

August 9, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Coordinator

Re: August Staff Report

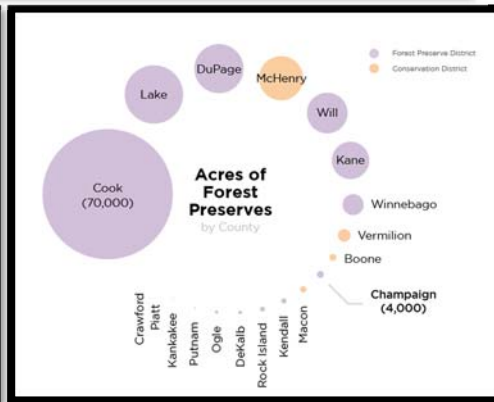
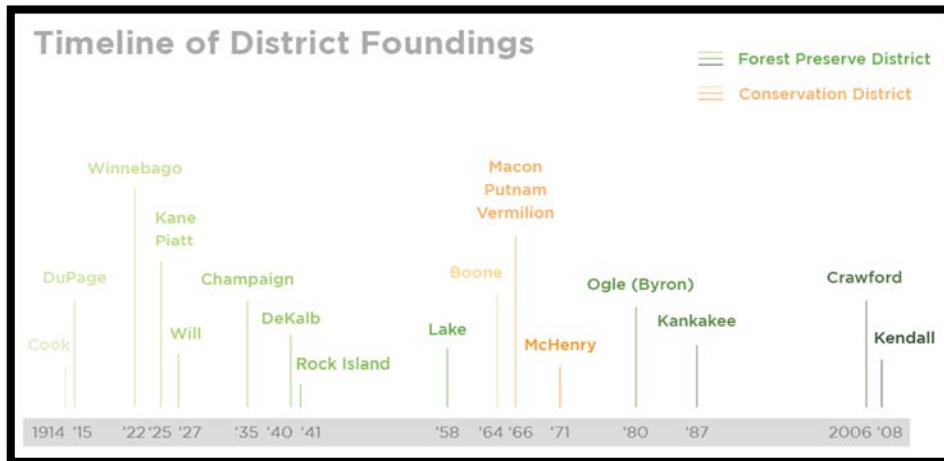
Executive Director (Mary Ellen Wuellner)

- The COVID delta variant has caused the CCFPD to again require masks for staff while indoors when social distancing cannot be achieved. The Museum of the Grand Prairie and Homer Lake Interpretive Center are also requiring masks of visitors once again. Our attorney has recommended adopting the CDC guidance of “strongly recommending” masks for vaccinated renters to our pavilions and requiring masks for the unvaccinated for now.
- In reviewing District ordinances recently, I noticed that the Ethics Ordinance was last approved in 2004 and may be in need of revision. However, the IAPD attorney indicates that the current version drafted by the Illinois Attorney General has not changed and still covers existing board members. I have attached a copy for your information as none of you was on the board in 2004.
- As you might recall, the Lake County Forest Preserve District is leading the charge to amend Section 13.1 of the Downstate FPD Act to increase the corporate and construction levies by .02% each – from .06% to .08% and from .025% to .045% respectively. LCFPD will again push for having the Illinois General Assembly take up the issue in 2022 when the 103rd session begins. With our referendum increase, we should have room to take advantage of these levy increases if they are eventually approved in Springfield.
- The Forest Preserve District of Cook County will be asking voters for a .051% increase to its limiting rate in November 2022. If approved, the limiting rate would increase from .025% to .076%. With a Cook County EAV of \$184 billion, the new limiting rate would add \$42 million to FPDCC’s budget, bringing its total levy to \$127 million. The impact on a \$100,000 homeowner? \$7.29 per year.
- We learned on August 10 that we were approved for an ITEP grant to cover construction of 1.5 miles of the KRT from Ogden to the Vermilion County line. Recall that we were first informed that the grant was incomplete and therefore denied. A snafu in the ITEP grant software apparently mislabeled several grants as incomplete, including ours. The mistake was acknowledged and the application was scored, which resulted in approval. In addition to the \$1.2 million ITEP grant, we were also awarded a partial state match leaving us with a potential local match obligation of less than \$150,000. We will know more when we get the grant award letter. We owe thanks to Regional Planning staff for working with their IDOT connections to get this resolved.
- Lisa reports on the postponed Freedom Fest event in her report. For the record, staff time involved this year was 591 hours. This is slightly higher than most years as we readied the preserve for the event on July 2 and had to do so again when it was rescheduled.

Planning and Construction Department (Mike Daab and Mike Fry)

- Staff met at the Middle Fork Activity Center and the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society Observatory to discuss the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant application for Dark Sky and other recreational amenities at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. David Leake attended each meeting and has provided valuable input.

- Planning staff has been collecting information regarding future capital improvements as well as meeting with department heads to discuss projects in more detail.



- Comprehensive Plan public input is underway. Planning staff attended several public events, including a Rantoul Freedom Friday and a Champaign Farmers Market, to solicit input for the Comprehensive Plan. Intern Sam Ihm has been collecting and analyzing land acquisition data from districts statewide to compare CCFPD with sister agencies. (Photo and graphics above.)
- The Heron View/Hazen Bridge CAC Subcommittee met on site on Wednesday, August 4, to discuss the next steps in care for the Hazen Bridge and associated 5 acres. The group decided that the first step will be to request a meeting with a representative from the State Historic Preservation Office in order to answer many of our initial questions regarding the requirements and opportunities for the bridge.
- A Public Museum Capital Grant application was submitted for the Discovery Garden Greenhouse Replacement project to IDNR. The project was discussed with the board at its June meeting.
- Ground clearing work has begun for the Homer Lake storm safety shelter and shed. Homer Lake and Construction staff have partnered to work on the project so far, and Natural Resources staff will help complete the necessary tree removal.
- Construction staff has repainted several ADA parking spaces throughout the District.



Business and Finance (John Baker)

- Met with department heads to distribute 2022 budget preparation instructions, including updates on program budgeting and financial projections. Reviewed and revised District five year projections to account for the referendum passage and other financial changes for the District. Worked with HR to update staffing request forms to consider long term, as well as short term, personnel needs.
- Ensured several legal requirements were met for the District, including reporting the Foundation's 990 financials to the IRS and Illinois Attorney General, and the 2020 annual financial report to the Illinois Comptroller, updating the District's 2019 and 2020 audit statistics and internal control survey in the Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency database.
- Informed CliftonLarsonAllen of the two-year audit contract renewal, and forwarded the TIF extension letter of recommendation to the Village of Homer.
- Attended the Government Finance Officers conference, including sessions on banking services, audit and accounting changes in the past year, and on post-employment benefits.
- Reviewed Foundation restrictions to ensure accurate balances and the release of the Community Engagement restriction remaining balance. Worked with the Yes 2 Forest committee to close out that account and return the remaining balance to the Foundation.
- Congratulations and many thanks to Blair Balbach who just finished her first year with the District on July 27.

Human Resources (Dara Edgington)

- Staff participated in the DO RACE workshops –held at Lake of the Woods on July 30th and August 2nd –as a continuation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshops with the Krannert Center's Sam Smith and Emily Laugeson. The two-hour session definitely could have been longer, however it was a good step toward equipping staff to help advance the District's DEI goals. If we are going to move the needle, it is going to take all of us!
- Thirty-two staff members participated in annual AED/CPR/First Aid training on July 28th and 29th.
- On July 22nd, Mary attended the Whole Community Planning for a Disaster workshop held at the ILEAS Training Center. Local police and fire representatives were in attendance, along with members of Champaign County Emergency Management as well and other members of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
- The District's student placement from the Youth Employment Services program concluded on July 14th. We look forward to participating in the program again next summer!
- Seasonal hiring is mostly wrapped up for 2021; YTD 75 offers have been extended and 65 employees have been successfully onboarded.

Marketing (Lisa Sprinkle)

- Media coverage last month included:
 - **Freedom Fest at Lake of the Woods is July 30**
https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/freedom_fest_at_lake_of_the_woods_is_july_30th
 - **Kids can learn to go Green at Museum Monday**
https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/kids_can_learn_to_go_green_at_museum_monday

- **Middle Fork River Forest Preserve is at the forefront of Illinois' stargazing tourism**
https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/middle-fork-river-forest-preserve-at-forefront-of-illinois-stargazing-tourism/article_2f0d2012-57fb-5e0b-9c85-9e344371f921.html
- **CCFPD Proves Summer isn't over yet**
<https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/ccfpd-proves-summer-isnt-quite-over-yet/>
- On Wednesday, July 28, Matt Kuntz and Middle Fork River Forest Preserve were recognized with an Illinois Tourism Award from Visit Champaign County for their impact on the area's astro-tourism. As the only International Dark Sky Park in Illinois, this campground and preserve is treating guests to an [#OutsideOfOrdinary](#) view of the stars. The awardee is pictured at right with VCC board members.
- The rescheduled Freedom Fest celebration took place on Friday, July 30 to a reduced crowd of around 1,000, which is about ¼ of the number the event usually draws. We raised \$2,300 in sponsorship donations and \$100 in vendor fees. Sue Gallo recruited a great group of volunteers for the event and Lincoln's Challenge cadets helped with cleanup on Saturday, August 1.
- Working with the DEI Committee, Lisa designed a new banner to be hung at all preserve entrances to highlight that Nature is for Everyone!



- New map brochures were developed for all the preserves, including Heron View. The new brochures are in full color and include updated trail maps and features.
- Social media numbers continue to increase.

	FACEBOOK	+/-	INSTAGRAM	+/-	TWITTER	+/-
CCFPD	6,026	+559	2,535	+38	553	-2
KRT	3,468	+187	107	+8	129	+2
MGP	4,859	+487	1,187	+11	244	+0
HLIC	3,013	+192				
GC	1,848	+126	323	+2	101	+3
FPPF	482	+33				

Volunteers (Sue Gallo)

- With Lisa's help, Sue designed and purchased volunteer Thank You Anniversary postcards to send instead of birthday mailings. They will be sent to thank volunteers for their help over the year and will be sent on their application or start date rather than birthday wishes. Implementing this took a little adjustment with report generation in Volgistics, which is designed to send birthday mailings, not anniversary mailings.
- We held a Sedge Workshop for Volunteers conducted by INHS Botanist Paul Marcum that had maximum attendance. The volunteers who attended were very appreciative of this opportunity. Special thanks to Matt Finzel for his help, and to Peter Goodspeed for letting him attend! Museum and education staff offered a volunteer-only insider tour of the new Rankin collections center by zoom that was very informative. Mycologist rock star Andy Miller has agreed to present on the Mushrooms of Illinois for the Volunteer Appreciation Evening on August 26th at the Salt Fork Center!
- Twenty-four volunteers helped with gates and boats the evening of our rescheduled Freedom Fest celebration. Many additional volunteers provided dinner, five scouts helped with the flag, and 20 cadets from Lincoln's Challenge helped clean up the next day. Truly a community effort!
- Thanks to Chris Edmondson for donating FootGolf passes to our volunteer appreciation event and for allowing us to offer a FootGolf event for volunteers in the near future! Thanks too to Pat and M&E staff for offering a discount at the museum store for CCFPD volunteers! Sue is very grateful for this and is pleased to be able to offer a wide variety of 'perks' to our regular CCFPD volunteers.

Grants and Development (Ryan Anderson)

- Applications
 - IDNR Public Museum Capital Grant- \$726,900
 - This grant will be used to replace the green house connected to the Discovery Garden. The new greenhouse will expand the usable space for botanical garden staff and create a public area in the greenhouse for the Museum and Education Department to do interpretation. The new building will also include new public restrooms to replace the deteriorating bathrooms east of the museum. There will also be flex space in this new bathroom that can be used for programming and rentals.
 - National Association For Interpretation- \$1,000
 - This grant will be used to partially fund the installation of a new "Story Walk" on the trail north of the Museum of the Grant Prairie, as shown here in yellow.
- We have begun to see a shift in focus for many private foundations locally and nationally. Many foundations are requesting diversity and equity information in their applications. Some funders are also targeting grants to organizations that provide direct assistance to underrepresented communities. The work that the District is doing to ensure we meet DEI goals will help, but the lack of diversity on our boards



and in our staff may prove to be a hurdle in the future. So far this priority shift has not affected State or Federal funding but we will continue to monitor this trend.

- Attached to this staff report is a mid-year fundraising report that was provided to the Friends Foundation board at its August meeting. We are on par to meet or exceed prior years' totals.

Lake of the Woods Golf Course (Chris Edmondson and Joie Torres)

- July was another strong month of play and revenue. For the month we had 5,816 players, essentially matching the player count from 2020 and a fair amount above the previous five-year average of 4,661. The revenue for the month was \$136,934. This total is \$15,400 above 2020 numbers and well above the five-year average of \$105,452. Weather certainly helped us out, with a much cooler than normal July. This factor combined with facility upgrades and continued course condition improvement will help keep these numbers up where they belong.
- July was a popular month for golf outings and events. Below are the outings we hosted, with player/revenue totals as well.

Outing	# of Players	Total Revenue	Merchandise
Bulldog Open	96	\$4,085.00	\$480.00
Edelman Electric	24	\$1,543.75	\$45.00
Mahomet Rotary Club	59	\$2,837.50	\$340.00
Lanz Plumbing	16	\$841.00	\$185.00
Grasshoppers	36	\$936.00	\$0.00
MSHS Golf Fundraiser	88	\$3,960.00	\$440.00
Champaign Central Football	48	\$2,074.00	\$240.00
STM Athletic Boosters	96	\$4,370.00	\$480.00

- On July 29th we held our annual Junior Open golf tournament, which is now part of the Central Illinois Junior Golf Tour (CIJGT). Despite a thunderstorm delay mid-round, the event was a success with 60 kids, ranging from ages 5 to 17, participating in the event.
- We also held our annual Junior Golf Camp July 12-15. This camp is for ages 10-17 and runs from 8:00 a.m. to noon each day. To give the kids more one-on-one learning, we limit the camp to the first 25 paid entrants and it was once again full. The camp covers all aspects of the game of golf – play, rules, maintenance, etc. – plus some other fun activities, including a visit from Stacey Clementz and staff with some reptiles and nature tools (pictured).
- Construction crew completed our latest renovation in July – Pro Shop hallway window replacement. The original windows were still in place and had either become loose, the seals had deteriorated, or the window had completely cracked. This project was much needed and looks fantastic. It will certainly help with heating and



cooling efficiency inside the building as well (pictured above).

- We are looking at a cart fleet replacement for 2022. The current fleet has run its course (on year 6 of a 5-year plan) and is in need of replacement. We have had gas and electric cart demonstrations from Ez-Go and Club Car over the past month. The advancements in the electric carts really have peaked our interest (one battery and charger, 5 year warranty, reduction of hours used on repairs, environmental considerations, cost of gas). The electric carts received more positive reviews from those that took them out for a round. Golf staff are in the process of receiving quotes for trade-in on our current fleet and cost of a new electric fleet.
- The golf maintenance crew worked and repaired irrigation leaks on the 18-hole course - #15 fairway, #11 fairway, #16 men's tee, and hole #3 on the Par 3 course.
- The crew renovated the potholes on the cart path on hole #16 and the #15 fairway. Both have been seeded, fertilized and roped off. We will continue to work on filling potholes on holes #6 and #12. July was a wet month and it set us back on completing the rest of the potholes.
- Crew members cut down and removed four ash trees on hole #1.
- The maintenance crew has been keeping up with the mowing and continuing to work hard on keeping the golf course in excellent shape!

Natural Resources (Peter Goodspeed)

- In July, some targeted invasive species began to set seed. However, invasive plant control continued for several species including:
 - Spraying patches of bird's-foot trefoil with broadleaf-selective herbicide along trails at Buffalo Trace;
 - Spraying patches of cutleaf teasel with broadleaf-selective herbicide at Buffalo Trace and along the KRT;
 - Spraying patches of lespedeza with broadleaf-selective herbicide at Middle Fork and Homer Lake;
 - Hand pulling white sweet clover in various locations throughout the preserves.
- The planning department and site operations are considering creating a new trail that loops through the Baerman prairie at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. Baerman prairie is one of the oldest prairie restorations at the District and because of this, natural resources staff conducted a sensitive plant survey in the site to inform the design of the trail.
- At the Point Pleasant wetland, beavers constructed dams around the weir and drain pipe, preventing the drainage of the wetland for continued construction and maintenance. Natural resources staff spent some time mitigating the beaver impacts by:
 - Breaking two beaver dams with hand tools;
 - Unclogging the drain pipe with high pressure water from a trash pump;
 - Constructing an enclosure around the drain pipe to prevent future clogging/damming.



- On the administrative end, Peter continued to work on various projects including:
 - Contracting out the removal of hazardous trees adjacent to parking lots at Homer Lake;
 - Ordering native seed for restoration projects;
 - Ordering native trees for fall planting.

Museum and Education Department (Barb Garvey and Pam Leiter)

- We pivot once again - we have gone back to requiring masks inside the Homer Lake Interpretive Center (HLIC) and masks exclusively at the Museum of the Grand Prairie (MGP) for the foreseeable future. Pam Leiter has been diligently keeping up with every new situation regarding waivers and volunteer policies for the department.
- We are grateful to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for funding a huge improvement to the HLIC's ADA parking. A brand-new paved parking space, connected to the sidewalks, is now ready for visitors. Thanks to the Construction Department for doing the pour and painting.
- After a recent infestation, the HLIC is being treated for carpenter ants. Staff have observed many adult ants roaming the building, as well as many ants carrying eggs and pupa (pictured at right).
- The Homer Lake Nature Center staff team met in early August to dive deep into our direction and next options. We are developing supporting documents as part of the process to be ready for a feasibility study. In the meantime, a potential donor emerged; within a week of meeting her for the first time at the Center she offered to make a substantial donation. Our staff are skilled at building relationships!
- All staff at the MGP have been working diligently on the MGP's reaccreditation Self-Study paperwork due in March 2022.
- The MGP welcomes a new collections volunteer, Martha Diehl. Martha volunteered for several years at the Chanute Air Museum and has a strong background in history.
- Mark Hanson continues to serve on the African American Cultural Heritage Trail committee and archives sub-committee.
- Barb Garvey continues with the Lincoln Legacy Committee, now as chair. The committee is rewriting by-laws and planning a recognition of the Lincoln DAR markers and the man who inspired them, Joseph Cunningham, sometime this fall
- Barb continues on the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Steering Committee as the representative from Champaign County. She is also on the committee to promote the Underground Railroad story in Illinois.
- The Illinois State Historical Archives and Records Bureau grant funded not only transcriptions but also an East Frisian traveling and web exhibit. These are nearing completion.
- Artifact movement into Rankin Center has begun and workspace setup is nearly complete.



- Mark was asked to sit on the “Doing Oral History: Case Studies and Practical Advice” panel for the 23rd Annual Conference on Illinois History
- Jennifer Wick helped plan Homerdoodle, a collaborative event with volunteers Jill Robbins and Mary Voudrie. This letterboxing event brought over 100 people from 14 states to Homer Lake over the weekend of July 17th. As part of the event, attendees were invited to bring donations to the Interpretive Center. We received so many donated items that we were able to share with other departments. Thank you cards were sent to each donor. Many thanks to Stacey and Quinn for their help on the 17th!
- Jennifer’s Homer Lake StoryWalk in July, “The Story of the Little Mole Who Went in Search of Whodunit,” was well visited, and we continue to receive feedback from visitors through the survey linked to the QR code at the end.
- Jennifer’s Walk with a Naturalist went well. These have been very popular this summer, and so she will offer this program monthly.
- A small but enthusiastic group of girl scouts visited the Center for a reptiles program. This has been the only in-person scout program so far this year.
- Jennifer’s Family Fishing Day at Lake of the Woods was different than Take Me Fishing, but fun! Attendees were really thankful that we were able to offer this program.
- Jennifer hosted Dave Leake for a virtual Starwatch program. This was a great opportunity to promote upcoming star gazing events. She and Dave are planning a Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing program at Middle Fork on August 11th. They are also discussing a traditional Starwatch event in October, pending COVID trends.
- Stacey conducted a program at the Junior Golf Camp; the campers got to meet our rat snake (who was owned by Dave Huber’s son before he went off to college) and try their hand at creating a fire with flint and steel.
- Jennifer coordinated with IL River Watch so they could host a River Watch open lab at Lake of the Woods.
- Pam Leiter met with Visit Champaign County (VCC) to film footage for multiple Tiktok videos VCC will make about Homer Lake and the Interpretive Center.
- Pat Cain & Barb Garvey hosted another *Mornings with the Museum* program on July 14 with a theme of called “Sports Stories”. Local baseball and Olympic related history was discussed during this live virtual program streamed on museum Facebook and YouTube pages.
- A registration-based version of Museum Mondays has continued this month. Event themes have included Fun with Fossils, Cars and Trucks and Things That Go! (in collaboration with LOW operations and construction staff), All Fun & Olympic Games, and Let There Be Light!
- A registration-based series of Summer in the Schoolhouse programs took place this month. Volunteers Sandy Lu Newport and Judy Pece played the role of school marm and put on 19th century reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography lessons for patrons.
- The first two concerts of the CCFPD Summer Concert Series took place. July 18th featured a concert at Walnut Hill Shelter where The Chickadee Sermon performed and August 1st featured a concert in Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden where two bands, Nectar & Dearie, performed. Attendance was slightly greater than past concerts at these sites, but concerts were held safely with proper COVID protocols and safety measures were in place.
- Pat Cain is working with Looking for Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area committee to reevaluate the organization’s strategic plan.

- The Museum and Education Department hosted a virtual volunteer recognition and recruitment event on July 9. Participants got a virtual tour of the Stanley Rankin Collections Care Center.
- Pat Cain continues to work with Warren Levy and Hannah Carraway as part of the UI Community Academic Scholar program. In August, Hannah will provide a report and recommendations to the District about increasing access to District properties and facilities for underrepresented communities in order to improve health.
- Pat Cain continues to work on an independent research study project with Dr. Alan Lessoff of ISU's Department of History. Pat is surveying central Illinois history museums, historic sites, and historical societies for basic information and available resources. The research will ultimately produce a published report and the findings to ISU's history department as well as throughout the central Illinois museum & history community.
- Katie Snyder created a Boredom Busters Camp in a Bag as an alternative to Mischievous Kids Camp which sold out. The bags were distributed from MGP and HLIC to campers and videos accompanied on Facebook to instruct campers on their use.
- The MGP hosted a Zoom Camp featuring crafts, activities and information about tree rings. There was a craft bag distributed by Sandy Osborne (MGP) in advance of the camp.
- Several libraries participated with the M&Ed department this summer in an enhancement to their summer reading program, Reading Colors My World. Jennifer Wick's contribution for the Tolono Library was themed "The Brown Around Us" – everything from scat to fur to camouflage to decomposition.
- HLIC hired Connor Monson, Museum intern, to help cover Interpretive Center open hours this summer. Welcome Connor!
- Pam attended the first of three Leadership Illinois conferences this year (in person) as part of the Leadership Illinois Fellowes program. This conference theme was "Power of the Individual" and included facilitated sessions on leadership style & approach, speakers such as the St Louis Metro CEO, an Air Force Brigadier General with over 40 years of experience, the Belleville mayor, and the owner of Eckert's Family Farm. We also had a golf lesson! It was amazing to be among about 25 women leaders from all sectors of society all there to support each other. The other two conferences will be in September and October, focusing on the marketplace and government.
- Pam also attended the Global Leadership Summit online in early August.
- The Interpretive Center received a generous \$2500 donation toward tree education at Homer Lake, as well as many other smaller general cash donations.
- Marina Montez-Ellis created and distributed the ever popular Miniature Garden Moon Day Kits which sold out and have been distributed to many happy virtual campers.
- HLIC Facebook stats, July 1-31: Average Daily Organic Reach: 687 (Sum: 21,297)
 - Average Daily Page Engaged Users: 36 (Sum: 1,112)
- MGP Facebook stats, July 1-31: Average Daily Organic Reach:635 (Sum:19,077)
 - Average Daily Page Engaged Users: 27, (Sum: 821)

Lake of the Woods, River Bend, Sangamon River, Heron View, and Botanical Gardens (Doug Sanders)

- I am pleased to announce that Victor Yelaska has filled the fulltime maintenance position. Victor comes to the District with many years of experience, including an associates degree in

biology, 20 years as a journeyman carpenter, and 12 years as a senior field technician for Cardno. Victor's skillsets include invasive species management, crew supervision, and the operation of heavy equipment, among many others.

- The public have really liked the improvements at the Peninsula! So far this season the rental boat program has been going very well. In addition to the normal weekend rentals, parties have been offered the option to purchase advance tickets. Rentals at Lake of the Woods Pavilion, Lakeview Shelter and Rotary Hill Shelter have taken advantage of this new opportunity on several occasions. There have also been a few 1-hour group rentals throughout the week. What may be most surprising is that the new kayaks only account for 7 percent of the weekly rentals. We appreciate the professionalism and hard work that seasonal boat attendants Sarah, Hayley, Shaughn have provided this summer!



- Michael Dale reports that the garden staff have streamlined several of their tasks over the past few years which has provided them to do some “fun” stuff. Among these enjoyable projects include building a new water planter in the Enabling Garden, refurbishing an ash tree stump into an oversized peg game similar to those on the tables at the Cracker Barrel, and developing a new shade bed bordering the bike trail in a problematic mowing area.
- Even with the frequent summer showers and high humidity, the preserves remain very active with fishing, kids on the playgrounds, family picnics, visitors at the botanical garden and regular walkers/runners.

Middle Fork River (Matt Kuntz)

- The Harry L. Swartz campground continues to see record numbers with bookings and visitation to the campground. In the last month we are also seeing an uptick with weekday camping.
- Thanks to Pat Cain for the summer concert series that was held at Middle Fork the first weekend in August. Perfect weather and a great crowd produced a wonderful evening.
- Environmental educators have been at the campground once a month on weekends providing interpretive opportunities for campers. This has been a big hit with our guests and more requests have come in for programs.

- Due to recent extremely hot weather and lack of rain we were beginning to see a drop in water levels at our ponds. Heavy rains on August 12 should help. Water loss at Willow Pond often precedes water quality issues that can lead to a ban in swimming.

Homer Lake (Brian Taylor)

- The new metal roof and new gutters have been installed on the Walnut Hill shelter. It looks very nice and should last at least another fifty years. (see picture)
- The construction crew was able to find the time to power wash and do the prep work on the Salt Fork Center before a sealer is applied to the siding. A black residue was removed so that the natural rich cedar color was visible again. (see picture)
- Homer Lake staff attended two different training sessions as we continued with the DEI workshops and CPR recertification.
- The weather cooperated and we had a very nice turn out for the music on the lake event on July 18th.



District Cultural Competency Initiatives

- The New American Welcome Center (NAWC) has resumed putting together the Champaign County Welcoming Plan. As the head of the Health & Wellbeing (H&WB) Working Group, Pam has been working with NAWC staff to finalize the H&WB section of the Plan and get input from the working group. The Welcoming Plan will publicly launch on September 15, 4-6pm at the I Hotel.
- Jennifer Grove and Katie Snyder attended a Welcoming Week planning meeting where they determined a plan to put together activity kits for students at Stratton Elementary School in Champaign. Jennifer also plans to offer a bi-lingual StoryWalk for Welcoming Week. The M & Ed Department will once again run the French and Spanish language video introductions, to the CCFPD, produced in 2020, on Facebook.
- Staff from HR and M & Ed will co-lead the District's DEI committee until the next Executive Director determines its direction.
- Jamila Appleby is continuing to collect and update oral histories for the This Legacy is Yours project. This Legacy is Yours was an exhibit, and is a permanent virtual exhibit on the MGP web page detailing the lives of prominent African American women in Champaign County.
- The neighborhood event at Crestview Park in Urbana was postponed due to heavy rain on August 12. Representatives of the DEI committee and CAC were scheduled to attend.

ETHICS ORDINANCE #04-3

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has enacted the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Public Act 93-615, effective November 19, 2003, as amended by Public Act 93-617, effective December 9, 2003), which is a comprehensive revision of State statutes regulating ethical conduct, political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by State officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires all units of local government and school districts, within six months after the effective date of Public Act 93-615, to adopt ordinances or resolutions regulating the political activities of, and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by, the officers and employees of such units "in a manner no less restrictive" than the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, it is the clear intention of the Act to require units of local government and school districts to implement regulations that are at least as restrictive as those contained in the Act, and to impose penalties for violations of those regulations that are equivalent to those imposed by the Act, notwithstanding that such penalties may exceed the general authority granted to units of local government to penalize ordinance violations; and

WHEREAS, it is the clear intention of the Act to provide units of local government with all authority necessary to implement its requirements on the local level regardless of any general limitations on the power to define and punish ordinance violations that might otherwise be applicable; and

WHEREAS, because the Act provides for the imposition of significant penalties for violations of said local regulations, it is necessary to adopt the required regulations by Ordinance rather than by Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Code of Ordinances of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is hereby amended by the addition of the following provisions:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

Section 1-1. For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall be given these definitions:

"Campaign for elective office" means any activity in furtherance of an effort to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any federal, State, or local public office or office in a political organization, or the selection, nomination, or election of

Presidential or Vice-Presidential electors, but does not include activities (i) relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action, (ii) relating to collective bargaining, or (iii) that are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

"Candidate" means a person who has filed nominating papers or petitions for nomination or election to an elected office, or who has been appointed to fill a vacancy in nomination, and who remains eligible for placement on the ballot at a regular election, as defined in section 1-3 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/1-3). "Collective bargaining" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/3).

"Collective Bargaining" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/3).

"Compensated time" means, with respect to an employee, any time worked by or credited to the employee that counts toward any minimum work time requirement imposed as a condition of his or her employment, but for purposes of this Ordinance, does not include any designated holidays, vacation periods, personal time, compensatory time off or any period when the employee is on a leave of absence. With respect to officers or employees whose hours are not fixed, "compensated time" includes any period of time when the officer is on premises under the control of the employer and any other time when the officer or employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

"Compensatory time off" means authorized time off earned by or awarded to an employee to compensate in whole or in part for time worked in excess of the minimum work time required of that employee as a condition of his or her employment.

"Contribution" has the same meaning as that term is defined in section 9-1.4 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9-1.4).

"Employee" means a person employed by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, whether on a full-time or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract, whose duties are subject to the direction and control of an employer with regard to the material details of how the work is to be performed, but does not include an independent contractor.

"Employer" means the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

"Gift" means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including, but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of an officer or employee.

"Leave of absence" means any period during which an employee does not receive (i) compensation for employment, (ii) service credit towards pension benefits, and (iii) health insurance benefits paid for by the employer.

"Officer" means a person who holds, by election or appointment, an office created by statute or ordinance, regardless of whether the officer is compensated for service in his or her official capacity.

"Political activity" means any activity in support of or in connection with any campaign for elective office or any political organization, but does not include activities (i) relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action, (ii) relating to collective bargaining, or (iii) that are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

"Political organization" means a party, committee, association, fund, or other organization (whether or not incorporated) that is required to file a statement of organization with the State Board of Elections or a county clerk under Section 9-3 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/9-3), but only with regard to those activities that require filing with the State Board of Elections or a county clerk.

"Prohibited political activity" means:

(1) Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.

(2) Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event

(3) Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.

(4) Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.

(5) Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.

(6) Assisting at the polls on election day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(7) Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.

(8) Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(9) Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.

(10) Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.

(11) Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(12) Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(13) Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

(14) Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.

(15) Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

"Prohibited source" means any person or entity who:

(1) is seeking official action (i) by an officer or (ii) by an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee;

(2) does business or seeks to do business (i) with the officer or (ii) with an employee, or with the officer or another employee directing that employee;

(3) conducts activities regulated (i) by the officer or (ii) by an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee; or

(4) has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the officer or employee.

ARTICLE 5

PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Section 5-1. Prohibited political activities. (a) No officer or employee shall intentionally perform any prohibited political activity during any compensated time, as defined herein. No officer or employee shall intentionally use any property or resources of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District in connection with any prohibited political activity.

(b) At no time shall any officer or employee intentionally require any other officer or employee to perform any prohibited political activity (i) as part of that officer or employee's duties, (ii) as a condition of employment, or (iii) during any compensated time off (such as holidays, vacation or personal time off).

(c) No officer or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any prohibited political activity in consideration for that officer or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise, nor shall any officer or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any prohibited political activity.

(d) Nothing in this Section prohibits activities that are permissible for an officer or employee to engage in as part of his or her official duties, or activities that are undertaken by an officer or employee on a voluntary basis which are not prohibited by this Ordinance.

(e) No person either (i) in a position that is subject to recognized merit principles of public employment or (ii) in a position the salary for which is paid in whole or in part by federal funds and that is subject to the Federal Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration applicable to grant-in-aid programs, shall be denied or deprived of employment or tenure solely because he or she is a member or an officer of a political committee, of a political party, or of a political organization or club.

ARTICLE 10

GIFT BAN

Section 10-1. Gift ban. Except as permitted by this Article, no officer or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with any officer or employee (collectively referred to herein as "recipients"), shall intentionally solicit or accept any gift from any prohibited source, as defined herein, or which is otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this Section.

Section 10-2. Exceptions. Section 10-1 is not applicable to the following:

(1) Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.

(2) Anything for which the officer or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.

(3) Any (i) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code or (ii) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.

(4) Educational materials and missions.

(5) Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss business.

(6) A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.

(7) Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (i) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (ii) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (iii) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other officers or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.

(8) Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are (i) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared or (ii) catered. For the purposes of this Section, "catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.

(9) Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of an officer or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the officer or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.

(10) Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. For the purpose of this Act, "intra-governmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee from another officer or employee, and "inter-governmental gift"

means any gift given to an officer or employee by an officer or employee of another governmental entity.

(11) Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.

(12) Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the exceptions listed in this Section is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

Section 10-3. Disposition of gifts. An officer or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the officer or employee, does not violate this Ordinance if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now or hereafter amended, renumbered, or succeeded.

ARTICLE 15

ETHICS ADVISOR

(Intentionally Omitted)

ARTICLE 20

ETHICS COMMISSION

(Intentionally Omitted)

ARTICLE 25

PENALTIES

11 Section 25-1. Penalties. (a) A person who intentionally violates any provision of Article 5 of this Ordinance may be punished by a term of incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for a period of not more than 364 days, and may be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

(b) A person who intentionally violates any provision of Article 10 of this Ordinance is subject to a fine in an amount of not less than \$1,001 and not more than \$5,000.

(c) Any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of this Ordinance to the local enforcement authorities, the State's Attorney or any other law enforcement official may be punished by a term of incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for a period of not more than 364 days, and may be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.


(d) A violation of Article 5 of this Ordinance shall be prosecuted as a criminal offense by an attorney for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District by filing in the circuit court an information, or sworn complaint, charging such offense. The prosecution shall be under and conform to the rules of criminal procedure. Conviction shall require the establishment of the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt. A violation of Article 10 of this Ordinance may be prosecuted as a quasi-criminal offense by an attorney for the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, or, if an Ethics Commission has been created, by the Commission through the designated administrative procedure.

(e) In addition to any other penalty that may be applicable, whether criminal or civil, an officer or employee who intentionally violates any provision of Article 5 or Article 10 of this Ordinance is subject to discipline or discharge.

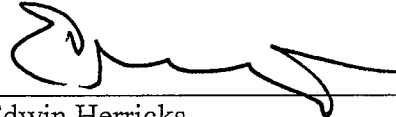
SECTION 2: Repeal of original gift ban provisions. Resolution adopted January 21, 1999.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall be in effect upon its passage, approval and publication [if required] as provided by law.

Jacquie White (absent)



Robert Toalson



Edwin Herricks

Ruth Wene (absent)



Vern Zehr

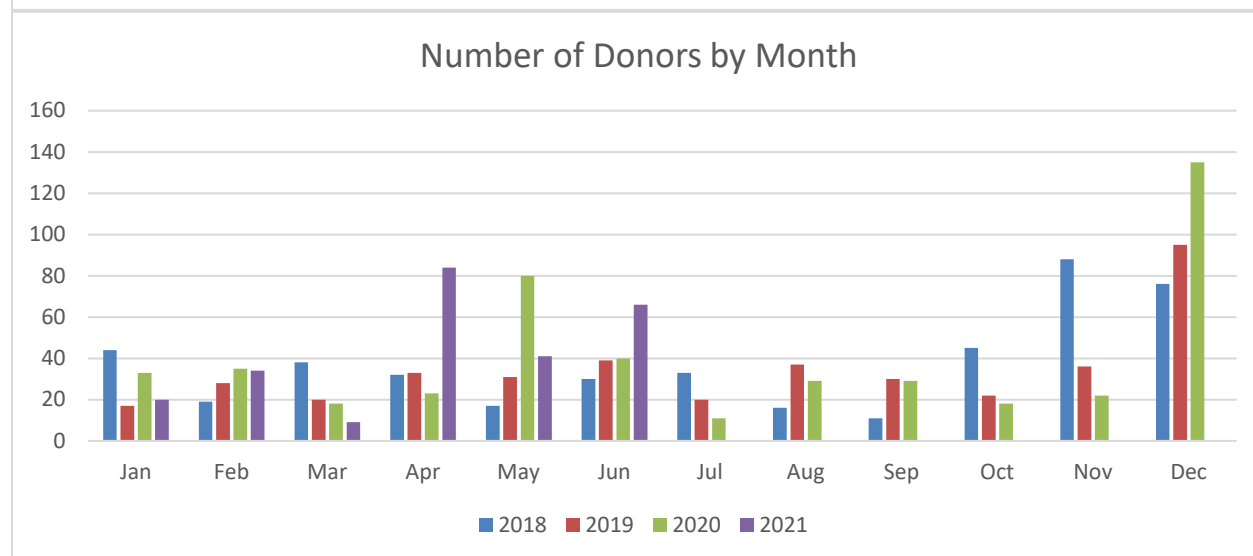
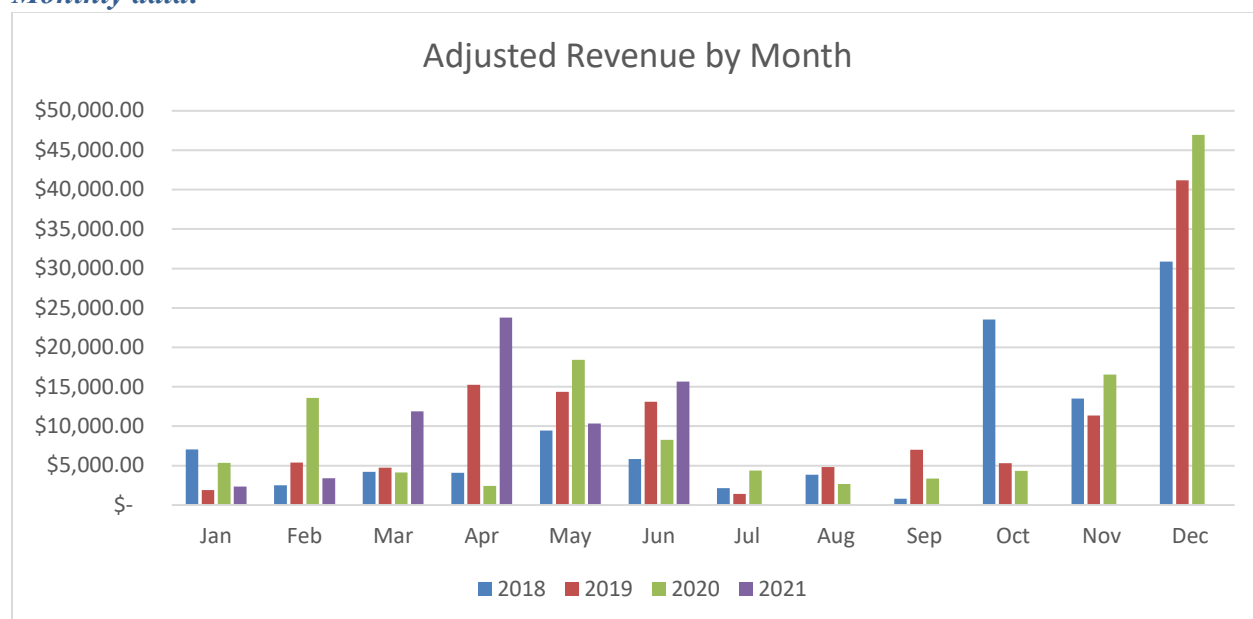
Fundraising Trends at Mid-Year 2021

Donations Four-Year Summary

("Adjusted" numbers have a few very large bequests and donations removed to provide a more realistic annual comparison)

4 year totals:		2018	2019	2020	2021/mid-year
# of donors		339	325	348	206
Total \$		\$344,015.97	\$462,999.87	\$182,614.87	\$ 97,369.13
Total \$ (adjusted)		\$107,844.97	\$125,838.87	\$150,399.44	\$ 67,394.13
Mid-year totals:		2018	2019	2020	2021
# of donors		153	145	198	206
Total \$ (adjusted)		\$33,157.72	\$54,745.08	\$52,178.57	\$67,394.13
% of year total		31%	44%	35%	

Monthly data:



2020 & 2021(YTD) Donations Summary by Constituent Group

	Staff	Board	FPPF	CAC	Charitables	Individuals	Organizations	Business
2020	\$4,490.79	\$2,780.00	\$11,030.70	\$1,540.00	\$67,409.94	\$67,675.29	\$3,170.71	\$2,302.01
2021	\$3,235.74	\$1,144.00	\$5,572.00	\$154.00	\$48,531.08	\$28,154.79	\$12,341.60	\$935.92
2022								

Notes:

- 2021 data is through June 30, 2021; prior years' data consist of full years
- "Charitables" includes Grants, Foundations, Funds and Trusts
- We received \$10,000 from AMBUCS (Organization) for the Peninsula Accessibility Project in 2021
- We are on pace to match or exceed last year's donation amount