

# WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

## April, May, June 2017

Key: The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6PM, M-F, and during Sound Ideas, Noon-1pm, and 6-7pm, M-F. The story lengths range from one minute to 59 minutes.

## Arts and Culture

### [A Magical, Musical Midsummer](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 29, 2017

The Illinois Shakespeare Festival presents a music-filled version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this season that turns out to be a bit of a family affair.

### [The Past Is Present In New Exhibition](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 27, 2017

Artist Cynthia Kukla has not put her feet up since retiring from teaching in the Illinois State University College of Fine Arts. Instead, she's put on her traveling shoes and found inspiration on a far shore.

### [Wonder Woman Wows](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 22, 2017

It's about time! That's the feeling of many Wonder Woman fans as the DC legend finally gets her own blockbuster movie.

### [A Magical 40th Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 15, 2017

At the first-ever Illinois Shakespeare Festival -- back when it wasn't even called that yet -- the plays were staged on the tennis courts at Ewing Manor in Bloomington. Forty years later and the acclaimed festival has its own spiffy theater at Ewing and a great reputation as a local cultural gem.

## **Celebrating Gwendolyn Brooks: Poet of 'Firsts'**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 14, 2017

She was the first African American ever to win the Pulitzer Prize, and first black woman inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She was only the second person to serve as Illinois Poet Laureate, succeeding Carl Sandburg. She was also the state's longest-serving laureate, an unpaid position she held for more than 30 years.

Illinois is pausing this month to celebrate the life and work of this woman of firsts, who would have turned 100 on June 7.

## **Malls: Love Gone Cold**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 13, 2017

What was once a ubiquitous part of American consumer culture now seems to be sliding towards extinction. A recent study suggests 15% of traditional shopping malls will disappear in the next decade. When we lose the malls, do we lose something more than just a collection of shops?

## **'Marc Making' Sparks Creativity Through Collaboration**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 9, 2017

The walls of the University Galleries in Uptown Normal are filled with joyous, colorful works of art. That's not at all unusual, except that this art was created right in the space where its being exhibited in a celebration of creativity, inclusion and collaboration.

## **Tony Awards Promise Greater Suspense**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 7, 2017

A story line taken from Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. A musical remake of the nineties film *Ground Hog Day*. The trials of an anxiety-ridden adolescent and the true story of a Newfoundland town faced with hosting stranded air travelers on 9/11.

Those are the themes of this year's line up of Tony nominees for best musical. The four nominated musicals are *Natasha*, *Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, *Ground Hog Day*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Come From Away*.

## **Got Ten? See A Play!**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jun 2, 2017

In just ten minutes, Heartland Theater can give you a play from start to finish.

## **When A Penguin Met A Peach**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 31, 2017

The Penguin Project of McLean County is staging the musical James and the Giant Peach, Jr. this weekend in U-High's Stroud Auditorium.

## **Psyching Out Star Wars**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 26, 2017

Forty years ago this week, the lines began to form around the block for *Star Wars*—a film that went on to explode not just box office records, but make a profound impact on culture.

## **Upcycling And Crocheting Helps Homeless**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 25, 2017

Instead of letting old plastic shopping bags clog our landfill or flutter around on the whims of the wind, one local group is upcycling them to help folks in need.

## **Gala Helps Students Dream Big**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 16, 2017

At a time when student debt continues to escalate, the annual Gala at the Galleries event takes some of the sting out of paying for a fine arts education at Illinois State University.

## **Wonder Woman: Heroic Complexity**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 11, 2017

One of the most enduring characters in comic book history is Wonder Woman, and a new book lets us take a look behind the cuffs and tiara to gain a deeper understanding of the popular superhero,

## **Theatre Experience Stages, Mirrors Community Diversity**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 4, 2017

The second year of a New Route Theatre festival keeps the goal of the first year: attract an audience that reflects the diversity of the community.

The Voice of Pride: 2nd Annual Festival of New Plays features four staged readings through May 7. New Route Theatre Artistic Director Don Shandrow said during [Sound Ideas](#) there was a call for submissions, and readers for the theatre narrowed down the final list.

## **Community Players Climbs "The 39 Steps"**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 4, 2017

A classic thriller jumps from the screen to the stage in the latest production from Community Players. Based on the film by Alfred Hitchcock, *The 39 Steps* takes a comedic twist in the footlights, but it still has Hitchcock's fingerprints all over it.

## **Opera For Kids Fires Up Fans**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 3, 2017

In a dusty old bookshop, three tech obsessed young people face a perilous task to save all the books in the world from a dark force known as The Blank.

## **Local Indie Filmmaker Wants To Scare You**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Apr 28, 2017

This weekend, Normal Theater hosts the debut of the latest short film from Vigilant Studios -- *Black Book*.

## **Writer Cornelius Eady On Why Poems Matter**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 26, 2017

There were few books in Cornelius Eady's household when he was growing up in Rochester, New York.

"We barely had a radio," he recalled on GLT's [Sound Ideas](#).

## **'Windy City Blues' Author Makes Bloomington Appearance**

By [Jon Norton](#) • Apr 25, 2017

Renee Rosen's new historical novel "Windy City Blues" uses Chicago and its storied blues history as a backdrop to a story about perseverance and coming of age.

"I sort of see it as the story of three people who come to Chicago seeking a better life," said Rosen via Skype from her Chicago home.

## **Task Force Takes On Sexy Music Videos**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Apr 17, 2017

An Illinois State University professor's research has earned her an invitation to join a task force that is taking on the music industry.

## **Uncovering McLean County's Farming Roots**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Apr 13, 2017

The McLean County Museum of History explores local agriculture history in their newest exhibition.

## **Ringling Is Closing, But Circus Goes On**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Apr 6, 2017

Illinois State University is home to two unique and widely admired circus traditions -- Gamma Phi Circus, the 88-year strong circus arts program for students, and the Circus and Allied Arts Collection, part of the Special Collections at Milner Library. Both are keenly feeling the impending loss of The Greatest Show On Earth.

## **Chuck Berry Drew Influences From Musical Melting Pot**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 5, 2017

The man credited with helping to create rock 'n' roll will be remembered during a public memorial on Sunday, April 9, in St. Louis. Chuck Berry died on March 18 at the age of 90.

## **Robots Seize Control Of Normal Theater**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Apr 4, 2017

The complex relationships between humans and their robot counterparts are at the heart of a film festival at the Normal Theater this week.

## **Life Of 17th Century Poet, Playwright, Nun Reflects Stresses On Women Today**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 4, 2017

She disguised herself as a male hoping to study at a university. Her personal collection of books is said to have numbered 4,000. She once said women "can perfectly well philosophize while cooking supper. "

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz was a 17th century Mexican nun who wrote poetry and plays and champion a woman's right to study, learn and think for herself.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Downtown Can Be A 'Go-to' Location In Central Illinois**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 16, 2017

*Editors note: This article is part of a series of interviews with newly elected council members in Bloomington and Normal. Ward 1 Alderman [Jamie Mathy was interviewed](#) May 25.*

A new downtown task force is setting priorities. The group has three more meetings before an initial report is due on Aug. 31.

### **'BN Advantage' Works To Build BN Excitement**

By Charlie Schlenker • Jun 6, 2017

Bloomington Normal has a lot going for it in the competition for a stable and perhaps growing economy. That's according to the head of the Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives. Mick Fleming spoke during a B-N Advantage event at the Rivian Automotive Plant.

### **Downtown Task Force Will 'Not Redo Efforts'**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 9, 2017

The City of Bloomington Downtown Task Force, approved Monday evening by aldermen, will look at economic development, infrastructure, and more, according to the task force chair. Amelia Buragas, who also serves as Ward 1 Alderman, said during [Sound Ideas](#) that it's important to keep in mind what the task force will not do.

### **Route 66 Visitor Center Traffic Grows**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • May 3, 2017

Route 66 Tourism grew by 50 percent in Bloomington last year.

That's according to attendance figures for the Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center in the McLean County Museum of History.

## **Parking Lot Acquisitions Open Opportunities For City**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 26, 2017

Parking lots in the northeast part of Downtown Bloomington purchased by the city may not remain as parking lots for long.

"The Frontier lots are critical and they're critical to economic development and frankly, from the stand point of the city, control over the property," said Mayor Tari Renner during [Sound Ideas](#). "We're finding, obviously with the Front 'n' Center building, if you don't have control of the property there are limitations in how you can operate."

## **Downtown Areas Can Be A Model For Economic Development**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 17, 2017

The walkable downtown of the past isn't an anachronism, it's a future model for economic development.

## **'Experimenting' Will Help Shopping Malls Like Eastland**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Apr 6, 2017

The face of retail is changing drastically, but there is still a place for brick and mortar stores. That's according to Rob Karr, the head of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association.

Karr spoke in Normal before the Economic Development Council saying there are parallels with the past in the way technology is changing retail.

## **Rauner Welcomes Rivian To Central Illinois**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Mar 7, 2017

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner hopes Rivian Automotive will help boost employment in central Illinois.

Rauner joined many state and local elected officials at Rivian's opening ceremony Tuesday afternoon. Rauner said he's excited to see entrepreneurs like R.J. Scaringe take risks to start business in Illinois.

## **EDC Advises Making Peace Over Metro Zone Dispute**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 22, 2017

The Bloomington and Normal dispute over the Metro Zone agreement on tax revenue and infrastructure sharing is not necessarily a black eye for the community.

That's according to Kyle Ham, the head of the Economic Development Council.

## **Education and Family**

### **Springfield Bishop Decree Tests Parishioner's Faith**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 29, 2017

John Freml grew up in a Catholic family and attended parochial schools. He is an active member at his parish in Springfield and says he loves the Catholic Mass.

### **Southern Baptist Pastor Confronts His Own, Church's Racial Past**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 22, 2017

The Southern Baptist Convention, one of the largest denominations in the country, voted recently to denounce white supremacy and the alt-right movement, but not without controversy.

### **Cavorting With Big Bird: A Journey From Normal To Sesame Street**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 21, 2017

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live on Sesame Street? Paul Rudolph doesn't have to guess. He works there.



Rudolph, who grew up in Normal, is the vocal music director of the show. As such, he wears many hats—composing, arranging and recording many of those catchy tunes that stick in the minds of children and not a few adults. He recently won his second Emmy for music editing on the show.

## **Seeking Adoption For Children in Foster Care**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 15, 2017

In McLean County, some 222 children in foster care are currently waiting for the chance to find a permanent home.

Of those children, 88 are African American. They make up about 40 percent of the children in foster care, but last year accounted for only about 26 percent of the permanent adoptions.

## **Baby Fold Residential Care Center To Close**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 1, 2017

The Baby Fold's Residential Treatment Center for children and teens who suffer emotional difficulties due to abuse and neglect will close at the end of the month -- another casualty of the Illinois budget impasse.

## **'Someday' Cross Country RV Trip Rolls To The End**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 31, 2017

A once in a lifetime trip for most people has rolled to a stop for the Pritts family.

In June 2016, Jeff, the former manager of the Uptown Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center and Marci, who worked for a non-profit foundation, headed east on a 13,000 mile, 10-month trip that took them, their kids, a Great Dane, a second dog, and a cat through 30 states with 70 stops.

## **Local Faith Communities Sponsor Refugee Family**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 30, 2017

Like many Americans, Gretchen Snow was horrified at the photos of a drowned Syrian refugee child who washed up on the shores of Greece. Then there were the images of African families fleeing violence in their villages, walking on dirt roads, children in tow and their belongings on their backs.

Snow decided she had to act. She was not alone.

## **Nude Student Photo Website Hard To Control, Prosecute**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 18, 2017

Anonymous websites like Anon-IB that post nude photographs of women are difficult to control because the law has not kept up with the technology that makes these sites possible.

## **Schools Seek to Address Behavioral, Mental Health Problems**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 17, 2017

A growing number of school-age children have experienced some form of trauma or emotional difficulty. That often translates into behavioral problems both within the family and at school.

Increasingly, however, schools are attempting to prevent and address those problems through a variety of services, according to Brenda Huber, director of the Psychological Services Center at Illinois State University, and Mark Jontry, regional schools superintendent for McLean, Livingston, Logan and DeWitt counties.

## **Religious Groups Focus On Mental Health**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 17, 2017

When a person is experiencing an emotionally difficult period, often the first stop in seeking help is with a pastor or another trusted spiritual adviser.

That's why churches and faith groups across denominations are increasingly focusing on the mental well-being of their congregation members, says Patricia Turner, outreach director for Center for Hope International Ministries, an independent, non-denominational Christian church in Bloomington.

"I'm glad that this is one of the stops people can make," Turner said on GLT's Sound Ideas.

## **Kingsley Jr. High Dress Code Conversation Grows**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) & Student Reporter Kae Mason • May 11, 2017

Concerned parents want the Unit Five School Board to lighten up on the dress code and focus on what they view as more important issues.

Kingsley Junior High's Principal recently told parents to curb female clothing, but did not mention male attire in the message.

A group told the school board being an adolescent is already a difficult time and that degrading actions by classmates can make the teenage years even worse.

## **District 87 Success Stories**

By [Student Reporter Baylee Steelman](#) • May 10, 2017

Students at Bloomington High School are helping children with special needs enjoy their time at the early childhood preschool unit in Sarah Raymond School.

The District 87 School Board is praising two freshman for remodeling small battery powered vehicles, so kids with disabilities can drive at a walking pace. Student Reed Shoemaker said the process was a challenge, but rewarding.

## **A Quarter Century Of Helping Latino Families**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 4, 2017

Many social service workers burn out long before the quarter century mark. Not so Socorro Alvarez, the Hispanic Outreach director for the past 25 years at Bloomington's Western Avenue Community Center.

## **Can Cancer Be A 'Gift?'**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 1, 2017

You don't normally expect to hear the words cancer and gift in the same sentence. But that is how Marcia O'Donnell, a Community Cancer Center patient, describes her life since her diagnosis of advanced breast cancer.

O'Donnell is a former mental health professional and mother of two small children.

She credits her positive outlook, in part, to being able to share her questions, fears and sometimes overwhelming emotions with Cancer Center chaplain Cheryl-Peterson Karlan.

Initially, though O'Donnell didn't even want to meet with the chaplain.

## **Cancer Center Chaplain Seeks To Inspire Hope**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 1, 2017

Cheryl Peterson-Karlan, the chaplain at the Community Cancer Center in Normal, says her job is about listening to people, meeting them where they are, and if possible, helping them find hope.

## **Kingsley Junior High Dress Code Targeting 'Bra Straps, Cleavage' Unleashes Backlash**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 28, 2017

How much skin is too much skin to show at school?

That's a question swirling around Kingsley Junior High School in Normal after the principal sent out a dress code edict prohibiting clothing that reveals bare shoulders, bra straps, midriff or cleavage.

## **Hospice Chaplain Offers Lessons On Living**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 28, 2017

Hospice Chaplain Kerry Egan says she doesn't know if listening to people's life stories as the confront death can make a person wise.

"I do know it can heal your soul. I know this because the stories healed mine."

## **Unit Five Recognizes Outgoing Members, Stresses Need For State Funding**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 27, 2017

The Unit Five School Board is starting a new journey without two long-term members.

The board is recognizing Gail Ann Briggs and John Puzauskas for a combined 65 years of service.

## **Fresh Faces In District 87, Lunch Affordability Addressed**

By [Student Reporter Baylee Steelman](#) • Apr 26, 2017

The District 87 School Board will be under new leadership.

## **The Future of Planned Parenthood**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 25, 2017

The future of Planned Parenthood across Illinois is far from certain. But its services don't appear to be under immediate threat from a recent directive from President Trump.

That measure would allow state and local governments to withhold Title X family planning funds from health facilities that also provide abortion services.

McLean County's sole Planned Parenthood clinic would not be affected because it doesn't perform abortions. Additionally, all Planned Parenthood clinics statewide receive Title X funds as a direct grantee of the federal government and not through the state, said Julie Lynn of Planned Parenthood of Illinois.

However, women's reproductive services, especially for low income residents, remain a target of many federal and state officials, Lynn said.

## **Weak Kitchen Chops Putting Pressure On Small, Organic Farms**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 14, 2017

A farmer and an extension agent agree there are a number of issues hurting small organic farmers in Illinois and one of them is that a growing number of people don't know how to cook.

## **District 87 Recognizes Student Excellence, Maintains Facility Quality**

By [Student Reporter Baylee Steelman](#) • Apr 12, 2017

District 87 schools Superintendent Barry Reilly said he could not be more proud of the success stories from Bloomington High School students.

## **Sexual Assaults Increasingly Posted On Social Media**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 3, 2017

In an incident that shocked the nation, the apparent gang rape of a 15-year-old Chicago girl was broadcast live on Facebook last month. Dozens viewed the assault before it was taken down. No one apparently notified authorities.

The incident is part of a growing phenomenon in which assailants brazenly post video or images of sexual assaults on social media sites.

## **Environment and Sustainability**

### **Wishful Recycling Threatens Single-stream Process**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 26, 2017

Contamination in the recycling stream at Midwest Fiber threatens the business model that makes single stream recycling possible. A company representative says if the contamination rate increases above the current 10 percent, it could cost taxpayers more.

### **McLean County Recycling Rate Exceeds Long-time Goal**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 26, 2017

The percentage of McLean County solid waste diverted to recycling and away from the landfill has pushed past a goal set in 2007.

### **Miller Park Zoo: A Leader In Species Conservation**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 23, 2017

Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington may be one of the smaller accredited zoos in the nation. It's a leader, however, when it comes to preserving several species of animals that are threatened or endangered.

The zoo currently is helping some 20 species survive, including the snow leopard, the red wolf, and San Clemente Island goat. It is a breeder for about 50 kinds of animals to insure they don't become endangered. Among them are: the sumatran tiger, tammar wallaby, the red-ruffed lemur and the kookaburra, a long-bill bird.

### **Unknown Illinois: Prowling For Owls**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 13, 2017

It's a perfect night to watch for nocturnal birds. Calm winds, clear sky and waxing moon just above the horizon.

I'm standing at dusk on the Lexington Blacktop, just east of Lake Bloomington. I'm with Angelo Capparella of the biology department at Illinois State University, and Given Harper, another avid bird watcher and professor at Illinois Wesleyan.

We're on the prowl for owls.

## **Bloomington-Normal Mayors Sign Climate Pledge**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 9, 2017

The community's mayors have signed the [Mayors National Climate Action Agenda](#).

Town of Normal Mayor Chris Koos and Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner both joined more than 250 other mayors in following the U.N. Paris Climate Accord even though President Trump announced he'd pull the U.S. from pact.

During GLT's [Sound Ideas](#), Koos says cities are "ground zero for action in ameliorating these issues."

## **The Healing Power of Gardening**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 9, 2017

People who garden often say there is more to it than putting plants and flowers in the ground. They feel a sense of serenity and well-being from getting their hands in the soil, from being outdoors and helping a living thing grow.

On Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the University of Illinois Extension office and the McLean County Master Gardeners will offer a Horticultural Therapy Workshop at the Community Cancer Center in Normal. Its message: gardening can be healing.

## **Citizen-Scientists Document Illinois Plants**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 26, 2017

Walking along Shady Hollow Trail at Comlara Park, Sherrie Snyder spots a small flowering plant in the underbrush that contains a series of delicate deep purple blossoms. She stoops to snap a photograph of it on her cell phone.

"I'm going take a picture of this little guy, the dwarf larkspur," she says.

It's all part of a citizen-science project called Flora of Comlara Park. She and other volunteers—you might call them plant Sherlocks—observe and photograph the current plant life so that botanists can compare the plants growing today with those that grew a hundred years ago in central Illinois.

## **City Staff 'Crystal Clear' On Prioritizing Historic Core**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 18, 2017

Bloomington aldermen will again discuss and eventually vote on a budget amendment to strike a controversial sewer oversizing project on the city's far east side.

## **Climate Change Roundtable: The Future Of Coal Is 'Bleak'**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 10, 2017

The energy economy is changing in a way that there may be no way to save coal and coal jobs as President Trump has pledged.

# **Health and Medicine**

## **Early Intervention Critical In Childhood Mental Health**

By [Jon Norton](#) • May 18, 2017

By NOT intervening with childhood trauma at an early age, Baby Fold of Normal Training Coordinator Keith Brotheridge said society pays much more in the long run. He cited the Centers for Disease Control "Adverse Childhood Experience" which followed 17,000 people with extensive traumatic experiences.

## **Tech Aids In Mental Health**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 17, 2017

Technology is increasingly removing barriers for those seeking help with behavioral health issues.

# **Politics and Government**



## **Local Agencies 'Overjoyed' To See Budget—But Damage Is Done**

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 7, 2017

For the first time in a long time, Bloomington-Normal's social service agencies have a reason to applaud state lawmakers.

## **It's Over: Illinois Has First Budget Since 2015**

By The Associated Press • Jul 6, 2017

The Illinois House voted Thursday to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's vetoes of a budget package. The action gives Illinois its first annual spending plan since 2015.

## **Vote Delayed Amid Report of Hazardous Material**

By The Associated Press • Jul 6, 2017

A critical override vote on a package of budget bills was delayed Thursday as authorities investigate a report of hazardous material in the Illinois Capitol.

## **House Set To Vote Thursday On Rauner Veto Override**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 5, 2017

The speaker of the Illinois House has scheduled a vote for Thursday to override the governor's veto of the budget package.

## **All Eyes on Senate as Tax, Spending Votes Loom**

By IPR • Jul 3, 2017

The Illinois Senate is expected to vote on a full budget Tuesday after the House passed a spending plan and a tax increase over the weekend to try and end the two-year long impasse.

In the House, 15 Republicans went against Gov. Bruce Rauner and voted "yes" on Sunday. But it's not a given that the Senate has the votes to pass it.

Senate Democrats already passed a budget. It included more spending than the plan they're set to consider Tuesday.

Senate Republicans opposed that budget, and the question now is whether they'll oppose this one too.

## **Urbana's Police Review Board Hears Fewer Complaints, Citizen Appeals**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jun 28, 2017

The Bloomington City Council is considering establishing a citizen-led police oversight board to receive complaints about police and offer citizens an a review process.

## **Finding Balance Difficult In Creating Police Review Board**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 27, 2017

The Bloomington City Council may vote on a civilian review board at their July 10 meeting, but action could also be delayed, according to a Bloomington Alderman.

## **Town Council To Decide Uptown Underpass Option**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 16, 2017

The Town of Normal Council is expected to sign off on an option for pedestrians and people on bikes to traverse railroad tracks bisecting Uptown.

## **Closed-door Metro Zone Meeting Violated Open Meetings Act**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jun 7, 2017

The Illinois Attorney General has ruled the City of Bloomington violated the Open Meetings Act. Mayor Tari Renner said the city is likely to appeal the ruling.

## **Public-Private Partnership Lacking To Establish Sports Complex**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 31, 2017

There's continuing forward momentum in Bloomington-Normal toward creating a multi-sports complex. The idea could make good economic sense according to Town of Normal City Manager Mark Peterson. However, Peterson said he wouldn't use the term "public-private partnership" to describe the effort.

## **Wesleyan Students See Need For Expunging, Sealing Criminal Records**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 31, 2017

As part of their Social Work in Action class, a group of Illinois Wesleyan University students began interviewing people who have been arrested in McLean County.

## **Bloomington Alderman Thinks Shared Sales Tax 'still a good idea'**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 25, 2017

There are a "ton of details to work out," but a Bloomington Alderman is standing by campaign statements about a shared sales tax agreement between Bloomington and Normal.

## **One Couple's Experience Filing A Police Complaint**

By [Judith Valente](#) • May 15, 2017

What is it like to currently file a complaint of officer misconduct with the Bloomington Police Department?

Sophie Charles and Henry Dick, a couple from West Bloomington, did just that. They said they came away from the experience dissatisfied with the results and reluctant to approach the police in the future.

## **ISU Political Scientist On FBI Firing: 'So Many Optics Mistakes'**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 10, 2017

When asked to characterize the political savviness of the Trump-Pence administration, an ISU political scientist shot back during [Sound Ideas](#) with "there is no political savviness."

## **City Discusses Transportation Commission, Approves Downtown Task Force**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) & Student Reporter Kae Mason • May 9, 2017

Bloomington City Council members have signaled possible approval for a transportation commission. A final decision will come later this month.

A commission would give residents a bigger voice in traffic issues by creating or reviewing proposals, holding public hearings and discussing transportation issues with staff and the council.

## **[AHCA Protest Outside U.S. Rep. Davis' Office](#)**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • May 8, 2017

Progressives in Bloomington-Normal met outside of Congressman Rodney Davis' office Monday afternoon to protest his vote to approve the GOP healthcare repeal, or AHCA.

Many were shocked when the Taylorville Republican came outside to talk with them.

## **[Jail Expansion Construction Underway](#)**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • May 8, 2017

Construction is finally underway for the highly anticipated McLean County Jail expansion.

The McLean County Board held a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$39 million project Monday morning.

The three-story addition will have a first floor area for visitors and space on the second floor for inmates with mental health concerns.

## **[City Council To Discuss Rezoning West Bloomington Property](#)**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • May 7, 2017

Bloomington Aldermen will consider initiating the rezoning process for several properties on the city's west side during Monday night's meeting.

The properties are single-family homes and a mixed use development with second floor apartments near the intersection of W. Washington and Allin Street.

## **[Bloomington's Josh Rodgers: A Legacy That Will Never Die](#)**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • May 6, 2017

If you drove through Bloomington-Normal this week, you undoubtedly saw a large number of American flags in front of houses and on the side of roads.

Hundreds of people visited Eastview Christian Church Saturday morning to pay respects to the family of Army Ranger and Sergeant Josh Rodgers.

Rodgers was killed from small-arms fire in Afghanistan last week. The 2013 Normal Community High School graduate and another soldier who died in the same battle were members of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment based at Fort Benning, Georgia.

## **Town Mayor on Uptown Underpass: 'We're Patient'**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • May 3, 2017

While the Town of Normal has narrowed choices to connect Uptown Normal with future development south of the railroad tracks, construction of an underpass could still be years out.

## **Photos: Bloomington Council Members Sworn In**

By [Cristian Jaramillo](#) • May 2, 2017

Newly elected and reelected Bloomington aldermen and mayor were officially seated after taking the oath of office, officiated by City Clerk Cherry Lawson. Those sworn in were elected in the April 4 municipal election.

## **Ghosts Of Vietnam War Haunt Today**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 26, 2017

As an expert in international affairs, Harvard University Professor Fredrik Logevall considers it crucial to study the Vietnam War, a complicated and controversial part of American history.

Logevall was a child living in Canada when the United States pulled its combat forces from Vietnam in 1973. He has since written widely about the war and shared his insights recently at Illinois State University as a guest of the History Department.

## **Bloomington Will Analyze Options For Repairing Brick Streets**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 25, 2017

The City of Bloomington will investigate repairing a 100-year-old section of Monroe Street with brick instead of paving it over.

The Council agreed unanimously Monday night to direct staff to design, plan, and bid the repair of brick or replacing the street with new brick. The move likely saved the 800 block of Monroe from being paved over with asphalt.

## **Does 'Hot Spot Policing' Work?**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 20, 2017

At a public forum last December sponsored by Black Lives Matter, several residents of the Bloomington's west side complained that their neighborhood is under a police microscope, with officers making unfair stops and arrests.

Bloomington Police Chief Brendan Heffner says he sends additional patrols to areas of the city that have a higher rate of incidents.

The practice is a common one known as "hot spot policing." It is used by departments across America in cities both large and small to address high crime areas. But does hot spot policing work?

## **Fritzen Troubled By Damaging Campaign Strategy**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 19, 2017

The longest serving Town of Normal council member says he was deeply troubled by the recent municipal election.

During a news conference at Uptown Station Wednesday morning, Councilman Jeff Fritzen said he believes Normal mayoral candidate Marc Tiritilli's campaign was damaging to what many had worked on within the community.

## **When Not To Talk To The Police**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 19, 2017

There's an old joke that goes like this: a prison guard asks an inmate what he's in for. "Talking," the inmate replies.

Law Professor James Duane says it's no laughing matter. He's the author of the book "You Have The Right To Remain Innocent" and is featured in a video titled "Don't Talk to the Cops" that's garnered thousands of views on YouTube.

Duane says innocent people sometimes get convicted based on information they provide to police in an effort to be cooperative.

## **Koos Plans To Move Forward On Growth, Redevelopment**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 18, 2017

Mayor Chris Koos is looking ahead to the next four years with continued vigor toward redevelopment. He won a fourth term after a count of absentee ballots on Tuesday widened his win margin to 11 votes.

## **Normal Approves Water Rate Increase, Northeast Road Improvements**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 18, 2017

Residents in the Town of Normal will see a slight hike in their water bill next month.

The council approved a two percent increase for the water rate in a 4-3 vote Monday night with council members Kevin McCarthy, Scott Preston, and Kathleen Lorenz voting "no."

## **Dan Brady Not Yet Concerned With 2018 Election**

By [Willis Kern](#) • Apr 17, 2017

Longtime central Illinois State Representative Dan Brady says he's not ready to announce if he'll run for re-election next year.

During a Sound Ideas interview, the Bloomington Republican Brady acknowledged there's a renewed interest in running for office among progressives in the state. But he says that has nothing to do with whether he'll seek a tenth term in Springfield.

## **Uptown Development, Northeast Road Improvements To Be Discussed**

By [Mike McCurdy](#) & [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 17, 2017

The Normal Town Council may approve the buildout of second floor space in One Uptown on the Circle duri

## **Brundtland Emphasizes Female Leadership, Sustainable Development**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 14, 2017

The First Female Prime Minister of Norway says every country should have equal opportunity for men or women to become leaders.

Speaking during an Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series Master Class at Illinois State University, Dr. Gro Brundtland said she knew as a young girl that she lived in a good democratic country, but it wasn't dealing on equal terms for men and women.

## **Daiber Brings Gubernatorial Campaign To McLean County**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 13, 2017

One of the many Democratic candidates for governor says he is the only person that can win over Bruce Rauner.

Bob Daiber is the Madison County Regional Superintendent of Schools. During a stop in Bloomington Wednesday night, Daiber said he wants to improve many areas the current administration has failed at.

## **Manar Aiming For Equity Within Illinois Schools**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 12, 2017

State Senator Andy Manar says everyone could benefit if Illinois has great equity among school districts.

During a stop in Bloomington Wednesday night, the Bunker Hill Democrat said the state is harming individuals today by having the least equitable state in the country.

## **'Preposterous' Sewer Project Highlights Sprawl Issue**



By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 12, 2017

A proposed east-side Bloomington sewer project is contrasting the issue of suburban sprawl with the city's own 2015 comprehensive plan, which focuses on infill development.

## **Fox Creek Speed Limit Lowered, Bloomington Budget Approved**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 10, 2017

Residents on the southwest side of Bloomington will have to drive slower on a section of Fox Creek Road.

The City Council has approved lowering the speed limit on Fox Creek to 30 miles per hour from West Oakland Avenue to Stonehedges Court.

## **Normal Mayoral Candidates To Stay On Pins And Needles For Two Weeks**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Apr 5, 2017

Thirteen mail in ballots for Town of Normal races have already arrived at the McLean County Clerk's office the day after the election out of a total of thirty four remaining requested mail in ballots.

## **New Faces to Join Unit 5, District 87 School Boards**

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Apr 4, 2017

In Normal-based Unit 5, longtime district volunteer and parent Taunia Leffler defeated newcomer Sol Roberts-Lieb in its only contested school board race.

“I want to thank everyone who supported me and helped with my campaign,” Leffler, a State Farm employee, posted on her Facebook page. “I’m so excited to represent Unit 5. It was a pleasure running this race for the benefit of our kids and community.”

## **Renner Wins 2nd Term; Incumbent Aldermen Hold On in Bloomington**

By [Mike McCurdy](#), [Laura Kennedy](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Apr 4, 2017

Mayor Tari Renner won a second term Tuesday over conservative challenger Kevin Lower, as incumbents also held on in three wards across the city.

## **Election Results: Koos Clings to 7-Vote Lead in Normal**

By [WGLT Staff](#) • Apr 4, 2017

Polls closed at 7 p.m. today as Bloomington-Normal voters chose their mayors, several aldermen and council members, township officials, and other elected positions.

## **Today's Conscientious Objectors Still Face Difficulties**

By [Judith Valente](#) • Apr 4, 2017

Conscientious objectors -- those who refuse to fight in the military based on religious, moral or ethical beliefs -- have existed since the birth of the nation.

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington allowed conscripts from peace churches to return home.

At the start of World War I, conscientious objectors received some protections. Those were expanded and became official policy during World War II.

## **Five Storylines We're Following on Election Night**

By [Willis Kern](#), [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Apr 4, 2017

McLean County voters head to the polls Tuesday, and for many it will be the first time at the ballot box since the election of Donald Trump.

## **Normal Approves Sidewalk Improvements**

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Apr 3, 2017

The Town of Normal will be filling in gaps of the sidewalk system close to Illinois State University.

The Town Council has approved using over \$270,000 of Motor Fuel Tax Funds for sidewalk improvements on Beech Street, Fell Avenue, and University Street.

## **Durbin Opposes Gorsuch**

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Apr 3, 2017

Just before the Senate Judiciary voted to forward President Trump's Supreme Court nominee to the full senate, Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois announced his expected opposition.

The Illinois Democrat said federal Judge Neil Gorsuch favors big business and big money over ordinary people in nearly all cases.

## **Science and Technology**

### **Big Ideas Come From Tiny Particles**

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • May 26, 2017

Throw some particles at an atom and what do you get? That's what Dr. Allison Harris wants to know.