

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW

Or doesn't grow in my case! The old nursery rhyme about Mary who was quite contrary comes to mind. If Mary were gardening this year, she might be even more contrary than usual. Or perhaps she'd take up aquatic gardening with all the rain we've had?

It has either been too wet and if it is dry then it is often chilly with no sun. Who wants to plant cucumbers while wearing a snowsuit? Traditionally, Mother's Day is the big weekend to really get serious about gardens and flowers. Hard to get enthused about it with the gray skies and where the garden goes is still a mud pit. Then you add in a forecast with more rain and it makes one

want to give up hope. I'll just have to be patient; a virtue at which I do not excel.

I try to keep things simple and grow just the basics. For vegetables it is cucumbers and tomatoes mostly as I like them and just a few plants go a long way. I am a new fan of tomatoes as growing up I would not touch them. I still can't eat them just on their own but like them, if cut up small enough, in a salad.

Sometimes I dabble in radishes and carrots but they are quite a bit of work for not a big return. At least in the Otherwise garden here because I see other (and wiser) gardens and the stuff comes out of the ground ready to put on the grocery store shelf. My carrots are often too small for even a

bunny rabbit. The radishes often look like something from a science fiction movie. If Hollywood wants to make the movie "Killer Radishes Invade America" they can film it here.

As for flowers, containers are the way to go. I have peony and iris that come up every year on their own and they look great. I give them a pat on the head and tell them good boys. They look fantastic and I do basically nothing which I'm not sure will make me a master gardener anytime soon.

Otherwise it is containers, which is a wise choice for me. I like to move things around over the summer if it gets too hot, too wet, or too boring. Again I pick the hardiest of flowers so my brown thumb doesn't show. Geraniums, petunias, impatiens are all favorites. I've recently discovered portulaca or rose moss. It survived the heat and drought last summer just fine. Very pretty too although the decision to purchase was made completely by accident but it still worked for me!

I'm not very adventurous after dallying with dahlias that died, nasturtiums that went nasty, hibiscus that went into hiding, and worst of all creeping phlox that wouldn't creep. I'll stick with the basics again this spring if spring ever decides to show up or dry out.

I better get busy on this soon if my mutant radishes are going to make it to the big screen for that summer blockbuster! Maybe I should grow popcorn? Hope you make wise choices in planting your garden.

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



What I Fear About The Future

Every year is a new era in our family. For the first 20 years of our marriage, each year brought a new home, or a new job, a new pet, or a new family member. Or the new year marked a right of passage; a new tooth, a lost tooth, a swallowed tooth, a first haircut, a first really bad haircut from your 3-year old sister, having a toy removed surgically from a body orifice.

Then comes preschool, elementary, the rough middle school years, then the surreal world of high school. If our child can make it through all of that unscathed, graduation is a big deal. Whew. We always feel an overwhelming great feeling of success everytime we watch one of our kids walk down that aisle and claim their diploma. "We did it," we whisper under our breath. Not that they are going to move out the next day, or stop leaving their dirty socks on the floor; but there is HOPE that they will leave SOMEDAY.

I love all of my kids, but honestly, once they become teenagers, they develop a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality split. It's like living with a chimpanzee that has hemorrhoids. Starting a conversation can set them off into an arm waving frenzy. Or they pout because no one will talk to them. They are ravenous eaters, rude, borrow things without asking and never return them, and not the cleanest animals we have had in the house. I have owned hamsters that kept their have kept their homes cleaner than a teenager's room. Truly, I believe that is why God made teenagers so annoying to parents; it's so that it won't break

our hearts when they finally move out.

My daughter Portia will be graduating this year. This is a really big triumph for her and all of us, because she has had some pretty serious stumbling blocks to overcome in her school years. Portia is autistic. She is high-functioning when it comes to speaking and reading, but socially and physically and emotionally life is rough. She has such a sweet and innocent spirit about her, with not a mean bone in her body. She already has her next 4 years planned out. She will be going to Parkland in the fall, and after 2 years she will be transferring to the University of Illinois to study Entomology. (insects) She will be living at home. And she can stay here forever if she wants. She helps with the dishes and she doesn't get into my secret stash of chocolate.

The twins on the other hand do not understand (or care about) other people's boundaries. Their generation, I have noticed, lack the motivation to hurry. When running late, they give up rather than anxiously try to speed up and make it on time. This can be a really thing. That inner drive is what kept me going many times when I wanted to give up.

Yesterday I asked my son Rudy what he thought about doing after high school (he is a freshman now), and he answered me back, rather rudely. "I don't know!! I wish people would quit asking me that! I don't know what I want to do. I don't want to think about. I don't want to grow up."

His twin Rosa joined in, "I know. Growing up is scary. I don't know what I want to be either. I just want to lay in my bed with my cat and watch makeup videos."

Ambition. Where have you gone, sweet ambition? What has happened to our young people. In a time when they can explore every job there is, and learn exactly what they do by watching YouTube videos, they could get such an inside education! They could know for sure what they want to be if they would study it out instead of watching junk that makes them laugh. But they think they have plenty of time. They think Mom is old-fashioned and dumb because I can't set up an xbox.

Maybe the information is the problem. When people are given too many choices, it becomes very hard for them to choose just one. Perhaps that is what is happening now to young people. There is so much information out there to explore, good and bad, that it is crippling their decision maker mechanism.

Or perhaps we just have a whole generation of society that is lazy and who just want to sit and play video games and pet cats, who do not take responsibility for anything including picking up their own socks, or returning things they borrow. If this is the case, I'm glad I am getting older and more decrepit every day.

I just wonder how long it will take for the apes to figure this out and learn how to get out of their cages. I'm just glad that apes don't usually wear socks.

Villa Grove News
USPS 659-500
Greg Hoskins, Publisher
Jamie Morse, Advertising/Editorial
advertising@thevillagrove.com
Elizabeth Hamilton, Office Manager
news@thevillagrove.com

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8am-2pm
Wednesday 8am-12Noon

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In Douglas and Champaign Counties: \$32/year
In Illinois: \$34.00/year
Out of State: \$36/year
periodical postage paid at Villa Grove, Illinois
Published every Thursday by:
Better Newspapers Inc.
5-7 South Main Street
P. O. Box 20
Villa Grove, Illinois 61956
Postmaster: send address changes to
Villa Grove News, P. O. Box 20, Villa Grove, IL 61956
Ph.: (217) 832-4201
FAX: (217) 832-4001
E-mail: news@thevillagrove.com

Villa Grove
BINGO
Every Friday Night
VFW post 2876

6:30 pm- Early Bird
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo



This Weeks Jackpots:
Egg in a Basket Raffle \$2000
Blackout Jackpot \$825

Bingo Lic# B1934
Pull Tab Lic# P-48

ALL STAR PRO
Heating • AC
Plumbing
LLC

Locally
& Veteran
Owned

122 W. Sale St.
Tuscola, IL.
217-599-1046

DEADLINES
Classified- Friday @ 2pm
News- Friday @ 2PM
Ads- Friday @ 2PM

Business and Professional DIRECTORY
The following Business and Professional People are ready to serve you. Call for their services.

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!
ADVERTISE IN THE VG NEWS
AND THE SCC TODAY

NEW SPAPERS
& Reach up to 5000 customers
Call Jamie
AT THE VG NEWS OFFICE
832-4201 or
email - vgads@mediacombb.net
for more information on
AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING

EYE CARE
CHITTICK FAMILY EYE CARE

- Adult & Pediatric Eye Care
- Contact Lenses
- Custom Vision Correction
- Digital Retinal Exam
- Glaucoma detection & management

10 West Adams • Villa Grove, IL 61956
Office: 832-2111 Hours: Mon - Fri 8 - 5
Medicare assignments accepted/Health Alliance Provider

PRINT
Villa Grove News
5-7 S. Main Street,
Villa Grove, IL
Phone: 832-4201
All your print job needs:
Business Cards
Raffle Tickets
Envelopes
Copies and Faxes
and more

VETERINARY SERVICES
Four Counties Mobile
Veterinary Services
Kathleen M. Mcmanamon, DVM
House and Farm Calls
Small Animal and Equine
Hours:
Monday-Friday, Noon-8 p.m.
Saturday, By Appointment
Phone: (217) 834-3472

Area Church Services

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
1 South Pine Street,
Villa Grove, Illinois
Wheelchair Accessible
Where Lives are Changed!
Pastor Jerry L. Conner
Church 832-7071
Residence 832-8577
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.
Worship Service—10:00 a.m.
Evening Evangelistic
Service—6:30 p.m.
Monday
1st one of each month
Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m.
Monday—Friday
Ladies Prayer Group—9:00 a.m.
Tuesday
Youth Service—7:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday
Bible Study—7:30 p.m.
Free Home Bible Study
We welcome you to worship with
us in all of our services

VICTORY CHURCH
100 E. Second St • Camargo,
Illinois 61919
Pastor—Duane Piercy
Church 832-8398,
Email
info@victorychurch.life
Web Page: victorychurch.life
Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram
Service Times
Sunday
Adult Sunday School—
9-9:45 a.m.
Soul Cafe- 9am-9:45
Worship & Service—10:00 a.m.
RUSH Youth Group
1st & 3rd Sunday 5-7pm
Celebrate Recovery
7:15pm
Wednesday
Men's & Women's Bible
Study-6:30-8 p.m.
Thursday
Prayer Group—6:00-7:00 p.m.
Worship Team 7:00-8:00 p.m.
American Sign Language Available • Wheelchair accessible •
Nursery Care • Sports Ministries
• Motorcycle Ministry

LIVING HOPE FELLOWSHIP
(An Independent New Testament Church)
South of Villa Grove on Rt. 130
Pastor Randy Walters
Phone: 217-218-9001
Elder — Pete Lake, 832-2400
Sunday Worship Service—
10 a.m.
Communion is observed
each week.
Children's Church:
pre-school through fourth grade
For transportation to any service
call: 217-218-3217
Church facility is
wheelchair accessible
"Room for everyone. Enough
love to go around."

VILLA GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Growing Closer to the Heart of God"
302 Second St., Villa Grove
Pastor—Rev. Sandi Hire
Church 832-3971
Summer Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9am - noon
Email: secretary.vgumc@yahoo.com
Website: www.vgumcweb.org
Find us on Facebook for upcoming events
Sunday
9:15 am Sunday School
For All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Child care available during
Worship
Open Communion first Sunday
of each month
Walkers are welcome Monday-
Friday during office hours in the
Henson New Life Center
Quilters- contact the office for
opportunities to join our quilters
**Community Vacation Bible-
School**
"ROAR!" -
Safari Celebration!
July 7 – 11 Open to All Ages
Save the dates and watch for
more information

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
"Come Rejoice With Us"
701 N. Sycamore Street Villa Grove
Phone (217) 832-5231
Fax (217) 832-9348
website: www.fccvg.com
e-mail: fccvg@frontier.com
Minister—Mike Zylstra
e-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com
Morning Worship—9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Celebration
9:30a.m.
Age 4-5th Grade
Sunday Morning
Celebration Leaders:
Cecile Cassida & Seth Shunk
Sunday School—10:45 a.m.
Junior High Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
1st & 3rd Sunday 5-6pm
High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
1st & 3rd Sundays, 6-7:30pm
Youth Group Leader: Brenda Logan
Nursery care at all services.
Open Communion offered each Sunday

CAMARGO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
103 E. Main Street
P.O. Box 122, Camargo, IL 61919
Church—832-9388
e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com
Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Pastor - Lenny Summar
Traditional Worship - 9:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10:30
"Come just as you are to worship"
Open Communion first Sunday
of each month
Prayer Group - Meets after
Sunday Service

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove
Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanaefo
Office: 832-8352
Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm
Email: villagrove.hume@gmail.com
website: sacredheartandstmichael.com
Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm
Sunday 10:00am
Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume
8:00am
PSR:
Wed Eve 1st - 8th grade 6:30 - 7:20
and 9th - 12th 7:30 - 8:30 pm.