

ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

Village of Arthur officers sworn in for the 2021-2022 season

61911 area code had only a tenth of its residents vaccinated for COVID19 through mid April

By ARIANA R. CHERRY
Staff Writer

The officers for the Village of Arthur took the “Oath of Office” for the 2021-2022 year. Jim Fleming is a new trustee on the board who took the place of Jenni Marn-er. “I am looking forward to working with everyone,” he quoted. Mayor Rod Randall informed the board that Jim had worked for Agri-Search for 20 years and also spent 12 years on the fair board. “We are glad to have you,” Rod told him.

Mike Hilgenberg reported \$274,298.29 for expenditures. There was no spending that was “out of the usual.”

Dave Tiffan informed the board that he had been receiving multiple calls about potholes in town. “We have some serious problems with the roads in Arthur. There are huge pot-holes in them,” he said. Matt Bernius replied by explaining that there are some future plans for oil and chipping on some of the roads, and that the village had also been short of manpower lately. Arthur has also been short on motor-fuel tax funds. “If there are issues, please let us know so we can address them,” Matt replied to Dave. Rod extended Matt’s reply by saying if there was a specific street and areas within Arthur, please let the village know so that those problems could be addressed.

Police Chief Michael Goodman stated that the department was now in the new fiscal year. He informed everyone that there would be a police committee meeting



Village of Arthur Board Members took the “Oath of Office” at the May 3 board meeting. Pictured from left to right, Village President Rod Randall, Trustees Matt Bernius, Mike Hilgenberg, Dave Tiffan, Jim Fleming, Christy Miller and Justin Ray.

between now and the next meeting where he would be talking about the grant that he wrote for the new camera systems as well as upgrading the tazers.

For new business within the village, a quote of \$4500 was approved for new cabinets to be put in at the new Waste-Water Treatment Center. The quote would purchase cabinets that were the most basic and durable. A new countertop purchase in the amount of \$3,911 was also approved.

Storm Smith was hired as a part-time worker for the Public Works Department. His primary job would be to run the street sweeper around 3 and 4 am.

A TIF request in the amount of \$13,600 was ap-

proved at 807 E Mill Street for building repairs and improvements.

Rod informed the board that he had received an email from the Chicago Tribune stating that they were covering a news article reporting that the 61911 zip code had the lowest rate in vaccines. It was stated that just a tenth of residents in the area had received the

vaccine through mid-April. The Tribune asked Rod to make a statement towards that information. He stated that Arthur had a lot of individualism, there were people who deliberately didn’t want to get vaccinated and some members of the community stated that it would be helpful if their doctors or local pharmacies would have the ability to administer the vac-

cines. In the article presented by the Chicago Tribune, Rod quoted, “No amount of encouraging, or debate, or incentivizing will make a significant difference to many of the deliberately unvaccinated.” As of recent, the Douglas County area COVID cases have been significantly lower with cases averaging no more than 5 per day in the last couple of weeks.

Regional Office Of Education #11 Recognition Of Excellence Award

The Regional Office of Education #11 is pleased to announce the 2021 2nd Annual ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award Recipients.

The Regional Office of Education #11 requested nominations from each school district within the region seeking to highlight a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 educator who has modeled excellence in education. Nominees included exceptionally skillful and dedicated individuals who have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and co-workers. They also play active and useful roles within

their communities as well as schools; often distinguishing themselves as leaders. Their most important quality is their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Nominations were accepted through February 2021, reviewed by a committee, and one educator per school district was selected to receive the distinguished ROE#11 Recognition of Excellence Award.

Dr. Kyle Thompson, Regional Superintendent said, “We are privileged to have so many outstanding educators

within our region, passionate about the profession, and dedicated to our students. It’s an honor to recognize and validate their meaningful efforts. Education is truly a work-of-heart and these educators work with relentless persistency, creativity, flexibility, and competence. Our students, schools, and communities benefit from their skills, knowledge, and compassion.”

Congratulations to the following 2021 ROE #11 Recognition of Excellence Award Recipients:

Arcola CUSD #306: Lisa
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Arthur Library Summer Reading Club

Arthur Public Library will be hosting a Summer Reading Club this year and would like to invite all K-5 students to join.

Programs will be held outside and all activities will be guided by library staff. As per CDC guidelines, we are not requiring mask use at our outdoor programs.

However, please keep in mind that mask use is required and enforced in the interior of the library. Thank you in advance for

observing these safety precautions.

The goal of summer reading is to help maintain or even grow students’ reading skills over the summer so they can return to school feeling confident and excited about reading.

Sign up starts Tuesday, June 1st. If you have any questions or concerns about the Summer Reading Club visit the library or give the library a call at (217) 543-2037.

Arthur CUSD hires new grade school principal at special board meeting

On Thursday, May 6 the Arthur School board held a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. relating to personnel.

Andrew Peralta was hired by the board and received a 3-year contract as the new Arthur Grade School Principal. He will be replacing current Arthur Grade School Principal Sage Hale who resigned at the March 18 school board meeting. Peralta and his family will be at the regular meeting on Wednesday, May 19.

In other action the board hired two new teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. Rose Hollingsworth will be

the new Special Education teacher at Lovington Grade School and Mary Huffman will be the new 4th Grade teacher at Arthur Grade School.

Cody Duzan was also approved as the volunteer Assistant Bass Fishing coach for the 2021-2022 school year.

Letters of resignation were accepted from Lyle Dorjahn as Atwood Hammond Grade School janitor, Doug Davis as the National Honor Society sponsor, and Amy Hooten as the Junior Class sponsor effective at the end of this school year.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK. To honor and recognize the teachers and staff of our schools the District #305 Education Foundation delivered doughnuts from Yoder’s Kitchen to Arthur Grade School, Atwood-Hammond Grade School, Lovington Grade School and Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School on Thursday, May 6 for Teacher Appreciation Week. Pictured are Marty Yeakel, Danny Powell and Carol Smith, board members of the Education Foundation. District #305 Education Foundation works with local businesses, alumni and community groups to complement and enhance the educational opportunities of students attending schools in the communities of Arthur, Lovington, Atwood and Hammond.

News Briefs

All-Around Town Garage Sales

Arthur’s town wide garage sales will be held Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15. Garage sale map is in this edition.

Senior Citizens luncheon returns

The Senior Citizens Luncheon for May will be held on Monday, May 17, at the Community Building, 120 East Progress Street.

Serving begins at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a covered dish. Meat and drinks are furnished.

Everyone is welcome.

Volunteers Needed

The Arthur American Legion Post #479 needs volunteers to help set out the flags at the Arthur Cemetery on Saturday, May 29 starting at 8:00 am.

Red Cross Community Blood Drive May 13

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held in the Arthur community on Thursday, May 13, from 1-6 pm at the Arthur United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

This drive has been approved by the Douglas County Health Department.

The Red Cross is still in need of blood during this time and the following safety precautions will be followed during this drive.

Everyone will be required to wear a mask, temperatures will be taken before donors enter the room, no additional guests or children will be able to enter, and the Red Cross is asking all donors to call and/or register this time instead of just walking in.

Please do not come if you are not feeling well or have other symptoms.

Walk-ins will not be turned away but a limited number of people will be allowed at each time.

All donors at this time will also be able to be tested for a COVID-19 antibody through the Red Cross.

One car accident victim can use as many as 100 units of blood. Be the lifeline patients need. Give blood and give life. You can make an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Thank you for giving blood!

Have
A
Good
Week!