

# **WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

## **July, August, September 2013**

**Key: The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts at 6:33 and 8:33 AM (during *MORNING EDITION*) AND 4:30 PM (during *ALL THINGS CONSIDERED*.)**

Date   Length   Summary

### ARTS & CULTURE

07/01   5:00   Illinois was once a place fraught with crime and debauchery. It really was part of the Wild West. WGLT's Haley BeMiller talks with a historian about famous outlaws, law enforcement and the rest of Illinois' not-so-innocent history.

07/12   5:30   The Illinois Shakespeare Festival's 36th season kicks off tonight in Bloomington with, as usual, three plays in rotation. Except one play isn't the usual thing. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

07/18   5:00   What is it like for someone from another culture to come to our community? That's the topic for a panel discussion tonight in Bloomington. Bloomington city council member and Illinois State University employee Mboka Mwilambwe is a native of Congo. He came to the US in 1989 and lived near New York before moving to Central Illinois. Why Bloomington-Normal?

07/31   5:00   Larry Carius satisfies the appetite for knowledge of what's going on in food around the twin cities. He blogs the Bloomington Normal Restaurant Scene on Facebook and joins us periodically for a chat with GLT's Charlie Schlenker.

08/02   8:30   The first commercial production brewery in Bloomington Normal since prohibition is now open and shipping product out of state. Destihl sent out its first load of 60 kegs of Double Red Ale, A strawberry blonde ale, and a very hopsy tasting IPA a couple weeks ago. That's nearly a thousand gallons of beer that went to Wisconsin from Bloomington Normal. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports on the growth of this craft brewing operation.

08/13   6:00   Before State Farm, before Mitsubishi, before Beer Nuts, Bloomington-Normal was home to a unique and respected industry: the creation and training of trapeze artists. A new book details the history of circus performers from the Twin Cities, and WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

08/23   6:00   Unit Five is starting to make the case to raise sales taxes for all of McLean County. The district says it needs 120 million dollars and could get that through a one cent sales tax hike. That would create a revenue stream of about \$16 million a year for all the school districts in the county. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Superintendent Gary Niehaus about growth, tax burdens, and shifting revenue from property tax to sales tax.

09/04   12:30   For a time in the 1970s and 80s, Bloomington Normal was a remarkable part of the folk music circuit in the United States. Today on Sound Ideas, GLT delves into that history and how it continues to shape culture in Bloomington Normal. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker starts us off.

09/09   17:00   The new season of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra begins next month. Today on Sound Ideas we talk with the music director and conductor of the classical music group that serves Bloomington-Normal, and Springfield. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker delves into the chemistry between the players and leaders, how to connect with the audience, and the hiring of new musicians.

09/12   23:00   Today on Sound Ideas we look at the coming vote on a downtown revitalization plan. It will be similar to the one that failed to gain city council support several years ago. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Mayor Tari Renner and with Tricia Stiller, the head of the Downtown Bloomington Association. We start by asking Stiller what she thinks went wrong with the plan developed over several years that stalled out in 2010.

09/24   6:30   Next month, the Illinois General Assembly returns to Springfield for its annual fall veto session in which it considers whether to override the Governor's rejections and changes to bills passed by lawmakers. In this episode of GLT's recurring series "McHistory," we hear about a veto message from a Governor of Illinois more than 60 years ago. The veto message is drawn from letters, articles, and diaries of McLean County citizens written in times gone by. McLean County Museum of History Director Greg Koos reads the veto with comment from Archivist Bill Kemp.

09/30 6:00 Coming up, you'll find out about a new and varied entry into the pizza segment of the twin cities foodie segment and hear about favorites of days gone by. Charlie Schlenker talks with the man behind the Facebook page Bloomington Normal Restaurant Scene.

### BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

07/05 1:00 A business owner in Uptown Normal says the anchor tenants for the district are doing exactly what town planners envisioned years ago....bringing in traffic for other businesses in the district. Natalie Wetzel, the co-owner of a store called The Pod, says not only does the Marriot Hotel bring in people for conferences and events who end up shopping, but Uptown Station has the same function.

07/12 1:00 The Dallas, Texas workforce of State Farm Insurance could more than triple now that the Bloomington-based company is confirming plans to lease 1.5 million square feet in a new office center being unveiled today. Spokesman Phil Supple says State Farm will hire new workers and shift others to the Richardson, Texas facility, adding to its current workforce of 2,500.

07/17 1:00 Felony filings have soared in McLean County during the first six months of the year. The County is on pace for about 1,700 felony cases in 2013. That's about a 20% increase from last year. State's Attorney Jason Chambers says there are several reasons including a change in philosophy on charging.

07/24 5:30 Tobin's Pizza on Main Street in Bloomington Normal is a half century old this year. But, the venerable twin cities restaurant is also the first in the area to buy a fleet of electric cars for pizza delivery. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

08/05 1:00 Grocery shoppers in Illinois are starting to buy more of their items on-line. Harvest Public Radio's Bill Wheelhouse Reports.

08/29 6:00 The idea of an east side highway allowing Interstates 55 and 74 to connect has had significant resistance for more than twenty years. Though such a road is not much closer to construction than it was two decades ago, protests continue. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the \$350 million proposal for a freeway roughly joining Towanda and Downs.

09/02 5:00 The average American consumes nearly 40-pounds of refined sugar a year. And behind all those sweet snacks, a stealthy and heated battle is taking place over whether the government should continue to help out sugar growers. Yes, this is a farm bill issue, but as Harvest Public Media's Bill Wheelhouse reports, it's one that has a very direct impact on consumers' wallets.

09/05 5:30 It has been more than a year since the city of Dixon was rocked by the Rita Crundwell scandal. The former comptroller is serving a federal prison term for embezzling more than \$50 million from city coffers. With court proceedings on the back-burner, the community is debating how to move forward with a form of government aimed at restoring public trust. IPR's Mike Moen has more.

09/11 1:00 State Farm CEO Ed Rust Junior takes issue with critics of the Common Core curriculum. Rust has long been active in education development saying the U.S. has fallen behind other countries in preparing young people for the world of work. Common Core learning standards draw fire from some who say the uniformity infringes on state rights. Speaking to reporters at an education forum in Normal, Rust disagreed.

09/19 1:00 Some parents and activists are objecting to a national initiative that stores sensitive student data in a computer server cloud. inBloom is supported by the Gates Foundation. Bloomington District 87 is a pilot site for the effort. But, State School Superintendent Chris Koch says economies of scale will enhance the ability of educators to analyze data on multiple platforms.

09/30 21:00 Poverty rates in McLean County have risen from last year. The 15.7% poverty rate gleaned from census data is six tenths of a point higher than in 2011. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with Jennifer Clary from the Social Impact Research Center of the Heartland Alliance, a prominent anti poverty group in Illinois. Clary says it's important to understand what it means to be counted as poor.

### CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

07/11 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court today upheld a law that requires young women to notify their parents before getting an abortion. As Brian Mackey reports, the decision ends a legal fight that goes all the way back to the 1990s.

07/17 4:30 Marriage equality supporters are launching a \$2 million statewide campaign to approve same-sex marriage in Illinois. Illinois Unites for Marriage is a coalition representing gay rights, civil rights and political groups. The group says it will place 15 field organizers throughout the state to engage supporters, following legislative failure to enact same-sex marriage in Illinois during the last session.

IPR's Amanda Vinicky talks with Illinois Unites' campaign manager.

07/23 5:30 In the past two years, the YWCA in Bloomington has moved in a new direction, including expanding childcare services. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

07/26 6:00 As central Illinois children get ready to head back to school next month, the environment they find in their classrooms continues to change. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports on the ongoing implementation of new learning standards.

08/05 1:00 Grocery shoppers in Illinois are starting to buy more of their items on-line. Harvest Public Radio's Bill Wheelhouse Reports.

08/15 1:00 Community groups promoting a sales tax for the YMCA and the Prairie City Soccer League have scheduled the public rollout of their \$32 million proposal. Dave Magers says there will be a news conference next Tuesday detailing coalition plans. Some public officials have expressed reservations about passing a public tax benefitting private organizations. But, Magers says the soccer league and the Y help community development.

08/16 1:30 Statements released as part of a settlement in a priest sex abuse case from Normal show lower level Catholic Church and school leaders chose not to report suspicious activity to police any more than high level officials did. Stories earlier this week looked at the inactivity of former Peoria Bishop John Myers in the case of Monsignor Tom Maloney.

08/20 2:00 Kingsley Junior High School Principal Jeanette Mehall welcomed students back to school for the fall on the first day of classes. In both district 87 and Unit Five in Bloomington Normal, educators are also beefing up efforts to bring student performance at Bloomington and Kingsley Junior High Schools up among lower socioeconomic groups through so called Promise Councils, groups of adult volunteers checked by the Boys and Girls Club. Kingsley Mehall says this builds on past volunteer activities.

08/28 1:00 Illinois is considering rules to limit what kids at day care centers can eat, how much TV they can watch and how much exercise they must receive. It's part of an effort to curb obesity in young children. IPR's Sean Crawford reports.

09/02 1:00 Illinois drivers already get traffic tickets from red-light cameras and speed-zone cameras. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, a new law means drivers could soon be ticketed by school-bus cameras.

09/16 1:00 A survey conducted by State Farm Insurance finds there is a significant disconnect between teens and parents as to how teens are responding to more restrictive drivers' license laws. So-called Graduated Drivers Licenses restrict nighttime teen driving and limit the number of passengers young drivers can have when they first get their licenses.

09/30 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court has imposed a new limit on the types of crimes that can land juvenile offenders in prison. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, the case began with a charge of underage drinking.

## ENVIRONMENT

07/08 1:00 A year ago, southern Illinois fruit and vegetables were struggling through a record drought. This year, growers say things couldn't be more different - with cooler temperatures and much higher rain totals. Wayne Sirles is Vice President of Rendleman Orchards in Union County. He says last year peaches were ready much earlier than normal, and this year people will have to wait just a bit longer.

07/15 1:00 One Central Illinois teacher is getting the chance of a lifetime. Paul Ritter, a science teacher at Pontiac High School, will assist scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through its Teacher at Sea program and embark on a 16-day survey of fish populations in the Atlantic Ocean. Ritter says this is a dream come true for him. But, he says the impact on his students will be even greater.

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07/29 1:00 The EPA is signing off on a Bridgestone Americas company settlement of Clean Air Act violations in the Town of Normal. The Off Road Tire plant in Normal neither admits nor denies it released more than 38 tons of industrial solvent into the air per year. That amount is the legal limit allowable under EPA permits. The violations happened several years ago. As part of the settlement, the company is changing its record keeping. The EPA could have fined the tire maker nearly \$300,000 for the violations.

Instead, the company will pay about \$63,000 in penalties. Roughly half of that is in direct fines to the government.

08/19 1:00 Tossing trash anywhere besides a garbage will soon cost you no matter where you are in Illinois. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, a new law imposes a statewide fine for littering

09/09 5:30 A potentially stunning celestial object is whizzing through Earth's neighborhood. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

09/17 1:00 It's been 80 years and counting for Granddad the Australian lungfish. That's how long he has lived at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium after being brought there for the 1933 World's Fair. And today, the aquarium's marking the occasion with a party. Granddad will get an ice cake that includes some of his favorites: smelt, shrimp, peas and squash with a seaweed frosting.

09/30 1:00 A fearsome fish whose roots date back 120 million years is getting a second chance in Illinois waterways. The alligator gar had been found as far north as Beardstown within the past century. But the last known catch was in 1966 in Cairo and Illinois officials declared in 1994 that it no longer swam state rivers.

09/30 1:00 Environmental Protection Agency officials say the U.S. is falling short of its goals to cut Mississippi River pollution and shrink the dead zone it creates in the Gulf of Mexico. Speaking in Minneapolis, the federal officials said Illinois and other states in the river's watershed need to accelerate efforts to cut pollution from farm field runoff and sewage treatment plant discharges. The area of depleted oxygen was the size of Connecticut this summer.

09/30 1:00 The City of Bloomington Water Department says even though the state is in a moderate drought, water levels at the city reservoirs are seasonal. Director Craig Cummings says the combined deficit below the spillways in Lakes Bloomington and Evergreen is 5.3 feet.

## HEALTH & MEDICINE

07/04 1:00 US Senator Mark Kirk has a plan he says will help the Veterans Affairs Department reduce its backlog of disability claims. The Illinois Republican visited the VA Hospital in Hines testersday and later met with his Veterans Advisory Board.

07/09 1:00 Despite a call for donors last month, the Red Cross of the heartland today is issuing an emergency call for blood. Spokesman Ben Corey says some operations or procedures may have to be put on hold until supplies bounce back.

07/10 1:00 A recognition of the healing power of nature lies at the root of the Normal Community Cancer Center's new expansion. The Center broke ground today for the project, featuring a design focus on maximizing green space. The emphasis on making most of the site's wooded area, which sits along Constitution Trail, came from the "strong" opinions of cancer survivors architect Russell Francois pitched two designs to --a "green site" and a site in downtown Bloomington.

07/11 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court today upheld a law that requires young women to notify their parents before getting an abortion. As Brian Mackey reports, the decision ends a legal fight that goes all the way back to the 1990s.

07/16 1:00 McLean County animal shelters and activists are demanding a stop to animal euthanization by gas chamber. Marion Willetts of the Kickapoo Animal Rescue Alliance says the county is one of few to still use what she calls an inhumane process.

07/23 5:30 In the past two years, the YWCA in Bloomington has moved in a new direction, including expanding childcare services. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

07/25 4:30 "Food hubs" are popping up across the country. These food processing and distribution centers make it easier for restaurants, grocery stores, and others to buy local food. The U-S Department of Agriculture says there are more than 220 of them in 40 states plus the District of Columbia. As IPR's Sean Powers reports for Harvest Public Media, it's a trend that's not only helping struggling farms, but also bringing in new talent to agriculture.

08/08 1:00 Last week Illinois became the 20th state in the U.S. to defy federal law by legalizing medical marijuana. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, the state's senior Senator is skeptical of the feds going along with the trend.

08/15 2:00 Uninsured residents will have the opportunity to seek health insurance counseling from the McLean County Health Department. The state awarded over \$110,000 to the department so it can hire additional staff and coordinate a local In-Person Counseling Program. Director Walt Howe says the goal of the program is to assist residents with health insurance enrollment as Obamacare begins to take effect.

09/03 5:30 Healthcare industry consolidation continues along with efforts to conform to the Affordable

Care Act. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has a discussion of that plus a changing of the guard at a Bloomington Hospital.

09/12 6:00 Addicts misuse drugs because it makes them feel good, but what if it didn't? That's the promise behind research being conducted by Paul Garris, professor of microbiology at Illinois State University. WGLT's Jim Browne has more.

09/18 1:00 Illinois' attempts to remove ineligible people from the state's Medicaid rolls are on hold, as Illinois and its largest public employees' union fight over who should actually do the scrubbing. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, the state says it will appeal a ruling that says it has to cancel its 77 million dollar contract with an outside firm:

## LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

07/01 5:00 Illinois was once a place fraught with crime and debauchery. It really was part of the Wild West. WGLT's Haley BeMiller talks with a historian about famous outlaws, law enforcement and the rest of Illinois' not-so-innocent history.

07/01 1:00 The Illinois Attorney General says the oil company run by Illinois State University Trustee J.D. Bergman has a truly shoddy maintenance record on its equipment. Attorney General Spokesman Scott Mulford says the state has filed suit against Petco Petroleum for 61 violations in the last four years consisting of oil spills, releases of contaminated brine, and other violations in southern Illinois.

07/02 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn has vetoed legislation that would allow concealed carry in Illinois. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, Quinn is suggesting numerous changes to the proposal.

07/08 1:00 Last week, a new Illinois Supreme Court rule took effect that's intended to make it easier for spouses of military personnel to get a law license. Angela Allen practices law in Chicago and, with a husband in the Illinois National Guard, she's one of about 800 members of the Military Spouse J.D. Network.

07/11 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court today upheld a law that requires young women to notify their parents before getting an abortion. As Brian Mackey reports, the decision ends a legal fight that goes all the way back to the 1990s.

07/17 3:00 Felony filings have soared in McLean County during the first six months of the year. The County is on pace for about 1,700 felony cases in 2013. That's about a 20% increase from last year. State's Attorney Jason Chambers says there are several reasons including a change in philosophy on charging.

7/26 1:30 The means by which legislators have considered reducing the state's pension costs have been mostly controversial. But as IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, there are some options to save Illinois money that could get wide agreement.

07/30 1:00 The leaders of the Illinois General Assembly have sued Governor Pat Quinn over his veto of lawmakers' salaries. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, the leaders say they're trying to protect the independence of the legislature.

08/07 1:00 Illinois' prison systems have misplaced two-hundred-thousand dollars' worth of computer equipment. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports ... the state's auditor general says that poses security risks:

08/08 1:00 A one-time top aide in the Illinois Department of Public Health has been indicted for bribery and taking kickbacks.

09/16 2:00 Illinois prisons are expanding a program to feed some inmates two meals a day instead of three. IPR's Brian Mackey has more on prisoners eating brunch:

## POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

07/02 1:00 This spring, Illinois made a significant dent in its multi-billion-dollar backlog of bills. But Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka says the numbers are once again going in the wrong direction. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

07/03 1:00 A DUI information group says the Town of Normal has the 5th most aggressive police force in the state on drunken driving. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists says Police in Normal arrested 322 people for DUI last year. That's more than four arrests for every officer.

07/08 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn says he's ready for a ``showdown" in Springfield over concealed carry legislation. The Chicago Democrat has spent days making appearances talking up his sweeping changes to a bill that'd make Illinois the last state to allow concealed weapons. Quinn says the bill was

influenced heavily by the National Rifle Association.

07/09 5:00 Some students at Illinois State University want to make the Constitution Trail a safer place. WGLT's Haley BeMiller talks with members of Trail Safe, a student advocacy group devoted to reforming one of Bloomington-Normal's most popular outdoor venues.

07/12 1:00 One of the Democrats seeking to unseat incumbent Republican Rodney Davis in next year's congressional election has the full backing of the powerful Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. New York Congressman Steve Israel chairs the committee and says southern Illinois judge Ann Callis is being put on the committee's fast track.

07/15 1:00 Republican state Senator Kirk Dillard has launched his 2014 campaign for governor outside his childhood home in Chicago by addressing a handful of supporters. Dillard lost the 2010 GOP primary to state Senator Bill Brady of Bloomington. Dillard says he's learned lessons since then, and is proposing changes to the state constitution.

08/01 1:30 Governor Pat Quinn is not backing down from his decision to nix lawmakers' salaries as punishment for failing to agree on pension legislation. But as IPR's Brian Mackey reports, a key legislator says Quinn's moves might be doing more to slow a pension fix than to speed it up.

08/01 5:00 The town of Normal is embarking on a plan to shuffle the location of its fire stations to provide better response time. WGLT's Willis Kern talks about what's being considered with Mayor of Normal, Chris Koos.

08/05 3:30 Efforts continue to reduce the number of regional school superintendents in Illinois. A 2012 law asked local officials in certain areas to approve consolidation plans that fit their needs. But a key deadline was missed in the process. IPR's Mike Moen reports on what happens next:

08/16 6:00 ISU Law enforcement leaders are struggling with the implications of the state's new Concealed Carry law on firearms. There are enough gray areas that the ban of guns on college campuses appears porous and not complete. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

09/03 11:00 Even several years into the implementation of the affordable care act, the new head of OSF Saint Joseph Medical Center says it is not possible to predict whether hoped for costs shifts will happen.. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with Chad Boore.

09/11 9:00 One central Illinois Congressman is a tough sell on Syrian intervention. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with GOP Representative Rodney Davis of Taylorville about what Davis sees as the lack of definition in what the administration wants to do and how it would accomplish that

## RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

07/02 1:00 The Mayors of Bloomington and Normal are reacting cautiously to one change Governor Quinn has made in the state's concealed carry law. Quinn changed the law to allow Home Rule communities to draft their own regulations on assault weapons that would be more strict than the statewide provision. Speaking only for himself, Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner says he believes there is a difficulty in legislating big issues at a local level.

07/05 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn took his anti-gun message to the streets today. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, he spoke with reporters outside Wrigley Field in Chicago.

07/17 1:00 One of Illinois' biggest companies says U-S immigration policy puts it at a competitive disadvantage. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, Caterpillar's involved with a Chamber of Commerce campaign seeking an overhaul of federal immigration law.

08/07 1:00 Central Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock is joining more than 20 House Republicans in changing their position on immigration reform. Schock started a 14-day listening tour through his district this week. A recent Youtube video shows Schock saying undocumented immigrants should be able to apply for citizenship.

08/16 9:30 There are doubts about the effectiveness of the provisions in the concealed carry law preventing firearms from being carried on college campuses in Illinois. ISU Law enforcement leaders are struggling with the implications of the state's new Concealed Carry law on firearms. There are enough gray areas that the ban of guns on college campuses appears porous and not complete. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

08/16 5:30 African-Americans point to long-held cultural discrimination based primarily on the belief their race is inferior to whites. Asian-Americans, on the other hand, have faced the opposite problem. WGLT's Willis Kern has more with Nicholas Hartlep, an Illinois State professor and author of the book Model Minority Stereotype: Demystifying Asian-American Success.

08/28 1:00 McLean County State's Attorney Jason Chambers says a judge has removed the county from a civil lawsuit brought by once accused murderer Alan Beaman. The State Supreme Court overturned Beaman's murder conviction in the death of ISU student Jennifer Lockmiller after Beaman spent more than a decade in prison. Beaman sued the county, Town of Normal, and individual police officers and prosecutors in civil court for malicious prosecution.

09/24 5:30 Juan Ortiz is Executive VP of Business Development for Blue Pay Incorporated, a Naperville based company that facilitates business transactions and documentation. He's coming to ISU Friday to talk about being a successful Hispanic-American businessman, and overcoming other obstacles, including abuse. GLT's Jim Browne had a chance to talk with him about his message:

09/24 4:30 A bill to legalize gay marriage in Illinois will be waiting for lawmakers when they head back to Springfield next month. The bill already passed the State Senate, but is stuck in the House. Now, proponents are in the midst of a lobbying campaign targeted at an unlikely group of lawmakers: House Republicans. But as IPR's Alex Keefe reports, there are big hurdles to getting G-O-P representatives to vote yes.

### SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

07/04 5:30 Summer is a time of bounty in central Illinois. But not for everyone. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more on the struggles warm weather brings to a local food pantry.

07/16 1:00 Animal rights activists in McLean County are raising concern about the use of gas chambers to euthanize animals. Marion Willetts of the Kickapoo Animal Rescue Alliance says McLean County is one of two counties in Illinois that still use this practice.

07/25 4:30 "Food hubs" are popping up across the country. These food processing and distribution centers make it easier for restaurants, grocery stores, and others to buy local food. The U-S Department of Agriculture says there are more than 220 of them in 40 states plus the District of Columbia. As IPR's Sean Powers reports for Harvest Public Media, it's a trend that's not only helping struggling farms, but also bringing in new talent to agriculture.

07/26 1:00 Former Illinois State President Al Bowman and his wife Linda have been awarded the honor of Normal's Citizen of the Year. Normal Mayor Chris Koos says the two have always been community boosters. He says the city usually nominates only one person for the award, but they believed they should recognize both Bowmans.

08/16 1:30 Statements released as part of a settlement in a priest sex abuse case from Normal show lower level Catholic Church and school leaders chose not to report suspicious activity to police any more than high level officials did. Stories earlier this week looked at the inactivity of former Peoria Bishop John Myers in the case of Monsignor Tom Maloney. Maloney was accused of molesting an altar boy at Epiphany Church in Normal.

08/19 1:00 Leaders at Home Sweet Home Ministries are reshuffling their duties to make the organization more effective. Matt Drat of Home Sweet Home says current leaders will take on new roles and responsibilities. He says the executive team wants to reach out to the community even more than it already does.

08/20 1:00 Bloomington-Normal residents in need will be able to put shoes on their feet. Home Sweet Home Ministries, partnered with OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, received over 3,500 shoes during their annual shoe drive. Home Sweet Home CEO Mary Ann Pullin says they are excited about this year's total. She says the values behind the shoe drive go back to its origin 11 years ago.

08/29 1:00 Bloomington Normal and Peoria fast food workers are among those walking off the job in a nationwide protest over low wages. Ciara Burrell works at Hardees on College Avenue in Normal. Burrell says raising her pay from her current eight dollars and 25 cents per hour to 15 bucks an hour would change her life.

09/03 1:00 The Illinois Gaming Board is set to consider lifting a restriction that forbids casinos from staying open 24 hours a day. Illinois' casinos have previously tried, and failed, to get the okay to keep their doors open 24-7. They're trying again. Tom Swoik, who represents many of the state's riverboats, says Illinois lets truck stops offer video gambling at all hours, so casinos should be allowed to as well.

09/05 1:00 It was an unseasonably cool and rainy Friday morning in early September one year ago when GLT listeners heard this breaking news.

09/05 1:00 As the October first open enrollment looms for insurance marketplaces created under the Affordable Care Act, Americans are being urged to learn more about how the act affects them.

## TECHNOLOGY

07/01 1:00 Connect Transit is proposing several service changes to improve the state of the city's bus system, including an overall route restructure. General Manager Andrew Johnson says this would fulfill their goal to send busses where they're most needed and streamline the routes to ensure timeliness.

07/04 1:00 Illinois State University took second place in a Texas car race, but it wasn't your average competition. These cars were powered by the sun. A group of students participated in the national Formula Sun Grand Prix, a 3-day race involving only solar cars. ISU's participants were required to build and drive their own vehicle. Junior Cameron Knight, a driver and head of the design team, says it was one of the most intense races the team has ever seen

07/08 1:00 While cheering efforts to create a global free library, an ISU instructor says he's also concerned about authors getting paid for their work. Steve Halle teaches publishing at Illinois State. He says the court battle between Google and authors could hinge on writer's rights to act as a class in a pending suit. A court decision this month stalled the suit by the Writers Guild, which is seeking to represent all authors.

07/10 4:00 A push to bring high speed internet access to smaller communities and rural areas was a key part of President Obama's 2009 stimulus package. One of the first projects to gain funding in Illinois was the DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority, or DATA. It was followed soon after by iFiber, a project to bring broadband to counties in north central and northwest Illinois. IPR's Guy Stephens reports, both are now moving from the construction phase to implementation:

07/18 1:00 Some states require the labeling of GMO products in food, but the Illinois Farm Bureau doesn't think Illinois should be one of them. President Philip Nelson, who served on the USDA's first two biotechnology committees, says it's an extensive process to approve these events. Because of this, he says he believes the extra GMO label is unnecessary.

08/02 6:00 The first commercial production brewery in Bloomington Normal since prohibition is now open and shipping product out of state. Destihl sent out its first load of 60 kegs of Double Red Ale, A strawberry blonde ale, and a very hopsy tasting IPA a couple weeks ago. That's nearly a thousand gallons of beer that went to Wisconsin from Bloomington Normal. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports on the growth of this craft brewing operation.

08/05 1:00 Grocery shoppers in Illinois are starting to buy more of their items on-line. Harvest Public Radio's Bill Wheelhouse Reports.

09/10 6:00 Addicts misuse drugs because it makes them feel good, but what if it didn't? That's the promise behind research being conducted by Paul Garris, professor of microbiology at Illinois State University. Garris has gotten a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to research combating drug abuse by governing dopamine in the human brain. Professor Garris is working on a device that'd be implanted in the brain. He is no stranger to what some call the "Feel Good" chemical:

09/12 3:30 Travelling through Amish country, you've probably noticed a horse drawn carriage. One Sullivan resident has transformed the traditional buggy by giving it a touch of solar power. IPR's Sean Powers went for a ride in the horseless carriage.

09/19 2:00 Concerns are rising nationally over a data storage agreement backed by the Gated Foundation. Bloomington's District 87 is a pilot site for the inBloom concept of storing child data in a computer cloud. That's supposed to make it accessible to various analytical tools that before now have required expensive separate data entry to use. But, some advocates worry the data is not secure enough or could be used by a for profit corporation.

## TRANSPORTATION

07/01 1:00 Connect Transit is proposing several service changes to improve the state of the city's bus system, including an overall route restructure. General Manager Andrew Johnson says this would fulfill their goal to send busses where they're most needed and streamline the routes to ensure timeliness.

07/03 1:00 DUI information group says the Town of Normal has the 5th most aggressive police force in the state on drunken driving. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists says Police in Normal arrested 322 people for DUI last year. That's more than four arrests for every officer. Even though Bloomington is a larger city with more officers, police there made more than 100 fewer arrests than in Normal.

07/09 4:30 Some students at Illinois State University want to make the Constitution Trail a safer place. WGLT's Haley BeMiller talks with members of Trail Safe, a student advocacy group devoted to reforming



one of Bloomington-Normal's most popular outdoor venues.

07/16 1:00 The Central Illinois Regional Airport will be able to upgrade its ramp area with a nearly 1-point-9 million dollar grant from the federal government.

07/22 5:00 There are at least four potential sales tax increases under discussion in Bloomington Normal. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports it is unclear how the public will respond to this passel of possible taxes.

07/24 5:00 Tobin's Pizza on Main Street in Bloomington Normal is a half century old this year. But, the venerable twin cities restaurant is also the first in the area to buy a fleet of electric cars for pizza delivery. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

07/24 1:00 Potential sales tax hikes in Bloomington Normal would fall far more heavily on lower income residents than middle class or wealthy consumers. As City Manager Mark Peterson acknowledges, low income people don't have the ability to avoid spending on food or medicine, so their effective tax rate from a sales surcharge is higher than that for wealthier residents.

07/29 1:00 To make progress on the high speed rail, the Illinois Department of Transportation will halt regular train services during three different weeks. Joe Shacter is the Director of Public and Intermodal Transportation. He says the focus of the project is replacing 14 bridges between Alton and Joliet. He says bridges are too difficult to work on with trains still running, but IDOT made sure the shutdowns wouldn't have a negative impact.

07/29 1:00 The EPA is signing off on a Bridgestone Americas company settlement of Clean Air Act violations in the Town of Normal. The Off Road Tire plant in Normal neither admits nor denies it released more than 38 tons of industrial solvent into the air per year.

08/07 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn gave the green light to improve a three-mile stretch of road on I-39 in McLean County. The \$5.9 million project will fix surface issues on the highway, as well as create jobs for construction workers. Kensil Garnett is with the Illinois Department of Transportation. He says the changes will make the road more safe.

08/14 1:00 Residents of several east side Bloomington Normal housing developments are telling elected officials they want nothing to do with a potential east side highway project. Bruce Naffziger lives in the Grove subdivision in Bloomington which would be affected by the westernmost of three remaining possible road alignments.

08/27 1:00 McLean County's rural bus system has asked for funding to improve service for a growing ridership. Showbus applied for a \$2.5 million state and federal grant, and the application was approved by the McLean County Board. If they receive the grant, Showbus will use the money to buy new busses and computers.

09/02 1:00 Illinois drivers already get traffic tickets from red-light cameras and speed-zone cameras. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, a new law means drivers could soon be ticketed by school-bus cameras: