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Gary Weinard leaving county board after 20 years' service

The December 1 reorganizational meeting of the Vermilion County Board marks the last appearance for a longtime north county board member.

Gary Weinard is stepping down from the board seat he has held since for 20 years, the last two as board chairman.

Weinard's decision was caused by a health issue, an autoimmune disorder with "a name this long," he said, holding his thumb and index finger far apart. It causes white blood cells to overproduce and settle in various parts of the body.

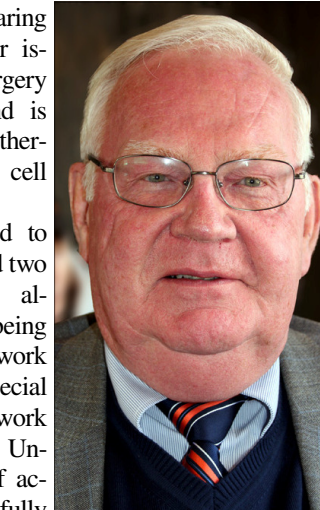
In Weinard's case, the cells settled in his head, result-

ing in vision and hearing problems, among other issues. He underwent surgery several weeks ago and is considering at a chemotherapy regimen to slow cell growth.

Weinard, 68, decided to run for the county board two decades ago because although taxes were being collected for drainage work for the North Fork Special Service District, the work was not being done. Unhappy with the lack of action, Weinard successfully ran to represent District 1.

In those days, Weinard said, Democrats ruled the board and Republicans were hard pressed to get much done.

That has changed, especially in the last two years. In 2012, for the first time in 24 years, Republicans held the



WEINARD

See WEINARD on other side

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Weinard continued from other side

majority of board seats, allowing them to select the chairman. County Republicans unanimously chose Weinard, who replaced Democrat Jim McMahon.

During his chairmanship, the labels “Democrat” and “Republican” are, for the most part, checked at the door of the county board room, Weinard said. Instead, members think of themselves as county board members.

Weinard is proud of his service as board chairman, which includes the sale of Vermilion Manor nursing home. “That’s probably the most important thing for the county,” because nursing home deficits drained county finances. Selling the facility stopped the financial drain and provided capital for other projects, such as work on the courthouse, health department and annex offices.

As chairman, Weinard raised starting pay for county employees, stopping a revolving door of employees who were trained, then moved on to better-paying positions; and improved cooperation between the county and the city of Danville. Good financial management resulted in no tax increase this year and probably not one next year, either, he said.

There are good things on the horizon, too, including a shared resource person to work with Vermilion County and county communities and continued economic inquiries, which he said have “never been stronger than in 2014.”

One thing Weinard experienced going from member to chairman will not be experienced by his successor, and that is not being familiar with all issues affecting the county.

Mike Marron, of the Collison-Hope area, who is vice-chairman and is expected to replace Weinard, has been a part of all meetings and will be able to dive in. “There’s

**Hoopeston
American Legion
kitchen
will be closed Friday.**

a glove laying on the table,” Weinard said. “I think his hand will fit quite well.”

With more free time just ahead, Weinard said he and his wife, Brenda, will travel, although he said his condition will probably result in him giving up his pilot’s license and depend on commercial flying, when necessary.

Briefly

Black Friday book sale

Hoopeston Public Library’s Black Friday book sale will feature a large variety of hardcover and paperback books for adults, teens and children, along with VHS movies and music CDs. Everything is \$2 per bag or

Police News



An 83-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 1:20 p.m. Tuesday that someone stole two ladders and a water pump from his property in the 300 block of North Market.

Obituaries

CARTER - Patty Carter, 77, of Hoopeston, died at 6:17 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 38. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 32. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 50, low 43. Sunday, partly sunny. High 53, low 28

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Retirement will also give him more time to spend with his family, including son Kevin, who oversees Weinard Farms, and Brian, who works at Caterpillar in Lafayette. There will also be more time for grandchildren Christopher, Kylie, Laura, Chelsea, Courtney and Emily.

He may even go back to work. “I’ve asked (Kevin) if he needs any day labor,” Weinard said, grinning.

three bags for \$5. Bags will be provided, or shoppers may bring their own.

The sale will be held in the lower level board room from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Classifieds

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