

**Wednesday, September 1, 2021**  
**Harvest to Home set for Oct. 8 and 9 at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center**

Harvest to Home returns to the Illinois Amish Heritage Center on October 8 and 9. Hours for the event are from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 8 and from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 9. Harvest to Home returns to expanded activities and demonstrations, including glass blowing, at the Center.

The purpose of the show is to teach attendees how crops were grown and harvested during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Amish continue using many of these methods in their farming operations today. The show continues to expand, and the 2021 show promises to be the biggest show yet.

The 2021 event will feature activities surrounding corn and different types of corn such as Broom, Dent, Flint, and Popcorn. Corn will be harvested using hand shucking and mechanical pickers pulled by horses and tractors. Corn shelling, using a Minneapolis Moline Corn Sheller, will demonstrate how corn is separated from the ear and cleaned. The cobs will be ground into livestock

bedding using a cob grinder. Corn will be ground into livestock feed powered by horses. A grist mill will be in operation making corn meal and new this year will be a "check row" corn plot.

Wood and lumber demonstrations are a big attraction. This year, you will see saw-milling powered by gas and steam power, plus a buzz saw. Field demonstrations will feature horse and tractor plowing, corn stalk chopping and disking and preparing the field for the planting of wheat. There will be displays of antique farm machinery, tractors, early "hit and miss" gasoline engines, and miniature steam powered displays. Visitors will see blacksmithing demonstrations, horse shoeing, equipment powered by horse treadmills, broom and rope making. There will be buggy rides, a variety of children's activities, a petting zoo and a "train" will transport show goers around the grounds along with a variety of children's games.

Tours of the 1865 Moses Yoder home and the 1882 Daniel Schrock home will feature demonstrations and displays of the Amish way



of life. These homes have undergone extensive restoration and provide a glimpse into the past. New attractions include a German Amish School and Amish workshop. A highlight each day will be the Parade of Power featuring horses and mechanical powered equipment with commentary provided to describe the items as they pass by.

Food will be served in

the newly concreted pavilion. There will be full meals and sandwiches, plus a pancake, sausage, and liverwurst breakfast served on Saturday. You can also enjoy homemade ice cream, kettle corn, lemonade shakeups, crafts, exhibitors, "fall related activities" and much more. All funds are used for the continued growth of the Illinois Amish Heritage Center Campus. Everyone is welcome

and invited to come out for a day of fun and learning for the entire family. The event is handicapped accessible and golf carts are welcome for those who choose to bring their own. Restroom facilities will be available.

The Illinois Amish Heritage Center is located on Illinois 133 nine miles west of Arcola or 3.5 miles east of Arthur on Illinois Route 133. The show entrance is

on County Road 400E. For more information, call Jim Fleming at 217-791-1026 or online [www.illinoisamish.org](http://www.illinoisamish.org) and be sure to like them on Facebook, Illinois Amish Heritage Center. This is an outside event and is completely reliant upon the weather. Decisions affecting activities may be made on site without notice of printed and broadcast announcements.

**County Board holds multiple meetings in regards to EDPR concerns**

**By Jim Allen**  
 The Douglas County Board met in special session at 10:00 a.m. on 8-17-21 to discuss possible litigation regarding the Road Use Agreement with EDPR. All board members were present along with County Engineer Jim Crane and States Attorney Kate

Watson. Chair Munson began the meeting by stating that a great deal of work had been done in the previous seven to ten days and that an agreement had been tentatively worked out. There will be an addendum to the agreement to work out issues needing special consideration before final

acceptance. The addendum should be completed soon and a special meeting has been called for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 8-19-21. At this meeting it is expected that EDPR will agree to deposit the money for the road work in Newman and Murdock Townships and at that time

a schedule can be made for reconstruction. The payment could be deposited by 5:00 p.m. on 8-24-21. The County will be replacing a box culvert and some other minor issues to amount to approximately \$50,000.00.

Along with the bid by Beniach Construction, there is a contingency fund

of \$500,000.00. Any of this money that is not used will be returned to EDPR. Private drainage issues are not included in the Road Use Agreement.

The Thursday meeting was called to order with all board members present. However, some language in the RUA was not

finalized and the board will meet again at 3:00 p.m. to accept the agreement. Even though the final acceptance of the agreement has been delayed for a day, payment in the amount of \$12,430,896.24 is expected to be completed by the end of the day on 8-24-2021.

**48th Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival begins Saturday Sept. 5**

The 48th Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival opens early Saturday morning, September 4, with a pancake and sausage breakfast at the firehouse on Route 133 West.

Arthur firemen will serve pancakes and sausage from 6 to 11 a.m. The 10-bay facility has plenty of room to serve the hundreds of people who flock to the annual event. This is a good opportunity to have a delicious breakfast prepared by members of Arthur's volunteer fire department.

They cook the sausage patties over an open flame, and the pancakes are served hot off the griddle, prepared in sight. The firemen served a record 1,643 meals in 2018, destroying the previous record of 1,483 meals served in 2011.

How much food does it take to serve breakfast to that many people? The firemen prepare and served approximately 1,150 pounds of sausage, 500 pounds of pancake mix, 110 gallons of orange

juice, and 60 pounds of butter during the five hours they work the breakfast.

**Daily Events**  
 Sidewalk sales and food, flea market, and craft vendors open for business at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Monday and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The festival closes at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 5 p.m. on Sunday, and 3 p.m. on Monday.

Vendors occupy a two-block area of Vine Street and parts of Illinois, Hickory, Walnut, and Progress streets. Children of all ages will

enjoy K A Z Amusements & Entertainment inflatables and pony rides in Artie's Party Zone (West Illinois and South Walnut). The pony rides are available Saturday and Monday only.

Amish buggy rides will be offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Monday. The rides depart from and return to the driveway on the north side of the Welcome Center.

**Saturday Only Events**  
 The Opening Ceremonies and first cutting of the

cheese will be held at 10 a.m. in the middle of South Vine Street and Illinois Street.

Special guests will help make the first cuts. Assisting with the cheese cutting will be Mayor Rod Randall, Association of Commerce president Stephanie Wierman, Artie the Mouse, Miss Slice, local queens, and other local and area dignitaries. Watch for surprise celebrity guests to show up and lend a hand at the ceremony.

Vine Street Christian Church will help festival vis-

itors cool down on Saturday with their Ice Cream Stand located at the church. There will be two flavors of homemade ice cream available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The first Cheese Giveaway begins at 11 a.m. under the Cheese Tent, located at the intersection of Vine and Illinois streets. The second giveaway will be at 5 p.m. Local officials, area politicians, dignitaries, and guests serve free cheese slices and

**See FESTIVAL page 6**

**Douglas County Board appoints Nathan Chaplin as County Sheriff**

**By Kendra Hennis**  
 The meeting of the Douglas County Board was called to order on Wednesday, August 18 at 9 a.m. with all members present.

Following the PLM committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, the board moved to nominate Nathan Chaplin to fill the remainder of former Douglas County Sheriff Joshua Blackwell's term. On Tuesday, candidates Chaplin and Republican Central Committee nominee Wes Fleener were invited to be questioned by the board. Fleener declined the board's invitation to be interviewed on Tuesday.

The board then heard from Douglas County Health Department administrator Amanda Minor. Minor reported that cases of COVID are currently rising in



**Newly appointed Douglas County Sheriff Nathan Chaplin with Douglas County Board chairman Don Munson.**

testing. The health department is also continuing to hold vaccine clinics, with two last week and one coming up at Broomcorn in Sept. Minor was asked about a booster shot and noted that it was likely coming but at this time that had not received guidance. Minor also noted that they are seeing fully vaccinated people who test positive for COVID. However, they have found their symptoms to be less intense than those who are unvaccinated. She additionally noted that the symptoms the health department is seeing this year is different than last year, and very similar to the flu; with some being fever, cough, and runny nose. It was asked what the outcome would be if students went to school without masks. Minor explained that if they receive

a complaint about the school, it is sent to the Illinois State Board of Education. She also highly recommended students wear masks, saying that she did not think the kids really minded. Minor was also asked about online vaccine card registration and said that this is an online portal that can be set up with the Illinois Department of Public Health. Minor said that it should have all records uploaded in it, but the health department can assist if you cannot find it online.

Tuscola Economic Chamber & Development Chairman Brian Moody then followed, informing the board that the Back to Business funds had been released. He encouraged businesses who were unable to access previous funds to check it out, and noted that informa-

tion on the program would be on the City of Tuscola Facebook page and website. He noted that those needing assistance could contact him. Moody was additionally asked about any update on the LyondellBasell closing and reported that it was nothing new but that they were working with them to do anything they can to help employees. He noted that the plant currently had 94 employees and that they were going to create a task force to help find opportunities and move forward.

**The board also:**  
 \* Approved the payment of the county's financial obligations.  
 \* Approved the reports of fees of county offices.  
 \* Approved the FY 2022

**See BOARD page 6**

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