



SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

South County SPOTLIGHT

Sidney Lions Club Mtgs held
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of
the month at Sidney United
Church

Philo Village Brush pick up
1st and 15th of the Month
until Dec 1

UHS GBB @ Lady Falcon
Tourney 11/13-11/17

VGH GBB @ Lady Falcon
Tourney 11/13-11/17

UJHS BBB @ Leroy Tourney
11/15-11/17

UJHS Book Fair
11/15-11/16

Homer Library
11/16 from 6-8pm
Family Reading Night-
Reading By Design!

Homer Library
11/17 @ 7pm
Family Movie: Cars 3

IMEA district 3 festival @
Olivet Nazarene 11/18 at 8
am

UJHS BBB vs Arcola
11/20 @ 6 pm

VGH BBB @ Cerro Gordo
Turkey tourney
11/20-11/24 times TBA

HJHS GBB @ IESA Regional
Tournament at Chrisman
11/18-11/21 times TBA

UHS GBB @ Leroy
11/20 @ 6 pm

HJHS BBB @ Westville
11/20 @ 6 pm

Heritage Schools EARLY
DISMISSAL
11/21 @ 1:15 pm

Unity Schools EARLY
DISMISSAL
11/21 @ 2:15 pm

UJHS BBB @ Maroa Forsyth
11/21 at 6 pm

UHS JV Wrestling vs Central
11/21 @ 6:30 pm

VGH GBB @ Tuscola
11/21 at 6 pm

HJHS BBB vs GRF
11/21 @ 4:30 PM

Unity Schools Thanksgiving
Holiday-NO SCHOOL
11/22-11/24

Heritage Schools
Thanksgiving Holiday NO
SCHOOL
11/22-11/24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
from the staff of the
Southern Champaign
County Today 11/23

If you have an upcoming
event that you would like
to see featured in Spotlight,
email us at vgnews@mchsi.com
or call us at 832-4201



Sidney Board Discusses SIG Christmas events

By Ann Rhoton SCCT
News Correspondent

The Sidney Village Board of Trustees met on Monday, November 6 in the Sidney Community Building meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Village of Sidney President Chuck White brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following the recitation of the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance.

President White then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written of the Monday, October 2 regular meeting of the board and of the Tuesday, October 26 board meeting regarding zoning. The minutes as written were approved following a motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter and a second to the motion by Trustee John Finn.

Village of Sidney President White next asked if there was any public comment and asked Sidney Improvement Group (SIG) President Mike Roy if he would like to lead off with announcements about SIG Hometown Christmas events.

Mr. Roy reported that free carriage rides will be offered in downtown Sidney from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1. Carriage rides will depart from in front of the Sidney Community Library. The Sidney Community Library will be open that evening as well as the Sidney American Legion Post 433 at which free will donation chili will be served.

The SIG are sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa at the Sidney United Church from

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 2 and a shop at home at Unity East Elementary from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9 so as not to be in conflict with an event taking place in Homer on December 2.

A Sidney resident was in attendance at the meeting to ask if the Village of Sidney parking ordinance applies to flat beds and/or trailers and was told that the ordinance covers parking for cars and trucks.

An outside of village limits Village of Sidney water customer inquired as to what their water rate is as the pdf posted on the village website does not provide the outside of village water rate. Village of Sidney Clerk Carol Moore asked for the customer's phone number so that she could call the customer about their water rate.

Village of Sidney resident Mark Catron asked if a balance sheet of the village bills could be published at the village website. Board members decided to place the subject of the publication of a balance sheet of village bills on the village website on the Monday, December 4 Sidney Village Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

Village of Sidney President Chuck White asked if there were any additional public comment and, as there was none, proceeded with his comments by reporting that the Illinois Municipal League membership fee is \$250.00. A motion from Trustee John Finn seconded by Trustee

Cyndi McCloud to pay the \$250.00 membership fee carried.

It was reported that the Village of Sidney had received a Bicentennial Resolution from the State of Illinois asking the Village of Sidney to fly a special Bicentennial flag that the State of Illinois was sending to the village at no cost and to hold a 12:00 p.m. flag raising of the flag on Monday, December 4. Board members unanimously adopted the resolution and Village of Sidney President Chuck White and Village of Sidney Operations Manager and Water Superintendent Earl Bennett will raise the flag at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4.

President White announced that the Illinois Municipal Handbook is available at a cost of \$45.00, reported that the village usually purchases one, and asked if trustees wanted to purchase one or more at a cost of \$45.00 each. Trustee Cyndi McCloud's motion seconded by Trustee John Finn for the Village of Sidney to purchase one handbook at a cost of \$45.00 carried.

Village of Sidney President Chuck White entertained conversation concerning the Sidney Scoop Facebook social media page and reported on posted comments stating that the Village of Sidney was not being open about village water rates and were having closed meetings, etc. to discuss village water rates.

President White reminded all in attendance that committee meetings do not have

to be open to the public, that Sidney committee meetings always have been, that committee meetings can be held at any time of the day as they are only discussion and planning meetings at which no votes are taken, that voting only takes place at official Sidney Village Board of Trustees meetings that take place in the evening, and that the general public has always been invited to both committee meetings and monthly board meetings.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the Facebook page and disrespectful comments that had been taken off of the page. Some in attendance at the meeting did not appreciate the way they felt they were being censored.

Board members told all in attendance that residents with questions about water bills should call Village of Sidney Clerk Carol Moore.

Board members also reiterated that the Sidney Scoop Facebook page is not a Village of Sidney sanctioned page

and that the place to obtain official Village of Sidney news is at the village's official website <http://villageofsidney.com/index.html> at which one can find village trustees, employees, and Village President phone numbers along with meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and a pdf for the Public Water Supply Inventory and Assessment Report. Individuals can also download an application for water and can pay water bills on line at the website.

Discussion concerning the 2017/2018 Tax Levy was brought up under Sidney Village Attorney Marc Miller's comments and a motion from Trustee Jason Arrasmith seconded by Trustee John Finn to pass the Village of Sidney Tax Levy Ordinance 2017-06 for the 2017/2018 carried.

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees decided to add discussion concerning hiring a consultant for the water plant and consideration of an ordinance authorizing execution of

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Get some Holiday Shopping done at Sidney Library

Let's think about all the good reasons to enjoy cooler (dare I say cold?) weather; new episodes of TV programs, football games for the sport fans, hot chocolate for breakfast, and snuggling beneath a blanket with a good book from the Sidney Community Library!

We all enjoyed hot coffee, hot tea, and yummy chocolate chip cookies last Tuesday, November 7th during our monthly Coffee and Conversation get together. Join us next month for more good times as we share another hour together with friends!

The library is happy to announce the Children's Bookstore online book fair starting November 6 – November 20, 2017. It's easy to participate. All you need to do is visit www.childrensbookstore.com, select the books you want to read, and enter our code at checkout. The code is DAVIDSTREET. The library earns 30% of every book purchased from the book fair! Look for this same announcement on our Facebook page as well. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at 688-2332.

Please join us for a Family Reading Night on Thursday, November 16th. There's

nothing more relaxing or enjoyable than reading together on a chilly fall evening. Just check out one of your favorites or try something new to read with a family member right in the library. Then, take the books home for more reading pleasure.

Looking for stocking stuffers and presents for the holidays? Stop in to see our large assortment of puzzles for sale. There are still candy bars for a dollar and an assortment of fun items for sale in our glass display case. There's something for everyone! All proceeds go toward the purchase of new books, movies, and library programs.

New adult fiction titles are: "Holly and Ivy" by Fern Michaels, and "Merry and Bright" by Debbie McCumber.

Sidney Community Library hours are changing. The new hours are listed below.

Library hours are: Monday – Friday: 9 am – noon, 4 pm – 7 pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday. The library will also be closed the following days for Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 23rd; Friday, November 24th; and Saturday, November 25th.

Family Reading Night at Philo Library

Family Reading Night is Thursday, November 16th at 7 p.m. There's still time to get the kids rounded up and head over to the Library for an hour of story reading and Wendy Carmien's speech students performing two separate skits. We'll even provide a light bedtime snack for everyone. Stop in and enjoy!

New Non-Fiction Books added this past week: For you Pioneer Woman fans, we have Ree Drummond's latest book, "The Pioneer Woman Cooks : Come and Get It! : Simple, Scrumptious Recipes for Crazy Busy Lives" and for you genealogy fans we have "Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide". Patrons highly recommended two books for young mothers.- "Back to

Work After Baby" and "Good Sleeper". We are always happy to hear what patrons like and recommend. Another new book we picked based on requests is "Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans". And, finally for poetry fans we have added "Devotions: Selected Poems of Mary Oliver" and "We Are Shining" by Gwendolyn Brooks.

New Fiction books added to our collection include two large prints – "The Last Ballad" takes place in North Carolina. In 1929, Ella May Wiggins works at the American Mill, trying to feed her family on the \$9 per week she is paid. She joins the workers union movement while the mill owners are trying to crush it. "Keep Her Safe" is

a psychological thriller. Another popular book "Little Fires Everywhere" is the story of a single mother and her teenage daughter who move into a rental house in Shaker Heights, Ohio. The book explores the weight of secrets... and the danger in believing that following the rules can avert disaster. A seasonal book titled "Christmas at Little Beach Street Bakery" by Jenny Colgan sounds like a true Christmas blessing.

And, next on the Philo Library calendar, is the Annual Ornament Workshop and Village Tree Lighting. Circle the date on your calendar - December 3rd, 3:00-5:00 p.m. More information will be in the column next week.

Broadlands board discusses Community Chrstmas party

Present: Mayor Block, Village Clerk Jones, Treasurer Hockett, Trustees Cole, Garrett, Hall, Nelk, and Propst

Absent: Pete Zurich and Village Water Clerk Lana Fisher

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

Trustee Cole made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Second by Hall. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Cole made a motion to approve the November bills and accept the September 2017 financial report. Second by Hall. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Zurich arrived 7:05pm.

Old Business
Trustee Cole read a concern raised by the Village Auditor with the Village of Broadlands present accounting system. The Illinois

comptroller will require all municipalities to move to an accrual accounting system by January 2018. Trustee Hall recommended having the Village Auditor attend the next meeting to address this change.

At the last meeting Mitch Bensyl stated a tree on Diller Street on city property needs to be removed. Mayor Block contacted Jason Smith who gave a price of \$400 to remove the tree. Motion by Trustee Nelk to approve this expense. Second by Propst. Motion carried 6-0.

Committees
Water: Trustee Zurich stated he accepted the resignation of Mr. Garrison has water meter reader. Anyone interested in being the Village water meter reader should contact Trustee Zurich or attend the next meeting. In the interim, Ron Gast Jr. has

offered to fill this role. The board discussed the present salary for the Village water meter reader. Discussion to continue to next meeting. Ron Gast has been working on the replacement of water meters. He stated there have been issues with a few of the newly purchased meters. He contacted DJ Stewart to reset these.

Trustee Cole stated that there continue to be issues with checks being deposited by the Village Water Clerk in a timely manner. Trustee Zurich to follow up with the Village Water Clerk.

Ron Gast reported the tank has been inspected and will not need painting for 5 more years. Trustee Zurich stated the water meter was 471,000 gallons for the month.

Drainage: Mayor Block stated he will work with Jake Dohme to assess catch basins

in town needing cleaning this Spring.

Streets and Alleys: Trustee Hall had no report.

Maintenance: Trustee Propst had no report.

Ordinances: Trustee Cole and Village Clerk Jones presented letters sent to residents in violation of village ordinances. In addition, Trustee Cole presented a new list of repeat and first time violators. The board approved sending letters to repeat violators stating fines will be charged for offenses as stated in village ordinances. Residents are advised to address violations in order to avoid fines and possible litigation.

Park: Trustee Garrett stated the tornado slide was inspected and there are no code violations. Trustee Hall stated that it is not possible to replace the broken swing on

the turtle ride. Cost to replace is \$700. The board decided not to take action to replace at this time.

New Business
Jane Smith attended the meeting to discuss a Community Christmas party to be held on Dec 9th from 4pm to 7:30pm at the Firehouse. The Village Board, Community Club and Fire Department will host the event. The board is responsible for providing 125 candy packages for Santa's arrival as well as Holiday decorations and 125 gifts for area children.

Trustee Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:28pm. Second by Nelk. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be December 6th, at 7pm. Respectfully submitted, Krista Jones, Village Clerk