



Trying a ‘new way’ to announce a new upcoming event

By BOB DOAN
Community Development Coordinator

As the Community Development Coordinator for the Arthur Area and the Arthur Area Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), I receive a weekly newsletter which focuses on the welfare of small towns in mid-America.

The articles are written by Becky McCray who is an experienced and certified small town evaluator and speaker. The overall title of her articles is “Save Your Town,” and then she has more specific titles for the topic on which she is focusing that week.

In the most recent article from Becky, titled “They say there is nothing to do in our town, yet they don’t attend the events we plan,” she discusses the successful and not-so-successful method of planning events and activities for small towns.

I must admit my toes were a little sore when I finished reading the article because I was quite guilty of her references.

It all appears to be in the method we use in planning an event. Many times we decide on what type of event we want to host. We develop a small committee to control many of the issues for the event, then we announce the event to the public and expect them to attend and support (enjoy?) the event.

Becky refers to this approach as “Old Way” of “create the event and then announce it.”

She suggests the more successful process is to pro-

Growing In Arthur



vide residents opportunities to participate in the planning of the event which seems to create more of a “buzz.” The end result is a more chaotic planning approach, but more residents will come out and support the event because many of them were a part of its planning.

Becky refers to this approach as the “New Way” in which we announce the event and then create it together.

I am truly guilty of the “Old Way” because it better fits my personality.

I have vowed to work on changing my approach to working with people in planning events and activities. The following few paragraphs are an effort to do so for the Steam Engine Threshing Event on August 3 and 4 at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center.

We are formally announcing the Second Annual Steam Engine Threshing Event for the dates listed above. We are inviting all residents in the Arthur Area to become engaged in the planning of this event. Jim Fleming and I are co-chairs for this event and would like to conduct a variety of activities for those who would like to help build the event.

If you would like to become involved in the planning and implementation of these activities, please give

Bob a call or text at (217) 543-2232.

We need and welcome your ideas and thoughts about what activities we could provide during this event. Some of the activities which have been mentioned are horseshoeing, horseshoe pitching for all ages, field demonstrations, children’s activities, goat milking, cow milking, petting zoo, and activities which we need to hear about from you.

This is your opportunity to make the threshing event more enjoyable for everyone attending. I look forward to hearing from you.

I am not certain I need to comment on the “concerns” I read about in reference to the recent Arthur Rotary Club Fireworks. I was dismayed at what I read, but I also realized I did not have all of the information because I was in North Carolina.

There was never a doubt in my mind that Arthur would conduct its usual outstanding fireworks program because eventually everyone pulled in the same direction and “got ‘er done” for the enjoyment of the thousands of people who attended.

As a resident, as well as the Community Development Coordinator for the Arthur Area, it is refreshing and rewarding to live, work, and play in an area which works together for the betterment of our community and businesses.

Thank you to all of the people and businesses who “stepped up” and worked together to maintain the high expectations of high quality performances which all of our visitors have come to expect and demand.

By the time you read this article I will have completed an interview with WCIA explaining why I believe the Arthur Area is a great place to live, work, play, and visit for everyone.

At this time I am not certain what I am going to say, but I do know it will come from the heart because I experience, on a daily basis, the camaraderie and cooperation of our business owners and residents.

I think I am more grateful for that than I am proud. It is just another example of people in the Arthur Area working together to continue to “Grow In Arthur.”

Lake Fork Church to host ice cream social

Lake Fork United Church of Christ will hold their annual Homemade Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 14, serving at 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Featured flavors are chocolate, pineapple, lemon, and vanilla. Homemade pie and cake will also be available.

The church is located 2 1/2 miles north of Atwood.

Have Fun At
The 88th
Moultrie-Douglas
County
Fair!

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION



Town Talk

(Continued From Page 2)

Another sporting note from Decatur recently was that Rhonda (Smart) Glide-well is returning to Decatur LSA as the Lions head volleyball coach. LSA is in our LOVC NW division, so we’ll get to see a former school-mate for many of us on the sidelines.

Rhonda started her career with LSA, went to Decatur Eisenhower, and then enjoyed a hugely successful career at the junior high level at Our Lady of Lourdes in Decatur. She coached Decatur St. Teresa High School for a few seasons before sitting things out last year.

One final sports note, and this is from the Campaign newspaper. Each year they rank the sports programs (boys and girls combined for the award but they keep a separate tally as well) at each area school based on a formula that I don’t have time to explain. In other words, I’m not quite sure I understand all of it.

In any case for yet another year St. Joseph-Ogden High School pretty much walked away with the award. There are lots of connections to the Spartans program with our town so congrats to them.

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School finished in 13th place overall out of 45 area schools; not bad at all! Our girls programs scored a top ten finish, placing 8th. Hey! Go Knights!

Congrats to everyone mentioned!

Let’s Talk ‘Fall Ball’

I don’t want to interrupt anyone’s summer fun but back to school will be here before you know it along with all the fall sports and activities the new school year will bring.

The Knights football team under new coach Ryan Jefferson has their schedule set for the 2018 campaign, and I’ll share that with you now.

August 24, at Tri-County (Oakland);

August 31, versus Villa Grove-Heritage;

September 7, at Martinsville;

September 14, versus Arcola;

September 21, at Sangamon Valley (Niantic);

September 28, versus

Decatur LSA (Homecoming);
October 5, at Cerro Gordo-Bement (Cerro Gordo);
October 12, versus Argenta-Oreana;
October 19, versus Cumberlandland.

All games start at 7 p.m.

Team VBS Rocks It!

The Arthur Community Vacation Bible School recently completed another very successful week teaching an average of 235 kids each day about teamwork based on Biblical lessons and principles.

The organizing committee this year had nine members from five area churches: Arthur Mennonite Church (host), Sunnyside Mennonite Church, First Baptist Church of Arthur, Vine Street Christian Church, and Arthur United Methodist Church.

The Community VBS program had over 70 volunteers this year and a huge thank you to all who helped organize and assist every day.

Along with all the lessons, the week was a fundraiser for some very worthwhile organizations that put the lessons taught at Bible School into action year round. The group raised over \$5,500 for Special Olympics, the Arthur Lov-

ington Atwood Hammond Sports Boosters, and the Kara Kuhns Student Support Fund. Wow!

Everyone had fun, made a mark on their community as well as each other, and learned some very valuable lessons from the highest authority. Love It!

Thanks to everyone involved. T.E.A.M.!

Freedom, Lincoln, Illinois!

A Great celebration!

Saturday, June 30, and this year’s Arthur Freedom Celebration promised to be a big one, and it did not disappoint. The appearance of the replica of the Lincoln hearse was a huge hit with the crowds that thronged to Arthur for the display and the parade.

Let’s make that the huge parade with 175 entries! It is probably the largest parade held in our community which might have only been surpassed by the Centennial Parade of 1973.

It was amazing; it was amazingly hot, but amazingly fun! I do not know of a single soul that walked away from watching that parade who did not have an extra spring in their step.

Since the parade, I have

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