

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS **January, February, March 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 & CULTURE

Diversity Advocate Reveals Hidden Cultural Messages

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 28, 2017

CWSC Panthers / Flickr via Creative Commons

Humor is a potent professor when it comes to diversity. That's according to an advocate and speaker, who says the hit animated TV comedies *South Park* and *Family Guy* have a lot to teach us about our culture.

'Subdivision' Has Open Door Policy For Artists

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 23, 2017

Laura Kennedy / WGLT

There's been a transformation at the University Galleries in Uptown Normal with a new installation that is slowly evolving through a series of artist collaborations.

Community Players' West Side Story Evokes Current Debate On Immigrants

By [Judith Valente](#) • Mar 16, 2017

Community Players

Perhaps the most familiar opening notes of any American show come from composer Leonard Bernstein's classic score for the musical, *West Side Story*.

With lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, the show premiered on Broadway in 1957 and followed the rivalry between ethnic New York teens and young immigrant Puerto Ricans.

The show's opening lines, "Hey brown boy, this is our street ... swim back to where you came from," demonstrate perhaps just how little we've progressed as a nation since then.

Musical Chicago Jazzes Up The Stage At Sangamon Auditorium

By [Judith Valente](#) • Mar 13, 2017

Sangamon Auditorium

Before the People vrs O.J. Simpson became known as "the trial of the century," there were the trials of Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, two fictional characters based on real-life murderesses in the Broadway musical Chicago.

With a score by John Kander and Fred Ebb, the show evokes the boozy, sexy, smoke-filled jazz clubs of Chicago in the 1920s. It is on stage Monday and Tuesday this week at Springfield's Sangamon Auditorium.

Exhibition Opens Windows To Interpretation

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 7, 2017

Laura Kennedy / WGLT

Through the simplicity of an art installation, a Peoria-based artist has fostered relationships between the nature of found materials and the interpretive impulses of the mind of the viewer.

Musical 1776 Recalls America's Founding Ideals

By [Judith Valente](#) • Mar 7, 2017

ISU Center for the Performing Arts

With the record-breaking popularity of the Broadway musical Hamilton, revivals of another show about the founding of America were sure to follow.

The musical 1776, on stage at Illinois State University's Center for the Performing Arts, tells the story of some of the other founding fathers -- those who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Director Lori Adams said the struggles to bridge division and reach compromise that the show depicts mirror many of the same challenges facing America today.

Hollywood Feud Makes Juicy TV

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 2, 2017

K. Gabrielle / Flickr via Creative Commons

From the Hatfields and the McCoys to the Montagues and the Capulets, there's no denying the appeal of a big, juicy feud, especially when it bears the glamorous luster of Hollywood.

Oscars And Trump: A Marriage Made In Hollywood

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 23, 2017

Cliff / Flickr via Creative Commons

Of all the Academy Award predictions one could make this year, there's one sure bet: that some winners will go political in their thank you speeches. After all, it's a Hollywood tradition.

Of Marvel And Morals

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 22, 2017

Andy Roth / Flickr via Creative Commons

The battle between Marvel heroes in the recent blockbuster hit *Captain America: Civil War* provides an opportunity for two Illinois State University professors to delve deep into the psychology of morality in the Marvel universe -- as well as our own.

Minor Characters Ask The Big Questions In Existential Comedy

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 16, 2017

Paul Dennhardt

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of a classic of existential comedy. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* debuts tomorrow at Illinois State University's Westoff Theater. The play gives a view of Shakespeare's Hamlet from the perspective of two minor -- and somewhat dimwitted -- characters.

Granddaughter Remembers Dorothy Day As A Woman Of Paradox

By [Judith Valente](#) • Feb 14, 2017

Gary Jones

One of Dorothy Day's favorite quotes comes from one of her best-loved authors, Dostoyevsky. "The world will be saved by beauty."

ParkLands Foundation Celebrates 50 Years

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 8, 2017

ParkLands Foundation

For 50 years, the ParkLands Foundation has been preserving and protecting historic natural lands in the Mackinaw Valley, helping to sustain biological diversity of native plants and wildlife while providing pristine areas for recreation.

Finding The Abstract In The Sky: Photographer/Pilot Goes Exploring

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 2, 2017

Scott Rankin

Photographer Scott Rankin has for years been pursuing the mercurial beauty of the sky, snapping tens of thousands of still images. A select group of those photos, plus video, are currently on display at the McLean County Arts Center in Bloomington.

Hitchcock Pitches 'Curve Balls' During Film Festival

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Feb 1, 2017

Public Domain

Film director Alfred Hitchcock is thought of as "the master of suspense." Bill McBride argues Hitchcock's style is just as important.

Circus Route Books Reveal Details Under The Big Top

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 27, 2017

Laura Kennedy / WGLT

Romances were often forbidden in the circus. Harry Potter was a famous trapeze artist. And circuses hated Texas. These are some of the tidbits of circus history you'll find in a route book.

MFA Show Highlights Rising Artists

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 27, 2017

Laura Kennedy / WGLT

For students enrolled in the MFA program in the Illinois State University College of Fine Arts, the MFA Biennial is a chance to show off their artistic chops.

Digital Doubles May Blur Ethical Lines

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 24, 2017

Woodle Wonderworks / Flickr via Creative Commons

A classic *Star Wars* villain made a return appearance in the most recent offering of the film series, *Rogue One*. While some fans were delighted, others were troubled.

ISU Professor's Book Charts Sondheim From Boyhood To Broadway Legend

By [Judith Valente](#) • Jan 12, 2017

Judith Valente/GLT News

As a teenager, Robert McLaughlin would go to the public library in the small town in upstate New York where he grew up and check out the cast albums of Broadway musicals.

One of those musicals was Stephen Sondheim's "Company" from 1970.

"I knew his name from "West Side Story," but I didn't know this musical, "Company." It started with all these voices overlapping, calling out the name of the main character. I'd never heard anything like that. It was one of those moments when your heart goes whoo. And I was hooked from then on."

Now McLaughlin has a new book out that looks at the artist and the man, called "Stephen Sondheim and the Reinvention of the American Musical."

TRANSPORTATION

[CIRA Keeps Hope To Tax Rural McLean County](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • 17 hours ago

Staff / WGLT

Central Illinois Regional Airport leaders are still hoping to create new property taxes for rural McLean County property owners.

The idea first surfaced two years ago, when a federal budget sequester threatened to eliminate funds to operate the airport control tower.

[Connect Transit Could Face Service Cuts](#)

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

Connect Transit

Connect Transit in Bloomington Normal is facing a problem, an aging fleet of busses and capital money tied up in operations because the state isn't paying its share. Isaac Thorne is the Interim General Manager for the bus system.

"The majority of our busses are 2004, 2005 busses. And we have eight 1998s. We hope we can replace six in 2018 which would bring us down to needing seventeen," said Thorne.

[Man Killed By SUV Driver Identified](#)

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Apr 2, 2017

Emma Shores / WGLT

The McLean County Coroner is continuing its investigation into a pedestrian death on Veterans Parkway.

Coroner Kathy Davis identified the man as 50-year-old Jeffery A. Darr. A preliminary autopsy indicates Darr died from injuries after being struck by a sport utility vehicle on Veterans Parkway, south of Shepard Road in Normal.

Darr was pronounced dead at the scene at 9:19 PM Friday. The Normal Police Department is also investigating the crash. Toxicology results are pending.

New City Commission Would Decide Speed, Other Transportation Issues

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Mar 28, 2017

Google

The Bloomington City Council is discussing lowering the speed limit on another road and the Mayor thinks it may be time to move forward on revised commission to address transportation issues.

Rauner, Dems Tussle Over I-55 Project

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Mar 27, 2017

Doug Kerr / Flickr

Governor Bruce Rauner was in the Chicago suburbs Monday pushing to add toll-lanes to Interstate 55. He also took the opportunity to attack Illinois Democrats.

Transportation Planning Driven By Survey Results

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Mar 22, 2017

Ralph Weisheit / WGLT

The Long Range Transportation survey conducted by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) late last year is providing direction for the organization's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The eventual blueprint will help guide transportation planning in the county for the next two decades.

Connect Transit Interim Hired

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 21, 2017

Staff / WGLT

The Connect Transit Board has completed the hire of an Interim Director.

Former Chief Operating Officer Isaac Thorne will take over for Andrew Johnson until a permanent replacement can be chosen.

Connect Transit Transitions To New Leader

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 8, 2017

Connect Transit

Bloomington-Normal's bus system has named an interim General Manager by promoting from within.

Chief Operating Officer Isaac Thorne will take over for General Manager Andrew Johnson. Johnson is leaving for a new job with the bus system in Champaign-Urbana.

State Farm Reports Flat Financial Year

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 28, 2017

Staff / WGLT

State Farm Insurance had an operating loss of \$1.2 Billion last year.

But, net income was \$400 million in the black according to annual company financial results.

Cell Phone Driving Violations Bring \$7 Million In Fines

By IPR • Feb 20, 2017

Flickr

More than 100,000 Illinois drivers have been convicted for illegally using their cell phones in two years. The 2014 law says drivers can use cell phones only with a hands-free device.

Dave Druker is a spokesperson for the Secretary of State's office.

O'Hare Anniversary Remembered

By IPR • Feb 20, 2017

Beverly / Flickr

A naval aviator's attack on Japanese bombers that gave Chicago's O'Hare Airport its name took place 75 years ago.

On February 20th, 1942, Japanese bombers attacked the U-S-S Lexington, an aircraft carrier headed towards New Guinea.

IWU Gets Connect Transit Universal Access

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 17, 2017

Staff / WGLT

Illinois Wesleyan University students are now able to ride Connect Transit buses free.

The Student Senate and Connect Transit have a pilot program offering universal access, much as ISU students have.

Bloomington Mayoral Candidates Offer Different Downtown And Street Visions

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 16, 2017

Charlie Schlenker / WGLT

Downtown revitalization figured strongly in answers during the GLT Bloomington Mayoral candidates forum.

Alderman Kevin Lower said during the event at Illinois State University's University Galleries, the city is not paying enough attention to the periphery of the community.

Sewers, Roadways Getting Replaced In Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Mike McCurdy](#) • Feb 14, 2017

City of Bloomington

The Bloomington City Council is acting to build new sewer lines in a part of the city lacking full service. Mayor Tari Renner said the city sewer system is in bad shape.

Speaking during GLT's Sound Ideas Renner hailed council action to build new lines replacing private sewer lines dating back more than 140 years in the historic Dimmitt's Grove neighborhood. The private lines make long runs to hook into the city's service.

Renner said the roads in that area are also dilapidated which helped make those sewers a top priority...

Sen. Durbin Urges Caution On ACA Changes

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 12, 2017

Emma Meyer / McLean County Museum of History

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin said he sees shifting rhetoric by Congressional Republicans that gives him hope the Affordable Care Act will not just be simply repealed.

Durbin said during a stop at the McLean County Museum Of History Route 66 Visitors' Center that a repeal would be disastrous for both the stability of the insurance marketplace and for medical providers.

UPDATE: Victim ID'd In Traffic Fatality In Normal

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 24, 2017

Staff / WGLT

An 80-year old man has died in a crash at Veterans Parkway and Fort Jesse Road in Normal this morning.

McLean County Coroner Kathy Davis identified the victim as 80-year-old Wayne L. Miller of El Paso. Police Chief Rick Bleichner said three vehicles were involved about 9:30 a.m.

Peoria Air Traffic Lower In 2016

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 17, 2017

R.S.& H Architects

The number of passengers through the Peoria International Airport dropped slightly last year.

The General Wayne A. Downing Airport reports more than 623,000 passengers used the airport in 2016, a drop of about three percent from the record set in 2015.

McHistory: 33 Years On The Streetcar

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 12, 2017

McLean County Museum Of History

Today's Connect Transit bus system can trace its roots in Bloomington-Normal back more than 130 years.

A new form of transportation connected Bloomington residents in the late 1800's, a horse railway.

POLICE & COURTS

Media Win Appeal In Zimmerman Murder Case

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 31, 2017

Ralph Weisheit / WGLT

An Illinois appeals court has ruled in favor of WGLT, the Pantagraph Newspaper, and the Illinois Press Association in a dispute with the defense counsel in the Kirk Zimmerman murder case.

Zimmerman's Attorneys had sought to keep secret hearings on some pretrial motions. They argued disclosing those would make it more difficult to find impartial jurors.

Caterpillar Hires Big Name Legal Help

By AP • Mar 17, 2017

IPR

Caterpillar Inc. is hiring a former U.S. attorney general to help it sort out matters that sparked a federal raid on its headquarters in central Illinois.

William P. Barr will serve as outside counsel to the large equipment manufacturer.

He'll help Caterpillar review and address issues relating to Caterpillar SARL, a Swiss parts subsidiary, and tax-saving practices.

Issues with Caterpillar SARL have dogged the company for eight years, sparking a Senate investigation, shareholder lawsuits, and proposed taxes and penalties totaling \$2 billion.

Caterpillar Tax Fraud Allegations Surface, Not Just Negligence

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 8, 2017

RogerW / Flickr

The New York Times is raising the question of Tax and Accounting Fraud by Peoria-based Caterpillar, Incorporated, not just negligence in taxes owed. Citing a confidential report to federal investigators, the Times alleges Caterpillar did not comply with either U.S. tax law or U.S. financial reporting rules.

Leslie Robinson of the Accounting Department at Dartmouth is the author of the report. The story quoted Robinson saying she believed the company's non compliance was deliberate and primarily with the intention of maintaining a higher share price.

Petersen Not Guilty By Insanity In Parents' Stabbing Deaths

By [Willis Kern](#) • Feb 27, 2017

McLean County Sheriff's Dept.

A Bloomington man has been found not guilty by reason of insanity in connection with the stabbing deaths of his parents last July.

25 year-old Brian Petersen was accused of murdering his parents, Nancy and Bruce, at their rural Bloomington home. McLean County Judge Robert Freitag determined during a 30-minute bench trial Brian Petersen didn't understand the criminal aspect of his actions when he attacked his parents.

Aggressive Deportation Directive Altering Attorney Advice To Undocumented

By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 27, 2017

Jon Norton / WGLT

The recent immigration directives from the Trump administration and Department of Homeland Security widened the net of undocumented people in the U.S. considered a priority for deportation. Immigration attorney Charlotte Alvarez said that is changing how she offers advice.

"We're advising anyone who is undocumented to seek legal counselor to see if there's any options for adjusting or changing their status," said Alvarez.

'Dreamer' Immigrant Says 'I Am An American'

By [Judith Valente](#) • Feb 27, 2017

Alisdare Hickson/Creative Commons

"Even though I don't have documents, this is my country and I will do whatever to defend it," said a 30-year-old undocumented immigrant who wants to be called Victor because he fears being deported under new Trump administration policies.

Bloomington Crime Down In 2016

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 23, 2017

Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

Armed robberies and shootings were up in Bloomington last year, but most major crime categories were down.

Police Chief Brendan Heffner said that's according to the annual crime report.

Sheriff Sandage Notes No ICE Increase

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 15, 2017

Staff / WGLT

McLean County Sheriff Jon Sandage said he is not seeing a big change in immigration enforcement yet from the Trump Administration.

President Trump has made border security and deportation of undocumented immigrants a centerpiece of his policy.

Court Arguments Set For State Worker Pay Decision

By IPR • Feb 10, 2017

JWolff-STL / Flickr

Next week a downstate judge is scheduled to hear arguments whether Illinois state workers should be paid if there's still no budget. The result could shut down state government.

Democratic Attorney General Lisa Madigan says if a judge rules employees cannot get paid, the threat of a shutdown could force a budget agreement.

UPDATE: Victim ID'd In Traffic Fatality In Normal

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 24, 2017

Staff / WGLT

An 80-year old man has died in a crash at Veterans Parkway and Fort Jesse Road in Normal this morning.

McLean County Coroner Kathy Davis identified the victim as 80-year-old Wayne L. Miller of El Paso. Police Chief Rick Bleichner said three vehicles were involved about 9:30 a.m.

City Council Approves Community House

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Jan 23, 2017

Mike Miletich / WGLT

A large group of Bloomington residents are upset with the City Council's decision to unanimously approve a lease from Mid-Central Community Action for the property at 828 W. Jefferson Street to serve as a community house.

McLean County State's Attorney Wins Appeal By Home Invader

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 20, 2017

Staff / WGLT

An Illinois appeals court has rejected a claim by a convicted home invader in Normal that he didn't harm anyone and shouldn't be punished.

Court records show police were chasing Chad Dorsey in March of 2013, trying to arrest him on a warrant. Dorsey broke down a door into a family's apartment.

Alderman Black Frustrated With BLM Refusal To Engage

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 20, 2017

Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

Bloomington Alderman Scott Black says he is ready to vote on the West Jefferson Street Community House next week.

The property was originally proposed as a police substation. The WGLT interview with Black is part of series of interviews on the west side house and its proposed use.

Sloppy Records, Improper Expense Reports Don't Lead To Charges

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 9, 2017

WGLT

The Appellate Prosecutor's Office has declined to file charges against Normal Town Council member Scott Preston for inaccurate travel expense reimbursement reports.

McLean County State's Attorney Jason Chambers had referred the matter to a special prosecutor because of his relationship with Preston and his former tenure on the Council.

of Donald Trump.

ELECTION 2017

Slight Increase In Voter Turnout Projected

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 30, 2017

Ken Chui

The surge in contested races and candidates running for municipal offices in the April Consolidated Elections has not translated into an equal increase turnout in McLean County, though there will likely be some improvement over four years ago.

Following the November election, significant political activity began to happen among some constituencies in McLean County.

Bloomington Mayoral Candidates Differ On Local Economy

By [Willis Kern](#) • Mar 28, 2017

Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

In their last face-to-face meeting prior to next Tuesday's municipal election, the two candidates for mayor of Bloomington debated whether the community is in a recession.

Normal Township Supervisor Race Focuses On Public Assistance

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 23, 2017

Charlie Schlenker / WGLT

The two candidates for Normal Township supervisor have opposing views on making the public assistance program more efficient.

Township duties are to determine the value of property for taxation, to take care of roads not maintained by other government entities, and to distribute welfare to the local poor who are not eligible for other public aid.

School Board Race Pits Unit 5 Parent Against Newcomer

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 23, 2017

Ryan Denham / WGLT

A longtime district volunteer will face off against a professional educator in the only head-to-head matchup for Unit 5 school board in the April 4 election.

Taunia Leffler and Solomon "Sol" Roberts-Lieb, both of south Bloomington, are vying for one of three 4-year terms on the Unit 5 school board. Because of limits on how many board members can reside in certain areas of the district, [either Leffler or Roberts-Lieb can win](#)—but not both.

Library Merger Attractive To Normal Council Candidates

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 21, 2017

Normal Town Council candidates said they find the idea of combining the Bloomington and Normal public libraries an intriguing one.

At a GLT candidates forum held at ISU's University Galleries, candidate Chamberly Cummings embraced a question about merging library services rather than building a new library in Uptown South in Normal and an expansion in downtown Bloomington.

Facebook Group Targets Kevin Lower Over Old Post

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 21, 2017

Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

A Facebook group called "Bloomington Deserves Better Than Kevin Lower" is attacking the mayoral candidate for a 3-year-old response to an alleged racist post on a page titled the Marcus Garvey Society.

On the page was a comment suggesting that "if African Americans really wanted to escape racism, it might be time for them to move to the land of the ancestors."

Unit 5 School Board Candidate Exits Race

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 15, 2017

Ryan Denham / WGLT

There is now only one contested race for Unit 5 school board in the April 4 election.

Erik Bush of north Normal withdrew his candidacy Wednesday, citing personal reasons. That means his opponent, incumbent Joseph Cleary of Normal, is now uncontested for one of three 4-year positions open on the board.

Bloomington Candidates: Day Of The Mall Is Over

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 14, 2017

Staff / WGLT

The closure of Macy's in Eastland Mall is a symbol of retail upheaval nationwide according to Bloomington City Council candidates in wards one, five, and seven.

Bloomington Mayoral Election Polling Update

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#), [Jon Norton](#) & [Colleen Reynolds](#) • Feb 28, 2017

There will be two candidates left for Bloomington Mayor by the time polls close in today's primary election.

Incumbent Mayor Tari Renner is being opposed by current council members Diana Hauman and Kevin Lower, as well as retired fire-fighter Robert Fike, and former talk-radio host Ian Bayne.

Bloomington Election Commission Executive Director Paul Shannon said there were just over 5,800 total voters by 4 p.m.

Bustos Bows Out Of Possible Race For Governor

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & IPR • Feb 20, 2017

Several months after first being mentioned as a possible candidate for Governor of Illinois, U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos has decided against it.

The congresswoman from East Moline and the 17th District said she will run for re-election next year instead.

Bloomington Mayoral Candidates Offer Different Downtown And Street Visions

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 16, 2017

Charlie Schlenker / WGLT

Downtown revitalization figured strongly in answers during the GLT Bloomington Mayoral candidates forum.

Alderman Kevin Lower said during the event at Illinois State University's University Galleries, the city is not paying enough attention to the periphery of the community.

Mayoral Campaign Proposals Called 'Impractical' and 'Catastrophic'

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jan 31, 2017

Michael Hill / WGLT

Bloomington's city manager thinks "you have to look at the reality" when it comes to some of the proposals being floated by candidates running for mayor.

Bloomington Mayoral Candidates Discuss Fighting For Residents, Taxes

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Jan 16, 2017

Mike Miletich / WGLT

During a Bloomington mayoral forum, one candidate said he didn't have to fight against the current mayor, while another candidate said he was ready to fight for Bloomington residents.

Four of the five candidates spoke at the McLean County Republican Party's breakfast Monday morning.

Candidate Kevin Lower said even though he disagrees with Mayor Tari Renner's ideals, he doesn't think the candidates need to fight each other. Ian Bayne said candidates need to fight for residents to survive.

Bloomington Mayoral Candidates Debate City Improvement Ideas

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Jan 11, 2017

Mike Miletich / WGLT

Bloomington Mayoral candidates are pushing platform ideas with about a month until the primary election.

The McLean County Democratic Party hosted a forum at which retired Firefighter and life-long Bloomington resident Robert Fike said the city needs to focus on strong infrastructure.

Sloppy Records, Improper Expense Reports Don't Lead To Charges

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 9, 2017

The Appellate Prosecutor's Office has declined to file charges against Normal Town Council member Scott Preston for inaccurate travel expense reimbursement reports.

McLean County State's Attorney Jason Chambers had referred the matter to a special prosecutor because of his relationship with Preston and his former tenure on the Council.

Mayoral Candidate Urges Retrenchment In Normal

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

Karen Stauffer

The Mayoral race in the town of Normal is in one sense a referendum on a whole slew of town council decisions to stimulate development and work on the quality of life.

Libertarians Take Aim At Normal Township Posts

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 4, 2017

The Libertarian Party of McLean County has three candidates running for Normal Township Trustee in April.

This is a further sign the November election season has prompted greater grass roots involvement in politics. In many past cycles such positions were hard to fill. This year, Democrats are running some candidates for Township offices as well as the candidates fielded by the Republican Party.

CIVIL RIGHTS

[Awakening A 'Sleeping Giantess': Grass Roots Women's Groups Spring Up](#)

By [Judith Valente](#) • Mar 24, 2017

Cristian Jaramillo / WGLT

On a recent Friday evening at the Herb Eaton Gallery, Sara Quah stepped onto a stage to do what loves and feels most comfortable doing - singing the songs she composes.

[Normal To Loosen Public Comment Limits](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 17, 2017

Staff / WGLT

The Normal Town Council will consider a new public comment policy to replace one the Illinois Attorney General has called illegal.

The Town currently prevents members of the public from addressing the council more than once every 45 days.

The Public Access Counselor for the Attorney General's Office said that violates the Open Meetings Act.

[Keeping Up The Momentum Of Women's Activism](#)

By [Judith Valente](#) • Mar 8, 2017

Wikipedia/Google Images

You might have noticed your female colleagues wearing red clothing today. Or perhaps they didn't show up at the office at all.

It's all part of the International Women's Day celebration, held each year on March 8. The day has special significance this year as women across the world try to maintain the momentum unleashed during the women's marches on Washington and other cities across the globe last January.

Of Borders And Belonging: Immigrants Struggle To Create Home

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 24, 2017

Illinois State University

We're currently in a time of tumult, anger, and fear over immigration in this country.

This figured prominently during the presidential campaign and continues with the deportation enforcement policy of the Trump administration.

ISU Moves To Reassure International Students

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 30, 2017

Staff / WGLT

Illinois State University is fielding a lot of questions from international students concerned about the Trump Administration executive orders on immigration and visa enforcement.

About ten ISU students come from the seven countries specifically banned in the Executive order. Others from those nations have also been accepted for admission to ISU in the fall.

Not In Our Town Opposes Immigration Order

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 30, 2017

Staff / WGLT

The Not In Our Town movement in Bloomington Normal is objecting to the Muslim ban and borders the Trump administration has closed for people from seven nations.

Mike Matejka of Not in Our Town said there will be a solidarity rally Wednesday.

Women's March Not The Only Protest Drawing Twin Cities People To D.C.

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 26, 2017

Scott Vogel / Bloomington Central Catholic High School

The last eight years have been difficult for people who oppose abortion. The Obama administration was not receptive to that message.

But, Bloomington Central Catholic High School students headed to Washington for the annual national March For Life feel excited this year because of the change in administration.

ISU Librarian Documenting Women's Civic Engagement

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Jan 23, 2017

Alexis Shpall Wolstein

In what may be a new era of so called "alternative facts" and much talked about fake news, a librarian at Illinois State University is working to document involvement by Bloomington Normal residents at women's marches across the country.

Activist Discusses African American Life Under Trump

By [Student Reporter Mike Miletich](#) • Jan 20, 2017

Mike Miletich / WGLT

Television personality Dr. Marc Lamont Hill spent time answering questions from a group of Illinois State University students before speaking at the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Dinner Friday night.

Hill is a distinguished professor of African American studies at Morehouse College and host of BET News and VH1 Live.

A Welcoming Sign Promotes Diversity

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

Staff / WGLT

People in the Twin Cities may notice more signs popping up, but they aren't promoting political candidates.

The welcome signs are printed in three languages with the same message: No matter where you are from, w