



Villa Grove News



Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!

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Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Pages 8

Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events

VG SB vs Urbana 3/20 @ 4:30 pm

VGH BB vs Sullivan 3/20 @ 4:00 pm

VGH JV BB @ Sullivan 3/20 at 4:30 pm

LOVC Band Fest@ Oblong 3/21

VG SB @ Tennessee spring trip 3/22-3/23

3/22 PTO Family Fun Night

VG JH BB vs Okaw Valley (in VG) 3/25 @ 4:30 pm

VGH T&F @ Arcola 3/26 at 4:00 pm

VGH BB @ Judah Christian 3/26 at 4:30 pm

VG SB vs GRF 3/26 @ 4:30 pm

VG SB @ AO

First United Pentecostal Church of VG Pancake Breakfast 3/30 from 7am-10am @Fellowship Hall behind Dollar General-VG

Free Showing of "I Can Only Imagine" movie 3/31--4:00 pm @ VGUMC

Election April 2

VG Lions Club Pork Chop Dinner and Cash Giveaway 4/6 from 5-7 @ School Cafeteria Contact Lions Club Member for Info or Tickets

4/13 Camargo Township District Library Annual Dinner & Mystery Play @ Villa Grove School 6pm

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



Council Listens to Ordinance Request / Discusses Community Development

By Bill Price Staff Writer

Mayor Cassandra Eversole-Gunter called to order the March 11, 2019 City Council meeting and proceeded with the roll call. The alderman present were Darrell Griffith, Derek Johnson, Michael Leon, Thelma Blaney, Bruce Allen, and Junior Alderman present Molly Mixell and Grace Hutchison. Alderman Robert Stipp was absent. The Mayor then asked everyone to stand and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last regular City Council meeting held February 25, 2019. The minutes were approved unanimously. The next motion was made to approve the claims for payments in the amount of \$820,409.69 and also received unanimous approval.

Andy Kieser, project manager at Fehr Graham elected to present the Engineer Report to coincide with issues that will be addressed in the Business portion of tonight's meeting.

The next item on the Council's agenda is reserved for public comments.

The Council was addressed by Nancy and Chuck Wiley requesting a review of the ordinance pertaining to being unlawful to keep or maintain any hogs, rabbits, horses, cattle, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks or other like fowl within the corporate limits of the city.

Additionally the Mayor's office and the City Council have now provided a Constituent Request Card. This will afford the opportunity for those who may not be able to attend the regular Council meetings to be a part of the City's operations. The Constituent Request Card is available at the Council meetings and anytime during business hours at City Hall. Someone will respond to your request. The Mayor moved forward with the Business matters for the Council to address. Approval for engineering services from Fehr Graham in relation to the DOT bridge replacement project - \$9500 maximum. This would involve utilities that will need to be moved. Unanimously approved

Approval of WTP contractor payment number 10 - \$328,302.71. Unanimously approved

Approval of WTP change orders 4, 5 and 6 - \$34,119.57 total. Change order 4 involves cost incurred with sewer connection repairs. Change order 5 involves cost incurred with repairs to the wells. Change order 6 involves cost incurred with electrical repairs. Unanimously approved

Approve payment of monthly statement from Bud's auto parts - \$225.34. Approved with one reclause

Approve drafting execution of proposed amendment to the franchise agreement with Advanced Disposal concerning recycling service and yard waste collections. Unanimously approved

Approve proposal received for grinding/removal of 39 tree stumps. Proposal is \$4275. Unanimously approved

Approve hiring a full-time police officer. Unanimously approved

Approve attendance to summer conferences for

Athey (FY 20 budget). Unanimously approved

Approval to execute loan documents to finance wastewater treatment plant repairs - \$521,000.00. Unanimously approved

Approved purchase of 4 inch gas trash pump - \$2350.00. Unanimously approved

Approved purchase/repair of mower deck - \$4900.70. Unanimously approved

Approved purchase and hauling of rock for easement access - \$3040.00. Unanimously approved

Approved purchase of second shipping container - \$2100.00. Unanimously approved

The Mayor asked for Committee Reports

Administration and Risk Management - Chairperson Blaney - Consensus for printing utility bill forms cost of \$1683.92 which is a year's supply.

Community Development - Chairperson Johnson - Parks Works decided to stay with the same league for youth baseball due to time constraints.

Emergency Services-Chairperson Leon—Nothing to report

Franchise Development - Chairperson Stipp - Absent

Public Works - Chairperson Allen— Discussed weed cutting and spraying. Projects for Eagle Scouts this summer. Henson Park cleanup will be at 9 am April 6. Volunteers needed for park cleanups. Leaf pickup will continue into the spring due to the inclement weather experienced in the fall.

Senior Center - Chairperson Griffith - Nothing to report

Mayor Gunter announced that 16 business's had been contacted concerning the development of the lot beside JR's restaurant and to date over \$9000.00 has been raised for the project scheduled for completion May 1, 2019.

There was an Executive Session Meeting with no action to be taken and the regular meeting was adjourned.

The next City Council meeting will be March 25, 2019 at 6 PM.

(1992 Code, § 91.06) Penalty, see § 10.99

VGFD Discusses Flood Safety Awareness

By Tony Hooker Staff Writer

The week of March 10 to March 16 was Flood Safety Awareness week, and the week before that was the time change when folks were reminded to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, so it seemed like a great time to check in with VGFD chief, Ross Elston, along with VGFD officers Scott Smith and Patrick Lake, for a conversation about potential flood safety issues that he and his department deal with.

According to the VGFD, they responded to 116 calls in 2018. Sixty four of the calls were medical in nature, and 18 were fire related. Because they are a volunteer force, the fire department continues to face a shortage of fire personnel who are available to respond to day-time emergencies because of work situations, and they ask anyone who is in Villa Grove during the day to consider volunteering.

According to FEMA, flooding, is one of the most destructive forms of natural disaster, causing an estimated \$8 billion dollars a year in damage. What many don't

know is that flooding also causes around 90 deaths each year.

It seems pretty simple, but the first thing everyone should do is to determine the level of risk. Not all areas and neighborhoods in Villa Grove are in the floodplain, but most are near it and will have to traverse it to get to their homes. According to Elston, the FEMA buyout eliminated many of the houses that were prone to flooding. "The area bordered by Vine on the south and Wilson on the north, on the west side of town still has some issues due to the ditch coming in from the west," Elston stated, and Lake added that there are four or five homes on the street behind the hardware store that are prone to flooding. "We went from around 30 flood rescues during the 1994 flood to 3 during our last episode," Elston clarified. All three firemen stated that when it's really bad, McCoy subdivision becomes landlocked when it becomes bad enough to flood route 130.

Again, per weather.gov, once you've determined the level of risk, you will need to make disaster preparations. These start with writing a



The Embarrass River sits high within its banks near the Villa Grove School. Photo by Tony Hooker

family disaster plan. It's always a good idea to see if your insurance covers flood damage. If it doesn't, assess the risk and speak with someone about the need for flood insurance. It's always a good idea to inventory your personal property as well. Photos and videos of the interior and exterior of your home will come in handy if the unthinkable happens.

Be sure to keep all your important documents in a safe place. A safe deposit box is a great idea, if it's feasible. "When then come in after a flood, the amount of docu-

mentation that must be done is crazy," Elston stated. In 1994, the fire department did the assessment, but thankfully, Joe Victor (Douglas County Coroner and Emergency Management Agency Director) gets a group of volunteers together to do it now."

As strange as it might seem, you might have to evacuate, and you'll need to know where you can go. In VG, most of us have friends or relatives who can take us in for a bit, but in the case of a true disaster, evacuation sites will be announced.

Finally, be prepared to have a "keep in touch" plan for

friends, neighbors and relatives.

If the threat of flooding is eminent, try to keep informed by checking out various web sites.

https://www.weather.gov/, https://water.weather.gov/ahps/, https://mobile.weather.gov and https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/ are several that are listed by www.weather.gov

Wireless Emergency Alerts for Flash Flood Warnings are also available on most smartphones. https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea is the site for your phone applications.

If it does flood, remember to avoid areas where you know flooding is eminent. Never try to walk, swim or drive through swiftly flowing water, and never allow children to play in floodwaters or near culverts or storm drains. Chief Elston was quick to add to this point. "The bottom line is don't drive through water. Don't take your boat out in the flood waters. How many times did we have to stop people from doing that?" he asked rhetorically. Lake added that it is illegal to be in the flood waters. "The first time you think you should leave, you should leave," Lake stated. Cont. pg. 8

VG School-February Students of the Month



Villa Grove February Students of the Month (from left to right) Blake Davis 6th grade, Thomas Vandaventer 5th grade, Lyndsay Zoch 4th grade, Landyn Gaston 3rd grade, Yetsay Briones 2nd grade, Julie Swigart 1st grade, and Avery Kamerer kindergarten.

Schable Named March Teacher of the Month



Villa Grove Schools Teacher of the Month of March is Mrs. Angie Schable; 3rd Grade.