



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy

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## Chatter BOX

### Senior potluck

Arcola Seniors are invited to attend a Potluck Lunch at the Arcola Senior Center on Aug. 18. Lunch will begin at 11:30 am. Seniors may bring a dish to share

### Run for the fallen

The 14th Annual Illinois Run for the Fallen will be held on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Charleston High School Track, 920 Smith Drive, Charleston from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Illinois Run for the Fallen is a free, non-political event to honor and remember Illinois service members who have fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq. Participants walk/run one mile for their chosen service member (or one can be assigned). Pre-registration is preferred, but participants can register at the event. To print a registration form go to: www.illinoisrunforthefallen.com. Return the form via email at carolyn@illinoisrunforthefallen.com orbiting the completed form to the event. Questions? Contact Carolyn Cloyd at 217-235-4984 or Gail Bahney at 217-234-4746.

### Citizen of the Year nominations sought

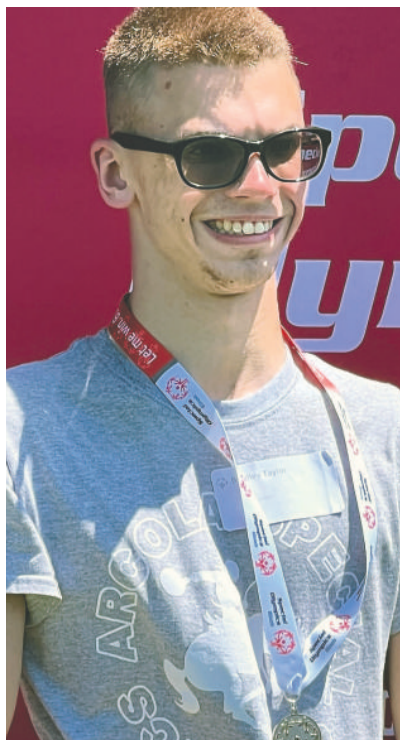
The Arcola Rotary is sponsoring the 15th Annual Arcola Citizen of the Year Award for 2023. The intent of the award is to honor an outstanding Arcola citizen who has effectively combined the ideals of moral character, honesty, dependability, and integrity with a strong commitment to family and community. A dedication to volunteerism will also receive strong consideration when nominees are being considered.

When Citizen of the Year nominations are reviewed by Arcola Rotarians, the ideals practiced on a daily basis by Rotarians — commonly known as the "4-Way Test" will be part of the consideration process. The Rotary 4-Way Test is 1 — Is it the truth? 2 — Is it fair to all concerned? 3 — Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4 — Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

They are seeking nominations from citizens of the community. Nomination forms can be found on the club's Facebook page @arcolarotary. Send nominations to Arcola Sunrise Rotary, PO Box 282, Arcola, IL 61910, or by email to Kris Graves at kes1477@gmail.com. The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 16. Rotarians are not eligible for this award.

### Quilters meet

Quilters are invited to gather Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the Arcola Center to share their time and mutual interests with other quilters. For information contact 217-417-1388.



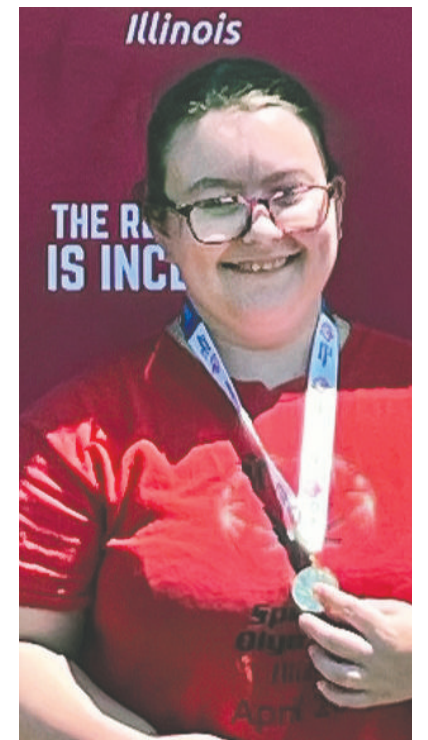
Bradley Taylor



Cameron Edwards



Eric Plummer



Kassidy Bissey

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS** — On July 29, the Arcola Special Olympics team had several travel to Springfield to compete in softball skills. It was a hot day but the team came home with some medals. Medal winners were: Eric Plummer – bronze, Bradley Taylor – silver, Cameron Edwards – silver and Kassidy Bissey – gold. Bissey will compete in September at state in Springfield. Submitted photos.

## Splash pad faces another do-over Contractor apologizes profusely to city

By David Porter

The engineer and contractor for Arcola's bedeviled splash pad attended Monday's Council meeting with contrition. Danny Wilson of Duce Construction in Champaign apologized profusely and vowed to "make the city whole" while blaming his subcontractor for the problems.

Mike Buzicky, an engineer with MSA, said the end result was "not what we wanted" and that the companies are working on a solution.

The issue is that the epoxied concrete surface is too slick causing kids to slip and fall. Bill Wagoner, city administrator, said he and Mayor Jesus Garza have been applying non-slip tape to the surface as a temporary solution.

Part of the epoxy is doing well, he said, but it did not adhere well to some of the concrete. It has been repaired several times with little success.

Wilson said the subcontractor has a potential solution, which essentially is to grind down the areas that are slick and replace them with a concrete surface more compatible with the epoxy.

"I'm not saying you should do that," Wilson said. He added that he would prefer to not work with the subcontractor identified previously as Concrete Art, LLC, in Springfield.

Wilson suggested applying a higher-end padded surface, and he said he's willing to help pay for it. "We've been paid in full," he said. "We will not be leaving this the way it is."

He said his company was able to do most of the site work to make the splash pad operational but that he doesn't do "this style of concrete, which is why we selected a subcontractor ... we just selected the wrong one."

He apologized again to the city. "I'm truly sorry for the absolute barrage of people coming at you."

The Council directed Wagoner to take the possible solutions to the park, streets and alleys committee.

In other business, the Council approved a TIF (tax increment finance) agreement with Tabeling Development, which plans to build 20 residential units at Green Mill Village. Twelve of the units are

apartments and eight are duplexes.

Wagoner said the company will have \$500,000 in TIF-eligible expenses. Under the agreement with the city, they will receive \$68,000 per year for five years and then 65 percent of the incremental tax increase that the units produce for the remainder of the life of the TIF district.

Andrew Bequette, city attorney, said the project and TIF deal are bigger than what the city usually does. He said there are benchmarks in the agreement so if the company doesn't do everything it has proposed, the payout would be reduced.

Wagoner said the project has already been scaled down slightly with one less lot and two fewer duplexes.

The Council also committed TIF funds and downtown business district funds toward rebuilding Schrock Drive.

Wagoner said the project has been "on the shelf for five or six years." The city has money from the state's Rebuild Illinois program for the project and a grant

from the Illinois Department of Transportation. But because of costs increases since the project was first discussed, the price tag has gone up. Beniach Construction of Tuscola was the low bidder at \$574,327.29. There were four bids.

On Monday, the city committed \$100,000 from TIF and \$175,301.43 from the business district toward the project. Schrock Drive services a hotel, gas station and bar and has heavy truck traffic.

Also Monday, the Council approved a variance for Jeff Edwards and Cara Roberts for a garage and porch with a non-conforming setback in the 300 block of West Washington Street. The fee was \$45.

The Council also approved a peddler license for Rosemary Chesney. Wagoner said she will be selling educational books and resources door-to-door. Wagoner said there were no red flags with the application.

After the vote, Bequette commented that he thinks the Council should grant such requests when someone makes the effort to comply with the city's ordinances.

## Reservations open for Oct. 14 Distinguished Alumni Banquet Sponsorship deadline Sept. 22 to be included on all materials

The Arcola Alumni Association will honor the 2023 class of Arcola Distinguished Alumni during their banquet at Kaskaskia Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 14. All family and friends of the honored guests, as well as AHS alumni and others are invited to attend the banquet.

You need not be an Arcola High School graduate to attend this special event. Guests are invited to attend a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. followed by the dinner

buffet at 6 p.m. The program honoring the 2023 AHS distinguished alumni will begin immediately following the dinner. Reservations are now being accepted and early registration is encouraged for the Sept. 30 deadline. The honorees and their years of graduation are:

**William Robert "Bob" Fortney, deceased (1944)**

**Virginia L. Fortney (1952)**

**John Virgil "Jack" Fishel, deceased (1956)**

**John G. "Corky" Clark (1962)**

**Dennis R. "Denny" Thompson (1968)**

Sponsors of the Oct. 14 Distinguished Alumni Banquet have an opportunity to support projects in the Arcola schools with their tax-deductible donations to Arcola Foundation. The alumni association is purchasing trophy cases for display of athletic, scholastic, band and chorus awards, and aspires to fund additional school projects.

Banquet sponsors, donating \$100 or more, will be listed in the Distinguished Alumni Banquet program booklet, banquet PowerPoint presentation, on the Arcola Alumni Association website at www.arcolaalumni.org and in Arcola Record-Herald advertising. Sponsor forms and donations must be received by Friday, Sept. 22, in order to be included in all above listings. Sponsor donations received after that date will be included on the website and in the banquet

slide presentation.

Each contributor may list his/her name, (including maiden name and year of AHS graduation), a couple's names or a business name. Sponsors also have the opportunity to honor or memorialize a former graduate, as well as a current or former distinguished alumni honoree.

Each check for this tax-deductible donation should be payable to Arcola Foundation with Arcola Alumni Association noted on the memo line.

Donations are to be mailed to Larry Bushu, 606 Dogwood Drive, Arcola, IL, 61910.

Both reservation and sponsor forms are available on the Arcola Alumni Association website at www.arcolaalumni.org, at Yoder's Homestead, First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust and Arcola First Bank. Forms are also available from board members Robert Arrol, Larry Bushu, Carolyn Cloyd, John Fishel, Kendall Moore, Brad Pullen, Randy Rothrock, Judy Thomas and Sue Stout.

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