

BOARD

Continued from 1

for the County's purposes in and for the fiscal year beginning December 1, 2020 and ending November 30, 2021. Adjustments will be made as necessary and approved monthly at the full County Board Meeting and published within those minutes."

Following, they approved Resolution 20-R-42, extending the declaration of emergency in Douglas County for 30 more days due to COVID-19. The state of emergency was declared in the county on March 18, 2020. The declaration allows Board Chairman Don Munson to have authorization to sign documents and approve finances as necessary without the need to

call an emergency meeting. The declaration also allows the board to continue to live-stream their meetings on Zoom while still being within the Open Meetings Act.

The board then approved a contract extension for public defender T. Jeanine Garrett for a one year term beginning January 1, 2021. They also approved the appointment of Chana Ray as Interim EMA Director until March 17, 2021. The board then appointed Kevin Breen to the Douglas County Ag Center Board of Directors for a three year term as well as Dr. Virginia Wade to the Douglas County Health Board for a three year term.

The meeting ended with an update from Douglas County Health Department Administrator

Amanda Minor with the Health Department's Annual Report. Minor reported that the DCHD has a lot of services, not just those that are COVID-19 related. The DCHD also handles dental, immunizations, blood drawing services, nail cutting services, and so much more. However, Minor noted that there were a lot of changes this year due to COVID-19, including no patients in the office, and a large number of COVID-related services required in the county. She reported that thus far the DCHD has completed over 26,000 tests, these are currently being completed in a drive-thru setting at the DCHD's new spot in the Outlets of Tuscola between Old Navy and Vanity Fair. Minor also notified the board that the DCHD should soon begin

receiving shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine. She said that healthcare workers, first responders, and residents of long-term care facilities will be given priority in the first-wave vaccine immunization. Candidates for subsequent waves are likely to be people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, people aged 65 or older, and other congregate populations, though state officials continue to fine-tune these lists. Minor noted that once the vaccine becomes available to everyone the DCHD is planning to do a large drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic. She also commented that the vaccine is an emergency-use vaccine and it will have side effects, they are your body's defense to building

it up. She ended thanking everyone in the county for being able to come together to help one another during these times.

The board also:

* Approved the minutes of the November 18 regular board and November 30 special board minutes.

* Approved the transfers and/or emergency appropriations.

* Approved the payments of the county's financial obligations.

* Approved the reports of fees of county offices.

* Approved Resolution 20-R-41 approving increases in appropriations in the fiscal year 2020 budget and appropriations bill in reference to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

* Approved Resolution 20-R-43 authorizing ex-

ecution and amendment of Federal 5311 Grant Agreement.

* Approved Resolution 20-R-44 approving bridge construction contract.

* Approved Ordinance 20-O-14 establishing a risk management plan for calendar year 2021.

* Approved an extension of contract services for property evaluation and tax advisors.

* Authorized the county clerk to close fiscal year 2020.

* Announced that they would be accepting applications for the EMA Director. The application will be available soon and following interview dates will be set appropriately.

* Adjourned at 10:32 a.m. until the January 20 board meeting at 9 a.m.

VACCINES

Continued from 1

partment of Health and Human Services.

Can I just get one dose?
*You DO need to receive both doses of the currently available vaccines in order to have the full protective benefits from the virus. If you receive the Pfizer vaccine, there will be at least 21 days between doses, and for Moderna it's at least 28 days. Testing has shown both vaccines to be approximately 95 percent effective

when taken as recommended. Current research indicates that level of protection kicks in approximately one week after the second dose is administered.

I'm afraid the vaccine will give me COVID.

*You will NOT get COVID-19 from the vaccine, because it does not contain a live virus.

I'm afraid the vaccine will mess with my DNA.

*The vaccine will NOT alter your DNA. While it gives instructions for your cells to make a spike protein that will attack the corona-

virus should you become infected, it does not get into the cell's nucleus, which is where your DNA is stored.

What kind of side effects can I expect?

Most vaccine recipients experienced no side effects related to the vaccine. Of those who did, the most common—both in clinical trials and with the public vaccination campaign—have been arm soreness at injection site, headache, and fever, typically lasting 24 to 48 hours. The majority of those experiencing these report them to be mild and

similar to what any vaccine might cause.

There have been a handful of instances in which the Pfizer vaccine caused breathing difficulties in the recipient. Because of this, recommendations are for anyone with a history of severe allergies to consult their medical provider before being immunized. Having the vaccine administered in a clinical setting, in the unlikely event that an adverse reaction ensues, is also recommended for these patients.

Moderna vaccine on

its way to Douglas County

Douglas County's first allocation of vaccine is enroute, and as previously mentioned, will be going to specific populations. But so as not to have any possibility of vaccine waste, DCHD is creating a waiting list of people interested in being immunized. Should the initial supply be greater than the numbers of targeted populations, those on the waiting list will be notified of availability. To be included on the list you will need to fill out a brief survey, the link to which can be found

on the Dec. 24, 2020 DCHD Facebook page post.

And vaccinated or not, it remains crucial that you continue to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and regularly wash your hands. If you are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms, do not go out in public, other than to get tested. Testing is done at the DCHD Tuscola outlet mall site Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (no testing on 12/31/20). Please have your insurance information and ID with you at that time.

Obituaries (Continued from page 3)

Ervin A. Yoder

Ervin A. Yoder, 84 of Arthur, IL passed away at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Private family funeral services were held on Saturday, December 26, 2020. Burial was in the Arthur Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements. Due to current circumstances, the family will be hosting a Celebration of Life gathering later in 2021. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Illinois Amish Heritage Center, www.illinois-amish.org

Ervin was born on April 2, 1936 in Arthur, IL. He was a son of Abe D. and Amanda (Helmuth) Yoder. He married Bernadine Albrecht on July 6, 1963 in Arthur, IL.

He is survived by his wife, Bernadine of Arthur, IL, four children, Michael Yoder and his wife Jacqueline and their children Isobel, Max and Theo of Lyttelton, New Zealand; Laurie Dayton and her husband Jeff and their son Derek of Tolono, IL; Jamie Yoder and his wife Debbie and their children Natalie, Elliott and Geneva of Chicago, IL; and Joy Manna and her husband Andy and their children Molly, Sam and Alice of Zionsville, IN; two sisters, Arlene Yoder of Arcola, IL and Elmina Yoder and her husband John of Bloomfield, IA and two sisters-in-law, Janice Yoder-Thomas of Arthur, IL, Doris Yoder-McDonald of Mattoon, IL and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Abe and Amanda Yoder; four brothers, Kenneth, Clarence, Lester and Reuben; two sisters, Mary Alice, and Carrie; a brother-in-law, Milton Yoder and a sister-in-law Florine Yoder.

Ervin started in the construction business working for Amos Miller Construction around 1964. He joined with a partner, Jake Chupp, to form C & Y Construction, then merged with the Schrock brothers to create OE Schrock Inc. They built many homes and apartments in a 75 mile radius and operated many divisions within the company, such as Coach House Garages, CHI Overhead Doors, Schrock Drywall, and New Home Construction & Remodeling. He later formed the Horizon Home Centers including Ace Hardware and branching out to Monticello Horizon and Schrock Kitchen

cabinet stores in Decatur, Champaign, and Monticello. He became president of ILMDA (IL Lumber Material Dealers). He served on the board for MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Association) for 9 years which aided in assisting startup businesses with small scale loans. He was very interested in the development of Arthur and was active in the Arthur Area Economic Development Corporation. He was a member of Rotary for many years, enjoying the weekly lunches at Yoder's (the original restaurant he built). Ervin always felt that his best achievement was providing jobs for many people through the years, so it was painful to sell the Horizon operation and retire. But it also gave him the opportunity to take the whole family on trips to Mexico, Hawaii, the Dells, and spend some time in Phoenix as well. He was also able to experience trips to see our son, who has made his home in beautiful New Zealand.

The church has always been important to Ervin, for which he built the Fellowship addition on to the original church and served as a trustee for many years.

Ervin's latest interest was joining board members who want to preserve the house in which he was born and that his great grandfather (Moses Yoder) built when he settled in Arthur in 1860. The home preservation is part of the Illinois Amish Heritage Center which was developed to save some authentic history.

His optimistic attitude served him well and it was difficult to see our big, strong husband and dad beaten down by COVID. With his wonderful work ethic, he always loved the mornings - so if you met him anytime of the day, he would greet you with "Good Morning!"



Patricia Hackler

Patricia (Patty) Hackler, 81, of Arcola, IL passed away at 2:03 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date. Patricia's wishes were to be cremated. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Patricia was born January 19, 1939 in Ashmore, IL. She was the daughter of Jack and Frances (Smitley) Melton and was the oldest of ten children. She married Kenneth Hackler on December 30, 1956 in Oakland, IL.

She is survived by her husband, three children, Rick Hackler and his wife Carol, of Arcola, IL, Cheryl Dill of Cape Canaveral, FL, Brian Hackler and fiancé Teri Bickel, of Mattoon, IL, six grandchildren, Courtney Hackler (Jen) of Peoria, IL, Kellie Hall (Kevin) of Edwardsville, IL, Joe Hackler (Amanda) of Granite City, IL, Blake Dill (Jen) of Merritt Island, FL, Carly Dill of Cape Canaveral, FL and Caleb Hackler of Charleston, IL, and seven great-grandchildren, Aubrey Dill, Jaydon, Adrina and Rowan Dill, Kali and Layla Hackler, and Leland and Calvin Hall, two brothers, Jack Melton and Larry Melton and three sisters, Carolyn Bogan, Marlene Melton-Bray and Bev McCammon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, one sister and beloved grandson, Jared Hackler.

Patricia was a member of the Church of Christ at Kemp, IL. She had a rewarding career of many years at the We Care Nursing Home in Arcola, IL, serving as a nurse's aid, director of activities and social services and finally serving as the nursing home administrator.

In her younger days she enjoyed card club, bowling league, square dancing, was an accomplished seamstress, and was a member of the Cornfield Chemical Club. In her later years she enjoyed attending sporting events, and other activities, of her children and grandchildren, including out-of-state college games. In the early days of the Arcola Food Pantry, she was recruited by a friend to volunteer there and she also served as a volunteer during the Raggedy Ann Festival races. She was also a very devoted pet-parent.

She and her husband traveled extensively throughout the country and she especially enjoyed traveling with friends to Mesa, AZ for Cubs spring training.

Memorials may be made to the Church of Christ at Kemp, IL or the Arcola Food Pantry.

FARM

Continued from 1

are participating in broadband expansion, following up on bringing electricity to farmers 90 years ago.

We have settled into our winter routine. We have cut brush and fixed tile when the weather is decent and work in the shop when it is winter. The third tractor this winter is in the shop presently to change oil and filters and do minor maintenance. We have already hauled one bin of beans into the elevator. There is some grain moving as prices have moved higher after harvest.

The same factors as earlier this fall are at work in the grain markets. World supplies of grains are not as big



Arthur B. Urban

Arthur Bert. Urban, of Atwood, IL passed away at 6:52 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL.

Arthur was born on June 19, 1951 in Oak Park, IL. He was a son of Arthur James and Muriel Edwina (Kalbec) Urban. He married Dianne Mary Gari on September 3, 1972. She passed away on January 30, 2004.

He is survived by one daughter, Anna Urban of Port Huron, MI; three grandsons, Eian, Arthur Bert, and Dennis Urban; one brother, Daniel Urban Sr., and sister Sharon Roach.

Arthur was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Dianne, his son Arthur James Urban and two sisters Carol Ann Faight and Gayle Gondeck.

Arthur was a 1970 graduate of Riverside Brookfield High School in Riverside, IL. He attended Triton College and earned his master's degree in social work.

He was a retired US Coast Guard Veteran.

Arthur also retired as a Police Officer for the town of Cicero, in Cook County IL. After retiring from the police-force he worked as a Code Enforcement Official for the town of Cicero, IL.

He moved to Atwood in 2009.

He was a member of the Vine Street Mennonite Church in Arthur, IL, the Atwood American Legion James Reeder Post 770.

Arthur was always very active in mentoring young people, starting with his own children in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. He really enjoyed Aerospace and Science and he enjoyed a good art project as well as a good woodworking project.

He served as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Civil Air Patrol. He was also an Ambassador for NASA STEM Engagement.

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