-foot window openings were a nice surprise to find as demolition began in the building at the corner of Seventh and Adams streets, purchased by Chris Nickel in March of this year. Flexibility will be key in Nickel's development plan for eight to 10 upper-story residential apartments, along with up to 4000 square feet of commercial retail or office space available on the ground floor of the high-profile corner.

"With two hotels and a thriving marijuana dispensary on the adjacent corners of the intersection, the building, which formerly housed a gift shop, has a lot of potential from an investment standpoint," Nickel said.

As a downtown developer, Nickel has built street cred over the years, with successful adaptive reuse projects in the former Bridge Jewelry building, which now houses Jerk Shop Go and Springfield Vintage, the historic Kerasotes building, now home to Physiotherapy Professionals and Moxie Massage, as well as shops in the Adams Family block of Fourth Street.

The first phase of work at 631 E. Adams will concentrate on renovation of the exterior facades, followed by restoration of the picturesque windows and apartment layout design, until Nickel and his development partner, David Lee, have secured leases for the first-floor commercial space. Nickel said a few prospective retail business owners have recently toured the space, which currently is divided into 2500- and 1200-square-foot spaces with a shared hallway and elevator.

"My experience tells me there is plenty of residential demand, so I will be able to rent the apartments as soon as they are ready. It's a work in progress. We could shift priority if commercial tenants signed a lease tomorrow, then we'd build to suit," Nickel said.

### Rail relocation drives projects

Renovation is underway at two locations that will eventually provide office space for several hundred state employees who are currently working in offices at the former Sangamo Watch/Sangamo Electric complex along North Ninth Street in Springfield. According to Jimmie Austin of Hanson Professional Services, relocation of the

Union Pacific Railroad tracks from Third Street to a new corridor along 10<sup>th</sup> Street will route the corridor through where the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency building currently sits on North Grand Avenue, requiring demolition of the central portion of the structure. The east and west portions of the building, including the clocktower, could potentially be left in place. The Illinois Department of Transportation and IEPA are working with Central Management Services to determine the ultimate disposition of the remaining portions of the building, with construction scheduled to begin in late 2023.

Jefferson Terrace, 300 W. Jefferson, will become the new location for some of the workers displaced from the IEPA location. Built 30 years ago, Jefferson Terrace has 60,000 square feet on three levels which will undergo interior floor layout modifications and accessibility upgrades. Springfield architect John Shafer has been selected to lead the redesign project, with construction to begin in summer 2021



John Shafer is the architect for the upcoming renovation of Jefferson Terrace. PHOTO BY JOHN SHAFER

and be completed by early summer 2022, according to Crystal Kitchen of the Illinois Capital Development Board.

Juan Gabriel Moreno, an architect based in Chicago, will direct a project that will transform the former Sears department store at White Oaks Mall, which was built in 1976, into work space for some 400 state employees. In September, Moreno's firm, JGMA began the building assessment after the state purchased the building from Sears, which closed in 2018. The biggest design challenge, according to project manager Craig Butler of CDB, will be getting daylight into the 181,000-square-foot-space, which will house primarily IEPA office and materials labs. When completed in late 2022, a dramatic exterior transformation could be visible, as the renovation may include several major new window openings and/or transparent curtain walls, Butler said.

### Health care responds to challenges

With delivery of safe health care a priority, Springfield Clinic worked with Farnsworth Group to made significant changes to its West Wabash and Main Campus East locations. A completely new entrance, drop-off and ADA parking were added at the west facility to better serve patients. According to project architect Paul Wheeler, "The new canopy and renovation of the existing exterior is an attempt to update the facility's appearance and unify the 1985 single original clinic with the 1996 three-story addition."

Design challenges at the Main Campus East focused on circulation, providing separation of drop-off area, pedestrian walk routes and ADA access to improve safety and patient experience.



Farnsworth Group oversaw extensive renovations at two Springfield Clinic properties this year.

PHOTOS BY MUCHOW PHOTOGRAPHY

A new lobby, additional operating room and support spaces for the ambulatory service center were added to the overall project. **SBJ**

*Catherine O'Connor draws on a background of more than three decades working in the Illinois legislature, state government agencies and community organizations, sharing expertise in historic preservation and the environment, exploring topics that enrich community, social and cultural understanding.*

## President and CEO of HSHS to retire in 2021

Hospital Sisters Health System has announced that Mary Starmann-Harrison, president and CEO of HSHS, will retire in the second half of 2021. Starmann-Harrison has led the system for almost 10 years and will assist in transitioning her successor prior to her retirement in 2021. Korn Ferry has been retained to begin a national search for her replacement.

"Mary's contributions to the HSHS ministry over the past decade have far exceeded the usual measures for success," said Sister Jomary Trstensky, OSF, chair of Hospital Sisters Ministries. "In everything she undertook, she acted with passion and with a personal investment in the underlying HSHS mission. She maintained an absolute vigilance for the religious values of the organization even while she searched for new and contemporary ways of serving those entrusted to our care."

Starmann-Harrison was born and raised in the Chicago area. She graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in nursing and began her career as a registered nurse in the emergency department, later receiving a master's in health service administration. Prior to accepting her current role with HSHS, she served as regional president and CEO of SSM Health Care in Wisconsin for 12 years.

During Starmann-Harrison's tenure as HSHS president and CEO, HSHS has grown to 15 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin, adding HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, Illinois, and HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital in Shelbyville, Illinois to the system. Also in Illinois, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland and HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in

Belleville both relocated after the construction of new hospitals in Highland and O'Fallon.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve HSHS for the past decade," said Starmann-Harrison. "As I reflect on my long career in health care, there have been so many learnings, especially in the most challenging years such as 2020. I will always remember the inspiration from St. Francis which has guided me for many years, 'Start with doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.'"

The search for the next HSHS president and CEO will begin immediately. It is expected to take approximately six months to identify a successful candidate who will work closely with Starmann-Harrison prior to her retirement.

Starmann-Harrison and her husband, Greg, plan to retire in Arizona.

## Leaders optimistic with Moderna vaccine on the horizon

By Sarah Mansur, Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker announced on Dec. 18 that more than 17,000 doses of the first coronavirus vaccine have been administered to Illinois frontline health care workers outside of Chicago.

Pritzker said Illinois hospitals could begin to receive shipments of a second COVID-19 vaccine, developed by the drug company Moderna, as early as this week. That announcement comes one day after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's advisory committee recommended the use of the Moderna vaccine in people ages 18 and older. The FDA is expected to grant Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine.

The first vaccine, developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, received such authorization from the FDA last week.

The Moderna vaccine was shown to be 94.1% effective after two doses four weeks apart, compared to the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine that was found 95% effective after two doses three weeks apart.

"This is yet another very exciting development, and it reinforces and it brightens the light at the end of the tunnel for all of us who have been fighting through COVID-19," Pritzker said.

News about the vaccines comes as the state's coronavirus death toll surpassed 15,000, rising to 15,015 among 886,805 cases and more than 12 million test results reported since the beginning of the pandemic.

Two of the state's 11 mitigation regions — Region 1, which encompasses the northern and western portion of the state, and Region 6, which covers portions of eastern and central Illinois — have met the conditions laid out by the Pritzker administration to return to Tier 2 mitigations, from Tier 3, which all 11 regions entered by Nov. 20. But the governor said that does not mean existing regulations will be rolled back in the near future.

"First of all we're very glad that things are moving in the right direction. We're also concerned the numbers have not come down as precipitously as we would have liked

to have seen by now. And so that's of great concern to us. We're still seeing 7,000, 8,000, 9,000 cases every day, and we still have a positivity rate that's far from the (World Health Organization) recommended 5%," Pritzker said in response to a question about the regions that met criteria to return to Tier 2.

Despite the regions meeting the criteria, Pritzker has said no regions will be removed from stricter mitigations at this time, and it is unclear when the rollback of mitigations may begin.

"Since the surge hit us, it's been important for us to get the right trajectory of cases, and hospitalizations and ICU use, and to make sure that we get to the right level. Remember, there are still many hospitals around the state, that have limited ability to take in new ICU patients, or even new hospitalizations. And so we're trying very hard to bring it down all across the state before we start to relieve the regions from Tier 3 to Tier 2."



# Being an architect of change can take many forms

By Janet Seitz

The American Institute of Architects Illinois advocates for architects statewide and provides education and networking opportunities, while AIA Prairie chapter represents architects on a local level. As the executive director of AIA Prairie, Eric Klinner oversees day-to-day operations of the association.

"Managing education programs, meetings and interacting with the architects at different events helps keep me involved and up-to-date with knowing what challenges architects are facing in their profession," said Klinner.

Klinner, who has served the organization since 2006, came from an association management background but had always enjoyed buildings, art and the idea of becoming an architect. "Ultimately, I didn't pursue architecture as a career," he said, "but I now get to work with architects on a daily basis, putting my background in customer service, management and finance toward helping architects change the lives of those that interact with their creations."

Those changes can literally be blueprints for success for the community and organizations in need. AIA Illinois and AIA Prairie events have incorporated a community service aspect into most of their gatherings.

Klinner explained, "I have always enjoyed helping people, and I really enjoy the part of my job that lets me share that with others. From collecting donations for women's shelters to Habitat for Humanity builds, all of the times I have participated in any of these events has been a great experience."

The AIA staff volunteers time to causes of their choosing. "In the past, we have helped with Habitat houses, worked with local schools through Springfield Sharefest, helped put flooring in a local theatre and donated to a local restaurant to help serve the homeless in town," Klinner said.

Colleen Stone, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County, said AIA has partnered with Habitat to produce the blueprints for new home construction.

"Although we have a standard layout for our homes, we customize each home to match the needs of the future homeowner



AIA staff has volunteered on several Habitat for Humanity builds in Sangamon County. PHOTO COURTESY AIA ILLINOIS

– such as those with a disability – and each lot we build on has its own layout needs. AIA members have served on the Habitat board as well as volunteered to swing a hammer when needed," Stone said.

AIA staff volunteered for several Habitat for Humanity house builds in Springfield.

"I have always felt fortunate to have some skills to share and the chance to learn new skills while on these Habitat builds," Klinner said, who enjoys working with the other volunteers as well as getting to know the recipients of the homes, who work alongside the volunteers.

"Our entire board also joined in on another house where we were able to get work done, socialize, learn, grow, and most importantly, share our stories and experiences with others. I am very grateful to have learned so much with these opportunities to volunteer that I almost feel like I am taking more than I'm giving," he said.

AIA staff also helped out at the Legacy Theatre in Springfield. A staff member had performed there multiple times, said Klinner, and had mentioned the theatre needed

updates to create a better place to host gatherings prior to events.

"We were able to put new flooring in the entire lower level while the professionals did the lighting and some other work. Shortly after the completion of the project, I was able to take my family to an event there to enjoy the new space," said Klinner. "The best part was to see all of the families and children enjoying the space as a place to learn and play."

Klinner said, "I think the biggest challenge we face right now is that our members and our board have so many great ideas of how we can serve our members and the community, but we are unfortunately limited by our budget. With that in mind, I am proud that we do as much as we can to try to include everyone and reach out to so many in our community."

For more information, visit <https://www.aia.org/prairie>. **SBJ**

*Janet Seitz is a local communications professional, writer and artist. To share your story, contact her at [janetseitz1@gmail.com](mailto:janetseitz1@gmail.com).*

# New year, new laws

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

One would think that with COVID-19 and the legislature not coming back into session this year that there'd be a dearth of new laws and other nonsense coming out of the Statehouse. But Illinois government being Illinois government, that's just not the case. So let's take a look at some of the new laws that Illinois will be forced to deal with in 2021.

## Minimum wage

For the third time since 2020 the minimum wage will again increase, this time to \$11 per hour, effective Jan. 1, 2021. It will continue to increase on an annual basis until Jan. 1, 2025, when it reaches \$15 per hour.

## Employment and discrimination

Prior to July 1, 2020, employers with less than 15 employees were not subject to the full panoply of state discrimination laws. That changed this summer when the number of employees was reduced to one. In addition, Illinois employers are now required to file all judgments or rulings finding discrimination or harassment with the Illinois Department of Human Rights. The filings must be made by no later than July 1 of the following year.

## Illinois higher education program

Effective Jan. 1, 2021, every child born or adopted in Illinois will get \$50 deposited into a college savings account, also known as a 529 plan. Although that \$50 may only grow to a few hundred dollars by the time the young person is ready to apply to college, the hope is that children will be more likely to attend college simply by virtue of having a savings account. If not used by the age of 26, the money forfeits back to the state to be reinvested in the program. The state estimates the initial cost for the program will be \$8 million with an additional \$1.5 million for each year thereafter.

## Texting and driving

Distracted driving continues to be a problem, and the legislature this year decided to increase penalties for texting while driving where great bodily harm, permanent disability or disfigurement results. In that event, the driver's license will be suspended for 12 months and a minimum fine of \$1,000 will be imposed. In a similar vein, another new law requires a 12 month suspension for motorists who violate the right of way at crosswalks or school zones in which serious injury is caused to another person.

## Schools

Starting this school year, Illinois schools must teach LGBTQ history. Schools are also required to purchase "non-discriminatory" textbooks that include a focus on the "roles and contributions of all people protected under the Illinois Human Rights Act." Also, at least one semester of civics must be taught between sixth and eighth grades, with a focus on government institutions and the democratic process.

## Sexual harassment training

We touched on this last year, but it bears repeating: Every Illinois employer is required to provide sexual harassment training to all employees. Failure to do so could result in severe financial consequences. Employers may develop their own program or use a "model training plan" developed by the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Most employers are using the model plan, which can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Training/pages/default.aspx>. The training must be repeated every year. In addition, restaurants and bars are required to establish and distribute a separate written policy on sexual harassment to all employees within the first week of employment and must also provide supplemental training on harassment.

## Driver's licenses

Declaring it a public policy that people should have the right to drive to work despite not being able to pay a driving ticket, the legislature decreed that the Secretary of State cannot suspend a driver's license under these circumstances.

## Illinois retail act

So called "remote retailers" (think internet sales) who meet a threshold of 200 transactions or \$100,000 in gross revenues from Illinois residents are now required to collect and remit state and locally imposed sales taxes starting Jan. 1, 2021, thanks to the "Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act." According to the Illinois Municipal League, "This law ensures that sales made in marketplaces or by remote retailers, which have economic nexus in Illinois, are taxed at the same rate as brick-and-mortar businesses, therefore leveling the playing field for retailers and ensuring municipal governments have the revenues necessary to address their local needs."



Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney with Delano Law Offices in Springfield.

Send your legal questions to [tpavlik@delanolaw.com](mailto:tpavlik@delanolaw.com) for possible inclusion in a future column.

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#CommittedToServe



# Leading and uniting polarized people

By Kristina Barbee

With the presidential election over and a COVID-19 vaccine on its way, many people are breathing a sigh of relief that these polarizing and disruptive topics seem to be coming to an end. However, the effects that these divisions created may last well past President-elect Joe Biden's first term and the coronavirus' last wave.

As leaders, it is our job to bring our staff together and rally them around central goals and ideas. Doing so while staying physically apart is already challenging enough without the emotional and mental distance employees have created with one another. While difficult, it is not impossible to lead polarized teams and bring them together again.

Before you can bridge the divide, you must acknowledge it. Ignoring the issue causing polarization won't make the elephant (or donkey) in the room disappear. Instead, as a leader, you need to address the differences and find common ground.

Rather than calling out the ways each team member is divided, address the bigger issue of how your team can come together with transparent communication and honesty. Remind one another of your company's mission and goals. Additionally, it is not your job to always eliminate the polarization; your job is to prevent disruption and add civility back to your team. Don't focus on creating unanimity on the matter, focus on creating a functioning team again.

Trust is a core leadership principle and candor and honesty are two of the pillars that build it. Leaders who speak the truth, even when it is hard, become better and more trusted leaders. Speaking the truth can create friction at first with those who disagree, but it is



essential in order to build trust.

Coupling candor and compassion together can turn a hard truth into a unifying discussion.

Be transparent with your team on where the company stands on potentially divisive issues, what the leadership plan is for moving forward, and be frank about what you will and won't tolerate. While it's important to respect differences of opinion when creating true team diversity, bigoted beliefs and the spreading of false narratives are detrimental to creating cohesiveness.

Additionally, the most unifying leaders know that their voice isn't always what is needed. Sometimes, the best way to lead and bring others together is to just provide a space to air grievances, concerns and opinions and then to mediate and listen as needed. Shutting down any potentially divisive conversation isn't always the answer. In both our personal and professional lives, sometimes we simply just

need the space to speak on what divides us so we can move forward.

Lastly, be sure to focus equal energy on what unites your team. The beginning of the year is the perfect time to remind your team of the company's goals and mission and to generate ideas on how you can better integrate your duties into the corporate vision. Give your team items to focus on that unite them toward a shared goal.

In a polarized society, it can be hard to get people with different experiences and beliefs to come together. As a leader, it's your duty to pull your team in the right direction, together. **SBJ**



*Kristina Barbee is the founder and CEO of The CEO.Co, a leadership and career training company in Springfield that creates a workplace culture of excellence.*



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# Harvest Market

## has a variety of dining options

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By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

With all of Illinois stumbling back into Tier 3 mitigations, and with the arrival of cold weather, dining options aren't what they were just a few weeks ago – with take-out now our primary means of supporting the industry. Which is why when my editor suggested I try Harvest Market in White Oaks Plaza, which just opened in mid-November, I was intrigued by something new and different. Turns out that COVID-19 had other plans for us.

I'm sure most people are aware of all the work that went into converting County Market to the Harvest Market concept – anyone driving out west would have been sure to see it. Entering the store, there's a traditional grocery store to the right. But to the left, there's a two-level space that includes the Farmhouse Restaurant, various counters with prepared

food, a salad and soup bar and a second-floor mezzanine with a beer and wine bar. Although all indoor seating was unavailable, thanks to COVID, there's plenty of room for that when we get back to normal. The second floor is a smart space and is quite expansive with a clean and quasi-industrial look that we judged would be a particularly nice place to dine – especially with the wine and beer bar (again, closed due to COVID).

We decided to swing by Harvest Market on a cold and wet Friday night around 6:30 p.m. with a desire to sample some of Farmhouse Restaurant's offerings together with a smattering of prepared foods to bring home for a socially distanced dinner with neighbors. Unfortunately, we discovered that the impressive soup and salad bar had closed

at 6 p.m. and the Farmhouse Restaurant had closed at 4 p.m.

Regarding the Farmhouse Restaurant, it was hard to decipher what was on the menu, as the website was not clear whether the Champaign iteration's menu was the same as ours. If it was, there's a particularly impressive breakfast lineup. The board at the Springfield counter listed salads, flatbreads and an assortment of cold and hot sandwiches, including some interesting burgers like the veggie roasted garlic quinoa burger.

With half of Harvest Market's options unavailable to us, we had to proceed to Plan B – which ended up being a bit of a hodgepodge with no discernible theme. That consisted of a few orders of pre-prepared sushi, some salads, three pot pies (pepperoni pizza, peach





Top: A selection of pot pies. Bottom right: A fresh Waldorf salad. Bottom Left: A variety of sandwiches.



PHOTOS BY STACIE LEWIS

barbeque and Tex-Mex) and a pesto ciabatta sandwich. Our order totaled just under \$50.

The pot pies required heating in the oven for 15-20 minutes. The Tex-Mex was basically chili with corn and was the least popular. The barbeque and pizza pot pies, however, were quickly consumed. They all tasted fresh, were clearly made with quality ingredients and were appropriately sized. We all agreed that we appreciated that the filling-to-sauce ratio was spot on such that none of them were too dry.

The same couldn't be said for the caprese pasta salad – which, while also made with quality ingredients, suffered from dryness, no doubt from sitting around for part of the day. Had we sampled it earlier in the day, we decided it would have been much better. The Waldorf salad, on the other hand, had no such problems

and was also a crowd pleaser.

Likewise, the tuna avocado sushi roll had sat around too long, and the rice was no longer glutinous but instead quite dry. Again, had it been prepared to order or more recently, we concluded that it would have been on par with Harvest Market's peers. The seaweed salad suffered no such problem, and was packed with all the right notes – this was some good stuff and I kept it all for myself.

Our last dish, which we divvied up so all could sample, was the pesto ciabatta sandwich with turkey, two types of salami, cheese and pesto. Again, while it looked mouth-watering, time simply took its toll on this one. Had we

some fresh pesto at home to replace that which had soaked into the bread, it would have brought the sandwich back to life.

Part of this was operator error – we simply went too late in the day. Coupled with the fact that COVID prevents Harvest Market from putting its best food forward, we're confident that once we get on the backside of the pandemic that it, and the Farmhouse Restaurant, will be a nice addition to the west-side dining scene. It's for this reason that we're foregoing a score – we'll count this one as too early to tell. But we'll be back – hopefully sitting on the second floor sampling nice fresh food, sipping a beer and surveying the scene. **SBJ**

# New businesses

Sangamon County new business registrations, Nov.16 - Dec. 15, 2020

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**Cedar Real Estate Association**, 1217 S. Washington St., 217-220-4120. Keith Griffin.

**A Lil Bit of This, A Lil Bit of That**, 115 S. English Ave., 217-553-2260. Nancy Kay Francis.

**Next Generation Sanitizing**, 1401 N. 28th St., 217-622-9674. Sean M. Johnson, Lonnie D. Williams Jr., John M. Cody.

**A Final Touch**, 4173 Old Route 36, 217-622-3237. Nick McCarthy, Jenny McCarthy.

**Daezhavon Closet**, 909 S. 24th St., 217-220-1754. Daezhavon Gully.

**Lindys Endless Petals**, 3 Virginia Lane, Rochester, 201-841-4230. Melinda Josephine Ramistella.

**Signal1Safety: Construction and Health Safety Services**, 11292 Fitschen Road, Cantrall, 217-416-2634. Billy Halsey.

**TeddyFly with TJ**, 15 S. Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-441-4595. Tijuana Akers.

**Elliott Land Services**, 6240 S. Second St., 815-481-4519. Elliott Gebhardt.

**Social That Works**, 77 Bonnie Brook, Chatham, 217-717-6287. Dawn Huddleston.

**Urban Threads Boutique**, 10137 N. Pawnee Road, Pawnee, 217-823-3060. Rebecca Eugene Coontz.

**DERICK LAMONT TURNER**, 4200 Conestoga Drive, MBN 135, 317-220-5433. Derick Lamont Turner.

**Resonant Impact**, 1100 Jefferson St., Pawnee, 815-200-1090. Jason David Waddell.

**Capital City Dance Team**, 1824 S. Perkins Court, 217-381-3147. Sharon Deon Williams.

**MAPOGOFIRST**, 1220 S. Livingston St. 217-685-7796. Clyde Wallace.

**Studio 410 Salon**, 410 W. Jefferson St., Auburn, 217-438-6710. Ashley Kiel.

**Alexandria Harden**, 3171 Robbins Road, 309-323-0290. Alexandria Harden.

**EXTREME Lawncare & Landscape**, 1556 Seven Pines Road, Apt. F, 217-816-2446. Ronald Blake.

**Hypke's White River Retreat**, 5814 Curran Road, New Berlin, 217-741-4343. Catherine A. Hypke.

**Trev's Yard Service**, 4001 Sandhill Road, Lot 191, 217-494-7132. Trevor Price.

**A&A 507 Boutique**, 1712 Jerome Ave., 217-319-8704. Ayesha Fitch.

**Intertwine Loc Design**, 4300 Deming Drive, 217-481-0489. Jenaya Gant.

**K & K Family Meats**, 709 E. Gibson St., New Berlin, 217-652-0974. Kathryn King.

**Parti Kingdom**, 1161 W. Elliott Ave., 309-340-9385, David A. Bethard.

**Matthews Auto Body**, 2725 S. 11th St. 217-523-2166. C. Kelly Matthews.

**Ugly Nail by Eric and Tuba**, 1305 Wabash Ave., 217-546-7708. Ersen Yildirim, Tugba Yildirim.

**Let's Cee About It! Podcast**, 2110 Saratoga, Apt. 3, 217-572-3954. Ceaira McGrone.

**26B Vintage**, 212 Blake Court, 217-836-1045. Shelby Patrice Stouffe.

**Above Beyond Care (ABC)**, 1823 E. Cedar, 630-956-6919. Chevelle Hughes Estrada.

**Curry Chiropractic**, 2536 W. Farragut Drive, 217-502-1181. John Curry.

**The Urban Hippy, Inc.**, 1201 S. Veterans Parkway, Suite B, 217-836-4834. Gabrielle Rose Helmerichs, Allison Marie Hudspeth.

**Anytime Anywhere Handyman Services**, 1236 N. Oaklane Road, 210-420-0914. Mark M Courtney.




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# Businesses on the move

## Lisa's Boutique relocates to a historic storefront in Enos Park

After sitting vacant for decades and undergoing an extensive renovation, a historic storefront in Enos Park is now home to a new tenant. Lisa's Boutique opened on Dec. 13, offering a selection of women and men's clothing, shoes, jewelry and accessories. The business also sells and rents floral arrangements for special occasions or home décor, including custom pieces.

Owner Lisa Gaines started the business in 1999 and has had several different names and locations, most recently at White Oaks Mall. The turn-of-the-century building at 711 Enos Ave. in Enos Park was originally a grocery store, with the owners living on the second floor, and Gaines says she plans to live above her shop once renovations to the second level are complete.

In the meantime, Gaines says she wanted to get the retail portion on the lower level open right away to take advantage of holiday shoppers. "I took the opportunity to try and get the shop going. I'll have temporary hours in the evenings and on the weekends for now until I can find some part-time help," she said. Lisa's Boutique is currently open Monday-Friday from 5:30-8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sundays from 1-7 p.m.



## Cave Auction Services moves into former fire station

After falling into disrepair, the former fire station at 601 North Grand Ave. is getting a facelift. Don Cave, who purchased the property in October, has already redone the façade and says he plans to continue working on the building in the spring.

"I didn't want to see it torn down, it's a neat old building," said Cave, who said he had been keeping an eye on the property while it was on the market over the last couple of years.

The building was briefly used as a resale store, but has been largely vacant since the owner of Tomahawk Awards, Barbara Chesser, retired in 2015 and sold the business.

Cave said he already has the second floor rented out. "The upstairs is beautiful, the owner of Tomahawk lived up there." He's currently using the lower level as storage space for his auction business, Cave Auction Services, but says he will advertise it for lease once he completes additional renovations.

Cave, who was previously the managing broker for Coldwell Banker Springfield, moved to Florida last year but said he kept his Illinois real estate and auction licenses.

"Five of my seven children live in Illinois still and I have rental property there, so I go back and forth," he said. "I was born and raised in Sangamon County. I spent 50 years there, so it's hard to leave completely."



## Tacology 201 and Mane Moxie open in West Iles Business Center

The West Iles Business Center is now completely full, with the addition of two new tenants.

After a brief closure to allow for a transition to a west-side location, Tacology 201 opened on Dec. 16 at its new location, 3266 W. Iles Ave. Tacology 101 closed its downtown location Oct. 17 to focus on the final renovations of the new space.

At 3,800 square feet, Tacology 201 is significantly larger than its predecessor, although for now the restaurant will be limited to curbside service. Owner James Hamilton described his departure from downtown as a "bittersweet moment" and said he will continue to support downtown businesses by offering a selection of beverages from Buzz Bomb Brewing and Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling, as well as incorporating produce from the Old Capitol Farmers Market into menu items.

The West Iles Business Center was constructed in 2017, with Little Minds Learning Center initially slated to serve as the anchor tenant, occupying 6,000 square feet. However, developer Ben Call, a broker with The Real Estate Group, said the business "paid rent for two months and never opened at all." After what he described as a "long, drawn-out court battle," he said the owners of the center decided to "move in a different direction," which led to discussions with several potential tenants to take over the space, including Hamilton.

Tacology 101 was recognized with *Springfield Business Journal's* 15 Under Fifteen award in 2018.

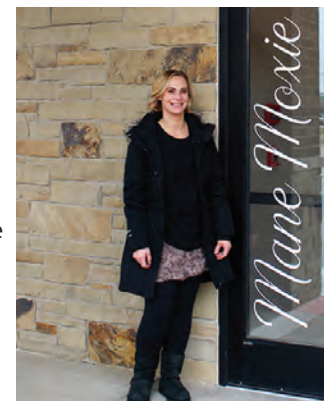
Whitney Kotowski has opened her own salon, Mane Moxie, at 3270 W. Iles.

"I've been doing hair for 20 years," Kotowski said. "I wanted to do my own thing and have a more intimate atmosphere for my clients."

Kotowski looked at various locations but settled on the remaining 2,200 square feet in the West Iles Business Center, next to Tacology 201. The salon officially opened on Dec. 11 and has eight cutting stations and five coloring areas.

"I have two assistants right now, and I'm going to start employing other stylists come January," said Kotowski.

"I've had a lot of family help support me along this journey, and I'm very thankful for everyone."





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