



Journal Entries

"There is no substitute for hard work."
- Albert Einstein

CityWide Garage Sales

Tuscola's Fall CityWide Garage Sales begin this Friday! Check out page 14 for a full map of sales.

DCHD COVID Vaccines

DCHD offers drive-up COVID-19 vaccines at the J600 site in the Tuscola Outlet Mall and homebound vaccinations for first and second dose Moderna and first and second dose Pfizer. To register visit the Douglas County Health Department Website or call 217-253-4137.

DCHD COVID Testing

If you are currently experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have had close contact with a positive case, please get tested. DCHD offers testing Mon-Thurs from 8:30-4 p.m., with no appt is required. Testing on Fridays is by appt at Tuscola Outlet Mall J-600. More information can be found on the Douglas County Health Department's website or Facebook page.

SAM Food Pantry Update

The SAM Food Pantry is still asking for volunteers. Until January 1 the pantry will be open on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Tuscola United Methodist Church. One family member per vehicle is now able to enter the pantry to pick produce and other products. Masks are required if you are vaccinated or not. If you are interested in volunteering, please call or text Margie at 217-621-4035.

Tuscola Homecoming Court

Congratulations to the TCHS 2021 Homecoming Court! King and Queen Candidates include Haven Hatfield, Rajan Patel, Patrick Pierce, Jalen Quinn, Logan Wallace, Sophia Kremitzki, Taylor Musgrave, Kerri Pierce, Maddie Stahler, and Reagan Wyrich. Attendants include juniors Colton Musgrave and Isabelle Wilcox, sophomores Jackson Barrett and Jillian Alexander, and freshmen Parker James and Ayla Deleva.

Forty Martyrs hosing Informative Exhibit

Forty Martyrs Catholic Church will be hosting a 151 photographic and informative panel exhibit of the Vatican International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles of the World. The event begins Wednesday, September 15 and runs through Wednesday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 4 p.m. The display is open to the public and will be held in Forty Martyrs' parish center at 111 E. Van Allen in Tuscola.

Tuscola Moose Lodge 729 Golf Outing

Tuscola Moose Lodge 729 Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, October 2 and is open to the public! Shotgun starts at 10 a.m. with registration at 8:30 and pre registration available now. Be a golfer for \$65 a player with 4-person teams Best Ball. First place will win \$160, second \$80, and third place \$40. Sponsorships are also available for \$100 to sponsor a hole or a prize donation. All players will receive two drink tickets and a sleeve of balls as well as lunch at tee off donated by Jimmy Johns. Dinner will be provided by Fannie & Charlie Burgers. Ball Drop will also be completed by the Tuscola Fire Department, \$10 per ball with five chances to win. Tickets can be purchased at the event or in advance from the Moose Lodge. Contact Jeanette at 217-508-7819, Mary Jo at 217-253-6600 or email tuscolamoose@gmail.com to register or for more information.

Tuscola Public Library Events

- * StoryTime with Miss Marta every Tuesday at 10 a.m.
- * Crafter's Corner on the first and third Mondays at 5 p.m.
- * Cooking with Marla - Chicken Tikka Masala on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m.
- * Book Discussion - The Big Sky on Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.
- * Notice: StoryTime will be held outside unless weather requires they be held on Facebook Live. More information about events can be found on the Tuscola Public Library Facebook page.

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Submitted Photo

2021 Villa Grove Homecoming Senior Queen and King Candidates. In the first row are Molly Little, Ava Vollmer, Kirsten Foreman and JoBeth Crafton. Second row is Elijah Kiesel, Liam Barr, Daelin Price and Ashton Harrison. This year's Grand Marshals are Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Sharon Hoffman. Crown Bearers are Lily Rund and Hudson Carter. Homecoming festivities will be held on Saturday, September 25.

City Council approves extension of Progress Blvd.

By Kendra Hennis

The meeting of the Tuscola City Council was called to order on Monday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m. with all members present.

During the consent agenda, the council approved the 2021 fireworks display for September 25 at 9 p.m. The fireworks will be shot off from Wimple Park, which they hope will allow the display to be visible from the high school homecoming dance as well as the Downtown Block Party. It was noted that it should also minimize the fire danger

from nearby standing corn.

In his report, Mayor Dan Kleiss exclaimed that he was excited about the fireworks and all of the weekend's events, and said he was hoping for good weather. He also sent condolences on behalf of the city to the family of B. J. Hacker, former Mayor of St. Joseph, on his passing. He ended by noting that he had attended the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony put on by the VFW on Saturday. Kleiss said that it was a beautiful display, thanked them, and said that it was a very moving tribute.

The council then approved

waiving formal bidding for the North Progress Boulevard Extension, a proposal from Beniach Construction for North Progress Extension in the amount of \$344,259.61, and approved a cost sharing agreement with Kirby Foods for the North Progress Extension in the amount of \$150,000. This project will allow for the completion of an extension of Progress Boulevard to the north, in order to provide access to the loading docks for the new IGA store under renovation. City Administrator Drew Hoel noted that while waiving formal bid-

ding for projects of this scale is not common, they felt it was necessary and justified because there is very limited time to complete the project before winter - which is necessary for store operations; increased engineering fees to prepare a full bid packet (and the time required to bid) are unlikely to be offset by lower pricing from a bid process; the project is very small, with a tight timeline, which tends to limit potential bidders; and they compared the submitted proposal to a similar project bid two months ago

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Tuscola hosting a week full of activities for homecoming

By Kendra Hennis

Tuscola is ready to celebrate homecoming 2021, and is hosting a week full of activities to help you join the fun.

Tuscola High School Events
Tuscola Community High

school is hosting Hollywood Nights Monday, September 17 through Saturday, September 24.

Hallway decorating kicks off events on Friday, September 17 from 3:10 to 5 p.m. at TCHS. Pack the house will be held at the TCHS volleyball

game on Tuesday, September 21. Attendees are encouraged to wear all black to support the team. Class Competition Day will be held on Sept. 22 and students are encouraged to wear their class color and be ready to help their class win points for

spirit week. On Friday, Sept. 24 the homecoming pep rally will take place in the TCHS Gym at 1 p.m. The parade starts at 2:30 p.m. with line up at Ervin Park. The parade will run down Main Street to Daggy Street, ending

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Photos: Rachel Ray

Left: Congresswoman Mary Miller speaking at the T.K. Martin VFW Post 10009 9/11 Memorial Ceremony. Right: The T.K. Martin Post 10009 created a large flag display to commemorate the 9/11 attacks twenty years ago. On Saturday morning, they held a ceremony where many spoke on the event.

Villa Grove community reflects on September 11, 2001

By Tony Hooker

Twenty years ago, the United States of America came under attack by ruthless terrorists, an event that not only impacted our feelings about our country and its security, but also the way we live our day to day lives.

I caught up with several prominent local citizens to share their remembrances of that terrible day, and its aftermath.

Sara Jones, Villa Grove High School principal

Do you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing when you first became aware of the horrific terrorist action on 9/11?

I do. I was driving to Newman grade school getting ready to teach third grade. While I was in class, we had a TV going in the library and we discovered that the second plane had hit.

What was your immediate reaction?

I don't think we knew what was going on, but we knew it wasn't good. I was 23 years old and had a bunch of eight-year-olds in the classroom and we didn't know what to think.

How did your school respond?

We tried to explain what was going on the best we could, but we didn't understand what was going on at that point because the president had not addressed the nation. We really didn't know, and we just tried to reassure them that "you're in Newman, nobody is after us, you're going to be safe", that sort of thing. We had a couple of parents that were in the military, so we made sure to contact them and they got to talk

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