



Tuscola Review

Volume 5 Number 24

Est. 2017

Your locally owned community newspaper

May 11, 2022



The Great Give

The First Christian Church of Tuscola will host The Great Give on Saturday, May 14, from 8-11 a.m. This event is an outreach to the community that provides free "garage" sale items. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Summer meal program

Douglas County Summer Fun & Meals is back. They will serve lunches in-person at no cost Mondays through Friday throughout Douglas County June 1 — July 29. Lunch served 11 a.m. - 12 noon. Sites: Arcola School; Arthur Elementary School; Atwood Grade School; Newman Park (weather permitting) /American Legion (rain/cold); Shiloh School; Tuscola United Methodist Church, and Villa Grove Sacred Heart.

The program will be coordinating with Summer School in Arcola and with Golden Apple in Tuscola and others upon request. Please contact Gould Bus Service, 253-2232, to discuss the pickup and drop-off for your child if they are attending Summer School or Golden Apple and will also be eating lunch this summer.

Blood drive

First Christian Church will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, May 31. Please go to this link to get signed up: <https://www.redcrossblood.org> and use Sponsor Code: Tuscola. They will host a Red Cross blood drive every 8 weeks. If you have any questions, please call the church (217)253-2394 or email office@fcttuscola.com.

Summer Read signup

Signups for the Summer Read program begin May 16. The program starts May 30 and continues for 5 weeks. The program is for children, teens and adults. There will be prizes each week for anyone who reaches their goal and prizes for everyone who finishes the program.

Retired teachers meet

The Douglas County Retired Teachers will meet at the Arcola United Methodist Church on Wednesday, May 18, at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Margo Blaudow at 217-369-8633 or Maribeth Opperman at 217-493-6727 or by email at denniscopperman@yahoo.com by Thursday, May 12, to make a reservation.

Hazardous waste drop-off

Coles County Regional Planning is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Saturday May 14, 2022 from 8AM to 3PM at the Coles County Airport.

Memorial Day Cook-out

Rally Point Fitness is having a Memorial Day Cook-out fundraiser at 11 a.m. Monday, May 30. Pork chops and hotdogs with a side of chips and choice of water or Gatorade will be available. Portions of proceeds and any donations will be donated to the Children of Fallen Patriots foundation to help provide college scholarships and educational counseling to military children that have lost a parent in the line of duty, and to continue to support local veterans here in our community.

Stamp out hunger

The Tuscola Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs are teaming up for the US Postal Carriers Help Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive to benefit the Tuscola SAM Food Pantry on Saturday, May 14. Pick up begins at 9 a.m. Place bags of nonperishable food items by your mailbox.

Honor Guard fundraiser

Operation Honor Guard invites you to drive through Savmor on May 18 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Your support this year will ensure that the tradition of final military honors at a fallen veteran's funeral continues in Central Illinois. All funds will stay in the area for Douglas County Veterans.

School event dates

North Ward's Spring Concert is May 12 at 2:15 and 7 p.m. on the North Ward stage.
TCHS Honors Day is May 20 at 10 a.m.
East Prairie Honors Day is May 25. 7th and 8th grade at 9 a.m. and 5th and 6th grade at 10 a.m.
East Prairie Promotion is May 26 at 7 p.m.
TCHS Graduation is May 28 at 7 p.m.

Library activities

StoryTime every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. in the library basement-stories and crafts
May 11, 6 p.m., Film Discussion-Searching
May 12, 6 p.m., Cooking With Marla-Facebook live
May 16, 5 p.m., Crafter's Corner
May 19, 4 p.m., Lego Club
May 23, 10 a.m., Toddler Dance
4 p.m., Youth Bingo



SYDNEY KINGMAN makes her way through a colorful tunnel during a fun day Friday at North Ward Grade School in Tuscola. Photo by David Porter.



PARKER LANTZ balances himself during North Ward Grade School's annual Tiger Trot held at the Community Building. An obstacle course was set up throughout the building. Photo by David Porter.

Resident expresses concern about old 'Pettit Place'

May 17 is 'Ruth Burress Day' in Tuscola in honor of 102nd birthday

Mayor Dan Kleiss on Monday declared May 17 to be Ruth Burress Day in Tuscola. She will turn 102.

The meeting began with public comment from Pam Evans representing the neighborhood around the old Pettit Place, a former church building near the courthouse that was once used as a gymnastics facility. She said she has heard rumors that it is being remodeled to serve Decatur youth.

She said she heard developers are seeking a \$700,000 grant and wondered where it would come from. She expressed concern about the condition of the building and its future use. She asked whether it was zoned for that purpose.

Mayor Kleiss said the city has heard many of the same rumors.

He said the city is not putting any money in the project and that the developers would need to apply for a special use permit to use the building for youth services.

He said the property has been cleaned up a lot and looks better than it has in the past five years but "still looks terrible." He said the city is happy that the new owners have been responsive to the city.

Evans said she heard a trailer would be placed on the property during renovations. Kleiss said there are "rules and regulations" regarding how long a trailer could remain on a property.

Mike Salmon, building inspector, said the new owners have not told him what their intended use is for the building.

The consent agenda included a payment of \$50,740 for fencing at the new dog park at Ervin Park. City Administrator Drew Hoel said the fence is up and the park is being used. Kleiss said he hopes people will respect the addition to the park and take care of it.

He added that Ainslie Heilich has been busy painting new art on the old drain tiles at the park. The tiles were located at the old North Ward school decades ago for use as playground equipment. They are being painted with a dog theme for the new dog park.

Also on the consent agenda was Poppy Day for the American Legion May 13-14 and a community building lease June 3 for Jessica Roberts for St. Jukes Run Glow Bingo.

Danielle Cruzan addressed the Council to discuss workforce development. She said her office, which is at 401 S. Main St. in Tuscola, can help low-income people and displaced workers with job training, tuition and other costs related to jobs.

She said the office has "a large pool of money" to help young people up to age 24 as well. She said the office can pay up to \$16,100 in tuition costs plus gas money and childcare help for those who qualify.

She said she is trying to partner with several groups in town, including RISE, the Douglas County Health Department and local

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BOTTOM LEFT, a crowd gathers to hear results of the 2nd annual car show at Ta'Carbon benefiting the Keli Adkisson Memorial Fund. Last year's event paid for two scholarships. Top left, Ford Model As and Model Ts line up outside the restaurant. Top right, Bob McKeehan of Villa Grove brought his 1929 Model A tow truck. Bottom right, Rich Barrow's 1938 Ford pickup truck rat rod came over from Newman. Photos by David Porter.