

## Obituaries

### Myrna J. Madigan

Myrna Jean (Rochat) Madigan, 82, of Danville, IL formerly of Longview, IL passed away July 8, 2021 at the Odd Fellow - Rebekah Home, Mattoon, IL. Myrna, known as Jean to her very close friends, was born October 13, 1938 in Sullivan, IL to William L. (Bill) Rochat and E. May Rochat.

A private graveside service will be held at Smyser Christian Church Cemetery in rural Gays, IL.

Myrna graduated from Villa Grove High School. She attended Murray State and Eastern Illinois Universities where she studied art. She was a stay-at-home mother for several years. Myrna then worked in several financial institutions before founding Farm Business Consultants, Tuscola, IL, which she owned and operated for over 20 years.

After selling her business and retiring, Myrna turned back to her artistic interests. She became a master artist in spinning, weaving and knitting and honed her skills through courses at a variety of venues including the John C. Campbell Folk Art School at Brasstown, North Carolina. She was the recipient of a 2021 Illinois Arts Council Agency Ethnic & Folk Arts Master/Apprentice Program Award. This program helps communities preserve their own culture by providing for a master traditional artist to pass on their skills to a qualified apprentice in a time-honored method in order to preserve Illinois' exceptionally rich cultural heritage. She was an active member of the Champaign Urbana Spinners and Weavers Guild, the Five Mile House Foundation of rural Charleston, IL, and the Amish Heritage Center near Arcola, IL.

Myrna was a member of the Tuscola Rotary Club, serving as the club's first female president in 1995. Myrna traveled to Nice, France for the 1995 Rotary International Convention. While in Europe, she was able to research her Rochat family genealogy and tour in Switzerland. She was a life member of the Switzerland County Historical Society where she participated in the maintenance and preservation of the Vevay, Indiana area. She served Heritage Community Unit School District #8 as Treasurer for 26 years. Myrna was the founding leader of The Corner 4-H Club in southeast Champaign county and remained active in 4-H on county, state and national levels for over 20 years. She was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands, IL.

Myrna was preceded in death by her parents and close friend Phil Teare. She is survived by her children Erin (Phil) Partenheimer of Newman, Michael (Sinéad Rice) Madigan of Urbana, and Mary (Mark) Richards of Newton; grandchildren Audrey (Tony) Cler of Royal, Meta (Amanda Hodges) Partenheimer of Boston, Emilie (Jonathan) Simon of Star Prairie, WI, Anna (Hayden) Fiedler of Lone Tree, CO, Grace Madigan of Chicago, Eisla Madigan of Urbana, Will (Lexy Long) Richards and Kate Richards both of Newton; great grandsons Emmet and Chase Cler; her sister Lois (Terry) Naddy of Villa Grove; and her former husband and father of her children Patrick O. Madigan of Longview.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Five Mile House P.O. Box 114, Charleston, IL 61920 <https://www.fivemilehouse.org/donate>, the Champaign Urbana Spinners and Weavers Guild PO Box 6814, Champaign, IL 61826-6814, and the Amish Heritage Center P.O. Box 284, Arthur, Illinois 61911 <https://www.illinoisamish.org/donate>.

Online condolences may be shared via [www.hilligossshraderfh.com](http://www.hilligossshraderfh.com)

### Ben Ashworth Jr.

Ben Ashworth Jr., 71 of Arcola, IL went to be with Jesus at 4:10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at his residence.

A Celebration of Ben's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Walnut Grove Christian Church. Pastor Steven Stern will officiate. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Ben was born on September 17, 1949, in Olney, IL. He was a son of Ben Eugene Sr. and Virginia Rose (Fulk) Ashworth. He married Julie Rollings on November 4, 2003, in Villa Grove, IL.

He is survived by his wife, Julie, of Arcola, IL, two daughters, Sharon Stiltz of Oakland, IL, Stephanie Butler and her husband Jeff of Danville, IL, step-daughter, Brenna Walters and her special friend Kendra of Springfield, IL, two sons, Tony Ashworth and his wife Becca of Champaign, IL, and Joshua Ashworth of Villa Grove, IL, step-son, Bobby Greenstone and his wife Julie of Tuscola, IL and step-daughter, Rebecca Jean and her husband Tejay of Champaign, IL, 14 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one sister, Barbara Reifsteck of Camargo, IL and one brother, Charlie Ashworth of Tuscola, IL.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother-in-law, Jerry Reifsteck.

Ben 1967 graduate of ABL High School in Broadlands, IL.

Ben has been a member of Walnut Grove Christian Church for the past 18 years. He was also a member of the North American Bass Association.

He was a self-employed carpenter and craftsman, a skill he learned from his father.

Ben was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, much of which he did with his good friend Mundo Garza. He enjoyed feeding everyone from the bounty of his hunting and fishing expeditions. At the end of the day, he was a fisher of men simply sharing his heart for Jesus.

Ben was very mechanically inclined and was always building novelties and children's toys.

He volunteered at the Havens Homeless Shelter in Mattoon, cooking, and ministering to anyone who would listen. Ben had no doubt who his Savior was, and he loved to talk about Him.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Walnut Grove Christian Church.



### James A. Bierman

James A. "Jim" Bierman, 78, of Tuscola, IL, passed away on Friday morning, July 16, 2021 at his residence with his wife, daughter and son-in-law by his side.

Funeral Services were held at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, July 18, 2021 at the Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street, Tuscola, IL with Rev. Les Evans officiating. Burial was in the Tuscola Township Cemetery.

Visitation was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Jim was born on September 12, 1942 in Steeleville, IL, the son of Albert and Myrtle Deaton Bierman.

He married Diane Oakley on June 13, 1965 in Tuscola. She survives. They had recently celebrated 56 years of marriage.

Also surviving is their daughter: Tracy L. (Jay) Loschen of Tolono, grandchildren: Hunter J. and Haleigh J. Loschen.

In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his siblings, Dale Bierman, Beverly Milligan, Don Bierman, Robert Bierman, and Larry Bierman. He is reunited with his immediate family.

Jim worked at US/Lyondell-Basell water treatment plant for 39 years. Prior to working at Lyondell, Jim worked for K.O. Lake Construction. He had a passion for old cars and restoring them, he also enjoyed playing cards and spots with his family. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. His greatest accomplishment was his family, especially his daughter and grandchildren. Jim was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and adored him.

Jim and Diane Bierman attended Tuscola First Christian Church.

Monetary donations may be made to the Tuscola First Christian Church, 101 East Church Street, Tuscola, IL 61953

Online condolences may be shared via [hilligossshraderfh.com](http://hilligossshraderfh.com)

### Carol Y. Schrock

Carol Yvonne Schrock, 67 of Arthur, IL passed away at 7:15 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Funeral services were held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at the HCK West Building, one mile south of Arthur on the county line road. Bishop Harvey Chupp officiated. Burial was in the Otto Cemetery. Visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021, and 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 17, 2021, at the HCK West Building. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Carol was born on July 20, 1953, in Tuscola, IL. She was a daughter of Phineas J. and Annie (Schrock) Schrock.

She is survived by her mother Anna of Arthur, IL, one brother, Roger Schrock and his wife Anna Mae of Arthur, IL and 12 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Phineas, brother, Kenneth Schrock, and great nephew, Cameron Schrock.

Carol had worked at the Country Salvage Store in rural Arcola, IL for nearly 48 years.

She was a member of the Old Order Amish Church.



## Douglas County Road and Bridge subcommittee discusses road repairs

By Jim Allen

The Road and Bridge subcommittee met on July 14, 2021 at 9:00 with Chair Don Munson, board members Dick Hein, Gary Luth and County Engineer Jim Crane present.

Crane gave an update on the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm post construction road repairs. On June 16, 2021, the County Board awarded the project to Beniach Construction after they submitted a bid that was lower than the Engineer's Estimate. This award was contingent on EDPR depositing the required funds to complete the work. This is in accordance with the Road Use Agreement. However, a letter to EDPR's North American Headquarters in Houston, sent July 7, 2021 which arrived in Houston on July 8, 2021, was returned because the company was no longer at that address. No notification was given regarding the move. Another letter was sent by email on Tuesday July 13. EDPR acknowledged the receipt of this letter by return email.

As per the Road Use Agreement, EDPR has 14 days to deposit the amount

of the bid with the Road Authorities.

A Neutral Engineer was not enlisted because EDPR did not respond with specific complaints regarding the contract submitted by Beniach. In an earlier article I noted that the spreadsheet for the work to be done was detailed by the type, amount, and cost of each item so any concerns by EDPR could have easily been cited.

Work on the bridge project in Bourbon Township started July 12, and, of course, has seen some delays caused by rain. However, the project is still on track. The contract for the bridge on County Highway 6 over the Kaskaskia River was awarded by the State of Illinois on July 6, 2021 and a pre-construction conference will be held on July 27, 2021. A lot of seal coat work, shoulder work, and other work is being performed throughout the county. Pavement striping will be done in August. Crane is working on Estimates of Construction costs on seven different projects that will need to be completed in the future.

## Relief Sale Ice Cream Social

Come join us for the Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale's annual ice cream social. It will be held at Penn Station on Monday, August 9th from 5-8 p.m. (NOTICE date and location changes.) Pulled pork BBQ Sandwiches will be offered along with cake and five flavors

of homemade ice cream: vanilla, cookies and cream, peach, butter pecan and butterfinger.

Donations will be accepted, and the funds raised will be used to cover pre-sale expenses such as advertising, paper goods, etc. Please, come as you are.

## Douglas County PLM subcommittee recognizes Arthur firemen for their outstanding service

By Jim Allen

Chair Jim Mikeworth called the PLM meeting to order at 9:00 on July 6, 2021 with committee members Don Munson and Dick Hein present. Board Member Tom Hettinger was also in attendance. The first order of business was presented by Dick Hein to recognize four Arthur firemen who are receiving Life Saving Certificates from the State Fire Marshal's office at a ceremony in Springfield. Mr. He suggested that Douglas County should present a certificate of recognition to the firefighters also. Lamar Hostetler, Ernie Gingerich, Elmer Miller and Clint Herschberger were recognized for their efforts in rescuing two men from an upstairs apartment in Arthur that was fully involved when they arrived. They will receive a Life Saving Certificate from Board Chair Don Munson on August 11 2021 at the Arthur firehouse. Too often we take for granted the effort put forth by our volunteer firefighters and the extensive training that takes place on a regular

basis. Thank you for your service!

Kacie Sanders of Dial-A-Ride was present to renew an agreement with Douglas County to continue services. Federal subsidies stay the same each year and the Downstate Operating

Assistance Program (DOAP), although usually increasing 10 percent each year, was the same this year. No increase in an inflationary time will create some difficulties, but no serious issues are contemplated at this time. The committee discussed possibilities to use COVID or CARES funds to help with any shortfall.

Dial-A-Ride needs two full time drivers. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Drivers do not need a CDL or passenger endorsement to start. The buses are based in Camargo, so interested parties in the area would report there to start and end their route.

The second item on the agenda stated that Don Munson had a concern he would like to bring before the committee. The concern is one that involves the

Supervisor of Assessments and the Township Assessors of Douglas County. There are five Township Assessors in Douglas County and each of the Assessors are responsible for providing accurate assessment information to the Supervisor of Assessments. When the information is not complete, taxes cannot be fairly calculated. Two assessors are not providing enough details or usable information to allow this.

The result is that the Supervisor of Assessment needs to complete the work. As an example, the information for the Love's truck stop and the remodeled Fuel Mart had to be redone. This work was completed by a contractor at \$120.00 per hour. This was an exception because the Supervisor of Assessments office has been covering other deficiencies by two assessors.

The issue was brought up because the Assessor's office is completing work

that causes a greater workload and therefore costs the county. Township assessors are elected officials and paid by each governing body. The county does not have a say in salaries or time spent working. However, the county does have regulations on how the work is submitted. Due to the extra workload to the county, the county is looking to charge the townships for incomplete or inaccurate work submitted by township assessors. It was generally agreed that the county as a whole should not pay for work that should have been completed by individual townships. At this time, only two assessors have unacceptable work submitted. The committee will have the State's Attorney draft letters and compensation for extra work will be discussed at the next regular board meeting on July 21, 2021.

## Farmers

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Contact

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