

Community Spotlight — Villa Grove

Side Tracks

CTDL & Korner Beehive Bingo

Resuming in Feb. Camargo Township District Library and the Korner Beehive are partnering to offer Bingo the first Wed. of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. for anyone over 50. No cash but a lot of fun prizes to give away!

Listening Ear Ministry

Come worship with us! Listening Ear Ministry every Wed. at 6 p.m. at Murdock UMC. Also visit our facebook page Listening Ear Ministry Ted Shearer.

Story Time

Camargo Township District Library will be holding story time every Thurs. from 3:30 to 4:30.

AA Meeting

Do you think you have a drinking problem? Stop by 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights at the VFW bingo hall in Villa Grove.

VG Police Activity

The following is Villa Grove Police Department activity for January 1-7:

- Written Warnings-9
- Traffic Citations-4
- Unsecured Business-1
- Assist Douglas County Sheriff's Office-1
- Welfare Check-2
- Burglary-1
- Suspicious Person-1
- Civil-1
- Parking Complaint-1

Contact

If you have any information you would like included in Sidetracks or would like to submit a photo to the community page, please send an email to dominik@thetuscolajournal.com



VILLA GROVE LIONS CLUB bought socks for students at Villa Grove schools. Submitted photo.



MRS. SCHABLES class worked together on a STEM and teamwork project. Submitted photo.

Mixell

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focus is going to be?

Our main focus is going to be streets, parks, alleys and trees. Now that water and sewer is gone, I want to accommodate all aspects of what people think and bring it to the council and see if we can't improve everything. I want to make it seamless and make sure that there is open communication between everyone.

How do you see your role developing with the new rec center?

My assumption is that they're going to bring in someone to run the day-to-day operation of the building, bringing in different programs and sporting events. The role for public works will be keeping everything, the building, the beautification, the tree planting, road improvements and any new additions at 100% while assisting the new manager with anything that they need.

What do you think your biggest challenges are going to be as we move forward?

I think my biggest challenge

is going to be continuing to make everything seamless as we move to the future. Pretty much everything is changing. We've got the new rec center. We've sold our water and sewer plant. I think the biggest challenge now is going to be moving into the new realm of what's happening today. Everything's been done a certain way for so many years, and there's so much to it as far as updating. There's a lot to learn, but I'm excited. When I worked for Hawk, the whole state was my territory. I've got hundreds and hundreds of contacts, so I was able to see how people run things. When I left, I started working for Johns Farms, close to home and I loved it. Brad's a great guy and he taught me a lot of good stuff. Then, once I got here there was a lot of changes, right at the beginning but it's been wonderful. Everyone's been great, and the crew that we have is amazing. Everyone has great abilities and assets that they bring into what we do and it's awesome. I just think we'll keep doing things better and better.

Shifting gears a little bit...you married a Villa Grove girl, right?

I did. I went to school at

Mattoon and moved up here and met and married Peggy Huber. We've been together for 35 years, married for 25...I mean 26! I want to get that right! <laughs> I've got two daughters. Megan teaches sixth grade at Mattoon, and Molly is a junior at Eastern, who is also going to be a teacher. I think Molly is going to teach elementary school.

What are some of your immediate goals as public works director?

We've got this new addition going in, so another goal is to get all city property as far as vehicles, equipment, attachments and everything indoors. We want to include a full maintenance and inventory program. We've got a big task, a huge task to get that done. This new addition is going to be good. Most of our stuff is going to be in one place now. That's good for us.

I know that Randy (Lake, the previous PW director) oversaw the switchover when we sold the utility, but was it a smooth transition?

Very smooth. They're a great group of people. They had a learning curve, too, as far as reading meters and everything. Villa Grove is an old town, so it's

very different from how subdivisions are set up now, but every time they had questions, we had answers. They've been really easy to work with. They've been doing work all over town. There are things that they can do that we couldn't, so it's a huge benefit. Because of the kind of business they are, they have other lines that they can go down, as far as grants and funding. They're going to have growing pains. There's new technology that will allow them to figure out the best way to improve or replace our waste treatment plant.

Were your guys fired up about the prospect of a blizzard last month?

We were! Three of us are well trained on snow removal. Johnny Shanks is in training, but everyone was ready to go.

Were you a little disappointed when it didn't bring as much snow as expected?

We were a little disappointed! <laughs> We got it taken care of pretty quickly without any issues. All the equipment worked great. All the maintenance went great. We got those new salt spreaders last year and we can now do a "one


pass" application. We can do the whole town in half the time.

I assume that supplies like salt and diesel are probably continuing to rise?

They are. Everything is rising. One of my strong points is procurement and purchasing, so we'll be making some changes. Nothing major, but I will look at all of it and streamline everything. The more I can save here, the more I can spend on other projects there.

Are there any major projects coming up?

I've only been here a week, I'm not really sure what is in the big plan! <smiles> I think our biggest push forward is going to be Richman Park and what we're going to do to give the best access to people. How we're going to run concessions, how we're going to run the lights. There's a lot of working together that will be a pretty big hurdle. There are a lot of different things that we'll have to look at. There's going to be growth and I personally think the community center is going to bring a lot of people to town and that's going to be great.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>Camargo United Methodist Church 103 E. Main Street P.O. Box 122, Camargo, IL 61919 Church — 832-9388 e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pastor - Lenny Summar Traditional Worship - 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:30 "Come just as you are to worship" Open Communion first Sunday of each month Prayer Group - Meets after Sunday Service.</p>	<p>First United Pentecostal Church 1 South Pine Street, Villa Grove Wheelchair Accessible Where Lives are Changed! Pastor Jerry L. Conner Church 832-7071 • Residence 832-8577 Sunday School — 10:00 a.m. Worship Service — 10:00 a.m. Evening Evangelistic Service — 6:30 p.m. Monday, 1st one of each month Ladies Auxiliary, 7:00 p.m. Monday — Friday Ladies Prayer Group — 9:00 a.m. Tuesday Youth Service — 7:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday Bible Study — 7:30 p.m. Free Home Bible Study We welcome you to worship with us in all of our services</p>
<p>First Christian Church (Non-Denominational) "Come Rejoice With Us" 701 N. Sycamore St. Villa Grove, Illinois Phone (217)832-5231 Fax (217)832-9348 Website: www.fccvg.com E-mail: fccvg@frontier.com Minister- Mike Zylstra E-mail: fccvgmin@frontier.com Open communion observed weekly Morning Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages) 10:45 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 1st & 3rd Sundays 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Forty Martyrs Catholic Church 201 E. Van Allen St Tuscola, IL 61953 Pastor: Rev. Angel Sierra Office Phone: 217.253.4412 Sacrament of Confession: Saturdays 5:00 pm Or by appointment by calling the church office: 217.253.4412 Week-day Mass Times: 8:00 am Monday, Thursday & Friday Weekend Masses: 5:30 pm Saturday 8:00 am Sunday</p>
<p>First Christian Church 100 E. Church St., Tuscola 253-2394 Sunday Worship services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:15 a.m. Youth Group 7th-12th @ 6:33 Sundays After school program 5th-6th girls, Wednesdays www.fcctuscola.com</p>	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church 600 E Northline Rd. Tuscola, IL 61953 217-253-4341 Services: Sunday 5:30 pm Sunday 9:00 am</p>
<p>Tuscola United Methodist Church 901 N. Prairie Ave. 253-4232 Sunday Worship Services: 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Sacred Heart Catholic Church 208 N. Pine Stret, Villa Grove Pastor -Rev. Aloy Ndeanaefo Office: 832-8352 Hours: M-F 8:30am-1:30pm Email: villagrove.hume@gmail.com website: sacredheartandtmichael.com Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm Sunday 10:00am Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume 8:00am PSR: Sunday 9:00-9:45 am</p>

If you would like your church featured in our directory, please call Jamie at (217) 369-1398.



Christmas Club

HOLIDAY BUDGET CAN BE RUFF

You can save \$440 for Christmas shopping by setting aside just \$40 a month!!

Christmas Club payments will be set up as an AFT (Automatic Funds Transfer) from any deposit account at Prospect Bank.

An AFT will be issued around October 15 for the amount that has been deposited. Set aside up to \$1,000.00 per month!



Disclosures: The above example is intended to be used as a guideline. Automatic funds transfers will continue until an account is closed. Withdrawals from a Christmas Club account are not permitted prior to annual disbursement. There will be a \$20.00 fee for closing a Christmas Club account early. The rate may change after the account is open. Minimum opening deposit of \$100.