



Villa Grove News

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Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!

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Pages 8

Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events

WE HAVE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!

news@thevillagrove.com to submit your news related items and advertising@thevillagrove.com for all of your advertising needs!

- 5/8 VG School Early Dismissal 1:30
- 5/8 VG Booster Club 6pm
- 5/9 Spring JH & HS Choir Concert @ 7pm
- 5/10 Blue Devil Classic
- 5/11 VGHS Prom
- 5/12 Mother's Day
- 5/13 PTO Meeting @ 630pm
- 5/15 Motorcycle Safety Awareness Seminar from 10am-1pm at Villa Grove Senior Center
- 5/16 Girl Scouts Daisy Discovery Night @CTDL from 6-7pm
- 5/17-18 Villa Grove Town Wide Garage Sales
- 5/18 VFW Annual Rummage Sale @ VFW Hall 8-2
- 5/18 Countryside United Methodist Church Flea Market 7am-2pm
- 5/18 Camargo Township District Library Kids Prom for Pre-K - 3rd Grade 6-7pm
- 5/20 Villa Grove School Board Meeting @6pm
- 5/22 VGHS Finals Periods 1, 2 and 3
- 5/22 Villa Grove School Early Dismissal at 1:50 and 2pm
- 5/23 Villa Grove School 8th Grade Promotion
- 5/23 Donor Drive @ Camargo Township District Library 2:30-3:30
- 5/23 VGHS Finals Periods 4-5&6
- 5/24 VGHS Finals Periods 7&8 plus makeup
- 5/24 VGHS Graduation @7pm
- 5/27 Memorial Day

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

4way: A Friendly Stop for Nearly Four Decades

By Tony Hooker Staff Writer

For the better part of 50 years, the Fonner family has been slaking the thirsts and providing a gathering place for the citizens of Villa Grove.

Now, they've decided to seek out challenges that don't demand so much of their time and dare I say it, afford them opportunities to relax and do things that they want to do. I recently caught with Kenny and Barb and got them to share their stories and the reasoning behind their decision to put their iconic VG institution, the 4-Way Stop, up for sale.

Let's start at the beginning. Kenny, what did you do before you opened the 4-way?

<KF> I drove a semi for about 10 years and then I was an iron worker for about 20 more. Then, because of the republicans being voted in, I decided that I better open some kind of business for myself.

<laughs>

So, you retired from the union and built this? Do you remember what year that was?

<BF> We opened the bar on September 28, 1984. We opened the donut shop on January 1, 1985. Sue (Pruitt) and I thought we were going to get a day off when they were moving all that stuff here, but we didn't! <laughs> They got it all set up!

What made you decide to open a donut shop and bar?

<BF> It's his dream. It wasn't my dream! <smiles> I was completely satisfied with him being an iron worker and coming home every evening. I stayed at home and worked at the store (currently Rick's Country Market) about 4 hours a day. <KF> It was a lot different than working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week!

<BF> He worked as an iron worker in Danville at the General Motors plant, most of the time.

What were some of the early challenges you guys faced?

<BF> City hall, the council, really didn't want us to do it. They fought us every step of the way. Some of them were with us and some were against us. <KF> Doc Leon was with us, and Hutchison was, too.

When did the idea of adding the restaurant come to you?

<KF> It was all built at the same time.

<BF> It just wasn't ready when the bar was.

You always intended to eventually expand the donut shop into a full-service restaurant?

<BF> When they started the athletic facility on railroad street, no one ate donuts! When that closed, here they came, saying "Where's the donuts?" <laughing>

This is, without a doubt, a family affair. All your family is still involved in the business?

<both> Yes.

I would imagine that it's been rewarding, but also challenging to be so closely involved with your children in the businesses?

<BF> No, not really. We get along well. Our grandkids have worked here, also. It's really kept us close. They've all grown up and went out into the world. <KF> We're ready to get out, too! <laughs> <BF> The kids are ready to move on, too. We're all tired.

That's 7 days a week for 35 years?

<KF> Yes. When we first opened the restaurant, we were open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

<BF> That was with the donuts. We made the donuts at night, so we figured we might as well be open, too.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in purchasing your business?

<BF> You'd better be willing to work, but everybody knows that!

Have the rewards outweighed the struggles?

<KF> Oh yes! The bar and machines are still making money. The apartment upstairs could be rented out for another \$500 a month. There is an opportunity here.

<BF> We lived up there when we first opened, and I wanted a yard. Now we have a yard that we must clean up! <laughs>

What's the funniest thing that ever happened in 35 years? There's got to be some stories!

<KF> We were living upstairs and we were open 24 hours. I had a buzzer there in case anyone ever tried to rob us, they could hit the buzzer. One time about 1 o'clock in the morning, the buzzer went off. I jumped out of bed and put my pants and shoes on and when I chambered a round in my gun, I shot myself in the leg! <laughs>

<BF> I was right behind him and I said, "what did you do that for, you could have shot me!" <smiling>

<KF> Anyway, I got down there and it was three drunks who made a big mess and then wouldn't pay their bill. I made them pay up and then threw them all out!

<BF> I didn't know he shot himself until after he had thrown them out! It wasn't funny at the time. When I was driving him to the hospital, I thought the cops were going to meet us, because of the gun shot. It was a .22 automatic, and the doctor told him "Kenny, I'd advise you to get a bigger gun, because that's just going to make someone mad!" <both laugh>

<BF> The police never did come.

<KF> It went clear through. The stairs leading to the apartment used to be carpeted, and when I tore that (the carpet) out, I found the slug in the step! Being in business as long as



Kenny & Barb Fonner, at work in their long time establishment, the 4 Way Stop

you have, I would assume that you have some regulars?

<BF> We've had a steady stream of loyal customers. Unfortunately, a lot of our regulars have died. In fact, they call this (indicates where she's sitting) the dead man's chair because so many who have sat there regularly have passed on. This was Homer Potter's chair. Mick Hettinger used to always sit here. The farmers have been good to us over the years, haven't they, Kenny?

<KF> They sure have.

What's the worst thing about having your own business?

<BF> We have to do a lot of paperwork for the government, and they want it all on the computer, and I'm not computer wise. I can turn it on and find a few things but that's about it. Our granddaughter comes down once a month and takes what I've done on paper and put it into the forms that they need. It's nice, because her dad lives upstairs, and he gets to see his grand kids, and we do to. We have 10 grandkids and 19 great-grandkids!

Is there anything that I haven't asked you about.

<BF> It's a lot of work, but it's been worth it.

<KF> We're just ready to get out of here! <smiles>

<BF> We want to be able to do things that we want to do.

Your children have been working here as long as you have, and none of them want to take it over?

<BF> the boys were iron workers and they quit the same day Kenneth did. They (Kenny and sons) built this place. I drug my feet all the way, to begin with. It wasn't my idea. Like I said, I was happy at home, working four hours a day at the store! <laughs>

You work a little more than that now, right?

<BF> I just do the bookwork, these days.

Kenny, what's your role, these days? Do you still put on an apron back in the kitchen?

<KF> I do all the heavy cooking back there. I cook the roasts, the meat loaves. Mike comes in and makes the gravy on Sunday mornings. I make the hams.... <BF> he makes all the noodles.

<KF> I don't think you'll find another restaurant where you can come in and get meat, potatoes and three sides for \$6.50.

It's all hand- **Cont. pg. 2**

Special Education is an Integral Part of the Total School Program

The education of children with disabilities is an integral part of our total school program, and several special education programs are available. Because of the uniqueness of children's needs, it is sometimes necessary for us to have help from outside our district. This help is available through the Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education. Therefore, some of our students attend special education classes in our district, and other attend classes at E.I.A.S.E. programs in Arcola, Mattoon, Humboldt, and Charleston.

As a member of the Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education, additional services are available to our students. These are psychological and social work services; audiological services; curriculum aid; physical therapy; occupational therapy; teachers for the visually impaired, hard of hearing, and vocational education; braillest, early childhood programs as well as programs for the severely/multiply disabled and behaviorally/emotionally disordered; and program

administration.

A few children with disabilities require placement in special residential schools operated by private facilities. The district arranges these placements in conjunction with special education specialists and parents, and pays tuition prescribed by the state. The school district provides an incentive screening program in the spring for all children ages 3-5 as a method of identifying children whom may have difficulty in school. We test for possible hearing, vision, speech, motor and learning problems. This is an excellent program, and one of which we hope you will take advantage.

Before any child can become eligible for a special education program, a case study evaluation must be completed. Parents, teachers, administrators and community service agencies may refer any child for such evaluation.

Persons having primary care and custody of the child and the Illinois State Board of Education may also request a special education evaluation. Prior to the case study evaluation,

except for home/hospital instruction, the parent or guardian must be notified in writing of the procedures that will be conducted and that they will be asked for signed consent. Referrals may be made through the office of the building principal. Please call or write the office and this process will be explained to you.

All information obtained for a case study evaluation is highly confidential and will be treated in a like manner. The district maintains a policy detailing the method for obtaining student information, the confidential nature of the information, the use of the information, how the information is recorded and maintained, how long it is made available. You may read this policy in the office of the Superintendent.

Parents of guardians of a child with disabilities who disagree with the school regarding their child's special education program, lack of a program, his or her individual educational prescription, possible suspension

from the school, dismissal from a program, or even the recommendation of graduation from a program should contact the school Principal or district Superintendent to express their concerns and try to work out a solution. However, if these concerns cannot be resolved in this manner, a parent or guardian may seek relief by requesting an impartial due process hearing or special mediation. An impartial due process hearing is set by the Illinois State Board of Education, who will appoint an impartial hearing officer to hear both sides of the dispute and render a recommendation of the local school district. Requests for due process hearing should be made in writing to the procedures and their rights to representation.

Additional information regarding the rights of children with disabilities may be found in A Parents Guide, The Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities and

the Rules and Regulations to Govern the Administration and Operation of Special Education (23 Illinois Administrative Code 226- Special Education). These documents are available through the district Superintendent, the Regional Superintendent of Schools, most building Principals and the Director of Special Education. Please feel free to contact any of these offices for the detailed information.

All exceptional children in Illinois ages 3-21 have a right to a free appropriate public education. We are striving to provide these appropriate services. If at any time you wish to take advantage of a special program or have questions concerning the program, please feel free to all the unit office.

Sincerely,
Mr. Norman Tracy
Superintendent
Villa Grove Schools

Organ Tissue Donor Drive at Camargo Township District Library

Secretary of State Jesse White's Office to hold Organ/Tissue Donor Drive at Camargo Township District Library

DATE May 23, 2019

A Regional Coordinator from Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's Organ/Tissue Donor Program will be at the Camargo Township District Library on Thursday May 23, 2019 to provide information about the state's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry and advocate for those in attendance

to become part of this live-changing program. The drive will be held from 2:30-3:30

Currently, there are approximately 4,700 people in Illinois who are waiting for lifesaving transplants. Nationally, more than 114,000 are on the waiting list. Sadly, 300 Illinoisans die each year due to a shortage of organs. One organ donor can help improve the quality of life for up to 25 individuals.

Please visit the library on Thursday May 23, 2019 for

additional information about organ/tissue donation and to join the registry.

If you have any questions, you may contact Jackie Wells at the library or visit the Secretary of State's website at www.lifegoeson.com. For additional information from the department, please contact Samantha Brill at sbrill@ilsos.net or 217-558-1322. Camargo Township District Library

14 N Main St, Villa Grove, IL 61956. 217-832-5211. Jackie Wells, Director.



Villa Grove School Board seats change hands. Jim Kestner served 10 years and Kerry Cheely served 4 years were recognized for their outstanding service to the Villa Grove community through the years. Now joining the school board are Jerrad Zimmerman and Meagan Quigley.