

# Community Spotlight

**Villa Grove BINGO**  
**Every Friday Night VFW post 2876**

**6:30 pm- Early Bird**  
**7:00 pm- Regular Bingo**



**Jackpots:**  
 Egg in a Basket Raffle Chance **up to \$2000**  
 Blackout Jackpot Chance **up to \$1000**

Bingo Lic# B1934  
 Pull Tab Lic# P-48



## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**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.

**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.

**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.fccuscola.com

**Tuscola United Methodist Church**  
 901 N. Prairie Ave.  
 253-4232  
 Sunday Worship Services:  
 9:00 a.m.

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

**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

**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

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
 600 E. Northline Rd.  
 Tuscola, IL 61953  
 217-253-4341  
 Services: Saturday 5:30 pm  
 Sunday 9:00 am

**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: sacredheartandstmichael.com  
 Mass Times: Saturday: 4pm  
 Sunday 10:00am  
 Sunday @ St. Michaels in Hume  
 8:00am  
 PSR:  
 Sunday 9:00-9:45 am

### Landeck

*From page 1*  
Was it a big transition for you to come from the big city to a little town?

Not really, because I had lived in Charleston, which was a small town, for four years, and when I grew up, Oak Forest was kind of out in the boonies. We were 10 miles south of Midway Airport, which was the only airport in Chicago at that time, so it really didn't get busy until you got all the way downtown.

How did you move from teaching 5th grade to teaching PE?  
They dropped PE for financial reasons for a while, and when they decided to get it back, Mr. Powell asked me if I wanted to be the PE teacher and I said sure. So I taught 5th grade for 11 years and then PE and Driver's Ed for 21 years.

When did you start at Villa Grove?  
In 1970.

Over the years, I've become aware of some of your interesting hobbies. You're the one who instilled a love of trivia in me, way back in 1975. You've had baseball card collections and record collections. How did all of that come about?

I always liked music, but growing up in catholic schools, we didn't have music or art or PE, so on my first day at Tinley Park, a brand-new high school, I'm walking around, and I see the music room and I stopped and asked if anyone could take the class. He said, 'Sure, what instrument do you play?' and I told him I didn't play anything, but I'd like to learn something. He told me he'd contact me, and I'm still waiting.

He didn't want me in band, because everyone else would have experience and he'd have to teach me everything! I'm not really good at it, but I've taught myself guitar and piano. That's why I got into DJ work because I love music. When it went to computers, I kind of backed out of it because I had records. That's

why I had such a huge record collection. I've sold most of my LPs, now. When I was teaching at Eastern after I retired from here, I was telling my students how I used to bring my 45s to school, and one girl thought I brought my guns to school! I always collected baseball cards, since I was 5 or 6 years old, and I finally sold that collection.

Even now, 50 years later, I remember certain ways that you taught, like including music and trivia, which were unique to my K-12 experience. How did you learn to incorporate all of that?

When I did my homework, I always had music on in the background, so I thought that I would do that for the kids out here, and you students seemed to enjoy it.

What are you up to, these days?

I play a lot of golf these days. In the summer, Howard Osborne and I play a lot. I still do some subbing during the school year, maybe too much, but it beats sitting at home.

Since Covid, we don't travel and see the grandkids as much as we did.

It must have been an OK career because your kids followed you into the profession, right?

My daughter's a special ed teacher who teaches in Pontiac. My son Lance went from teaching in Tuscola to principal in Atwood, to Superintendent in Oakland. My oldest granddaughter taught for a few years, but when they had children, she got out of it and when she went back to work, she found a job at a bank.

Looking back, I still think I couldn't have had any better teachers in grade school than you, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Duncan, Miss Brewer, Mrs. Ping, and Mr. Kietzman. All of you were at the top of your game.

It was a fantastic group that we had out here that always supported each other.

Was your career everything you thought it would be?

I don't know what else I would have done. I couldn't sit behind a desk all day. To this day, I can't sit still!

### City

*From page 1*  
surveying, engineering, legal and planning efforts through various consultants. Hoel said they are talking to tenants and are looking to reinvigorate the property.

The group hopes to identify future costs and redevelopment strategies for the property. According to the documents provided by the city, the group has already invested substantially in legal fees and earnest money to secure the contract. The Council approved \$86,000 in tax increment financing (TIF) funds to complete the due diligence activities before a potential purchase closure.

The mall was bought by Long Island-based Mason Asset Management on Dec. 15, 2021, for a reported \$6.25 million from ADCO Group. Before then, it sold for \$19 million in 2015 from Tanger.

Hoel said the mall is generating less sales tax revenue than before, but he does not have an exact figure on the decline of the sales tax due to the current owners not providing that data. Previous owners had a provision with the city that gave them information on sales tax figures. However, Hoel noted that

local sales tax revenue has gone up to pre-pandemic levels due to three parts, Love's Travel Center, internet sales tax distribution, and inflation.

In other news, The Tuscola City Council also discussed concept drawings for the downtown greenspace next to the Community Building during the March 13 meeting. In the agenda provided by City Administrator Drew Hoel, the Council reviewed three different concepts. The Council agreed that concepts B and C, pictured below, were the preferred candidates. The concepts are not final and can be mixed and matched. Engineers will finalize the concept into construction drawings and bid specifications.

The Council finalized public committee meeting dates. Public Works will meet on March 27 at 3 p.m.

Public Safety will meet on

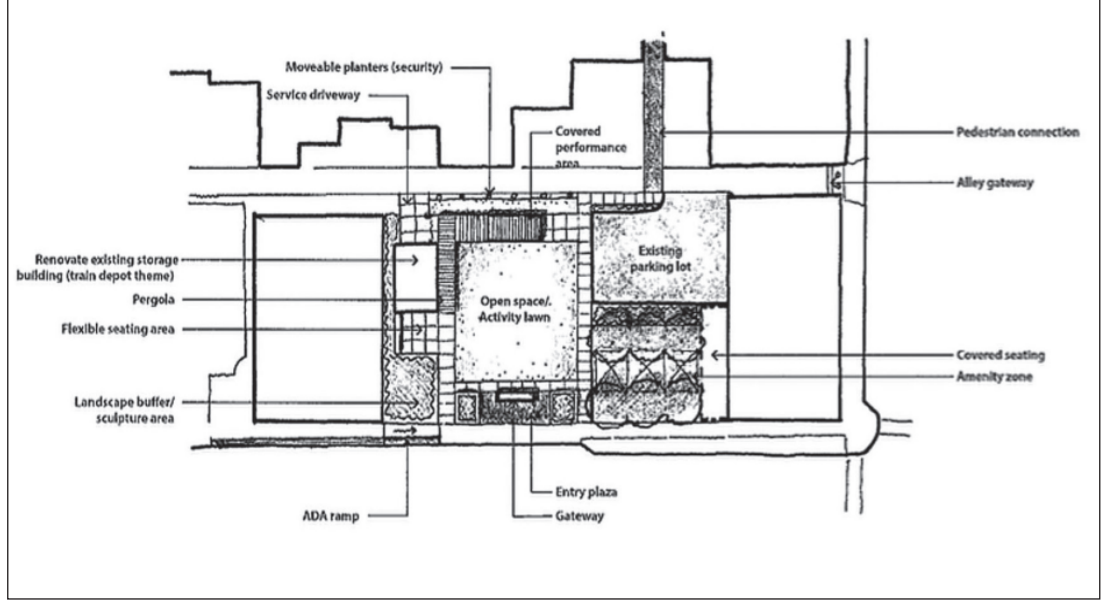
March 30 at 5 p.m. Community development planning will meet on March 28 at 4 p.m. Finance and Administration will meet on March 29 at 4 p.m. Hoel said the city will publish notices of all the meeting dates as well.

Hoel wrote that Utz & Associates recommends that the city combines the proposed addition to the Street Shed with the new Fire Department building into one bid. The company is also making some revisions to the design with the footing and foundation systems that will hopefully lower the cost of the Street Shed addition. The bids are expected to be advertised within the next few weeks.

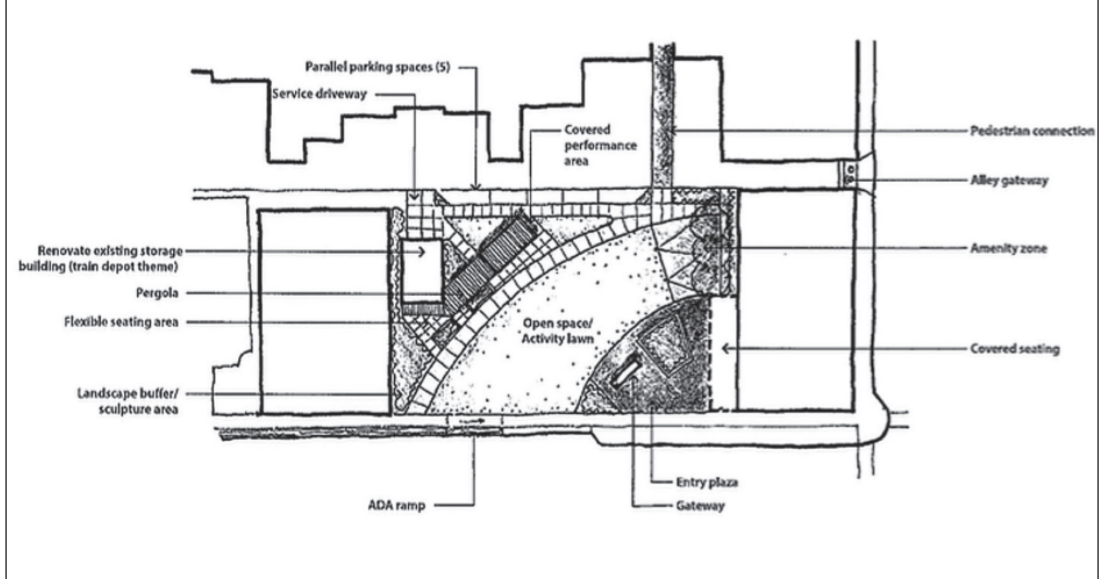
The City was granted a demolition order from the court to start demolition on the "Castle Mall" property. Ezell Excavating was the low proposal for the demolition,

and plans to start demolition of the property within the week. City Attorney Andrew Bequette said the previous owner's attorney consented to the order of demolition. Bequette said he received the signed settlement agreement but is awaiting the deed and transfer tax document. Bequette added that he does not doubt the previous owners' good faith.

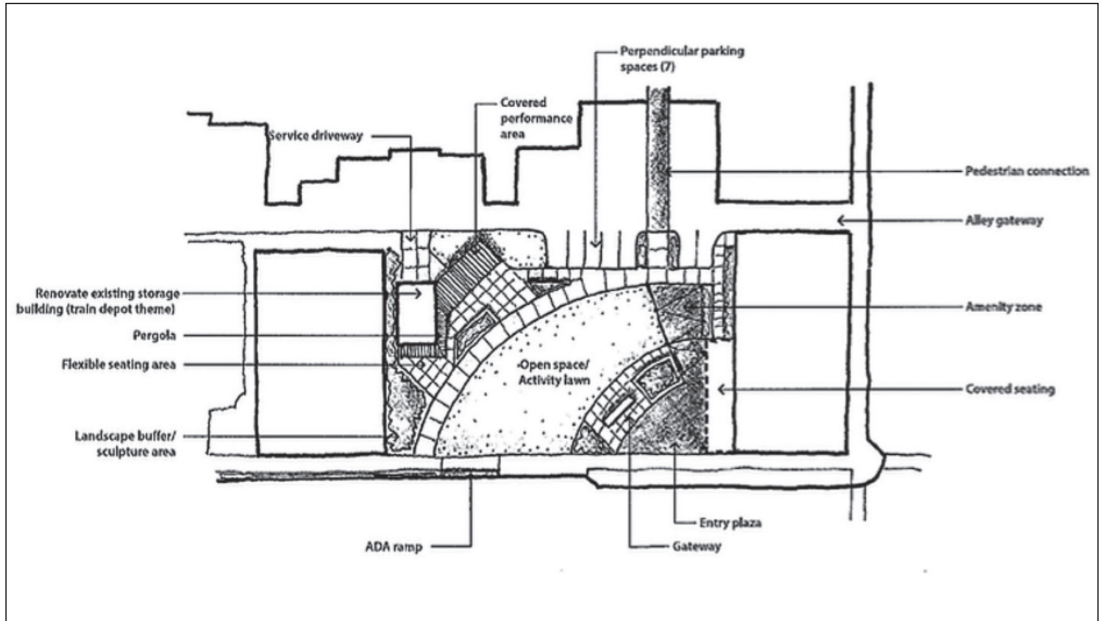
Lisa Wasailoski was hired to be the replacement for the records clerk position since Angie Gordon is retiring in June. Hoel said there is no effective date for her yet but expects Wasailoski to start work in three or four weeks. She will be paid \$20.50 per hour with a 50-cent increase in six months. Hoel added that there might be a wage increase in the meantime, and the 50-cent increase would be added on top.



Tuscola downtown green space improvement concept A.



Tuscola downtown green space improvement concept B.



Tuscola downtown green space improvement concept C.



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