

QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

There follows a listing of significant issues responded to by station WEZC, Clinton, IL, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of January 1 to March 31. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<i>Description of program segment</i>	<i>Program or segment date</i>	<i>Time aired</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Description of issue</i>
City Government	Jan. 20, 2024	8:03 am	3:00	Clinton City Council Approves Brush Grinding Bids
City Government	Feb. 10, 2024	9:03 pm	3:00	Clinton City Councilman Reminds of Brush Pickup Policy
City Government	Feb. 22, 2024	8:03 am	3:00	City of Clinton Approves New Website
City Government	Feb. 24, 2024	5:03 pm	3:00	Frustration Growing With Fiber Optic Companies Digging in Clinton
City Government	March 6, 2024	4:03 pm	3:00	Clinton City Council Approves Naming of Arboretum

>>Clinton City Council Approves Brush Grinding Bids

What happens to all that brush you leave out for the City of Clinton crews to pick up over the months?

City Administrator Taylor Baxter indicates it gets taken care of by an outside company and bids to take care of the brush at the yard waste facility on the community's southeast side were approved earlier this week.

Cut: brushgrind :50 CUE: upcoming year

The Park Lane West development continues as well. Tuesday night at the Clinton City Council meeting, the Council approved the plats for those lots.

The Council also approved the purchase of real estate of the south property at 812 West Leander Street for \$26,600.

>>Clinton City Councilman Reminds of Brush Pickup Policy

With a stretch of very nice weather, a lot of folks have taken advantage of getting out and getting some light yardwork taken care of.

With a couple of small piles of brush popping up on community curbsides, Clinton Commissioner of Public Property Ken Buchanan reminds brush pickup will resume again in March.

Cut: brush :17 CUE: that's all I have

The Council held its first February meeting Tuesday night. It meets again on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

>>City of Clinton Approves New Website

City of Clinton officials are moving forward with a new website after the Clinton City Council approved a new website vendor on Tuesday night.

On the WHOW Morning Show Wednesday, City Administrator Taylor Baxter, following up the Council meeting from Tuesday, told Regional Radio the big selling point with the vendor they approved - Apttegy - was the fact they can help develop an app for the City.

Cut: citywebsite1 :67 CUE: residents informed

According to Baxter, the City needs a better design for the website. There are several areas the City could make the website more streamlined and provide better imagery for the site.

Cut: citywebsite2 1:21 CUE: forward to it

Baxter says the City website also needs a lot of improvements. It needs visibility improvements for those who struggle to read smaller texts. It needs more organization He calls it being 'blown up'.

Cut: citywebsite3 :60 CUE: make it easier

Updating the City website is also spurring conversations about re-branding. Baxter explains that has been and is on his radar and believes that will be the next priority after the website is updated.

Cut: citywebsite4 1:23 CUE: forward to that

Baxter indicates City personnel will begin planning for the website with hopes of it being ready to go live by the end of the summer or early fall.

>>Frustration Growing With Fiber Optic Companies Digging in Clinton

Frustration is growing as the crews continue digging for fiber optic internet in Clinton.

City Administrator Taylor Baxter indicates City crews are working to keep up with the demands of these companies. He admits it is indecorous to say but admits the whole process has been an inconvenience.

Cut: fiberdigging1 1:17 CUE:

Crews digging and hitting gas lines was a big issue last year. It resulted in a couple of instances of homes having to be evacuated. While there have not been any significant gas leaks yet this year, crews are still periodically hitting gas lines as they dig. Baxter admits it is a very frustrating situation.

The Clinton City Council approved the renaming of its arboretum on the community's east side.

At the Tuesday night Clinton City Council meeting, the Council approved the naming of the city's arboretum on Jefferson Street to the 'Carol Thompson-McFeeters Arboretum'. Commissioner John Wise read the resolution Tuesday...

Cut: arboretum1 2:24 CUE: than her

Edith Brady-Lunny and John Baker were on hand representing the Clinton Tree Commission on Tuesday.

Cut: arboretum2 :47 CUE: well deserved

Other tree talking points from Tuesday, Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements, Ken Buchanan reminded it is tree removal season for the City and he noted the great weather crews have been able to take advantage.

Cut: arboretum3 :28 CUE: that's all I have

Also Tuesday night, the Clinton City Council approved Kamren Wilford as the new City Clerk. She will serve a two-month vacancy left by the retirement of Cheryl Van Valey. Wilford's re-appointment will come up again in May with the other appointed city positions.

The Council meeting took on a new venue for the evening. The firehouse bay hosted the brief meeting as work on City Hall's elevator was not complete until after the agenda had been posted.

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County Government	Jan. 5, 2024	7:03 am	3:00	DeWitt County Board Chair Reflects on 2023
County Government	Jan. 19, 2024	8:03 am	3:00	Interested Parties Check Out Clinton Lake Marina; DeWitt County Board Meets Briefly Thursday
County Government	Jan. 25, 2024	2:03 pm	3:00	DeWitt County Board Chair Gives Update on Marina Sale
County Government	Feb. 26, 2024	4:03 pm	3:00	DeWitt County Has A New Website
County Government	March 8, 2024	3:03 pm	3:00	DeWitt County Circuit Clerk Announces New App

>>DeWitt County Board Chair Reflects on 2023

It was another eventful year in DeWitt County in 2023.

DeWitt County Board Chair Dan Matthews recently ran down some of the highlights of the previous year - including improvements made to the County building thanks to COVID dollars. Additionally, those dollars have helped numerous groups in DeWitt County

Cut: county231 1:20 CUE: those things moving

Another hot topic from the previous year was the Clinton Lake Marina and the County Board moved quickly to begin the sale of it. Matthews hopes to see that issue settled in the first of the year and stresses any proposal accepted will keep the marina open to the public permanently.

Cut: county232 1:13 CUE: pretty busy

Also coming up in the fall of 2024 will be more County Board elections.

>>COUNTY GOVT: Interested Parties Check Out Clinton Lake Marina; DeWitt County Board Meets Briefly Thursday

A few interested parties have begun to make visits to the Clinton Lake Marina as the window for RFPs (request for proposal) is open.

At the DeWitt County Board meeting Thursday night, a very brief meeting of the board was highlighted by a few short discussions. Board Chair Dan Matthews, who chairs the Marina Committee, informed the board they are having a few interested parties tour and visit the Clinton Lake Marina.

Cut: shortmeet1 :55 CUE: thought I saw it

The DeWitt County Land Use Committee continues to effort Enel for information regarding the lights on the wind towers on its Alta Farms wind farm. Buck Carter chairs the Land Use Committee and indicates they hope to have Enel before the board still in the first quarter of this year.

Cut: shortmeet2 :62 CUE: first quarter

Megan Myers chairs the Public Safety Committee and gave an update on the animal shelter.

Cut: shortmeet3 :

The animal shelter and the EMS building are receiving generators. Property Committee Chairperson Terry Ferguson notes the cost of the animal shelter generator is just over \$11,000 and the EMS building generator is just short of \$12,000.

Cut: shortmeet4 2:01 CUE: that project

The Board approved slip and mooring agreements for 2024. It was a roughly 15 minute meeting on Thursday.

>>DeWitt County Board Chair Gives Update on Marina Sale

The DeWitt County Board could be on its way to selling the Clinton Lake Marina in 2024.

As the request for proposal (RFP) process wraps up in the next month, DeWitt County Board Chair Dan Matthews indicates earlier this month they did a tour of the facility for some interested parties and there was a lot of positive feedback.

Cut: marina1 1:28 CUE: out there today

Interested parties can continue to inquire about the marina until the middle of February when the RFP window closes. Matthews believes they are going to receive a lot of good bids for the property.

Cut: marina2 :46 CUE: April 1

Ideally, Matthews would like to see the new owner at the Marina ahead of the busy boating season which would mean almost an early spring sale that would have to be approved by the full Board.

Cut: marina3 1:14 CUE: start developing

One of the appealing aspects of the marina that seems to appeal to potential bidders is its availability for growth and development. Matthews notes they are looking forward to hearing the ideas of potential developers in the next month.

>>DeWitt County Has A New Website

DeWitt County has a new website and the DeWitt County Board Chair is raving about the changes made to the site.

On the WHOW Morning Show Friday, Board Chair Dan Matthews told Regional Radio - Board member Pat Ryan put in a lot of work to get the site updated and more streamlined. He calls the update to the site well overdue.

Cut: newsite1 :59 CUE: to the website

Matthews explains they wanted the website to be much more informative so if you visit the site, you'll notice right away there is more promotion of some of the things happening in DeWitt County.

Cut: newsite2 :60 CUE: from us

The new website is mobile-friendly. That is going to be a huge improvement from the former site. Matthews calls it much more user-friendly and indicates you can even sign up for email notifications.

Cut: newsite3 :40 CUE: mobile phone

The URL is still the same, dewittcountyill.com.

>>DeWitt County Circuit Clerk Announces New App

The DeWitt County Circuit Clerk has announced a new app.

Michelle Van Valey says she was able to secure a grant that helped modernize several aspects of her office and the Courthouse.

Cut: clerkapp1 1:18 CUE: circuit clerk's page

According to Van Valey, the app is available to users for both Apple and Androids and they were able to secure the grant for nearly \$150,000 which covered the entire cost of development plus the additions to the courthouse.

Cut: clerkapp2 :53 CUE:

Van Valey says the app is going to allow the public to do a lot of things they would need to do at the courthouse now online. She believes it will not only be a big time saver but also a much more convenient way of conducting business.

Cut: clerkapp3 :50 CUE: as well

Van Valey reminds civil cases are all e-filings. If that is something you cannot do from your home or don't have access to the things you need, there is a computer in the Circuit Clerk's office at the courthouse that is available for those. That change is from 2018.

Van Valey reminds the new app is available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play.

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Healthcare	Jan. 2, 2024	4:03 pm	3:00	Open Enrollment for Medicare Advantage
Healthcare	Jan. 17, 2024	4:03 pm	3:00	Mental Health Professional Looks Ahead to 2024
Healthcare	Feb 15, 2024	7:03 am	3:00	Kenney Fire Department Announces Annual Good Friday Blood Drive
Healthcare	Feb. 29, 2024	3:03 pm	3:00	Community Care Systems Offers Heart Health Tips for Caregivers
Healthcare	March 6, 2024	2:03 pm	3:00	March is National Nutrition Month

>>Open Enrollment for Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage open enrollment has begun.

Kim Castillo with Community Care Systems explains Medicare Advantage is much like the Medicare Part B open enrollment period that just wrapped up in that the plans change yearly so it is a good idea to get in and review those plans.

Cut: advantageenroll1 :56 CUE: thousands

Castillo indicates the changes every year to Medicare Advantage can be difficult because one year a senior's doctor may be covered under a plan but then not the next.

Cut: advantageenroll2 :14 CUE: basis

Castillo adds Medicare Advantage open enrollment is not nearly as busy as the Part B open enrollment - so there is plenty of opportunity to catch her throughout DeWitt County in the next several weeks to review your coverage.

Cut: advantageenroll3 1:23 CUE: 2 to 4

To get a hold of Castillo to schedule an appointment or ask any questions you may have, you can reach her at 217-518-8010. Castillo notes she can also help with numerous other senior assistance programs.

>>Mental Health Professional Looks Ahead to 2024

A Central Illinois mental health and substance abuse professional is excited about things happening in Central Illinois in the year ahead.

On the WHOW Morning Show Tuesday, Tony Kirkman, Executive Director of the Piatt County Mental Health Center, told Regional Radio there are a lot of good things happening in the year ahead in both Piatt County and DeWitt County.

Cut: piattmhc241 1:10 CUE: in DeWitt County

Later this spring, the Piatt County Mental Health Center will help coordinate the Illinois Youth Survey for 2024. Kirkman reminds this is an every-other-year survey of youth on a variety of topics that are of interest to those in the mental health field.

Cut: piattmhc242 1:30 CUE: 2024

According to Kirkman, there are some alarming trends and he is curious to see how they continue to play out in the year ahead. One is the continued impact of legalized marijuana on youth.

Cut: piattmhc243 :67 CUE: trauma exposure

Kirkman also notes in the year ahead, as the stigma around getting treatment for mental health continues to wear away in society, it means more and more people are coming to places like the Piatt County Mental Health Center for treatment, and funding for those institutions are not adequate at all. He hopes that will be noticed and addressed in the year ahead.

>>Kenney Fire Department Announces Annual Good Friday Blood Drive

Sign-ups are underway for the Kenney Fire Department's annual Good Friday blood drive on March 29.

Kerry Coles with the Kenney Fire Department indicates giving blood is a very selfless act that doesn't take hardly any time at all and has a great impact at a time when blood is in high demand.

Cut: kenneyblood1 :49 CUE: need to it

Impact Life will take on its second year working with the Kenney Fire Department and Michelle Trunnell with Impact Life stressing that donations made to them stay local.

Cut: kenneyblood2 :66 CUE: patients

Kenney Fire's Fritz Robinson indicates they started this annual blood drive as a memorial drive with simple hopes of a modest start but it quickly became so popular it takes up the entirety of the Kenney Fire Station.

Cut: kennyblood3 1:33 CUE: as we can

KC explains there are many perks to being a blood donor. The pre-screening process is actually a mini-physical and they've seen examples of people that have sought medical attention because of a revelation at the screening process they were not aware of.

Cut: kenneyblood4 :46 CUE: somethin' wrong w/ him

Trunnell says the process of giving blood from start to finish is roughly 45 minutes. She outlines the check-in and registration process...

Cut: kenneyblood5 :42 CUE:

Coles hopes to see first-time donors come out this year. He notes there is a majority of people that do not donate blood simply because they are not asked or they have a stigma around the process.

To learn more about giving blood with the Kenney Fire Department on Friday, March 29, find the Kenney Fire Department on Facebook.

>>Community Care Systems Offers Heart Health Tips for Caregivers

February is Heart Health Month and a central Illinois non-profit is providing tips for caregivers and their heart health.

Caregivers often overlook their health in pursuit of caring for those around them but on the WHOW Morning Show Wednesday, Rebecca Wheat told Regional Radio they are trying to promote heart health during this Heart Health Month for caregivers.

Cut: caregiverhealth1 1:10 CUE: you're a caregiver

According to Wheat, caregivers tend to have at least two chronic illnesses they deal with. She reminds of the golden rule of caregiving - one must take care of oneself before one can care for others.

Cut: caregiverhealth2 :54 CUE: caring for them

The American Heart Association has some tips for caregivers to help with better heart health and Wheat indicates one of the top priorities is a hearth healthy diet and they are welcoming a University of Illinois Extension nutrition educator to talk with caregivers about ways to maintain a better diet.

Cut: caregiverhealth3 :55 CUE: very topic

Caregivers need to prioritize physical activity and Wheat says there are many options locally that have opportunities for caregivers to benefit from. She says for many of the American Hearth Association's recommendations, there are local resources available for caregivers.

Cut: caregiverhealth4 :63 CUE: with that

There are a lot of opportunities also through Community Care Systems. Contact Wheat for more details on her classes and other informative health offerings by calling 309-445-7098.

Community Care Systems also has an office at the DeWitt Manor high-rise in Clinton at 520 East Main Street.

>>March is National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month and the St. Louis District Dairy Council has a unique tip for adding a superfood to your diet.

Cottage cheese is growing in popularity and on the WHOW Morning Show Tuesday, Monica Nyman with the St. Louis District Dairy Council told Regional Radio cottage cheese has a lot of versatility.

Cut: cottagecheese1 :66 CUE: nutrition month

According to Nyman, cottage cheese is very versatile, and notes once you get to a puree form, you can do all sorts of things with it.

Cut: cottagecheese2 :57 CUE:

Cottage cheese is also an incredible source of protein and other nutrients. Nyman explains cottage cheese has an incredible amount of protein per serving and emphasizes the various ways you're able to get cottage cheese into a meal.

Cut: cottagecheese3 1:34 CUE: that way

StldairyCouncil.org has a great wealth of information about cottage cheese and its versatility.

You can also follow the Dairy Council on Facebook and Instagram.

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Education	Jan. 22, 2024	8:03 am	3:00	Clinton Schools to Upgrade Sports Entrance
Education	Jan. 11, 2024	3:03 pm	3:00	WHOW School Road Tour: Facilities Hot Topic at Clinton High School
Education	Feb. 27, 2024	4:03 pm	3:00	Clinton Schools Superintendent Adds to Last Week's Playgrounds Discussion
Education	March 15, 2024	7:03 am	3:00	Clinton Community Education Foundation Awards Annual Teacher Grants
Education	March 23, 2024	2:03 pm	3:00	Clinton Community Education Foundation to Bring Back 'Derby Day' Fundraiser

>>Clinton Schools to Upgrade Sports Entrance

The sports entrance at Clinton High School will receive an upgrade this summer that is going to make one of the heavier trafficked areas of the school during non-school hours much more accessible.

Clinton Schools Superintendent Curt Nettles indicates last Tuesday night, the Board of Education approved the upgrade that will make the entrance handicap accessible.

Cut: sportsentrance1 :68 CUE: doors there as well

According to Nettles, this past summer, the drive runs alongside the school and around the back of the school was paved and the parking spaces off that run were paved. He indicates the parking lot is on the radar to be improved as well.

Cut: sportsentrance2 :38 CUE: that can be done

The facilities have come under scrutiny of late. The Clinton Board of Education has done extensive work to target areas of need both inside the building and outside the building.

The community has taken notice of the facilities updates as well. Like anything, some find incredible value in the targeted improvements and others do not. Administrators emphasize, inside the building is receiving just as much attention as those issues outside most visible to the public eye.

>>WHOW School Road Tour: Facilities Hot Topic at Clinton High School

The facilities at Clinton High School have been a hot topic for the last several months as late last year a multi-million renovation of the high school football and track complex was announced on top of last summer's renovation of the high school gymnasium and high school cafeteria.

On the WHOW Morning Show School Road Tour, athletic director Matt Koeppel told Regional Radio while the sports facilities have gotten a lot of attention, he stresses the rest of the building has seen and will see its share of improvements as well.

Cut: facilities1 :69 CUE: really is

Principal Jerry Wayne told Regional Radio there are a lot of plans in place to address areas of need inside the building and while they are not flashy nor often visible to the public, they are things that need to be addressed.

Cut: facilities2 2:27 CUE: all about sports

As it relates to the football and track complex, Wayne and Koeppel hope to see the home and away bleachers flipped next summer with a new press box that will have individual rooms. Koeppel indicates they hope to model their press box after the renovation at IVC in Chillicothe.

>>Student Leaders Share Testimony

As a part of the WHOW Morning Show School Road Tour, student leaders at Clinton High School highlighted some of the things they are involved in.

Davis Howell is the FFA Chapter President and told Regional Radio the FFA is gearing up for its always popular strawberry fundraiser.

Cut: students1 :59 CUE: order some

Karla Ramirez is the Student Council President and says she encourages her fellow students and students coming into high school to get involved and try new things.

Cut: students2 :45 CUE: student council

Howell and Ramirez are both seniors at Clinton High School.

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Adds to Last Week's Playgrounds Discussion

Last week was an irregularly contentious meeting of the Clinton Board of Education and parents over the accessibility of playground equipment.

The contention of Tyler and Brandy Smith is the district is not doing enough for its students with special needs to be able to have access to playground equipment at its three schools. Superintendent Curt Nettles says he feels for the students who cannot get around and do all the things of their peers, but he notes they do what they need to accommodate those students.

Cut: nettlesplayground1 2:08 CUE:

One of the allegations against the school district is that the playgrounds are not in compliance with ADA standards which Nettles explains is often a misunderstood requirement.

Cut: nettlesplayground2 :64 CUE: this and that

The upcoming renovation of the high school football field and other athletic facility improvements in the last few years have come under scrutiny from those advocating for improvements to playground equipment but Nettles points out, those projects have taken several years of planning, and planning for a playground improvement requires consideration.

Cut: nettlesplayground3 2:45 CUE: take a look at that

It was suggested to the Clinton Board of Education last week that the district and community work together to fundraise for this effort. Nettles says personally, he does not like that idea because the community already pays taxes into the school system for things like playgrounds and facility maintenance.

Cut: nettlesplayground4 :

There is frustration on the side of the parents that the Board of Education is not communicating with them about this. Nettles says the activity on social media kept the topic on the Board's radar but he also there have been other one-on-one conversations that took place as well.

Cut: nettlesplayground5 1:35 CUE:

Nettles indicates he has not been contacted by anyone seeking an inspection of district

playground equipment and also points out the district's insurance inspects the equipment a couple of times per year and has seen no major issues that needs correcting in those inspections.

>>Clinton Community Education Foundation Awards Annual Teacher Grants

Teachers across Clinton schools were surprised this week when leadership from a non-profit showed up with grant money for their classrooms.

The Clinton Community Education Foundation recently awarded its annual teacher grants. CCEF Secretary Chris Shaffer says this is an annual effort they do that helps bridge the gap that can enhance school classrooms but may be things the district cannot afford to fund.

Cut: ccefgrants241 :41 CUE: allow for

Shaffer notes they awarded 15 individual grants across the various Clinton school buildings late last week and early this week.

Cut: ccefgrants242 2:14 CUE: have available

Shaffer reminds they also sponsor recurring grants - most notably for the Challenger program at Heartland Community College and for 'Read Across Clinton'.

Cut: ccefgrants243 :31 CUE: that information

In total, the CCEF awarded 15 individual grants across the various school buildings totaling just over \$20,500.

The CCEF also recently announced it is bringing back its annual Derby Day - Kentucky Derby-themed - fundraiser in May. We'll have more on that next week on Regional Radio.

>>Clinton Community Education Foundation to Bring Back 'Derby Day' Fundraiser

A signature event of a Clinton non-profit is returning this year.

The Clinton Community Education Foundation has announced it is bringing back its 'Derby Day Fundraiser - a fundraiser surrounding the happenings of the Kentucky Derby. CCEF Secretary Chris Shaffer explains they did not host the event last year but are prepared to make it happen.

Cut: ccefderbyday1 :

For tickets visit ccef15.org. The Kentucky Derby runs May 4.

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Economic Development	Jan. 4, 2024	7:03 am	3:00	DeWitt County Development Council Director: 2024 The Year People Will Take Notice
Economic Development	Jan. 20, 2024	4:03 pm	3:00	Clinton Chamber of Commerce Considering Moving Annual Christmas Parade to Night Parade
Economic Development	Feb. 21, 2024	8:03 am	3:00	Clinton Power Plant Files Renewal Application
Economic Development	March 5, 2024	2:03 pm	3:00	Clinton Chamber of Commerce Hosts Annual Dinner
Economic Development	March 7, 2024	11:03 am	3:00	DCDC Director Returns from Rural Economic Development Conference Rejuvenated

>>DeWitt County Development Council Director: 2024 The Year People Will Take Notice

The executive director of a DeWitt County non-profit aimed at boosting the local community is excited about the year ahead with a bold proclamation.

Curt Homann is the Executive Director of the DeWitt County Development Council and indicates his excitement for the year ahead because of the work they have been doing in the last few years.

Cut: dcdc241 :60 CUE: at this point

Homann calls 2024 a year people will take notice.

Cut: dcdc242 1:11 CUE: for sure

The City of Clinton and the City of Farmer City have some things happening that Homann indicates will mean development and whether or not the DCDC had a hand in those things, any development is worthy of highlighting.

Cut: dcdc243 :42 CUE: keep open

We'll have more with Homann in the weeks ahead as a record year of grant funding for the community is already underway.

Follow the DeWitt County Development Council on Facebook to keep up with the latest for an anticipated busy year ahead.

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce Considering Moving Annual Christmas Parade to Night Parade

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is considering a rather big change to one of its annual events.

Janice Peterson is the Executive Director of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and indicates they are exploring moving the annual Christmas parade to a nighttime parade.

Cut: nightparade :10 CUE: Christmas time

Peterson indicates they are also exploring making Santa's House on the square more accessible and would like to see more around the house this holiday season.

>>Clinton Power Plant Files Renewal Application

Constellation, the owner of Clinton's power plant, filed a license renewal application to keep the plant operating for another 20 years.

Leaders with Constellation filed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission application to extend the contract from 2027 to 2047. The plant, which provides over 13 million dollars in annual property taxes, education, and county services, produces carbon-free electricity to power over eight hundred thousand homes. The current contract for the plant could expire in April 2027 unless the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extends the contract. Brett Nauman is with Constellation Communications.

cut: powerstationrenewal 1:39 CUE: remain in place

Renewing the plant could provide Illinois with an estimated 1-hundred 79 terawatt hours of additional carbon-free electricity over the contract's lifespan.

The 4 billion dollar plant, surrounded by Clinton Lake, employs over 5-hundred 30 people.

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce Hosts Annual Dinner

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual dinner Saturday night at the Clinton Country Club.

Chamber Board President Ed Cicenias highlighted the previous year of activities for the Chamber. From a great Business Expo last March to another successful May Days event, the Chamber's biggest fundraiser, the haunted house, remains very successful.

Cut: chamberdinner1 1:46 CUE: weekend following

Cicenias is excited about the year ahead. Saturday night kicked off the Chamber's annual raffle for the year and he looks forward to positive changes to some of its events.

Cut: chamberdinner2 3:42 CUE: to work on that

According to Cicenias, the Chamber of Commerce is looking to revamp its website this year and the benefits for its members.

Cut: chamberdinner3 :47 CUE: Clinton Chamber

The Clinton Chamber also announced the winners of its annual awards.

The non-profit of the year award went to the Clinton Eagles.

The small business of the year award, which is between 1 and 11 employees, went to Sweet Mae's Ice Cream Shoppe.

The medium business of the year, for businesses with 12 to 75 employees, went to Calvert Funeral Home.

The large business of the year was Baum Chevrolet Buick/Baum Chrysler Jeep in Clinton.

>>DCDC Director Returns from Rural Economic Development Conference Rejuvenated

A DeWitt County economic development leader returned from a recent conference rejuvenated and inspired by what could be some great opportunities locally.

Curt Homann is the Executive Director of the DeWitt County Development Council and explains the Rural Economic Development Conference in Springfield is annually the best event he attends.

Cut: redc1 :37 CUE: time on these

One of the breakout sessions from this conference was about tax credits that are available for building rehab and what that could mean for local developers or business owners.

Cut: redc2 :35 CUE: in our county

According to Homann, he encountered a group that rehabs buildings and then makes money off the businesses that end up in those rehabbed buildings. He was quite blown away by the possibility of that for DeWitt County.

Cut: redc3 1:49 CUE: business districts

Homann calls it a mindset shift and believes it is not only a revitalization of rural America but it is part of what he sees as a growing shift in people migrating to small, rural communities.

Cut: redc4 1:39 CUE: really moving forward

While Homann returned from the conference inspired, he reminds many initiatives and the fruits of those efforts are going to be felt several years down the road. However, he feels very positively about the possibilities for development in DeWitt County after his experience in Springfield.