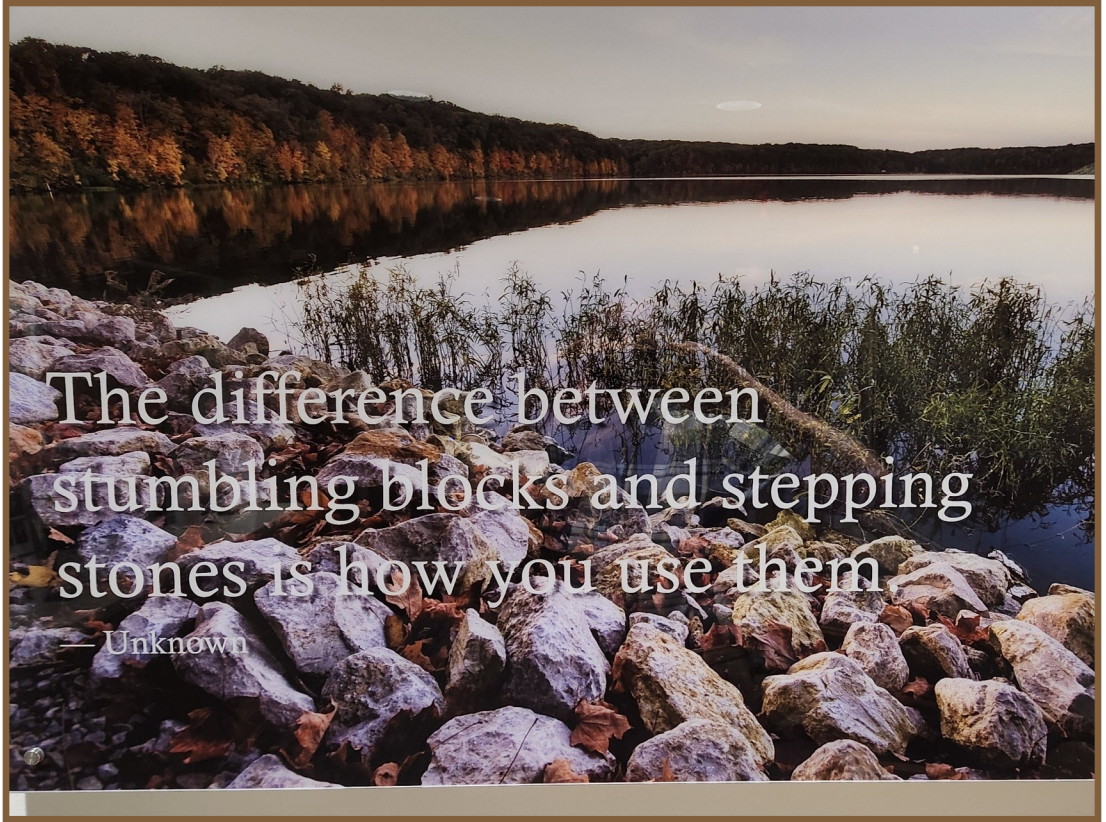


NEWSVIEWS

EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON



APRIL 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 Comradship in my social and business relationships;

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

MATTOON POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF GAINES

The Mattoon Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency, administered by Chief of Police Sam Gaines with thirty-nine sworn police officers, four full-time support staff, and two police canines.

Officers patrol 10.32 square miles within the corporate city limits, serving a population of over 15,560. The department, in addition to conducting criminal investigations, must enforce the rules on the books, and currently has had new rules on boulevard parking and currently has had traffic problems with the new electric bicycles. The addition of golf cart traffic has not been an issue and seems to be working well.



The Mattoon Police Department is committed to providing the highest quality police service to those who live and work in the City of Mattoon and sponsors and participates in public functions and public assistance programs throughout the community. Mattoon PD has two school resource officers assigned to partner with Mattoon Community Schools. The department manages approximately 24,000 calls per year while patrolling an average total of 280,000 miles are driven per year by eight patrol units.

EMERALD ACRES ONE YEAR UPDATE

Emerald Acres is continuing to build beyond the \$80 million building that has up to 8 basketball courts or 16 volleyball courts, and there are an arcade and restaurant. There will be 12 multi-purpose turf fields that currently have fencing and lighting in place. There is softball completion scheduled for late June where teams from 7 states are registered. The motels are nearing completion and food services, and retail stores are currently in operation.

The Emerald Acres activities for 2026 have had 14 sports tournaments that have had \$2.7 million direct impact and possibly \$2.3 million indirect impact on the area. The Battle of the Belt Mattoon Youth Wrestling Tournament, held on January 4 had 919 wrestlers registered, the event marked the largest tournament ever hosted by the Mattoon Youth Wrestling Club. There were 1,214 matches, supported by 280 coaches and thousands of families and spectators. The recent State Archery tournament had over 1400 archers of school aged participants that brought more than 2,750 attendees through Emerald Acres, 1,200 guests parked on-site and showcasing the scale that youth wrestling continues to reach in Central Illinois. Events on this scale continue to highlight the growing role sports tourism plays in Coles County, bringing visitors into the community and supporting local businesses throughout the region.



Emerald acres have been able to obtain a contract for a 2-day soccer tournament for this fall that has 80 teams registered. It has been assembling tournaments for the next 3-5 years as facilities are completed.

Tyler Yoder, Mgr & J.R. Hodges with Pres. Lucy Perkins & Pres. Elect Larry Max-edon.

U of I MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Program Structure

The Master Gardener training is available both in person and online, offering flexibility for participants. However, class sizes may be limited in certain locations due to space constraints.

Training Content

The curriculum covers a wide range of home horticulture topics. Participants will learn about vegetable gardening, insects, tree and small fruits, basic botany, integrated pest management, turfgrass care, plant diseases, tree and shrub care, soils and fertilizer, and flower gardening.

Instruction and Support



Extension Educators and State Specialists affiliated with the University of Illinois provide instruction for the Master Gardener training program. Their expertise ensures a comprehensive and practical learning experience.

Volunteer Service Requirement

After successfully completing the training and achieving intern status, participants are expected to begin fulfilling their volunteer service requirement. Master Gardeners contribute a variety of knowledge and experiences, which enrich the programs they support. Volunteer hours often reflect individual interests, and program coordinators work to utilize these strengths when organizing programs and assigning volunteer responsibilities.

Master Gardner Jeni Lee is shown with Pres. Elect Larry Maxedon and President Lucy Perkins

MATTOON YMCA HEALTH & FITNESS

The YMCA also offers programs where you can monitor and work on blood pressure conditions, post cardiac rehabilitation and develop lifestyle changes through the diabetes prevention program. All these programs provide for members free support and or material for your success. Healthy hearts have regular meetings If you want to add some variety and challenge to your fitness routine, or if you are just starting on your health journey, group fitness at the Y is for you! Group fitness classes help you achieve your [health and fitness goals](#) while you make friends and have FUN!

Walking into a new group fitness class can be intimidating, but the Y team is here for you! Our instructors will help you make modifications that will prevent injury while you are on your fitness journey. We strive to bring our members the most highly sought after group fitness opportunities, in our state-of-the-art [Wellness Centers](#) & Functional Fitness rooms! Members get free one-on-one consultation and training. Mattoon Y has collaborated with [Sarah Bush Lincoln Center for Healthy Living](#) to offer Y members the opportunity to complete their workouts within the Center for Healthy Living. At the Y, our certified personal trainers are just like you. Each come from a different background with different experiences that lend to their ability to help you reach your fitness or weight loss goal. Even though personal training does come with a fee, it is a valuable service exclusive to our Y members. Our certified personal trainers understand that clients have busy schedules. Trainers are flexible and will schedule training times to accommodate. This also means you have flexibility in scheduling the frequency of your training times. If you are more comfortable working out at home, virtual training sessions are available!



Senior Director Emily Hayden is shown with President Lucy Perkins and President Elect Larry Maxedon accepting a check in support of the youth scholarship program.

SARA BUSH LINCOLN & HEALTHY YOUTH

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System has distinguished itself as a healthcare provider, employer, and community partner. The hospital’s mission is to provide exceptional care for all and create healthy communities. The recent presentation provided details of receiving excellent healthcare close to home. From advanced cancer treatment to expert orthopedic care and leading cardiovascular services, SBL provides state-of-the-art, patient-centered care in a comforting and supportive environment.

Sarah Bush Lincoln Dental Program is a collaborative community effort and provides dental care at no cost to many families. The services offered include dental exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, and dental sealants. This program for over 20 years has provided oral health education to area students and restorative dental care to children from 10 months to 18 years of age. Last year the program provided oral health education to over 12,000 children in more than 60 schools. Each year the dentists performed more than 8,000 procedures at no cost to their patients.

More than 9,000 kids in our seven-county community are classified as overweight or obese. That represents more than one-third of the kids. We know that when kids struggle with weight issues, they often bring those same struggles into adulthood. With that comes the risk of developing diabetes, heart problems, and joint issues, just to name a few.

Get out your running shoes and bring the whole family to Races for All Paces on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Eastern Illinois University’s O’Brien Stadium.

As weather permits, we are excited to bring the Kickstart car to school to have fun outside of the classroom while staying active! Through interactive games like jump rope, dribbling balls, running through obstacles, balancing, or using quick-feet, students were rewarded for all their hard work in the classroom during our Healthy Kids visits.

Tracy Haddock, SBL Healthy Communities Director, is shown with Pres. Elect Larry Maxedon.



KICK START CAR



DENTAL CARE BUS



CELL PHONES
OFF OR SET
TO VIBRATE
@ MEETINGS

Thanks!



EXCHANGE
www.mattoonexchange.org

Wednesday Mornings
7:00 am American Legion

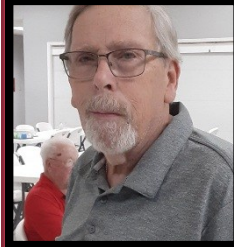


Exchange Club of Mattoon
P O Box 1452
Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Lucy Perkins



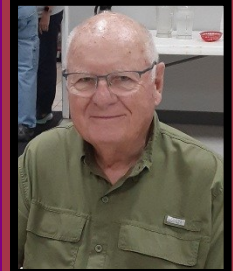
Robert Riggert



Dennis Booker



Larry Maxedon



Dave Coen



2025-2026
OFFICERS
EXCHANGE CLUB
of MATTOON

President

Lucy Perkins

President Elect

Larry Maxedon

Secretary

Dennis Booker

Co-Treasurers'

Robert Riggert & Dave Coen

March 27, 1976

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

CLUB ACCOUNTS

March 31, 2026

Operations Account:

\$2,567.95

Project Account:

\$7,688.86

Scholarship Account:

\$103.82

Scholarship CD

\$8,549.49

Cash Account:

\$185.20



EXCHANGE

www.mattoonexchange.org



THE QUEEN IS HIDING

WHO WILL WIN?



MAXEDON HAS PLANNED

MAY

PROGRAMS

May 6

Alex Carie

Mattoon High School

SOCCER COACH

May 13

Therese Kincade

Little Theater on the Square

May 20

MATTOON HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP

PRESENTATIONS

May 27

PROUDLY WE HAIL

AWARDS

VIDEO GAMING REPORT March 2026

Summary Report

34 Establishments

Played \$14,971,228.90

Won \$13,829,348.57

VGT Tax Distribution

Tax \$469,727.29

State Share \$402,556.30

City Share \$67,170.99

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10th

The Lincolnland District
asks you to

Save the Date

*100th Convention
Celebration*

JUNE 12-14, 2026

Madison, WI

**More information
to come**



EXCHANGE

LINCOLNLAND DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS