

# Congressional Report

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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*Jerry Weller*  
M.C.  
Prstd Std

Dear Friends,

I'm proud to represent Illinois' 11th District in Washington. A big part of my job is to ensure the 11th District gets its fair share of federal resources and to advocate for important local projects that improve our communities and create jobs.

In this newsletter, you'll find the results of just some of the projects I have been working on in Congress. My staff and I are working to ensure that everyone in the 11th District has an opportunity to succeed and that our local communities have the resources they need to provide services for their residents.

In the coming year, I will be working to add new projects to the list of 11th District communities who have received aid and grants from the federal government. This money is critical to ensuring that our local communities are well cared for and supported.

If you have any questions about the work I am doing in Congress, or if I can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Weller*



Weller speaks to members of *Comite Para El Desarrolla Latino* in Morris about access to education and health care.

## To Contact Congressman Jerry Weller

### Contact Numbers:

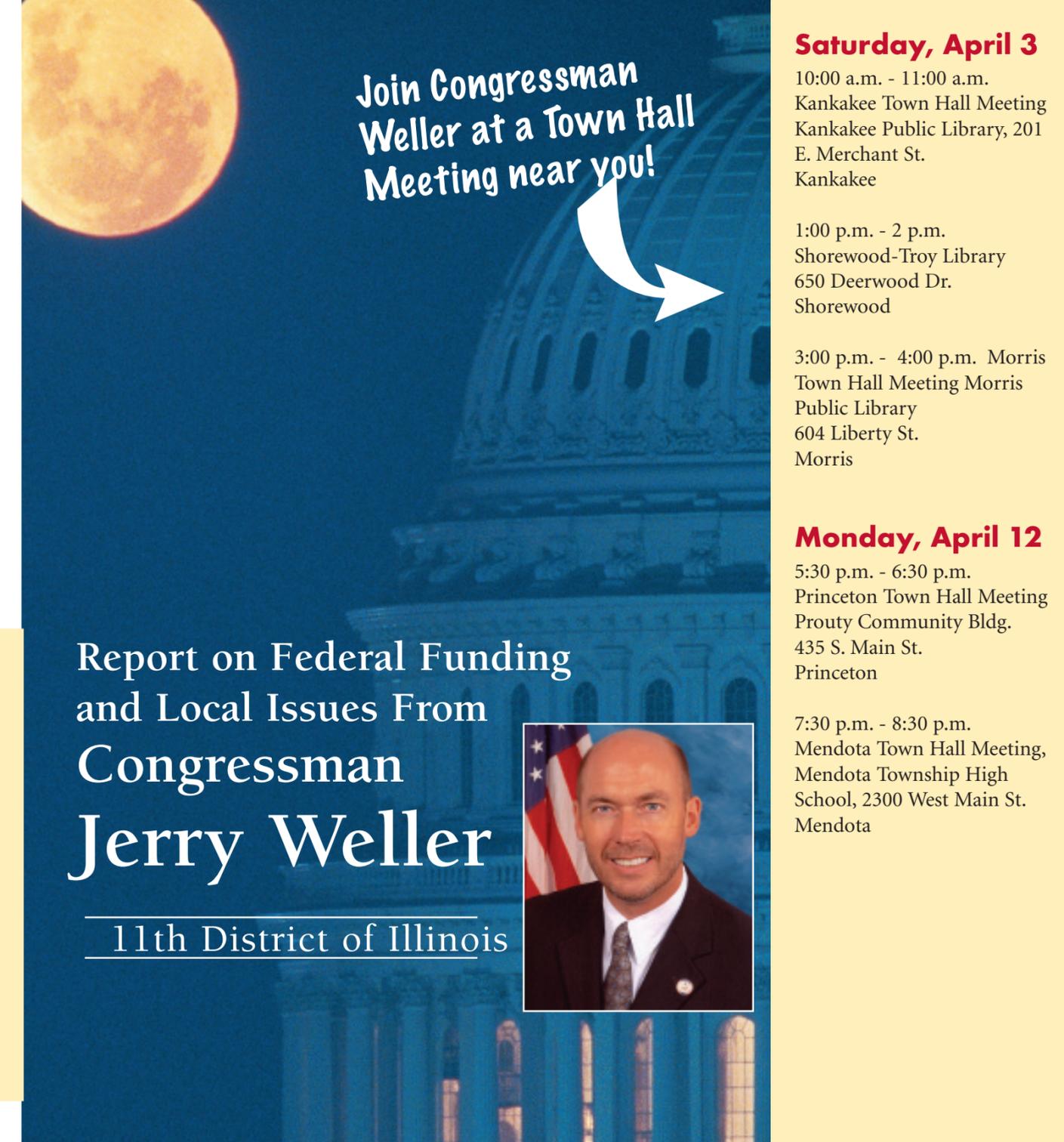
Joliet Office: 815-740-2028  
Washington Office: 202-225-3635  
McLean County Hotline: 309-557-0448

### Weller Staff Traveling Office Hours:

Third Monday of Every Month  
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Normal City Hall  
100 Phoenix Ave.  
Normal, IL

For more information on the news  
from Congress or to email  
Congressman Weller, log on to:  
[www.house.gov/weller](http://www.house.gov/weller)

Third Monday of Every Month  
12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM  
LeRoy City Hall  
US Hwy 150 between Chestnut and East Streets  
LeRoy, IL



Join Congressman  
Weller at a Town Hall  
Meeting near you!

### Saturday, April 3

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Kankakee Town Hall Meeting  
Kankakee Public Library, 201  
E. Merchant St.  
Kankakee

1:00 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Shorewood-Troy Library  
650 Deerwood Dr.  
Shorewood

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Morris  
Town Hall Meeting Morris  
Public Library  
604 Liberty St.  
Morris

### Monday, April 12

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Princeton Town Hall Meeting  
Prouty Community Bldg.  
435 S. Main St.  
Princeton

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Mendota Town Hall Meeting,  
Mendota Township High  
School, 2300 West Main St.  
Mendota

## Report on Federal Funding and Local Issues From Congressman Jerry Weller

11th District of Illinois



## \$900,000 Federal Grant For Ottawa

Congressman Jerry Weller recently announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce has approved a grant of \$900,000 to aid in the development of the Starved Rock Resort planned for downtown Ottawa, Illinois. The federal government will help to cover expenses relating from sewer & water relocation and other infrastructure improvements in the area associated with the Starved Rock project. Weller worked with the City of Ottawa to shepherd the grant application through the Economic Development Administration's process.

The planned Starved Rock Resort could mean over 300 new jobs at the resort site, plus additional job creation elsewhere in the Illinois Valley to help

## Federal Funding for the I&M Canal and Port of LaSalle

The I&M Canal will receive over \$1.1 million in federal funds in 2004, now that President Bush has signed the Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Spending Package into law.

The I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor has met with great success and has been used as a model for numerous other heritage areas. The Canal is a key part of the region's history as it gave farmers a method of shipping grain and contributed greatly to the development of industry in the area and to the establishment of the City of Chicago.

The I & M Canal is home to numerous prairie reserves, hiking trails and parks. Visitors can also see a pioneer settlement, nature center, or an historic courthouse and visit the site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debates in Ottawa, Illinois. The I&M Canal was established in 1984 as the first national heritage corridor. The I&M Canal corridor covers 450 square miles stretching 120 miles from Chicago's Navy Pier to LaSalle-Peru,

service the resort and the visitors who will come to area attractions and businesses. This project is about jobs and the future of downtown Ottawa.

The Starved Rock Resort project is a planned hotel, conference, restaurant and golf resort facility that would become a major tourism destination in the Illinois Valley. The Starved Rock Resort would aid the redevelopment of downtown Ottawa which has lost businesses and manufacturing to changing economic trends of the 1970's & 1980's. Development of the resort would create 300 new jobs at the resort, as well as secondary jobs in the construction and tourism industries.



*Weller joins Ana Koval of the Canal Corridor Association and Colonel Duane Gapsinski of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in discussing plans for the Port of LaSalle project.*

Illinois. Approximately 2/3 of the canal lies within the 11th Congressional district. The I&M canal operates through a partnership between the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission, the Canal Corridor Association, the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The \$1.1 million is broken up into two sections, the I&M Canal Annual Operations - \$600,000, and the Port of LaSalle I&M Canal- \$550,000.

The Port of LaSalle funding will be used for a transportation museum, replica canal boats, an outdoor interpretive center, replica mule barn, and construction of a lock-tender's house.

## Federal Grant for Grand Ridge Fire Department

Congressman Weller recently presented the Grand Ridge Fire Department with grants amounting to \$96,129 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Assistance to Firefighter's Program (FIRE Act). The FIRE Act program, inaugurated in 2001, is designed to assist local fire departments in purchasing new equipment and improving training and safety for firefighters.

FIRE Act grants help local fire agencies such as the Grand Ridge Fire Department purchase needed equipment and ensure that our local fire fighters have the best training and safety devices that we can provide for them."

With Weller's support, FIRE Act funding increased to \$750 million in FY2004. The program provides a 90-10 federal funding match to local communities.

## Federal Grant For Will County Community Health Center

Congressman Weller recently joined with officials of the Will County Community Health Center to announce a federal grant in the amount of \$100,000 to aid in the expansion efforts of the dental health clinic program at the Will County Community Health Center. The funds approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are part of an effort by the Congress and President to expand access to Community Health Center Services to over 14 million Americans.

Last year the House approved a record increase for community health centers of \$162 million, bring total funding to almost \$1.6 billion for Fiscal Year 2004. Congressman Weller supports the president's plan to expand access to community health centers. Families who can not afford health care coverage still need to have access to quality health services, that's why the President's plan is so important. For the FY 03 and 04 budgets, Congress has approved record increases for Community Health Centers. with a special emphasis of expanding

access to care and to further preventive medicine programs. The \$100,000 secured for the Will County Community Health Center will allow for an additional dentist to be hired at the site. Between 2001 and 2002, visits to the dental operation have increased by over 78%.



*Weller presents \$100,000 in federal funding to health care providers at the Will County Community Health Center.*

## \$50,000 Federal Earmark for Freedom House in Princeton

President Bush recently approved Congressman Weller's request of \$50,000 in the Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Spending federal spending package to aid the development of Freedom House's Adult and Children's Learning Center. Freedom House is located in Princeton, Illinois

These funds approved by the Congress and the President will help to enhance the very successful programs at Freedom House and will help give greater access to educational resources

## Federal Grants for Local Projects

### Hopkins Park

The Village of Hopkins Park will receive a rural development grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the amount of \$126,000. The federal grant will help the Village construct a new 3,450 square foot maintenance garage to serve Hopkins Park and Pembroke Township government vehicles.

This grant will allow the community to house vehicles and other equipment used to provide services to the residents of Hopkins Park and Pembroke Township.

### Carbon Hill

The Village of Carbon Hill will receive \$100,000 in federal funding for water system upgrades. Congressman Weller secured the \$100,000 in the federal Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations Package.

The water system funding will provide much needed funds that will allow the village to meet clean water standards and assist in funding the costly infrastructure required to serve residents in Carbon Hill. Not only will these funds ensure the health and safety of the local

and help to renew hope for those trying to rebuild their lives.

Freedom House provides domestic and sexual violence services to 1,500 women, men and children in Illinois. Services include a crisis shelter, therapy, legal and other advocacy, a hotline, individual and group counseling for adults and children, violence prevention education in schools, community organizations and agencies, life skills education and a G.E.D. program for clients.

community, but they will improve health and safety with local taxpayers having to pick up less of the cost of these costly infrastructure projects.

### Sun River Terrace

Every citizen deserves the security, safety and peace of mind that comes with police services in our local communities. That's why Kankakee County Sheriff Tim Bukowski and Rep. Weller worked together to obtain \$225,000 in federal funding through the COPS program to increase police services in Sun River terrace & Hopkins Park. These communities had been without full-time police protection for some time.

These federal funds will be used to provide Hopkins Park and Sun River Terrace with 3 full-time patrol officers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our local police are the first line of defense in our Homeland Security as well as an important part of helping stop crime in our neighborhoods and providing emergency assistance to local residents. The Kankakee County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for administering the grant funds.

