

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, 2021 to December 31, 2021. 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>
Healthcare	Oct. 6, 2021	8:15 AM	2:20	Warner Library to Adjust Saturday Hours
Healthcare	Oct. 25, 2021	8:15 AM	3:00	DeWitt/Piatt Health Department Continuing to Bring Back Programming, Services
Healthcare	Nov. 26, 2021	8:15 AM	2:30	Warner Hospital CEO Touting Equipment Upgrade as Recruiting Tool
Healthcare	Nov. 27, 2021	8:15 AM	1:35	Warner Hospital Expanding Family Medicine
Healthcare	Dec. 1, 2021	8:15 AM	3:00	Heading Into 2022, Warner Hospital Focused on Strategic Planning

>>Warner Library to Adjust Saturday Hours

A Clinton entity is reducing its Saturday hours to better serve the community for the remainder of the week.

The Warner Library in Clinton will be reducing hours on Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm to 9 am to 1 pm. On the WHOW Morning Show Tuesday, Business Manager Samantha Rusk told Regional Radio this will allow them to move those staff from a slow time during the week to more frequented times at the library.

Cut: libraryhours1 :52 CUE: during the week

Rusk took the opportunity to remind patrons of its digital services which are accessible via its website, vwarner.org. You can also access a couple of mobile apps with a wide variety of materials.

Cut: libraryhours2 1:13 CUE: your option there

Again, visit vwarner.org for the latest in hours for the library as well as information on all the digital resources library cardholders can utilize. You can also call the library at 217-935-5174 or visit them at 310 North Quincy Street.

>>DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Continuing to Bring Back Programming, Services

As the COVID caseload locally continues to decline, local health officials are starting to turn their attention back to basic community services.

DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department Director Dave Remmert indicates the last 18 months or so, they had their attention and manpower pulled from the basic mission of the health department and he is pleased they are starting to return to those things.

Cut: healthdeptback1 1:12 CUE: sense of normalcy

As the winter months approach, Remmert says they are preparing to promote the flu vaccine. He says we could see a resurgence of the flu this year.

Cut: healthdeptback2 :35 CUE: back to normal

According to Remmert, services are starting to return to normal. It's not that long ago the Health Department received a grant to expand its low-income dental clinic.

Cut: healthdeptback3 :27 CUE: get back to it

The Health Department also has a new website. Remmert points anyone wanting more information about any of its services to dewittpiatthealth.com.

>>Warner Hospital CEO Touting Equipment Upgrade as Recruiting Tool

In college sports recruiting, a school's facilities can go a long way in attracting top talent and a local healthcare official is pointing out a similar trend.

On the WHOW Morning Show Wednesday, Warner Hospital CEO Paul Skowron told Regional Radio he is finding the new CT machine is attractive to prospective medical professionals.

Cut: recruittool1 :69 CUE: this investment

For Skowron, the fact the hospital continues to invest in its facilities and make upgrades shows they are progressive and moving forward. He believes this does in fact make a difference to professionals they showcase the facility to.

Cut: recruittool2 :48 CUE: look progressive

According to Skowron, there is also a connection when a potential recruit offers an idea on top of what is already happening in the facility.

>>Warner Hospital Expanding Family Medicine

The Warner Hospital and Health Services will be expanding their Family Medicine.

CEO Paul Skowron notes the board at its meeting Monday approved an expansion of the Family Medicine area. The transfer to electronic records has cleared space in the nurse galleys.

Cut: warnerpurchases1 :27 Cue: going on there

Another purchase approved was a new John Deere tractor. Skowron indicates this will not only impact the hospital but the community as well.

Cut: warnerpurchases2 :37 Cue: snow removal

Skowron reports through its partnership with Gibson Area Hospital they are bringing in a pulmonologist and a neurologist.

>>Heading Into 2022, Warner Hospital Focused on Strategic Planning

Getting strategic planning done by the spring is the goal of the President of the Warner Hospital and Health Services Board of Directors.

Paul Skowron is the CEO of the city-owned facility and tells Regional Radio News strategic planning will take a front-and-center focus coming out of the new year. The hospital board does not meet in December.

Cut: hospitalplanning1 :22 CUE: 5-10 year plan

Skowron has extensively discussed and still hopes to one day build a new facility to model a 21st-century healthcare model but for now, he believes the vision of the Board needs to be one of continuing to grow and provide quality care close to home.

Cut: hospitalplanning2 :56 CUE: in the future

While the vision of a new facility is exciting, but Skowron cautions too much fixation on that can lead to the plan dating itself quickly because of the always-changing technology in the medical world. He believes the right team can strike a balance.

Cut: hospitalplanning3 :36 CUE: planning process

Last week, Skowron made note of how improvements to the facility like a new CT machine and other improvements the hospital has taken on over the last few years are starting to attract outside physicians in being a part of what is happening in Clinton.

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City Government	Oct.5, 2021	8:15 AM	2:00	Clinton City Council Hears of Upcoming Community Events
City Government	Oct. 9, 2021	8:15 AM	1:20	City of Clinton Beginning Process to Replace Downtown Water Tower
City Government	Nov. 2, 2021	8:15 AM	4:15	'Steamed' City Councilman Airs Grievance Regarding Reaction to Fire Department Purchase
City Government	Dec. 21, 2021	8:15 AM	3:30	City Council Approves New Server, Upgrades for Cyber Security
City Government	Dec. 22, 2021	8:15 AM	3:00	New Clinton City Administrator Discusses Return to Central Illinois

>>Clinton City Council Hears of Upcoming Community Events

You can speak directly with our local law enforcement officers this week and also enjoy a parade of fire trucks on Wednesday.

Those were among the highlights of Monday night's Clinton City Council meeting. Police Chief Ben Lowers promoted 'coffee with a cop' on Wednesday at Hardee's.

Cut: council1 :23 CUE:

Commissioner Dan Ballenger promoted this Wednesday evening's fire truck parade. The annual parade will again originate at the junior high school and proceed up Illini Drive towards the downtown square.

Cut: council2 :14 CUE: weather supposed to be the best

The fire truck parade kicks off at dusk. You'll likely hear sirens throughout the community as most engines fire up the lights and sirens as they make their way down Illini Drive.

Chief Lowers also announced the resignation of Officer James McClure from the police department Monday. The Chief also announced the promotion of Officer Joe Krasney to Sergeant.

Monday night the Council also approved the repaving of the pickleball courts in Rotary Park with work likely to be done next spring. The Council also approved the engineering agreement on the new water tower and water treatment plant improvements.

The Monday meeting was recessed to resume Monday, October 12 at 6 pm.

>>City of Clinton Beginning Process to Replace Downtown Water Tower

The downtown Clinton water tower is reaching the end of its life expectancy and this past Monday, the Clinton City Council began the process to replace it.

The Council Monday approved the engineering agreement with Symbiont for over \$121,000. City Administrator Tim Followell explains the City is targeting the vacant property across the street for the new site.

Cut: clintonwatertower :65 CUE: in reserve

Followell says this is one of the earliest steps in the process that he predicts could take at least two years.

>>'Steamed' City Councilman Airs Grievance Regarding Reaction to Fire Department Purchase

A self-described steamed Clinton City Councilman is not happy about the responses to a purchase made by the Clinton Fire Department and its means of being brought to the city.

Monday night at the Clinton City Council meeting, Commissioner John Wise was not happy about talk around the community in regards to a boat purchase by the Clinton Fire Department and the things Commissioner Dan Ballenger is being charged with. Wise asked Commissioner Ballenger to clear the air regarding the purchase of the boat.

Cut: steamedjohnny1 1:35 CUE: brought it back to Clinton

Commissioner Wise is particularly tired of inaccurate information being strewn about. He came to the defense of Commissioner Ballenger and his usage of city gas to go get the boat from Benton and pointed out Ballenger could have charged the City a whole lot more for his gas mileage but spared them that expense.

Cut: steamedjohnny2 1:48 CUE: cause somebody's mad

The Commissioner was not particularly happy because he believes the City Council members sacrifice their time and personal property for the residents of the community. He's hoping those who have things to say will attend a City Council meeting and offer their criticisms and questions and do less complaining on social media and around the community.

Cut: steamedjohnny3 1:57 CUE: let it go at that

Also at the Clinton City Council meeting Monday night:

Commissioner Ken Buchanan reminded this will be the last month for brush pickup in the city and they are still waiting for more leaves to fall before they start to bring on their seasonal help for the leaf cleanup season.

Commissioner Tom Edmonds also noted the annual levy went on file.

>>City Council Approves New Server, Upgrades for Cyber Security

Cyber security has been a hot-button issue for government entities lately and Monday night the Clinton City Council approved a new server and cyber security upgrades.

City Treasurer Clint Lichtenwalter told the Council they try to upgrade their servers every five years but the current one is at eight years. He says it's time to upgrade that with renewal costs going up each year.

Cut: citycyber1 :60 CUE: new firewall

According to Lichtenwalter, cyber-attacks are becoming more sophisticated and these are measures to stay ahead of any potential issues.

Cut: citycyber2 1:38 CUE: awareness training

Lichtenwalter indicates they are switching from external hard drive storage to a virtual hard drive with unlimited storage.

>>New Clinton City Administrator Discusses Return to Central Illinois

Darren Girdler is very familiar with the landscape of central Illinois and is looking forward to his return to the area.

Long-time Clinton City Administrator Tim Followell is retiring at the end of the year and Darren Girdler has been appointed to the post. Girdler told Regional Radio on the WHOW Morning Show Tuesday he is from Danvers and went to Olympia High School. His first administrator job was in fact, in Farmer City.

Cut: darrengirdler1 :59 CUE: brings me to here

For Girdler, this Clinton City Administrator job is different than most and Followell explains the marketing of the position was challenging because of that. Girdler indicates his experience in several areas of local government should help him transition to his role in Clinton.

Cut: derrengirdler2 :41 CUE: it can be mastered

Girdler has worked for small community governments and larger governments and believes his experiences will help in his transition as well.

Cut: darrengirdler3 :32 CUE: department head

Girdler also views his ability to spend the final days of Followell's time with him and learning and watching will be beneficial from other situations he's walked into.

We'll hear more from Followell in the days ahead leading up to his retirement at the end of the year.

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County Government	Oct. 27, 2021	8:15 AM	3:00	DeWitt County Board Says No to Three-Month Extension For Wind, Solar Ordinance Reviews
County Government	Oct. 29, 2021	8:15 AM	3:45	DeWitt County Board Re-Approves Hazzard Pay for Essential Workers
County Government	Oct. 30, 2021	8:15 AM	2:50	DeWitt County Board Fill Vacancy
County Government	Nov. 3, 2021	8:15 AM	3:45	DeWitt County Board Briefly Discusses Future of Zoning Administrator Position
County Government	Nov. 19, 2021	8:15 AM	3:30	DeWitt County Board Approves Transfer of Rescue Plan Act Funds for Marina Work

>>DeWitt County Board Says No to Three-Month Extension For Wind, Solar Ordinance Reviews

The DeWitt County Board Tuesday night rejected a pair of motions to extend a review period that has expired reviewing wind and solar ordinances for DeWitt County.

The six-month reviews were made in the spring. Buck Carter brought forward the proposals and State's Attorney Dan Markwell says the Board doesn't need a motion to review ordinances and says if the intent is to extend the moratorium the original motions came with, then that would be problematic.

Cut: reviewextend1 1:10 CUE: any kind of permits

According to Board Chair Terry Ferguson, the Regional Planning Commission is close to the conclusion of its wind review. The Board discussed the intent of the motion and the original intent of the motions from the approvals in the spring.

Cut: reviewextend2 1:34 CUE: follow right along

Conversation from earlier in the meeting was asked again by Aaron Kammeyer, wondering at what point in the process with applicants have to follow rules in place or rules that were changing. Markwell says if a text amendment has been put in the form of a notice for a hearing and an application is filed, the applicant would be subject to those changes.

Cut: reviewextend3 1:20 CUE: bound by those

Carter and Jamie Prestegaard were the only yes votes for the proposal to extend the solar review. Carter, Prestegaard, and Megan Myers voted yes to extend the review of the wind ordinances.

Also at the Tuesday Board meeting:

>>Brian Riddle was sworn onto the Board to fill the vacancy left by Nate Ennis in District D

>>Bonnie Schmid was re-appointed to the DeWitt County Mental Health Board

>>The Board approved the district maps of DeWitt County, following the redistricting process. Officials noted no changes were made to the County maps.

>>The Board approved the purchase of materials for upgrades to Dock 7 at Clinton Lake Marina for just over \$10,600

>>The Board approved a \$2000 hazard pay for public safety union essential workers from last spring

>>The Board put the 2022 budget and levies on file

>>DeWitt County Board Re-Approves Hazzard Pay for Essential Workers

Don't call it a bonus for union essential workers that are being compensated through COVID money by the DeWitt County Board.

Tuesday night at the DeWitt County Board meeting, the Board had to rescind a motion from July that offered a bonus to public safety union essential workers but Administrator Dee Rentmeister says they can't call it a bonus if the Board plans to use COVID dollars.

Cut: nobonuses1 :46 CUE: that's what it is

The Board also approved a hazard pay for non-essential workers for the same period from last March to May. A similar measure in the summer failed but was brought back up again this month.

Cut: nobonuses2 :39 CUE: what the others got

County Clerk Dana Smith has requested the finance committee consider her department for hazard pay for their efforts during the election. Board Chair Terry Ferguson says that will likely be something they have to consider next month.

Cut: nobonuses3 :49 CUE: dana's request... ya

The Board approved hazard pay for non-union employees in the amount of \$2,000 for full-time employees and \$1,000 for part-time employees.

>>DeWitt County Board Fill Vacancy

The DeWitt County Board filled a vacancy at their monthly meeting last Tuesday.

Board Chair Terry Ferguson indicates Brian Riddle was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Nate Ennis's resignation.

Cut: countyboardvacant1 :24 Cue: a long time

David Newberg will serve as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee following Ennis's departure.

Cut: countyboardvacant2 :14 Cue: willing to do it

Also, at Tuesday night's meeting, the County Board district maps were revised after receiving the Census data. Ferguson notes, per the regulations, the Board did not have to make any revisions.

Cut: countyboardvacant3 :41 Cue: boundaries any

County districts only need to be redrawn if there is a population difference of ten percent between districts.

>>DeWitt County Board Briefly Discusses Future of Zoning Administrator Position

For several months now, DeWitt County Administrator DeeDee Rentmeister has been serving in the capacity of the zoning administrator.

Since the retirement of longtime administrator Angie Sarver, the zoning office in DeWitt County has gone through several changes, but no long-standing administrator. At the October Board meeting, Travis Houser asked what the future of that office looks like.

Cut: zoningdiscussion1 :69 CUE: on the backlog

The hiring process is on hold because there are no applicants. Rentmeister indicates they thought they had a good applicant at one point but circumstances changed and they moved farther north than DeWitt County. On the issue of pay scale for the position, it doesn't appear the advertised salary is an issue.

Cut: zoningdiscussion2 1:27 CUE: twenty something an hour

The zoning office has been a point of focus in recent years with the Economic Development of the wind farm in DeWitt County.

>>DeWitt County Board Approves Transfer of Rescue Plan Act Funds for Marina Work

The DeWitt County Board approved nearly \$200,000 for the transfer of the American Rescue Plan Act funding to work that was done at Clinton Lake Marina.

Marina Committee Chair Dan Matthews told the DeWitt County Board at its Thursday meeting dedicating the roughly \$186,000 would allow the County to put in a new breakwater.

Cut: breakwaters2 :44 CUE: new breakwater

Breakwaters at the marina have been a hot topic at the marina for a few years now and Matthews told the Board there are a couple of areas of concern - for those familiar with the marina, they are going to start at the south end. They are hiring Chastain and Associates to help with the project for \$8,000.

Cut: breakwaters1 :59 CUE: had hoped it would

According to Matthews, a grant is going to help with some parking lot work at the marina and the hope is to see that completed in the spring as some repaving work is already done.

Cut: breakwaters3 :33 CUE: those projects up

Also at the Thursday night meeting:

>>The Board approved Robert Fratz to the DeWitt County Board of Review

>>The Board approved Katy Arnold to the DeWitt County Mental Health Board for a four-year term

>>The Board Approved Jeff Kiesling and William Tyler Yokley to the DeWitt County ETSB (Emergency Telephone System Board)

>>The Board approved a proposal to Cummins Engineering Corp. for work on County Highway 17 for \$30,275

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Economic Development	Oct. 20, 2021	8:15 AM	3:25	Clinton Insurance Business Owner Named President of Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois
Economic Development	Nov. 15, 2021	8:15 AM	3:30	Clinton Chamber Sees Record Crowds for Haunted House
Economic Development	Nov. 18, 2021	8:15 AM	3:00	Clinton's Ivan Stanwood Named Clinton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Grand Marshal
Economic Development	Dec. 11, 2021	8:15 AM	1:00	Clinton Chamber Director Encouraging Community to Support Local Businesses
Economic Development	Dec. 18, 2021	8:15 AM	1:00	Clinton Chamber of Commerce Putting Annual Meeting on Hold

>>Clinton Insurance Business Owner Named President of Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois

A Clinton business owner has been named the President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois.

Jay Peterson, owner of Peterson Insurance in Clinton was nominated to the post earlier this month. He says it's quite an honor to be recognized by his peers.

Cut: jayia1 :42 CUE: at that point

According to Peterson, the IIA advocates for insurance agents and consumers at the legislative level, and they also raise awareness. He says the group has had some success in the last year.

Cut: jayia2 :57 CUE: big thing for us

In Springfield, Peterson says it's hard to keep tabs on all the proposals coming forward because things are changing so fast. He anticipates legislation for policies relating to pandemics.

Cut :jayia3 :61 CUE: coming down the road

Phil Lackman is the IIA of IL CEO and said in a statement they look forward to Peterson's leadership and guidance during times of change. They are confident he will lead with integrity, perseverance, empathy, and positivity.

>>Clinton Chamber Sees Record Crowds for Haunted House

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce saw a record turnout for their annual scary fundraiser.

Marian Brisard, Clinton Chamber Executive Director, told Regional Radio News on the WHOW Morning Show Friday, 2021 was a record year for the Terror on Washington Street.

Cut: frankie20211 :30 Cue: and have fun

Brisard says the annual haunted house is a huge undertaking and is thankful for all of the volunteers from set designers to actors to concessions. Groups that volunteered this year included the high school thespians and Second Chance for Pets.

Cut: frankie20212 1:10 Cue: it's just a lot of work

Brisard notes the crowd favorite this year was the fog and laser room. She says year after year this is always an effective scare.

Cut: frankie20213 :21 Cue: effective scare

Planning for next year's haunted house will begin in March with a trip to a convention in St. Louis. Brisard says the ideas for the different rooms come from the convention as well as specialty publications.

Cut: franke20214 :43 Cue: and then we make that room

Brisard now turns her attention to the annual Christmas Parade on November 27. The Chamber will announce the grand marshal today on social media.

>>Clinton's Ivan Stanwood Named Clinton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Grand Marshal

Clinton World War II veteran Ivan Stanwood has been named the Clinton Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Christmas parade Grand Marshal.

Executive Director of the Clinton Chamber Marian Brisard says Stanwood was nominated by three local men for his outstanding military service and dedication to the community.

Cut: ivanstanwood1 1:28 CUE: throughout his life

The route for this year's parade is the traditional route starting near the high rises off the Square and making way around the Square, down Illini Drive, and to the high school.

Cut: ivanstanwood2 :62 CUE: magical musical christmas

Again, this year's Christmas parade is Saturday, November 27 at 2 pm.

>>Clinton Chamber Director Encouraging Community to Support Local Businesses

As the Christmas shopping season kicks in to hire gear with the big day near, the Clinton Chamber of Commerce is encouraging local residents to get out and support and our local businesses.

On the WHOW Morning Show Friday, Marian Brisard encouraged the community to support local businesses in Clinton both in downtown and across the community.

Cut: shoplocal :13 CUE: local shopping

The Chamber has a directory of its member businesses as well as non-profits that you can consider for your end-of-year giving. Just visit clintonilchamber.org.

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce Putting Annual Meeting on Hold

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is putting its annual meeting on hold.

Executive Director Marian Brisard indicates there are a lot of things up in the air right now but plan on the many regular activities the Chamber puts on happening in 2022.

Cut: chamberonhold :23 CUE: take place

According to Brisard, the Chamber is planning for the annual Business Expo during the week of spring break at the school district and hosting it at the high school if the district can accomodate them.

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Education	Oct. 11, 2021	8:15 AM	4:35	Clinton Schools Superintendent Discusses Social Media 'Challenges' That Results in Minor Damage to School Building
Education	Oct. 23, 2021	8:15 AM	1:45	Clinton Schools Superintendent Addresses National Rhetoric On Communities Engaging School Boards
Education	Nov. 4, 2021	8:15 AM	5:15	Clinton Schools 'Test to Stay' Program Adding to COVID Case Count in DeWitt County
Education	Nov. 6, 2021	8:15 AM	2:45	Clinton Schools Superintendent Still Encouraged As Local Control Issue Continues
Education	Nov. 22, 2021	8:15 AM	4:30	Clinton Schools Leader Touts Recent Meeting With State Superintendent

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Discusses Social Media 'Challenges' That Results in Minor Damage to School Building

A challenge to teens on the social media network TikTok prompted the Superintendent of Clinton Schools to ask parents to be aware of the things happening on social media that may impact the school day and the school buildings.

Curt Nettles informed parents a challenge on TikTok resulted in minor damage to part of a school building recently and he's calling on parents to sit down with students to implore them not to participate in these things.

Cut: tiktokchallenge1 1:17 CUE: over it

Nettles felt it would be best to get out in front of this before it becomes a recurring and chronic issue. He says the things being encouraged are egregiously disrespectful.

Cut: tiktokchallenge2 1:26 CUE:

This TikTok challenge is the latest example of why parents should be involved in what their students are doing on social media. Nettles says social media moves so fast, keeping up can be challenging but he implores parents to be vigilant.

Cut: tiktokchallenge3 1:45 CUE: hope for the best

Nettles believes the very small number of students causing disruptions from what they see on social media is not representative of the rest of the student body. He praises the quality students they have in their buildings.

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Addresses National Rhetoric On Communities Engaging School Boards

Parents addressing a local school board is an essential part of the Democratic process in our country and recent conversations around these happenings are highlighting some of the worst of those interactions and categorizing hysterical individuals in terms like 'domestic terrorist' and 'threats to democracy.

Clinton Schools Superintendent Curt Nettles is disappointed by those categorizations and believes most interactions between communities and its school boards of education are peaceful and cordial. He says that is certainly the case in Clinton.

Cut: nettlesinteractions :65 CUE:

Last week, the Clinton Board of Education met, and again the topic of masking students came up and engagement between the audience and the Board of Education was peaceful and calm. The Clinton Board of Education welcomed Wes Cothorn to the Board to replace the vacancy left by Rodney Rogers. Chris Hammer was appointed as the Board's new Vice President.

>>Clinton Schools 'Test to Stay' Program Adding to COVID Case Count in DeWitt County

The latest report from the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department shows a spike in COVID cases in DeWitt County.

Executive Director Dave Remmert indicates part of the increase in cases in DeWitt County is the rollout of the Clinton School District's 'test to stay' program that gives students the chance to test to stay in the classroom if they are a close contact. Remmert indicates Piatt County is remaining steady.

Cut: testtostay1 :61 CUE: happy about that

Clinton Schools Superintendent Curt Nettles says the cases within the student body are mostly limited to the high school kids. He points out not every student is doing the 'test to stay' protocols are coming up positive because that is not the case.

Cut: testtostay2 :59 CUE: started the ball rolling

Nettles reminds high school kids are very social people and are back to their normal routines of extracurricular activities and hanging out away from school. He notes things are stabilizing at the high school.

Cut: testtostay3 :53 CUE: at the end of October

Remmert reminds school-age kids continue to be at low risk of adverse outcomes of COVID and indicates when they do get COVID and show symptoms, their symptoms are very mild and short-lived.

Cut: testtostay4 :55 CUE: varies a little bit

In the latest update from the Health Department, DeWitt County is totaling 47 active cases to Piatt County's 14. A case out of Heyworth from last Monday, October 25 is being considered a DeWitt County case.

There has been growing concern regarding the Delta strain of the COVID-19 virus. The Health Department does not have adequate data at this time to determine if any of the active cases are from this strain. Delta has been detected in its jurisdiction.

Both DeWitt or Piatt counties are no longer on the state warning for COVID-19.

However, incidence rates are still considered “substantial”.

>>Clinton Schools Superintendent Still Encouraged As Local Control Issue Continues

Superintendents across the state are continuing to advocate for local control back to be returned to schools as it relates to COVID mandates.

Clinton Schools Superintendent Curt Nettles continues to be encouraged by the conversations he's having despite Governor JB Pritzker remaining steadfast in his indoor mask mandate.

Cut: nettleslocalcontrol1 :43 CUE: to contend with

The frustration among school leaders and Illinois families is the lack of an exit strategy from the mask mandate. Nettles continues to have conversations expressing those frustrations in hopes of coming up with something everyone can live with.

Cut: nettleslocalcontrol2 :55 CUE: last few weeks

Coming out of the latest Illinois State Board of Education meeting, Nettles and others were encouraged because they felt as though they were being heard for the first time.

>>Clinton Schools Leader Touts Recent Meeting With State Superintendent

You'd be hard pressed to find yourself a local school leader who is fighting harder to restore local control than Clinton Schools Superintendent Curt Nettles and his relentlessness recently paid off in the form of a face-to-face meeting with the State Superintendent of schools.

The veterlar school leader would not divulge a lot of details about the meeting he recently had with State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala but came away very encouraged by the interactions and a few of his colleagues were able to have. He hopes the next step is a meeting with officials from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governor's office.

Cut: nettlesfighting1 1:10 CUE: to make that happen

For some time, Nettles has been disheartened by not being able to reach the Governor nor his office to set meetings and speak to someone. He feels they are closer to something like that than they have been at any point in the last two years.

Cut: nettlesfighting2 :69 CUE: most of the say?

For Nettles, one of the main goals of meeting with Dr. Ayala was to broaden her scope of understanding of the Illinois education system beyond just the boundaries of Chicago Public Schools and the Collar County school systems.

Cut: nettlesfighting3 1:18 CUE: breaking the ice

After the positive interactions of recent weeks, Nettles looks forward to the next steps of getting in front of more people and having more positive conversations.