

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 April 1 to June 30. 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>
Local Health Officials Says Continue Stay Course on Social Distancing	April 3, 2020	8:13 am	4:15	Healthcare
Staff, Residents of Liberty Village Tested for Coronavirus; Health Officials Keeping An Eye on the Situation	May 1, 2020	4:23 pm	2:30	Healthcare
DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Director Optimistic About Liberty Village Situation	May 6, 2020	12:13 PM	5:00	Healthcare
Local Health Officials Praise Residents for Diligence in Following Guidelines to Slow the Spread of Coronavirus	May 30, 2020	7:13 am	3:30	Healthcare
DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Administrator Says School Should Return in the Fall	June 22, 2020	4:15 pm	3:35	Healthcare

>>Local Health Officials Says Continue Stay Course on Social Distancing

Thursday the first cases of the coronavirus were confirmed in DeWitt and Piatt Counties but local health officials say social distancing is still working in Illinois and beyond.

CEO of Warner Hospital and Health Services Paul Skowron remains pleased with the way the community continues to follow the guidelines of state and federal officials. He points out the peak of this virus is predicted around mid-April for the country and about April 20 for Illinois.

Cut: staythecourse1 1:11 CUE: around April 20

According to Dave Remmert, Executive Director of the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department, while it could be easy to panic right now, he is hopeful residents will stay calm and continue to follow the recommendations of state and federal experts as we work our way through this situation.

Cut: staythecourse2 :57 CUE: really scares people

President Trump's coronavirus task force updated the country on statistics and predictions based on models Tuesday afternoon and both Skowron and Remmert believe with vigilant and intentional social distancing, we will get back to normalcy sooner.

Cut: staythecourse3 :52 CUE: made it out to be

Skowron believes Illinois is ahead of the curve in taking action for social distancing. He hopes everyone keeps up the social distancing and takes it seriously.

Cut: staythecourse4 :45 CUE: current information

Skowron and Remmert say the process to get tested remains for individuals to call their healthcare provider first before showing up. They also note testing is going to continue for symptomatic individuals.

>>Staff, Residents of Liberty Village Tested for Coronavirus; Health Officials Keeping An Eye on the Situation

No new coronavirus cases were reported today in DeWitt, Piatt, and Logan Counties.

Testing in DeWitt and Piatt Counties increased to 424 tests conducted, 37 tests in DeWitt County are awaiting results, those tests are the staff and residents of Liberty in Village. The DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department indicates they continue to maintain communication with the staff there and are very concerned about the health and safety of their residents.

In a statement Friday, Executive Director of the Health Department, Dave Remmert said quote - "The Governor's message today focused on the issue of Contact Tracing. Historically, this is one of the key elements of public health practice to reduce the spread of infections in populations. With other agency services suspended currently, we have staff available to focus on these really critical functions. This involves working with identified cases and getting feedback from them on any other persons that they may have had contact with for an extended period and within a 6-foot distance over the incubation period for the disease. As you can imagine, these contacts could be extensive numbers. Once identified, we remain in daily contact with them over their quarantine period. This also involves identifying any needs they may have that we can work towards to allow them to stay home, e.g., groceries."

Remmert is imploring the public to remain patient and vigilant with the stay at home guidelines. He says while the orders have been extended, they are being relaxed a bit further and over time it is expected they will be relaxed even more.

Logan County testing increased to 317 tests with three awaiting results. The Health Department still reports three active cases with four previous individuals to test positive recovered.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 3,137 new cases of coronavirus in Illinois, including 105 additional deaths.

IDPH is reporting a total of 56,055 cases, including 2,457 deaths, in 97 counties in Illinois.

Within the past 24 hours, laboratories have processed 14,821 specimens for a total of 284,688.

90-percent of cases are in the Chicago area.

>>DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Director Optimistic About Liberty Village Situation

A situation that could have been much worse is starting to appear like there will a positive conclusion.

Tests from 37 residents and staff at Liberty Village continue to trickle back and so far, the news has been positive, as there are no cases of coronavirus in the DeWitt County facility after a staffer tested positive last week for the virus that continues to claim lives of Illinoisans and Americans.

Dave Remmert is the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department and today (Tuesday) told Regional Radio News he is optimistic the news will conclude positively at the assisted living facility in Clinton, something not a lot of facilities in Illinois can say at this time.

Cut: libertyvillagelatest1 :63 CUE: pretty positive about that

Many have wondered why only a part of the staff and residents of the facility have been tested. Remmert indicates the answer is simply a contact tracing procedure as most of the residents have been quarantined in their rooms since the coronavirus outbreak began.

Cut: libertyvillagelatest2 :30 CUE: been in contact with

While the situation at the assisted living facility is looking more positive by the day, Remmert expressed his concern for the lack of isolation is followed by one of the individuals who recently tested positive for the virus. Remmert called the situation frustrating.

Cut: libertyvillagelatest3 1:11 CUE: to the States' Attorney's Office

While Remmert has advocated for young people to return to work and to resume their daily routines, he says for healthy individuals to be out is one thing but for a sick individual to be out is quite another. He stresses the danger of individuals who are sick being out is going to create a problem.

Remmert indicates they are going to have to retest around half-a-dozen individuals. Piatt County is reporting no new cases of coronavirus Tuesday while in Logan County, they have no new cases but remain with three active cases.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 2,122 new cases of coronavirus in Illinois, including 176 new fatalities. 90-percent of cases are in the Chicago area.

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 65,962 cases, including 2,838 deaths, in 97 counties in Illinois.

Within the past 24 hours, laboratories have processed 13,139 specimens for a total of 346,286.

>>Local Health Officials Praise Residents for Diligence in Following Guidelines to Slow the Spread of Coronavirus

Local health officials agree, residents have done an exemplary job of doing their part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

As the State of Illinois gradually reopens the economy, CEO of Warner Hospital and Health Services Paul Skowron says DeWitt County has demonstrated, quote - "exemplary civic responsibility".

Cut: localspraised1 1:16 CUE: chicagoland neighborhoods

Dave Remmert, Executive Director of the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department applauds the public as well and describes his feelings as quote - "truly impressed". He points out, the data locally reflects the community's efforts.

Cut: localspraised2 :45 CUE: a credit to the residents

Remmert points out, the case they had in Piatt County from earlier in the week has submitted two consecutive negative test results. He has been moved to our "Not Detected" line as Remmert believes he was a false positive case.

90-percent of the state's fatalities and 83-percent of the state's total coronavirus cases are in the Chicago area. Overall, Illinois has a 14-percent positive rate, however, the preliminary seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from May 22–May 28 is 8%.

>>DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Administrator Says School Should Return in the Fall

The DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Administrator believes students will be able to return to school in the fall.

Dave Remmert, DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Administrator, indicates according to data school-age children are the least at risk for the coronavirus with the majority of cases being mild, and they end up recovering.

Cut: schoolfall1 :52 Cue: most at risk

There is speculation surrounding students transmitting the disease to their families. Remmert says a lot of cases in children are asymptomatic and reports indicate asymptomatic carriers are less likely to transmit the disease.

Cut: schoolfall2 :53 Cue: back in session

If school resumes in the fall Remmert believes masks should be implemented. He says masks are common sense in the way they help prevent the spread.

Cut: schoolfall3 :47 Cue: good safeguard

Remmert says with masks and social distancing guidelines in place students can safely return to school in the fall.

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<i>Description of issue</i>	<i>Program or segment date</i>	<i>Time aired</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Description of program segment</i>
Clinton Schools Leader Disappointed School Year Must End Under Current Circumstances	April. 23, 2020	8:10 am	3:40	Education
Blue Ridge Schools to Host Drive Through Graduation	May. 9, 2020	8:15 am	2:35	Education
Clinton Board of Education Promotes Goebbel, Peck	May 20, 2020	4:15 pm	1:40	Education
Clinton Schools Reading Teacher Discusses Importance for Kids to Read This Summer	June 5, 2020	7:15 am	4:15	Education
Clinton Schools Superintendent Anticipates Reopening Guidelines Soon	June 17, 2020	12:10 pm	2:30	Education

>>Clinton Schools Leader Disappointed School Year Must End Under Current Circumstances

While keeping our communities safe through social distancing continues to be a top priority at this time, that hasn't left the leader of Clinton Schools without feeling disappointment for the way the year must finish.

Last Friday, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced the 2019-2020 school year would conclude through remote learning, and students would not be returning to classes. Superintendent of Clinton Schools, Curt Nettles says while the decision wasn't surprising, it doesn't take away the fact there are going to be moments missed by students.

Cut: nettlesempathy1 :60 CUE: they may feel about that

For teachers, the abrupt finish to the school year will be difficult for them and Nettles says it should be as they focus on developing strong relationships with their students.

Cut: nettlesempathy2 1:16 CUE:

Remote learning will be implemented to finish out the year and school districts will begin adjusting heading in the new school year next year.

>>Blue Ridge Schools to Host Drive Through Graduation

Blue Ridge Schools are planning a drive-thru graduation ceremony to honor their seniors.

Superintendent of Blue Ridge Schools, Susan Wilson explains they will allow their seniors to drive up at their circle drive in front of the high school. The Illinois State Board of Education deemed a drive-through graduation would not be allowed but Wilson says activism prevailed and now their event will go on.

Cut: blueridgegrad1 :44 CUE: participants will be in their cars

According to Wilson, they will have speeches followed by students pulling up, getting out to accept their diplomas, get a quick picture and there will be a parade through town to honor the seniors.

Cut: blueridgegrad2 :48 CUE: during that time

Wilson says they considered all options when discussing graduation and because students will be off to the next thing in their lives over the summer, they did not feel that was an option for them. She looks forward to having all her students back together one last time.

>>Clinton Board of Education Promotes Goebbel, Peck

The Clinton Board of Education promoted within Tuesday night at their regular Board of Education meeting.

The Board of Education extended Superintendent Curt Nettles' contract through 2024. Additionally, Drew Goebbel has been promoted to Assistance Superintendent and Jim Peck has been promoted to Clinton Junior High School Principal.

Board of Education President Dan Matthews spoke highly of all three men and the leadership they've provided the district.

Cut: matthewsonpromotions1 :44 CUE: that contract as well

The Board of Education used Zoom to broadcast their meeting to the public Tuesday and at times the audio was hard to hear. The hope is to have everyone in the junior high school library in June.

>>Clinton Schools Reading Teacher Discusses Importance for Kids to Read This Summer

On top of lost instruction in the last quarter of the school year due to the coronavirus shut downs combined with the summer slide, the term for reading skills that decline in youth over the summer, a local teacher is encouraging the community to work with kids this summer on their reading skills.

Sam Rybacki (rye-back-E) is a reading teacher at Clinton Elementary School and expressed her concerns for the potential severe declines kids could see as a result of all the lost classroom time between the coronavirus shutdowns and the current summer vacation.

Cut: rybackionreading1 1:21 CUE: doing things in the classroom

Rybacki has several ideas for families to engage their kids in reading during the summer. She recommends making regular visits to the library if possible and reading alongside your child. That could be as easy as reading to them, your child reading to you or you read while your child reads.

Cut: rybackionreading2 1:15 CUE: the whole family is reading

Some kids may be reluctant to want to read and Rybacki engaging kids in a fun activity like cooking or building something. She also points out, kids are returning to comic book reading.

Cut: rybackionreading3 :66 CUE: tell them to you

Rybacki stressed the importance of kids continuing to read over the summer because it is a skill that declines if not exercised it will go away. She also encourages making reading as fun as possible and less of a chore. She says kids tend not to want to do chores, so it is important for it to be something they have fun with.

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Anticipates Reopening Guidelines Soon

What schools will look like in the fall could become more during June as school leaders await the release of guidelines from the State of Illinois.

Tuesday night at the Clinton Board of Education meeting, Clinton Schools superintendent Curt Nettles informed his board there has been speculation those guidelines could come as soon as this week but he and his colleagues anticipate those coming soon.

Cut: reopenplans1 :43 CUE: like us to work on weekends

According to Nettles, there is an unofficial task force for the district to put into place plans for the district to reopen. He indicates while the State of Illinois will push local control, there will be guidelines they have to incorporate in their plans.

Cut: reopenplans2 :51 CUE: go from there

Nettles indicates they will put together a plan that is best for the students, staff, community and the families. He indicates their committee consists of school board members, administrators, teachers, fall sports coaches and the health department is going to be a part of it as well.

Nettles looks forward to getting the guidelines from the State of Illinois moving forward with the planning.

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Clinton City Council Members Weigh In on Coronavirus	April. 8, 2020	8:13am	2:25	Local Government
Clinton City Administrator Anticipates City Having to Dip Into Reserves	April 25, 2020	7:13 am	3:10	Local Government
Clinton City Administrator to Business Owners: If You Want to Open Up, Open Up	May 20, 2020	4:23 pm	3:55	Local Government
Clinton Public Health and Safety Commissioner: Pay Attention	June 2, 2020	4:13 pm	1:25	Local Government
Clinton City Treasurer Breaks Down Predicted Tax Dollars	June 16, 2020	12:13 pm	2:35	Local Government

>>Clinton City Council Members Weigh In on Coronavirus

The Clinton City Council held a conference call council meeting Monday night and Council members are urging the public to stay safe during this time.

Mayor Roger Cyrulik issued a statement late last week and echoed his thoughts Monday night asking residents to abide by the stay at home guidelines and the social distancing guidelines. The Mayor is calling on the community to support susceptible individuals during this time.

Cut: counciloncorona1 :44 CUE: all the help we can give em

Commissioner Dan Ballenger thanked the first responders who continue to put their lives on the line during this pandemic and says you can anticipate fire officials to wear personal protective equipment as they respond to emergencies.

Cut: counciloncorona2 :31 CUE: doing a great job

The Council's meeting was limited to just essential business including the reapproval of the engineering contract for the Center Street project that is being adjusted because bids for the project came in higher than expected in March.

>>Clinton City Administrator Anticipates City Having to Dip Into Reserves

City of Clinton officials are not ruling out the possibility of having to dip into reserves while the State of Illinois awaits the all-clear to get the economy going again.

Tim Followell says revenues have and are going to drop and with that in mind, he says it is not out of the question the City may have to dip into their reserves. He says the good news is, reserves are healthy and those should take them through the duration of the coronavirus outbreak.

Cut: cityreserves1 1:14 CUE: maintaining the course

According to Followell, being able to replenish funds in reserves is going to be very difficult so they are going to have be very meticulous in the money they pull from their reserves.

Cut: cityreserves2 :48 CUE: try to make it work

Followell explains the City is curtailing spending in certain areas and are trying to keep any unnecessary expenses to a minimum.

>>Clinton City Administrator to Business Owners: If You Want to Open Up, Open Up

If you are a business owner in Clinton and you want to open up - open up.

That is the message from City Administrator Tim Followell who says it wasn't the City of Clinton that shut down the businesses that closed after Governor Pritzker enacted the stay at home order. He believes business owners don't need the blessing of the City to reopen.

Cut: timonreopen1 1:26 CUE: customer base wants

The City has received criticism regarding not putting a plan together for reopening. Followell says not only does the City not have the authority to tell businesses to reopen but they also do not have access to experts to help guide them in good policy to reopen.

Cut: timonreopen2 :53 CUE: but repeat the rest of it

Followell says the City is also tied up because they do not want to face the wrath of anything the Governor and his office can do to the City. He wants DeWitt County on the Governor's radar for something other than the wrong reasons.

Cut: timonreopen3 1:13 CUE: not getting there either

Many have criticized the City for not taking action to protect sales tax dollars that come to the City. Followell points out, the State of Illinois does not have pass along sales tax dollars to the City. He emphasizes that is an unwritten law and those revenues to stop at any time.

>>Clinton Public Health and Safety Commissioner: Pay Attention

It was a simple message for the community as looting and rioting begin to expand on the streets of the country and to a limited degree, central Illinois.

At the Monday Night Clinton City Council meeting, Commissioner of Health and Safety Dan Ballenger had a brief and simple message for the community....

Cut: danonriots :17 CUE: all I have

Also at the Monday night meeting, Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements, Ken Buchanan updated on the status of the city-wide cleanup, which is being moved to the fall.

Cut: kenonfallcleanup :25 CUE: when we get it set up

Also Monday night, the Council...

>>Approved the plumbers and pipefitters contract with the City of Clinton

>>Approved the bid for sledge lime removal for the water treatment plant for \$15.25 per ton with Evergreen FS

>>The Council approved the purchase of software for the fire department for just over \$3,000

>>The Council approved an engineering service agreement with Symbiont for no more than \$25,000.

>>Clinton City Treasurer Breaks Down Predicted Tax Dollars

For the first time in two months, the Clinton City Council was altogether in the Council chambers Monday night.

The Council was briefed by City Treasurer Clint Lichtenwalter on the situation the shutout could have on the budget. Lichtenwalter says revenues are projected to decrease. (The virtual meeting audio was sometimes inaudible due to interference)

Cut: meetinperson1 :66 CUE: 180,000

Lichtenwalter will be on the WHOW Morning Show Tuesday morning at approximately 9:30 am with Steve Lobb. Hear more from him on-air and at the many WHOW mobile platforms including the WHOW mobile app and Amazon Alexa.

Council members expressed their pleasure to return to the chambers and conduct City business in person. John Wise offered his thoughts on being back together....

Cut: meetinperson2 :11 CUE: little more normal

For many in the community, they will welcome Danny Ballenger's news that City parks are reopened and the pickle-ball courts are operating.

Cut: meetinperson3 :46 CUE: pretty nice thing

The Council approved a contract with the Emergency Management Agency for \$15,000. A yearly item on the Council agenda.

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DeWitt County Board Adjusts Meeting Schedules for Next Week; Entities Go To Conference Call Meetings	April 18, 2020	12:09 pm	1:00	County Government
DeWitt County To Have Workers Return May 4	April 24, 2019	8:15 am	5:45	County Government
DeWitt County Board Sets Date for Tradewind Energy Special Use Permit Vote	May 14, 2020	12:09 pm	5:00	County Government
DeWitt County Board Chair: The Coronavirus is Real But So Are People's Livelihoods	May 18, 2020	4:18 pm	4:00	County Government
DeWitt County Board Votes to Postpone Wind Farm Vote	June 3, 2020	7:15 am	7:15	County Government

>>DeWitt County Board Adjusts Meeting Schedules for Next Week; Entities Go To Conference Call Meetings

The coronavirus has forced local governments to adjust how they conduct meetings and next week in DeWitt County is busy.

The week starts with the DeWitt County Board's finance meeting at 3 pm Monday afternoon via a conference call.

Monday night, the Clinton City Council convenes via conference call and they will have a special public hearing at 6:45 for their annual budget session.

Tuesday, the Clinton Board of Education will conduct its monthly business via Zoom.

And Thursday afternoon, the DeWitt County Board will hold their monthly meeting at 3 pm.

DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg tells Regional Radio News, the DeWitt County Board will meet with just a few members of the Board in the Board room, and the rest, about nine or ten, over the phone.

He will look to have the meeting be as normal as possible despite the social distancing precautions. According to Newberg, there will still be a public comment period and anyone wishing to participate will be asked to contact County Clerk Dana Smith to get on the agenda ahead of the meeting. They will need to do so by Monday.

To listen in on the County Board's finance meeting and the Board meeting, call 978-990-5000 and the access code to enter the meeting will be 314719.

The link for the Clinton Board of Education meeting is available at dewittdailynews.com with the meeting ID and the password through Zoom.

If you want to join the Clinton City Council meeting Monday night, dial 571-317-3116 then enter the access code - 449-970-085 - when prompted.

>>DeWitt County To Have Workers Return May 4

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced the extension of the stay at home order for Illinois to May 30 and moments after, the DeWitt County Board discussed how to proceed in bringing County employees back as soon as May 4.

Vice Board Chair Camille Redman explains they cannot continue to pay their employees to stay home and continue to get paid. It is starting to impact the County's budget.

Cut: countybacktowork1 1:11 CUE: two or three months financially

DeWitt County Sheriff Mike Walker indicates measures have been taken and adjusted to limit the traffick into the County Building. He estimates 95 to 99 percent of traffic has been eliminated and measures are being taken to make sure everyone is healthy.

Cut: countybacktowork2 1:17 CUE: for 14 days

According to County Board Chair David Newberg, some County employees have been coming to work and department heads have been making decisions on how to staff their offices. Employees that have not been working are still being paid but Newberg echoes Redman's comments and says they need to start deciding if they want to have employees return to work or not pay them.

Cut: countybacktowork3 1:15 CUE: they choose

State's Attorney Dan Markwell is having his staff return to work and there is plenty to be done in other offices of the building as well. Newberg says if the County Building is secure, they are going to ask employees to return to work.

Cut: countybacktowork4 :57 CUE: how this plays out

But what if County employees do not want to work and choose to be laid off and receive unemployment. State's Attorney Markwell encourages the employee to talk to their supervisor. However, there was some confusion about employees who choose not to work.

Cut: countybacktowork5 1:51 CUE: come to work

According to Newberg, asking employees to return to work is not necessary because they never left work. He indicates it will be up to Department heads and officeholders to work with their staff on the best way to proceed given the various circumstances many individuals may face.

>>DeWitt County Board Sets Date for Tradewind Energy Special Use Permit Vote

The DeWitt County Board has set June 2 as the date for their vote on a special use permit application for Tradewind Energy's Alta Farms II Wind Project.

DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg tells Regional Radio News the meeting will be conducted virtually that Tuesday night. Newberg explains the special meeting will mirror the format of the vote for the Tradewind application from last year.

Cut: boardtradewindvote1 :69 CUE: for a while

According to Newberg, the Board was originally scheduled for March 18. He recognizes it is inconvenient to not have everyone in a room but the times we are in are dictating the circumstances of the vote.

Cut: boardtradewindvote2 :58 CUE: all believe that

Newberg believes it is time Tradewind Energy should have a resolution on its application. He says they have already had to wait two months and by the time the vote is taken in June, it will be two-and-a-half months.

Cut: boardtradewindvote3 1:12 CUE: continue on

The meeting is again, Tuesday, June 2 at 6 pm.

Those wishing to be placed on the agenda for public comment should call Dana Smith, DeWitt County Clerk, at 217-935-7780 to be placed on the agenda and indicate if they are speaking for or against the project.

Those who want to give public comment via email should submit their statement to countyclerk@dewittcountyill.com or by mail to DeWitt County Clerk, P.O. Box 439, Clinton, IL 61727 no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 28, 2020.

All emails and written statements will be forwarded to Board Members prior to the meeting.

Counties in various parts of Illinois are giving their residents and businesses the 'thumbs up' to open back up and DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg weighed in on what they might do.

Newberg stresses anything the County Board would take action on would only impact those businesses that are in unincorporated areas. He explains that it is the only direction they could give as each community would have to establish their plans and directions for their residents and businesses.

Cut: newbergonopen1 :59 CUE: those types of things

According to Newberg, they need to look at a reopening plan very closely. He says the statistics in DeWitt County do not warrant continuing with the closure and credits the responsibility of the residents.

Cut: newbergonopen2 :51 CUE: I feel right now

DeWitt County falls in an interesting place geographically in central Illinois sandwiched between Bloomington/Normal, Champaign, Decatur, Springfield, and Lincoln. Newberg indicates he keeps tabs on what other counties are doing and he notes most are taking different approaches.

Cut: newbergonopen3 :50 CUE: are real too

Newberg feels people need to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing. He says we don't know that reopening will create a spike in cases. Additionally, he believes allowing people to get back out and businesses to reopen is a risk we need to take.

He adds if business owners aren't comfortable reopening they can remain closed and if residents are not comfortable going out, they can remain inside.

>>DeWitt County Board Votes to Postpone Wind Farm Vote

The DeWitt County Board votes Tuesday night to postpone the vote on the special use permit for the Tradewind Energy Alta Farms II wind project in the northwest corner of DeWitt County.

At the special meeting, Melanie Tilley asked the board to consider moving the meeting to Tuesday, July 14 at 6 pm with concerns about board members present and the ability to monitor their activity.

Cut: meetingpostponed1 :52 CUE: at the same time

Tilley also expressed concerns over the meeting not being audible, something opponents of the project have been expressing concerns about in recent comments. Additionally, an open meetings act concern was brought up as well.

Cut: meetingpostponed2 :67 CUE: talking about the board members

Terry Ferguson pointed to comments by Tradewind project development manager Tom Swierczewski when on the WHOW Morning Show stated ideally, they too would like to have the meeting with everyone present. Ferguson says if Illinois can move to phase 4 of Governor JB Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan in July, perhaps there could a limited audience present.

Cut: meetingpostponed3 :60 CUE: at the Abigail

Since the County has gone to virtual meetings, Nate Ennis points out he has not been able to be present for any of them. Tilley feels there may be a rights violation for board members by having to exclude some board members from being present at the County Courthouse.

Cut: meetingpostponed4 :51 CUE: go and be present

Board Lance Reece took some exception to the comments by Ennis and Tilley. He and Tilley exchanged thoughts on who is in the room and who is in another room. Reece says if you wait until the coronavirus has passed and for everyone to meet in the same room, a vote may not happen until next year.

Cut: meetingpostponed5 1:56 CUE: just my input

Christy Pruser suggested the Board's vote be July 14 no matter the circumstances surrounding the guidelines from the Governor. After much confusion about language in motion amendments and votes necessary to pass the motions, the Board approved the postponement of the meeting to July 14, whether it be held virtually or in person.

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Clinton Chamber of Commerce Postpones May Days	April 2, 2020	7:15 am	1:00	Economic Development
Clinton Chamber Finding Ways to Support Small Businesses	April 16, 2020	4:15 pm	3:25	Economic Development
Clinton Chamber Proceeding With Meat Raffle	May 18, 2020	8:15 am	2:00	Economic Development
Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Rep. Dan Caulkins Teaming Up For Community Town Hall Event Friday	May 15, 2020	4:15 pm	2:00	Economic Development
Clinton Chamber of Commerce Moves Golf Outing to September	June 13, 2020	12:10 pm	1:30	Economic Development

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce Postpones May Days

The ongoing coronavirus outbreak in the United States has led to the Clinton Chamber of Commerce postponing May Days.

The Chamber announced the decision Wednesday afternoon for the event scheduled for May 14-17 in downtown Clinton.

Chamber officials indicate the event will be rescheduled for May of 2021.

The Chamber has also had to postpone its annual Business Expo that was scheduled for last week.

The two events are annual fundraisers for the Chamber.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Chamber at 217-935-3364.

>>Clinton Chamber Finding Ways to Support Small Businesses

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce has had to bring a lot of their operation to an abrupt halt because of the coronavirus but that hasn't stopped them from working for their member businesses and doing their part to support them.

Executive Director Marian Brisard told Regional Radio News Wednesday on the WHOW Morning Show they are promoting businesses still providing services.

Cut: chamberbizzpromote1 :48 CUE: on our Facebook page

The Chamber's Lacy Phelps is working on promotional videos for area businesses during this time and Brisard is excited for the community to see those. Like the list of open businesses, the Chamber will be pushing these videos out over the next few weeks through their Facebook page.

Cut: chamberbizzpromote2 1:12 CUE: now we've got the time

Brisard is hopeful small businesses in the community will take advantage of grant and loan programs from the state and federal level. She feels the state and country's leadership has been working hard to protect small business owners from this situation.

Cut: chamberbizzpromote3 :45 CUE: until they can reopen

In addition to the promotional things the Chamber is doing, Brisard says they are reaching out to members to see if there is anything the Chamber can do for them.

You can also learn about businesses open and operating during this time by visiting dewittdailynews.com and clicking on the 'Businesses open and restaurants offering pick-up and/or delivery' tab for a comprehensive list of central Illinois businesses open right now.

>>Clinton Chamber Proceeding With Meat Raffle

With the cancellation of fundraisers like May Days and the postponement of the Chamber's Business Expo, the meat raffle fundraiser is taking on bigger importance during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Chamber Executive Director, Marian Brisard, they are proceeding with their meat raffle that offers a quarter beef, half a hog or cash prize.

Cut: meatrafflego1 :51 CUE: do something a little different

The meat for the raffle is being provided by Toohill Seed and Beef in Clinton.

To get a meat raffle ticket, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 217-935-3364 and they will work with you to get your tickets to you. The Chamber office is closed down for the time being because of the coronavirus, so picking up tickets in person is not an option right now.

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Rep. Dan Caulkins Teaming Up For Community Town Hall Event Friday

Hear from business leaders in Clinton and State Representative Dan Caulkins Friday afternoon on Facebook about how the coronavirus is impacting them and what the State of Illinois' outlook is.

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce and Rep. Caulkins are teaming up with local business owners in both the private and public sectors to hear how the coronavirus is impacting them. Chamber Executive Director Marian Brisard noticed Caulkins has done these in other parts of his district and wanted to do something similar for the community.

Cut: chamberliveevent1 :50 CUE: on Facebook

According to Brisard, Warner Hospital CEO Paul Skowron, YMCA Executive Director Rennie Cluver, and local small business owners will be part of the forum. Brisard feels this is a good mix of community representation.

Cut: chamberliveevent2 :

Brisard says they want to hear from these community leaders and how this coronavirus is impacting their operations. She indicates, watchers of the live event will be able to submit questions and a moderator within Rep. Caulkins' team will field those for the Decatur Republican.

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce Moves Golf Outing to September

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is adjusting their calendar for June.

The Chamber's June 23 golf outing is going to be moved to September according to Executive Director Marian Brisard.

Cut: golfinseptember1 :09 CUE:

The new date for the outing falls on the week of Apple n' Pork but Brisard does not believe that will be an issue.

Cut: golfinseptember2 :20 CUE: beautiful fall by then

The Chamber of Commerce has also extended its meat raffle to the new date of their golf outing. Brisard says the coronavirus shut down slowed down the ticket sales for that fundraiser, so they are extending it. To get information on the adjustment of events and for more things happening in Clinton, visit clintonilchamber.org.