

See the Woodbine Farm painting, hear its story at Jerry Winters Art Gallery

By **ARIANA R. CHERRY**
Staff Writer

It had been several years since Jerry Winters had seen his friend Patton Penhallegon and his painting he had done of Penhallegon's family property, Woodbine Farm located at 7206 Sefton Road in Dalton City, Illinois. The two had been friends for years, and Winters fondly remembers a few dinners he and his wife had attended there as well. The home was filled with chandeliers, antiques from as far back as the 1500's and all types of glass beauties. Penhallegon was a collector and his home showed all of his favorites he had "picked up along the way" throughout his life. He was also a man who had worn a variety of "hats." He had taken an interest in not only collecting antiques, but also cooking as he was a wonderful Chef with an education from Le Cordon Bleu.

Penhallegon also had a real estate license and was in the Realty business with Lyle and

Cambell, an office in Decatur. Jerry Winters and his wife purchased one of Penhallegon's homes located at the 7th Fairway at the Southside Country Club.

While Penhallegon certainly kept busy with his many interests and careers, he did have a love for his family's property, Woodbine Farm. It was such a love that he commissioned Winters to paint it for him in 2014. The painting was done in acrylic and its size is 24 x 36 in. Winters painted it with fine details which shows the mansion, farm, barn and even a railroad that passed through at the edge of Dalton City. As Winters does with every painting, you can even see four of his beloved poodles which he painted into it. They are seen frolicking about, chasing some chickens. While Winters had been invited and saw the grounds of Woodbine Farm a few times, he did need to research its background so that he could include it within the painting. As he found out,

there was a fascinating history to tell with his paintbrushes.

Woodbine Farm was the home to one of the pioneers of the Mt. Zion community, Eli Ulery. The home on the property was built around 1862. It was built using bricks that were made on site from the clay near the creek that runs through the property. Each room in the house had a fireplace that was used as a heat source. At the top of the house was a cupola. It not only served as a ventilation during the warm summer months, but it also served as Eli's lookout, so he could observe his two thousand acres of farm and pasture that encompassed the property.

A barn that also was on the property, had an addition built in 1906. It was a horse barn that also contained living quarters, a kitchen, and tack room that was all finished in bead-board paneling with concrete flooring throughout. An article once published in the Decatur newspaper stated that it was one of the largest barns in Macon County.

In 1932, Grover Patton, president of the Purity Baking Company purchased the portion of the farm which included the home and farmstead from the descendants of Eli Ulery. The home was a place for the



The Woodbine Farm painting has remained on the Woodbine Farm on exhibit since its completion in 2014. If you would like a chance to see this painting, it will be on exhibit at Jerry Winters Fine Arts Gallery on 134 South Vine Street in Arthur during the first two weeks in June.

tenant farmers to stay. Then in 1978, Grover Patton Penhallegon purchased the home and barns from his grandfather Grover C. Patton Estate. He lived and farmed on the property with his family until he moved to California in 2023.

Today, the Macon County Conservation District has ownership of the property and it is listed as National Historic Reg-

istry Property. The Woodbine Farm painting has remained on the Woodbine Farm on exhibit since its completion.

If you would like a chance to see this painting, it will be on exhibit at Jerry Winters Fine Arts Gallery on 134 South Vine Street here in Arthur during the first two weeks in June. The painting will be available as Giclee prints upon request.

(Giclee is a French term for "to spray," is a process that an ink-jet printer uses to reproduce Fine Art. The resolution must be at least 300 dots per inch and be printed on high quality canvas that is specially prepared and acid-free).

The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Village of Arthur: Electric Rates Going Down - Again

Village President Rod Randall announced that things have changed unexpectedly for the residents of Arthur and their electric bills due to the marketplace and the timing of how rates were determined.

Effective June 1, Ameren Illinois adjusted its electric supply rate downwards to 7.877 cents per kilowatt-hour which is about ten percent less than the Village of Arthur's recently announced municipal electric aggregation rate of 8.66 cents per kilowatt-hour.

At the time, the Village's new MEA rate was less than the current Ameren rate, so Arthur residents were going to be put on this new lower rate. Residents should have received notice in the mail about this and given information about how to opt out of the electric aggregation program if they wished.

The new Ameren rate would provide annual savings of approximately \$78.00 for the typical residential consumer who uses 10,000 kilowatt-

hours a year.

The Village designed its electric aggregation program to assure that residents have access to the lowest price available on the market by permitting them to opt out at any time and at no cost.

What residents need to do now is to use the opt out card that came with the information received in the mail about the switch to the Village's electric aggregation program in order to stay with Ameren, or opt out by calling Homefield toll-free at 866-694-1262.

Residents who call will need to have available their ten-digit Ameren account number, which appears in the upper left corner of their Ameren bill's first page. Callers can avoid lengthy wait times by leaving a request for a return call. Calls will be returned in the order received.

Any questions regarding these changes should be directed to Homefield at 866-694-1262.

Arthur Community VBS set for June 26-30

Arthur Community VBS is preparing Heroes to work together this summer at Arthur Mennonite Church on June 26-

30 from 9:00-11:30am daily. Children ages PreK-Jr High are invited to attend. Children born on or before September

1, 2018 are eligible and registration is based on grade completed in May 2023.

This year's "Hero Hotline" VBS is based on Romans 14:19 which says, "So let's strive for things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." This verse reminds us that God calls us to be a part of a community that works to bring peace to the world together. Each day will highlight how to work together, help and encourage one another, and show grace to others using songs, crafts, stories, games, and more!

First Baptist, Arthur Mennonite, Arthur United Christian, and Vine Street Christian are excited to collaborate for this week-long event. There is no fee for children to attend, although each year the children

are encouraged to collect for a local and a global mission project.

This year's local mission will benefit the Arthur EMT Association & Fire Department. The global mission will benefit the American Red Cross.

A "Touch-A-Truck" event is also planned for the Friday of VBS from 11:30-1:00pm at the Arthur Mennonite Church.

Visit www.arthurvbs.org to register and learn more!



Official Arthur Fireworks glow-in-the-dark t-shirts available for purchase

The official 2023 Arthur Fireworks glow-in-the-dark t-shirts are available for purchase at the Arthur IGA, Dicks Pharmacy, and Yoder's Kitchen.

This year's fireworks will be held on the evening of Saturday, July 1, in Jurgens Park (the fairgrounds).

Shirts sizes are youth small through adults 3X and the cost is \$20 each.

All proceeds from the shirt sales will be donated to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle

Association (CVMA).

The CVMA is an association of combat veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby.

Their mission is to support and defend those who have defended our country and our freedoms.

Their focus is to help veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply to say "Thank You" and "Welcome Home."

Piatt County Fair

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The Fair book is now on line, which means you are able to start sending in entries as soon as you see it. Our web site is piattcountyfair.blogspot.com Look for the tabs for the fairbook and appropriate entry form(s).

The Piatt County Fair could not take place without all our volunteers. We have no paid staff, and we welcome help. Contact Don Ritchie, 217-855-4900, if you are interested in helping. Watch our facebook pages (Piatt County Fair and Piatt County Fair Beer Barn) for notices. The Fair will be here before we know it!



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