



Nearing completion



After nearly 30 years in the making, the Olmsted Locks and Dam is closer than it has been to being operational. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Waterways Council Inc. hosted a media sneak peak of the dam Wednesday, July 25, prior to the scheduled ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 29. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, nearly 45 million man hours have gone into the construction of this project. There will be two 1200 feet lock chambers capable of moving barge traffic up and downstream simultaneously, greatly increasing barge traffic along the Ohio River. The *Planet* will be working on a series of news articles regarding the new Olmsted Dam as well as other stories focusing on the future of Dams 52 and 53 prior to the grand opening.

— Areia Hathcock | *Metropolis Planet*

City's brush pick-up schedule is set to change

By **Areia Hathcock**
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As a service to its residents, the City of Metropolis Public Works Department currently picks up brush and yard debris Monday through Thursday.

Starting Monday, Aug. 6 that schedule will change though.

Public works will begin removing brush from Wards 1 and 3 during the first and third weeks of the month and removing brush from Wards 2 and 4 the second and fourth weeks of the month.

According to Stoney Barrett, public works director, the new schedule will be more efficient with the manpower and equipment the city owns.

Also during the water, light and street portion of Monday night's meet-

ing of the Metropolis City Council, the council approved proceeding with a sidewalk project at the Super Museum, located at Superman Square. The project will be similar to the bricks surrounding the Superman Statue and the Lois Lane statue. A full story with more information will appear in next week's *Planet*.

Other items under the water, light and street report was the approval of the replacement of two overhead garage door openers for the chemical room at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from Atlas Door in the amount of \$4025 and the approval to pay for annual testing at the landfill in the amount of \$7535 to PDC Lab.

The council also approved a budget proposal for the 2018-19 school year for the after-school

See **CHANGE** page 5A

Unit One needing two certified Pre-K teachers

By **Michele Longworth**
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Massac Unit One board members heard Monday night the district has received the Pre-K For All grant for the next school year. There were only 43 new awardees, and Unit One was one of those chosen.

It will be held for two and a half hours of the morning and in the afternoon. As school is gearing up to start, Jason Hayes, Unit One superintendent said Unit One is still in need of two certified Pre-K teachers for the

program.

He also acknowledged the volunteer hours Debbie Christensen and Linda Grace spent writing the grant.

Hayes noted pre-registration is now underway for Massac Unit One schools but he pointed out money can only be collected in person, so pre-registration will save individuals about 10 or 15 minutes. Hayes said the Back to School special section would be published in this Thursday's *Metropolis Planet*.

Hayes told the board he has a meeting coming up with Michelle Cunningham of Durham Bus Services to discuss busing at

Franklin and Jefferson schools. Hayes told the the situation is that Franklin classrooms being overcrowded with students and Jefferson not having enough students. "We're going to have to do something at some point," he said, alluding that some boundary changes may have to be made.

In Hayes' report to the board he showed the board a comparison of the expenses from this year and last year. He said the expenses in June were down from last year — about \$10,000 less than last year.

Hayes said Massac County High School has not had air

conditioning in about a week because some electric motors had failed and flooded the main hall and cafeteria. Because of that, the district has had to put in a rush order on a rebuilt motor from Ward Electric.

According to Hayes, the district had already planned on the purchase of a new one, which will still be coming in September. He said having the rebuilt one on hand will be a good idea even when the new one is installed.

In the area of personnel, the board approved the hiring of: Jennifer Pegram, Jefferson Elementary second grade; Ra-

chel Beggs — Massac Junior High School (MJHS) Response To Intervention aide; Calvin Morse, MJHS special education personal aide; Peyton Smith, Brookport Elementary third grade; Kendra Morehead, part-time pre-k instructional leader; Marlene Loverkamp, part-time food service coordinator.

There were no resignations or retirements. The board noted the transfers

Of Amanda Klankey to Metropolis Elementary School (MES) special education; Kandace Foster to Brookport Pre-K;

See **PRE-K**, page 5A

Mobile home tax bills to be mailed

By **Michele Longworth**
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Massac County Commissioners Jerel Childers and Jeff Weber heard from Massac County Treasurer Dana Angelly that property tax bills have been mailed. Commissioner Jayson Farmer was absent from this week's meeting.

In the weekly financial report, the county's general fund balance is \$82,712, with the county's third payroll this month coming up next week.

According to Angelly, the mobile home bills will be mailed out soon. The due date for mobile home bills will be Friday, Nov. 2, the same date as the second installment date for the real estate property bills.

Due to the mounting bills, Angelly asked if the commissioners want to borrow money from one of the county's other accounts, either worker's compensation or liability.

She said if the county were to do that, there would not be any interest to pay.

Angelly explained now that the 2017 real estate bills, payable in 2018 have been sent, the county could pay back the borrowed money from the real estate revenue.

No decision was made on whether or not to borrow money

Elmer Pullen, a board member on the Shawnee Mass Transit District (SMT) was at Tuesday's meeting along with Shawn Freeman, the new executive director for SMT.

Pullen said since he is on the board, representing Massac County, he wanted to bring Freeman to the meeting to meet the commissioners.

Freeman said 31,888 rides have been generated from Metropolis, and 87 percent of those trips have been non-medical related rides. "Massac is a promising area," said Freeman, who said within the next year, SMT hopes to con-

struct a brand new depot in Massac County. Currently space is being leased. "Our goal is to help," he said.

In other business:
• Massac County Sheriff Ted Holder told the board even after payment was made to Metropolis Drugs I, the sheriff's department received notification the department is only \$500 away from being over its limit on medication. The department has about \$4500 in unpaid bills to Metropolis Drugs I. The cost is for medication for the inmates in the detention center.

• Massac County Highway Engineer Joe Matesevac said the department is still in the middle of doing oil and chip work. He said the department is about halfway finished with oil and chipping and almost out of material.

• And, the board approved a motion terminating a contract for lease with the railroad for property on Cohoon Lane.



Fire department receives grant

Brookport Fire Chief Bill Copley, left, poses with Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, center, and Alex Wooten, at right, at a press conference of the Office of State Fire Marshall held in Collinsville on July 17. The purpose of the conference was to announce the recipients of the small equipment grant awards. The Brookport Fire Department was awarded \$6000 to purchase four self-contained breathing apparatus. State Fire Marshall Perez welcomed the award-

— Photo submitted

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