

NEWSVIEWS

EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON

GIVE A KID A FLAG TO WAVE



JULY 2026

AI Has been employed in developing some of
this NEWSVIEW data



Covenant of Service

Accepting the divine privilege of single and collective responsibility as life's noblest gift, I covenant with my fellow Exchangites:

To consecrate my best energies to the uplifting of Social, Religious, Political, and Business ideals;

To discharge the debt I owe to those of high and low estate who have served and sacrificed that the heritage of American citizenship might be mine;

To honor and respect law, to serve my fellowmen and to uphold the ideals and institutions of my Country;

To implant the life-giving, society-building spirit of Service and Comradeship in my social and business relationships;

To serve in Unity with those seeking better conditions, better understandings, and greater opportunities for all.

2026 BOOK of GOLDEN DEEDS

The Exchange Club of Mattoon has named Connie Jones of Mattoon as the recipient of its 2026 Book of Golden Deeds Award.

The award is part of a National Exchange Club program that honors unsung heroes whose quiet acts of service make a lasting difference in their communities. It recognizes individuals who give their time, talents and compassion to help others.

Jones, a retired resident of Mattoon, turned a personal loss into a renewed commitment to service. After the death of her husband, she embraced the saying “Adapt, Improvise, Overcome,” and became increasingly involved in efforts to support others in the community.

Her service includes leadership with the Exchange Club and extensive work with the Coles County Veterans Support Coalition. Now in its ninth year, the coalition assists local veterans, current military members and their families with immediate needs such as food, shelter, independent living support and other resources during recovery and transition back into the community.

Through the coalition, Jones also became involved with Hero’s 6, a program serving more than 45 veterans in Coles County nursing homes, including some receiving hospice care. The program’s motto is “We have your back.”

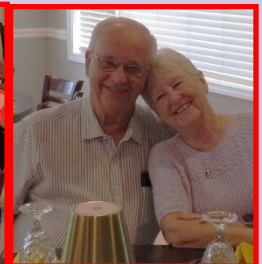
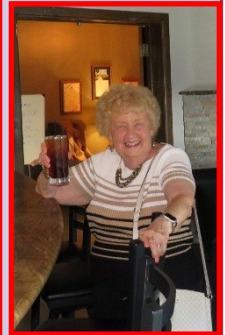
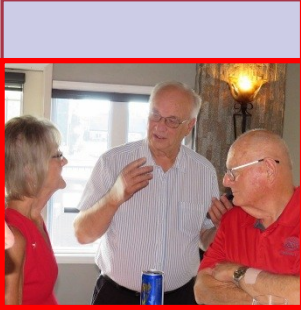
Jones helps support volunteer teams that provide companionship, care and assistance to those veterans.

Jones’ community involvement also includes service as a board member of The Fields Church. In 2021, she started a widow’s support group, while continuing to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Coles County Veterans Support Coalition.

Her previous honors include the Dee Braden Believe Award in 2023, the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Distinguished Award in 2024, and selection as a 2026 finalist for WCIA’s Remarkable Women of Central Illinois.



B O G D



EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON 2026-27



Board member Larry Gutzler, Secretary Dennis Booker, President-Elect Dave Coen, Treasurer Robert Riggert, Board member Lindsay Sewell, Board Member Brian Gillaspie, President Larry Maxedon, Past-President Lucy Perkins. {Division Director Max Jaeger shown in preparation}

MATTOON HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Mattoon High School GreenWave Soccer Coach Alex Carie, completing his 4th year, outlined the great group of athletes that will be in 25 games over two months. Although described as a young group he said that the 37 in this year's camp gave him great expectations of their ability to compete in this year's games. High School Soccer is governed by the IHSA and is split into fall and spring sessions. Mattoon High School GreenWave competes in the Apolo Conference. Traditionally, the game has been played over two 45-minute halves, for a total match time of 90 minutes. Mattoon has a all turf playing field that is the best in this region.

OVERVIEW OF SOCCER

Association football, commonly known as football or soccer, is a team sport played between two teams of 11 players who almost exclusively use their feet to propel a ball around a soccer field known as a pitch. The term *soccer* comes from Oxford "-er" slang, which was prevalent at the University of Oxford in England from about 1875, and is thought to have been borrowed from the slang of Rugby School. Initially spelt *assoccer* (a shortening of "association"), it was later reduced to the modern spelling. Early alternative spellings included *socca* and *socker*. This form of slang also gave rise to *rugger* for rugby football, *fiver* and *tenner* for five pound and ten-pound notes, and the now-archaic *footer* that was also a name for association football. The objective of the game is to score more goals than the opposing team by moving the ball beyond the goal line into a rectangular-framed goal defended by the opponent.

Association football is part of a family of football games that emerged from various ball games played worldwide since antiquity. The word "association" in this term refers to the Football Association (the FA), founded in London in 1863, which published the first set of rules for the sport that same year. The term was coined to distinguish the type of football played in accordance with the FA rules from other types that were gaining popularity at the time, particularly rugby football.

President Larry Maxedon has presented a \$250 check to Mattoon Athletics Program to Coach Alex Carie.



READERS BRIDGE

Readers' Bridge, established in 2001, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting individuals residing outside library taxing districts who are unable to afford library cards. The organization subsidizes 90% of the card cost, thereby facilitating local access to library resources for those in financial need.

The organization was conceived by Virginia Katzeff with the mission to support rural students and residents facing barriers due to cost or distance. Applicants are required to contribute 10% of the card cost, demonstrating their financial need.

Readers' Bridge operates under the guidance of a board comprising library directors from participating libraries in various Illinois towns. The cost of library cards varies from \$120 to \$25 per year when not covered by the local tax base. The organization manages annual reports and holds both Illinois charitable and federal identification numbers.

Over the past decade, Readers' Bridge has sponsored an average of more than 40 cards annually for families, totaling over 407 cards and \$33,000 reimbursed to libraries. Since its inception, the organization has disbursed more than \$55,000. Funding sources include family trusts, individual donors, businesses, foundations, and local organizations such as the Effingham Rotary and **The Exchange Club of Mattoon.**

Exchange Club of Mattoon President Maxedon is shown presenting the program with a \$250 check



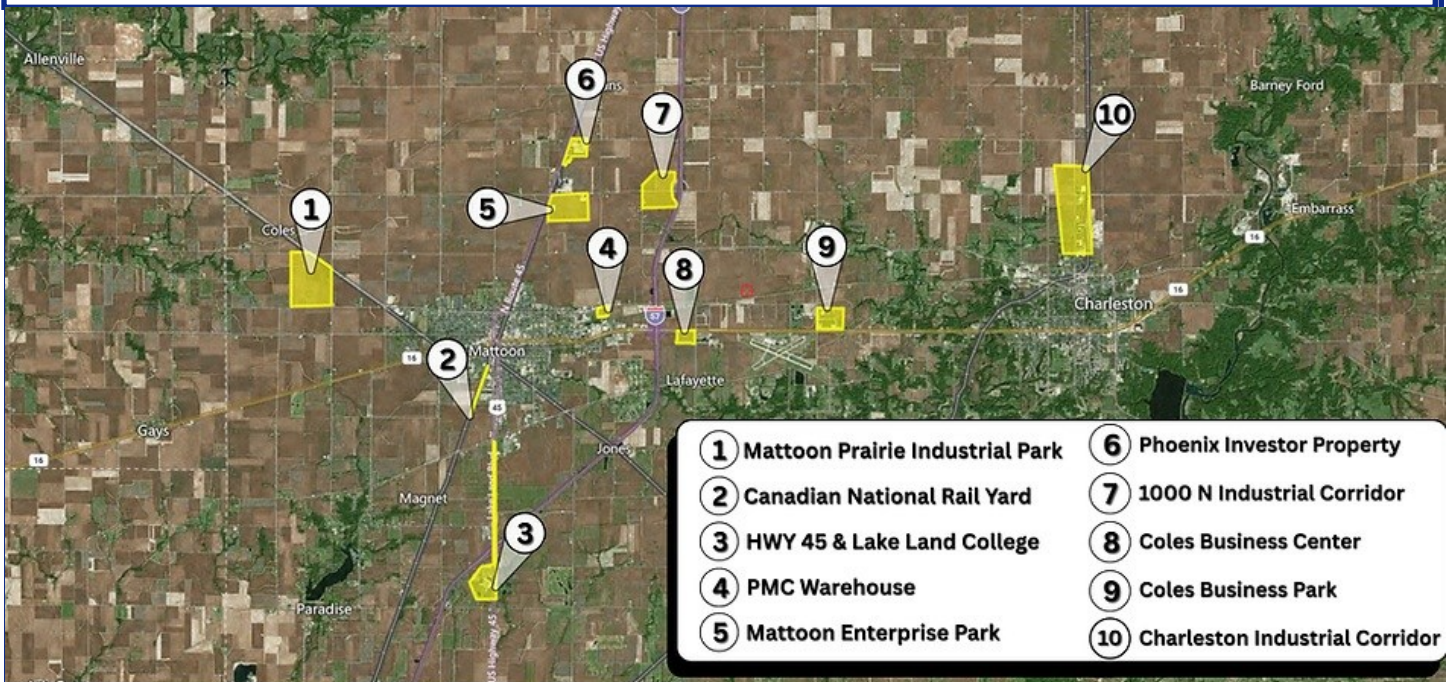
WHAT IS A ENTERPRISE ZONE

Enterprise Zone

The Coles County Enterprise Zone is a state-designated development district designed to reduce the cost of business expansion and commercial investment through targeted tax incentives and streamlined development processes. Qualified projects may benefit from sales tax exemptions on construction materials, property tax abatements, and other cost-saving tools intended to accelerate project timelines and improve overall return on investment.

Beginning in Q1 2026, the Enterprise Zone will expand to include housing development eligibility, supporting workforce and market-rate residential projects aligned with business growth and talent attraction. This expansion strengthens Coles County's ability to deliver both industrial and residential solutions—ensuring the workforce pipeline and housing inventory grow together to support long-term economic development.

AREAS READY FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS



WHO IS COLES TOGETHER

Coles Together is the regional economic development organization for Coles County, Illinois, focused on advancing business investment, work-force growth, and community prosperity. Coles Together serves as the central point of coordination between public and private partners—supporting site selection, expansion, and long-term development efforts across the region.

Through collaboration with local governments, employers, utilities, educators, and investors, Coles Together works to position Coles County as a competitive, business-ready destination. Their role is to reduce barriers, align resources, and help projects move forward efficiently creating sustainable growth that benefits businesses and communities alike.

AMERICAN FLAG CELEBRATION

250th

AMERICAN FLAG CELEBRATION

JULY 31, 2026 | 10AM - 11AM

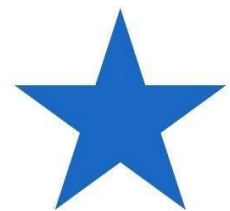
Flag History Special Speaker:
Ret. Army 1st Sgt. Tony Nicholson

Presentation of Colors
BSA Troop 141

Freedom Shrine Presentation
Exchange Club of Mattoon

Flagpole Pledge
Exchange Club of Mattoon

Join the Mattoon Public Library as we celebrate our American Flag!
The Special event begins with the **Pledge of Allegiance** at the flagpole,
a brief explanation of the **Freedom Shrine**, the presentation of colors and
a short presentation of our flag's history with the support of the
Exchange Club of Mattoon. All are welcome! Students encouraged to attend



1600 CHARLESTON AVE
MATTOON IL

COMMUNITY ROOM | LOWER BASEMENT



FREDOM SHRINE

The Freedom Shrine grew out of the Freedom Train, a 1947 traveling exhibit of historic documents.

Today, the Freedom Shrine® features photographic reproductions of twenty-nine original American documents displayed in thousands of locations nationwide.

Its purpose is to remind Americans that the freedoms they enjoy were passed down through the idealism, determination, and sacrifice of courageous men and women before them—and that freedom, as a precious gift, must be continually guarded and protected.



THE NATIONAL FLAG: A PROGRAM of RESPECT & LEARNING

The Mattoon Public Library hosted a program that offered attendees an opportunity to honor the National Flag and learn more about its history and evolution.

The program began with a salute to the flag and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Boy Scout Troop 141.





Ret. Army 1st Sgt. Tony Nicholson provided a history of the many flags that have been used during the 250 years that our Republic has evolved from the original colonies to our current 50 States.



Veteran G Parker provided the background of the many FREEDOM SHRINES the Exchange Clubs have installed in communities.



PRESENTATION of the COLORS



CELL PHONES
OFF OR SET
TO VIBRATE
@ MEETINGS

Thanks!



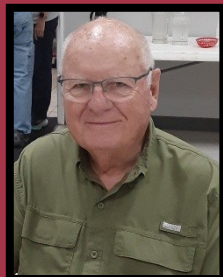
EXCHANGE
www.mattoonexchange.org

Wednesday Mornings
7:00 am American Legion

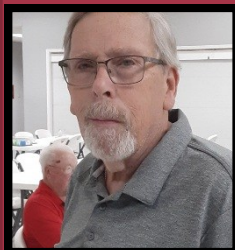


Exchange Club of Mattoon
P O Box 1452
Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Larry Maxedon



Robert Riggert



Dennis Booker



Dave Coen



Lucy Perkins



2026-2027
OFFICERS
EXCHANGE CLUB
of MATTOON

President

Larry Maxedon

President Elect

Dave Coen

Secretary

Dennis Booker

Co-Treasurers'

Robert Riggert & Dave Coen

Past-President

Lucy Perkins

March 27, 1976

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

CLUB ACCOUNTS

July, 2026

Operations Account:

\$2119.96

Project Account:

\$7718.26

Scholarship Account:

\$103.82

Scholarship CD

\$8628.28

Cash Account:

\$125.70



EXCHANGE

www.mattoonexchange.org



LOU HOLTZ's QUOTES

“It’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.”

“No one has ever drowned in Sweat”

EXCHANGE

AUGUST PROGRAMS

AUG 5

AUG 12

AUG 19

AUG 26

RAMBLINGS

“Do right.
Do your best.
Treat others as you
want to be treated.”
Lou Holtz