



High Profile 13th Circuit Court Trial: Scheduled to Start Wednesday, August 23

Jury selection in the high profile trial to kidnap the Governor is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 21 and Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Bellaire High School.

The trial itself is scheduled to start on Wednesday, Aug. 23 in the 1905 Courthouse. There are expectations of a high level of state-wide and even national interest in the trial, which has the potential to last a number of weeks.

Parking will almost certainly be an issue for everyone. If you need to visit the County Building or the 1905 Courthouse during the trial, please allow extra time. County employees are being encouraged to park in alternate locations throughout the trial. Parking on Bellaire’s side streets is allowed as long as mailboxes, driveways, fire hydrants, streets are not blocked.

County Building Parking Update

The remainder of the construction fence is scheduled to go up on Monday, August 21. This fencing will reduce the number of parking spaces directly to the north of the building, and the few that have remained at the building’s northwest corner.

Parking will available in the Cayuga Street lot the full length of the construction. Five spaces along Hickory Lane should also remain available throughout the project.

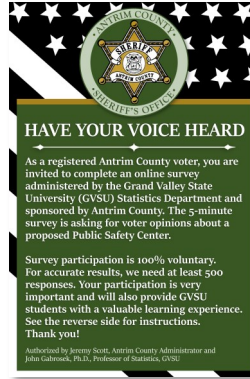
County Building Exterior Renovations: August 2023 Update

The interior demolition in the County Building has wrapped up, and the exterior demolition is changing the face of the building on a daily basis. The exterior panels backed by concrete block are almost gone. They’ve been saw cut and removed large piece by large piece.

Excavation and additional foundation work is currently under way. The remaining exterior panels will be removed with the help of large equipment, including a crane, which is scheduled to arrive Monday, August 28.

Public Safety Center: One More Small Step Taken

An additional step has been taken toward a proposed Public Safety Center. On August 3, the Village of Bellaire approved a resolution to vacate the one-block Grove Street right-of-way, which is directly east of the current jail.



What’s next? Postcards will soon be sent to a scientific sampling of the County’s registered voters, asking each recipient to fill out a survey. The survey’s intent is to determine support for the public funding of a new Public Safety Center. The survey can be completed online. It can also be completed on paper if the postcard is brought to the Commission on Aging at 308 E. Cayuga in Bellaire.

Once the results of the 100% voluntary and anonymous survey have been reviewed, the next step would be for the County to move forward with proceedings to finalize the vacation of Grove Street, a months-long legal process.

If plans for a proposed Center continue, the County will work to provide information to the voters in a number of ways. These would include concept drawings, Frequently Asked Questions, cost projections, one-page information sheets, public presentations, and much more.

The two pine trees at the southwest corner of the County Building are being removed in August as there’s not enough room between the tree canopies and the building to allow for the removal of the concrete panels.

Additionally—and sadly—the white pine next to the 1905 Courthouse also has to be removed. The removal of the white pine is due to the damage it is doing to the Courthouse roof and gutters. Removal of the white pine is expected to take place some time in October.



Rendering of Renovated County Building from Hickory Lane