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Villa Grove News



Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!

Vol. 111 No. 42

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

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Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events

Villa Grove Devilettes 2019 ISHA Sectional Champs



The Villa Grove Devilettes were crowned the winners of the IHSA 1A competitive dance sectional competition at Mascoutah on January 19. With the win, the Devilettes qualified for the IHSA state finals, to be held at Bloomington's Grossinger Motors Arena on January 25-26. Photos courtesy of Devilettes.

City Council Begins New Year Addressing Senior Center Concerns

By Bill Price
Staff Writer

Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunter called to order the years first regular session of the City Council Meeting of 2019 on January 14 with the roll call and present were five alderman, one junior alderman and one alderman was absent. Led by the Mayor the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by all in attendance.

The members proceeded with the approval of the minutes for the last regular City Council and the Closed Session meeting on December 26, 2018.

The Council unanimously

approved the minutes of the last Public Works Committee Meeting held on December 7, 2018.

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of the last Special City Council Meeting and the minutes of the last Closed Public Works Committee Meeting. Both were held on January 3, 2019.

The Council unanimously approved the Claims for Payment of \$507,537.52.

Andy Kieser was not present for the Engineers Report. Department Head Scott Arbuckle announced the progress of the WTP was on track and the tanks would be

disinfected in early February.

The Council moved forward with the Business Section of the Meeting with the items listed below.

- Approve payment of monthly statement from Bud's Auto Parts-\$158.98.
- Approval of WTP Contractor Payment Number 8 in the amount of \$136,752.69.
- Approval of contract for services with Architectural Expressions LLP.
- Approval to renew contract with Steve Duke for licensed operator services.
- Approval to create an ordinance for renumbering of a Magnolia address.

The next items on the agenda are the Committee Reports.

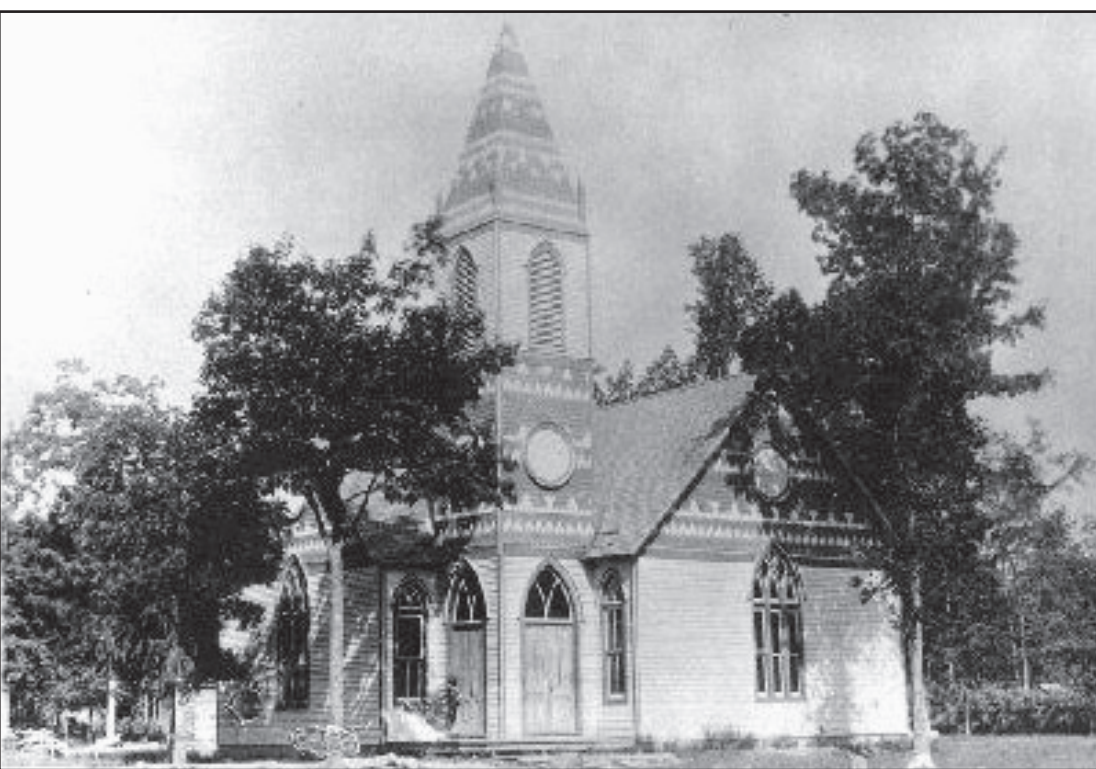
- Administration and Risk Management-Chair Blaney-nothing to report.
- Community Development-Chair Johnson-absent
- Emergency Services-Chair Leon-nothing to report
- Franchise Development-Chair Stipp-nothing to report
- Public Works-Chair Allen reported that Public Works did a great job with snow removal during the recent storm.
- Senior Center-Chair Griffith reported that Robin Cowman is now a volunteer

at the Senior Center and her work is greatly appreciated.

Mayor Gunter updated the applicant status of Sarah Bush Lincoln's search for a replacement at the Senior Center. There is currently a candidate that is being considered. The mayor will be discussing with Sarah Bush Lincoln that the activity segment be a part of the duties of that position.

Mayor Gunter announced there was no necessity for an Executive Session and the Council moved to adjourn. The next regular City Council Meeting will be January 28, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Peering Into The Past



Photos Top: Villa Grove Christian Church in 1925, Left: Villa Grove Methodist Church was moved into town in 1889 and burned to the ground in 1900. Photos courtesy Villa Grove State Bank celebrating 100 Years of Service.

Lawsuits Looming Against Newman Township

Submitted by Harvest Ridge Wind Farm.
DUE TO PENDING ZONING

(Newman, IL)-January 18, 2019 - Newman Township Trustees are continuing their consideration of a zoning proposal despite their own attorney's recommendation to hold-off. The proposed zoning is aimed at stopping wind farms from being built in the township. The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm has contracts with Newman Township landowners to build approximately 40 wind turbines in the township.

Neighboring Murdock Township enacted similar anti-wind zoning in October 2018, and shortly thereafter was sued by the Harvest

Ridge Wind Farm. Newman Township's attorney, Bob Lenz, recommended that the township wait to see the results of the Murdock Township lawsuit prior to taking any action.

"Don't be in a hurry to adopt it, otherwise you are volunteering to be in a lawsuit that you don't need to be in," stated Mr. Lenz at a Newman Township special meeting on December 19, 2018.

However, at a special meeting held on January 3, 2019, the majority of the Newman Township Trustees voted to move forward, despite their attorney's advice. Trustees Samantha Hutchinson, Mark Fraser and Jason Bosch voted in favor of the anti-wind zoning, and Jim Sanstrom and

Roger Sy voted against it.

The zoning saga continued on January 10, at the next regularly scheduled township meeting, when the trustees were presented with yet another recommendation from a second attorney urging them to hold off on enacting their proposed zoning.

This time, the request came from attorney Andrew Bequette, representing a significant local business in Newman Township. Mr. Bequette stated that local businesses would be harmed due to the zoning regulations and that his client was considering legal action if the zoning were enacted. He asked the township trustees to explain why they would go against their own counsel's advice to not

Signs of the Season

By Jim Balmer



A blanket of snow and ice crystals covering the trees in Villa Grove, IL. Photo by Jim Balmer. To comment on any of the photos featured in Signs of the Season email us at vgnews@mchsi.com or send a letter to Villa Grove News PO Box 20, Villa Grove IL 61956. Comments may be published in future editions of the newspapers.

- IMEA State Fest @ Peoria 1/23-1/26
- VGJH VB @ Okaw Valley 1/24 at 6:00 pm
- VGH GBB @ Oblong 1/24 at 6:00 pm
- VGH BBB @ LOVC tourney at Cumberland 1/25-time TBA
- VG Devilettes @ IHSA State finals 1/25-1/26
- VGH BBB @ LOVC Tourney Finals at Arcola 1/26-time TBA
- VGJH @ IESA 8th Grade Regional Tourney at BH 1/26 at 10:00 am vs Arcola
- VGH GBB vs Tri-County 1/28 @ 6:00 pm (Sr Night)
- VGJH VB @ St Joseph 1/28 at 6:00 pm
- VGH Frosh BBB vs Blue Ridge 1/28 @ 6:00 pm
- Villa Grove City Council MTG 1/28 @ 6:00 pm
- VGH GBB @ Martinsville 1/31 at 6:00 pm
- VGH Frosh BBB @ GRF 1/31 at 6:00 pm
- VGJH VB @ Tuscola 1/31 at 6:00 pm
- VGH BBB @ Oblong 2/1 at 6:00 pm
- VG Devilettes & Jr. Devilettes @ Tuscola Competition 2/2 times TBA

VGH Frosh BBB vs Heritage tourney 2/2 @ 10 & 11:30 am

VGH GBB @ IHSA Regional Tourney 2/4-2/8 time, location TBA

VGJH VB vs Shiloh 2/4 @ 6:00 pm

VGH BBB Vs Tri County 2/5 @ 6:00 pm at Mascoutah

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