

## OBITUARIES

### Janet Gagnier

Marjorie Janet Gagnier passed away peacefully on April 13, 2023, at the age of 82. Her children Stephanie and Steven were by her side as her beautiful soul left this world. Her unmatched beauty, grace, and inner spirit leave a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Marjorie Janet Cook was born on November 5, 1940, to Kathryn and Raymond Cook, and grew up in Arcola. Janet, or "Cookie" as she was known to her friends, attended Arcola High School, where she enjoyed being a part of a well-known singing group called the Teen Queens. She traveled extensively throughout the region, performing at local dances and events.

Janet graduated in 1958, and briefly attended Southern Illinois University. After a short time, she decided to join the workforce at Collegiate Cap and Gown in Champaign-Urbana. It was here she met George Edward Oakes, Jr. and they married on March 18, 1960. Soon after, George was drafted and deployed to



Gagnier

Korea.

In 1963, Janet's adventurous spirit made the decision to pack up their belongings and drive across the country to start a new life on the West Coast. They settled in the beautiful city of San Francisco, where Janet embarked on an exciting time in her life, working downtown, making new friends and enjoying the City by the Bay.

Janet and Ed welcomed their first child, Stephanie, in 1967 and their second, Steven, in 1971. In 1973, they decided

to make the move out of the city to "the suburbs," settling in the Glenview District of Oakland, where she embraced her role as a stay-at-home mom. She loved taking care of not only her children, but everyone's in the neighborhood. An avid baker, hers was the home you could always find fresh baked cookies, and she truly loved being the house everyone came to.

After divorcing in 1986, Janet enjoyed a new stage in her life with an exciting and successful career at Adecco Staffing in Berkeley, where she worked for many years. She traveled extensively both for work and pleasure, and created a large friend group who to this day talk about all their epic adventures. Love would come her way again when she met Dr. Arthur Gagnier, and they married on September 22, 2000. Now remarried, Janet lovingly inherited six adult "bonus children" and 18 grandchildren, who were all frequent visitors. Janet and Art enjoyed ballroom dancing, traveling, cooking and watching Sunday

football. The years following gave Janet 3 more cherished grandchildren — Samuel, Ava and Grayson. She adored her role of Grammy, showering them with love and affection every chance she got.

After the passing of her husband Arthur in 2020, Janet relocated to Sacramento, where her son Steven, daughter-in-law Tami (her "bonus daughter") and grandson Samuel now lived. The next few years she spent getting to know the Sacramento area and traveling to New Jersey, ensuring she spent as much quality time with family as possible.

Janet is survived by her children, Stephanie and Steven, their spouses Scott and Tami; three grandchildren, Samuel, Ava and Grayson; her "bonus" children and grandchildren; her brother, Raymond Cook; and countless family and friends. Thank you Janet for all you gave of yourself every day to everyone in your life. You were fiercely loved and will be missed by so many.



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### Strides

From page 1

Levi Schellenberg of Arcola at 30:20; Jason Butler of Arcola at 30:23; Sophie Fishel of Arcola with 33:11; Nancy Vinson of Oakwood at 42:02; and Mick Howrey of Charleston at 42:10. Each of these runners earned a gold medal for finishing first in his/her age category of the 5K Race.

### City Council

From page 1

geted at \$1,744, 995. The biggest difference in the two budgets was for park grants and expenses in 2023.

The Council also approved cost-of-living raises for city employees at \$1 per hour for full-time employees and 50 cents per hour for part-time employees. That excludes the police department, which has a variable rate.

The Council has been increasing wages for police officers in an effort to be more competitive with surrounding communities. Salaries for the police department were budgeted \$30,000 higher than for 2023.

The Council also approved a

change in its ordinances and policies to allow city employees to live up to 50 miles away. That's another effort to attract police officers to Arcola.

The dogs finished with smiles on their faces as they gulped water in bowls later at

### School Board

From page 1

program for a year and evaluate whether it was better. If not, the Board could seek bids for the service the following year.

Even with OPAA! managing food service, the district is still losing money in that department, Mulligan said. "Probably \$60,000."

To help offset costs, the Board approved joining a food purchasing cooperative, the South East Purchasing Cooperative.

Bill Fritcher of OPAA! attending last Wednesday's meeting and said the company "ran some numbers" that he'd like to share with the Board. Mulligan said, "It would have been nice if

you had gotten those to me earlier." He added, "I know where we're at. I've run those numbers."

In other business, the Board transferred money from the working cash fund to the education fund for technology upgrades;

approved the calendar for next year, which includes having Martin Luther King Day off; Mulligan said election day was a day off this year, which the district won't have next year; the calendar also gives students two weeks off at Christmas to help reduce absenteeism since a lot of families in Arcola travel to Mexico during that season;

approved overnight use of the jr. high gym for the Southwind Drum and Bugle Corps. with a fee waiver; the group spends the night in the gym before competing at Eastern Illinois University;

approved membership next year in IHSA and IESA, which over see sports tournaments;

approved spending \$44,000 on engineering services with Environmental Engineering for asbestos removal in the high school locker rooms;

approved applying to use health life safety funds for the

the Arcola Masonic Community Center. After all, they had already been given bandanas with the race logo. Next came small bags of doggie treats Co-Race Chairman Lisa Edwards had prepared for them.

Inside the Arcola Masonic Community Center was a Community Breakfast prepared by the Arcola Food Pantry volunteers. Delicious food was enjoyed by runners, walkers, friends and neighbors.

The Arcola Food Pantry Board thanked all who helped make this, the first "Strides" in three years (due to COVID) a success. An open invitation to everyone: Do consider running the 5K or walking a Mile for Strides Against Hunger next spring.

from residential to B-1 business as previously discussed. The annual fireworks display was set for Sunday, July 2, at a cost of \$7,834.18.

During public comment, Sharilyn Kibler said she would be asking the Council to approve a resolution for Motorcycle Awareness Month and asked if the city would fix some of the potholes in town, which she said are dangerous for motorcyclists.

She also said she has gathered 72 signatures on a petition in support of changing the designation of the seasonal campground in town to a mobile home park. The city contends that several people have taken up permanent residency at the campsite, which is owned by Tuck Elder of Tuscola.

approved a user agreement for the state police's law enforcement portal as required by law;

created a new activity account that will go toward student mental health; Mulligan said the district has received donations toward that effort and needed an account to place the funds;

approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will allow the district to provide the facilitator for the CEO program next year;

approved spending \$17,039.97 with QNS for new computers in the business room;

approved a bid to replace all the door locks inside the schools;

transferred funds from the working cash fund to the education fund for technology upgrades..

approved resignations from Jennifer Lyons and Daniel Ruyle;

hired Faith Spillman as a social worker;

approved a leave of absence for Golene Moreno; and

accepted a letter of intent to retire at the end of the 25-26 school year from Jenni Butler.



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