

# WHITESIDE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## *Educational Highlights*

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November 2005

Newsletter No. 3 Volume 61

### Calendar Of Events

- 10 Korean War veterans - commemorative holiday
- 11 Veterans' Day, legal school holiday - ROE Closed
- 13 - 19 American Education Week
- 14-20 National Children's Book Week
- 24 Thanksgiving Day, legal school holiday - ROE closed
- 25 Thanksgiving Friday - ROE Closed



### Will your school be represented on December 5 – 7, 2005?

The Raising Student Achievement Conference for the State of Illinois, sponsored by the Regional Offices of Education in collaboration with the Intermediate Service Centers, ISBE and PBIS, will be held at Pheasant Run, St. Charles, on December 5 – 7. This is a conference that every educator will find valuable – whatever the grade level, whatever the job assignment, whatever the students with whom the educator interacts in his assignment. There is something for everyone ranging from regular classroom instructors and specialists in curriculum, special education, gifted education, and ESL, to administrators, at all levels.

How can this be a conference for everyone? Because this is about “Moving All Children Forward” in meeting the requirements of NCLB. It is about facing the challenges of school districts to out perform their past test scores. It is about learning from those who have been successful in addressing the challenges of Subgroup Populations, Content Delivery, Data Analysis for School Improvement Planning, and the School-Community Culture that is in each district.

Visit the website [www.roeachievementconference.org](http://www.roeachievementconference.org) for a full description of the keynote speakers, Administrator Academies, and the break-out sessions planned for each day.

All registrations are to be completed on-line this year. The deadline for registration is **November 18**. Plan now to attend!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## **SERVICES**

• **Laminating** - If you would like to laminate your school materials, you may use the laminating machine for \$.50 per foot. If you would like us to do the laminating for you, the cost is \$1 per foot.

• **Ellison Letter Machine** - You may use the Ellison letter machine at the office for \$2 per use. You may pick up the machine, use it off-site, and return it for a fee of \$10 per day.

## **PROGRAMS**

• **Whiteside County Parents As Teachers** - Parents As Teachers is a parent education program which provides developmental information and support to families with children birth to age 5. Personalized home visits, parent/child activities, toy lending libraries, developmental screenings, and a monthly newsletter are available free-of-charge to Whiteside County families. For more information, call Pat Rhodes at 815/625-1495.

## **Illinois Teacher of the Year to Keynote Meeting The Challenge XVI**

*Meeting The Challenge XVI*, a fine arts conference for all educators, has been planned for January 6, 2006 at Sauk Valley Community College. The flyers with the registration information will be mailed to all schools in Whiteside County and to fine arts teachers by mid-November.

Three workshop sessions will be available to each participant in the areas of drama, visual arts, music, and dance. Many of the sessions are hands-on and will provide curriculum which participants should be able to duplicate in their classrooms. The theme this year is Weaving the Fine Arts into the Core Curriculum, so many integrated lessons will be presented to all grade levels. Jacque Bolger, Illinois Teacher of the Year 2005, will be presenting the keynote address. Jacque is the French Department chair at Hononegah High School in Rockton.

The full day of activities will be awarded 5 CPDUs. Registrations post-marked by **Friday, December 9** will be eligible for an early-bird discount, and confirmations of registrations will follow by FAX. If you are responsible for fine arts instruction, this is a conference for you! Be watching for the flyer giving the full details and registration information.

## **USDLC Professional Development Programs**

United States Distance Learning Channel (formerly StarNet) provides professional development to teachers through webcast format only in the 2005-2006 school year. No longer is this being provided over satellite transmission or by our regional office as taped programs. CPDUs are still awarded through Western Illinois University for viewing and completion of projects from the Professional Development programs. Complete schedule and pricing of courses/programs are available at [www.usdlc.org](http://www.usdlc.org).

## ***Reading First* Near Conclusion**

*Reading First*, the State of Illinois Reading Initiative that is grade specific for teachers of grades K – 3, has been offered in Whiteside County as a series of nine sessions this fall. Nine teachers have participated in the session for teachers of kindergarten and first grade, representing four districts. Sixteen teachers, representing five districts, have attended the session of grades 2 & 3. Instructors were Cheryl Faber and Betty Clementz. This series will again be offered in the spring or summer. Even veteran teachers have stated how many new ideas and strategies they have adapted from this training.

# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## **November: National Career Development Month**

November has been designated as National Career Development Month in the United States with the week of November 14 - 18 as National Career Development Week. A poster and poetry contest is being sponsored in the Whiteside County schools to help focus attention on Education-To-Careers. Each building principal has received a fax with the guidelines for the contests, the entry form for student work, and the student/parent release form. Age categories have been set to allow participation across grade levels.

Winning entries in each category for each building are to be sent to the attention of Betty Clementz at the Whiteside Regional Office of Education, 1001 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sterling no later than November 18. Winning entries from the county competition will be announced during the first week of December and forwarded to the State of Illinois competition. This may be just the project you have been seeking for American Education Week bulletin boards! If you have any questions, contact Betty Clementz.

## **Have Professional Development? Will Publicize!**

In Whiteside County you have many sources of obtaining professional development. Each month this newsletter contains the most recent list of all workshops scheduled by the Whiteside Regional Office of Education, but that is only one source!

The website of [www.whitesideroe.org](http://www.whitesideroe.org) also contains an up-to-date list of the workshops to be presented by Whiteside County! The registration form can be downloaded at this site to be used for any workshop.

There is a website that has all the professional development being offered throughout the state of Illinois. This is a site of the regional superintendents of schools: [www.iarss.org](http://www.iarss.org). When you enter this site, you will see a map of Illinois that lets you access a list of all the workshops/conferences by area of the state (Whiteside is in Area II), by county, by topic, by curricular subject, etc. What a great way to find exactly the workshop to meet your needs! Anyone can access the site. Why not visit this website, and you will quickly add it to your list of favorites.

## **PROGRAMS (cont.)**

- **Even Start Family Literacy Program** – Even Start is a comprehensive family literacy program that integrates adult education, early childhood education, parent education and parent/child literacy interaction. Families eligible for Adult Basic Education and who have a child ages birth to five years qualify for services. Even Start offers two different formats in order to meet the needs of eligible families. **Even Start Family Class/Class Familiar** is for parents learning English as a Second Language and their young children ages birth to five years. This class meets Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. or Monday through Wednesday 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Wallace Education Center. **Even Start Learning Together Class** is for parents in need of improving basic reading skills or working on GED preparation and their young children ages birth to three years. This class meets Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. or Monday through Wednesday 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at Wallace Education Center. This class has a special focus on teen parents.

- **Even Start Family Literacy Program** is a collaborative project between Head Start, Prevention Initiative, Parents as Teachers and the Whiteside Regional Office of Education. For more information on these programs, please contact Lois Meisenheimer at 815/625-1495.

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## **Science, Math, and Technology By Paul Cannon**

### **Looking at the Night Sky in November**

Looking east late these evenings, you will see a big, fiery yellow "star" shining much brighter than any other. This is the planet Mars, and it is passing unusually close to Earth from late October until mid-November 2005. Anyone can see it — no matter how little you know about the stars or how badly light-polluted the sky may be. Look for Mars glaring low in the east in early to mid-November, coming into view as early as 6 p.m. standard time. Later each evening, Mars climbs higher into better view and shifts over to the southeast. There's nothing else nearly as bright during this time so you can't miss it. This is the nearest that Mars has come to the earth since its record-breaking close approach in August 2003. At that time, it passed by at a distance of only 34.7 million miles, the closest it had come in 59,619 years. Through mid-November, while not coming as close to earth as it did in August of 2003, Mars will be closer and brighter and appear larger in a telescope than it will again until the year 2018. For amateur telescope users, and even for the casual sky viewer, this is a very special time as the planet will offer an unusually detailed view of its surface. This so called Red Planet (actually bright yellow-orange) is a real eye-catcher blazing high in the east by late evening, just waiting for you to view it!

In addition to the Red Planet Mars, the planet Venus also offers some pretty spectacular viewing during November. Beginning around 5:30 p.m., just after sunset, if you look in the south to southwest sky you will see the planet Venus. As the sky gets darker, Venus will become even more spectacular; however, by 7:00 p.m. each night, it will have disappeared below the horizon and out of sight. Beginning on November 4, a small sliver of the Moon can be seen at about 5:30 p.m. Venus will be seen to the left and above the Moon. If you track these night sky objects for the next few nights, at 5:30 p.m., you will see the distance between Venus and the Moon increase as the Moon rises later each evening and waxes toward a full Moon. Just remember, by 7:00 p.m. each night, Venus will have disappeared below the horizon and out of sight.

### **My Pyramid For Kids**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion has released a children's version of its new food guidance system, "**My Pyramid.**" You can find this information at <http://www.mypyramid.gov/kids/index.html>. The new pyramid is tailored to elementary school children. It includes an interactive component and lesson plans for teachers. Reflecting the *2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans'* advice, "**My Pyramid**" directs Americans of all ages to eat more fruits and vegetables than any other food group.

# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## **IDNR Offers Teachers an "Illinois Tree Trunk"**

Want to learn more about the forest? Grab an *Illinois Tree Trunk* from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)! These trunks are available for loan to teachers and youth group leaders. The trunks are large storage containers that include many items teachers can use to instruct students about trees, forests, forest careers, and the forest industry.

You'll find the following items, and more, inside an Illinois Tree Trunk: books, videos, posters, tree seeds, tree "cookies," lumber samples, rubber leaves, CD-ROMs, as well as lessons and activities for your students. Educators can borrow a trunk by contacting the IDNR Region 1 office in Sterling at 815/625-2968. The recommended loan time is one to two weeks, and you can check out all of the resources available to educators by visiting the IDNR Website which is located on the Internet at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/>. Just click on the large link on the right side of the Homepage which is entitled "EDUCATION," and you will find links to resources (many free), grants, contests, and a "Just for Kids Link."

## ***Wild Illinois* Leads Students on a Journey to Learn About History and Wildlife Conservation**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is offering a "virtual" trip for late-elementary school teachers, students, and their parents. With a few mouse clicks, students can journey back to the earliest days of the Illinois Territory when voyageurs and Native Americans hunted the prairies, forests, and rivers. *Wild Illinois History* helps students in grades three through five to focus on early French exploration, along with river and settlement geography. Students can learn how wildlife helped Native Americans and early settlers survive as well as how wildlife is a part of our lives today. A fictional French trapper in the 18th century Illinois Territory leads students on the trip. Brief story-telling slideshows are mixed with fun, interactive activities.

For teachers, *Wild Illinois History* offers lesson plans, activities, photos, posters and correlations to Illinois Learning Standards. Try it out at <http://www.wildillinois.org/>. For more information, contact Bob Bluett, IDNR Wildlife Diversity Coordinator at 217/782-7580 or [bbluett@dnrmail.state.il.us](mailto:bbluett@dnrmail.state.il.us).

## **Online Teaching Resources**

<http://www.nasaexplores.com/> A site for Express Lessons and Online Resources from NASA. It contains resources, trivia, and a calendar. There is a link called "Just for Fun," offering astronaut profiles, maps, puzzles, and information about the constellations. There are also interactive activities, and the site is updated almost daily.

<http://www.getsmarter.org/index.cfm> Getsmarter.org is an animated, interactive, testing and learning site. Students can compare their math and science scores/knowledge with students from around the world. Your students can access learning tools and links to help them "get smarter."

<http://teachersnetwork.org> offers resources from the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory website and the Teachers Network website. The NWREL site provides information to administrators on supporting beginning teachers in their schools. The Teachers Network has a "For New Teachers" link that allows visitors to ask a specific question of any one of 10 veteran teacher experts and receive a response within 72 hours.



# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## **4058 Coaching to Improve Teaching and Learning**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$270, Code: COA-1700212-3 45 CPDUs, 3 credits. Register at [www.creditsonline.org](http://www.creditsonline.org). Learn processes of collaboration and communication that ensure quality outcomes for students. Establish mutual purpose/respect and how to use a variety of effective coaching communication skills. Maximize expertise, skills, and talents of coaching partners. Opportunity for reflection, practice, observation, analysis, and application of skills. Emphasis on intentional best practice, celebration of success, planning of future observational episodes, and relationship maintenance.

<b>Date(s):</b> OPEN	<b>Times:</b> 12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b> \$270
<b>Location:</b> CE Credits ONLINE	<b>Presenters:</b> CE Credits Online	
<b>Audience:</b> K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b> 45

## Reading

## **4102 Coaching to Improve Reading**

Open ended start and finish dates. ROE #55 Tuition: \$270, Code: COR-1700212-3 45 CPDUs, 3 credits. Register at [www.creditsonline.org](http://www.creditsonline.org). This course focuses upon the all-important coaching relationship in improving student reading achievement and the seven components of successful reading programs as the foundation of reading achievement: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing about the reading, and content area reading skills. Intentional best practice in each reading component is emphasized as the basis for the coaching interaction. Through learning activities, observations of teaching, and practice and application of skills, participants learn how to establish a positive, respectful, caring, and confidential coaching relationship that allows each partner to grow and learn in a safe, collaborative, and guiding atmosphere with the common goal of increasing student reading achievement.

<b>Date(s):</b> OPEN	<b>Times:</b> 12:00 AM to 12:00 AM	<b>Cost:</b> \$275
<b>Location:</b> CE Credits ONLINE	<b>Presenters:</b> CE Credits Online	
<b>Audience:</b> K - 12th	<b>Reg Deadline:</b>	<b>Potential CPDUs:</b> 45

# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## Technology

### **4106 Do You Blog?**

That's a question educators may be hearing quite often these days and more and more are responding with a resounding "yes!" The reason? Teachers have discovered that technologies like weblogs (short for web log) — Web sites that are a snap to update and that students can easily use to publish to the Internet — can be powerful teaching tools.

You may already know what a blog is, but have you heard about Wikis? Unlike blogs, which cater to the individual journal writer, Wikis are designed to be collaborative. The software creates an environment in which authors are encouraged to edit their own and others' work.

Learn about these new technologies that will make your students enthusiastic learners and your job easier.

**Date(s):** 11/15/2005                      **Times:** 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM                      **Cost:** \$25  
**Location:** Whiteside ROE                      **Presenters:** Nancy Slonnegar  
1001 W. 23rd St.                      **Reg. Deadline:** 11/8/2005                      **Potential CPDUs:** 2  
Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K-12th

### **4107 100 + Tech Ideas and Resources for Teachers**

Technology is not new. It has been used throughout history as we have solved problems using tools at hand. In days long ago, technology was used to move rocks; today we move ideas and information, in addition to rocks and rockets. This discussion of activities and web sites is intended to take some of the mystery out of technology and show how technology is fascinating, fun, and absolutely relevant to our lives.

Select from 170 projects for each day of the school year, or work through the collection at your own pace. Some of these ideas broaden the knowledge of teachers and some can be used with students, but all will spark excitement in the learning process.

**Date(s):** 11/22/2005                      **Times:** 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM                      **Cost:** \$25  
**Location:** Whiteside ROE                      **Presenters:** Nancy Slonnegar  
1001 W. 23rd St.                      **Reg. Deadline:** 11/15/2005                      **Potential CPDUs:** 2  
Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K-12th

### **4108 Picture Students in Pixels: The Digital Camera in Education**

Welcome to the world of any time, any place photos. Digital cameras allow any one to enjoy photography. Friendly, compact-sized models now make it especially easy in the classroom or in everyday life! Digital photography can put the camera in the hands of the learner without the financial consequences of wasted shots. Any classroom project can have a photographic component.

Teachers across the country and around the world are discovering the many valuable uses for digital cameras; uses that both engage students and make their own professional lives easier. If you can use a camera, you can use a digital camera... so, what are you waiting for?

Participants should bring a digital camera to class along with any necessary software, cables, memory cards, or accessories.

**Date(s):** 11/22/2005                      **Times:** 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM                      **Cost:** \$25  
**Location:** Whiteside ROE                      **Presenters:** Nancy Slonnegar  
1001 W. 23rd St.                      **Reg. Deadline:** 11/15/2005                      **Potential CPDUs:** 2  
Sterling, IL 61081  
**Audience:** K-12th

# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## Workshop Registration Advanced Registration is required for all ROE Programs

**\*\*\*Please use a separate registration form for each workshop.\*\*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

School District Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop ID# and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (checks payable to Regional Office of Education)

Workshop Date \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Workshop \_\_\_\_\_

I will want to receive \_\_\_\_ CPDU credits \_\_\_\_ Graduate credit (only if offered)

Registration forms and fees for each workshop received in our office **at least one week in advance** of the first session of the workshop will determine if the workshop will be offered or cancelled. **No refunds will be given after that date.** Further registrations will be accepted until the maximum number is met. **Please fill out the registration form completely and mail to the address below by the registration deadline with the appropriate fee.** If you need further information, call 815/625-1495.

Whiteside Regional Office of Education  
1001 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Sterling, IL 61081

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### For Office Use:

Fee is Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash : \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Confirmation Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## **Three Technology Classes for Educators**

Three classes have been planned, for educators only, on three Tuesday afternoons from 4:30 – 6:30 in the Whiteside Regional Office of Education computer lab. Classes will be limited to ten (10) participants. Each class will be hands-on to assist teachers in becoming comfortable with each technology application to the classroom and will award 2 CPDUs. A minimum of three registrations per class must be met one week in advance to guarantee the class to be offered.

**“DoYou Blog?”** is the first class to be offered on November 15. Blogs (short for web logs) that students can use to publish to the Internet can be powerful teaching tools.

**“100+ Tech Ideas and Resources for Teachers”** is the next class to be offered on November 22. Select from 170 projects – one for each day of the school year. Each will spark excitement in the learning process.

**“Picture Students in Pixels: The Digital Camera in Education”** is the final class to be offered in the fall semester on November 29. Included will be more than a dozen easy activities for using digital cameras in the classroom.

So what are you waiting for? Register today for any or all three of these to truly integrate technology into your classroom! Nancy Slonneger, the instructor, will be ready to show you how to incorporate these skills into your classroom!

## **Reminder: CECredits Online Classes Have Open Registration**

Just a reminder that the six courses offered through CeCredits Online have open enrollment and completion dates. To access these on-line courses, visit the Whiteside Regional Office of Education website, [www.whitesideroe.org](http://www.whitesideroe.org), and click on the center of the homepage. This link will take you directly to the registration page of [www.cecreditsonline.org](http://www.cecreditsonline.org). All courses are offered, for a fee, to earn CPDU credits. An additional fee is assessed upon completion if graduate level credit is requested through Humboldt University.

Courses available include:

- Giving Directions That Students Will Follow
- Stopping Disruptive Behavior
- Conducting the Parent Conference
- Today’s Classroom: Foundations of and Current Trends in Education
- Coaching to Improve Teaching and Learning
- Coaching to Improve Reading

If you have questions, please contact Betty Clementz at the regional office.

# *Educational Highlights - November 2005*

## **iirc: Have you visited this site yet?**

School Improvement website, <http://iirc.niu.edu> hosted by Northern Illinois University contains information about the student performance in any public school in Illinois on either ISAT or PSAE; presently, the information of years 1999 - 2004 are available for ISAT, while information for 2001 - 2004 is available for PSAE. Data for 2005 is to be added after its release from ISBE on November 9.

Charts that show student performance of the student subgroups illustrate the calculation to determine if AYP (average yearly progress) has been met by all subgroups. School Report Card data is also contained on this site for students, teaching staff, and administrators. District finances – expenditures vs. revenues - are shown. The Illinois Learning Standards, Benchmarks, Performance Descriptors, and Assessment Frameworks are all available at this site. Full information on ISAT and PSAE is available here as well as practice questions from each test. Even the SIP rubric is accessible to assist schools in their school improvement planning.

The website is easy to navigate, the charts are clear and concise, and the additional website links are invaluable in the school improvement planning process. Take a look at *iirc* (Interactive Illinois Report Card), and your school improvement planning just got easier!

## **Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest**

The third week of March is traditionally designated *Illinois Arts Education Week* in cooperation with the Illinois Alliance for Art Education (IAAE), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Governor's Office. This year it will be March 13-19, 2006. ISBE produces the poster to promote the week and to reinforce the importance of the arts in growth and development of students. Each year an Illinois student's artwork is featured on the front of the poster.

The artwork considered for the 2006 Illinois Arts Education Week poster must meet the following criteria:

- Artist must be an Illinois student, grade K-12 (public or private)
- Any 2-D media accepted but no photography
- No limit on colors
- Prefer 12 x 18 or smaller
- On the back of the entry the student should include their name, age, grade, teacher, school, home address, and telephone number
- Attach *Authorization for Use* form to back of entry
- Artwork will be accepted through Tuesday, **December 13, 2005**
- Theme for this year is "Creating Understanding through the Arts"
- It is not necessary to write the theme on the artwork. Only the illustration is necessary.

For more information, contact 217/557-7323 or e-mail: [cpowell@isbe.net](mailto:cpowell@isbe.net).

# *E d u c a t i o n a l   H i g h l i g h t s - N o v e m b e r 2 0 0 5*

## **Area Vacancies**

**District:** Whiteside Regional Office of Education  
**Contact:** Gary J. Steinert  
**Street:** 1001 West 23rd Street  
**City:** Sterling  
**Zip:** 61081  
**Phone:** 815/625-1495  
**Opening:** Prekindergarten Teacher  
**Qualifications:** Early Childhood Certificate  
**Deadline:** Until filled  
**Begins:** November 21, 2005

**District:** Montmorency  
**Contact:** Brett S. Gayer  
**Street:** 9415 Hoover Road  
**City:** Rock Falls, IL  
**Zip:** 61071  
**Phone:** 815/625-6616  
**Opening:** Speech/Language  
**Qualifications:** IL Certificate, Speech Pathology  
**Deadline:** Open Until Filled  
**Begins:** August, 2005

**District:** Erie Community Unit Dist  
**Contact:** Keith Morgan  
**Street:** 500 Fifth Avenue  
**City:** Erie  
**Zip:** 61250  
**Phone:** 309/659-2239, x2310  
**Opening:** MS Math Teacher and Language Arts  
Lab Teacher  
**Qualifications:** Type 03 w/ endorsements in Middle  
Grade Math and Language Arts  
**Deadline:** 09/23/2005  
**Begins:** 01/03/2006

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Gary J. Steinert  
Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Whiteside County ROE  
1001 West 23rd Street  
Sterling, Illinois 61081

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Morrison, IL 61270 Permit No. 93
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Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon.- Thurs.  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday  
After 4:30 by Appointment