



ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

2023-2024 Appropriation Ordinance Approved

TIF Grants approved to make improvements to downtown businesses

By **ARIANA R. CHERRY**
Staff Writer

A public hearing for the 2023-2024 Appropriation Ordinance was held at the most recent meeting of the Arthur Village Board on Monday, June 5, 2023. Being that there were no public comments or questions, the hearing was closed. Further into the meeting, the 2023-2024 Appropriation Ordinance 06-05A-2023 was approved. The total of the appropriation was \$4,885,422.09 and the estimated revenues were \$3,146,545.16.

proved to make improvements to some of the businesses on South Vine Street.

A TIF construction grant request from the Arcola First Bank in the amount of \$1,862.52 for the Arthur First Bank on 201 South Bank was approved. There are plans to cover the side of the building located on Illinois Street with siding.

Another TIF request from the Arcola First Bank in the amount of \$6,500 was also improved. A new roof is planned to be installed on the build-

See *VILLAGE* on page 6



CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES! The Sesquicentennial parade featuring the Lovington American Legion Post #429 Honor Guard was held Saturday morning and included LHS alumni and families, antique cars and tractors, fire trucks, floats, queens, and so much more as a great crowd lined the streets. Additional photo pages inside this edition.

Lovington Sesquicentennial Celebration held

Marking their 150th year as a village, Lovington celebrated good times over the weekend with several organizations joining together to observe the Sesquicentennial.

The weekend kicked-off on Friday, June 9 with the Lovington High School Alumni Association's annual homecoming banquet held at the Church of God Family Life Center. The alumni honored new Hall of Fame members Sally Duncan, David Kidwell, Don Bell, Jeff Davis, Elise Wildman, and the

2005 boys' basketball team at the banquet.

Live music by the band Identity Crisis performed for village residents uptown later in the evening and included food trucks and a beer tent.

Events started early on Saturday morning with the Lovington Fire Department holding their pancake and sausage breakfast at 6:30 a.m. at the firehouse.

Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society displayed Lovington memora-

bilia at the Lovington Library on Saturday morning followed by a great parade and a bags tournament.

The Lovington Community Club held its annual fish fry at 4:30 in Tom Conn Park and drew a huge crowd. Inflatables by 25/X8 Extreme Sports, a bake sale and several vendors were also set up in the park.

The evening ended with a fireworks display at dusk held at the Lovington Grade School.



Cameron McGill, who will be an ALAH freshman this coming school year was selected from middle school students from across the nation to take part in The Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. Cameron pictured here after the 45th Annual Regional Spelling Bee at Richland College in March was also a member of the Jr. High Okaw Conference champion scholastic bowl team this past spring.

ALAH Incoming Freshman Cameron McGill to Take Part in Envision's National Young Leaders Conference

This summer, Cameron McGill from Arthur, Illinois will join outstanding middle school students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and career oriented development experience, The Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC.

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs (www.envisionexperience.com) that enable students to explore their

interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Cameron was nominated to attend the forum by 8th Grade Teacher Anna Shroyer at Arthur Grade School. Cameron participated in Scholastic Bowl, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, Basketball and Track. Cameron is passionate about Geography, History, Law, and Politics. With goals of becoming a Lawyer, Cameron is looking forward to gaining hands-on experience that the forum provides.

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, al-

though 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!



SUMMERTIME FUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE. A volleyball and corn hole tournament was held on Saturday as part of the 2nd Annual Pathways Kids Club fundraiser. The event took place at Field of Hope as many families were in attendance to also enjoy the bounce houses, lunch stand, coffee, ice cream, and pretzels. Pathways is a ministry in Lovington that focuses on helping children in many different ways. Club nights are held on Monday evenings and they play games, teach Bible lessons, and have snack time. They ended the evening by watching the fireworks back at the Lovington Grade School.

News Briefs

Upcoming Events:

- June 14- Connie & Friends @ Penn Station
- June 17- 3rd Saturday Market Bazaar @ Otto Center
- June 18- Father's Day
- June 19- Senior Citizen's Luncheon @ Community Building
- June 21- Summer Toy Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility
- June 21- Gunny Sack @ Penn Station
- June 28- Midnight Express @ Penn Station
- July 1- Freedom Celebration Parade 2:00 pm
- July 1- Freedom Celebration/Rotary Fireworks @ Jurgens Park

Moultrie Co. HGS meeting to focus on Arthur's history

The Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society will honor the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town of Arthur by holding its June regular meeting at the Arthur Community Room, located at 120 E. Progress in Arthur, Il. on June 15, at 7 p.m.

Rob Fustin of Arthur, a descendant of the Warren family, one of the founding families of the town of Arthur, will be interviewed by the society's president, David Bowers of Lovington.

Mr. Fustin will share results of his research about the family's early years in Arthur.

The public is invited to join the society during this special evening of tribute to Arthur's Sesquicentennial year.

Senior Citizens luncheon

The Senior Citizens Luncheon for June will be held on Monday, June 19, at the Community Building, 120 East Progress Street.

Serving begins at 12:00 noon. Please bring a covered dish. Meat and drinks are furnished.

Everyone is welcome.

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 pm.

"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 for candy!

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

