

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

April 2020

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Director

Federal REAL ID deadline extended to Oct. 1, 2021

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the federal REAL ID deadline an additional year to Oct. 1, 2021. DHS cited the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact the virus is having on the general public and driver's license and ID card-issuing agencies nationwide. Earlier this month, White, along with other state and business leaders from around the country, called on DHS to extend the REAL ID deadline.

Current Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports, military bases and secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2021. Once Driver Services facilities reopen, White is suggesting that people who want a REAL ID wait until their current driver's license or ID card is about to expire before visiting a facility to apply for a REAL ID. For those whose driver's license or ID card expires after Oct. 1, 2021 and want a REAL ID, they can use their valid U.S. passport or other TSA-acceptable documents to fly domestically until they must renew their current card.

"The decision to extend the REAL ID deadline to Oct. 1, 2021 – a year past the old deadline – is the proper and necessary action during this time of uncertainty and crisis," said White. "I urge Illinoisans with valid driver's licenses and ID cards not to rush to our facilities to obtain a REAL ID once they reopen."

As a reminder, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, White closed all offices, including Driver Services facilities statewide to the public, through April 30, due to the health and safety recommendations by experts endorsing social distancing efforts to minimize transmission of the virus. Many other states have followed with similar actions.

White is reminding residents that many transactions with the Secretary of State's office may be conducted online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Some Secretary of State employees continue working to process these transactions as efficiently as possible.

White Encourages Residents to Use Online Services during Office Closures Due to COVID-19

Driver Services facilities closed statewide through April 30

Online transactions will help alleviate the rush when Driver Services facilities reopen

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is reminding the public that many online services are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com while Driver Services facilities are closed to the public through April 30 following Governor Pritzker's extension of the "Stay at Home" order.

"Online services, such as renewing your vehicle registration sticker, allow customers to conduct transactions with my office from the comfort of their home," said White. "Furthermore, people who conduct these online transactions now will be helping to alleviate the rush of face-to-face transactions that will occur at facilities once they reopen."

Some of these online services include:

- renewing a vehicle registration;
- applying for a vehicle title and registration;

- obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card;
- obtaining a driving record abstract;
- renewing a standard driver's license with the Safe Driver Renewal program.

Since mid-March, online vehicle registration renewals have increased by 64 percent compared to last year. In addition, more than 49,000 vehicle titles and 154,000 driver's licenses have been mailed since Secretary of State offices and Driver Services facilities closed March 17.

White reiterated that expiration dates for driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle registrations, and other transactions and document filings will be extended at least 30 days after Driver Services facilities reopen. Expert advice, news and events involving the COVID-19 virus will continue to influence the reopening date of offices and Driver Services facilities.

"My commitment is to do everything we can to help protect the health and safety of our residents, while still providing services to the people of Illinois," said White. "This will, and must, continue to be the guiding principle of our decision making."

Public Library Construction Application Deadline Extended – June 15, 2020

Due to Gov. J.B. Pritzker's Executive Order Covid-19 (2020-18), which extended the statewide "Stay-at-Home" order, public library staffs, trustees and others working on a grant submission would find it difficult to put an application together by that deadline due to closure and social distancing. Therefore, extending the deadline to June 15, 2020 via an emergency rulemaking (23 Ill. Adm. Code 3035.520) should provide the necessary time to complete and submit an application to the Illinois State Library. To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted electronically to construct-grant@ilsos.gov and include all required supporting documentation. Information on the required supporting documentation as well as an overview of the program can be found at https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/publib_construction.html.

Library Certification Suspended – Calendar Year 2020

The Illinois State Library filed emergency rules effective April 6, 2020 suspending library certification for calendar year 2020. Section 3030.200 (a) (2) (I) of the Illinois Library System Act rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030) stipulates that libraries shall complete, on an annual basis, the certification process required for library system membership. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic creating library closures and resulting in an inability for them to effectively respond to their library system on the certification process, certification is suspended. Because of the uncertainty of the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, it is difficult to project when libraries might be able to resume the certification process.

ILL Survey Extended Indefinitely

Libraries are required to complete the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey before completing certification. The original The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey will remain open until further notification.

Talking Book & Braille Service Interruption

The Talking Book & Braille Service (TBBS) through the Illinois State Library was interrupted during the Secretary of State's Office's closure from March 17-April 30 due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Patrons' requests for new titles and reader's advisor services will be addressed as TBBS resume operations. Patrons registered for the free Braille and Audio Download (BARD) service may continue to download Braille and audio books, magazines, and music scores to IOS, Android and Kindle Fire devices. More information about the BARD service is at <https://www.ilbph.org/bard.html>.

2020 Census Deadline Extended

The U.S. Census Bureau pushed back the 2020 Census deadline to mid-August. The census was to be completed by the end of July. The extension was put in place because of the widespread effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The 2020 Census will help determine how many congressional seats each state gets and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending. The Census Bureau encourages the public to respond to the 2020 Census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smart phone, or tablet. Participants can also respond by phone or mail

Directors University Rescheduled

The fourth annual Directors University is being rescheduled for later this year. Additional information about Directors University is available on the [Illinois Library Association website](#).

Re-entry Reference Guide Available

The Office of the Secretary of State has published a reference guide to provide individuals who have been incarcerated in federal, state, county and local prisons with information to help them successfully re-enter society. The guide includes information on reinstating driving privileges, obtaining a state identification and driver's license, REAL ID, practice drivers' license test, alcohol and drug awareness program and voter registration instructions. To obtain a PDF of the publication, contact Joe Natale at the Illinois State Library at 217-558-1745 or jnatale@ilsos.gov.

Emerging Writers Competition Entries Due June 30

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is pleased to announce the 16th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. Named for the late award-winning poet and Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, the contest promotes creative writing, encourages local writers and provides a unique opportunity for recognizing new literary talent in the state. The annual writers program is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book. The award for first place is \$500, second place is \$300 and third place is \$100. Winning poems will also be submitted for possible publication in "Ninth Letter," "Quiddity" and "RHINO" journals. Winners will read their poems at a ceremony later this year at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. Entry forms can be found at https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda96.pdf. For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book Coordinator Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065

2020 "ILLINOIS READS" Author Spotlights

ILLINOIS READS is an annual statewide reading initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) to promote Illinois authors and the importance of reading for Illinois citizens of all ages – from birth through adult. Each year, there are six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators selected at six different age bands for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the Honorary Chair and the [Illinois Center for the Book](#) is a program partner. Selected PreK – 2nd grade authors and their **2020 ILLINOIS READS** books are as follows:

[ALEX WILLAN](#) is a children's author and illustrator who lives in Chicago. He has written [Jasper & Ollie](#), a brilliantly illustrated story about two hilarious and unlikely friends—a thoughtful sloth and an impatient fox. This book was handpicked by the Amazon kids' books editor for their Prime Book Box for children.

[LORI DEGMAN](#) is a children's author who has called the northern suburbs of Chicago home most of her life. Her vibrant book, [Just Read!](#) follows a spirited group of diverse children who love reading anything from books and magazines to signs and maps, regardless of where they are – alone or together.

Deerfield resident [JEFFREY BROWN](#) moved to Chicago in 2000. A New York Times best-selling children's author, artist, and cartoonist, he earned his MFA at the School of the Art Institute. His book, [My](#)

[Teacher is a Robot](#) is illustrated with bright colors and is about Fred, a kid with a very creative imagination.

Artist [JOHN SANDFORD](#) is based in Chicago and has worked in children's publishing for over 30 years. He is the art director for *Cricket* magazine. [Oak Leaf](#), his 65th book, beautifully illustrates the fall season as a lone oak leaf flutters on a breeze traveling up and over the world on its seasonal journey.

[ANDREA BEATY](#) is a Benton native who now lives in Naperville. Her latest book [Sofia Valdez, Future Prez](#) is about Sofia (aka Sofi), who sets out to prove what just one kid can do! It was an instant Wall Street Journal best-seller and is just one of her many #1 New York Times bestsellers.

Illustrator [MATT LAMOTHE](#) lives in Chicago. He has written the activity book [This is How I Do It: One Day in the Life of You and 59 Real Kids from Around the World](#) which invites children to document their lives and daily rituals alongside other actual kids from across the globe. Complete with sticker sheets, punch-out postcards, and a fold-out map, this interactive activity book will get kids writing, drawing, sharing, and learning about cultures and countries other than their own. Even the die-cut cover can be personalized, creating a keepsake time capsule to treasure.

Salute to Veterans

This issue of E-News salutes Betty M. Peterson. Having served in the U.S. Navy WAVES during World War II, Ms. Peterson shares her account of serving during the conflict. Her Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/eLCHZ2h3opo>.

State Library's comprehensive online calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.

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