



Villa Grove News



Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!

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Pages 6

Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events

WE HAVE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!

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

- 7/7-7/11 VG Community Roar VBS @ Villa Grove United Methodist Church 6:30-8:30
- 7/7-7/13 Moultrie Douglas County Fair
- 7/13 Douglas County Museum Reptiles and Amphibians 12pm
- 7/15 VG School Board Meeting 6pm
- 7/16 -7/20 Mattoon Bagelfest @ Mattoon Peterson Park
- 7/19 -7/27 Champaign County Fair
- 7/22 VG City Council Meeting@ 6pm
- Aug. 2-4 VG AG Days
- 8/3 DCRT Meeting 1-? @ Austin Apgar Farm
- 8/7 VG Shool Year 2019/2020 School Registration from 8-4
- 8/8 VG Shool Year 2019/2020 School Registration from 12-7
- 8/12 VG City Council Meeting @ 6pm
- 8/12 Camargo Board Meeting 7pm
- 8/19 VG School Board Meeting 6pm
- 8/26 VG City Council Meeting @ 6pm

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

Pool Your Resources: How Some Locals Escape the Heat

By Tony Hooker Staff Writer

Millions of people, both near the coast and far away, enjoy visiting beaches and the ocean.

These "salt life" folks enjoy everything beach and ocean related and share their love through apparel and window stickers by the millions.

Here in Central Illinois, however, there are other fun aquatic activities that move to the fore once the temperatures start rising. There are those "lake hair, don't care" types who enjoy boating, fishing and being drug around area lakes on skis, boards or tubes, and then there are those who prefer enjoying the peace and cool of a backyard pool.

I recently caught up with three different types of pool owners, to see what "chlorine life" is all about.

Bryanna Broady and Austin Dobbs have recently begun to expose their 2-year-old son Quinton to pool life, both at area public pools and in their recently purchased back-yard plastic pool. His 10-year-old brother Trevor also enjoys the "chlorine life".

As a day care provider, do you incorporate the pool into your daily routine on these hot days?

We haven't yet. We just set the pool up.

Right now, you have a blow-up pool. Do you see yourself having a bigger pool in the future?

We would love to have a bigger pool! Right now, we just don't have the space for it.

Did you grow up with swimming pools?

We had pools a couple of times growing up. It was a lot of fun.

Do you think you'll always have a pool?

Oh yes. When we can buy a new house, we want to get a pool that we can have forever, especially with Trevor turning 10 this year. We definitely like to spend a lot of time at the pools in Champaign.

<Austin> We want a pool as long as the kids are in the house. Once they're out of the house and I don't want

to take care of it, we'll probably graduate to a jacuzzi. <laughs>

As your kids grow, your pools will grow with them? And then you'll continue to use the public pools as well?

Yes, there are slides and lazy rivers and things that are fun. We would love to get Quinton into swimming lessons, but it's just so hard having to take him out of town.

It would be tough to put a lazy river in the back yard, right?

<Austin> We kind of have one, with the creek back there! <smiles> Depends on how much rain we've had that week!

Do you get in your pool with the kids?

Madi and I both got in there this weekend. It's the perfect size for us two and we had two toddlers in there here swimming. <Austin> I wonder if there's a statistic that shows how many homes have backyard pools in towns that don't have public swimming pools?

<Vgnews> That would be an interesting question for your alderman! <all laugh>

Vicki Stipp always had a pool growing up and so she made sure that she and her husband Bob have had one for their children and grandchildren to enjoy.

How long have you had your above ground pool?

<VS> Probably at least ten years.

Why did you decide to get one?

I had one as a kid, and we always wanted one.

How big is your pool?

<BS> It's eighteen feet in diameter.

When you were growing up, did you have an above ground or an in-ground pool?

<VS> It was just like that. Actually, I think it was about the same size.

What have been your best memories of having a pool?

<BS> I love watching the kids playing in it.

<VS> I like chilling out with Bob. Relaxing and enjoying it with a couple of beers.

<laughs> It's probably pretty nice to



An inflatable pool is a nice way to cool off. (photo by Bryanna Broady)

come home from a hot day at work and splash around for a bit, right?

<BS> Yes. It cools you off!

Now that you're empty nesters, do you see yourself keeping your pool going?

<VS> Yes, I want to.

<BS> Oh yea. We'll have to get a new ladder next year, but we'll keep opening it up. It's kind of an investment, with chemicals and everything, but we'll keep doing it.

Do you treat your own pool, or do you have someone come out and treat it?

We treat it ourselves. We take a sample to Ohana and they test it and tell us exactly what we need to add.

Greg and Tish Gulick had an above-ground pool when their children were little, both for expense and for safety reasons. About 4 years ago, as their sons got older, they began to consider other outdoor recreational activities such as

boating or camping before realizing that an in-ground pool would fit their lifestyles better than any of the activities.

How long have you had your in-ground pool?

<TG> I believe this is the fifth summer.

Did you have a pool before that?

<GG> We had an Intex above-ground pool, like the ones you get at Walmart.

<TG> We had three of those! Every three years we would get another one because they were perfect for the kids. They were cheap, and they were convenient.

What was the impetus to go with the in-ground pool?

<TG> We always wanted one, but the expense held us back. Plus, when the kids were younger, we did not want that availability. They grew up taking swim lessons, but we were concerned. My parents live in Florida and they have an in-ground pool, but they have alarms on every door. Drowning is the leading cause of deaths for children in Florida. That, along with the cost were what prevented us from getting one sooner. The Intex pools were great for that age. They were very cost effective, and the kids didn't care. A cannonball's a cannonball, right? <laughs>

<GG> We used to go to Champaign and get estimates for different types of pools and we would always come home and think "That's just

so much money." One of her friends had gotten an in-ground pool from the Great Escape in Bloomington and we found that it was literally half of some of the other estimates we had received. We went over and started looking around and talking to the guy, and he said this model can be partially buried or it can be completely in-ground. It cost a few hundred dollars more, but with an in-ground, with concrete, you wouldn't have to do maintenance on a wood deck, and it's cheaper to put in. Before you know it, we were having it put in! It was in August, and the boys were in it before the concrete work was done!

How many hours do you spend in or around the pool in a week?

<TG> It's hard to say, because the access to the pool is our back covered porch and patio and, in the summer, we're out here all the time. The back porch is kind of like part of our kitchen, so as soon as we can open it we're out here. When Greg got sick, he couldn't do anything except come and sit outside. We've gotten so much use out of it. We're not boaters or campers, we thought about all those things, but we thought that this would be our form of recreation. We can go golfing and then come home and hop in t

the pool. The idea of having the kids have **Cont. pg. 3**

Gold and Silver Spoon Awards

By Aaron Patrick

Congratulations to the following food establishments which received the Gold Spoon Award for excellence in training of Certified Food Protection Managers and Food Handler Staff at the required levels at all times for the month of June 2019: Subway-Arthur, Subway-Tuscola, El Toro, Carriage Crossing, Moose Lodge, Hen House, Dairy Queen-Arcola, Jarman

Center, Tuscola Peace Meals, Two Red's BBQ, Penn Station, El Taco Tako, McDonald's-Tuscola, and Pizza Hut.

The Silver Spoon Award was awarded to an establishment with food preparation for excellence in training of Food Handler staff, and that winner is: Holiday Inn Express.

A Gold Spoon Award was awarded to retail establishments with no food prepara-

tion which had no violations observed at the time of their annual inspection, and they are: C&C Kettlecorn, Tuscola T-Sno, and Patty Wagon Antiques.

I would welcome conversation about this program and other topics concerning the food program. I can be reached at 217-253-4137 or by email through our website, www.dchealthdept.org.

The Age to Buy Tobacco is Now 21

Tobacco 21 reduces medical costs and improves Illinois' health

SPRINGFIELD – Effective July 1, 2019, people must now be at least 21-years-old to buy tobacco in Illinois, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vapes. Governor JB Pritzker signed the initiative, known as Tobacco 21, on April 7, 2019. Illinois was the 7th state in the U.S. (tied with Virginia) to implement raising the tobacco purchasing age from 18 to 21 years.

"I'm so proud that Illinois became the first state in the Midwest to raise the purchase age for tobacco to 21," said Gov. Pritzker. "This law will reduce costs for our state, make our schools and communities healthier places to learn and live, and most importantly, will save lives. I am grateful to Senate President John Cullerton and our legislators in the General Assembly, as well as all of the advocates and organizations

who made this critical legislation possible."

"Once again, we've seen the difference Governor Pritzker brings to office," said Senate President John Cullerton. "He too recognizes this as a vital public health improvement that protects our children from a known danger and hopefully spares many from a lifetime of addiction and health problems."

About 4,800 Illinois teens become new daily smokers each year. In 2016, 15.8% of Illinois adults smoked, resulting in an estimated 18,300 deaths each year associated with tobacco use. In 2017, 7.6% of high school students smoked on at least one day in the past 30 days.

"Nicotine is addictive, and adolescents and young adults are more susceptible to its effects because their brains are still developing," said Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Delaying the age when youth first try tobacco

can help reduce the probability that they will smoke as an adult. Raising the purchasing age will not only help reduce the number of people who smoke, but will also reduce medical costs in Illinois and make our communities healthier."

Tobacco 21 will help keep tobacco out of high schools. Most underage tobacco users rely on social sources like friends and family to get tobacco. Approximately 90% of those who supply cigarettes to minors are themselves, under the age of 21.

National data indicate about 95% of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 21. According to a study from the National Academy of Medicine, Tobacco 21 policies could reduce overall smoking by 12% by the time today's teenagers become adults. The biggest decrease in tobacco use could be among youth ages 15-17 (25%) and 18-20 (15%).

Smoking-related health

care costs in the U.S. are estimated at almost \$5.5 billion annually, with another \$5.3 billion lost due to smoking-related losses in productivity.

In addition to prohibiting the sale and sample distribution of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and alternative nicotine products to individuals under age 21, the law:

- Requires tobacco and e-cigarette retailers to update all posted signage required by Illinois law with the minimum sales age of 21 for tobacco products, tobacco accessories, alternative nicotine products, e-cigarettes, and e-liquids and solutions, regardless of whether they contain nicotine.
- Requires tobacco and e-cigarette retailers to update age verification training programs for employees.
- Specifies age verification requirements for retailers, requiring a person who appears to be under the age of 30 to show government-issued photo identification.

Clarifies penalties against retailers for violation of sales provisions - in a 24-month period, 1st offense - \$200; 2nd offense - \$400; 3rd offense - \$600; 4th or subsequent offense - \$800.

Removes penalties for youth possession of covered products, including fines (previously \$50-\$100) or attendance at a smoker's education or youth diversion program.

Smoking at an early age increases the risk of lung cancer. For most smoking-related cancers, the risk rises as the individual continues to smoke. Among young people, the short-term health consequences of smoking include respiratory effects, addiction to nicotine, and the associated risk of using other drugs.

Currently, 16 states have raised the tobacco purchasing age from 18 to 21.