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211 S Prospect Suite 9; Bloomington, Illinois

McLean County Republicans

August, 2023

Special Speaker Event with Jeannie Ives



Join the McLean County Republican Party for an open-invitation Special Speaker Event with Jeanne Ives on Tuesday, August 22, beginning at 6 pm. We will gather at DenMik South Assembly Room - 1304 Morrissey Dr., Bloomington, IL 61707.

Enjoy a fun social hour with like-minded conservatives and hear from our guest speaker Jeanne Ives. Jeanne will highlight how Springfield politicians have lost their minds and cover everything you need to

know heading into the 2024 Election.

Please RSVP on the website below by Thursday, August 16. No cost associated - light refreshments will be provided.

<https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/specialspeakerjeanneives>

Featured Recipe – Fried Fruit Hand Pies

(Yields: 24; Total Time: 2 hours)

Editor's note: I recently returned from Michigan, where I experienced "fried fruit hand pies – apple, cherry, blueberry, and raspberry. They were excellent. To help share in the joy of "fine dessert dining," I am sharing with you a variation taken from Oklahoma.

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE ALL-BUTTER CRUSTS:

2 1/2 c. unbleached all-purpose flour	1 tsp. kosher salt
1 tbsp. granulated sugar	1 c. cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1 c. cold water	1/4 c. cider vinegar
1/2 c. ice	

FOR THE HAND PIES:

1 whole large egg	1 egg yolk
2 tbsp. milk or water	1 12-oz. can of blueberry pie filling
1 12-oz. can of strawberry pie filling	1 48-oz. can of Crisco shortening for frying
1 c. confectioners' sugar for dusting	

DIRECTIONS

FOR THE ALL-BUTTER CRUSTS:

Stir the flour, salt, and sugar together in a large bowl with a flat bottom. Add the butter pieces on top of the dry ingredients. Using your fingers, toss the butter in the dry mixture so each cube is coated. Use a pastry blender or your fingers to cut or rub the butter into the mixture until it is in pieces a bit larger than peas (a few larger pieces are okay; be careful not to over-blend). You want big butter chunks in your crust: It helps create a flaky effect and adds delicious buttery hints of flavor! (cont. page 2)



2023 Membership Drive—Join McLean County Republicans!

McLean County Republicans officially kicked off their 2023 Membership Campaign with a reception at the home of Connie and David Beard on Sunday, July 23. More than 60 attended this event, and each person was surrounded by like-minded individuals who share common conservative values and a passion for politics. Several well-known political leaders and candidates attended, including Rep. Darin LaHood, Sen. Tom Bennett, Rep. Dan Caultkins, and candidate Regan Deering.

During this event, former MCGOP Chair Connie Beard and SURUS consultant CJ Gallo explained the membership program's goals, the various membership levels, and the benefits associated with each. The accompanying diagrams illustrate reasons for joining the MCGOP and the exclusive membership benefits at multiple levels. It should be noted that MCGOP memberships apply only to individuals, not couples or families.

JOIN THE PARTY

The McLean County Republican Party Membership Program
brings together a community of dedicated conservatives that learn, socialize, and celebrate together in support of our mission to turn McLean County and the State of Illinois Red.



Build Community
You'll be surrounded by like minded individuals who share your values + passion for politics.



Get Exclusive Benefits
Members get insider access to information and invitations to events that others will not.



Make a Difference
Your contribution will support our efforts to boost Republican voter turnout + win elections.

Choose your Membership:

BASIC

GENERAL
(Best Value)

PREMIUM

	BASIC \$120 Annually \$10 Monthly	GENERAL \$240 Annually \$20 Monthly	PREMIUM \$1,200 Annually \$100 Monthly
MEMBER NEWSLETTER	✓	✓	✓
ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING	✓	✓	✓
REPUBLICAN MUG	✓	✓	✓
SPECIAL SPEAKER EVENTS	X	✓	✓
BOOKS + DISCUSSIONS	X	✓	✓
FILM SCREENINGS	X	✓	✓
PREFERRED SEATING AT LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER	X	X	✓
ELECTED OFFICIAL ROUNDTABLES	X	X	✓
SPECIAL RECOGNITION (OPTIONAL)	X	X	✓

*Memberships apply only to individuals, not couples or families

Best Value!

By becoming a dues-paying member of the MCGOP, you can contribute to supporting our efforts to boost Republican turnout and win elections. You can also take advantage of opportunities to meet in small group settings well-known political leaders. The first such Special Speaker Event will be held on August 22. This open-invitation event with former Illinois State Rep. Jeanne Ives will exemplify one of our general and premium membership benefits - (details in the cover article of this newsletter).

During the July 23rd event at the Beard home, numerous members took advantage of the opportunity to “up” their memberships, with several becoming general and premium members. We find ourselves at an interesting time and membership is extremely important. If you are interested in becoming a dues-paying member of MCGOP, then visit our website at the following URL:

<https://www.mcleancountyrepublicans.org/membership>

Featured Recipe – Fried Fruit Hand Pies—cont.

Combine the water, cider vinegar, and ice in a separate large measuring cup or small bowl. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons of the ice water mixture over the flour mixture; do not add the ice, which is just there to keep your water cold. Using your hands in a circular motion, bring the mixture together until all the liquid is incorporated. Continue adding the ice water mixture, 1 to 2 tablespoons. Carefully mix until the dough comes together in a ball, with some dry bits remaining. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently until it comes into one mass; you don't want to overwork it. Separate the dough into two equal portions, shape each into a flat disc, wrap in plastic, and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, preferably overnight, before using. Wrapped tightly, the dough can be refrigerated for 3 days or frozen for up to 3 months. Thaw frozen dough overnight in the fridge.

FOR THE HAND PIES:

Egg wash: Wisk the egg, yolk, and milk or water in a quart container until smooth.

Roll the dough: Roll the dough into sheets that are 1/8 inch thick. Using either a 2-by-2-inch square scalloped cookie cutter or a pizza cutter, cut the dough into 48 2-by-2-inch squares.

Assemble the hand pies: heaping tablespoon of pie filling into the center of a square of dough. Brush the edges of the dough with egg wash and then place another square of dough on top, pressing the edges to seal the pocket. Place on a baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough and fillings to make 24 hand pies. Refrigerate until ready to fry.

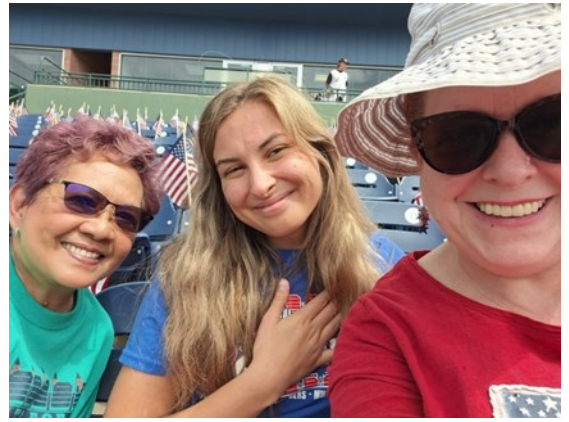
Fry the hand pies: In a large heavy-bottom pot over medium-high heat, melt the Crisco and bring it up to 350°F. Fry the hand pies in batches of 2 or 3, flipping each halfway through until both sides are golden brown for 3 to 4 minutes. Drain on paper towels to soak excess oil and sprinkle with sifted confectioners' sugar.

PolitiBits

- ★ Alice Sheetz (L) and Sue Fiene (R) had a blast assisting Cities 92.9 FM talk radio's Cat Peterson (C) in placing flags on the seats at the Corn Crib stadium in Normal for the sixth annual "Seats for Soldiers" event held July 20 and 21. By all accounts, it was an "absolutely gorgeous day!!"



U.S. Representative Darin LaHood held a grand opening of his new district office in Uptown Normal on August 1. The office was packed. The office address is 108 E. Beaufort St. This office will provide constituent services for citizens in the 18th Congressional District. Details will be forthcoming.



- ★ Thanks to Connie & David Beard for hosting a great McLean County Republican Party soiree on July 23 in Bloomington. Nearly 70 dues-paying members were in attendance, and several local dignitaries also showed up! The event was held to build a sense of community and introduce a new MCGOP membership drive for our community. It was great to see so many Republicans excited about the future and the opportunities ahead for our party in Illinois!



- ★ Senator Tom Bennett has announced that he will not seek re-election following the conclusion of his current term. Tom has been a faithful conservative who represented our Republican values well. We are sad to hear of his departure. Best wishes in the future, Tom!
- ★ On August 16, MCGOP staff members will attend the second annual SURUS Summit. At last year's Summit, SURUS officially launched the Battle Program, designed to "turn Illinois RED." After a year of implementing the program in County and Township Republican organizations across the state, this year's Summit will focus on professional development in four competency areas and the exchange of best practices by chairmen and committee leaders. Breakout sessions will be held to hear about insights from thought leaders in Communications, Fundraising, Community Engagement, and Election Operations. The day will conclude the day with a cocktail hour and dinner.



Fun at McLean County Fair!

MCGOP representatives were present every day of the McLean County Fair, July 26-30, despite the high temperatures and extraordinary heat indices that resulted in the partial closure of the carnival portion of the fair on Friday. While 2023 is an “off year” for major political elections, we gave welcome relief by giving out cups of cool water, providing a welcome cooling breeze from our fans, and offering a place to sit and rest from the glaring sun. Lots of people came by for refreshments and took the opportunity to chat. Parents and grandparents often took pictures of the kids with Ellie, our Republican mascot elephant. The kids especially enjoyed diving into the treats we provided, including lollipops, Smarties, Tootsie Rolls, and butterscotch lozenges. These efforts were greatly appreciated and resulted in generating goodwill toward MCGOP and the things for which we stand.



Upcoming Events

(Updates about events can be found on the MCGOP [Website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page.)

AUGUST 12: Saturday, August 12, 2023, the Tazewell County Republican Party and the Peoria County Republican Party will host their esteemed *Leadership Institute* for a valuable day-long seminar on campaign management and getting out the vote! The cost is minimal; only \$25. The fee includes lunch and expert instruction from two of Leadership Institute's premier presenters, Angela and Chris Faulkner. They will share their vast knowledge and political experience as they show what effective and successful campaigns do. Follow the link below for detailed information and registration. <https://www.litraining.org/.../24f886ec-5a48-4435.../summary>



AUGUST 13: The MCGOP summer picnic will be held on Sunday, August 13. This year the event will be held at the [Hesed House Venue](#) in rural Heyworth. U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and other officials will be present to speak with us. See the accompanying graphic for details. RSVP and buy your tickets through [this link](#) today. The reservation deadline is two days prior to the event or on Friday, August 11.

THE MCLEAN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
INVITES YOU TO THEIR:

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC
WITH CONGRESSMAN LAHOOD AND
OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS.

AUGUST 13TH, 2023
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

3637 N 1600 EAST RD.
HEYWORTH, IL 61745

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FAMILY FUN
AT THE HESD HOUSE VENUE. OUTDOOR
FISHING AND GAMES WILL BE AVAILABLE.
PRAIRIE FIRE GRILL OF HEYWORTH, IL WILL
BE PROVIDING THE MEAL.

CONGRESSMAN DARIN LAHOOD IS
APPEARING AS A SPECIAL GUEST AND WILL
NOT BE SOLICITING ANY DONATIONS.

**PLEASE RSVP AND
BUY TICKETS AT THE URL BELOW**

\$18.00 PER ADULT (BBQ)
\$10 PER CHILD (CHEESE PIZZA)

WWW.MCLEANCOUNTYREPUBLICANS.ORG/2023SUMMERPICNIC

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR
Generations of Fun!

**ILLINOIS
REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**2023 ILLINOIS
REPUBLICAN
DAY RALLY
AT THE STATE FAIR**

WHEN:
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023
GATES OPEN & FOOD SERVED AT 11:30 AM
THE PROGRAM BEGINS AT 12:00 PM

WHERE:
DIRECTOR'S LAWN AT THE ILLINOIS
STATE FAIRGROUNDS
801 EAST SANGAMON AVENUE,
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702

AUGUST 17: Republican Day at the Illinois State Fair will take place on Thursday, August 17, this year, and you are invited to attend the Republican Day Rally. The event will be held on the Director's Lawn at the State Fairgrounds (801 East Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, IL 62702) and will start at noon! Gates will open at 11:30 am CST, and food will be served. We look forward to seeing you there! [If you need more information or want to get tickets, please visit the ILGOP website to reserve your spot today!](#)

AUGUST 22: A special speaker event with former Illinois State Representative Jeanne Ives. See the cover article in this newsletter for details.

SEPTEMBER 14: Our annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner has been slated for September 14, but the speaker is still in question. Details are incomplete as this issue of our MCGOP Newsletter goes to press. Watch both the MCGOP [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for announcements and reservations. For now, hold the date.

Join the McLean County Republican Party for a

SPECIAL SPEAKER EVENT WITH JEANNE IVES

Enjoy a fun social hour with like-minded conservatives and hear from our special guest.

Jeanne will highlight how Springfield politicians have lost their minds and cover everything you need to know heading into the 2024 Election.

Please RSVP via the link or QR code by Wednesday, August 16th.

- No cost associated
- Light refreshments will be provided
- Limited seating available



**DenMik South Assembly Room
1304 Morrissey Dr. Bloomington,
IL 61707**



**Tuesday, August 22nd,
6PM**

mcleancountyrepublicans.org/specialspeakerjeanneives