

QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

There follows a listing of significant issues responded to by station WHOW, Clinton, IL, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of October 1 to December 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 issue</i>	<i>Program or segment date</i>	<i>Time aired</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Description of program segment</i>
Warner Hospital and Health Services Offering Safe Sitter Class October 5	October 1, 2019	8:10 am	2:15	Healthcare
City of Clinton Shifting Tax Dollars from Hospital to Fire Pension Fund	November 11, 2019	12:13 pm	3:00	Healthcare
Warner Hospital In Holding Pattern For Planned Improvements	November 14, 2019	12:15 pm	3:45	Healthcare
Warner Hospital CEO Credits Board With Financial Health Status	December 11, 2019	8:31 am	4:15	Healthcare
Warner Hospital Projects Making Slow Progress	December 19, 2019	4:20 pm	2:35	Healthcare

>>Warner Hospital and Health Services Offering Safe Sitter Class October 5

Warner Hospital and Health Services will be offering a Safe Sitter class on Saturday, October 5.

Ashley Angel, Safe Sitter instructor, indicates the class is designed to give students in 6-8 grades babysitting skills. Students will learn how to respond to natural disaster warnings, behavior management, and basic first aid.

Cut: safesit1 :47 Cue: before help arrives

Angel notes they usually have around 8-10 students per class due to the class being structured around hands-on training. Students will also receive handouts to remind them what was discussed in the class. Angel says the feedback from previous classes has been positive.

Cut: safesit2 :41 Cue: we're very open

Safe Sitter will be held on Saturday, October 5 from 10 am to 4:30 pm at the Warner Wellness Center located at 418 West South Street in Clinton. The class fee is \$10 and students should bring a sack lunch.

The deadline to register is Thursday, October 3. To register call (217) 935-5258 or email events@warnerhospital.org.

>>City of Clinton Shifting Tax Dollars from Hospital to Fire Pension Fund

The City of Clinton is going to do some maneuvering of tax dollars from one local entity to another.

The financial health of the city-owned Warner Hospital and Health Services is giving city leadership the option to shift funds from the hospital to the fire pension fund. City Treasurer Clint Lichtenwalter explains there's an incentive to getting that fire pension fund built up.

Cut: fundsshift1 1:33 CUE: 2.5-million number

While communities across central Illinois struggle maintaining the pension funds for their police and firefighters, Clinton has been one of the leaders in keeping those balances well funded over the years.

Cut: fundsshift2 :52 CUE: is really good

The State of Illinois is pushing changes to the pension system for police and fire that could devastate communities like Clinton. We'll hear more from Lichtenwalter on those changes and what that could mean for the City of Clinton tomorrow on Regional Radio News.

>>Warner Hospital In Holding Pattern For Planned Improvements

Warner Hospital and Health Services are playing a waiting game to get their planned improvements started within the facility.

The city-owned facility is planning to move their billing department to 70 Clinton Plaza, behind KFC but CEO Paul Skowron indicates they are waiting for fiber to be installed there so they can have internet connectivity.

Cut: hospitalprojects1 :57 CUE: expanding the emergency room

Improvements to the emergency room and relocation of the pharmacy are a few of the plans the hospital is waiting on for approval from the State of Illinois. Skowron says once they get the 'thumbs up', they'll get those going.

Cut: hospitalprojects2 :58 CUE: kind of treatment

The pharmacy project has had a new development recently. In recent interviews on Regional Radio News, Skowron has indicated that the project had a completion date requirement of the end of the year but the requirement has been modified.

Cut: hospitalprojects3 :

The drive of the hospital has undergone a recent redo as well. Skowron indicates their circle drive and an area near family medicine will be taken care of. It will be touch-ups of some work that was done earlier.

>>Warner Hospital CEO Credits Board With Financial Health Status

Clinton City leaders have called Warner Hospital and Health Services in the best financial position they've ever seen and the leader of the city-owned entity is crediting his Board for that praise.

CEO Paul Skowron indicates nearly five years ago, the Board took on strategic planning and the work out of that plan is starting to pay dividends.

Cut: skowrononfinancialhealth1 1:16 CUE: walk-in clinic

According to Skowron, the hospital's relationship with larger healthcare groups and he says that is allowing them more opportunities. He says those groups are noticing what Warner Hospital and Health Services are doing and want to be a part of it.

Cut: skowrononfinancialhealth2 :36 CUE: that experience

The expansion of services and the specialty clinic offerings have grown in Skowron's time as the leader of the hospital. He indicates that will continue to be a focus for him and their leadership.

Cut: skowrononfinancialhealth3 1:13 CUE: specialty clinic

The hospital employs 150 people with 35-percent making up residents of DeWitt County. Skowron indicates as they also attract good clinicians and doctors, they attract good employees. He notes having a successful hospital in Clinton and DeWitt County makes the community more attractive for potential developers, employers, and businesses.

>>Warner Hospital Projects Making Slow Progress

As we approach the new year, several projects at Warner Hospital and Health Services should kick into high gear.

Starting with the hospital's billing department moving locations, CEO Paul Skowron says they are getting the new 70 Clinton Plaza prepared for staff to move in at the first of the year.

Cut: hospitalprojects1 :42 CUE: part of that process

The Illinois Department of Public Health recently approved the hospital's remodel of their pharmacy. According to Skowron, bid quotes have gone out the hospital held a special meeting to approve the remodel contracts.

Cut: hospitalprojects2 :44 CUE: complete that construction

According to Skowron, the emergency room remodel should have drawings done in January and possibly ready to show the Board in February.

The hospital board does not meet in December.

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Clinton Junior High School Teacher Honored by Illinois State Board of Education	October 22, 2019	8:13 am	2:15	Education
Clinton Schools Superintendent Defends Updated Report Card for Elementary School	November 4, 2019	8:13 am	3:30	Education
Clinton High School Principal Sounds Off on Public Perception of District Passion	November 20, 2019	4:23 pm	4:45	Education
Clinton Schools Superintendent Addresses Loss of Elementary Student	November 21, 2019	7:13 am	5:00	Education
Students, Parents Meetings Set For Youth Mental Health Course at Clinton High School	December 10, 2019	2:30 pm	4:30	Education

>>Clinton Junior High School Teacher Honored by Illinois State Board of Education

Special education teacher at Clinton Junior High School, Jessica Hubrich, was recognized this weekend by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Hubrich was nominated for the "Teachers Who Excel" award and says it was very humbling to be recognized by those around her. She says she's just one of many teachers in her building doing amazing things.

Cut: hubrichrecognized1 :49 CUE: in my classroom

Hubrich calls herself very passionate and works hard to advocate for the special education students in her classroom. She says she fights to make sure they have what they need to be successful.

Cut: hubrichrecognized2 :28 CUE: to be honest with you

Hubrich was in attendance for the "Those Who Excel" banquet at the Marriott Hotel in Normal. She says it was interesting to be there and hear the stories of things happening in education all over Illinois.

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Defends Updated Report Card for Elementary School

The latest designations were released earlier this week by the Illinois State Board of Education and by first glance you might think something is up at Clinton Elementary School.

According to Superintendent Curt Nettles, that could not be farther from the truth. He calls their designation as 'underperforming' a misnomer because they have one area they are struggling in and are showing growth in primary areas.

Cut: nettlesoncesdesignate1 :67 CUE: as underperforming

Otherwise, Nettles says the district is doing well. He says the system is about measuring growth and that is what they are looking for.

Cut: nettlesoncesdesignate2 :41 CUE: both commendable

The standards have evolved in recent years and the State has replaced their testing that was formerly known as PARCC. Nettles explains because of all the changes at once, it is hard to measure growth over a longer period.

Cut: nettlesoncesdesignate3 :

Nettles indicates, while the special education students of the district predictably struggle with the same assessment of the rest of their peers, the State tries to sell districts the testing is only a snapshot of their overall performance. However, he questions why the state gives designations off the test scores if that is the case.

>>Clinton High School Principal Sounds Off on Public Perception of District Passion

The emotional reaction to tragic events can create a social media firestorm of accusations and speculation. Administrators in Clinton schools have been dealing with such things this week in light of a Clinton Elementary student who tragically passed away late last week.

Tuesday night at the Clinton Board of Education meeting, high school principal Jerry Wayne says he'll never apologize for wanting to do what is best for his students.

Cut: mrwaynesoundsoff1 :35 CUE: at any time

According to Wayne, his students were selected to be a part of a training opportunity that will help them to recognize and help their peers who are in need of help. He says it was made possible at the suggestion of one of the high school teachers.

Cut: mrwaynesoundsoff2 1:17 CUE: be a part of the study

Wayne points out mental health has been a focus of staff across the district for some time. He is unapologetic to anyone who has no knowledge of the things happening in the buildings of the schools.

Cut: mrwaynesoundsoff3 :58 CUE: youth mental health first aid

Changing the culture in the schools has been a focus for a few years now and Wayne says it all centers around building relationships with the students. He feels this year has been a "tipping point".

Cut: mrwaynesoundsoff4 :68 CUE: conversations that happen

Wayne feels there has been a complete shift in the approach they are taking and believes it will result in gains that will allow them to build on the educational side of things.

Each building principal gave updates of the things happening in their buildings Wednesday night before the Board of Education.

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Addresses Loss of Elementary Student

Tragedy again struck Clinton schools last week after the loss of an elementary student and the leader of Clinton schools offered up his condolences.

Wednesday morning on the WHOW Morning Show, Superintendent Curt Nettles told Regional Radio News says while it has been tough on students at staff at CES, it is even more heartbreaking for the young girl's family.

Cut: nettlesonloss1 1:34 CUE: a job well done

Unfortunately, ten-year-old Rosie Osario is the second Clinton student to lose her life in as many years and in recent days, the district has come under fire about how to handle the scenario surrounding her passing, especially on social media. Nettles recognizes his staff has seen those things and addressed that Wednesday....

Cut: nettlesonloss2 1:11 CUE: came up this time

Nettles calls the district ready to deal with any issues surrounding their students. He indicates they have books of policies in place.

Cut: nettlesonloss3 :69 CUE: expected role should be

According to Nettles, during the school day, his staff is watchful and proactive in getting involved when they need to.

Cut: nettlesonloss4 :56 CUE: know of either

Nettles stresses they address any concerns brought to them and utilize resources within the Clinton Police Department, school counselors, and social workers. He points out, many concerns that are brought to their staff have happened outside the school walls and it spills over into the school day.

>>Students, Parents Meetings Set For Youth Mental Health Course at Clinton High School

Sophomore, juniors, and seniors will be required to take a youth mental health course at Clinton High School to start the second semester.

Principal Jerry Wayne announced at the November Board of Education meeting, the high school was chosen to participate in a pilot program that introduces youth to the various ways of dealing with mental and emotional wellness in their peers.

Katy Arnold with the Clinton Academy through Clinton High School is excited to get this going when students return from winter break the first part of January.

Cut: teenmentalhealthtraining1 :67 CUE: Christmas break

This a very rare opportunity for the district. Arnold indicates they are part of a small-percentage nationwide but they also were chosen to participate in a John Hopkins University study that surveys their students at various points throughout the process.

Cut: teenmentalhealthtraining2 :59 CUE: excited about too

High School Counselor Rachel Tohme (toe-may) says there are parents meetings to put on the calendar to learn more about this opportunity. The first is this Tuesday night (Dec. 10) and then another Saturday morning (Dec. 14) will be the opportunity to get more information on this.

Cut: teenmentalhealthtraining3 1:25 CUE: adults in the building

Wayne credits his staff for being on the lookout for resources and tools that can help their students. He says it is always their top priority to meet the challenges their students face, whether that be mental, physical, or emotional.

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City Council Moves Up Decision For Sewer Department Backhoe	October 17, 2019	7:13am	3:45	Local Government
Clinton City Council Says 'No Thanks' To Fence Bids for Fire Training Site	November 6, 2019	12:13 pm	3:45	Local Government
Clinton City Council Puts Annual Levy on File	November 8, 2019	4:23 pm	2:40	Local Government
Dispute Over Fire Training Facility Continues At City Council Meeting	November 9, 2019	7:30 pm	2:35	Local Government
Clinton City Council Approves Annual Levy	December 3, 2019	12:13 pm	2:15	Local Government

>>City Council Moves Up Decision For Sewer Department Backhoe

Last Monday night at the Clinton City Council meeting, the purchase of a backhoe was deemed an emergency purchase despite a delivery date of over four months.

Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements Kenny Buchanan indicates the City has been without a tractor for almost two months. Public Works Director Steve Lobb explains they probably tried too hard to get more out of the current one.

Cut: backhoeemergency1 :43 CUE: way back when

Initially, the Council had the purchase to be acted on at next week's meeting but they deemed it to be an emergency purchase. Lobb was hesitant to call the purchase an emergency when there is a wait time of 19-weeks.

Cut: backhoeemergency2 1:14 CUE: that important, sure

According to Buchanan, he approved an emergency repair hoping to get more use out of it. During an appraisal, the machine broke down and it was deemed unfixable.

Cut: backhoeemergency3 :45 CUE: go ahead and get it

Mayor Roger Cyrulik questioned if there might be a dealer with a backhoe sitting on the lot and Lobb says it is very rare a dealership will hold one of these on their properties.

Lobb adds the nearly \$85,000 price tag seems steep but it is not uncommon for them to have their equipment for 20-plus years, calling it an investment.

>>Clinton City Council Says 'No Thanks' To Fence Bids for Fire Training Site

A small portion of community members have been critical of Clinton fire's training facility on Cain Street and Monday night the Clinton City Council rejected bids for a fence around the facility.

The security of the area was a topic in a recent letter to the editor to the Clinton Journal and Monday night the Council rejected a fencing bid in hopes of using local manpower to save money.

The bids came in over \$65,000 and City Administrator Tim Followell says that was the lowest bid they could get for what they wanted in a secure perimeter.

Cut: fencefiretrainsite1 1:18 CUE: somewhat lower price

The City received just one bid for the project. Commissioner John Wise wondered if the City taking on the project internally would be an option, however, Followell indicates city crews can take the project on themselves but there may not be enough manpower to do it.

Cut: fencefiretrainsite2 1:39 CUE: I'll get a fence up

The Council rejected the bid and decided to revisit next year to use city manpower.

>>Clinton City Council Puts Annual Levy on File

The annual levy for the Clinton City Council will be voted on later this month but ahead of that vote, the Council needed to put it on file for public review.

Clinton City Treasurer Clint Lichtenwalter says this year's levy is looking very strong. He indicates property values continue their upward trajectory and the tax levy is going to minimally go up two very good things.

Cut: annuallevy1 :40 CUE: very minimal increase

After the housing market took a hit, the EAV declined but Lichtenwalter says things are starting to pick back up. He calls the ebb and flow of the EAV in recent years minimally impactful because of the lack of growth in Clinton.

Cut: annuallevy2 :41 CUE: or Bloomington or Decatur

Lichtenwalter calls the tax rate very steady in the last several years. He says this year's increase is up as opposed the last several years when the rate has dropped.

Cut: annuallevy3 :24 CUE: not the actual levied dollars

The Council will approve the annual levy at their next meeting, November 18.

>>Dispute Over Fire Training Facility Continues At City Council Meeting

An ongoing dispute over safety measures at the unconventional fire training facility on Cain Street drew criticism at the Monday night Clinton City Council meeting.

The multi-story facility is constructed of old shipping containers stacked one-on-top of the other. Seth Reddington says he has witnessed several safety violations throughout its use.

Cut: facilitycomplaints1 1:10 CUE: to me that's unacceptable

Reddington called out Commissioner Dan Ballenger for his role in an incident where he was not tied off welding in the air. He calls Ballenger out of control.

Cut: facilitycomplaints2 1:19 CUE: that's what I think

Reddington pointed to the last meeting when the Council rejected bids for a fence to surround the facility. He questioned why a fence wasn't put up around it, to begin with.

>>Clinton City Council Approves Annual Levy

The Clinton City Council approved the annual levy Monday night at their regularly scheduled first of two meetings.

Commissioner of Finance Tom Edmunds indicates this year's rate is a fifth of one percent. He points out that is not much of a change from year-over-year.

Cut: annuallevy1 :27 CUE: a lot less than that

Last month, City Treasurer Clint Lichtenwalter told Regional Radio News thanks to the financial health of Warner Hospital and Health Services, the city will be shifting the levied dollars of the hospital. In his decades of public service, Edmunds says this is the best he's ever seen the city-owned hospital financially.

Cut: annuallevy2 :38 CUE: been on the board

On the City's financial update, Edmunds says both their sales tax revenues are up.

Cut: annuallevy3 :15 CUE: better than going down

The annual levy received unanimous support from the City Council.

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Tradewind Energy Not Backing Off Request for Substitute Zoning Administrator	October 30, 2019	2:30 pm	2:50	County Government
Slight Tax Increase Highlights Latest DeWitt County Budget	October 31, 2019	8:13 am	3:30	County Government
DeWitt County Discusses Costs Associated With Upcoming ZBA Hearings On Wind Farm	November 22, 2019	12:13 pm	3:15	County Government
DeWitt County RPC, ZBA Looking Over Wind Ordinances; Tradewind Questions Boards Actions	December 6, 2019	4:23 pm	8:00	County Government
DeWitt County Board Extends Road Agreement With Tradewind Energy	December 14, 2019	7:13 am	1:00	County Government

>>Tradewind Energy Not Backing Off Request for Substitute Zoning Administrator

Last week at the DeWitt County Board meeting, an agenda item the Board was going to discuss was a request by Tradewind Energy for a substitute zoning administrator for the matter of the Alta Farms II wind project.

The board removed that item from the agenda and county leaders say the issue has been resolved but Tuesday morning on the WHOW Morning Show, Project Development Manager for Tradewind, Tom Swierczewski says they do not believe it is resolved.

Cut: tradewindcomplaint1 :39 CUE: just ridiculous

Tradewind's biggest contention is they submitted their application nearly three months ago and it has yet to make it to the Regional Planning Commission. Swierczewski feels this process has taken far too long.

Cut: tradewindcomplaint2 :

The RPC will take up the Tradewind application in November but Tradewind is maintaining their request for a substitute zoning administrator. Swierczewski called out Land Use Committee Chair for not having control of his staff and playing politics.

Cut: tradewindcomplaint3 :45 CUE: of his staff

Last Friday morning on the WHOW following the County Board meeting, DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg did not elaborate much on the situation but did indicate they felt they had the issue resolved before the meeting.

Cut: tradewindcomplaint4 :38 CUE: what I can say

Last month, the Land Use Committee voted to have Zoning Administrator Angie Sarver send the Tradewind application on to the Regional Planning Commission.

>>Slight Tax Increase Highlights Latest DeWitt County Budget

A slight increase in the county tax and ambulance service tax highlight this year's budget.

DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg says the county tax rate is going up less than a half-cent. He thanks the county leaders and board members who have been very proactive in coming up with a good budget again for the taxpayers.

Cut: budgetonfile1 :61 CUE: 2012

According to Newberg, the ambulance service is doubling their rate but he points out, they are still well below the max levy. Because of the tax increases, the County is hosting a truth in taxation hearing before the County Board meeting in November.

Cut: budgetonfile2 :49 CUE: public notice of that

Both the County and the EMS face future increases thanks to the minimum wage mandates. Newberg adds expenses have increased since the tax rates were last adjusted.

Cut: budgetonfile3 :54 CUE: december 31

Board member Nate Ennis cast the lone 'no' vote towards the budget and says he knew it would pass and indicates his no vote was a message to Springfield their mandates are hurting local taxpayers. He says things like the minimum wage and adjustments to the court system fines and fees are going to greatly impact local governments.

Cut: budgetonfile4 :38 CUE: local taxpayers get hurt

The budget will get voted on by the County Board in November ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday and will be approved ahead of the November 30 deadline for the new fiscal year that starts December 1.

>>DeWitt County Discusses Costs Associated With Upcoming ZBA Hearings On Wind Farm

Confusion over how to pay for the upcoming hearings for the proposed Alta Farms II wind farm before the Zoning Board of Appeals was discussed Thursday night at the DeWitt County Board meeting.

The discrepancy was over costs the County would incur. According to Finance Committee Chair Camille Redman, the costs of the hearings were covered by the fees of the Tradewind application. Board member Dan Matthews questioned why that wasn't the case again this time around.

Cut: hearingcostsquestions1 :46 CUE: don't want to do that

There's also confusion because the County enters a new budget year. According to County Administrator DeeDee Rentmeister, they used the same budgeting figures as the hearings from earlier this year.

Cut: hearingcostsquestions2 :55 CUE: Mr. Reece

Land Use Chair Terry Ferguson says another wrinkle in the whole issue is the fact they did not have to pay the school for its use. But this time around they did not have enough dates available for use and so the County is going to be using The Abigail.

Cut: hearingcostsquestions3 :55 CUE: we'll pay for ten

In the end, the Board just cleared up the budgeting behind the costs of the hearings and removed the motion altogether.

>>DeWitt County RPC, ZBA Looking Over Wind Ordinances; Tradewind Questions Boards Actions

This past Monday night, the DeWitt County Zoning Board of Appeals took up text amendment changes to the County's wind ordinances and the company hoping to establish a wind farm in DeWitt County is questioning why this is happening without direction from County leadership.

The ZBA took up six ordinances changes and Tom Swierczewski, project development manager for Tradewind Energy, says he and the supporters of their project were surprised at this development in recent days.

Cut: zbarpreconsider1 1:13 CUE: what was being discussed

The ZBA considered six text amendments in total and Swierczewski says a setback change wasn't even taken up for a vote. He feels it shows how ridiculous of a proposal it was and is thankful it failed.

Cut: zbarpreconsider2 :49 CUE: from the RPC

According to Swierczewski, the ZBA also considered a shadow flicker ordinance change that would ask for zero impact on neighboring landowners. He says that is a mandate that is nearly impossible to meet.

Cut: zbarpreconsider3 :40 CUE: how silly that one is

Swierczewski calls a text amendment change regarding drainage district coordination unnecessary. He explains they already coordinate with those districts and have to get their approval before they move any dirt. He also calls discussion surrounding a detection lighting system change confusing.

Cut: zbarpreconsider4 :

As these approved changes now move on to the County Board, Swierczewski is critical of the actions of the Regional Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals because he believes they are acting without guidance and direction from elected officials.

Cut: zbarpreconsider5 :56 CUE: another frustration for us

Chairperson of the RPC, Dave Steward defended his Board's actions on taking up the reconsidering of the text amendment changes. He explains after sitting in on many of the

testimonies from the last hearings for the Tradewind Alta Farms II wind farm application at the ZBA level, he felt it was necessary to have a look at their ordinances.

Cut: zbarpreconsider6 1:38 CUE: I'll put it that way

Steward says the RPC revisiting any ordinances on any subject without direction from County leadership is not out of the ordinary. While it is common to get direction from the County Board or its Land Use Committee, the RPC is within its authority to look at these ordinances on their own accord.

Cut: zbarpreconsider7 1:16 CUE: to do those

According to Steward, the accusations of stonewalling this process is inaccurate and points out this is the exact same time schedule they've taken on other issues in the past. While he understands the urgency with which Tradewind Energy wants their application taken up, the RPC cannot make everyone happy.

Cut: zbarpreconsider8 :39 CUE: happened to be Tradewind

The Zoning Board of Appeals made it clear to Tradewind representatives the changes proposed would not impact their application that is currently being considered but Swierczewski says it would make any efforts to bring another project to the County very problematic.

>>DeWitt County Board Extends Road Agreement With Tradewind Energy

The DeWitt County Board and Tradewind Energy's road use agreement was extended last month by the DeWitt County Board.

Should the wind farm receive approval by the DeWitt County Board next year, a road use agreement needs to be in place. Tom Swierczewski, Project Development Director of Tradewind Energy indicates the existing agreement was set to expire before the current application will make its way through all the governing bodies.

Cut: tradewindroaduse1 :32 CUE: those kinds of details

The extended agreement is for two years....

Cut: tradewindroaduse2 :22 CUE: 2021

The Tradewind Alta Farms II application will be taken up by the Zoning Board of Appeals after the first of the year and is anticipated to be taken up by the DeWitt County Board as soon as February.

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DeWitt County Land Use Committee Chair Weighs in on Recreational Marijuana Sales in Unincorporated Areas	October 1, 2019	7:13 am	3:45	Economic Development
Clinton Chamber Haunted House Opens This Month	October 2, 2019	7:30 pm	3:00	Economic Development
River Rat Potatoes Sales Aids Missions, Capital for Clinton Christ Lutheran Church	October 16, 2019	8:13 am	1:00	Economic Development
Local Veterans Advocate Named Clinton Chamber Christmas Parade's Grand Marshal	October 31, 2019	4:23 pm	1:00	Economic Development
Clinton Chamber's Haunted House Numbers Down in 2019	November 14, 2019	2:30 pm	1:25	Economic Development

>>DeWitt County Land Use Committee Chair Weighs in on Recreational Marijuana Sales in Unincorporated Areas

At a special meeting of the DeWitt County Board's Land Use Committee, approval was granted for sales in the unincorporated areas of DeWitt County.

Chairman Terry Ferguson weighed in on the approval. He feels the business of recreational marijuana belongs in the larger communities.

Cut 1: legalpotsales1 :47 CUE: accept it

State law allows only one certified vendor of marijuana sales per County and Ferguson calls any notion of the sales happening in the country ridiculous. He is taking a stance along with side law enforcement groups and doesn't feel it isn't in the best interest of local businesses.

Cut 2: legalpotsales2 :57 CUE: the whole situation

According to Ferguson, ethics preclude money for those that believe the County needs to be more progressive. Addressing both allowing marijuana sales in DeWitt County and the wind farm project, which Ferguson's Land Use Committee addressed last week, it is a matter of different issues.

Cut 3: legalpotsales3 1:16 CUE: meant to be followed

Just like last week's vote to send the RPC the current form of the Tradewind Energy project in DeWitt County despite concerns from the County Zoning Administrator, the Land Use Committee voted 3-2 approving marijuana sales in the unincorporated areas of DeWitt County with Jay Wickenhauser, Camille Redman and Cole Ritter voting favor and Melonie Tilley and Ferguson voting against.

As for the issue of sales of recreational marijuana sales in DeWitt County, the Land Use Committee will ask for a vote of the full board for approval and if that happens, the Regional Planning Commission will be charged with determining regulations.

>>Clinton Chamber Haunted House Opens This Month

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is readying for the haunted house season.

The Terror on Washington Street Haunted House has been under construction since the spring as organizers prepare for the upcoming scare season. Executive Director of the Clinton Chamber, Marian Brisard says they are working on sprucing things up in anticipation of the new season.

Cut: hauntedhouseready1 :42 CUE: so it's really cute

The big addition to the haunted house grounds this year will be the escape room. Folks may remember, the Chamber discontinued their visitors center and brought that structure to the site and Brisard says it will be on more piece of entertainment for their attendees that are waiting.

Cut: hauntedhouseready2 :43 CUE: fun as possible

It takes many volunteers to make the Haunted House the success it is. Brisard says several community youth groups help along with Second Chance for Pets that man their concession stand.

Cut: hauntedhouseready3 :67 CUE: that adds up

It can take around 20-30 people to make the Haunted House itself a success. Brisard says they are always looking for more volunteers. She encourages high school students who may need volunteer hours to stop by the haunted house at 6 pm on Friday or Saturday nights so they can get their makeup ready.

The Haunted House opens for the season October 11 and runs Friday and Saturday nights until November 2. Brisard also points out they plan to host visitors on Halloween night until 9 pm.

There are also friendly ghost tours Saturday, October 16, 19, and 26 at 5 pm.

>>River Rat Potatoes Sales Aids Missions, Capital for Clinton Christ Lutheran Church

The corner of Madison and Woodlawn is where you can find the Clinton Christ Lutheran Church's river rat potatoes.

The church slices up and deep fries potatoes for the thousands of guests to Clinton each year. Julie Miller with the church indicates the funds they raise from the festival are usually earmarked for their missions team and any capital projects they come across.

Cut: lutheranchurchporkndork1 :25 CUE: fixing those things

According to Miller, the church says it is a long weekend but it ultimately turns into their biggest and only fundraiser for the year.

Cut: lutheranchurchporkndork2 :32 CUE: been really good

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 701 South Mulberry Street in Clinton.

>>Local Veterans Advocate Named Clinton Chamber Christmas Parade's Grand Marshal

Local veterans advocate Jeff Morlock has been named the 2019 Clinton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Grand Marshal.

Chamber Executive Director Marian Brisard says Morlock's work with veterans in the community is very well known and he coordinated numerous trips for them on the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, which is a one day trip to Washington, D.C. to see all the memorials.

Cut: marianonmorlock :49 CUE: for the veterans

Brisard says around 18 nomination letters came in and his parents will be driving him in the Christmas Parade on November 30 at 2 pm in downtown Clinton.

>>Clinton Chamber's Haunted House Numbers Down in 2019

Crummy weather on scare nights and lot of rainwater causing the cancellation of one event evening were determining factors in numbers being down during the 2019 haunted house season for the Clinton Chamber of Commerce's Terror on Washington Street Haunted House.

Executive Director Marian Brisard says it was just an off year thanks to nights that were downright cold and others that were wet. Mid-month, the house was forced to close because rain water flooded the basement.

Cut: hauntedhouserecap1 :51 CUE: mid month or so

Despite down numbers this year, new features were well received by their guests. Brisard indicates they welcomed the new escape room and a virtual reality haunted house.

Cut: hauntedhouserecap2 :46 CUE: it was fun

Brisard is not concerned about the future of the Haunted House after a down year. She says it is a staple of the community and haunted house goes. Additionally, it helps so many groups and clubs throughout central Illinois who provide volunteers throughout the season.