



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911



## News Briefs

### Upcoming Events:

- June 1-4- Walldogs Mural Painting (Downtown)
- June 2&3- Strawberry Jam Festival (Downtown)
- June 2- Strawberry Social @ Otto Center
- June 2- Heart of America Pony Sale @ Tri-County Auction Facility
- June 2&3- JFL Signups @ Firehouse
- June 17- 3rd Saturday Market Bazaar @ Otto Center
- June 18- Father's Day
- June 21- Summer Toy Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility

### Free Friday Market

#### Returns To Vine Street!

The popular 'Free Friday Market' located on Blessing Alley behind Vine Street Christian Church will begin its summer 2023 operations THIS FRIDAY, JUNE 2, FROM 3PM - 5PM.

The market will offer fresh produce & fruit, dairy products, bread products, and other items. You can drive-thru and volunteers will help you, or you can park and shop yourself.

All items are free, and no money will be exchanged.

Everyone in and around Arthur (and beyond!) is welcome to come and be fed ... and be filled.

For more information, contact VSCC at 217-543-2292.

### Douglas County Real Estate Tax Bills mailed

Douglas County Real Estate Tax Bills went in the mail on Friday, May 26, 2023. Due dates are Wednesday, July 5, 2023 and Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

PLEASE read the back of your tax bill. Many questions can be answered there. There is also contact information for each office and the duties of each office in regards to the tax cycle.

You can also go to our website at [www.douglascountyil.gov](http://www.douglascountyil.gov) and click on Departments and then Treasurer for information, forms, and payment options.

### Rotary seeks donations for fireworks

The Arthur Rotary Fireworks has become one of the biggest, and literally brightest, events in the region, and they are looking for sponsors to help pay for the display. There are several different levels of giving from as little as \$50 to more than \$5,000.

The event this year starts off at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 1, with an evening of entertainment featuring Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets, food vendors, kids activities and, around 9:30 p.m., a moving display of fireworks including hundreds of shells, the Ultimate Fireball, Vesuvius and the Wall of Fire complete with the Rural Patriot. Sponsors will be featured in advertising and will receive VIP seating on the west side of the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond football field.

Donations can be made at The State Bank of Arthur.

John Adams once said, of the significance of Independence Day: "It will be celebrated with pomp and parade, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other," and Arthur plans on doing its part. The Arthur Rotary Fireworks promises a spectacular celebration with the best and biggest display in the area.

## ALAH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023.

ALAH HS Principal Steffanie Seegmiller presented the Class of 2023 by reviewing their high school years by saying it started out normally in the fall of 2019 but was anything but that as a global pandemic changed everything. But as a class, you never let it define you. Your class motto talks about being good at whatever you are so I challenge you to not only be good but to also be kind. You will never regret being kind!! Additional photos on Page 7.

## Arthur School Board Approves a New Math Curriculum for Grades K-5, 6-12 Cheek Gives Facilities Update

By ARIANA CHERRY  
Staff Writer

"May is a blur, it is hard to believe we are at the end of another year," quoted Superintendent Shannon Cheek at the Arthur board of education meeting held on Wednesday evening, May 17.

After principals and a few teachers extensively presented and discussed new math curriculum's for grades K-5 and 6-12 back in April, the board was ready to vote on their approval. Members of the pilot team for grade school math were Adrienne Seal, Rose Hollingsworth, Rhonda Rhodes,

Erin Beck, Chris Forman, Andrew Peralta and Marla Graham. The junior high and high school members of the mathematics adoption/pilot team included Tricia Sluder, Guy Bates, Taylor Bower, Morgan Wendt, Melissa Hopkins, Amy Tighe, Samantha Binion and Bryton Ragon.

The board approved grades K-5 to adopt "Bridges," which is a more hands on program for students. It also focuses on number sense and explains multiple ways for a student to come up with an answer. The cost of the curriculum had a one time fee of \$68,000 which

is to be paid up front. There are no required renewal fees, as they are all included in the adoption process.

Grades 6-12 will be adopting "Reveal" as its new curriculum which also received board approval. Reveal requires more critical thinking and word questions. This curriculum allows students to do their assignments online which also offers instant feedback. Students can also download an app which enables them to have the math textbook on their phone, tablet and/or computer. Teachers can also go in and customize and edit assignment problems for the students. The cost for the "Reveal" math curriculum is \$45,000 for a six year contract. While there is a renewal fee for each year, the district will be paying the entirety of the renewal fee upfront (\$7,000 per year). The money to pay for these fees will be coming from the ESSER dollars.

Cheek also gave an update on the facilities in regards to some of the work that has been completed or will be done in the near future. "The new track, score board and field is starting to look great," he commented. Cheek shared with board that the field goal posts will be centered and painted this summer before football season starts. He is also hoping to spruce up the concession stand "as it needs some attention," he noted. The baseball field is in need of some drainage work and is hoping to do that work in July. Cheek also stated that he is looking to have some landscaping done around the grade schools.

### Arthur Grade School Principal's Report

#### End of Year Celebrations:

As you can all guess, students and teachers alike are looking forward to summer. With the change of weather, it has only upped the ante on summer fever. Our students and teachers are still working very hard on academics, but also planning for end-of-the-year festivities. On the last day, we are planning on having bounce houses, Kona Ice truck, and games for students to play. A few of our parents are taking it upon themselves to help organize treats for the students for their classroom parties. We look forward to sending our students off for a safe and fun break.

Teacher Appreciation

**Week:** Teacher Appreciation Week was the 2nd week of May and was celebrated within AGS. Staff received treats, lunch, cards, and enjoyed a staff bbq. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the AGS staff for their consistent effort and passion towards our community. They have been a pleasure to work with.

**Promotion:** Promotion was held on Thursday, May 25 at 7 pm. The promotion ceremony was held at Wilson Field (the Football Field) at Arthur Lovington Atwood-Hammond High School.

**High School Service Day:** For the second time this year, our friends from the High School came over to support and serve the grade school. This included cleaning, landscaping, reading, playing and a whole bunch of kickball (i.e. "Kicker"). It was wonderful to have them back and supportive of the school.

### 4th and 5th-grade Musical Performance:

The Arthur Grade School 4th & 5th Grade Classes did a great job with their spring performance of "The Best Little Theatre in Town". I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Mr. McClarey, along with the teachers, students and community members that put this together.

**Field Trip Season:** This month has very busy for students at AGS in terms of field trips. Last week, our 4th-grade students went to park to meet with their pen pals from Dietrich. In the past weeks, our Kindergarten students went to the Children's Museum and Scovill Zoo. Our 1st-grade students traveled to the Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College and our 3rd-grade students attended the Children's Museum in Decatur to work on different STEM activities.

See CUSD 305 on page 3

## Fireworks Priority Seating Wristbands on sale

The Arthur Rotary Club is excited to be hosting the 2023 edition of the Freedom Celebration Fireworks on July 1. They hope you are looking forward to it too!

Once again, they are selling Priority Seating wristbands in advance of the celebration. Priority Seating is in Jurgens Park - starting along the lane south of the pool house toward the t-ball diamond, on the gravel lot south of the main diamond, and in the fenced area on the north side of the football field.

Wristbands are available for adults and school age children

for \$10 each. Seating within the main ball diamond and other areas of Jurgens Park is still free. Skip the lines and much of the crowd by sitting in Priority!

Wristbands go on sale on Friday, June 1 at Arthur First Bank and Oye's Hardware. Money from wristband sales allows the Arthur Rotary Club to provide scholarships, support our schools, and help other local organizations that serve our community.

Donations toward the fireworks display are always welcome and can be made at the State Bank of Arthur.

## Arthur Seeks July 1 Parade Entries

The 2023 Freedom Celebration Parade will take place this year in Arthur on Saturday, July 1 starting at 2:00 p.m.

"A Star-Spangled Hometown Salute" is the theme for the 29th annual parade.

Individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses interested in participating in the parade should call Stephanie Wierman at 217-620-7460 to request a form or stop by the Welcome Center at 106 E. Progress to pick up a form.

Sponsored by Arthur Area Association of Commerce, the line-up for the parade will begin at 12:30 pm in the **old Progress Tank Facility** (402 East Progress St.) and the parade will **step-off PROMPTLY at 2:00 pm**. Only parade participants are allowed in the line-up area. Drop off area for parade participants will be at

402 East Progress St., which is the entrance to the plant.

The Freedom Celebration Parade route will run west on Progress Street to Vine Street, turns left on Vine Street and travels through downtown Arthur, turns left off Vine Street on to Logan Street, and then left again on Pine Street and ends back at Progress Street.

The Arthur American Legion Post #479 will be handing out American flags along the parade route again this year.

People are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs to watch the parade anywhere along the route with their families, friends, and neighbors. Kids and kids at heart don't forget to bring a bag of candy!

Parade entries should remember to report to for line up between 12:30 and 1:45 p.m. on July 1.



For the past 2 years, Arthur resident Minde Carter has been a staple on the southeast corner of Vine and Park in the morning and afternoons, assisting the community's children to safely cross the street as they walk to school. She has acquired a new position in the fall, and so will not be returning next year. She will be missed. Her love of children is what drew her to the position and is what she enjoyed most. We're grateful for the faithful service she provided, rain or shine. Best wishes, Minde!

