



The JOURNAL

Serving Tuscola, Villa Grove, and surrounding communities.

Volume 19, Issue 2 | January 11, 2023 | thetuscolajournal.com

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Journal Entries

Save the date

Tuscola Music Boosters Annual Fundraiser "Music at the Movies," Sat., Feb. 25 at the Tuscola High School. Dinner: at 6:00 p.m., performance: at 7:00 p.m. More information to come.

Tuscola Fundraiser

Tuscola Music Boosters Annual Fundraiser, "Music at the Movies," is happening Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Tuscola High School. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and the performance starts at 7 p.m.

Tuscola School Board candidates

Tuscola School Board candidates filed for April. 4 consolidated elections. Chris Rennels filed for a 2 year unexpired term; Darold Raymond Spillman Jr. filed; Bob Devlin filed. While three candidates have filed, there are five open seats for the Tuscola School Board.

VFW Auxiliary chicken dinner

Tuscola VFW Auxiliary is hosting a chicken dinner Jan. 22 at the Tuscola Community Building. Tickets are currently on sale for a quilt raffle to be held on President's Day.

AA Meeting

Do you think you have a drinking problem? Stop by 8:00 p.m. on Monday nights at the Forty Martyrs Hall.

Light Kids Conference

An exciting one day event for children first through fifth grades to be held at Tuscola United Methodist Church on Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lots of fun all centered around the theme of RISE UP. Any questions contact Cheryl Warren Youth Director at TUMC 217-253-4232. More information can be found at eventbrite.com/e/the-light-kids-conference-tuscola-il-registration-432493548847.

Tuscola Public Library Events

- Closed Jan. 16
- Chess Club Jan. 19 at 4 p.m.
- Travel Club Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.
- Book discussion Jan. 25 at 6 p.m.
- Story Time with Miss Marta every Tuesday at 10 a.m.
- Crafter's Corner on the first and third Monday at 5 p.m.

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Tuscola expects increase in water rates

By Dominik Stallings

Tuscola water rates will be going up soon, according to a report from Drew Hotel, city administrator. The increase stems from a rate increase by Illinois American Water Company, which provides water to Tuscola. That increase was approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission several months ago.

The new rate has been implemented since Jan. 1, but will not affect residents immediately. The new rate is currently only affecting

the rate that the City pays for the water and then sells. Hoel writes that the rate increase for the city was approximately 23 percent. City Treasurer Alta Long will begin a rate study in the coming weeks and the Council will present a recommended rate increase in the next few meetings.

In other business, The city discovered a water leak near the intersection of Carico and North Central. The leak appears to be on the railroad right-of-way, so the city

will shut off the old 4-inch line that runs under the railroad tracks at Carico. Several newer lines link the north and south side of towns, so the city does not anticipate a degradation of water flow.

Due to the urgency of the repairs, the city solicited proposals from three contractors after consulting with Donahue & Associates Engineers. Cross Construction, who recently completed Phase one of the downtown improve-

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Former Tuscola Superintendent passes away over weekend

Former Tuscola Superintendent Michael Smith, 55, died unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 8.

Smith was superintendent for Beardstown schools since July 2021.

The Beardstown school district announced on Facebook that he passed away Saturday morning and canceled school subsequently.

He worked as superintendent at Tuscola schools from 2011 until 2019. Before then, Smith worked in the Oakland school district as a teacher and coach since 1995 and later became principal in 2003 and superintendent in 2007.

Smith graduated from Greenville College and received a master's degree in education administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Volleyball to extend to younger girls

By Margie Carter

Tuscola 5th and 6th grade girls will soon have the opportunity to train in volleyball with a new recreational program. Tara Steinart, who will head the administration duties and founded the program, recalls concerns by other parents that the 7th and 8th grade teams at East Prairie spend early practice sessions learning fundamen-

tals and game play, putting them behind in training from the teams they play. Steinart says her love for volleyball was the drive to form the program, along with her experience coaching 5th/6th grade boys basketball. She feels her contacts within local youth sports are helping with the leg work of scheduling with other teams.

Joining her will be Coaches

Spencer Dyke (Cleland) and Abby Feagin, though Steinart hopes to step into a coaching role on occasion.

Like the other recreational sports programs, Tuscola Youth Volleyball will operate independent of the school district but will utilize the EP gymnasium for practices and games. The program

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Update on alley trash pickup

By Dominik Stallings

Waste Management in Tuscola will no longer perform alleyway waste pickup starting Jan. 18. The company sent out postcards regarding the change the week of Monday, Dec. 26. The change could affect over 500 people.

David Schaab, municipal marketing manager for Waste Management, said that the trucks which pick up the waste with a grabber attachment are too large to effectively pickup up waste containers. Schaab said the company is using these larger vehicles to automate its processes to keep down costs. Schaab said the company is trying to standardize its services, which is part of the reason why they are stopping alley pickups.

He said this reflects a broader change in the waste pickup industry as more and more companies locally and nationally are switching to automated trucks, which allow the drivers to pick up trash without leaving the vehicle.

Schaab said that the contract between the city and Waste Management has always been a curbside pick-up policy. However, he was aware that Tuscola has had alley side pickup for several years now, making the changes difficult for many residents.

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TUSCOLA STUDENTS played Biddy Ball all day Saturday, Jan. 7 in the North Ward gym. More photos of Biddy Ball can be found on the back page. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Mixell looks to guide public works into the future

By Tony Hooker

For long time Villa Grove resident Marc Mixell, the opportunity to work for the city of Villa Grove after nearly two decades of being on the road in sales was too good to pass up. Now, after three years of working for the public works department, the hyper organized Mixell finds himself in a new role, as director. He recently sat down with me to discuss the move back into management, and many other things.

Have you officially assumed your duties as public works director?

I have, as of last Monday. *Let's start at the beginning. How long have you worked for the city?*

Around 3 years, I think. *You were in an administrative role in some of your previous jobs, right?*

Grove in 1986, I held a few local jobs as a younger guy and then I went to work for Jim Hawk early on and I was with them for 27 years. I started out in parts and in the garage as a mechanic, and a couple of years in, I got into the sales part of it. Through the years, I moved through the company, and I was the Operations Manager in Champaign, with a full garage, parts and service and parts manager for the Peoria branch.

Would you say that organization is your biggest strength?

It is. I'm very organization oriented. I have to know where everything is and how everything works. <smiles> I hope I can move forward on that and make it strong.

With the sale of the utility, what do you feel like your main

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Marc Mixell

Tuscola VFW Auxiliary to host chicken dinner fundraiser, quilt raffle

By Dominik Stallings

The Tuscola VFW Auxiliary is hosting a chicken dinner Jan. 28 at the Community Building from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Along with the chicken dinner, they will also be selling raffle tickets for a handmade quilt made by Lisa Hedrick. You can get tickets to the chicken dinner at the door, or you can purchase tickets earlier from Sav-Mor or A Bloom Above and Beyond.

The quilt will be raffled off on Presidents Day, Feb. 20.

Becky Patton, from the VFW Auxiliary said, "The quilt was made by the mother of one of the auxiliary members. The quilt is beautiful, it really is nice. She did one heck of a job."

The chicken dinner will consist of two pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes,

gravy, green beans, coleslaw and a beverage. The VFW Auxiliary will also sell bottled drinks as well.

Becky Patton, from the VFW Auxiliary said the proceeds from the Chicken Dinner will go toward a scholarship that can be earned by a high school student.

The requirements for the scholarship will be announced through the school later this year.

Patton described the VFW Auxiliary as a sisterhood to the VFW. They help out veteran organizations such as the TK Martin Memorial Post 10009 or the American Legion Post 27 with events. Patton said they also help out the Tuscola Health Care Center and assist in other endeavors for the benefit of veterans.