

# Transportation plan approved

by **Laura McElroy**  
Managing editor

The Kankakee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) policy committee approved the Kankakee Area Transportation Study Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during their Wednesday, June 29, 2016 meeting.

The policy committee consists of representatives from Bourbonnais, Bradley, Kankakee, Aroma Park, Kankakee County, River Valley Metro Mass Transit District, Kankakee Valley Airport Authority and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The transportation program document is required by federal law under the highway bill. All federally funded projects in the metropolitan planning area are required to be listed in the document.

Projects in the TIP are listed for fiscal years 2017-2020. Roadway, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian and enhancements project, both short term and long term are included.

## Road improvement projects

In the TIP for 2017, projects include preliminary engineering and construction engineering for the reconstruction of the Brookmont Blvd. railroad

bridge and widening the roadway under the viaduct from two lanes to four.

Local projects in 2018 include preliminary engineering and construction for bridge replacement on St. George Rd. over Interstate 57. In 2019, TIP plans include preliminary engineering to reconstruct Hobbie Ave. from Court St. to Rt. 50 in Kankakee and repaving 9000N Rd. from Rt. 50 to Rt. 17 in Manteno.

## State highway projects

Highway projects in the TIP for 2017 include bridge replacement on Rt. 115 at Gar Creek just south of Kankakee and milling and resurfacing roads at various locations throughout Kankakee County.

Future projects in the TIP include bridge replacement on North St. and St. George Rd. over I-57, road resurfacing over the I-57 Kankakee River bridge to the Rt. 50 interchange, on Rt. 45/52 from Indian Oaks Rd. to Manteno Deselm Rd., on Rt. 50 from 5000N Rd. to Larry Power Rd. and on Rt. 50 from Sixth St. in Manteno to the Will County Line and bridge deck replacement on I-57 at Waldron Rd.

## Public transportation

There are two transit programs operating in portions of the Kankakee urbanized area.

A rural transit service, operated through Kankakee

County, through their service provider, Show Bus, operates with funding from the Federal Transit Administration, with Downstate Operating Assistance Program funding from the state of Illinois and with local matching funds.

An urban transit service, operated through the River Valley METRO Mass Transit District, operates with funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation, with Downstate Operating Assistance Program funding from the state of Illinois and with local matching funds.

Both operations obtain capital funding assistance through the FTA and IDOT.

In 2017, the TIP includes funding for operating costs, four buses and funds for the maintenance facility for Metro and operating costs and one bus for Show Bus. In Metro's multi-year program, funding includes operating costs, replacement buses, two new buses and, in 2019, funds for a transfer center. For Show Bus, the multi-year transportation program includes operating funds and one new bus.

Implementation of TIP projects is contingent upon approval of the governor of Illinois and the Illinois General Assembly and the appropriation of required funding.

# The Demise of Bergeron Grove

by BGHS member **Bonnie Bergeron**

As future big-box stores continue their relentless march north along Rt. 50, the next farmstead that is doomed to fall to commercialism has a deep rich history that is known by few and has all but been forgotten.

The farm is the first on the north side of the St. George Rd. going east from Rt. 50. This was the home of three generations of the Bergeron family, one of the original French Canadian families that populated the area in the 1840s.

Until recently, a straggly copse of trees bordered the farm on the west. All remnants of these trees have been eliminated and thus ends a fascinating piece of history known as Bergeron's Grove.

In 1986, local historian, Adrien Richard, recounted the birth of Bergeron's Grove in Tales of Another Day, Bergeron's Grove Revisited. The information about the grove was gathered from an interview with Clarence Bergeron, then the only remaining brother.

Sometime in the 1920s, perhaps after the blacktop road was finished close to their farm, the Bergeron boys decided to use the lovely stand of maple trees on the farm to build a dance pavilion. Each of the boys was assigned a duty—booking bands, selling tickets, parking cars and selling soft drinks. The wood floor dance pavilion, illuminated with strings of electric lights, proved to be a very successful endeavor for several years. Most summer weekends the Grove was filled with young people eager to try the newest dance steps or older people who just came to watch the young people. It is obvious the entrepreneurial spirit that was evident in these Bergeron boys in later years started young.

Family reunions, church picnics or homecomings were regularly held in the Grove as well. A baseball diamond was laid out north of the grove and refreshment stands and other amusement booths were located in other areas, the Bergeron boys thought of everything.

As no one can relate the next portion of the story like Richard, I quote him exactly from Bergeron's Grove Revisited.

"On one particular occasion, a Fourth of July picnic for the benefit of Maternity BVM Church in Bourbonnais, of which the Bergeron family were members, was staged at Bergeron's Grove. Some committee chairman, with extraordinary foresight, suggested that rain insurance be purchased to guarantee the success of the church fund-raising event. It was summarily agreed that insurance should be purchased, and should the heavens pour out rain in excess of one inch in the gauge provided, the picnic committee would be reimbursed a total of \$1,000.

The stands were all in place, on that historic Fourth at Bergeron's Grove, and all the amusements and refreshment stand were ready for the large outpouring of customers that was sure to patronize this event, especially when the sun had risen high over the maples. Not a cloud in the sky challenged the very confident rain gauge. By 11 a.m. the bright sun had lost some of its luster, and by noon black clouds rose with threatening gestures in the west. Before they knew it, the clouds poured out their wet contents on the assembled crowd, while the committee members sought refuge under the stands as the floodgates seemed to open. The downpour lasted about thirty minutes.

The workers were wet, while most of the early arrivals had taken cover in their cars. Quickly the chairman raced to the open area where the rain gauge had been planted. Wet shirts, pants and shoes took a long look, it read 1.25 inches, success!"

The insurance policy had paid off, and now the sun had returned with its previous brilliance, in one hour the muddy lanes behind the stands dried out and the huge crowd literally poured into Bergeron Grove for the Maternity picnic. It would have been a huge financial success without the added \$1,000 insurance bonus. As it turned out, it was colossal success, and Father Walter Suprenant, pastor of Maternity, opened a new box of Dutch Master Cigars and praised the Lord for the special blessings sent to his parish on that eventful day at Bergeron's grove.

The Bergeron farm house and some outbuildings still stand, but the oldest barn was also torn down shortly after the trees were recently removed. Hopefully the rest of farm will not meet the same fate as those stately old trees that provided a wonderful outing and so much fun during summer days long ago.

*The Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting local history. Monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, March through December. Museum hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on first and third Sundays of each month, March through December or by appointment. Visit [bourbonnaishistory.org](http://bourbonnaishistory.org), on Facebook at [facebook.com/bourbonnaishistory](https://www.facebook.com/bourbonnaishistory) or phone 1-815-933-6452.*

# Farm and Fleet honored

Blain's Farm and Fleet has been nominated by the American Heart Association, and chosen as one of three companies nationwide, to be honored by the National Retail Federation at the NRF Protect 2016 Loss Prevention Conference for the Loss Prevention Volunteers in Action Award for their partnership with the American Heart Association.

"A video was created and presented at the grand finale to the 2016 NRF Protect Loss Prevention conference. Blain's Farm and Fleet, Gap and Dress Barn were recognized for their exceptional volunteerism.

This is a great honor for the company and I am proud to be a part of it," said Gary Hilt, vice-president of loss prevention, risk management and government relations.

Blain's recently teamed up with the American Heart Association in lobbying efforts to Wisconsin legislators to pass a bill requiring all high school students to take one hour of hands only CPR in order to graduate. On April 26, 2016 the governor or Wisconsin signed that bill into law.

AED machines have been placed in each of Blain's Farm and Fleet stores along with training on the units for all management personnel. Five lives have been saved since this implementation.

"When we found out that Blain's Farm and Fleet was going to be honored as one of three companies nationwide by the National Retail Federation for Loss Prevention Volunteers in Action Award, it made me very proud of our entire organization," said Jane Blain Gilbertson, president and CEO

of Blain's Farm and Fleet.

To view and share the video recognizing Blain's Farm and Fleet's hard work and dedication to the American Heart Association, find it on You Tube, Loss Prevention Volunteers in

Action 2016.

Founded in 1955, Blain's Farm and Fleet stores are specialty discount retailers with 36 locations throughout Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Visit [www.farmandfleet.com](http://www.farmandfleet.com).

# Junior golfers clinic

On Sunday and/or Monday, July 10 and/or 11, from 10 a.m. to noon, there will be registration and orientation for the FUN Golf Clinic for junior golfers ages 6-18. Beginners and advanced junior golfers are invited. Clubs and equipment will be provided. The clinic, sponsored by the Kankakee Valley Junior Golf Association, will be held at Manteno Golf Club and Learning Center 7202 N. 4000 E. Rd., Manteno. For more information, call 1-815-715-6731.

## Super Crossword

### Answers

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