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Ride beautifully-restored diesel and steam trains through scenic prairies and woodlands to the historic downtown every Saturday and Sunday May 1 thru October 10. Check website for complete schedule, special events, and operation of Southern steam engine No. 401. Check out our expanded grounds and new displays. Charter a train for large groups. Enjoy a cab ride or be the engineer and sign up for Throttle Time.

www.mrym.org

Monticello Railway Museum

Get Your Tickets Online or at the Museum Entrance
I-72 at Exit No. 166
Monticello, IL
30 minutes from Champaign or Decatur

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After a year with no regular operations due to COVID, the Monticello Railway Museum resumed regular weekend operations on Saturday, May 1. Visitors will be able to buy tickets to ride the Museum’s train, powered by vintage diesel locomotives, and ride in our vintage passenger cars for a trip between the Main Museum complex (known as Nelson Crossing) and the Museum’s restored Wabash Depot in downtown Monticello. Visitors are encouraged to lay over between trains and enjoy the restaurants and shops in downtown Monticello before boarding the train for the return trip. It still remains to be seen which of the special events the Museum typically operates will be featured in 2021.

We ask our visitors to please be patient with us as we do our best to return to normal while remaining in compliance with state regulations. Please check our website or Facebook page for details as they change.

In addition to the authentic ride on a train, visitors may view the exhibit cars and gift shop located at the Nelson Crossing complex, or tour the Camp Creek Yard, where equipment is stored and where many restoration projects take place.

The Nelson Crossing complex includes a train storage shed 640 feet long and three tracks wide which house over 20 vintage rail cars, protecting them from the elements. This storage shed has a handicapped-accessible observation deck that runs the whole length of the building, allowing guests to view the interiors of several of the vintage railcars. Also located at the Nelson Crossing complex, the recently completed Richard P. Stair interlocking tower, where trains are controlled by trackside signals, is open to visitors most weekends.

One change for 2021 is that the Museum’s 1907 steam locomotive, Southern Railway No. 401, which returned to service 2010, will not operate this year. 401 is currently undergoing its federally mandated 1472 service day inspection. To prepare for this inspection, volunteers have removed all the jacket and lagging, cab plumbing, dynamo, and sand dome. The smoke box has been cleaned out, tubes removed, and boiler interior sandblasted for inspection and paint. The boiler has also been gridded in preparation for an ultrasonic thickness survey of the boiler and firebox. So far, the inspection has gone well and it is anticipated that 401 will return to service in 2022.

Another change is the Rock Island Commuter coach. This coach has been one of the mainstay pieces of equipment ever since arriving at the Museum. Museum volunteers took advantage of 2020’s lack of operating season to do an extensive interior overhaul to this car, and that work is still in progress.

In 2018, the Monticello Railway Museum’s volunteers completed an extensive multi-year restoration of the museum’s second vintage Illinois Central Railroad dining car in time to use on the Polar Express trains that the museum ran in November and December, 2018. Built in 1949, IC No. 4110 arrived at the museum in 2015, a donation from the Pacific Railroad Society in California. Since then, MRM’s volunteers have made extensive repairs to the car’s heating and cooling system, car body, and kitchen. Work included repainting the interior, and replacing the carpeting with a special factory run that replicates the original. The new diner seats 48 and can be rented for a group on any regularly-scheduled museum train.

Established in 1966, the Monticello Railway Museum’s goal is to accurately portray a rural Midwest branch line railroad as it would have looked from the late 1930s through the early 1960s. In fact, the Monticello Railway Museum operates over a former Illinois Central branch line and has one of the largest collections of ex-Illinois Central Railroad equipment in the country!

The Monticello Railway Museum has a Facebook Page, as well as a homepage with complete fares and schedules at www.mrym.org.

For more information:
217-762-9011
www.mrym.org

Holly Hart/The News-Gazette

A TICKET TO RIDE– An engine rolls into the Monticello Railway Museum during its annual Railroad Days.
events and attractions

Allerton Park and Retreat Center

A destination for events and exploration

“This place has a little magic for every person who visits.” — Excerpt from a review of Allerton Park and Retreat Center

Built as a private residence by artist and philanthropist Robert Allerton in 1900, Allerton Park and Retreat Center offers a unique opportunity to experience art, nature, and history away from the distractions and noise of everyday life. Explore 14 miles of hiking trails, wander through formal gardens, and marvel at the quiet, expansive grounds. The estate, which was donated to the University of Illinois in 1946, contains 1,500 acres of woodland and prairie areas, a Mansion and reflecting pond, a 10-acre meadow, 14 formal sculpture gardens, hiking trails, a café, and several lodging facilities. Organized programs open to the community and visitors include outdoor concerts, youth summer camps, themed dinners and educational events, nature hikes, and tours.

Allerton has become a destination for meetings, conferences, weddings, retreats, and special events for people from all over the country. Businesses and organizations find the secluded, intimate setting offers time and space for quiet reflection and truly creative thinking. Wedding couples and guests are offered a truly unforgettable experience in the sun-kissed gardens or majestic Mansion.

Visit Central Illinois’ “best kept secret” and discover why it is considered one of the Seven Wonders of Illinois! Free; open 8 a.m. to sunset. The Visitor Center is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is an unstaffed, self-guided resource with maps, displays, and restrooms. The Greenhouse Café offers classic café refreshments – coffee, sandwiches, soups, salads, and more (check website for current hours).

allerton.illinois.edu/

217-333-3287

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hours listed in this year’s guide may change. Please call before visiting a facility/event to make sure it is open.

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The Piatt County Museum was founded in 1965 with a vision of encouraging tourism and promoting an appreciation of Piatt County history. For more than 50 years, the Piatt County Museum has performed an invaluable service as the repository of historical treasures of the past. We have a collection of more than 10,000 artifacts, archival documents, and photographs that connect Piatt County's unique past with the present.

In 2012, construction of a new museum building began. The larger, upgraded facility will allow the stories of Piatt County to come alive. The main exhibit space is a multi-level gambrel roofed barn atop a 10-foot concrete foundation. Here is where the exhibits will tell the unique and amazing story of Piatt County heritage. We will utilize photos, graphics, documents, video presentations, and historical artifacts that have been donated by community members in an effort to carry-on the legacy of Piatt County.

The Education and Visitor’s Center will be connected to the barn to complete the Piatt County Museum complex. This space will have a dedicated artifact and collections storage location in a controlled environment, as well as; a library, program and special event space, community meeting and conference rooms, and a permanent donor recognition area.

The Piatt County Museum plays an important role in bringing the past to life. With support from our community members, we can complete construction and bring our vision of preserving Piatt County history to fruition. Those interested in helping us reach our goal can find more information about donating and becoming a member at www.piattcountymuseum.org.

www.piattmuseum.org

Strange year, but Monticello perseveres

2020 threw everyone a curve ball, and rural communities are no exception. Residents had to quickly learn to work, teach and entertain all from home. Monticello residents missed the ball fields, the swimming pool, and downtown events, and begrudgingly embraced phrases like “the new normal,” and “unprecedented.” But Monticello proved to be a strong and resilient community and made it through a tough year; and while the pandemic is still present, the community will continue to move forward in a positive manner. Previous investments into high speed fiber service to the community, and responsible fiscal management allowed for the community to make the best of the situation with minimal negative impact.

The city remains dedicated towards the promotion and encouragement of small business development, with the 11th round of the Monticello Bootcamp program being held this spring. Monticello, particularly downtown, continues to be of an interest for upcoming and startup businesses, and the demand for usable, safe space is again at a high. City Staff are working diligently to create safer, more viable properties in downtown. The Monticello Building Improvement Grant program also launched this year, spurring over $150,000 in private investment to address building hazards, help pave the way for incoming businesses, and assist with existing business expansion.

And despite the challenges, Monticello still grow with 24 residential permits issued in 2020, up from 2019. New addition, Tractor Supply Company opened south of town, and some of our local establishments expanded and even saw more business than they had experienced in years. Go Monticello!

Upcoming projects include a much-needed road resurfacing of Sage Drive to compliment the new school renovation, several road and ditch improvement projects, and a Master Planning process for the rehabilitation of the Robert C. Burke Memorial Park.

Anticipation for the whistles of the train, music at Allerton, and splash of the Monticello Family Aquatic Center are all things we can look forward to experiencing again this year, and not just our residents, but visitors as well. In 2019, Piatt County had the highest percentage of growth in visitor spending in the state. Monticello and Piatt County are both becoming a popular destination for all ages and interests, which speaks volumes for the local businesses, organizations and community.

With every decision, the City Council and staff strive to keep Monticello moving forward for the better of the community as a whole, with the health, safety and wellness of our citizens being the priority in every decision. For more information and regular updates, visit www.cityofmonticello.net, or follow the City on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter.

www.cityofmonticello.net

City of Monticello

 events and attractions
The Monticello Chamber of Commerce works to promote and support local businesses. Monticello has an active and diverse business community! With over 150 members the Chamber is very proud to be actively involved in making the business environment beneficial and supportive. Our business community supports a thriving downtown, creates jobs, and generously supports events and organizations while enhancing the general quality of life.

The sales tax generated from local shopping is the second biggest revenue source for the City and support all sorts of city services – services we all expect and enjoy.

Make It Monticello is a major focus for the Chamber by inviting visitors to spend a day or weekend while encouraging locals to take advantage of all our business community offers. Monticello is fortunate to have a wide range of retail and restaurants, along with all the services necessary to support our community. Looking for the “everyday to the simply unique,” you can find it here!

The Chamber promotes Make it Monticello with mailings, TV spots, billboards, and print ads. Monticello Chamber also uses Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to further promote Monticello businesses and business updates. You can visit the Chamber’s website www.monticellochamber.org to learn more.

Monticello Chamber of Commerce operates several events to benefit the community and area businesses. The Annual Chamber Business Expo offers an opportunity to discover our special businesses in one location. Monticello Chamber also brings Santa to town in one of the best Christmas parades in the area each year. Santa then spends some evenings in the Depot for a few weeks, following the parade, so kids have an opportunity to pass along their wishes before Christmas!

You can contact the Monticello Chamber of Commerce at 217-762-7921.

www.monticellochamber.org

or visit the Facebook page Monticello Chamber of Commerce
Monticello Main Street

Historic preservation, business promotion are its essence

An aggressive schedule of events to bring visitors to downtown Monticello and a dedication to the revitalization of our historic downtown is the essence of Monticello Main Street. Monticello Main Street, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 by concerned local volunteers dedicated to historic preservation and to strengthening the community’s economic growth. The main area of concentration is in the downtown business district, otherwise known as Courthouse Square, and the extended fringe area of downtown.

Main Street hosts downtown events throughout the year such as Chocolate Fantasy and the Whites of Spring. Throughout the summer, Main Street offers a wide range of entertainment in the downtown, and the year comes to a close with the wildly popular Reds of Christmas holiday event. From Mid-June to Mid-October, the Farmer’s Market offers the community and surrounding areas wide variety of produce, hand crafted items, baked goods, and more. The Farmer’s Market is held on Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. on State Street.

Monticello Main Street believes that a healthy central downtown area adds to the overall prosperity of the community. Downtown becomes not just a purchasing point – it becomes much more – the hub of the community. The downtown becomes a happening, wonderful place in which to live, dine, experience the arts, use service providers, socialize, shop, relax and just sit a spell. The Main Street approach is the most efficient and cost-effective approach to preserving the community’s identity, social character and heritage and enhances its viability and quality of life.

Main Street strives to make Monticello the number one choice for residents, businesses, and visitors. Main Street, Inc. is a nonprofit program of The National Trust for Historic Preservation. Monticello Main Street is recognized as an affiliate community of Illinois Main Street and Main Street America.

Monticello Main Street can be reached by calling 217-762-9318.

www.monticellomainstreet.org
info@monticellomainstreet.org
Willow Tree Missions is a certified non-profit mission dedicated to eliminating domestic abuse in Piatt County. Our team is comprised of a Board of Directors, a Director of Operations, shop staff, our Family Care Team, and dozens of volunteers. We have a Resale Shop located at 351 W. Monroe St. in Monticello that serves as our primary source of income. Those funds pay for the operations of our Family Service Center located at 301 S. Charter St., where our care team serves those in crisis and the domestic violence arena. Our amazing team is very dedicated to this mission and relentlessly pursues continual growth and development. They are ever-vigilant of the changing and developing needs of our community and strive to stay passionate and unwavering in our pursuit to end domestic abuse in our corner of the world!

We strive to meet the needs of each individual put before us who is experiencing a domestic violence issue. Some of our most common services include:

- emergency shelter for victims in imminent abuse situations;
- education & prevention efforts;
- community awareness;
- collaboration with law enforcement officials;
- helping clients with orders of protection;
- safety planning;
- crisis counseling;
- spiritual counseling; and
- other needs as they arise.

Our services are available to all residents of Piatt County of any sex, race, religion, or socio-economic status without prejudice. We will also do our best to serve those in need from our neighboring counties to the best of our ability and resources.

You can support our mission through a variety of means:

- Donate goods to our resale shop;
- Donate supplies we commonly use (a list is available on our website);
- Volunteer at our resale shop, shelter, or business office;
- Donate money to support our operation. Donations can be made:
  - On our website at www.willowtreemissions.org;
  - In our resale shop at 351 W. Monroe St. in Monticello;
  - By mail to our business office at P.O. Box 591 in Monticello.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our mission. Great things are happening. We invite you to step in!
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check us out online for a list of area businesses:

makeitmonticello.com | monticellochamber.org

2021-2022 Guide to Monticello and Piatt County 9
Piatt County lies in the Sangamon River Valley in east central Illinois. It was formed out of Macon and DeWitt Counties by the Illinois state legislature on Jan. 27, 1841. The county was named for James A. Piatt Sr., who settled in what is now Monticello in 1829.

Piatt County covers approximately 451 square miles. The county's north/south length is 34 miles; its east/west stretch is 15 miles. Approximately 91 percent of the area is cropland, 3 percent pasture, 1 percent woodland and 5 percent other (municipalities, waterways, highways). Elevations vary from 650 to 800 feet above sea level.

The county seat is Monticello. Piatt filed a plat of Monticello, named for the Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson, in the Decatur courthouse on July 1, 1837. On July 4, 1837, a barbecue was held, and city lots were sold. Because Jefferson was widely regarded as a wise man, he became known as the “Sage of Monticello.” Athletic teams from Monticello carry the name “Sages.”

Piatt County lies within 160 miles of both Chicago and St. Louis. Champaign-Urbana is 20 miles away; Bloomington-Normal, 50 miles; and Decatur, 35 miles.

The foundation of Piatt County’s economy is agriculture. Corn and soybean production attest to the role that agriculture plays in the area. Manufacturing provides diversity to the county's economy through the production of filters, oil fuel pressure valves, pharmaceutical products, etc.

For more information about Piatt County, write to Piatt County Clerk, P.O. Box 558, Monticello, 61856, or call 217-762-9487.

### Population

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<th>Description</th>
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### Local Zip Codes

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Heath</td>
<td>61884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Harold Vogelzang
217-762-2174

Brandon Taylor
217-762-2173

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local government & schools

Private schools
Faith Christian School, 980 Iron Horse Place, Monticello, 217-762-7240
Monticello Christian Academy, 1109 N. State St., Monticello, 217-762-3544
The Wright Start Pre-School, 703 Adams St., Monticello, 574-527-9847

Atwood Village Board
The board meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
Atwood Village Officials
President: Bill Fleming (2023)
Clerk: Nancy Wierman (2025)
Treasurer: Jamie Simpson
Trustees: Allen Kibler (2025), Scott Harris (2025), Ronald E. Wallace (2023)
www.atwoodil.com

Arthur School District
Community Unit School District No. 305
Arthur Grade School: 126 E. Lincoln St., Arthur, 217-543-2109
Atwood-Hammond Grade School: 316 N. Illinois, Atwood, 217-578-2299
Lovingston Grade School: 330 S. High St., Lovingston, 217-873-4318
ALAH High School: 301 E. Columbia St., Arthur, 217-543-2146
Superintendent: 301 E. Columbia St., Arthur, 217-543-2511
The board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.
Superintendent: Shannon Cheek
Board of Education members: Beth Wiley, Monica Green, Kristie Mechling, Ryan Nettles, Justin Wierman, Brock Casteel, Suzi Berkich
www.ah.k12.il.us

Bement Schools
Community Unit School District No. 5
Elementary School: 201 S. Champaign St., 217-678-4200
High School: 201 S. Champaign St., 217-678-4200
Superintendent: 201 S. Champaign St., 217-678-4200
The board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Superintendent: Dr. Sheila Greenwood
Board of Education members: Denise Strack (2025), Janice Fogerson (2025), Kyle Rogers (2025), Trixie Stoeger-Flavin (2023), Jeff Funk (2023), Todd Scott (2023), Layna Summers (2023)
www.bement.k12.il.us

Blue Ridge Schools
Community Unit School District 18
The board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Ruth M. Schneider Elementary School, 309 N. John St., Farmer City, 309-928-2611
Intermediate and Junior High School: 107 S. McKinley St., Mansfield, 217-489-5201
High School: 411 N. John St., Farmer City, 309-928-2622
Superintendent: 411 N. John St., Farmer City, 309-928-9141
Superintendent: Hilary Stanifer
Board of Education members: Franci Miller (2025), Kenna Dunlap Johnson (2025), Dale Schneman (2023), Chelsie Leffelman (2023), Carlos Burton (2023)
www.blueridge18.org

Cerro Gordo Village Board
The board meets the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
Cerro Gordo Village Officials
President: Jim Henderson
Clerk: Tina McCarty (appointed)
Treasurer: Samantha Schenkel (appointed)
Trustees: Aaron Weldy (2023), Beth Medlen (2023), Nicholas Hyde (2023), Penny Snoke (2025), Jeff Powers (2025), Joseph Frydenger (2025)
www.fathill.com
Cerro Gordo Schools
Community Unit School District No. 100
Elementary School: 209 S. Monroe, 217-763-2551
Jr/Sr High: 300 E. Durfee, 217-763-2771
Superintendent: 300 E. Durfee, 217-763-5221
The board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
Superintendent: Brett Robinson
Board of Education members: Rodd Runyen (2025), Karen Freeese (2025), Dustin Curran (2025), Stephen A. Hayes (2023), Angela Miller (2023), Tony Piraino (2023), Deborah Greenwood (2023)
www.cgbroncos.org

Cisco Village Board
The board meets the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
Cisco Village Officials
President: Paula Chumbley (2025)
Clerk: Rita Hatfield
Treasurer: Audrey Pirtle
Trustees: Randy Bennett (2025), Lloyd Turner Jr. (2025), Robert Bennett (2025), Gary Pirtle (2023), Trevor Blackburn (2023), Ronald Weishaar (2023)

DeLand Village Board
The board meets the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
DeLand Village Officials
President: Todd Benting (2025)
Clerk: Kristi Fink (appointed)
Treasurer: Kristi Fink (appointed)
Trustees: Thresa Zipprich (2025), William Schmidt (2025), Karen Westray (2023), Carol Yokley (2023), Matthew Karnes (2025)

DeLand-Weldon Schools
Community Unit School District No. 57
Elementary: 2311 N 300 East Rd., Weldon, 217-664-3411
Senior High: 304 E. IL Rt. 10, DeLand, 217-664-3314
The board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Superintendent: Amanda Geary
Board of Education members: Paige M. Trimble (2025), Dean L. Bush (2025), Christy J. Knight (2025), Joshua Shofner (2023), Jennifer Roos (2023), Jamie Dunn (2023), Shannon Summers (2023)
www.dwschools.org

Hammond Village Board
The board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Hammond Village Officials
President: Deborah Waldrop (2025)
Clerk/Treasurer: Brenda Sebens (appointed)
Trustees: Jordan Pfeifer (2025), Payton Messmore (2025), Marsha Burgener (2025), Bradley Frantz (2023), Kimberly Gee (2023), Don Chenoweth (2023)

Mansfield Village Board
The board meets the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
Mansfield Village Officials
President: Andrew Stiger (2025)
Clerk: Melissa Place (appointed)
Treasurer: Lisa Lehnert (appointed)
Trustees: Ronald P. Konen (2025), Lucas Gilbert (2023), Jessica Bartley (2023), April Manning (2023)

Monticello City Council
The board meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m.
Monticello City Officials
Mayor: Larry Stoner (2025)
Clerk: (vacant)
Treasurer: Maura Metcalf (appointed)
Trustees: Ward I–Mary Vogt (2025); Ward II–Wendall Brock (2025), Tammy Sebens (2023); Ward III–Rodney Burris (2025), Pamela Harlan (2023); Ward IV–Mike Koon (2021), Tom Reed (2023)

Monticello Schools
Community Unit School District No. 25
Lincoln Elementary: 700 N. Buchanan St., 217-762-8511, ext. 2250
White Heath Elementary: 300 High St., White Heath, 217-762-8511, ext. 4280
Washington Elementary: 3 Sage Dr., 217-762-8511, ext. 1230
Middle School: 2015 E. Washington St., 217-762-8511, ext. 3290
High School: 1 Sage Drive, 217-762-8511 ext. 1210
Superintendent: 2 Sage Drive, 217-762-8511 ext. 1200
The board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Superintendent: Dr. Vic Zimmerman
Board of Education members: Sarah Ross (2025), Marc Sheppard (2025), Tura Grabarczuk (2025), David Stanko (2023), Gary Huisinga (2023), Zachary Hillard (2023), Kevin Frye (2023)
www.sages.us

FLOODING? BE SAFE!
Turn Around, Don't Drown
2021-2022 Guide to Monticello and Piatt County 13
Piatt County Churches Welcome You
Attend the Church of your choice this Sunday

St. Philomena Catholic Church
Msgr. Michael C. Bliss, Pastor
1301 North Market Street
Monticello, Illinois
stphilomenaonline.org
217-762-2566
Saturday Mass 4:30pm
Sunday Masses
9:00am & 11:30am

St. Michael Catholic Church
Msgr. Michael C. Bliss, Pastor
332 South Macon Street
Bement, Illinois
stphilomenaonline.org
217-762-2566
Sunday Mass 7:30am

First Presbyterian Church
214 S. Charter, Monticello
217-762-7861
Pastor Paul Spangler
Worship Service 10:00am
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation
www.montpres.org

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Want to pick the brain of veteran News-Gazette columnist Tom Kacich? Submit questions of any kind at any time – from government to golf to Gifford – and the townie will respond on Saturdays!

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services

DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department

The DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department was established Jan. 6, 1948, and is located at 1020 S. Market St. in Monticello. Its mission is to provide preventative health measures for individuals in the community via clinical, educational and environmental health services. For more information contact 217-762-7911 or visit the web site at www.de Wittpiatthealth.com.

Maple Point

Maple Point is a supported-living community with 30 apartment-style units. The center opened in 2009 and provides preferential admission to Piatt County residents. It offers apartment-style housing with personal care, support services and opportunities for companionship and socialization.

Residents have two choices when it comes to apartments: studio living or one bedroom. Maple Point is located at 1000 N. Union Dr. in Monticello and can be reached at 217-762-6500.

Peace Meals

The Senior Citizens Nutrition Program and Center (Peace Meals) is located at the city center, 224 Livingston St. in Monticello. All persons 60 and older are invited to attend Peace Meals which are served at noon Monday through Friday. Meals are also delivered to the homebound. Menus are normally published in the Piatt County Journal-Republican. Call 217-762-7733 for reservations.

Piatt County Mental Health Center

The Piatt County Mental Health Center is a comprehensive behavioral health agency located at 1921 N. Market St. in Monticello. The Center provides services to persons with developmental disabilities, outpatient therapy, vocational and alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and outpatient services. Services are provided on a sliding fee schedule. All records are confidential. Most insurance is accepted. Call 217-762-5371 for more information.

Piatt TRAN

The Piatt County Transportation Program is a public transit system serving Piatt County with daily trips to neighboring population centers. Fares vary depending on destination but are usually less than the cost of fuel to make the same trip in the family car. For more information, call 217-762-7821.

Monticello Area Arts Council

The Monticello Area Arts Council was founded in 2008 and supports the arts in all forms. The Arts Council holds classes throughout the year including ceramics, painting, and weaving. It also offers camp sessions during school spring and summer breaks. In addition to art classes, the group sponsors the Saturday at the Studio lecture series, provides cash prizes and a $500 scholarship to art students, and hosts the popular Paint the Town event during the Monticello Celebration. For more information about upcoming events and ways to get involved, visit www.monticelloareaarts.org.

Piatt County Services for Seniors

Piatt County Services for Seniors provides a central office, central person and central telephone number for linking elder Americans (60 years of age and older) to the many agencies, services and activities available in this area. Seniors can obtain help accessing such programs as circuit breaker and pharmaceutical assistance, energy assistance, Public Aid, Medicare, weatherization, home delivered and congregate meals and lifeline equipment. Assisted transportation is also provided. Call Leslie Cooper at 217-762-7575, ext. 1.

Faith In Action

Volunteers enrich the lives of Piatt County seniors by volunteering to do household chores and repairs, shopping and errands, telephone reassurance, visiting, and providing occasional meals, transportation for errands, lawn care and respite care. For more information about Faith in Action call 217-762-7575, ext. 3.

Food Pantries

Lord’s Storehouse Food Pantry
209 North Main St., La Place
217-621-8450

The Bement Food Pantry
Bement Christian Church
217-678-3035

Tatman Village

Tatman Village is a residential community for people 62 and older, located at 2000 East Washington Street in Monticello. Tatman Village offers 52 individual apartments ranging in size from studio units through one and two-bedroom apartments, each with its own private patio. Call 217-762-9494 for more information.

Monticello Christian Church
1699 North State Street, Monticello
217-762-2221

Atwood Area Food Pantry
231 N. Illinois Street, Atwood
312-883-2438
217-578-2832

2021-2022 Guide to Monticello and Piatt County
Emergencies

Ambulance, Fire, Crime in Progress 9-1-1

Piatt County 9-1-1
1216 Raymond Road
Monticello
217-762-2626
217-762-3872

Illinois State Police
217-265-0110

Hospital and Ambulance
(non-emergency)

Kirby Medical Center
Phone: 217-762-2115
1000 Medical Center Drive, Monticello

Piatt County Sheriff’s Department
Phone: 217-762-5761
1216 Raymond Road
Monticello

Other

Animal Control Office
Phone: 217-762-2812
Hours: M-F 8:30-4:30
1115 N. State St. Suite 120
Monticello

Animal Control Wardens
Atwood
Village Police
217-578-3141

Bement
Tim Williams
217-678-4741

Cerro Gordo
Village Hall
217-763-8551

Cisco
Village Hall
217-669-2163

DeLand
Village Hall
217-664-3433

Hammond
Village Hall
217-262-3431

Mansfield
Deena Carico
217-489-5581

Monticello
Lee Larson or City Police
217-762-2895, 217-762-7727

State of Illinois Drivers License Examining Station
Phone: 217-762-2841

Social Services Community Action Program Office
Phone: 217-762-2421
1115 N. State Street, Monticello

Piatt County Veterans’ Assistance
Gordon “Ray” Lawrence
Thursday 8:30-4:30
Phone: 217-762-8387
1115 N. State Street, Suite 116, Monticello

Piatt County EMA
Phone: 217-762-9482
Fax: 800-383-1663
1115 N. State St., Suite 138 Monticello

Faith in Action
Leanne Griffin, Director
Phone: 217-762-7575, ext. 3
1115 N. State St., Monticello

Senior Citizens Transportation Advisory Board
Katie Helm, President
Phone: 217-763-4071
217 W. North St., P.O. Box 243
Cerro Gordo

Workforce Investment Act (formerly JTPA)
Cassandra Dunham
Phone: 217-762-8404
Piatt County Office Bldg, 1115 N State, Suite 111, Monticello, IL 61856

Services for Seniors
Leslie Cooper
Program Director
Phone: 217-762-7575, ext. 1
1115 N. State St., Monticello

State of Illinois Drivers License Examining Station
Phone: 217-762-2841

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Phone: 217-763-4071
217 W. North St., P.O. Box 243
Cerro Gordo

Animal Hospital of Monticello
Kay E. Lindsay, D.V.M
Barbara Petersen, D.V.M
719 W. Bridge St., Monticello, IL 61856
(217) 762-2144
www.AHofMonticello.com

Sebens Garage and Collins Auto Repair
1408 N. Market, Monticello
Sebens Garage 217-762-9000
Collins Auto Repair 217-841-2825

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libraries

Allerton Public Library
4000 Green Apple Lane, Monticello, IL 61856, 217-762-4676
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Blue Ridge Public Library
116 E. Oliver, Mansfield, IL 61854, 217-489-9033
Hours: M, W, F 1 to 6 p.m.; Tu, Th, Sat 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Hope Welty Public Library
100 S. Madison Ave, Cerro Gordo, IL 61818, 217-763-5001
Hours: M 3 to 7 p.m.; Tu, W, F 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Th 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Township Highway Commissioners

Bement Township
Morris Rittenhouse
Phone: 217-678-8014
800 E. Bodman, Bement

Blue Ridge Township
John Hannah
Phone: 217-489-3251
501 S. State St., Mansfield

Cerro Gordo Township
Daniel Jackson
Phone: 217-972-6972
W. South St., Box 735, Cerro Gordo

Goose Creek Township
David Burke
Phone: 217-664-3613
225 S. Third St., P.O. Box 185, DeLand

Monticello Township
Alan Sprinkle
Phone: 217-762-7524
832 E Old Route 47, Box 557, Monticello

Sangamon Township
Larry Sebens
Phone: 217-840-2277
2148 N 1500 East Rd. White Heath

Unity Township
David Chapman
Phone: 217-262-3321
304 E. 1st St. Box 18 Hammond

Willow Branch Township
Matthew Wilhelm
Phone: 217-330-0042
130 E 1500 North Rd., Cisco

Township Supervisors

Bement Township
Supervisor - Laddie C. Wright
Clerk - Dana Jennings
Phone: 217-678-7040
Assessor - Charles E. Foran
Phone: 217-671-1950

Blue Ridge
Supervisor - Lisa Lehnert
Clerk - Deborah Huchel
Phone: 217-489-5951
Assessor - Scott Whitehouse
Phone: 309-928-3601

Cerro Gordo
Supervisor - John McRae
Clerk - Kristin Robins
Phone: 217-763-6886
Assessor - Mark Blickensderfer
Phone: 217-762-6724

Goose Creek
Supervisor - Teresa Norton
Clerk - Krist Fink
Phone: 217-678-7040
Assessor - Scott Whitehouse
Phone: 309-928-3601

Monticello
Supervisor - Tamara Wilson
Phone: 217-762-2215

Sangamon
Supervisor - Kathleen Piatt
Phone: 217-762-2818

Clerk - Kathy Brown
Phone: 217-762-2215
Assessor - Lori Wichus
Phone: 217-762-2215

Clerk - Michelle Miller
Phone: 217-521-4386
Assessor - Mary Kingery
Phone: 217-621-3559

Unity
Supervisor - Ron Miller
Phone: 217-262-3380
Clerk - Paula D. Chumbley
Phone: 217-669-2211
Assessor - Scott Whitehouse
Phone: 309-928-3601

Willow Branch
Supervisor - Alice Barnhart
Phone: 217-669-2164
Clerk - Paula D. Chumbley
Phone: 217-669-2211
Assessor - Scott Whitehouse
Phone: 309-928-3601
clubs and organizations

Atwood American Legion
Contact: Ken Caraway
Meetings: Third Thursday at 7:30 at the Legion Building on N. Missouri St., Atwood

Atwood American Legion Auxiliary
Contact: Edith Brandenburg
Phone: 217-578-2775
Meetings: Third Monday at the American Legion Building on N. Missouri St., Atwood

Atwood Sons of the American Legion
Meetings: First Monday of March, June and September at 6 p.m. at the Atwood Legion Hall

Bement American Legion
149 S. Sangamon
P.O. Box 18, Bement
Phone: 217-678-7121
Contact: Harold Ard
Phone: 217-678-7041

Bement American Legion Auxiliary
Albert Parker Unit #620
Contact: Nancy Ard
Phone: 217-678-7041
Meetings: Second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Post

Cerro Gordo American Legion
Contact: Charlie Barre
Phone: 217-369-0115
Meetings: Second Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Legion

Cerro Gordo American Legion Auxiliary Unit #117
Contact: Nora Hanaver
Phone: 217-714-6274
Meetings: Third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Legion post, 423 N. Highway Ave.

Cerro Gordo Junior American Legion
Gina Morr Ritchie
217-454-2257
Meetings: Second Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m.

Cerro Gordo Sons of the American Legion
Contact: Milford Hilderbrand
Meetings: First Thursday at the Legion Hall

Cisco American Legion
Contact: Alvin Bauer
Phone: 217-669-2371
Meetings: Second Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Legion Hall, 55 Dodge St.

Cisco American Legion Auxiliary
Craig-Reed Unit #1181
Meeting: First Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Legion Hall

Deland American Legion Auxiliary
Lincoln Unit #102
Contact: Edith Hall
Phone: 217-714-6274
Meetings: Third Monday at 7 p.m. at the Legion post, 423 N. Highway Ave.

Deland Sons of the American Legion
Contact: Troy Burton
Phone: 217-202-1753
Meetings: Third Monday at 7 p.m. at the Legion post, 423 N. Highway Ave.

Mansfield American Legion
Contact: Dan Harper
Meetings: First Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall

Mansfield American Legion Auxiliary
Kelso M. Garver Unit #650
Meetings: Second Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Legion Hall

Mansfield Sons of the American Legion
Contact: James Lanier
Phone: 217-489-4281
Meetings are with the American Legion on the first Thursday at 7 p.m.

Monticello American Legion
Contact: Nick Nichols
Phone: 217-578-6138
Meetings: First Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Monticello Athletic Boosters
Meetings: First Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the conference room off the MHS cafeteria.

Monticello Ministerial Alliance
President: Josh Bledsoe
Phone: 618-780-7101

Monticello Women’s Club
Contact: Carolyn Sanders
Phone: 217-578-2258
Meetings: 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at various locations

Bement Community Council
Contact: Judy Good
Meetings: Fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Bement Library

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the community.

Habitat for Humanity
Contact: Annette Huisinga, President
Phone: 217-841-0433
Volunteers are always needed.

Illini Glider Club
Contact: 217-762-7972 or officers@illinigliderclub.org
Meetings: First Saturday at 10 a.m. at Hardees in Monticello. During flying season meetings start at 9 a.m. (April through October) www illinigliderclub.org

Monticello Area Education Foundation
Contact: Vic Zimmerman
www.sages.us/maef
Meetings: 7 a.m. in the MHS board room on the first Wednesday unless that falls on the first or second then they meet the second Tuesday.

When weather threatens
go to www.news-gazette.com

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Monticello Masons
Fraternal Lodge 58
Contact: Harry Munster
217-778-8535
Meetings: Third Monday
at the Masonic Lodge at 601
W. Bridge Street, Monticello at
7:30 p.m.

Bement Masonic Lodge #365
Contact: John Clark
Meetings: Second Monday
at 7:30 p.m. in the Bement
Masonic Temple
151 E. Bodman St., Bement

Platt County Animal Shelter
301A S. Charter St., Monticello
Contact: Diana McPheeters
Phone: 217-862-7227 or
piattanimals@hotmail.com

Platt County Historical
and Genealogical Society
1115 N. State St., Monticello
Phone: 217-762-9997
www.piathistory.org

Platt County Museum
1 Heritage Lane, Monticello
Contact: info@ piattcountymuseum.org
Meetings: Second Tuesday at
6:30 p.m. at the Platte County
Gallery, 104 S. Charter St.,
Monticello

Monticello Rotary Club
Meetings: every Wednesday at
12:05 p.m. in the community
building

TOPS
Contact: Cheryl Kaeding
Phone: 217-840-3297
Meetings: Mondays at 6 p.m. at
the Monticello United Methodst
Church. Weight-ins start at 4:30
p.m.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Monticello Post 5346
Contact: Seth Floyd
Phone: 217-972-2468
piattcountylvfw5346@gmail.com
Meetings: second Tuesday
at the V.F.W. Building 108 E.
Livingston, Monticello at
7 p.m.

Cerro Gordo Athletic
Boosters Club
Meetings: first Wednesday at
6:30 p.m. in the Cerro Gordo
High School Teacher’s Lounge

Kirby Hospital Auxiliary
Contact: Membership
Chairperson, Kathi Schilling
President, Michelle Hillard;
Treasurer, Irma Racraft
Meeting times vary

Platt County Republican
Central Committee
Contact: James Ayers
Meetings: Hardees in
Monticello monthly, days and
times vary.

Platt County Democratic
Central Committee
Contact: Sheila Maloney
Phone: 217-687-4180
Meetings: Fourth Wednesday at
7 p.m. at Monticello Hardee’s

Monticello Theatre
Association
Contact: Lana Ross
Phone: 217-762-2679 or
Meetings: board meetings are
held the second Monday of
each month at the Monticello
Theatre, 1406 N. Market,
Monticello.
www.monticellotheatre.org

Cerro Gordo Athletic
Boosters Club
Meetings: first Wednesday at
6:30 p.m. in the Cerro Gordo
High School Teacher’s Lounge

Hammond
Community Boosters
Meetings: first Thursday at 7:30
p.m. at the Hammond
Community Building

Atwood Women’s Club
Contact: Blanche Bishop
Phone: 217-578-3155
Meetings: 3rd Thursday at 7
p.m. at various locations

Atwood Chamber
Contact: Stephanie Wierman,
Chairman
Meetings: third Tuesday at 5:30
p.m. at the Atwood Visitors
Center
www.atwoodchamber.org

Cerro Gordo Women’s Club
Contact Person: Judy Sokar
Phone: 217-763-4691
Third Friday of the month at
various locations

Cerro Gordo Royal
Neighbors
Contact: Holly Dodd
Phone: 217-763-4271
Meetings: First Tuesday at
5:30 p.m. at Judy’s Kitchen in
Cerro Gordo

Bement Lions Club
Contact: Kendra Jayne
Meetings are the first
and third Mondays from
September to May at the
Bement Lions Club
Community Center at
6:45 p.m.

Monticello Lions Club
Contact: Gary Nixon
www.monticellolions.org
info@monticellolions.org
Meetings: Dinner meetings
the second and fourth
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in
the Monticello Community
Building

UNITED WITH YOU
Together we help one another.
During these challenging
times, you can rely on
your newspaper to provide
details about any resources
that may be available
to assist those who are
vulnerable and in-need.

Make It
Monticello
check us out online for a list of area businesses:
makeitmonticello.com | monticellochamber.org

2021-2022 Guide to Monticello and Piatt County 23
Provider of choice for quality living in Piatt County

• 24-hour RN, LPN, and certified nursing staff
• Individualized care planning
• Therapy Service
• Dementia care unit

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KirbyHealth.org/services/surgery